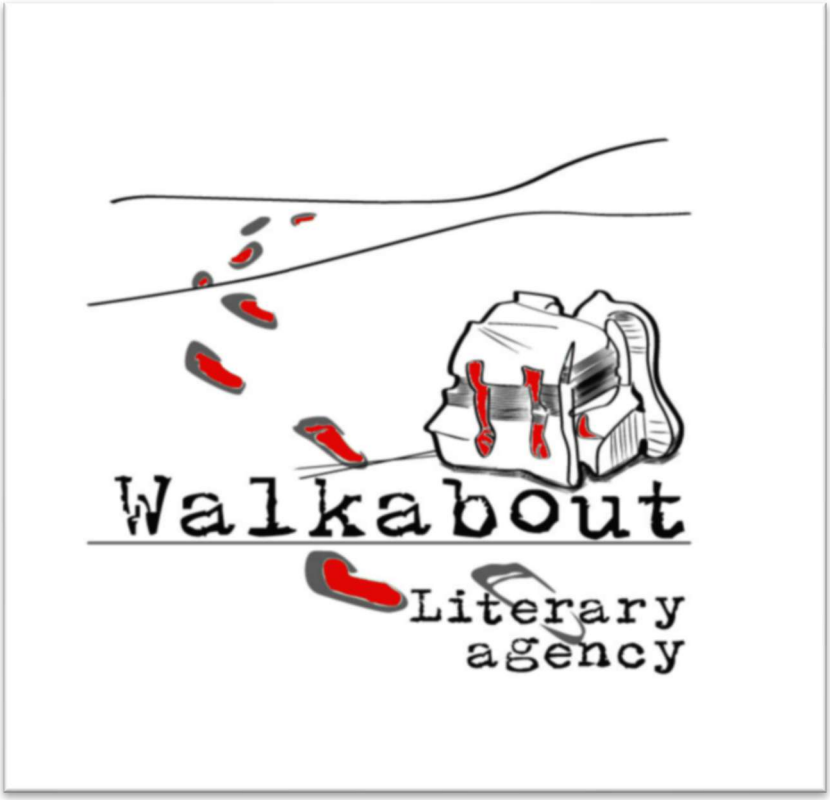
2026

HISTORICAL FICTION



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Author: GIULIA ALBERICO
Title: THE LADY OF FLANDERS
(LA SIGNORA DELLE FIANDRE)

Pages: 250
First Publisher: Piemme
Publication date: 5th May, 2021

Rights: Worldwide

On the occasion of the 500th birth anniversary of Margaret of Austria, *Il Cammino di Margherita* (Margaret's Path) was inaugurated, a trek across Italy from the Medici and Farnese fiefdoms to the Flemish region of Belgium, Flanders, where the Duchess was born. Giulia Alberico's novel will be presented at the different stages of the trek.

Margaret of Austria or of Parma (Oudenaarde, 5 July 1522 - Ortona, 18 January 1586), was a noblewoman of Flemish and Spanish origin, the natural daughter of Emperor Charles V of Habsburg and Jeanne van der Gheynst. Margaret was governor of the Spanish Netherlands, as well as being lady of a number of fiefs in Italy. By marriage she obtained, among others, the titles of duchess consort of Florence through her first husband, Alessandro de' Medici, and duchess of Parma and Piacenza as wife of Ottavio Farnese.

For more information on Margaret's path you can consult the site here:
Distance 6.038 km
Altitude Difference 220.000 m
Villages 600+
Attraction 12.000+

BASTARD AND BELOVED DAUGHTER OF EMPEROR CHARLES V, WIFE OF A MEDICI AND THEN OF OTTAVIO FARNESE, DUCHESS OF PARMA AND PIACENZA, GOVERNOR OF FLANDERS, HALF-SISTER OF FELIPE OF SPAIN AND JUAN, THE HERO OF LEPANTO, MOTHER OF ONE OF THE GREATEST LEADERS OF HER TIME, ALESSANDRO FARNESE. THE STORY OF THE MADAME TO WHICH THE FAMOUS ROMAN PALACE (PALAZZO MADAMA, SEAT OF THE SENATE OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC) IS DEDICATED. A CULTURED, REFINED AND INTELLIGENT WOMAN, BUT ALSO AN OBEDIENT PAWN IN THE CHESSBOARD OF HISTORY, WITNESS OF A WORLD AT SUNSET.

"The illegitimate daughter of Carlo V lives on in these pages as if we had her in front of our eyes. An exciting novel about a historical figure to be brought to light." **Carla Maria Russo**

My life has been long and full. I have traveled through Europe. I have traveled mainly through Italy. I have met men and women of all kinds, but when I think about it, I lived totally alone. I do not know the habit of days all equal made of awakenings nights and meals with the spouse, the son, least of all father and mother. Always provisional and ready to the obedience that would have destined me to reside elsewhere.

Ortona, October 1585. Margaret of Austria has been in Abruzzo for several months. It is here that, after so much wandering for Europe, she decided to spend her last years. She found here a land she loves and, above all, that is only hers. Not a heavy paternal inheritance, not a privileged marriage. She is having a palace built by the sea; an imposing and precious building that welcomes and mitigates her old age. But Marguerite's time is almost over. A dark evil is inexorably creeping into her body and thanks to this forced immobility it allows her to take refuge in the memories of a full life for once, important but also full of suffering. Bastard and beloved daughter of Emperor Charles V, wife of a Medici and then of Ottavio Farnese, Duchess of Parma and Piacenza, governor of Flanders, half-sister of Felipe of Spain and Juan, the hero of Lepanto, mother of one of the greatest leaders of her time, Alessandro Farnese. It has been through a century of splendor and blood, she was a pawn in the hands of the emperor and two popes. She saw the end of a world and, above all, of the paternal dream: the one of a united, imperial and Christian Europe. But she was also a lover of beauty, from jewelry, to art and to music. And now alone with her chaperone, she finds herself wondering what the profound meaning of her existence is.
Giulia Alberico, with her wise and incisive writing, shows us the contrasts of a life divided between a public and private, loneliness, dissent, the tears of a character forced to obedience, but also the inner strength and the dreams of who was, above all, a great woman.

A SELECTION OF QUOTES

"A prose sipped, dry, never digressive and yet determined to advance slowly, almost wanting to evoke a slowness of things, a desire to stop time".
Mario Baudino, La Stampa

"And Giulia Alberico's writing is always admirable, balanced and discreet, as ironic as it is incisive." **Giuseppe Pontiggia**

"An increasingly intense writing, smoothed by the linguistic sensitivity that is a characteristic of Giulia Alberico's writing." **Donna Moderna**

"Memory is a precise narrative key that characterizes the works of the author who with this new novel offers pages to be savored with confidence, letting oneself be ensnared by her composed and storytelling prose". **Stilos**

"Giulia Alberico, a writer who has a lot to say about the world of women". **Grazia**

Giulia Alberico, born in San Vito Chietino, moved for university studies to Rome, where she currently lives. She taught in secondary schools for decades. Her debut novel, *Madrigale* (Sellerio, 1999), has now become a long-seller, which was followed by *Il Gioco della Sorte, Il Corpo Gentile, Come Sheherazade* and other very popular novels and short stories. She is a strong reader and has been coordinating a reading group at a Roman bookstore for years. She has directed non-fiction collections, collaborated with magazines and newspapers. Currently collaborates with the cultural pages of "L'Osservatore Romano".

Author: GIULIA ALBERICO
Title: THE SECRET OF VITTORIA
(IL SEGRETO DI VITTORIA)

Pages: 250
First Publisher: Piemme
Publication date: April 2024

Rights: Worldwide

HER CLOSE FRIEND MICHELANGELO WROTE ABOUT HER "A MAN IN A WOMAN, INDEED A GOD".

THE UNTOLD STORY OF AN AMBIGUOUS AND IMMENSE CHARACTER OF THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE

Rome, 1567. Vittoria Colonna, poetess, widow of Ferrante d'Avalos, marquise of Pescara and advisor to two popes, has been dead for some years now. And it is only after some time that her lady-in-waiting, the one who has been by her side from day one, decides to open the papers she has kept and hidden until the end: Vittoria's friends are now dead and no one is in danger of being condemned for heresy and treason any more. Vittoria, in fact, with Giulia Gonzaga, Cardinal Pole and Michelangelo was part of a group of people who tried in every way to reform the Church to avoid schism and condemned nepotism and the sale of indulgences.
But in those secret papers there is not only Vittoria the saint, the Christian, the reformer. There is also the woman, the inconsolable widow of a chaste yet very sweet marriage, the person in constant struggle with a contronatural body, and also Michelangelo's passionate muse and friend. Whom she perhaps loved as much as body and soul would allow her.
An intense, poetic novel about a controversial and very modern figure in our history.

Giulia Alberico is an Italian writer. Born in San Vito Chietino, she currently lives in Rome. A teacher of Italian and History in high schools in Rome for thirty years, she made her debut in 1999 with the collection of short stories *Madrigale*, published by Sellerio, now in its twentieth reprint. He has published several novels, essays and short stories. For Piemme, she wrote *The Lady of Flanders* in 2021.

Author: WALTER ASTORI
Title: DOUBLE MURDER IN THE SHADOW OF THE PALATINE
(DOPPIO OMICIDIO ALL'OMBRA DEL PALATINO)

Pages: 320
First Publisher: Orizzonte Milton
Publication date: April, 2024

Rights: Worldwide

AN AGATHA CHRISTIE DETECTIVE STORY SET IN ANCIENT ROME 60 B.C.

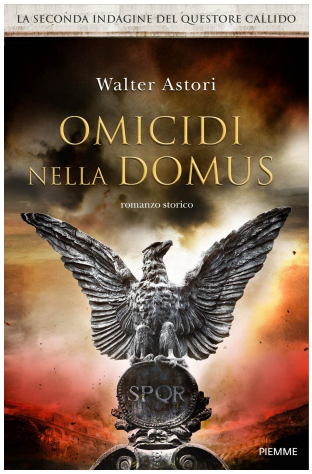
Year of the consulship of Aphranius and Metellus Celerus. Two murders on the same day shake the city of Rome. The first was that of Silanus, a former consul known for his conciliatory nature, the second of Roscius Gallus, a famous actor much loved by the Roman people. Flavio Callido, a Roman nobleman of Pompeian faction and former Quaestor, in full cursus honorum investigates the murders. During the murder of Silanus, Callidus finds himself in the domus of the former consul for a secret meeting with Giunia, daughter of Silanus and Servilia. There he discovers an unusual commotion at a meeting attended by some of the Republic's most notorious optimates who are waiting for an infamous guest, whose identity he cannot discover. In the corridors of the domus, Callidus is spotted and, forced to hide, takes shelter in Silanus' private baths, where he falls ill and wakes up in the suburbs, without his noble ring. Callidus is subsequently commissioned by Cicero to investigate the murder of his great friend Roscio Gallo. Cicero's goal is to accuse Publius Clodius of the murder of Roscius, who is already on trial for violating the mysteries of the Bona Dea. However, the investigation into the death of Roscio also reveals other possible leads, one of which leads to Arbuscola, a charming and cunning actress. Meanwhile, Callido is suspected and imprisoned for Silano's murder. Amid revelations and twists Callido and Arbuscola take the right path to discover what really happened. What awaits them will not only be the unveiling of the real culprits, Callido will realise that his certainties and principles will have to give way to new political compromises.
Once the veil behind which the truth is hidden has fallen, one can no longer be the same.

Walter Astori was born in Rome in 1980. With a degree in law, he worked as editorial manager for Eleven Sports Italia. A passionate divulger of ancient Roman history, he is active on his social channels Roma racconta (instagram), Roma racconta, una pillola al giorno (facebook) and Inchiostro giallo (Tik Tok). He made his debut in 2007 with *Le sette sfere* (The Seven Spheres), a novel with which he won the **Il giallo di Roma literary prize**. He is the author of the crime novels set in ancient Rome *Omicidi nell'urbe* and *Omicidi nella domus*, both published by Piemme in 2018.

WALTER ASTORI
OMICIDI NELL'URBE.
LA PRIMA INDAGINE DEL QUESTORE CALLIDO
Piemme, Giugno 2018

UNA SERIE GIALLA ALLA AGATHA CHRISTIE AMBIENTATA NELL'ANTICA ROMA

Primavera del 61 a.C. anno del consolato di Pisone e Corvino. Una serie di delitti sconvolge la quotidianità romana, già turbata da conflitti politici sempre più accesi. Gaio Rabirio e Crisogono, cittadini in vista accomunati da un passato di violenze e perdizione, vengono ritrovati morti dopo atroci sofferenze. Entrambi sono stati prima mutilati e poi giustiziati con un colpo al cuore. Un modus operandi che ricorda quello dei sacrifici umani officiati dai sacerdoti della dea Ma e richiama i Compitalia, festa religiosa dedicata agli schiavi abrogata pochi anni prima. Il princeps senatus Lutazio Catulo, approfittando della lontananza di Pompeo, affida l'indagine al questore Flavio Callido, chiamato a disimpegnarsi in una vicenda scabrosa in cui nessuno risulta al di sopra di ogni sospetto, nemmeno l'ex console Cicerone. Un compito delicatissimo che potrebbe compromettere sia la sua carriera politica sia la scalata al potere di Pompeo. La scia di brutali delitti, infatti, è solo all'inizio e ne faranno le spese altri personaggi illustri. A Callido, coadiuvato da una squadra sui generis che comprende Lutazia, giovane figlia di Catulo, Achillea, impavida gladiatrice eroina delle folle, e Cefea, ermafrodita figlio del gran sacerdote della dea Ma Archelao, il compito di far luce su un caso in grado di far vacillare Roma dalle fondamenta, strettamente connesso ai legami oscuri del cuore pulsante dell'urbe.



OMICIDI NELLA DOMUS.
LA SECONDA INDAGINE DEL QUESTORE CALLIDO
Piemme, Luglio 2018

E' la primavera del 61 a.C. Il giovane questore Flavio Callido, per ritemprarsi dalle fatiche della vita romana, si concede qualche giorno di vacanza presso la villa suburbana di suo padre Spurio, figura di spicco della politica durante la dittatura di Silla, ora ritiratosi in campagna per invecchiare serenamente lontano dagli intrighi e dai complotti dell'Urbe. Al suo arrivo nella domus, Callido trova un'atmosfera ben diversa dalla tranquillità agreste che si era augurato. Nella notte è morta Cecilia, seconda moglie di Lucio Calpurnio Bestia, uno degli ospiti illustri di Spurio insieme all'ex console Murena e a Fausta Cornelia, figlia del dittatore Silla. Tutti gli ospiti sono concordi che si sia trattato di una morte per cause naturali, tranne Marciana, madre di Cecilia e cugina di Catone l'Uticense. Nel corso della notte, infatti, Cecilia era scampata ad un incendio divampato nel suo cubicolo ed aveva lanciato accuse precise nei confronti di Licinia, sorella di Murena, rea di volersi sbarazzare di lei per poter sposare Bestia.
Tra accuse e minacce, quando la situazione sta per esplodere, Flavio Callido, forse in maniera troppo impulsiva, decide di intervenire offrendosi di indagare. La morte di Cecilia è solo l'ultimo atto di una spirale di violenza che si è abbattuta sulla domus di Spurio e che ha portato alla misteriosa sparizione di uno schiavo, alla morte di una schiava e all'aggressione del convoglio di Bestia mentre tornava dal tempio della Fortuna a Praeneste. Le indagini sono più difficili del previsto ma Callido non vuole demordere. E tra i potenziali sospettati c'è da annoverare anche Spurio, il padre di Flavio Callido.

Author: BERNARDO MATTIA BAGNOLI
Title: I'LL BETRAY YOU FOREVER
(TI TRADIRO' PER SEMPRE)

Pages: 270
First Publisher: Piemme (2019), Orizzonte Milton (2024)

Rights: Worldwide

EXTENDED ENGLISH SYNOPSIS AVAILABLE

ACQUI HISTORY AWARD 2019
IN THE SECTION OF HISTORICAL NOVEL

"Well developed characters and textures: a fascist consul, tough and pure, but also full of contradictions, an English agent who pursues his goal with determination, a fascinating photographer with a mysterious profile, who enchants both. A development of events and surprises, many documents, an excelent narrative quality." **Corriere della Sera**

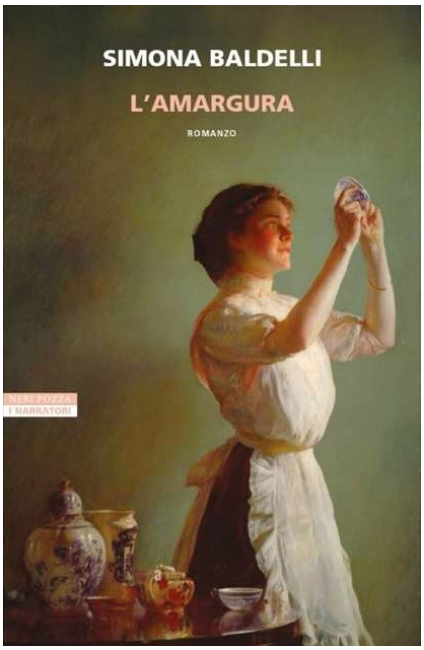
"A compelling and well-documented tale set in borderlands where armies, spies, countries and ideologies clash. A historical novel about the ambiguities of war, passion and interests: where every move is permitted in order to achieve victory, defeat or love." **Gaetano Savatteri**

AN INTENSE AND POIGNANT NOVEL ABOUT LOVE, BETRAYAL AND BROKEN IDEALS AT THE TIME OF THE WAR, BASED ON HISTORICAL EVENTS AND CHARACTERS

TWO FIGHTERS ENABLED TO HAVE EVERYTHING FOR THE FIRST TIME DISPOSED TO LOSE EVERYTHING

BETWEEN *CASABLANCA* AND *SPY GAME*

1941. Svevo Giacco-Aliprandi, Italian consul stationed in Algeciras, a corner of Europe that is almost Africa, is a man of integrity, loyal to the values of his homeland. The real reason he is there is a top-secret operation to attack the ships and port of Gibraltar, a stronghold that allows the British to continue to dominate the Mediterranean. A daring operation that could bring about a definitive turning point in the war. For Svevo, only his work, his country and his family exist, at least until the day he meets Ivonne Lavallard, a photographer fleeing Paris, now in Nazi hands. A woman of undeniable charm, who seems to have nothing to lose. A man in the enemy ranks seems to have guessed what the Italians are planning: Alex Goodwin, of the British secret service. He too has a weakness, a French woman who wants to gain access to the Rock in order to photograph it: Ivonne Lavallard.



Author: SIMONA BALDELLI
Title: THE BITTERNESS
(L'AMARGURA)

Pages: 300
First Publisher: Neri Pozza
Publication date: January 2027

Rights: Worldwide

FROM THE AUTHOR OF *EVELINA AND THE FAIRIES* AND *ALFONSINA AND THE ROAD*, AN INTENSE, PASSIONATE, AND GRIPPING NOVEL ABOUT THE STORY OF PELLEGRINO ARTUSI, THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS COOKBOOK, AND THE FORGOTTEN WOMAN WHO HELPED CREATE IT.

***SCIENCE IN THE KITCHEN AND THE ART OF EATING WELL* WAS A GLOBAL BESTSELLER. A FASCINATING PORTRAIT OF AN ERA OF TRANSFORMATION AND UNFORGETTABLE CHARACTERS.**

Pellegrino Artusi was over seventy years old when he embarked on the most important and successful endeavor of his life: a cookbook, *Science in the Kitchen and the Art of Eating Well*, which, after being rejected by every publisher and printed at the author's own expense, would go on to become one of the greatest publishing successes of all time. But these pages are not merely delicious and meticulously crafted; they conceal the passions, regrets, hardships, and generosity of a man with a troubled past and of the woman who stood by his side throughout that wonderful journey. Marietta, a simple maid who arrived from the Tuscan countryside with a single dress and the dream of being more than just a farmer's wife. It is thanks to her and the deep affection that bound her to Artusi that, nearly 150 years later, we still find ourselves appreciating the importance of every flavor and every small pleasure in life.

Some biographical information about Artusi:

Pellegrino Artusi, who grew up in a family marked by violence and devoid of affection, reached old age without any culinary experience. Yet, in Florence, in the flat in Piazza D'Azeglio where he lived with his trusted companions Marietta and Francesco, he found an unexpected form of redemption in the kitchen. Together, they experimented with the 475 recipes that would form the basis of "Science in the Kitchen and the Art of Eating Well", a work initially rejected by every publisher and which Artusi decided to publish himself, setting in motion a success story destined to grow into the most famous cookbook in history. *L'Amargura* reconstructs Artusi's life through his deepest wounds (the attack by Passator Cortese, the abuse suffered by his sister Geltrude, the suspicion that he had fathered an illegitimate child as a result of his abuse of a maid) and weaves them together with the major events of nineteenth-century Italy, from the uprisings to the Risorgimento. The ghosts that haunt him into old age shed light on his private life and cast a new light on the origins of his bestseller.
From these shadows arises the question that runs through the entire novel: how can a passion for cooking blossom in a life marked by bitterness?

WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT SIMONA BALDELLI:

«Simona Baldelli's writing gets to the heart of what is invisible to the eye, capturing the characters' thoughts, desires, and frustrations. As we follow this stubborn and slow journey, it opens up to visions and fantasies, giving way to a magical realism that encompasses everything».
Il Venerdì di Repubblica

«Simona Baldelli writes a coming-of-age novel, precise and unwavering in its depiction of the setting, that moves in step with history, delves into a buried world, and chronicles the life of a rootless young woman, starved of existence, fearful and fragile».
TTL La Stampa

«If it is true that every writer gravitates inexorably toward a particular center of attraction, a cluster of primal emotions that they dwell on with the same tenacity as a toothache, then Simona Baldelli, impetuous and fragile, grapples with the themes of guilt and failure, and the shift in direction of a life that has been humiliated».
Il Fatto Quotidiano

Simona Baldelli She was born in Pesaro and lives in Rome. She made her debut with the novel *Evelina and the Fairies* (Giunti, 2013), a finalist for the Italo Calvino Prize and winner of the 2013 John Fante Literary Prize. She has since published *Il tempo bambino, La vita a rovescio, L'ultimo spartito di Rossini, Vicolo dell'immaginario, Fiaba di Natale, Alfonsina e la strada e Il pozzo delle bambole.*

Mattia Bernardo Bagnoli was born in Milan in 1980. After graduating in Literature and History from the University of Bologna, he moved to London to attend a master's degree in International Journalism at City University. It was here that he began working for the ANSA news agency in Moscow. He currently works in Brussels as a diplomatic correspondent. He is the author of the noir novel *Bologna permettendo* (Fazi 2009), the guidebook *Strano ma Londra* (Fazi 2012) and *Modello Putin - Viaggio in un Paese che Faremmo Bene a Conoscere* (People 2021). His novel *Ti tradirò per sempre*, republished by Orizzonte Milton, received the **Acqui Storia award for historical fiction**.

Author: SIMONA BALDELLI
Title: EVELINA AND THE FAIRIES
(EVELINA E LE FATE)

Pages: 252
First Publisher: Giunti (2013) New edition August 2024

Rights sold to: Roca Editorial (Spain)

ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

AN ASTONISHING NOVEL THAT CONNECTS THE THREADS OF HISTORY TO THOSE OF A LITTLE GIRL'S FANTASY WORLD, ON A FARM IN THE ITALIAN COUNTRYSIDE

MORE THEN 15.000 COPIES SOLD
SHORTLISTED FOR THE CALVINO PRIZE 2012
WINNER OF THE JOHN FANTE PRIZE 2013

TOMORROW NEEDS MEMORY IN ORDER TO EXIST

A fresh, free-flowing novel that has the ability to pull the reader into a parallel dimension despite the fact that the narrative of facts and circumstances belong to painful pages of Italian history: The Second World War, night bombings, starvation, round-ups, displaced persons.

The war rages a few miles from the Gothic Line, in the hills of Pesaro, where Germans and Fascists clash with partisans in the Toscano awaiting the Allied troops. The novel opens with a memorable scene, the arrival of evacuees during the second world war. To Evelina it seems that the souls of the dead are coming out from the snow.
Evelina is only five years old when the first evacuees find shelter in her father's barn, that moment when her life is overwhelmed and the carefreeness of childhood games gives way to the horror of war. But Evelina is protected by two fairies, the dark *Nera* and the cheerful *Scèpa*, and she has a power: she can see the world through the eyes of imagination...
The partisans are camped around the house in the country: their leader, *The Toscan*, has obtained food from Evelina's father, who sympathizes with them. Evelina and her brothers, Sergio and Maria one day find the corpse of a German killed by partisans: *the Black* makes them run away and hide moments before the Germans arrived. In a relentless succession of twists, on the hills behind Pesaro, the last year of the Second World War is filtered through the magic eyes of childhood, and includes Evelina's whole family and the secret of a Jewish girl hidden under a trapdoor in the barn.
Reality and magic mix and intertwine, bringing to life a peasant and fairy world, the tangle of civil war and world war. The dry style, enriched with dialect elements, makes the tale even more vivid: magic words, amulet words, nursery rhymes, opening the door to dream and prophecy.

PRESS REVIEW

«The surprising debut novel by Simona Baldelli is a magic book and not for the presence of the fairies, but for her natural style of writing that manages to blend real life and traditions, suffering and true stories, little moments of joy and absolute agony.» **Alessandra Rota, La Repubblica**

«A magical story, full of tenderness and mystery. A poetic and rhythmic novel, suspended between pain and redemption, between fear and strength that serves to undermine them.» **Paolo Di Paolo, L'Unità**

«A novel that conquers by managing to frame from an undoubtedly original point of view one of the many small individual stories of which the great History is made, understood as the founding moment of our identity: that History that never ceases to fascinate and to ask to be told.» **Gaia Rau, La Repubblica**

«An extraordinarily mature writing, this being a first work, and very expressive - making extensive use of a dialect very similar to that of Fellini's Amarcord and Otto e mezzo.» **Andrea Carraro**

« Simona Baldelli, a finalist for the 2012 Calvino Prize, refers precisely to Calvino, paying him n obvious homage with this book written with enchanted eyes.» **Massimo Onofri, Avvenire**

Simona Baldelli was born in Pesaro and lives in Rome. Her first novel, *Evelina e le Fate* ("Evelina and the Fairies", 2013) was shortlisted at the **Italo Calvino Prize and won the John Fante Literary Prize in 2013**. She has published *Il Tempo Bambino* ("Child Time", Giunti 2014), *La Vita a Rovescio* ("Life Inside Out", Giunti 2016), *L'Ultimo Spartito di Rossini* ("Rossini's Last Musical Score", Piemme 2018). With Sellerio Editore she has published *Vicolo dell'Immaginario* ("The Alley of Imagination", 2019), *Fiaba di Natale. Il sorprendente viaggio dell'Uomo dell'aria* ("Christmas Fairy Tale. The surprising journey of the Man of the air", 2020) and *Alfonsina e la strada* ("Alfonsina and the road", 2021) **winner of the Memo Geremia City of Padua 2021 Sports Literary Prize.** In 2023 she published *Processo ad Antigone* (People) and *Il pozzo delle bambole* (Sellerio) winner of **the National Literary Prize for Women Writers 2023**.

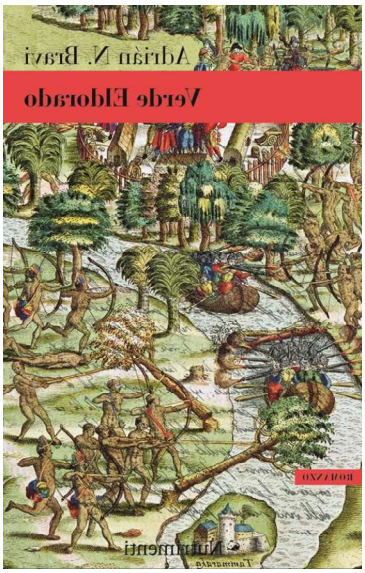
Author: SIMONA BALDELLI
Title: ROSSINI'S LAST SCORE
(L'ULTIMO SPARTITO DI ROSSINI)
Pages: 350
First Publisher: Piemme
Publication: 2018

Rights: Worldwide

SIMONA BALDELLI, AFTER A CLOSE DOCUMENTATION IN THE ROSSINI FOUNDATION ARCHIVES IN PESARO, HAS WRITTEN A RIGOROUS HISTORICAL NOVEL THAT HIGHLIGHTS UNKNOWN PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAITS OF MAESTRO ROSSINI.

"Writing a novel inspired by the life of Gioachino Rossini on the 150th anniversary of his death means making your own life wonderfully complicated. Because the first question you have to ask yourself as you look at the blank page is: what can you write about someone about whom everything has already been said? Someone who belongs not just to music lovers but to the collective imagination? Someone who in his lifetime was probably the most famous and acclaimed opera composer? The term 'Rossinimania' was coined for him in reference to his time spent performing in Vienna, where every street corner echoed with his music, postcards of his face sold like hot cakes, men dressed like Rossini, women sighed as he passed and restaurants had dishes dedicated to him. The same thing happened in every city where he lived and worked. Everyone wanted a piece of that jovial musician, with an easy hand at composing - he wrote the *Barber of Seville* in less than two weeks - a ready joke and a love of good food. And so he is still remembered today: a cheerful opportunist, a bon vivant. But, with the exception of some sacred and instrumental music, he actually stopped composing at the age of 37, after the wonderful *William Tell*. What brought the most famous musician in the world to silence?
This was the starting point for my journey through the life of a complex figure. A journey made on tiptoe, so as not to disturb the giant who had been resting in peace for the last 150 years. I discovered unknown, painful and deeply human aspects of Rossini's life that he attempted to conceal until his death, and he managed so well that he went down in history as a cheerful joker. His best comic opera character of all, we might say, and the mask behind which he was condemned to live."

Simona Baldelli was born in Pesaro and lives in Rome. Writer, actress and speaker, her first novel, *Evelina e le Fate* (Giunti, 2013), was a finalist for the Italo Calvino Prize 2012 and winner of the John Fante Literary Prize 2013. This was followed by *Il Tempo Bambino* and *La Vita a Rovescio*, winner of the Città di Cave Caffè Corretto Literary Prize, a novel inspired by the true story of Caterina Vizzani (1735) - a woman who for eight years dressed as a man -. *Rossini's Last Score* is her latest novel. Sellerio will publish in 2019 the novel *The Alley of Imaginary.*



Author: ADRIAN N. BRAVI
Title: GREEN EL DORADO
(VERDE ELDORADO)

First Publisher: Nutrimenti,
Publication date: May 2022
Pages 250

Rights: Nutrimenti

THE MIGRATION, THE SETTLING, THE SEARCH FOR AN ADOPTIVE WORLD, THE LANGUAGE AND ITS CONNECTIONS WITH THE COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS: THE WRITING THEMES OF ADRIAN N. BRAVI HERE MERGE IN A COMING-OF-AGE STORY, IN A TRAVEL CHRONICLE, IN AN EXISTENTIAL PARABLE - OR SIMPLY IN THE VOICE OF A YOUNG MAN WHO, AFTER LOSING HIS PLACE IN THE OLD WORLD, IS ABLE TO FIND ANOTHER WHILE SEEKING HARMONY WITH THE NEW ONE.

A FASCINATING NOVEL ABOUT SEBASTIAN CABOT'S TRAVELING, THE STORY OF AN EXISTENTIAL PARABLE THAT ALSO INCLUDES THE THEMES OF NATURE, LANGUAGE, INTEGRATION AND IDENTITY.

THROUGH UGOLINO'S VOICE, THAT CHARMS US FROM THE VERY FIRST LINES, A NEW VISION OF NATURE, LIFE AND RELATIONS BETWEEN HUMAN BEINGS OPENS UP BEFORE THE READER.

"I am asking you," I told Giorgina while holding the Periphyseon, "because here it says that there has been a second creation after Adam's. A creation that's a bit lopsided, I'd say, not perfect. But here," I said pointing at the forest, "it seems you have been created after the second creation, this one like a refined creation, retouched, do you know what I mean? The second, the one we have on the other side of the ocean, in the old world, is made of misfortunes and calamities. But this one, even if you do eat us raw, doesn't seem made only for man... Here all that surrounds us, trees, animals, marshes... they seem to constantly begin, as if we were at the dawn of everything".

Ugolino is forced to wear a hood because he was disfigured by a fire, and in the very urban Venice of 1526, scarring is a disgrace to keep hidden, a horror, the memento of the misfortunes that life can trample you with. But the young man cannot stay long in the room where he is holing up. Not tolerating his presence, his father decides to have him board the expedition of a friend who at that point can claim the title of Piloto Mayor: Sebastian Cabot. On April 3rd, 1526, Ugolino is aboard Cabot's flagship. The route is for the Maluku Islands in Indonesia, but the legendary explorer will never get there. Cabot falls short of the contract with the Crown of Spain to chase after the tale of a few survivors of a past expedition, telling about a city made of silver and gold. At first the fleet penetrates the Río de la Plata, then goes up the rivers Paraná and Paraguay. And it is while navigating on the Paraguay that

Ugolino is captured by an indigenous tribe together with four comrades, immediately slaughtered and devoured. While he, freed from the hood, is spared precisely because of his disfigured face, since in those marks the natives recognize the touch of the Karai, the lords of fire. From then on, the young man starts to live with the indigenous people, discovering a nature, a culture, a humanity, a language to learn and understand without demanding or expecting anything in return. Because in those territories that barely appear on the maps of the West there is so much life to appreciate, as long as those maps and the usual perspectives on the world are overturned. A life that vibrates in each and every inch of reality and in the body of Giorgina, the girl that more than any other creature gives meaning to Ugolino's settling, pushing him to wonder what the ultimate meaning of creation is.

Adrián N. Bravi was born in Buenos Aires, he lived in Argentina until the end of the 1980s, and then moved to Italy to continue his philosophy studies. He lives in Recanati and works as a librarian at the University of Macerata. In 1999 he published his first novel in Spanish (Río Sauce, Paradiso - Buenos Aires) and around 2000 he started writing in Italian. Some of his books: *Restituiscimi il cappotto* ("Give me back my coat", Fernandel 2014), *La pelusa* ("The pelusa", Nottetempo 2007), *Sud 1982* ("South 1982", Nottetempo 2008), *Il riporto* ("The comb over", Nottetempo 2011 - finalist at the 2012 Comisso Prize), *L'albero e la vacca* ("The tree and the cow", Feltrinelli 2013 - winner of the 2014 Bergamo Prize), *L'inondazione* ("The flood", Nottetempo 2015), *Variazioni straniere* ("Foreign variations", short stories, EUM 2015), *La gelosia delle lingue* ("The jealousy of languages", essays, EUM 2017), *L'idioma di Casilda Moreira* ("The language of Casilda Moreira", Exòrma 2019), *Il levitatore* ("The levitator", Quodlibet 2020). In 2010 he published a text for children, *The thirsty tree* (Helbling languages). His books have been translated into English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

Author: NICOLA BRUNIALTI
Title: A NAME THAT'S NOT MY OWN
(UN NOME CHE NON È IL MIO)

Pages: 350
First Publisher: Sperling & Kupfer
Publication date: January 16, 2022

Rights: Worldwide
Rights sold: Beijing Creative Art 创美时代 (China).

A CHILD IN THE WARSAW GHETTO, THE COURAGE OF A WOMAN WILLING TO DO ANYTHING TO GIVE HIM A NEW LIFE. THE NOVEL INSPIRED BY THE REAL STORY OF IRENA SENDLER, THE «SCHINDLER OF WARSAW».

WINNER OF THE *ALVARO BIGIARETTI* PRIZE, NICOLA BRUNIALTI ONCE AGAIN WRITES A BOOK WITH A STRONG SOCIAL MESSAGE, EXPLORING NOT ONLY MEMORY BUT ALSO RACISM AND INCLUSION.

Vienna, 2020. Marcus is only fourteen years old when he gets suspended for five days, accused, together with three friends, of writing slurs directed at a Jewish classmate on the walls of the school. The young boy risks facing heavy charges, so his mother Johanna, desperate, turns to his grandfather Rudolf Steiner, a former teacher, asking him to step in and put in a good word with the current principal. Rudy, now eighty-four, deeply shaken by his nephew's actions, decides to go on a trip to Poland with him. It will be the opportunity to tell him about his incredible and painful past, that not even his daughters know about, and relive his story, that of one of the last Jewish children saved by Irena Sendler, the "Schindler" of Warsaw, the heroine of the ghetto who hid the real names of thousands of those children in a jam jar buried under an apple tree.
A novel inspired by the real story of Irena Sendler, the Polish heroine called the «Schindler of Warsaw», who in the early 1940s saved almost three thousand Jewish children.

The narrative voice of Nicola Brunialti is powerful, he confirms himself as one of the Italian writers capable of telling a story that maintains stylistic dignity and originality of the plot in the face of themes as investigated as difficult as the anti-Semitism. **Il Giornale**

"A crucial issue concerning memory, new generations, the rise of anti-Semitism, the role of parents and the school system". **Avvenire**

"Telling the story of Janusz, Brunialti writes above all the story of the heroic deeds of Irena Sendler who died almost 100 years old in 2008". **La Gazzetta di Parma**

Nicola Brunialti has worked in advertising for many years, and was behind the campaigns for Lavazza, Tim, Alitalia and others. He has been a writer for popular TV shows since 2009. He is the author of more than 10 children's fiction books, and of a number of songs by Simone Cristicchi and Renato Zero. With Sperling & Kupfer has published *Il paradiso alla fine del mondo* (2019). He is a descendant of Alessandro Manzoni.

Author: PINO CACUCCI
Title: REPAIR THE WRONGS
(RIPARARE I TORTI)

Pages: 416
First Publisher: Mondadori
Publication date: 24th March 2026

Rights: Worldwide

Rights sold: Les Grands Vents (France)

Film/Tv rights available

A GREAT EPIC NOVEL WHERE SPYING, ADVENTURE AND LOVE STORIES INTERTWINE MASTERFULLY AS ONLY A GREAT STORYTELLER LIKE CACUCCI CAN DO. A STORY THAT EVOKES A VERY SIGNIFICANT SEGMENT OF ITALIAN AND MEXICAN HISTORY.

PINO CACUCCI FLOODS HIS WRITING WITH EVENTS AND MAKES THE WAR EPIC A SEGMENT OF HISTORY IN WHICH ONE LEARNS TO READ THE LOGIC OF FACTS AND RIGHT WRONGS.

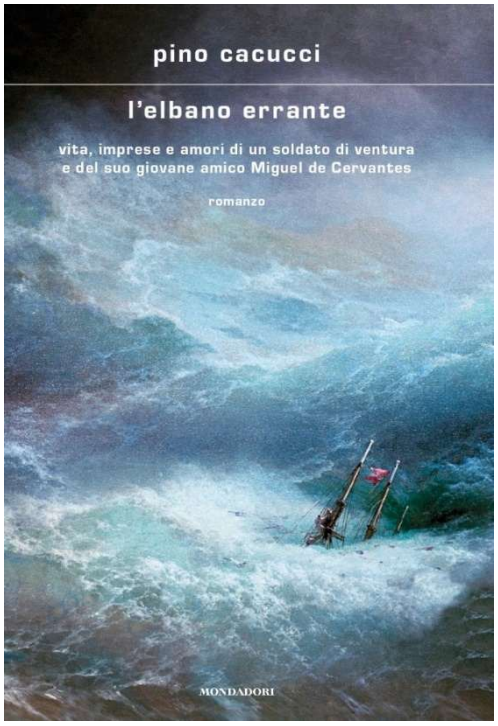
IT WAS SELECTED AMONG THE TEN NOVELS OF THE BOOK ADAPTATION FORUM (BAF, OCTOBER 7, 2025) FOR PREVIEW PRESENTATION AT MIA (INTERNATIONAL AUDIOVISUAL MARKET)

IN MEXICO, WHAT APPEARS SIMPLE IS ALMOST ALWAYS DANGEROUS

June 10, 1940. Ten Italian merchant ships are requisitioned by the still neutral Mexican government. Furio, boatswain of the Lucifero, after discovering that he is under close surveillance as a "probable anti-fascist and defeatist," is enlisted to find out what is happening on a wealthy coffee plantation in Chiapas. The land belongs to the Braun family (Eva, the Führer's companion, apparently visits from time to time). Every move is risky. On the one hand, the German owners are pushing for a coup by the Mexican far-right Synarchist movement; on the other, the government is keeping a close eye on developments. Furio is approached by Amalia, beautiful, mysterious, ruthless, who has suffered and witnessed abuse and violence on the coffee plantation.
The torch of justice is lit. Love and struggle mark the passage of time in a world that has meanwhile plunged into the vortex of war.
Pino Cacucci floods his writing with events and makes the war epic a segment of history in which one learns to read the logic of facts and right wrongs.

Pino Cacucci, (1955) Born in Alessandria he grew up in Chiavari, near Genua, and moved to Bologna in 1975 to study at the faculty of the performing arts. In the early 1980s he spent long periods of time in Paris and Barcelona, and then in Mexico and in Central America, where he lived for a few years. He is a translator and was awarded several prizes, including that for the best translation from the

Cervantes Institute in Rome, and the Premio Italia-México 2017 awarded in Mexico City. He published *Outland rock* (Traseuropa, 1988, winner of the MystFest prize; Feltrinelli, 2007), *Puerto Escondido* (Interno Giallo, 1990, then Mondadori and finally Feltrinelli, 2015) upon which Gabriele Salvatores based the homonymous film, Tina (Tina Modotti's biography), upon which a Mexican producer is developing a tv series, *San Isidro Futbòl* , upon which Alessandro Cappelletti based the film Viva San Isidro, starring Diego Abatantuono, (Interno Giallo, 1991; Feltrinelli, 2005), *La polvere del Messico* ("Mexico's dust", Mondadori, 1992; Feltrinelli, 1996, 2004), *Punti di fuga* ("Vanishing points", Mondadori, 1992; Feltrinelli, 2000), *Forfora* ("Dandruff", Granata Press, 1993), later on expanded into *Forfora e altre sventure* ("Dandruff and other misfortunes", Feltrinelli, 1997), *In ogni caso nessun rimorso* ("In any event no remorse", Longanesi, 1994; Feltrinelli, 2001), *La giustizia siamo noi* ("We are justice", with Otto Gabos; Rizzoli, 2010). With Feltrinelli he also published: *Camminando. Incontri di un viandante* ("On the road. Encounters of a wayfarer", 1996, Terra- City of Palermo Prize), *Demasiado Corazòn* (1999, Giorgio Scerbanenco Noir Prize at the Courmayeur Festival), *Ribelli!* ("Rebels!", 2001, Special Prize of the jury at Fiesole Narrativa), *Gracias México* (2001), Mastruzzi indaga ("Mastruzzi investigates", 2002), *Oltretorrente* ("Beyond the stream", 2003, finalist at the Paolo Volponi National Literary Prize), *Nahui* (2005), *Un po' per amore, un po' per rabbia* ("A bit for love, a bit for rage", 2008, that came out in Universale economica edition in two volumes titled Vagabondaggi, "Wanderings", 2012, and La memoria non m'inganna, "Memory does not trick me", 2013), *Le balene lo sanno. Viaggio nella California messicana* ("Whales know. Journey through Mexican California", 2009, Emilio Salgari Prize 2010), *¡Viva la vida!* (2010; "Audiobooks EmonsFeltrinelli", 2011), *Nessuno può portarti un fiore* ("No one can bring you flowers", 2012, Chiara Prize), *Mahahual* (2014), *Quelli del San Patricio* ("San Patricio's battalion", 2015), *Mujeres* (2018; with Stefano Delli Veneri in the series Feltrinelli Comics). He translated more than one hundreds of Spanish and Latin American novels into Italian, among whom Claudia Piñeiro, Enrique Vila-Matas, Ricardo Piglia, David Trueba, Gabriel Trujillo Muñoz, Manuel Rivas, Carmen Boullosa, Maruja Torres, Carlos Franz, Manuel Vicent. Some of his novels are translated into 7 languages and one is about to go into production for international TV series. With Mondadori has published *The Elban errant. Life, deeds and loves of a soldier of fortune and of his young friend Miguel de Cervantes* (Mondadori 2022), winner of **Alessandro Manzoni Award 2022 for Historical novel**, *Dieguito and the northern centaur* (Mondadori, 2024), a novel that recount the revolutionary deeds of Pancho Villa.



