



Second Generation

Howard Fast

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The second volume in the New York Times best-selling Immigrants saga. With the publication of The Immigrants, a most wonderful book, according to Harlan Ellison in the Los Angeles Times, Howard Fast once again proved himself to be one of America's most popular authors. Now, in Second Generation, Fast continues the story of Dan Lavette, the young Italian who lost his parents but launched a stormy and brilliant career as a result of the great San Francisco earthquake of 1906. This latest chapter encompasses an even more dramatic sweep of history, from the Depression years to the close of World War II. The central figure is Barbara Lavette, the beautiful daughter of Dan and his aristocratic first wife, Jean. Troubled by the conflicts of her dual inheritance and scornful of her mother's social world, Barbara sets out to build her own life in her own way, a way that leads her to a Europe on the brink of Nazi terror, to love and tragedy, to the farthest reaches of a global war, and ultimately to a deeper understanding of herself....

Second Generation Details

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Author : Howard Fast

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Cris says

Questo secondo volume della saga dei Lavette è davvero molto più incalzante rispetto al primo. La storia moderna è protagonista della saga insieme ai personaggi principali. Spero che l'editore completi la pubblicazione di tutti i volumi scritti da Fast relativamente a questa famiglia.

Tanja says

Sometime in the last couple of years I was lucky enough to find four more of the Lavette family series at a bookstore in our town. It's been a while since I read the first book but again, I was amazed at the liveliness of Howard Fast's characters and how easy it was to become familiar with those who already appeared in the prequel. This time the story takes place in the years right before, during and after World War II and as in the first novel, events of that time were woven into the plot's happenings. Even though the end seemed a bit abrupt, I'm still giving this book 4 stars.

Marilyn says

Lavette Family book 2. This was so much better written. I have enjoyed these last 40 years, anxious to continue this saga. Onto Book 3. I love Barbara, a strong woman.

Tom Hill says

A neighbor gave me this series of books when I was looking for something to read. I read two of the books, this being the second, and found some good and bad things in the writing. The good thing I liked was how the author tied the story line in with actual historical events and how they impacted the stories characters. The bad thing was that the pacing of the story line was so slow I had a hard time staying awake. The introspection by the main characters is a little overdone. So, I will not be continuing on with the series.

Carolyn Pina says

Not quite as good as the first book in the series (The Immigrants), but very good -- I enjoyed it.

Graceann says

In THE IMMIGRANTS, Howard Fast began the story of the Lavettes, focusing on Dan and his wife, Jean. This second volume concentrates on their daughter, Barbara, and what adventures she has! From 1930s labor

strife, to pre-WWII Paris to Calcutta to San Francisco, there is very little that doesn't make its way into Barbara Lavette's experience.

Howard Fast writes in a way that keeps one turning the pages. When you feel you've heard enough from one character, he focuses on someone else for a while. There is a vast tapestry of characters here, some of whom are only introduced with an eye toward their greater importance in later volumes of the series. Barbara is an amazing, interesting character, and I loved her immensely. I also came to admire Jean (a character I almost loathed in *THE IMMIGRANTS*) due to her steadily maturing nature in this second episode.

The sequence focusing on the D-Day landings at Normandy was excellently written and extremely exciting. It's very difficult to write about a battle without it being either overly dramatic or excruciatingly dull. Fast walks a very fine line here, brilliantly. He also mines his own experiences as a liberal, Jewish artist in the War years in order to provide anecdotes that drive the narrative. I can't wait to see what he does with the McCarthy era and HUAC in book number three, *THE ESTABLISHMENT*.

L. (Vacation All I Ever Wanted) says

I didn't realize this was the second book in a series until I had already started it. But I don't think reading the first book would have helped me at all to care about any of these characters.

While there are a multitude of people in this story, we're basically following Barbara Lavette. She's a woman blessed/cursed with powerful pheromones that causes every man she meets to fall in love with her, or least want to bed her. (The downside being she's a bit of a black widow to a couple of these guys who don't meet a good end.)

Barbara attempts to use her powers for good and combat the ebil Nazis, but her mission ends before it really even begins. (I never said she was smart.) She returns to America to deal with First World problems. Oh, the agony of inheriting millions of dollars. How I weep for you, Barbara.

Meanwhile other people fall in love, get divorced, fight in WWII, and die.

I don't understand how this was such a big seller back in the day. Everyone is paper thin. The war is happening way in the background so there's very little excitement. Even though Barbara has all these men falling at her feet, there are no sexy times. So what was the spell this book cast?

It must have been Barbara's pheromones.

Ruth Vanderhart says

For some reason I never read the Lavette family saga back in the 80s. It has kind of a 70s-80s feel, and I wasn't sure I would continue after *The Immigrants*, book 1. But this second book was much stronger than the first. Lkable characters. Lots of interesting history. Sagas, of course, tend to feel like soap operas sometimes because they cover so much time and so many characters. And Fast's is no exception.

Mari says

...Dio governa questo mondo stoltamente, ma oggi mi rifiuto di pensarci.

Secondo capitolo della saga dei Lavette. La storia riprende esattamente da dove l'avevo lasciata anche se questa volta le vicende raccontate riguardano più i figli di Daniel Lavette, Barbara, Tom e Joe. Sono ragazzi alla ricerca del proprio posto nel mondo, per motivi diversi non hanno avuto un'infanzia facile e i loro caratteri ne hanno risentito. A differenza del primo romanzo, qui le storie non sono ambientate solo negli Stati Uniti, ma anche in Europa, durante la Guerra Civile spagnola e l'occupazione nazista. Soldi, avidità e potere, ma anche sogni, ideali e amore, storia e romanzo si fondono dando vita a pagine avvincenti e commoventi dalle quali è difficile staccarsi.

E ora? Quanto dovrò aspettare per il terzo capitolo?

Kate says

This is a great series although there are six of them.

Lorane says

On to the next book

This is a really good series. It is written well. I like how it switches between the characters. Two more words required.

George says

RIVETING. VERY ENTERTAINING.

“You know how I feel about war, about this insanity of men killing each other for their filthy causes, for their noble aims.” (p. 157).

I very much enjoy Howard Fast's storytelling style. In *Second Generation (Lavette Family, #2)* the epic family saga continues, spiced with insightful perspectives of the run-up to World War II, the war itself, and its aftermath. An absorbing, hard to put down novel.

Recommendation: I've already begun reading *The Establishment (Lavette Family #3)*.

“The whole damn thing we call civilization stinks to high heaven.” (p. 405)

Sourcebooks. Kindle Edition, 535 pages.

Ali says

Reading Howard Fast helps to read American history with a reflection from the literature. No matter how critically Fast faces American society, he loves his father land, his culture and his nation, deeply and respectfully.

Susan says

The Lavette family saga continues in book 2 through the Depression and World War II. Howard Fast is a superb storyteller. His vivid characters feel like family members. I'm looking forward to reading more from this series.

Hermien says

4 1/2 really, very enjoyable.