Author: PINO CACUCCI
Title: THE ELBAN ERRANT - LIFE, DEEDS AND LOVES OF A SOLDIER OF FORTUNE AND OF HIS YOUNG FRIEND MIGUEL DE CERVANTES
(L'ELBANO ERRANTE - VITA, IMPRESE E AMORI DI UN SOLDATO DI VENTURA E DEL SUO GIOVANE AMICO MIGUEL DE CERVANTES)

First Publisher: Mondadori
Publication date: 31st May, 2022
Pages: 936

Rights: Worldwide

WINNER OF THE MANZONI AWARD 2022
FINALIST AT ACQUI HISTORY AWARD 2022
FINALIST AT MASTERCARD LITERATURE AWARD 2022
FINALIST AT CAPRAIA AWARD 2023

FIRST REPRINT AFTER 4 MONTHS, MORE THAN 15.000 COPIES SOLD

PINO CACUCCI SETS IN MOTION A GIANT NARRATIVE MACHINE GRINDING ADVENTURES, HISTORY, POETRY, SHIPS, ARMS, COMMANDERS, CONCUBINES, RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, BATTLES, MASSACRES AND SENTIMENTS.

AN ADVENTURE ABOUT REPRESSION AND INJUSTICE, "THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RENAISSANCE".

"Cacucci is a craftsman, a builder of plots, atmospheres and characters."
Federico Fellini

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"The simple soldier of the Tercios Viejos de Napoles Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra was sitting on the barrack cot, sipping red wine with the Sargento Mayor who was in charge of his company of infantrymen; the other was standing, his back leaning on the wall next to the large window overlooking the alleys that rose steeply up to Castel Sant'Elmo.
The familiarity that had been established between them, after a series of vicissitudes, was encouraged by the good red wine...
«Why do they call you Elban?»
«I come from an island off the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, Elba. Tormented by the Turks, who burned my mother alive and kidnapped my sister, at the time hardly more than a child... And I will find her.»
The Spanish man took another sip, with a pensive expression.
«You will find her... and do you know where she is now?»
«Yes.»
Miguel understood that that issue had to be left to settle, and later on, perhaps... He preferred to satisfy other curiosities.

«How long have you been fighting?»
«Since I was fifteen years old.»
Miguel raised his eyebrows, thinking that this forty-something veteran had to have been to hell and back; besides, his face, that looked like it had been carved in stone and marked by all kinds of scars, was an adventurous tale in itself that piqued his desire to know more.
«Without ceasing?» asked Miguel.
«Without respite.»
«Aren't you tired of all the blood?»
Lucero nodded slowly.
«Yes. But only Sister Death will give me peace.»
«Why do you call it that? Are you devoted to Saint Francis? I thought you were to Archangel Michael.»
«I'm devoted only to this» he answered patting the hilt of his sword in the sheath.
«Well, after all, the sword is a cross, in every way...»"

Elba Island, spring of 1544. The Turkish corsairs, led by Khayr al-Din known as Barbarossa, admiral of the fleet of Suleiman the Magnificent, disembark at night on a beach nearby Longone - today Porto Azzurro - starting the invasion of the island.
Sixteen-year-old Lucero and his sister Angiolina, one year younger, are preparing for squid fishing: the night is favorable, but in truth the Red Moon is shining, an ill omen. Sure enough, the Turkish corsairs arrive, wounding Lucero and kidnapping Angiolina.
Lucero becomes an "unbeatable dueler" and a soldier of fortune, driven by an overwhelming feeling of revenge, and Angelina enters the Lord of Algiers' nuptial bed: she changes her name to Aisha, she gives a son to the sovereign of the corsair city-state, becoming the Favorite.
Lucero ("the Elban errant") goes on to slaughter Turks while Angiolina-Aisha ("the Christian whore") is the right hand woman of the Pasha.
Lucero falls into disgrace - for a murder committed as an assassin - with the Duke of Tuscany, he joins the Tercios of Naples and sets sail on a galleon en route for Veracruz, in the Nueva España (that is Mexico), land of the brutal Conquistadores. Then he comes back to Europe and finds himself fighting at Lepanto, the "Battle of the battles". And that's where he meets, hardly more than twenty years old, **Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra**, who fled Spain after killing (or perhaps only seriously wounding) a man in a duel (who had ridiculed his poems...).
Lucero found out from the Trinitarian friars (who in Algiers negotiate the liberation of Christian slaves) that Angiolina is there, and she is alive. All that's left to do is exact his revenge and take his sister and nephew Jalal with him.
Pino Cacucci sets in motion a giant narrative machine grinding adventures, history, poetry, ships, arms, commanders, concubines, religious beliefs, battles, massacres and sentiments. Through Lucero we follow Cervantes from Lepanto to the writing of *Don Quixote*. With Angiolina/Aisha we are on the stage of Algiers, the corsair city-state par excellence. Everything becomes - synthesis of the spirit of the novel - *adventure*. But an adventure about repression and injustice, *the other side of the Renaissance*.

At the end of the novel, an "epilogue" narrates the life of Cervantes from the liberation in Algiers - which occurred on October 24th, 1580 - until Don Quixote, through frustrations and disappointments, every kind of difficulty (among which a period in prison) and a wretched life in various professions...

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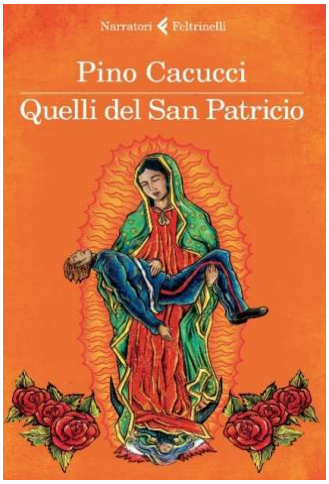

Author: PINO CACUCCI
Title: SAN PATRICIO'S BATTALION (QUELLI DEL SAN PATRICIO)
Pages: 280
First Publisher: Feltrinelli
Publication: 2015

Rights sold to: Grijalbo, Random House México (Spanish world, except Spain), Spain (Hoja de Lata)

Film Rights sold!

His previous books have been translated in: USA (St. Martin's Press), UK (Haus, Read and Noir Books), France (Christian Bourgois Éditeur, Éditions Gallimard, Éditions Belfond, Payot & Rivage), Swizerland (Diogenes), Germany (Krüger, White Star Verlag), Spain (*Roca Editorial, Hoja de lata*), Mexico (*Grijalbo*), Greece (Agra), Portugal (Ambar), Denmark (Klim).

SAN PATRICIO'S BATTALION IS ABOUT THE FAILED BATTLE OF JOHN RILEY, AN IRISH EMIGRANT WHO LEFT THE AMERICAN ARMY FOR THE MEXICAN SIDE, IN SEARCH OF JUSTICE AND PEACE. IT'S ABOUT THE MADNESS OF WAR - A BOOK THAT RESURRECTS, ALONG WITH A LITTLE - KNOWN EPISODE IN AMERICAN HISTORY, THE TRUTH (OR AT LEAST PART OF THE TRUTH) THAT WE OTHERWISE DARE NOT TO KNOW

Captain John Riley is among the few survivors of a war that devastated Mexico. he is now being looked after by a former guerrilla fighter and his faithful friend Consuelo, in a humble home in Veracruz. In 1846, America used the war as a pretext to annex Texas and also to occupy, during approximately two years of fighting, California, Utah, Colorado, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico. The conflict marked a singular phenomenon: a large number of the Irishmen enrolled left the American forces in order to join the Mexican army. Among them was the artillery lieutenant John Riley, who formed the Batallón San Patricio, and who would go on to inflict severe damage to the troops led by Generals Taylor and Scott. These Irishmen were considered not only deserters but symbols of supreme betrayal. After the war's last battle, in the suburbs of Mexico City, the triumphant troops attacked the few surviving members of the San Patricio unit, and, with extreme ferocity, flogged them and branded them with the letter "D," for deserter. Then they hanged them. All but one: Captain Riley. Mexico was a place Riley could call home. And now, after the fighting recedes, the epic wave of memory returns, the horror of the massacres as well as the memory of the close but troubled friendship between Riley and Captain Aaron Cohen, the head of West Point.

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Author: PAOLO CASADIO
Title: GIOTTO COURAGE
(GIOTTO CORAGGIO)

First Publisher: Manni Editore
Publication Date: 26th January 2023
Pages: 400

Rights: Worldwide

FIORDICOTONE: Rights sold: Edhasa (Spanish world), Editura Rao (Romania)

IL BAMBINO DEL TRENO: Rights sold to: Hoffmann & Campe (Germany), Edhasa (Spanish world), Editura Rao (Romania)

A GRIPPING NOVEL IN WHICH THE TRAGICNESS OF WAR IS COUNTERBALANCED BY GIOTTO'S EXUBERANT SYMPATHY AND THE LOVE BETWEEN A MOTHER AND SON.

"In the dormitory of the civil hospital in Salò, Giotto's legs dodged nurses and cots like skittles. The child did not follow a straight line and skirted in a dishevelled manner, in the unpredictability suggested by a consolidated experience of escapes. The kneecaps protruding from the short arms were reminiscent of chestnuts, and the baràcula ears had taken on the bright colour of the bragia. Giotto was panting in the hot half-light, desperate in his avaricious ten years, and at the sides of his mouth the saliva had congealed to form small white clumps. And yet, that pathetic body harboured an unsuspected energy: it looked like a disorderly galloping horse, whipped by the bilingual barks of the sanitary men: "Halt! Halt!"

"Ven ché, ricie à vela!", come here, sailing ears! "Verdammt, hor auf!", stop, damn you! When finally a German doctor grabbed him, the bite was instantaneous, vicious. The unfortunate man screamed untranslatable imprecations and left him, shaking his bitten hand. Giotto set off again, his heart bursting in his chest, inside his tank top smeared with congealed blood. In the loneliness of his shaven head he shouted one word: courage!"

Giotto, a 10-year-old orphan originally from Romagna, and Andrea, a young doctor, have chosen each other and, in the chaos, even legislative chaos, of the war, Andrea manages to take him with her and in fact adopt him. On Lake Garda, where the woman's parents live, Andrea and Giotto have to overcome the town's mistrust and bureaucratic difficulties, while around them the Republic of Salò is born, and they have to deal with the Nazi occupiers and the fascists surrounding Mussolini.

Declared a hospital zone, the Riviera is apparently quiet, and Andrea uses her professional position to help the partisans: with the complicity of the parish priest she clandestinely treats a British aviator, gathers confidential information while working at a German military hospital

and as a company doctor for a Fiat aircraft workshop. Discovered and arrested, she manages to get away with it. A gripping story in which the tragicness of war is counterbalanced by Giotto's exuberant sympathy and the love between a mother and son.

Paolo Casadio made his debut with the novel *La Quarta Estate* (Piemme, 2014), it won several literary Awards: **the 17th Prix Ravenna, the National Dolphin Prize of Costa Pisana 2015, the International Montefiore Conca Award 2015, the International Award for a Debut Novel Cinqueterre-Sirio-Guerrieri 2015, the Jury Award of the International Prize "Città di Pontremoli 2016", the Prize "Cattolica 2016", the 30° Massarosa Prize** for debut novel, the **Carver Prize 2017** and the **Francesco Serantini Prize 2017.** *Il bambino del treno* has won in 2018 **the Palmastoria Award, the San Domenichino Literary Award, the Zeno Prize, the Città di Massa Prize, the Crovi-Letteratura d'Appennino Award, the Cava de' Tirreni Award and the Locanda del Doge Prize** and it's finalist at **Lord Byron Award 2018**, at **Città di Arcore Prize,** at **Città di Murex Prize and at Massa Città Fiabesca Prize.**

Author: PAOLO CASADIO
Title: COTTONFLOWER (FIORDICOTONE)

Pages: 320
First Publisher: Manni Editore
Publication: January, 2022

Rights: Worldwide

Rights sold: Edhasa (Spanish world), Editura Rao (Romania)

IL BAMBINO DEL TRENO Rights sold to: Hoffmann & Campe (Germany), Edhasa (Spanish world), Editura Rao (Romania)

A HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR BECAUSE OF HER BEAUTY, ALMA VITA FINDS HERSELF IN AN ITALY DEVASTATED AND CRUMBLED BY THE WAR WITHOUT A HOME AND IN A COUNTRY THAT SHE DOES NOT RECOGNIZE.

BUT THE GREATEST DAMAGE IS THE ONE SHE CARRIES IN HER INTIMACY, AND ONLY THE SEARCH OF HER DAUGHTER CAN GIVE HER THE STRENGTH TO COME TO TERMS WITH LIFE.

In that excised existence she saw the reflection of her loved ones, the shame of surviving them. And everywhere she felt inside the long humiliation suffered: the sour taste in the mouth, the miserable and persistent feeling of violence. She had to clean up, in that warm and little pond, the perfect body that saved and condemned her because she no longer perceived its meaning, the breath and air that donate the perception of her last short life.
With the determination similar to dogs when they lick their paws, she rubbed with the soapy sponge the tattooed numerical mark, until the skin turned red. As to disintegrate it in a liquid mist because there was nothing except incredulity. The reality of the hell nullified the possibility of later existence, the possibility of God, because that hell was so bottomless and without dignity to leave no hope. There was nothing more. Only Cottonflower.

"And this is the strength of the story, Alma's return journey, from Poland to Romagna, in search of her child, but for her, who came from the hell, it is an incessant struggle not to go to Sheol, the kingdom of shadows." **La Repubblica**

"A shocking novel, a vigorous writing." **Il Foglio**

A dip in the violent convulsions of the newly liberated Italy." **Corriere di Romagna**

In June 1945 Alma Vita, Omero Da Fano's wife, returns to Lugo di Romagna where, in December 1943, she was arrested with her family for the order's execution to intern all Jews (Order Buffarini-Guidi number 5 of 30/11/43). Only Alma survived the camp. Her beauty saved

her in a destructive way, taking away any reasons to exist except the search of her daughter Velia, hidden by a stranger at the time of the arrest. In June 1945, Alma Vita is one of the sixty million "displaced persons": refugees, prisoners, deported, interned, civilians, soldiers. All people outside their national borders for war's reasons that, with unspeakable efforts and all sorts of difficulties, undertake the way back. Alma's long journey unfolds from Poland to the "Romagna" through Switzerland. The entry into Italy reveals a country crumbled by the conflict and the contradictions that followed the end of hostilities. Alma looks, observes, but she does not care about the damages she sees. The greatest destruction is inside her. Her only thought, her obsession is to find Velia to lead her into a world where violence is banned. In Lugo, Alma can't find anyone from the Jewish community. Her home has been confiscated and sold. The help of an enterprising priest, a redeemed hustler and a repentant marshal of Carabinieri let her discover where her daughter was taken. The journey continues and the search for her daughter becomes a reason to recover her identity.

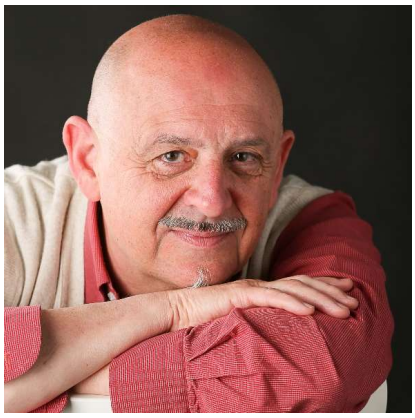
Press Review

"*The kid on the train* is a story of people and places, protagonists capable of preserving innocence and simplicity. The intensity of the language and the ability of narration are the virtues of Paolo Casadio."
Corriere della Sera

"*The kid on the train* is an un interrupted coup de coeur, narrated with grace and a remarkable litterary style. But is first of all a superb love story, a story of survival, of scratched hands, of hard work and also a story of wonder and dismay".
Il Foglio

"In rural Tuscany the lightning of the Shoah. (...) An hypnotic narration".
La Repubblica

Paolo Casadio made his debut with the novel *La Quarta Estate* (Piemme, 2014), it won several literary Awards: **the 17th Prix Ravenna,** the **National Dolphin Prize of Costa Pisana 2015**, the **International Montefiore Conca Award 2015**, the **International Award for a Debut Novel Cinqueterre-Sirio-Guerrieri 2015**, the **Jury Award of the International Prize "Città di Pontremoli 2016"**, the **Prize "Cattolica 2016"**, the **30° Massarosa Prize for debut novel**, the **Carver Prize 2017** and the **Francesco Serantini Prize 2017**. *Il bambino del treno* **has won in 2018 the Palmastoria Award, the San Domenichino Literary Award,** the **Zeno Prize**, the **Città di Massa Prize, the Crovi-Letteratura d'Appennino Award, the Cava de' Tirreni Award and the Locanda del Doge Prize and it's finalist at Lord Byron Award 2018, at Città di Arcore Prize, at Città di Murex Prize and at Massa Città Fiabesca Prize**.



Author: PAOLO CASADIO
Title: THE KID ON THE TRAIN
(IL BAMBINO DEL TRENO)
Pages: 220
First Publisher: Piemme
Publication: January, 2018

Rights: Worldwide

Rights sold: Hoffmann & Campe (Germany), Edhasa (Spanish world), Editura Rao (Romania)

ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE
FULL GERMAN AND SPANISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLES

THE STORY OF A FATHER, A FASCIST STATIONMASTER, AND HIS RACE AGAINST TIME TO REACH THE TRAIN IN WICH HIS SON – AS A GAME, OR PERHAPS FOR LOVE - HAS BOARDED. A TRAIN DIRECTED TO AUSCHWITZ

Giovannino Tini has passed the public exam to become a stationmaster, but - despite his misgivings - has been forced to join the PNF (The National Fascist party) to have a chance at a career. He starts his new job in the station of Fornello in June 1935, accompanied by his pregnant wife, a dog of uncertain breed and two bicycles which cannot be used because there is nowhere nearby to ride them: in the Apennine valley where the station sits there are only mule tracks and mountains. Three months later, their son Romeo is born, and the child grows up surrounded by deep snow, trains which pass through without stopping and the unchanging rhythms of nature. The valley seems almost to have been forgotten by the regime. One evening in December 1943, however, a train unlike the others shatters their isolation. Aboard are men, women and children headed for Germany. Romeo meets Flavia, a Jewish girl who comes from far away, and an intense relationship springs up between the two, along with a powerful desire to be together. This is the reason why, the morning when the train departs, Romeo is accidentally boarded along with the other deportees. Seventy years later the station is closed and the valley abandoned, and only one of Romeo's friends remains to tell their story. **With its powerful, refined style, *The Kid on the Train* accompanies the reader through the childhood of generation which was ruined by dictatorship, racial laws and war.**

"Is a story of people and places, protagonists capable of preserving innocence and simplicity. The intensity of the language and the ability of narration are the virtues of Paolo Casadio." **Corriere della Sera**

"An uninterrupted *coup de coeur*, narrated with grace and a remarkable litterary style. But is first of all a superb love story, a story of survival, of scratched hands, of hard work and also a story of wonder and dismay". **Il Foglio**

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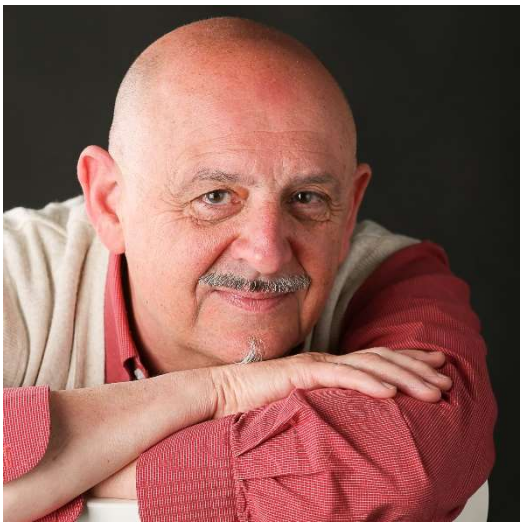


Author: GIACINTA CAVAGNA
Title: A MILLION STAIRS - THE GIRLS OF LA RINASCENTE
(UN MILIONE DI SCALE – LE RAGAZZE DELLA RINASCENTE)

Pages: 512
First Publisher: Neri Pozza
Publication date: 23th September 2025
Print run: 15.000 copies

Rights: Worldwide

La fabbrica delle Tuse. Le ragazze del cioccolato (2023): Rights sold: Hoffman und Campe (Germany), Harper Collins (France).

A GREAT NOVEL DEDICATED TO ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS PLACES OF WORSHIP IN ITALY AND THE WORLD, LA RINASCENTE. AN ADVENTUROUS HUMAN AND ENTREPRENEURIAL STORY, A SPLENDID AND DOCUMENTED FRESCO OF ITALY BETWEEN THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES. A DREAM COME TRUE

"It's the third Rinascente I've seen," whispers Bice, feeling her granddaughter's hand slip away. Cristina's eyes are fixed on the escalator. Bice watches her go up and down quickly and cheerfully. She sees herself as a child and thinks back to how many times she went up and down those stairs. "At least a million times," she whispers, touched.

Ferdinando and Luigi Bocconi have a dream. After watching their father wear himself out walking the streets and visiting farmhouses with a basket of fabrics on his shoulders, a real shop selling beautifully made clothes represents the future. In Milan, however, so close and yet so far from their hometown of Lodi. Then, their little dream becomes reality, winning the hearts of the Milanese day by day; it grows as big as that little shop, which is transformed into the first department store, opened right in Piazza del Duomo. The year was 1889. Bice, the daughter of a Bocconi warehouse worker, is already eight years old but has never seen such beautiful dolls, with real clothes, and as she climbs the endless stairs, she decides that this world of wonders will also become a little bit hers. The family of seamstresses on the top floor, who create magic every day, welcomed her, and Bice repaid them with a lifetime of dedication and affection. It is 1917 when the dream passes to the captain of industry Borletti, whose name is Senatore, and who sees in that factory of desires much more than a good investment: even when the department stores go up in smoke, La Rinascente will rise from the ashes, shining like a phoenix. Behind those counters worked Eleonora, Bice's daughter, who grew up in the salons she knew better than her own home. And with her gaze fixed on the spires of the Duomo, Cristina, Eleonora's daughter, would also find her own way to continue the family

tradition. In front of the shop windows and the eyes of Le Ragazze della Rinascente (The Girls of La Rinascente), the years of the African campaign, the world wars, the street riots and the reconstruction pass by. Extraordinary and terrible events that stop there, touching their lives or flowing away. But nothing will affect the certainty of having realized, right there, their little dream: a dream called independence and freedom.

And it is precisely on the wide stairs of La Rinascente that Bice, Eleonora and Cristina, grandmother, mother and daughter, move industriously: three generations of women who, through their work within those historic and luxurious walls, would build their lives as seamstresses, shop assistants and graphic designers, dreaming and, perhaps, seeing a better future come true.

HAVE SAID ABOUT "LA FABBRICA DELLE TUSE":

«Scrolling through the delightful pages of *La fabbrica delle tuse* one naturally feels admiration for the author's ability to bring to life a world, that of Milan between the 1920s and the end of the 1940s, of great charm and value».
Il Corriere della Sera

«A masterfully reconstructed industrial epic in a highly effective debut novel».
La Repubblica

«*La fabbrica delle tuse*, by Giacinta Cavagna di Gualdana, is an enthralling Masterfully reconstructed industrial epic in a highly effective novel that is also a true story every page exudes the scent of cocoa and makes one fall in love with its protagonists.
A book that sets an example».
Io Donna

Giacinta Cavagna di Gualdana is an art historian, lecturer at the University of Milan, and conducts research on 20th-century decorative arts. She collaborates with the MIDeC in Cerro di Laveno Mombello as curator. Fascinated by Milan's history, she organises guided tours to discover the city and its masterpieces through unusual itineraries. After years of study and research, she has published several books dedicated to her city. *La fabbrica delle tuse*, her debut novel, was a great success, it has sold more than 20.000 copies.

Author: GIACINTA CAVAGNA DI GUALDANA
Title: THE FACTORY OF THE TUSE. THE CHOCOLATE GIRLS.
(LA FABBRICA DELLE TUSE. LE RAGAZZE DEL CIOCCOLATO)

First Publisher: Piemme
Publication date: September 26th, 2023
pages: 368

Rights: Worldwide

Rights sold: Hoffman und Campe (Germany), Harper Collins (France).

FOUR REPRINTS IN FIVE MONTHS,
MORE THAN 20.000 COPIES SOLD!

ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

ONE THE OLDEST CHOCOLATE FACTORIES IN MILAN.
A WOMAN, OLGA ZANI, WHO WITH DIFFICULTY AND OBSTINACY WAS ABLE TO MAKE HER AND HER HUSBAND'S DREAM COME TRUE.
A MULTITUDE OF GIRLS, THE "TUSE", WHO, WITHIN THE WALLS OF THE FACTORY, FOUND A FAMILY AND A POSSIBILITY OF REDEMPTION.

IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING MILAN, ABSORBED BY THE REGIME, A DETERMINED AND AFFECTIONATE WOMAN, PIONEER OF FEMALE ENTREPRENEURSHIP, MANAGES TO DEAL WITH DELICATE AND DANGEROUS SITUATIONS ALWAYS SHOWING GREAT COURAGE.

A COMPELLING FAMILY SAGA OF THE 19th CENTURY
The intertwined destinies of a businesswoman ahead of her time and her workers, the employees of the chocolate factory.

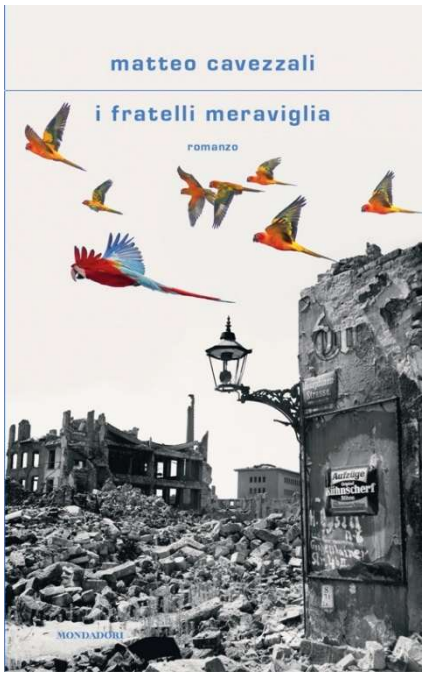
«The conches are still in operation, and make the rolls shake: the cocoa slowly mixes with the sugar. There isn't much to mix, but the scent is strong and inebriating. The tusa walks by the machine as she heads toward her position, and she closes her eyes to savor all its intensity. The war is over and Zaini is back!"
"There are no sacrifices when you love". It is with these words that Olga Torri agrees to become Luigi Zaini's wife and mother of his two children, Piero and Rosetta, who have recently lost their mother. Luigi is a kind and discreet man with a big dream, a chocolate factory in Milan. And Olga falls in love with his kindness and chocolate scent, as well as with the dream of a company like Zaini, that she immediately makes her own. Between conches and mixers, roasting and cooling machines and tables of wrappers, the factory grows, expands - as does the family where Luisa and Vittorio arrive - and experiments with new and original products; but it especially becomes a point of reference for its workers, the shop boys and the many tuse, "girls" in Milanese dialect, fundamental and tireless workers who, with their cold hands, don't melt the chocolate. They are Ernestina, Ines, Emilia and many other young women who, with their dreams and fragilities, accompany the life of the factory and dedicate their destiny to it. Zaini is a family and, like a

family, when Luigi dies prematurely in 1938, it stands beside Olga, who shows such courage and strength she herself is surprised. These are dramatic years, but among the rationing and autarchy, racial laws and bombs on Milan, that will hit Zaini hard as well, this little big company will manage to survive, to cherish the teachings of its founder and to keep on spreading the intense scent of its chocolate on the streets.

Giacinta Cavagna di Gualdana, through the fascinating and particularly humane story of a family and a factory, narrates half a century of the history of Milan, with the watchful eye of the art historian and the eyes of someone who deeply loves their city. An exciting novel on the resilience of women, on their capacity to lead a company and a family, in a period when Italy is going through war and so many dramatic changes.
An incredible story of female entrepreneurship, a compelling novel on the resilience of women, on their capacity to lead a company and a family, in a period when Italy is going through dramatic changes.

The story: Milan, 1923. The novel tells the story of one of the oldest chocolate factories in Milan, where the first blocks (chocolate bars) are wrapped in the workshop in Via De Cristoforis 6, opened by Luigi Zaini. From the 'Fabbrica di cioccolato, cacao, caramelle, confetture e affini' (Factory of chocolate, cocoa, candies, jams and similar) come the first chocolates, the first candies and the very first *Boeri*, until then imported. The world is greedy and success is quick. Production is constantly growing and space is soon too tight. In the mid-1920s, it was decided to move the factories to Dergano, a few steps away from Carlo Erba and Fernet Branca. In 1924, Luigi, a widower with two children, Piero and Rosetta, marries Olga Torri and soon Vittorio and Elisa are born, and with them arrives Emilia, who from then on helps the family and looks after the children. Emilia has a weakness for sweets: she never misses an opportunity to slip into the kitchen and experiment with some new recipe. The traditional Blocco Emilia, which can still be found on supermarket shelves today, is dedicated to the nanny. Suddenly the founder dies. It is 1938: the winds of war begin to blow heavily. On the death of her husband, Olga, not without worries and concerns, decides to take the reins of the family business and become director. Around her, the historical context becomes increasingly difficult and her choice to surround herself with female collaborators - both at home with the nanny Emilia and the cook Noemi, and in the factory with Ines as head of the commercial department and Clelia in administration, and giving work to many specialised female workers at the machines - will appear even stronger and more countercultural. In fact, the company will be nicknamed *'la fabbrica delle tuse'* (in Milanese dialect '*beautiful girls'*) by all the local residents and not only them. During the Second World War, as the bombing of the city becomes more and more massive, worried for the safety of her family and employees, Olga decided to close the factory and leave the city: overnight she buys a house in Varese, where she will evacuate with her children and her closest employees. Zaini is destroyed, only the main walls remain. Olga does not lose heart and in a few months manages to rebuild everything; the workers leave cocoa and aromas for bricks and cement: it is they who are hired as bricklayers by the construction company, founded for the occasion. The adventure can continue and they start again from the Block, that old recipe - always a secret - that has won over entire generations. Olga runs the company until the mid-1950s when she hands the baton over to her two sons: Vittorio, appointed director, and Piero, in charge of foreign relations: he is "Uncle Piero», who writes the chocolate recipes to be put on the Block Emilia wrapping.

Giacinta Cavagna di Gualdana, an art historian and assistant at the University of Milan, conducts research on 20th century ceramics. Fascinated by the history of Milan, since 2010 she has been curating guided tours, both for adults and children, to discover the city and its masterpieces, through unusual itineraries. "*The factory of the Tuse*" is her debut novel.



Author: MATTEO CAVEZZALI
Title: THE WONDER BROTHERS
(I FRATELLI MERAVIGLIA)

Pages: 237
First Publisher: Mondadori
Publication date: 20th January 2026

Rights: Worldwide

THIS IS THE STORY OF HOW I RISKED DYING,
EVEN BEFORE I WAS BORN,
IN AN EXTERMINATION CAMP IN 1943.

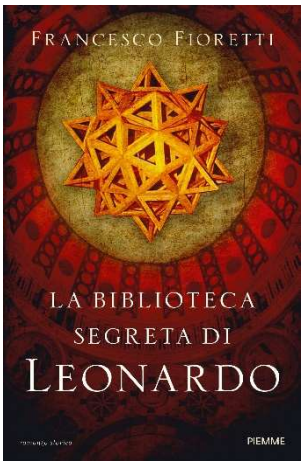
«I'll find him,» he said.
«No matter what happens. I'll find him.»
And when he said that, he clenched his fists as if
the whole world wasn't enough to stop him.

"IT'S A TRUE STORY THAT IMMEDIATELY CAUGHT MY ATTENTION. I FIRST HEARD IT WHEN I WAS SIX YEARS OLD. BUT IT WAS ONLY FIVE YEARS AGO THAT I FOUND ALL THE DOCUMENTATION TO RECONSTRUCT IT, INSIDE A WOODEN CHEST CONTAINING DOCUMENTS, DIARIES, LETTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHS. A STORY THAT WAS ABOUT TO BE FORGOTTEN, LOST IN THE MISTS OF TIME, BUT WHICH HAS NOW RESURFACED." Matteo Cavezzali

"Cavezzali writes a dramatic and redemptive novel about two lives, human and all too human, caught on the shadow line of existence."
Angelo Ferracuti - La Lettura, Corriere della Sera

Alfredo and Franco grow up in the 1930s, in a Romagna that smells of countryside and sea, almost unaware of the world in which they find themselves living, amid fascist marches, authoritarian schooling, and the distant echoes of dark threats, in days marked by games, bread and jam, and the voice of a mother urging her family to stay united: "A single branch can break, but not all of them together." Alfredo and Franco are as different as they are inseparable. One is discreet, quiet, and dreamy; the other is restless, courageous, and rebellious. When war breaks out, their childhood ends, sucked into chaos. Alfredo seems to disappear into thin air, and his brother wants to find him, whatever the cost. Europe is in flames, amid massacres and destruction. Only a feeling of youthful and bold determination can guide Franco in his search for his blood among the blood of so many others.
***I fratelli Meraviglia* traverses Italian and European history to tell what history cannot say: the strength of the bond between two brothers when the world seems to have lost its voice. A novel about memory, brotherhood, love, and the courage to remain human.**

Matteo Cavezzali, born in Ravenna, published his first novel with Minimum Fax, under the title *Icarus. Ascesa e caduta di Raul Gardini* in 2018, thanks to which he won the **Premio Volponi Opera Prima/Premio Stefano Tassinari 2019**. He has written texts for the theatre and collaborates with various newspapers and magazines. He founded and directs the literary festival Scrittura that takes place in Ravenna. In 2019 Mondadori published his *Nero d'inferno* and subsequently *Il labirinto delle nebbie*.



Author: FRANCESCO FIORETTI
Title: LEONARDO'S SECRET LIBRARY
(LA BIBLIOTECA SEGRETA DI LEONARDO)
Pages: 380
First Publisher: Piemme edizioni
Publication: 23th October, 2018

Rights: Worldwide

Rights sold to: France (HC editions), Spain/Latin America (Edhasa editorial) Netherlands (Meulenhoff Boekerij B.V.), Portugal (Marcador Editora), Bulgaria (Colibri), Publishing Solutions (Romania).

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IL LIBRO SEGRETO DI DANTE - Rights sold to: Hc Editions (France) • Suma De Letras (Spain) • Evro Giunti (Serbia) • Evora (Brazil) • Rebis (Poland) • Zbooka (Russia) • Little Seed Books (Korea) • Colibri (Bulgaria) .

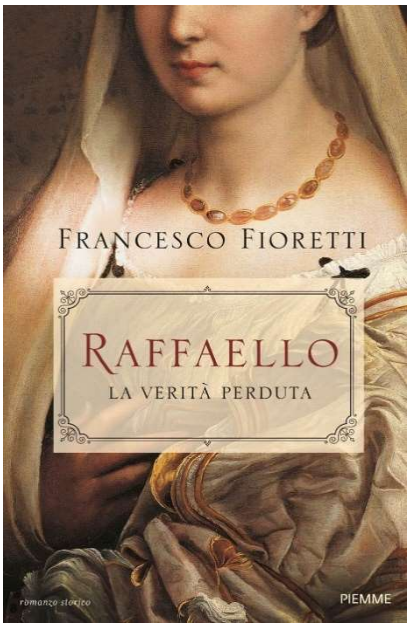
A HISTORICAL-BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL INTERWOVEN WITH A THRILLER.
A BOOK THAT DESCRIBES THE MOST IMPORTANT YEARS OF TECHNICAL, SCIENTIFIC AND ARTISTIC TRAINING OF THE TUSCAN GENIUS. A JOURNEY THROUGH THE MOST BEAUTIFUL RENAISSANCE CITIES IN ITALY.

A GREAT GENIUS ALWAYS ON A QUEST FOR TRUTH
A RENOWNED MATHEMATICIAN FACED WITH A HEINOUS MURDER CASE
A LOST LIBRARY WHOSE SECRETS COULD CHANGE HISTORY

Milan, 1496. Leonardo da Vinci has been anxiously waiting to meet for the first time friar Luca Pacioli, the renowned mathematician as well as Piero della Francesca's apprentice. While waiting in the scholar's monastery cell, Leonardo lingers over a painting depicting him, stricken by its allegories and its references to Euclideian geometry: each detail must have been chosen by Pacioli himself. To the knowledge-thirsty Leonardo, mathematics, which he had not had the opportunity to learn, had always been the most sublime of all sciences. This was the reason why he had the Franciscan friar invited to Milan by the city's ambassador in Venice: to learn from him. Their encounter, however, is troubled by the murder of Pacioli's cell neighbor: a self-styled priest, but in reality a thief, he had stolen some ancient Byzantine texts arrived in Italy following Sigismondo Pandolfo Malatesta's ruinous crusade in the Morea. Leonardo and Pacioli have a great interest in these books, vanished along with the murderer. They set to finding both, and together begin a journey that will lead them from Milan to Venice, from Florence to Urbino, through an Italy where

the glowing and peaceful days of the Medici, Sforza and Montefeltro dynasties are coming to a close. Leonardo will eventually solve the riddle hidden in the painting.
In this unforgettable tableau of Renaissance Italy, Francesco Fioretti leads us through Leonardo's most prolific and intriguing years – those of The Last Supper, of the Vitruvian Man, of the creation of amazingly modern machines – enveloping us once again in an atmosphere full of mystery.

Francesco Fioretti (1960) is a Professor of Italian literature. Between 2012-15 he made his Ph.D at the University of Eichstätt in Germany. *Il libro segreto di Dante,* his debut novel (Newton Compton,2011) received very good reviews, shot up the Italian bestseller lists, and stayed there for months. *Il quadro segreto di Caravaggio* and *La profezia di Dante* (*Newton Compton*, 2012 and 2013). *La Selva Oscura. Il grande romanzo dell'Inferno* the first rewrite of Dante's *Inferno* in modern prose, was published by Rizzoli in 2015.



Author: FRANCESCO FIORETTI
Title: RAPHAEL. THE LOST TRUTH
(RAFFAELLO. LA VERITA' PERDUTA)

Pages: 380
First Publisher: Piemme edizioni
Publication: May 26, 2020

Rights: Worldwide

Translation Rights sold to: HC Editions (France), Colibri (Bulgaria), Publishing Solutions (Romania).

FULL BULGARIAN TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

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1520-2020 FIVE HUNDRED YEARS SINCE RAFFAELLO'S DEATH

FRANCESCO FIORETTI OFFERS A UNIQUE PORTRAIT OF RAFFAELLO, NOT ONLY AS SOPHISTICATED AND ACCLAIMED MASTER, BUT ALSO AS THE VICTIM OF THE SAME POWER, WHICH MADE HIM ONE OF THE GREATEST FIGURES OF THE RENAISSANCE.

A BEST-SELLING AUTHOR IN ITALY AND ABROAD

Rome, 1519. It took him years of efforts and compromises, but now Raffaello, from Urbino is for all of us a master, The Master in reality, once Michelangelo and Leonardo left.
Then, the Eternal City proves to be worse than a snake nest where beyond ostentatious smiles there is envy and hostility.
By the time Pope Leone X appoints him with the role of superintendent to the Roman archaeology, things get even worse. Rome hides innumerable and precious treasures, which belong to the papacy, but many of these are located on the lands of the most influent noble families that would never renounce to benefit from their position. To emerge from this situation where he is struggling between the power of a foreign pope and the families he ingratiates, Raffaello decides to draw a map of the Imperial Rome. The transience of the individual houses' interests is, in time, undermined by an imperishable object. Then, few months later, Raffaello, the noble banker Chigi and the cardinal Bibbiena, his loyal friends and important patrons die in mysterious circumstances.

A disordered life and wrong love affairs, according to the official version, but for Pietro Aretino, illustrious poet and friend, and for Margherita, the Fornarina, unforgettable muse and Master's mistress, the deaths are work of the same murdering hand. And for discovering it they will have to go through a net of envies and resentments, ancient mysteries and secret deals between the most unimaginable allies.

With his refined style of writing and an extraordinary knowledge of the Italian Renaissance, Fioretti leads us into the still unsolved mystery of the death of the genius Raphael.

"*You have portrayed me many times as Madonna or courtesan: I am Maria with the child between the arms of the large canvas which you have sent to Piacenza, the Virgin that between Saint Sisto and Saint Barbara, walks delicately on a carpet of shading fumes beyond her, a chorus of clouds which are white heads of angelic cherubs*".

Francesco Fioretti (1960) is a Professor of Italian literature. Between 2012-15 he made his Ph.D at the University of Eichstätt in Germany. *Il libro segreto di Dante,* his debut novel (Newton Compton,2011) received very good reviews, shot up the Italian bestseller lists, and stayed there for months. *Il quadro segreto di Caravaggio* and *La profezia di Dante* (*Newton Compton*, 2012 and 2013). *La Selva Oscura. Il grande romanzo dell'Inferno* the first rewriting of Dante's *Inferno* in modern prose, was published by Rizzoli in 2015. *Leonardo's secret library* (Piemme, 2018) has been translated in 6 languages.

Author: EMANUELA FONTANA
Title: THE GIRLS OF ROME
(LE BAMBINE DI ROMA)

Pages: 450
First Publisher: Mondadori
Publication date: 5th May 2026
Print run: 15.000

Rights: Worldwide

FIRST REPRINT AFTER ONE MONTH!

THE STORY OF A LIFELONG FRIENDSHIP, AMIDST CONTESTED LOVES AND POWER GAMES, AS EXCITING AS A BRILLIANT FRIEND BUT SET IN ANCIENT ROME.

FROM THE AUTHOR OF THE BEST-SELLING NOVEL "LA CORRETTRICE", A NEW NOVEL FOCUSING ON TWO HISTORICAL FEMALE FIGURES NEVER BEFORE TOLD.

"LA CORRETTRICE", HAS SOLD MORE THAN 15,000 COPIES AND HAS REVEALED TO THE PUBLIC A NEW WRITER OF HISTORICAL NOVELS

***THE GIRLS OF ROME* IS THE FIRST BOOK IN A TWO-VOLUME SAGA**

"We have made a pact. We will be different from our fathers."

Giulia and Selene are no ordinary girls in first-century BC Rome. The former is the only daughter of Octavian Augustus, the man whom the Roman people regard as a god; the latter is the daughter of the scandalous love affair between Mark Antony and Cleopatra. When the couple, defeated by Octavian at Actium, take their own lives, Selene and her twin brother are taken to Rome and paraded as spoils of war in the triumphal procession. It is there that Giulia sees Selene for the first time, and is deeply struck by her: her long dark hair cascading over her shoulders and her proud bearing, despite having lost everything at the age of just ten. Octavian, in an act of clemency, decides to take the twins into his domus. And in that household, already crowded with half-siblings and cousins of all ages, Giulia manages to break through Selene's silence, slowly winning her trust. In the shadow of the ancient hatred between their fathers, an unexpected and tenacious friendship is born, one that grows, changes, cracks and mends itself continuously. They are completely different in every way: Selene has inherited her mother's charm and has a melancholic, reflective nature; Giulia is impetuous, capable of rivalling the boys and defying the rules. Surrounding them is a veritable extended family rife with underlying tensions, forbidden loves – such as that between Giulia and Iullo, Antony's only son spared by Octavian – and unions dictated by the logic of power, such as the marriage to which she herself will be destined in order to produce an heir for her father, Augustus. Outside the domus, a splendid Rome in the midst of its 'golden age', celebrated by poets and propaganda, seemingly at peace but in reality threatened by intrigues and conspiracies. Alternating the main narrative with the silence and solitude of Giulia's exile in Ventotene, Le bambine di Roma follows the protagonists to the threshold of adulthood, accompanying them through the first major upheavals that disrupt and divide their lives and the worlds – West and East – of which they are daughters.

Emanuela Fontana was born in Milan but has lived in Rome for many years. She is a teacher, journalist, and tour guide. She made her debut with Mondadori with *Il respiro degli angeli* (The Breath of Angels, 2021), followed by *La correttrice* (The Proofreader, 2023), **winner of the Manzoni Prize**, which revealed to the general public the figure of Emilia Luti, a Florentine nanny who played a role in the revision of *The Betrothed*. Her essay for Treccani on Emilia Luti and her correspondence with Alessandro Manzoni is going to be published in September 2026.

Author: EMANUELA FONTANA
Title: LA CORRETTRICE. L'EDITOR SEGRETA DI ALESSANDRO MANZONI

First Publisher: Mondadori
Publication date: Maggio 2023
Pages: 370

Rights: Worldwide

TRE RISTAMPE IN 6 MESI!
OLTRE 15.000 COPIE VENDUTE

LA STORIA VERA DELL'EDITOR SEGRETA DI ALESSANDRO MANZONI

PREMIO MANZONI PER IL MIGLIOR ROMANZO STORICO 2023

«Nell'anno dell'anniversario Manzoniano, Emanuela Fontana riporta alla luce, con la sua penna musicale e ricca di luce, la bella storia di Emilia Luti, donna preziosissima per la storia della letteratura italiana ma, ahinoi, come tante altre dimenticata.»
Io Donna

«Di quattro anni di lavoro restano 25 biglietti, su una colonna le domande di lui, sull'altra le risposte di lei: la lingua italiana si va perfezionando così, con dei pizzini che fanno su e giù tra la casa dei d'Azeglio e quella di Manzoni in via Morone. Finché correggere i Promessi Sposi non diventa un lavoro a tempo pieno ed Emilia Luti trasloca nel palazzo dello scrittore. "La risciacquatura in Arno" è dunque anche, forse soprattutto, il risultato di questa collaborazione straordinaria.» **Il Venerdì di Repubblica**

IN CHE MODO SONO LEGATE LE SORTI DI UNA GIOVANE BAMBINAIA E DEL ROMANZO PIÙ CELEBRE DELLA STORIA DELLA LETTERATURA ITALIANA?
Per scoprirlo bisogna calarsi in un palazzo nobile della Firenze del 1838, dove quella ragazza di nome Emilia Luti, nubile e orfana di padre, per mantenere la madre e le sorelle minori fa la spola giorno e notte tra la stanza dei bambini e il Gabinetto letterario di casa Vieusseux, nella doppia mansione di bambinaia e aiutante di biblioteca. Quando Massimo d'Azeglio la incontra nel salotto dell'amico rimane colpito dai suoi modi schietti e dal suo fiorentino purissimo e le propone di seguirlo a Milano per occuparsi della piccola Rina, la bambina avuta dalla prima moglie Giulietta, figlia di Alessandro Manzoni. È così che Emilia fa il suo timoroso ingresso nella casa dello scrittore che con i suoi *Promessi sposi* ha già conquistato il cuore di migliaia di lettori. Il romanzo ha avuto successo, ma lui non è soddisfatto, si è messo in testa di ristamparlo in un'edizione illustrata e di rivederne completamente la lingua, per avvicinarla ancora di più a un fiorentino capace di parlare a tutti, "una lingua che diventi la lingua degli italiani". Quasi per scherzo, sottopone a Emilia qualche frase, e impressionato dalle sue osservazioni comincia a mandarle dei bigliettini per chiederle aiuto. I due finiranno per rileggere e correggere insieme l'intero romanzo, tra lo studio di Milano e la villa di campagna a Brusuglio, circondati e spesso distratti dalle vicissitudini dell'ingombrante famiglia Manzoni. Capitolo dopo capitolo, fiorirà tra loro la confidenza che nasce quando si cammina insieme in quel luogo spaventoso e pieno di meraviglia che sono le parole di uno scrittore. Don Alessandro rivelerà a Emilia le sue paure,

e a sua volta Emilia si aprirà con lui fino a raccontargli il suo più grande segreto. Prendendo le mosse da una storia vera rimasta finora nell'ombra e attingendo dalla corrispondenza tra il Manzoni e la Luti e da materiali inediti emersi dalle sue ricerche, Emanuela Fontana traccia un ritratto profondamente umano dello scrittore più idealizzato di tutti i tempi e trasforma Emilia in un grande personaggio letterario, sagace e libero, rendendo così giustizia al contributo dato da una giovane donna al romanzo più famoso di sempre, nella versione che tutti noi abbiamo letto e studiato.

Emanuela Fontana è nata a Milano ma vive da molti anni a Roma. È insegnante, giornalista e guida escursionistica, ed è stata finalista alla XXI edizione del premio Calvino. Ha esordito con il romanzo *Il respiro degli angeli. Vita fragile e libera di Antonio Vivaldi*, il primo romanzo che ricostruisce la vita del geniale compositore delle Quattro stagioni, pubblicato da Mondadori nel 2021. Nel 2023 ha pubblicato con Mondadori, *La correttrice*, la vera storia dell'editor segreta di Alessandro Manzoni.

Author: EMANUELA FONTANA
Title: ANGELS' BREATH
(IL RESPIRO DEGLI ANGELI)

Pages: 470
First Publisher: Mondadori
Publication date: June, 2021

Rights: Worldwide

IN 2025 WE CELEBRATE 300 YEARS SINCE THE FIRST PERFORMANCE OF THE FOUR SEASONS

THE FIRST NOVEL RECONSTRUCTING THE LIFE OF THE BRILLIANT COMPOSER, BETWEEN ITS PAGES, VIVALDI AS A CHILD AND THE ETHEREAL AND IMPOSSIBLE LOVE THAT INSPIRED THE FOUR SEASONS

BETWEEN THE PAGES OF ANGELS' BREATH: VIVALDI AS A CHILD AND THE ETHEREAL, IMPOSSIBLE LOVE THAT INSPIRED THE FOUR SEASONS

The search for air was my need in those days, and I immediately perceived it, air, listening again to Vivaldi's music: vortices, winds, an infinite desire for breath and freedom.

Venice, 1688. We are in the workshop of Giambattista Vivaldi, who, in order to support his five children, takes care of the beards and hair of the lords of the Serenissima and occasionally entertains them with the violin, his true passion. Antonio, hair as red as fire, is ten years old and a very fragile child, he is always short of air and his heart runs much faster than his legs. Suddenly, the young Vivaldi finds his father's violin in his hands and, without ever having touched it before, improvises a furious melody that enraptures everyone present, including the young Alessandro and Benedetto Marcello, destined to become his lifelong friends and rivals. From that moment on, Antonio will never again separate himself from his violin, not even when, shortly afterwards, he is forced by his family to take the path of the priesthood. But while saying mass fatigues him and causes him respiratory crises, music soon becomes his air. And when he tires of playing other people's, he will begin to compose his own, with the fervour and haste of someone who writes each piece of music as if it were his last. A fragile genius full of contrasts, generous with the last but also eager for fame and glory, he will teach singing to the orphans of Venice and frequent sumptuous courts, compose sacred music but also enormously successful concerts and dozens of operas, which he will personally stage in theatres across half of Europe. It was at the height of his brightest summer that, among the servants of the court of Mantua, he met the only important woman in his life, the very young Anna Girò, with whose voice and talent he fell so much in love that he launched her into a career as a singer. A spiritual and creative partnership that will cause gossip and scandal, but will also inspire some of the most immortal concerts in history, including The Four Seasons.

Emanuela Fontana tells us about this ethereal and impossible love, this incessant dance of chasing and estrangement, with delicate and empathetic writing. And, through a series of portentous fictional inventions and an alternation of temporal planes, which give rhythm and visual power to the page, she succeeds in giving us back all of Antonio's souls: the shy child with fiery hair, the rebellious and extravagant young man, the ambitious composer and finally the lonely old man, forgotten by all, who, on the snowy streets of Vienna, in the company of a brilliant little pupil, tries to sell his music for a few coins. These are the seasons of one exceptional life, never before narrated in novel form.

Emanuela Fontana was born in Milan but has lived in Rome for many years. She is a teacher, journalist and hiking guide, and was a finalist in the 21st edition of the Calvino Prize. Her debut, published by Mondadori in 2021, is *Il respiro degli angeli. Vita fragile e libera di Antonio Vivaldi*, the first novel to reconstruct the life of the brilliant composer of the Four Seasons. In 2023 she published with Mondadori, *La correttrice,* the true story of Alessandro Manzoni's secret editor.

Author: ALLEGRA IAFRATE
Title: THE STRANGLER
(LA STRANGOLATRICE)

Pages: 300
First Publisher: Guanda
Publication date: February 2027

Rights: Worldwide

MYSTERIOUS DISCOVERIES, A RESTLESS PAINTER AND THE SHADOW OF THE INQUISITION: A GRIPPING NOVEL SET IN THE FLORENCE OF THE MEDICI, WHERE NOTHING IS AS IT SEEMS.

A MYSTERIOUS PAINTING THAT HAS AN ENTIRE COURT IN ITS GRIP.

AT A TIME WHEN FLORENCE WAS IN FLAMES WITH INTRIGUE, POISON AND SILENT BURNINGS, THE PORTRAIT OF A STRANGLER EMERGES.
THE THREAT OF A NAMELESS WOMAN.

In June 1640, in Florence, on the night of St John's Day, the corridors of the Palazzo Pitti became the scene of a disturbing mystery. The painting of *The Strangler*, along with a wax effigy and the carcass of a black goat, was discovered in front of the Medici apartments. Could this be witchcraft? The Inquisition has no doubts; it has long been seeking a suitable opportunity to strike at the ducal family. But Salvatore Rosa, a Neapolitan artist working at court, is convinced that there is another meaning hidden behind these objects. Eager to protect the sister of the woman he is in love with - who risks becoming a scapegoat in the trial – he embarks on an investigation that draws him into the secrets of the noble Florentine family, amidst political rivalries, tensions with the clergy, clandestine passions and illegitimate children. As his investigations take him beyond Florence, Rosa gradually realises that the painting might conceal something quite different from an occult ritual. **Allegra Iafrate reconstructs 17th-century Medici-era Florence with historical accuracy in this debut novel, imbued with noir and Gothic elements, in which art proves to be the key to unravelling the most unspeakable mysteries of the Florentine nobility.**

Allegra Iafrate was born in Bologna in 1985. She studied Modern Literature and Medieval Art History at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa and obtained a violin diploma from the Maderna Conservatoire in Cesena. From 2022 to 2024, she directed the Italian Cultural Institute in Brussels. In 2021, she published the essay *Cercar tesori. Tra Medioevo ed Età Moderna* with Laterza. *La strangolatrice* is her debut novel.

Author: SONIA MILAN
Title: THE FAVORITE SISTER
(LA SORELLA PREDILETTA)

Pages: 450
First Publisher: Garzanti
Publication date: June, 2026

Foreign Rights: Garzanti

TWO VERY DIFFERENT WOMEN
A SECRET DIVIDES THEM
A BOOK BRINGS THEM TOGETHER AGAIN

FROM THE AUTHOR OF *LA PRIMOGENITA*,
WHICH SOLD OVER 25,000 COPIES!

SONIA MILAN RETURNS TO HER READERS
WITH A NOVEL IN WHICH THE INCREDIBLE STORIES OF TWO SISTERS INTERTWINE WITH ENCOUNTERS WITH REAL-LIFE CHARACTERS AND THE GREATEST EVENTS IN HISTORY.

«Sonia Milan has a knack for keeping readers glued to the pages while also offering carefully reconstructed historical settings.»
Carlotta Sanzogni - Cosmopolitan

« Sonia Milan's heroines are not easily forgotten.»
Fulvia Degl'Innocenti - Famiglia Cristiana

Paris, the 1920s. Estelle and Olympia are sisters, but they couldn't be more different: the former is gentle and always open to others, the latter rebellious and a maverick. Yet it was Olympia who raised Estelle after they lost their mother when they were still children. One day, Estelle falls in love with Paul, a young aspiring writer. Olympia is happy for her, but feels the weight of a secret she has never been able to reveal. Then fate tears them apart, and that sense of guilt becomes insurmountable. All Olympia has left is Paul's unpublished first novel. So, she decides to do everything in her power to get it published. She owes it to him. And she owes it to Estelle. Only then does she realise that life is presenting her with a new challenge. She sets off for Spain, ravaged by the civil war, and, against that tragic backdrop, tries to forget. Decades later, in Rome, Caterina is a young journalist dissatisfied with her job. When she stumbles upon the story of a mysterious novel, she is captivated. It could be a case of plagiarism: the book was published by two different authors, in Paris and New York, in eras far apart. But her research reveals something quite different. Behind that novel lies a great love story. And hidden within it is a woman's final act of devotion to her beloved sister. Caterina realises that you cannot protect someone forever, but you can love them timelessly.
Because, one way or another, fate always ends up coming full circle. And perhaps the time has come for her to write her own story. Following the huge success of *La Primogenita*, fuelled by word of mouth among readers, Sonia Milan returns with a novel in which the extraordinary

stories of two sisters intertwine with real-life figures and major events in international history. A novel of great loves and sudden rebirths, of bonds stronger than anything else, and of choices that seem impossible.

THE HISTORICAL FIGURES THE PROTAGONISTS MEET IN THE NOVEL

Dolores Ibárruri, known as "La Pasionaria," was a Spanish politician, activist, and anti-fascist. During Franco's dictatorship, she inspired the Spanish resistance.

Ernest Hemingway, one of the most famous American writers and journalists, won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954.

Martha Gellhorn, American journalist, writer, and travel reporter, is considered one of the greatest war correspondents of the 20th century.

Oliver Sacks, British neurologist and writer, is the author of numerous best-selling books, many of which are dedicated to people with neurological disorders.

Sylvia Beach, American publisher, founded the Shakespeare and Company bookshop in Paris, where she published Joyce's controversial Ulysses and Ernest Hemingway's first book.

Sonia Milan, born in Rome in 1969, works in the IT sector. Passionate about flowers, she has obtained a certificate in ornamental floriculture from the municipality of Rome, is an expert rose grower, and is a member of the international jury for the Premio Roma award. She is also a great history buff. She is in love with Victor Hugo and has three dogs and a cat. Her debut novel *La primogenita* has sold over 25.000 copies.

Author: CATERINA MANFRINI
Title: SEVEN TIMES FOREST
(SETTE VOLTE BOSCO)

Pages: 240
First Publisher: Neri Pozza
Publication date: 11th July 2025

Rights: Worldwide

Rights sold: Rowohlt Verlag - pre-empt deal (Germany), Buchet-Chastel – auction (France), Dedalus (English World);

ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

FOUR REPRINTS!!

FINALIST AT THE ZOCCA PRIZE FOR YOUNG WRITERS

ADALINA TRAVELS ON AN OLD TRAIN TO RETURN HOME. THE GREAT WAR TOOK HER PARENTS AWAY AND LEFT HER HOMELAND, SOUTH TYROL, UNRECOGNISABLE: THE BORDERS AND LANGUAGE HAVE CHANGED, THE MOUNTAINS AND FORESTS HAVE BEEN TORN APART BY BOMBING. THE TIME HAS COME TO START OVER, TO HEAL THE WOUNDS OF BODY AND SOUL, WHILE WAITING FOR HER BROTHER EMILIANO TO RETURN HOME.

A RAW AND POETIC DEBUT NOVEL. A TIME TO DIE AND A TIME TO HEAL. A CONTESTED LAND TORN BETWEEN FRAGILE BORDERS AND THE DESIRE TO BELONG.

AN EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF FEMALE REDEMPTION, DEEPLY INTERTWINED WITH THE INTENSITY AND STRENGTH OF THE MOUNTAINS.

"Seven times forest, seven times meadow": this was the prophecy they lived by. Life, in short, was a circle. Everything, in the end, returned to how it had been, and nothing they had was owed to them. Everything changed, went through phases and seasons, returned to how it had been and started again. Perhaps things would start again for Adalina too, now that she was back at the màs.

Adalina is alone. She has been travelling on that old, creaking train for two days. She has no one beside her to hold, comfort or feed. She only has a suitcase clutched between her legs, made of a bit of wood and cardboard that has almost melted in the storm. She is returning from Mitterndorf, the refugee camp for the inhabitants of South Tyrol, which was incorporated into the front line of the Great War, where she spent the last terrible year and lost her parents, who died of exhaustion and grief. In the camp, during the harsh days broken only by work at the shoe factory, and during the long nights crushed between the bodies of other desperate people, only two thoughts kept her alive: her màs, the farmstead that had been passed down through her family for generations, and Emiliano, her brother who had left to fight for an empire that had crumbled like a loaf of bread, the brother she had not heard from in months and who was now the only one left to call her by the name she loved: Lina. Back home, Lina realises that not only her family, borders and language have changed: the mountains and woods are no longer the same, torn apart by bombing, plundered and stripped bare. The farmhouse has partly collapsed and been blackened by fires set by squatters. But it is still standing. Adalina knows that life is made up of sad winters as well as lush springs, and now is the time to start over, to heal the wounds of the body and soul. This is also true for Emiliano, who will return from the war and must not think that Lina has ever given up. Until one day, something changes in her hard-won daily life. A young man has

sneaked into the farmhouse: he is a soldier, like Emiliano; he speaks German, the real one. And, just like Emiliano, he too is now on the wrong side of the border.

"Writing about mountains has become a well-represented 'subgenre' in bookshops, but one in which it is difficult to avoid clichés. Some manage to do so, as Caterina Manfrini's debut novel, *Sette volte bosco*. A novel that brings back to the present a largely forgotten episode dating back to the First World War: the great deportation, decided by the Austro-Hungarian Empire, to remove its Trentino subjects from the border area.

A journey between memory and hope, in an evocative debut novel.
Il Venerdì

Here, the mountain emerges, a "real" mountain, with its lyricism and tragedy, with its popular nakedness, as in the pages on Mount Pasubio ravaged by war, or in those on the market where goods are exchanged in kind. Bending down with careful research on the ignored tragedy of the Trentino populations thus becomes, on the one hand, a gesture of pity but also, on the other, of conscious restitution, ultimately of belonging.
Mario Baudino - EN Il Libraio

A first time to frame. Because making your debut with a novel, at a historic publishing house, when you are not even thirty years old, is not for everyone. Caterina Manfrini succeeded. **Carlo Martinelli – Il T**

Such a strong and powerful bond with the place, traditions and language are the elements that make this literary debut worth reading.
Il Piccolo

Caterina Manfrini was born in Rovereto in 1996. She studied anthropology in Denmark and Bologna. Her passion for stories led her to London, where she obtained a master's degree in Creative Writing. *Sette volte bosco* is her debut novel.

Author: CATERINA MANFRINI
Title: THE SUN IS BACK
(TORNA IL SOLE)

Pages: 250
First Publisher: CAI Edizioni
Publication date: 21 October 2026

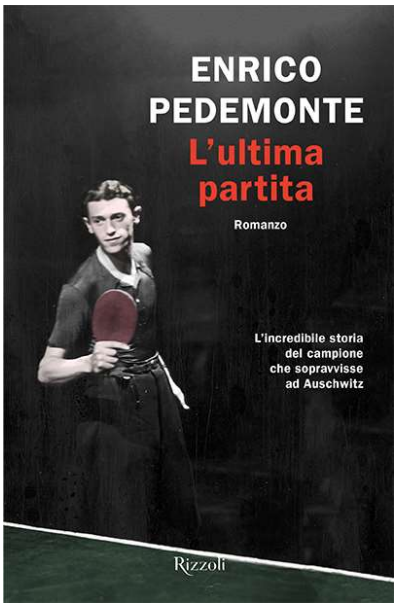
Rights: Worldwide

Sette volte bosco - Rights sold: Dedalus (English world), Rowohlt Verlag (Germany), Buchet Chastel (France).

"The sun returned, just as, Martino thought, it always did. It reclaimed the valley as if nothing had changed, and continued to shine, to radiate its light. Who knows if, in the meantime, it was aware of the things that, beneath it, grew and died, blossomed and rotted over the course of seasons, days and minutes."

Set amongst the mountains of Trentino and Veneto, the 20th century bursts into the lives of men and women forced to grapple with wars, migration, poverty and upheavals destined to change the landscape and communities forever. Four stories follow characters caught between the need to leave and the desire to belong: Martino, a stonemason working on the construction of a road that threatens the valley's ancient balance; Ines, a young displaced woman serving on the second line on Mount Pasubio; Aleksandra, who has arrived from Russia in a mountain village where she is trying to put down new roots; and Aurelia, who seeks a promise of rebirth in the ancient carnival rituals. Through separate stories united by the same human landscape, the collection portrays the mountains as a dynamic, living place: houses, terraces, woods, roads and boundaries form a geography of memory in which human time confronts the slower passage of the seasons. The result is a collective portrait of roots, work and the possibility of starting afresh, even when doing so seems truly difficult.

Caterina Manfrini was born in Rovereto in 1996. She studied anthropology in Denmark and Bologna. Her passion for storytelling took her to London, where she completed a Master's degree in Creative Writing. In 2024, she published the young adult novel *Cugini* (Einaudi EL). In 2025, *Sette volte bosco* (Neri Pozza), her first novel, was a great success, as evidenced by four reprints and translations into English, French and German, as well as a **special mention at the 2026 ITAS Mountain Book Award.**



Author: ENRICO PEDEMONTE
Title: THE LAST GAME
(L'ULTIMA PARTITA)

Pages: 264
First Publisher: Rizzoli
Publication date: 25th January 2022

Rights: Worldwide

IN THIS NOVEL, INSPIRED BY THE UNPUBLISHED MEMORIAL OF ALOJZY EHRLICH, ENRICO PEDEMONTE RETRACES THE LIFE OF THE CHAMPION, FROM HIS EARLY YEARS IN POLAND UNTIL 1945, WHEN HE FAINTED, EXHAUSTED, ON A TRAIN THAT WAS TAKING HIM BACK TO FRANCE.

***THE LAST GAME* NARRATES THE HOLOCAUST - AND A LOT MORE - FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF AN INVOLUNTARY HERO, AND DEPICTS THE ALL-ROUND PORTRAIT OF A MAN WHO IS FULL OF CONTRADICTIONS, REMORSE, AMBIGUITY AND A NEVER-ENDING WILL TO LIVE. AN EXCEPTIONAL AND EMBLEMATIC SERIES OF EVENTS THAT SHOW THE READER HOW IT IS STORIES THAT MAKE HISTORY.**

"He had to write about Auschwitz. To relive his own memories. To win the last game."

How did I survive? Alojzy "Alex" Ehrlich asks himself while staring at his old typewriter. It's the first of January 1991, the day of his seventy-sixth birthday. Forty-six have gone by since he, Jewish, table tennis world runner-up, came out of the hell of Auschwitz and escaped the death march. He knows he doesn't have long to live, and the time has come for him to tell his story. So he starts writing: his militancy in the resistance, the arrest in June of 1944, the tortures, the trip in the locked wagon, the concentration camp. He's not like the other prisoners. The Nazi guards know he is a sports champion and assign him to a kommando with a special task: to defuse unexploded bombs. And while he is reliving the hell of the lagers, his memory returns to his childhood in Lviv, to the love that filled his whole existence, to the betrayals, the lies, the ambiguities of his life with a frankness that at times is cruel, coming to reflect on the victim-perpetrator relationship with a known SS official who seemed to enjoy putting him sadistically to the test.

Pedemonte is really good, he narrates with the modesty of the most cumbersome things, the instinct for survival, violence, the inhuman of strength and domination, overwhelm in order not to be overwhelmed, ridiculous pity ("Mercy no longer exists, it's a ridiculous concept like the word tolerance inside the extermination camps. "). And he also tells how ping pong taught Ehrlich to play his most important game, the last one - the one with memory." **Il Venerdì di Repubblica**

A beautiful and touching novel. Pedemonte reconstructs the story of the table tennis champion, Aloyzj Ehrlich, forced, at the age of thirty, to fight for his survival, in a final challenge in the extermination camp of Auschwitz. A light narrative, taken from the unpublished diary of the athlete, who had given it before he died in 1992, to his friend and international table tennis manager Arnaldo Morino." **Avvenire**

"*The last game* tells the Holocaust from the point of view of an involuntary hero, and draws a full-fledged portrait of a man full of contradictions, remorse, ambiguity and an inexhaustible will to live. An exceptional and emblematic story that shows the reader how stories make History". **Io Donna**

Enrico Pedemonte (1950) was a reporter for "Secolo XIX", a correspondent for "Espresso" from the United States, managing editor of "Repubblica" and editor-in-chief of "Pagina99". Has published essays and made his debut with the novel *La seconda vita* (Frassinelli) This is his second novel.

Author: DANIELA PIAZZA
Title: THE TIME OF JUDGEMENT
(IL TEMPO DEL GIUDIZIO)

First Publisher: Rizzoli Historiae
Publication Date: 8th February 2022
Pages: 400

Rights Worldwide

1473. A SERIES OF HEINOUS MURDERS SHEDS BLOOD AT THE COURT OF POPE SIXTUS IV. WHAT MYSTERY IS THE GREATEST WORK OF ART OF ALL TIMES HIDING?

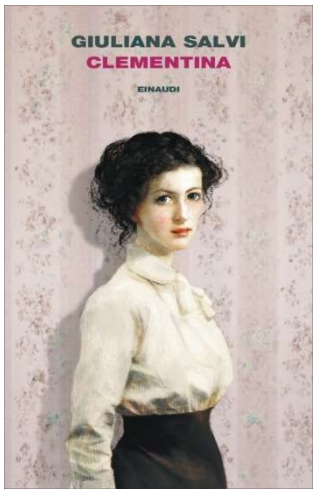
THE MYSTERY OF THE SISTINE CHAPEL TOLD IN A MAGNIFICENT AND FASCINATING HISTORICAL SETTING, THAT ALLOWS THE READERS TO DIVE INTO THE POLITICAL AND ARTISTIC LIFE OF THE RENAISSANCE, GIVING THEM THE OPPORTUNITY OF A CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH ITS PROTAGONISTS.

"It was as if an invisible way showed him the path to a distant yet near world, arcane and unimaginable but present. A silent voice told him that he was on the right path and that soon the power of the pomegranate would be in his hands. "

1473. A series of heinous murders sheds blood at the court of Pope Sixtus IV. What mystery is the greatest work of art of all times hiding? The mystery of the Sistine Chapel told in a magnificent and fascinating historical setting, that allows the readers to dive into the political and artistic life of the Renaissance, giving them the opportunity of a close encounter with its protagonists.

Rome, 1473. In the shadow of high palaces and centuries-old basilicas, Pope Sixtus IV has only one obsession: to reproduce Solomon's ancient Temple in the Eternal City, in order to bring the Church of Rome back to its ancient splendor. Thus the grandiose project of the Sistine Chapel takes shape, that has in fact the same dimensions as the Temple in Jerusalem. But to carry out his plan, he needs a symbol of power that has been lost in time and myth: the ivory pomegranate decorating the scepter of the High Priest. While in the Vatican, amid intrigues of court and thirst for power, a mysterious hand commits heinous murders in the shadow of the Sistine, the pontiff appoints the young monk Moses to find the precious relic. However, things don't go as planned. The search will prove to be increasingly insidious and will take Moses far from Rome, beyond the borders of good and evil, on a journey that from the Palace of the Hospitallers in Rhodes passes through the lodgings in Cyprus and even penetrates the walls of Otranto besieged by the Turks. Back from the long trip, his life will be changed forever, and with it also the story of the most famous Chapel of all times.

Daniela Piazza has a university degree in Art History and a diploma from the Conservatory of music. She works as a teacher in Savona. For Rizzoli she published the best-seller *Il Tempio della Luce* ("The Temple of Light", 2012), available in BUR, *L'enigma Michelangelo* ("The enigma of Michelangelo", 2014) and *La musica del male* ("The music of evil", 2019).



Author: GIULIANA SALVI
Title: CLEMENTINA

Pages: 325
First Publisher: Einaudi
Publication date: 18th March, 2025
Print run: 16.000 copies
Paperback edition: April 2026

Rights: Worldwide

Rights sold: Bertrand (Portugal), Exmo (Russia/ best offer), Axis Mundi Wydawnictwo (Poland).

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A MAKESHIFT CLASSROOM WITHIN THE WALLS OF HOME IS WHERE CLEMENTINA CHANGES THE WORLD.
THE COURAGE OF A WOMAN AND HER SILENT STRENGTH.

THE EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF CLEMENTINA SALVI MARTELLO, MOTHER AND INTELLECTUAL WHO, IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, FOUNDED A "DIFFERENT" SCHOOL WITHIN THE WALLS OF HER HOME.

INSPIRED BY THE TRUE STORY OF THE AUTHOR'S GREAT-GRANDMOTHER, CLEMENTINA TELLS THE STORY OF A WOMAN FORCED TO REINVENT HER LIFE TO SAVE HER FAMILY. ANIMATED BY A UTOPIAN AND INTELLECTUAL IMPULSE, AND BY A "GUT" FEMINISM, CLEMENTINA WILL TRANSFORM HER HOME INTO A SCHOOL AND CHANGE THE DESTINY OF GENERATIONS OF BOYS AND GIRLS, LOVING THEM NOT AS CHILDREN BUT AS YOUNG HUMAN BEINGS FULL OF MYSTERY.

IT IS HER GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER WHO CONVERTS CLEMENTINA'S LIFE INTO A NOVEL, DRAWING ON FAMILY NARRATIVES AND LITERARY IMAGINATION. IN THIS

DEBUT FULL OF LOVE THAT CAN BE READ IN ONE BREATH, GIULIANA SALVI REVEALS A RARE TALENT FOR STAGING: THE GHOSTS OF HER GENEALOGY BECOME VERY LIVELY CHARACTERS, READY TO ESCAPE THE CONFINES OF HER FAMILY'S MEMORY AND INHABIT THE OUR OWN.

"We immediately fell in love with Clementina, a very strong, interesting and contemporary female figure, utopian and perhaps even proto-feminist, but 'from the gut'. A character who is not to be forgotten and who could rightly be one of Chiara Tagliaferri and Michela Murgia's Morgane." **(Angela Rastelli and Dalia Oggero, Einaudi Editore)**

"'Giuliana Salvi tells in novel form the story of her great-grandmother, who founded a home school in Lecce at the beginning of the 20th century. And invented a method. (...)
There are many ways to make a revolution without going to the barricades, and Clementina achieves her own by creating a fertile pedagogy." **Leonetta Bentivoglio, La Repubblica.**

"**History teaches us that underestimating a woman is cowardly as well as foolish': it was 1925 and Clementina Salvi had set up a public school in her home in Lecce, where, over the next twenty years, she would educate dozens of children. Her personal history had brought her face to face with the sudden death of her husband, three children to support, a life to rebuild in that Salento from which she had left and then forcibly returned.**
Was she a feminist?
'She was one in deeds, not in claims, for which she had no time. The figure I have tried to bring to life in the novel is not that of a heroine: Clementina was rough, complicated, as a mother at times castrating. But also challenging, attentive. Getting respect from the teenagers she was surrounded by was not easy, but she put so much faith and passion into her teaching that those around her were overwhelmed by it'." **Interview to the author, Il Venerdì di Repubblica**

While History rages outside the window, Clementina, a young widow with three children has to reinvent the world. Sitting at the desk that was her father's and make ends meet, so as not to disappoint either the living or the dead. And so, utopian and feminist at heart, Clementina sets up, within the walls of her home, a school improvised and different from all the others, changing the destiny of dozens of boys and girls in a Lecce that, in the first half of the 20th century seems on the periphery of everything. Inspired by the true story of the author's great-grandmother, Clementina is a novel that is not to be forgotten, thanks the strength of an extremely contemporary female character contemporary: a woman 'all gestures', alive charismatic, restless, always in search of something, ready to escape the confines of family memory and to inhabit our own.

Giuliana Salvi Born in Rome in April 1988, after a master's degree in Screenplay and Audiovisual Production she started working in the audiovisual sector as an editor, researcher and text collaborator for documentary film production companies. *Clementina* is her debut novel and it's currently being translated in Russia and Portugal. Einaudi releases in 2026 *The paine of the goose,* a mesmerizing psychological thriller.

Author: DANIELE SCALISE
Title: A PLACE BENEATH THIS SKY
(UN POSTO SOTTO QUESTO CIELO)

Pages: 270
First Publisher: Longanesi
Publication: 9th May 2023

Rights: Worldwide

THE NOVEL ABOUT EDGARDO MORTARA STORY

MARCO BELLOCCHIO'S LATEST MOVIE, *KIDNAPPED*, IT'S BASED ON "EDGARDO MORTARA CASE" BY DANIELE SCALISE. IT TELLS THE STORY OF EDGARDO MORTARA, A JEWISH CHILD KIDNAPPED BY THE POPE (BOLOGNA, ITALY, 1858) BECAUSE HE WAS SECRETLY BAPTIZED AT THE AGE OF 7 FROM HIS HOUSEKEEPER. HE WAS LATER EDUCATED BY THE POPE TO THE CATHOLIC FAITH TO BECAME A PRIEST.

THE RELEASE OF THE MOVIE IS EXPECTED BY 25th MAY 2023

" FOR THE FIRST TIME HE WONDERED IF ALL THAT TRAVELING AROUND THE WORLD WOULD LEAD HIM TO FIND A PLACE UNDER THIS SKY. THAT IS, IF THAT PLACE REALLY EXISTED SOMEWHERE AND WAS REACHABLE."

"At the Catechumens and then again in the college at San Pietro in Vincoli, I was told but not explained, that for my own good I had to remain separated from my parents, that God had chosen that twisted path and I had a duty to obey His high will.
First I despaired but then I resigned myself. Or so I believed. Some said that I was showing signs of decompensation, that I was impatient and impatient. A way of saying I was crazy. If there were those who thought me undeserving, there were others who suspected that I was lying and ready to deny grace. Everyone always had an opinion about me without ever asking mine.
When I turned fourteen, Pius IX felt the time had come for me to know from his voice how I had become a Christian. He told me of the sacrament received in swaddling clothes, of the illness remitted, of the servant girl who had been an instrument of salvation and rebirth. I did not seem to hear about myself. No one cared if I suffered or how much or if I was certain of my belonging to Holy Mother Church. I would have answered loyally: of course I was certain that I belonged to Christ's people, but this had never dulled, not even for a moment, the pain that oppressed me."

Bologna June 23, 1958. Two papal guards show up at the door of Momolo and Marianna Mortara with a warrant from the Holy Inquisition. From that moment the existence of a family of modest Jewish merchants is destined to be forever disrupted: the guards are in fact ordered to take away the sixth of their children, Edgardo, not yet seven years old. The astonished parents ask in vain for explanations, protest, and despair, but in the end they are forced to yield to the gendarmes who drag their little son away. It is the brutal beginning of an increasingly bloody affair destined to punctuate badly the history of the nascent Italian state and the now fatal extinction of the papal one. Appeals to the pope by heads of state such as Napoleon III were to no avail. Emperor of Austria and the president of the United States, nor the voices of protest from men of culture and the pleas of those of all faiths. Pius IX is irreducible: Edgardo Mortara, though born Jewish, belongs to the Catholic Church since a nursemaid swore she secretly baptized him when he was in the cradle believing he was dying from a fever attack. A victim of a stormy era Edgardo will live his entire life within the ecclesiastical institution, first a confused and lonely boy, then a restless and desperate priest. Until his death in a convent near Liege three months before the Nazis invade in Belgium, he will be an innocent pawn on the chessboard of ruthless power.

Daniele Scalise, author of the essay *Il caso Mortara. La vera storia del bambino ebreo rapito dal papa* (Mondadori in 1997-2023), is considered one of the leading expert about this incredible true story. For 5 years Daniele Scalise has investigated in Vatican Secret Archives and has researched in the monasteries where Edgardo Mortara lived, finding his secret diaries and many important documents. The novel is based on this unique documentation: *A place beneath this sky,* after a fierce auction with five Italian publishers, will be released by Longanesi in May 2023.

Daniele Scalise, writer and journalist, has worked for RAI as director and programmist, and for Quotidiani Associati as war zones correspondant.
In his writing, he has committed racial and sexual discrimination (antisemitism and homophobia). *Lettera di un padre omosessuale alla figlia* (Rizzoli, 2008) is a letter to explain his homosexuality to his daughter. The essay *Il caso Mortara.* (Mondadori, 1997-2023) is the book on which is inspired the latest movie by Marco Bellocchio *Rapito* (25th May 2023).

Author: GENNARO SERIO
Title: THE SHORT TRAVELLER, OR A LIFE OF EDMUND HALLEY
(IL VIAGGIATORE BREVE, OVVERO UNA VITA DI EDMUND HALLEY)

Pages: 200
First Publisher: L'Orma editore
Publication date: March 2026

Rights: Worldwide

Rights sold: Istya & Cia (France)

THE LATEST NOVEL BY THE AUTHOR OF "NOTTURNO DI GIBILTERRA", WINNER OF THE 2019 CALVINO PRIZE, AND "LUDMILLA E IL CORVO", FINALIST FOR THE 2023 CAMPIELLO AWARD, FINALIST FOR THE 2023 GIUSEPPE DESSI' AWARD, FINALIST FOR THE 2023 WOJTEK AWARD.

«I listened to Gennaro Serio's enchanting music with great respect and sincere gratitude on behalf of my neglected companion, Literature.» **Sandra Petrignani**

«Yet this is an eclectic traveler, a zigzagging traveler, who traces flashes, then discards them. A brief traveler: because the trajectories of his studies are often hints, incursions, prefigurations: because in their extension, juxtaposed with the ticking of the capricious cosmic clock, they are too ambitious: because he has always and only been written about under the sign of brevity.»

Before his name became forever linked to the most famous comet, Edmund Halley set sail from England aboard a sailing ship, the Paramour, of which he was the captain. It is 1699: a brilliant astronomer and restless spirit, Halley searches the waves of the Atlantic Ocean for elusive constellations, uncharted landscapes, and mysterious magnetic variations. Besieged by tales of portable libraries, fires, and unreliable testimonies, his logbook unfolds, welcoming, among others, the shadow of Isaac Newton, that of a tipsy Tsar visiting London, and a gallery of extravagant biographers, from John Aubrey to J. Rodolfo Wilcock, from Samuel Johnson to Giorgio Manganelli—to finally come together in an exciting sea adventure. **An erratic navigation between islands and books, The Short Voyager ironically questions the way in which an existence is narrated and sings a hymn to travel as a privileged form of knowledge.**

THEY WROTE ABOUT NOTTURNO DI GIBILTERRA:

«A daring, free, experimental, and very courageous work [...], a personal ode to literature and a labyrinth of stories in which one has the pleasure of getting lost, without ever wanting to leave.» **La Repubblica**

« A thriller in every sense of the word [...] that contrasts the increasingly consumerist tendencies of the genre with a novel that is highly enjoyable and entertaining, with a refined structure and writing style.» **La Lettura - Corriere della Sera, Ermanno Paccagnini**

«Gennaro Serio truly has a happy pen. Like his hyper-investigator, he embodies everyone else within himself. He is a reckless troublemaker who constructs an Ur-giallo, a disruptive and, at times, impertinent adventure

novel. With a broad, happily irreverent style, as only talented young people or great old men can achieve.» **Tuttolibri, La Stampa, Marcello Fois**

«It is not often that one encounters a debut of such surprising and, in some ways, disarming quality, especially when it comes from an author who is only thirty years old and yet already shows a well-defined style and, at the same time, complete mastery of his linguistic and stylistic means.» **Alias de Il Manifesto, Massimo Raffaeli**

THEY WROTE ABOUT LUDMILLA AND THE RAVEN:

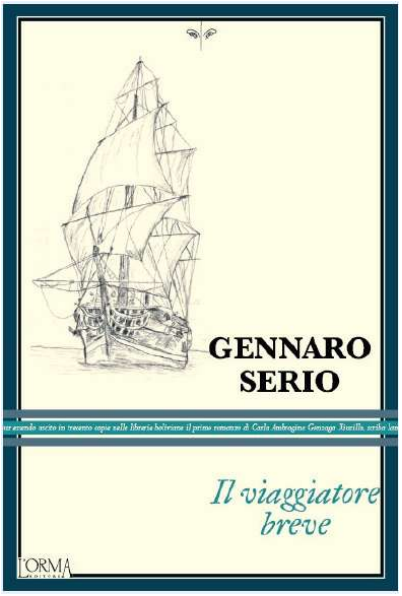
«Gennaro Serio constructs a "novel of papers" by bringing together a diary, some letters, two texts (one in German, the other in Portuguese), a doll, and references to writers from every era. A melancholic meta-literary divertissement.» **La Lettura - Corriere della Sera, Ermanno Paccagnini**

«Once again, Serio connects and integrates documentary reality and virtual history, starting with Der Rabe ("The Raven"), the title of Kafka's fourth and final novel. It was conceived during Kafka's last stay in Berlin, in the company of Dora, and inspired by an encounter in the park with a desperate little girl, Ludmilla, who had lost her doll. Moved, Kafka consoles her by writing her a series of letters in which he follows, as in a short coming-of-age novel, the existential story of the doll until the appearance of the Raven (the symbol that E. A. Poe conveys to his contemporaries), a figure of affliction and redemption at the same time.» **Alias de Il Manifesto, Massimo Raffaeli**

«Distancing himself from his tutelary deities Borges, Vila-Matas, and Wilcock, Serio does not aim to create an alternative reality compatible with our own, but rather moves into the realm of fantasy, into a parallel dimension where nothing else exists but literature and an all-consuming passion for its authors.» **L'Indice dei Libri del Mese, Mauro Maraschi**

«It is increasingly rare to come across a novel that has its roots in invention rather than in the recounting of reality, whether public or private. (...) Gennaro Serio's novel thrives on this imagination; it is a hymn to writing that restores the transparency of a vivid and visionary light to the page, nourishing it with literary echoes, suggestions of childhood, investigations into truth and falsehood, two sides of the same coin that give value to existence.» **Giuseppe Lupo (from the Nomination for the Strega Prize 2024)**

Gennaro Serio was born in Naples in 1989 and lives between Paris and Greece. He is editor and author of Alias D, the book supplement of Il Manifesto. His debut work, *Notturno di Gibilterra* (L'orma editore 2020), a hyper-literary parody of a detective story, **won the Italo Calvino Prize** and has been compared to the atmospheres of Bolaño and Eco, hailed by critics as one of the most surprising debuts of recent years. It was translated in France in 2023 with an original afterword by Enrique Vila-Matas. In 2023, *Ludmilla e il corvo* (Ludmilla and the Raven) was published in Italy, in which he imagines a continuation of Franz Kafka's famous encounter with an unknown girl in tears in a Berlin park in 1923. *Il viaggiatore breve, ovvero una Vita di Edmund Halley* (The Short Traveller, or A Life of Edmund Halley) is his third novel.



Author: GENNARO SERIO
Title: THE SHORT TRAVELLER
(IL VIAGGIATORE BREVE)

Pages: 192
First Publisher: L'Orma Editore
Publication date: March, 2026

Rights: Worldwide

A MASTERFUL FICTIONAL BIOGRAPHY OF THE ASTRONOMER EDMUND HALLEY

***The short traveller* unfolds like a meditation on the instability of knowledge and the fragile greatness of human questioning**

«Gennaro Serio turns fiction into truth and truth into fiction. He enjoys himself and entertains us. He can do anything.» **Piergiorgio Paterlini, Robinson**

There are those who travel the world in search of answers and those who, like Edmund Halley, the discoverer of the famous comet, question it out of a pure desire to observe. In the 17th century, a time of discoveries and catastrophes, amid unknown skies and turbulent seas, a young astronomer ventures into the southern hemisphere in search of invisible constellations and mysterious magnetic variations, embarking on the first journey in history undertaken for purely scientific reasons. With a light yet rigorous narrative style, Gennaro Serio reinvents the figure of Halley amid failed experiments, brilliant insights, and lost landscapes.

«One with a voice like that makes all the difference.»
Paolo di Paolo - Venerdì di Repubblica

«I listened to the bewitching music of Gennaro Serio with great respect and true gratitude on behalf of the neglected companion Literature.» **Sandra Petrignani**

PRESS REVIEW OF HIS DEBUT NOVEL

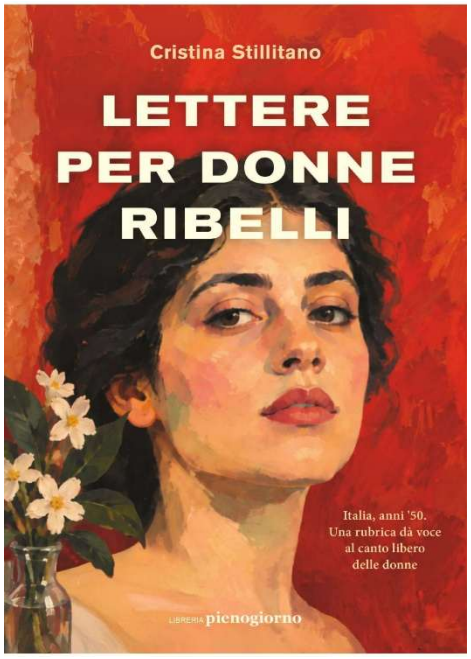
«A detective story in its own right [...] that contrasts the increasingly consumerist levels of the genre with a novel of great pleasure and enjoyment, refined structure and writing.»
Ermanno Paccagnini, La Lettura

«Truly a happy pen that of Gennaro Serio. Like his hyper detective, inside he is just everyone else, he is a reckless troublemaker who constructs a literary detective story, a disruptive and, at times, impertinent adventure novel. With a broad, happily disrespectful style, as happens only to talented young people or great old men.»
Marcello Fois, Tuttolibri

«It is not often that one comes across a debut of such surprising and in some ways disarming quality, when referring to an author who is barely thirty years old, and yet shows an already defined physiognomy and, in the meantime, a complete mastery of his own linguistic-stylistic means.»
Massimo Raffaeli, Alias

«A funambulistic, free, experimental, very brave work [...], a personal tribute to literariness and a labyrinth of stories in which one has the pleasure of getting lost, without wanting to get out.»
La Repubblica

Gennaro Serio was born in Naples in 1989. He lives between Athens, Rome, and Paris and works for the editorial staff of the cultural weekly Alias, published by Il Manifesto. He has already published *Notturno di Gibilterra* (2020), his first novel, **winner of the Italo Calvino Prize**, and *Ludmilla e il corvo* (2023) by L'orma editore, confirming his status as one of the most surprising storytellers of recent years.



Author: CRISTINA STILLITANO
Title: LETTERE PER DONNE RIBELLI

Pages: 400
First Publisher: Libreria Pienogiorno
Publication date: March 2027

Rights: Worldwide

A POIGNANT AND COMPELLING NOVEL IN WHICH WOMEN'S VOICES TRANSFORM FROM A SOURCE OF SCANDAL INTO A MEANS OF HEALING AND SURVIVAL.

EVERY REBELLIOUS WOMAN PAVES THE WAY FOR ALL WOMEN.

Rome, November 1954. Marta Mariani is thirty-five years old and married to Giorgio, an influential banker who is courteous yet emotionally distant. Their union is marked by silences and misunderstandings, and the rift deepens when Marta begins to suspect him of infidelity. Thanks to her husband's connections, Marta has spent the past year writing the "*Letters to Madame Zoe*" column for the magazine *Domani Insieme* (Tomorrow Together).
At first, she responds in accordance with the norms of conventional morality, which expects women to be patient and devoted—guardians of the hearth—forbidden from putting themselves first or even harboring desires. Yet the letters she receives—filled with confessions, secrets, and agonizing questions—speak to her all too personally. She listens to everything, even what no one else wants to hear: troubles great and small, impossible loves, joyless marriages, stifled dreams, and lives already mapped out. And while she initially counseled prudence, endurance, and solutions that wouldn't unduly upset the established order—urging women to stay in their place—there comes a moment when she faces a trial by fire: one day, her answers change, becoming bolder. More truthful.
She begins telling women what no one has ever told them: that desiring something is not a fault; that choosing oneself is not selfishness; that an unhappy life need not be accepted as inevitable; that they have a choice. Her words grow increasingly direct and courageous, eventually shaking public opinion and turning the column into a national sensation.
That is when Teresa's letter arrives. It is just one letter among many—a confession, a longing, a question that could belong to thousands of women. Teresa lives in the working-class Trastevere neighborhood; nineteen years old, the wife of a farmer named Silvano, she is the queen of the local market, where she runs a fruit stall. One day, she receives a secret gift from Marcello, the young butcher: a pair of gold earrings hanging among the pears. It is a gesture that sparks a sudden, powerful attraction within her. Her sister Lina—stern and moralistic—warns her: she must forget that man immediately; a woman cannot commit adultery—the very idea is unthinkable. Besides, Silvano would crack her skull open. Teresa is torn, caught between overwhelming passion and the fear of losing everything. That is when her friend Mirella, a newsstand owner, suggests a solution: writing to the famous Madame Zoe—who

authors the column most widely read by women—to ask whether or not it is right to give in to love.
Madame Zoe's reply will have consequences neither woman could have ever imagined…
A poignant and compelling novel in which women's voices transform from a source of scandal into a means of healing and survival.

Cristina Stillitano is a professional journalist. She lives and works in Rome, where she has primarily covered foreign affairs. She is the author of the *Le inchieste di Clodoveo* mystery series, set in 1950s Rome. The first three novels *Cuore di passero ha la morte*, *La donna a metà*, and *Andrai Tornerai Non Morirai*, were self-published on Amazon, where they reached the bestseller lists; the third won the Amazon Storyteller Award in 2021. The fourth and fifth volumes, *La giostra del perdono* and *A luglio non succede mai niente*, were published by Piemme. The latest book in the series was a semi-finalist for the Giorgio Scerbanenco Prize.

Author: LICIA TUMMINELLO
Title: THE LONG SUMMER OF JASMINES
(LA LUNGA ESTATE DEI GELSOMINI)

Pages: 350
First Publisher: Editrice Nord
Publication date: 31 August 2026

Rights: Nord Editrice

Rights sold: Carl Hanser Verlag (Germany), City Editions (France), Alpina Publisher (Russia);

TWO REPRINTS IN TWO WEEKS!
8TH ON THE ITALIAN FICTION CHART
FOR THREE WEEKS

SICILY, 1945. GRAZIA IS A YOUNG WOMAN WHO HAS ALREADY GIVEN UP TOO MANY DREAMS. TIRED OF ENDURING THE ABUSE SUFFERED BY JASMINE PICKERS LIKE HERSELF, SHE WILL FIND THE COURAGE TO URGE THEM TO REBEL IN THE NAME OF THEIR RIGHTS AND THEIR DIGNITY.

IMAGINE IT, RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES: ON ONE SIDE OF THE WALL ARE THE JASMINE-PICKERS, WHO CAN'T WAIT TO GET BACK TO WORK AND IN THEIR HEARTS ARE SURELY ALREADY REGRETTING IT; ON THE OTHER SIDE IS BARON PUGLISI, DON GIOACCHINO, ALL THE MEN, WHO BELIEVE THAT WOMEN «MUST STAY IN THEIR PLACE». A TOWERING WALL TO BE BROKEN DOWN. A TOWERING WALL, AND SHE, SO SMALL, FACING IT. WITH HER BARE HANDS.

«A story of personal redemption and solidarity, in which the daily grind is transformed into awareness and rebellion into a shared struggle. Those little white flowers, destined for the finest perfumes, will become the symbol of a struggle for women's dignity.»
La 27a Ora - Corriere.it

«A saga centred on women, solidarity and emancipation, set against a patriarchal backdrop that paints a portrait of ordinary, yet extraordinary, women.»
Io Donna

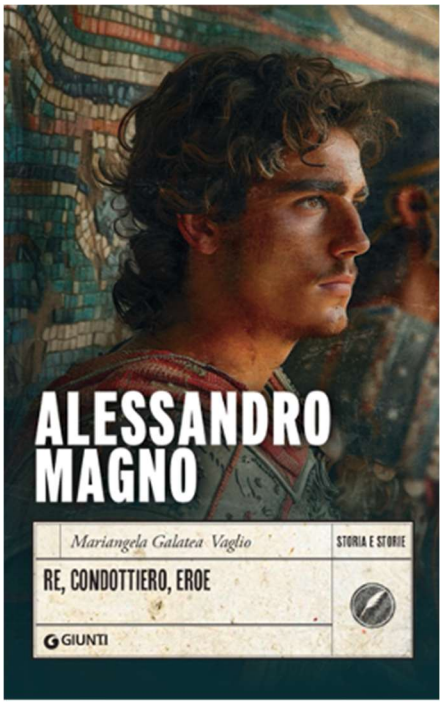
«From an author originally from Palermo, an intriguing exploration of memory. And a tribute to fundamental struggles for dignity.» **L'Espresso**

«A story of people, hard work, subjugation and rebellion, inspired by the first women's strike in Sicily, which took place in August 1946 in Milazzo, organised by the jasmine pickers.» **Gazzetta del Sud**

«Through this story, the author tells of a community of women who were expected to obey, work and keep quiet. A chapter in the history of women's emancipation and the dignity of work that Licia Tumminello brings to light in *La lunga estate dei gelsomini*, a novel inspired by the 1945 strike by Sicilian jasmine pickers.» **La Sicilia**

Milazzo, summer 1945. Quick hands rummage in the dark, searching for the tiny white blossoms that dot the countryside by the thousands, like stars. Those delicate, heady night-blooming flowers will become prized French perfumes, but it is not the jasmine pickers who will enjoy that luxury. For the many women and girls bent over picking them from midnight until dawn, from June to October without a single day off, there is nothing but mud, hard labour and a starvation wage. Grazia has been a farm labourer since she was eleven. Now she is twenty-three and a forewoman, a figure of reference for her fellow workers. As a young girl, she dreamt of becoming a teacher, but in her family of fishermen, there was no need for an educated woman. So, if she really had to give up her education, she wanted at least to smell of flowers, like Aunt Assunta. From that independent aunt who never let anyone boss her about, Grazia wishes she'd also inherited a firm and authoritative voice, to speak out against the injustices suffered by women. But she feels she lacks the same courage to stand up to the foremen, her husband and all those who tell her day in, day out to know her place. And yet, in that summer suspended between the end of the war and the promise of a better future, something is about to change. This is partly due to Francesco's return, which turns Grazia's heart and mind upside down. They met at school, when they were bound by an unspoken affection, before fate went its separate ways. He went on to graduate, become a doctor, and live in the North, and now he speaks to her of strikes and workers' rights. Empowered by this newfound awareness, Grazia can no longer remain silent in the face of the abuses she suffers and witnesses at the Jasmine Plain, and decides to lead a protest. She owes it to her friend Nedda and her little niece Vita; she owes it to all her fellow women, who deserve protection and respect; she owes it to herself and to the dreams she still harbours. Because perhaps it is not too late for her to choose for herself the place she deserves. **Inspired by a forgotten chapter of our history, this polyphonic novel paints an indelible, intimate portrait of its protagonist whilst giving a voice to all the women who have fought, yesterday and throughout history, for their dignity and freedom.**

Licia Tumminello was born in Palermo and has made Crema her home. A law graduate, she worked for many years in the banking sector before turning to writing. From her very first forays into fiction, she has won various literary awards, including the Giorgione Prize, the SquiLibri Prize and a special mention from the Reading Committee of the Calvino Prize, 35th edition. For *La lunga estate dei gelsomini* (The Long Summer of Jasmine), she drew inspiration from the strike by Sicilian jasmine pickers in the post-war period, which she researched in depth through first-hand accounts and historical documentation.



Author: MARIANGELA VAGLIO
Title: ALEXANDER THE GREAT. KING, LEADER, HERO.
(ALESSANDRO MAGNO. RE, CONDOTTIERO, EROE)

Pages: 320
First Publisher: Giunti
Publication date: 15th July, 2026

Rights: Worldwide

«Alexander is not just a man; he is an era. Or rather, two: an era that he helped bring to a definitive close, and another that he ushered in. He opened up new worlds, crossed borders, and forged new connections and ways of thinking. The world after him was never again what it had been before. And perhaps, of all the figures of antiquity and history, he is the one who most truly deserved that title: Magno, the Great.» Mariangela Vaglio

A RICH AND FASCINATING PORTRAIT OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT, THE MAN WHO BUILT ONE OF THE LARGEST EMPIRES IN HISTORY

Ege, 336 B.C. Philip II, the king who in just a few decades transformed Macedonia from a land of rough shepherds into the most powerful region in Greece, was suddenly assassinated just as he was about to launch an expedition against Persia. His designated heir is the barely twenty-year-old Prince Alexander, but many doubt that the young man can prove himself a worthy successor to his father. However, against all expectations, the unstoppable "boy from Macedonia" first consolidates his rule over Hellas, then sets out on an ambitious, almost impossible campaign to conquer the Persian Empire: a feat in which Alexander succeeds, reaching the borders of India with a sweeping military campaign.
But who was Alexander really? With his boyish appearance, his close bond with his Companions (first and foremost his beloved Hephaestion), and his multifaceted and sometimes contradictory character, the Macedonian conqueror was—and still is, in many ways—a mystery. Mariangela Galatea Vaglio, with her in-depth research and fresh, lively style, crafts a historical biography as gripping and vivid as a film, tracing the exploits and life of the famous commander. ***Alexander the Great* is a densely woven tapestry of characters, cities, and territories, battles and betrayals, friendships and loves that intertwine to create the detailed backdrop against which Alexander lived his intense and brief life.**

Mariangela Galatea Vaglio born in Trieste in 1972, she graduated in Classical Literature and holds a PhD in Ancient History. After a brief academic career, she became a tenured teacher in middle schools in the province of Venice in 2001.
A freelance journalist, she has contributed to the local news section of Il Gazzettino for 13 years and wrote for Il Sole 24 Ore for about two years. She currently contributes to L'Espresso. As a columnist, she covers school issues. She also contributes to the editorial staff of the public archaeology magazine

Archeostorie, where she edits the "archeotales" section. In the past, she has collaborated with Spinoza, Giornalettismo, and the Tech Economy portal.
Well-known online, her blog, Il Nuovo Mondo di Galatea (Galatea's New World), was created in 2006 and currently has over 3,700,000 hits, with a monthly average of about 30,000 visits. She edits two blogs on the Espresso website: Non Volevo fare la Prof. (I Didn't Want to Be a Teacher) and Italiano_Espresso.
In 2018, she published *Teodora. La figlia del Circo* (Teodora: The Circus Girl) with Sonzogno; in 2020, *Cesare. L'uomo che ha reso grande Roma* (Caesar: The Man Who Made Rome Great) with Giunti; and in 2021, *Teodora. I demoni del potere* (The Demons of Power); in 2022, again with Giunti, *I lupi di Roma* (The Wolves of Rome). In 2024, she published *Afrodite. La verità della dea* (Aphrodite: The Truth of the Goddess) with Giunti. In 2025, again with Giunti, she published *Il fondatore. Romolo e il mito delle origini di Roma* (The Founder: Romulus and the Myth of the Origins of Rome).

Author: MARIANGELA VAGLIO
Title: THE FOUNDER. ROMULUS AND THE MYTH OF ROME'S ORIGINS
(IL FONDATORE. ROMOLO E IL MITO DELLE ORIGINI DI ROMA)

Pages: 320
First Publisher: Giunti
Publication date: 4th June 2025

Rights: Worldwide

MARIANGELA GALATEA VAGLIO RETURNS TO BOOKSHOPS WITH A TITLE THAT PASSIONATELY RECOUNTS THE MYTH OF THE FOUNDATION OF ROME, A STORY SUSPENDED BETWEEN HISTORY AND LEGEND.

INSEPARABLE TWINS WITH MYSTERIOUS ORIGINS. THE FOUNDATION OF A CITY THAT WILL CHANGE THE FATE OF THE WORLD AND THEIR DESTINY. AN EXCITING RETELLING OF THE MYTH OF THE BIRTH OF ROME

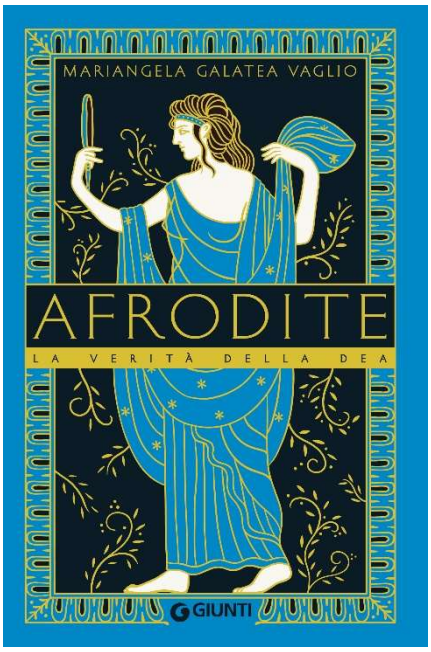
"He closes his eyes, stunned and overwhelmed. When he opens them again, in front of him he sees the light of two other eyes, yellow: the eyes of a she-wolf with a silvery coat, hiding in the middle of the bush. They are as bright as onyx. They stare at him for a long moment, then turn upwards. Romulus cannot help but follow them, and turns towards the sky above them both. There, he sees them: griffins are flying over the top of the hill, coming from the east and heading west. He hears the exultant cries of Proculus and Celer, who call to him from the hill and exult at the sighting. He quickly counts the birds: two, four, six, eight, twelve. Twelve griffins with majestic open wings, circling above Palation. His eyes wet with tears again, but this time they are tears of joy. Twelve griffins. Twelve. Six more than Remus. He is the chosen one of the gods."

lba Longa, 24 March 771 BC.
Two infant twins are abandoned by two men of Amulius, brother of the now weak king Numitor and de facto ruler of the Albans, near the mouth of the Tiber, in an uninhabited area called Ruma. They are children of guilt: their father is unknown, while their mother, Rea Silvia, princess of Alba Longa, was destined to become a priestess of the Goddess before she broke her vows of chastity. Now she is condemned to death, as are the children she bore. But fate has a different plan for them, and one of the two soldiers leads them to safety...

Latium, 753 BC.
Romulus and Remus are considered brigands and are hunted throughout the region by Amulius' men. When Remus falls into a trap and is captured, Romulus enters the city, and the revelation of their origins to King Numitor changes everything. But again, fate is more complicated than it seems and has planned something greater for them than ruling over the small Alba Longa: the founding of a city that will become the centre of the world in the very

place where they were abandoned, Ruma. The project, however, will put the twins' bond to the test: Romulus will be willing to do the unthinkable in order to become the founder of the new city...

Mariangela Galatea Vaglio (Trieste, 1972) lives and works in Venice. Lecturer, journalist, author of short stories and historical essays, she curates the Facebook page Pillole di Storia, followed by over 85 thousand people.
In 2018 she published *Teodora. The daughter of the Circus* (Sonzogno), in 2020, *Cesare. The man who made Rome great* (Giunti); in 2021 *Teodora. The demons of power* (Piemme); in 2022, *The Wolves of Rome. Antony vs. Octavian* (Giunti). In 2024 *Aphrodite. The truth of the goddess* (Giunti). In 2025, *The founder. Romulus and the myth of the origins of Rome* (Giunti)



Author: MARIANGELA GALATEA VAGLIO
Title: APHRODITE. THE TRUTH OF THE GODDESS
(AFRODITE. LA VERITÀ DELLA DEA)

Pages: 260
First Publisher: Giunti
Publication date: 24th April, 2024

Rights: Worldwide

Rights sold: Editura Creator (Romania)

Rights sold: Theodora. The demons of power - Editura Creator (Romania)

FIRST REPRINT AFTER TWO MONTHS

BORN IN THE EAST AS ISHTAR OR ASTARTE, HEIR TO THE GREAT NEOLITHIC MOTHER GODDESS, GODDESS OF EVERYTHING, APHRODITE WAS ADOPTED BY THE GREEKS INTO THEIR PANTHEON. COHABITATION, HOWEVER, SOON PROVED DIFFICULT BECAUSE HER HABITS AND NATURE CONFLICTED WITH THE PATRIARCHAL 'RULES' OF THE OLYMPIANS, AND SO THE GREEKS REWROTE HER MYTHS IN AN ATTEMPT TO LIMIT HER INFLUENCE IN HUMAN AFFAIRS. IN THIS BOOK, THE GODDESS OF LOVE AND ROMANCE, NATURE'S MOST POWERFUL FORCE, TELLS HER STORY IN A LONG MONOLOGUE THAT AIMS TO EXPOSE THEIR LIES AND EXPLAIN THE REAL STORY, WITH A DECIDEDLY FEMINIST SLANT.

ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

The Prolog
To Mortals

Everything you think you know about me is false.
Every image. Every idea. Every word.
I know what goes on in your heads when you hear my name.
The goddess of love. And away we go, a deluge of statues, and paintings, in which there is me, portrayed without veils. As I am born from a seashell, in the middle of the sea, or, more bourgeoisly, bathing surrounded by jugs and incense burners of perfume, drying my hair, wearing a peplos that slips off me, leaving me almost naked, or completely naked. And then lying on soft beds, holding the apple of victory after defeating my rivals, or seated on thrones, or driving chariots drawn by doves, with a surround of funny winged cupids to keep me company.
Aphrodite the beautiful: for you I am always smiling, elegant, glossy. A magazine cover goddess, a chic goddess, the forerunner of all the trophy wives dressed by fashionable designers, of the glamorous actresses and supermodels who parade down the catwalks swathed in glittering gowns, their hair in order, their make-up perfect. The goddess of love and desire, but a homologated desire, a product of your world, banal, predictable like all mass-produced things: domesticated.
A goddess who does not live, does not act, does not create: she decorates a world of males, designed for them.
At most she arouses some juicy gossip for her licentious conduct, when she takes younger, handsome and not particularly sharp-eyed lovers for mates, or attracts the scorn of moralists because she protects adulterous heroines, and even prostitutes. But basically, an inoffensive, superficial, unimaginative panderer for the languid couplings of romance novels or inspirer of some spicier adventure, fit to be whispered about in alcoves.

To this you have reduced me, ungrateful mortals.
You have no idea who I am.
You have forgotten me. You have debased me, belittled me, mutilated me. You have reduced a primordial force of the cosmos to a fairy tale fit for your homes, your little world of pre-packaged talk and sentiment.
You have no idea who I really am.
It is time and time for someone to remind you.

In a long monologue, the goddess Aphrodite confesses by telling her story. Which is not the one we are all used to knowing.
Aphrodite is considered the goddess of falling in love and of love itself, a graceful and 'light' presence on Olympus, the trophy wife of Hephaestus, the protector of Paris, the somewhat bungling mother of Aeneas, who accompanies handsome young men and basically decorates Olympus with her loveliness.
In reality, the goddess is the most powerful force of nature, the one that allows the cosmos to exist and remain united. If, over the centuries, Western culture has forgotten her true role, it is due to the Greeks' reworking of her archaic and powerful figure and the patriarchal culture that has attempted to erase all traces of her.
Aphrodite's monologue aims precisely at exposing their lies and explaining the real story, with a distinctly feminist vein.

The Greeks themselves before Homer knew well that she was not included in the genealogies of the Olympians, but was born directly from the blood of Uranus. Born in the East as Ishtar or Astarte, heiress of the great Neolithic mother goddesses, goddesses of everything, Aphrodite is recounted by the Greeks who adopt her into their Pantheon, but cohabitation is immediately difficult.
Her habits and nature conflict with the patriarchal 'rules' of the Olympians, and so the Greeks rewrite her myths trying to limit her influence in human affairs. Aphrodite hates Homer and the mythographers and now wants justice and recognition. It is a feminist Aphrodite, terribly angry and fed up with millennia of lies about her that will be told.

Her first disappointment is the death of Adonis. The young man is her favourite, but their story is not that of a cheap romance between a cougar and a toyboy from mythology. Adonis is not so much a lover as a son of the goddess, representing the vigour of vegetation and spring, born of Aphrodite herself and living in symbiosis with her. He has many names: Tammuz, Damuzi, in the East, even Dionysus.

The myth is distorted by the Greeks who do not tolerate a male subordinate to a goddess. Thus Adonis is recounted as a foiled youth. His role in the myth is given to Persephone, who is abducted by Hades and is a woman, so she can be told as weak and submissive to another woman, her mother Demeter.
Adonis, on the other hand, is made to die and Aphrodite has to go to pity Persephone, who then has him killed by Ares.

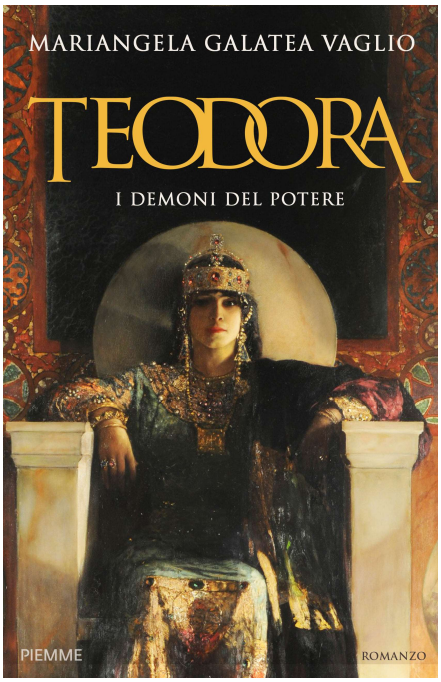
Another reworked story is that of her marriage. According to the Vulgate, Zeus at one point forces Aphrodite to marry Hephaestus, because her beauty and freedom are considered disturbing even on Olympus. Aphrodite does not love her husband, even though she ultimately esteems him. But her nature does not allow her to be faithful and in fact she betrays him with Ares, whom she does not esteem at all. Hephaestus discovers this and imprisons the lovers in a golden spider web and shows them off to Olympus all in mockery. Aphrodite, enraged, leaves him and he marries Aglaia, one of the Graces, who is a goddess of beauty and that's all, almost an Aphrodite dimidiata. In reality, Aphrodite and Hephaestus have been a couple since Minoan Crete, when they supervised the light and smelting of metals. Hephaestus was one of her many co-partners, so intelligent that he was not jealous because he was aware that he was the spouse of a very powerful and inarginable force of nature that made him alive and active too.

But the real affront to Aphrodite takes place in the myths concerning the Trojan War. Here, first Aphrodite is portrayed as a wench competing with Athena and Hera for the apple of Eris, then as a schemer who promises

Helen to Paris despite the fact that she is already married to Menelaus, and thus recklessly causes the Trojan War.
The reality is quite different. Helen and Aphrodite have a long-standing bond; Helen herself is originally a minor goddess in Aphrodite's court, linked to the cult of trees and the story of Adonis. Aphrodite is the protector of a couple that defies the laws of patriarchal society and does not accept the rules.
During the war, Aphrodite cares for the Trojans and fights by their side, even though Homer reduces her role to a vain one and has her injured in the war: she, the warrior goddess of the East, is beaten by Diomedes and scolded by Zeus!
He makes her out to be an overprotective mother, just as he tells her affair with Anchises as the story of a little man who boasts of having seduced a goddess.
In reality, Aphrodite engages in a long struggle against Fate itself in Troy, trying to save a city that the Greeks want to condemn.

In the aftermath of the fall, she is left with her son Aeneas. Aphrodite hates Homer and instead loves Virgil, who has been able to recount her heartbreak as goddess and mother. And she loves the Romans, whom she considers her avengers. She intervenes in the affairs of her son, whom she loves because he is not a 'Homeric' hero, but is much less 'toxic', much more fragile and multifaceted, although unfortunately she realises that he does not have sufficient character to subvert the patriarchal system in which he is immersed, and therefore in the end does not have the courage to disobey Zeus.
He tries to set him up with Dido, here again fighting against fate, because he would like to have him united with a woman of character, and not with the washed-up Lavinia who instead is functional to the patriarchal world order. He will not succeed and so he will help him settle in Latium, waiting for the gens Julia to be born from that land of hard peasants, with Caesar, one of his favourites, with the tough women of his descendants and with the Roman women, who, unlike the Greek women, will really be his daughters and despite a thousand difficulties will often hold up the empire more and better than the men.
And now, in the contemporary era, Aphrodite awaits her redemption, for she sees in the women of today her true daughters, ready to rise up and take their rightful place in the world.

Mariangela Galatea Vaglio has published some non-fiction books among them, *L'italiano è bello. Una passeggiata tra le sue regole e bizzarrie* (Marsilio, 2017) and *Caesar, The Man Who Made Rome Great* (Giunti, 2020 – 3 reprints in 6 months) and the historical novel *Teodora, the Circus Daughter* (Sonzogno, 2018) about the overwhelming love story between Justinian and Theodora, in the background of one of the most complex and mysterious eras in history. Her latest novel is *Teodora, the demons of power* (Piemme, January 2022), sequel of *Teodora, the Circus daughter*. In 2022 is going to be released *The wolves of Rome* a biographical novel about Marco Antonio (Giunti editore).



Author: MARIANGELA GALATEA VAGLIO
Title: THEODORA. THE DEMONS OF POWER
(TEODORA, I DEMONI DEL POTERE)

Page: 350
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Publication date: 15th February, 2022

Rights: Worldwide

Rights sold: Editura Creator (Romania)

Theodora the daughter of the circus: Film rights sold

SHE WAS THE MOST FAMOUS STRIPPER OF CONSTANTINOPLE, NOW SHE WANTS THE THRONE.

MARIANGELA GALATEA VAGLIO GIVES US THE PORTRAIT OF A UNIQUE WOMAN, WITH AN EXTRAORDINARY LIFE, SHARING WITH US HER GREATNESS THROUGH AN EXTREMELY WELL DOCUMENTED WORK AND A COMPELLING PROSE.

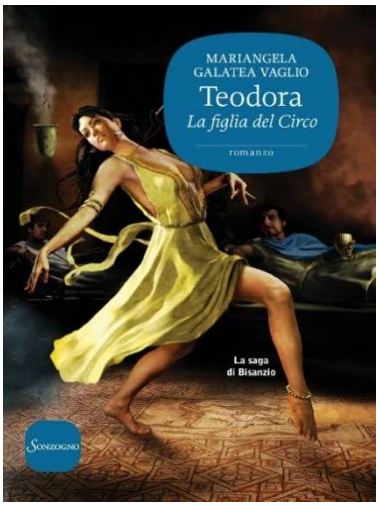
524 A.D. In Pavia, a group of armed Goths is sent to arrest Boethius, philosopher and minister of Theodoric. He is accused of plotting with Justinian and the Byzantines to overthrow Theodoric the Great, king of the Goths and Lord of Italy.
Meanwhile in Constantinople inside the Cathedral of Hagia Sophia, a merchant belonging to the Green faction is killed. Prefect Theodotus is determined to find the culprit and the principal suspect is Theodosius Zicca, a young man protected by Theodora. Theodora has not yet managed to be married by Justinian: at court, her past earned her the hatred of Empress Euphemia, wife of Justin. But Euphemia sadly falls ill and Theodora hopes that her disappearance will turn the tide. Justinian is called to her bedside, but unfortunately contracts the same disease of Euphemia and falls victim to a fever that makes people worried about his life. The prefect Theodotus (who hates Theodora) seizes an opportunity and shows up before Justin, accusing her of covering up the killer. So he has Theodora's house searched and Zicca arrested, who is sentenced to death. Theodora has no longer news of Justinian and fears she has been left behind. So together with friends Cyril and Antonina, who is the wife of Belisarius, a young court guard, entered in the Justinian's apartments to visit him. The lover reassures her that he resisted to the pressure to leave her, but in the meantime Justin arrives and he is furious because Theodora has managed to break into the Palace. At this point Justinian says he has no intention of leaving Theodora, even with the risk of dying in mortal sin, and Justin, still hardly hit by the death of his wife Euphemia, is moved and decides that he will allow the two to get married.
The Prefect Theodotus is summoned by Justinian and arrested for plotting against his superiors. Meanwhile, Peter, Justin's secretary, informs Justinian that the Pope want to come on an official visit to Constantinople to ask that an edict of Justin would be revoked, which prevents Aryans from practicing their religion. The Pope is sent by Theodoric, who is Aryan, but his coming compromises

the complex religious balance of the court. Moreover, Peter adds, Theodoric considers Justinian involved in the conspiracy for which Boethius is accused.
The action moves to Africa, again in 524, in the heart of a battle. Amalafrida, the sister of Theodoric, is the widow of her husband Thrasamund, Aryan and king of the Vandals, and rebelled against his nephew Hilderic, the new king who is catholic and wants to apply the edict of Justin and ally with Justinian. The queen unleashes a battle with the support of the Moorish knights, but she is captured and the Goths guards are killed.
News of the capture of Amalafrida arrives in Ravenna. Theodoric is old and sick and his court split into two factions, one formed by the Romans who are loyal to Byzantium and the other one by the Goths. Cyprian and Trigvila are at the head of the Filogota faction, while the new magister officiorum Cassiodorus is their enemy. Amalasunta, daughter of Theodoric and mother of the heir to the throne, the little prince Athathlaricus, is caught in the middle of the fight. So she devises a plan to offer Justinian to marry her and thus unite East and West under one empire. To get the proposal to Justinian, she blackmails the bishop of Ravenna, Ecclesius, who is part of the papal delegation and has already noticed that Pope John is not able to understand the danger of the situation in which they find themselves. In fact the Pope arrived in Constantinople, is fascinated by the princely welcome, which is reserved for him by the emperor Justin who prostrates at his feet. But it ends up irritating the powerful patriarch of Constantinople, Epiphanius, who feels overwhelmed. Justinian finds himself baffled by this controversy between ecclesiastics and does not know how to fix it. Meanwhile Theodora is restless and unhappy. Justinian has promised to marry her, but after months he is so busy with matters of state that he continually postpones the wedding continuously. She would have her patron, Timothy of Alexandria, celebrate it, but he refuses to come to Constantinople, not to be forced to pay homage to the visiting pope. Theodora fears that Justinian has cooled down on him. He also comes to discover from Narses, a eunuch who acts as an official of the Palace, about the proposal of the Almalasunta's marriage with Justinian. Theodora thus confronts him. Justinian proposes her to be his mistress while he marries Almalasunta, but Theodora refuses indignantly: he has promised her in the past to marry her and she is not willing to accept anything less. After a quarrel in which the two almost break up, Justinian capitulates and says he will marry Theodora by refusing Amalasunta. But he must find a good excuse to justify this choice with Justin and the problem between the pope and the patriarch remains open. At this point Theodora stimulates her inventiveness: to compensate the Patriarch of Constantinople who must cede the honor to celebrate the Christmas mass, it would be the Patriarch himself to celebrate the wedding between her and Justinian, allowing the Patriarch Epiphanius to be proud as he managed to steal Theodora to the influence of the Patriarch of Alexandria Timothy, who is Monophysite.
Ecclesius returns to Ravenna with the Pope delegation, admitting the substantial failure of the mission. Theodoric is enraged and arrests the pope, who will die in prison shortly thereafter. Ecclesius instead gives Alamalsunta and Cassiodorus the feral news that Justinian married Theodora and the two have ascended to the throne. Meanwhile Theodoric is increasingly tormented by the guilt and the ghosts of the past and after a vision in which he sees his friend Boethius, gets a fever and dies. Trigvila and Cyprian at this point precipitate in the apartments of Amalasunta and inform the mother who will supervise the education of the little Athalaric, to make him a true Goth king.

534-35
Because of the extravagancies Athalaric let himself go and the boy dies suddenly. At this point to keep the power, Amalasunta is forced to call next to her the last male descendant of Theodoric, Theodatus, son of Amalafrida. Gudelina, wife of Theodatus, fears that Amalasunta wants to seduce her husband (who has always been a weak man) to secure the throne. Amalasunta then resumed contact with Constantinople and Justinian. Strong with this support, he kills Trigvila and the other Goths notables

by poisoning. Meanwhile in Constantinople Theodora is empress, but she has the suspicion that Justinian is still fascinated by the cultured and unscrupulous Amalasunta, and fears that one day she may show up asking for asylum in Constantinople and convince Justinian to marry her. So she plots with Peter the Patrician, who Justinian sends as ambassador to Ravenna to push Gudelina and Theodatus to kill Amalasunta treacherously. The two kidnap and kill the queen. When Justinian discovers Theodora's involvement, he gets angry, but his wife points out that now after the murder of Amalasunta, he finally has the perfect excuse to do what he wants for years: intervene in the West and win back Ravenna and Rome to be, as the days of Augustus, the emperor of all the Roman world. Theodora served him an opportunity to realize his dream.

Mariangela Galatea Vaglio has published some non-fiction books among them, *L'italiano è bello. Una passeggiata tra le sue regole e bizzarrie* (Marsilio, 2017) and *Caesar, The Man Who Made Rome Great* (Giunti, 2020 – 3 repirnts in 6 months) and the historical novel *Teodora, the Circus Daughter* (Sonzogno, 2018) about the overwhelming love story between Justinian and Theodora, in the background of one of the most complex and mysterious eras in history. Her latest novel is *Teodora, the demons of power* (Piemme, January 2022), sequel of *Teodora, the Circus daughter*. In 2022 is going to be released *The wolves of Rome* a biographical novel about Marco Antonio (Giunti editore).



Author: MARIANGELA GALATEA VAGLIO
Title: TEODORA. THE DAUGHTER OF THE CIRCUS (TEODORA. LA FIGLIA DEL CIRCO)
Pages: 384

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Publication: 24th June, 2018

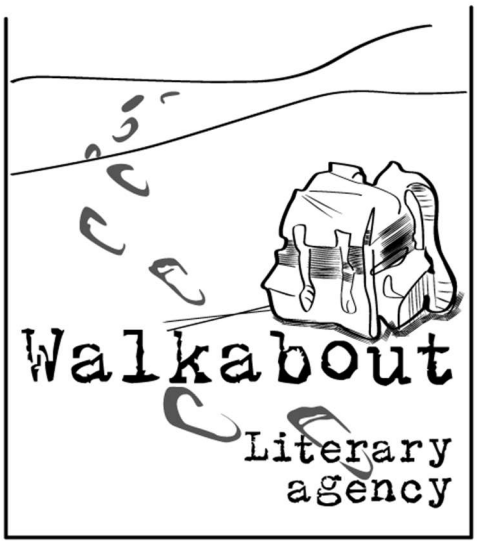
Rights: Worldwide

Film Rights sold for a TV series

IN THE CAPITAL OF THE EMPIRE, FROM PERSIA TO THE MEDITERRANEAN, AMONG INTRIGUES, VIOLENCE AND BETRAYALS, IT BEGINS AN OVERWHELMING LOVESTORY IN THE BACKGROUND OF ONE OF THE MOST COMPLEX AND MYSTERIOUS ERAS IN HISTORY

Constantinople, VI century AD. In the glittering capital of the Eastern Roman Empire, troubled by religious clashes and corruption, the young Justinian and Theodora seem destined for an obscure existence. She is the beautiful daughter of a circus guardian, and she is a professional actress, traversing between theaters and rich and violent lovers. He is the grandson of General Giustino, a crude illiterate military who can not bear weight at court. Fate, however, has other plans for them. Justinian, involved in a series of revolts to overthrow Emperor Anastasio, succeeds in bringing the uncle Giustino to the throne, becoming the most powerful minister of the Empire. Theodora, however, escaped from the revenge of a governor, her former lover, becomes confidant of the heretical patriarch of Alexandria and is sent as a spy and mediator in Constantinople, just to contact Justinian, struggling with a complicated and dangerous negotiation with the Pope.

Mariangela Galatea Vaglio has published some non-fiction books among them, *L'italiano è bello. Una passeggiata tra le sue regole e bizzarrie* (Marsilio, 2017) and *Caesar, The Man Who Made Rome Great* (Giunti, 2020 – 3 reprints in 6 months) and the historical novel *Teodora, the Circus Daughter* (Sonzogno, 2018) about the overwhelming love story between Justinian and Theodora, in the background of one of the most complex and mysterious eras in history. Her latest novel is *Teodora, the demons of power* (Piemme, January 2022), sequel of *Teodora, the Circus daughter*. In 2022 has been released *The wolves of Rome* a biographical novel about Marco Antonio (Giunti editore).



ABOUT US

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Walkabout Literary Agency was established in 2014 and since then has been successfully operating in the fields of book publishing and translation rights sales, Film/Tv licensing. We represent various leading Italian and foreign writers as well as some new and talented voices, in the fields of literary and commercial fiction, children's fiction, and general non-fiction. In nine years WLA has forged solid and fruitful relationships with major Italian and foreign publishing groups and Tv and movie producers. We represent also foreign publishers in the sale of translation rights.
We attend the most important international bookfairs like Frankfurt, London, Paris, Madrid, Milan and Turin.
Wla it's based in Rome, Italy.
Wla is proud to be one of the 37 founders of ADALI - Associazione degli Agenti Letterari Italiani, the first Association of Italian Literary Agencies.

Fiammetta Biancatelli is Owner and Managing Director. She has been Spanish translator and co-founder of nottetempo edizioni, which has worked as an editor in the Italian and translated fiction. She worked also as a press officer in chief and events planner for Publishers and Book Festivals before creating and starting to manage Walkabout Literary Agency.

Ombretta Borgia is Owner and Rights and Contract Manager, she has been Portuguese translator and she has worked for 12 years as a Foreign Rights Manager for Editori Riuniti, before creating the agency.

“Walkabout” is a long ritual journey that Aboriginal people engage in, by walking through large expanses of grasslands in Australia; this allows them to have contacts and exchanges of resources, both material and spiritual, such as the traditional songs. Bruce Chatwin recounted the Walkabout in his “Songlines”: "(...) It was believed that each totemic ancestor, on his journey across the country had spread a trail of words and musical notes along his footprints, and that these Dream tracks had remained on the ground as a 'way' of communication between the various distant tribes. A song was simultaneously both a map and a trasmitting aerial. (...) And a man during a *walkabout* always moved following a song path (...).”

We believe that the name Walkabout describes very well and encompasses the philosophy and the work spirit of our agency.