
2025

HIGHLIGHTS





Author: SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY

**Title: WITH JUSTICE IN MIND
(CON LA GIUSTIZIA IN TESTA)**

Pages: 300

First Publisher: Mondadori

Publication date: 6th May 2025

Rights: Mondadori

*One can live with little, in straits and even by force
of will, but one can never do without justice, which
is the glue of a healthy social life.*

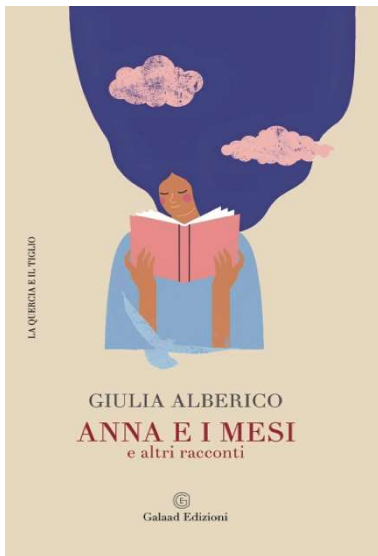
*This is where I begin and this is where
I want to end up*

Simonetta Agnello Hornby takes her starting point from the simplest, most direct question we ask ourselves every day: "Is what I am doing right or wrong?". From there, it touches on justice within the family institution, the phenomena of social injustice, the spectre of wars (are there just wars?), the administration of justice, and the upbringing of children and grandchildren. Agnello Hornby looks for examples in animal life and investigates the representation of justice in popular culture, in art, in literature, in stories that contribute to a civilised sensibility. She recalls, investigates and of course - she, a lawyer and a judge - goes back to the places where she has seen justice being practised and has practised it. She tells us what a people's jury does, gives us a glimpse of the criteria by which family law moves, what happens when it is necessary to decide whether to take a child away from its parents or leave it with them. In the background, her two islands, Sicily and England, their history, their identity, their civilisation: such a wealth of cultures and experiences has matured the singular form of wisdom that nourishes, in these pages, Simonetta Agnello Hornby's writing.

Simonetta Agnello Hornby was born in Palermo in 1945. She has lived in London since 1972 and is an Italian and British citizen. After graduating in law from the University of Palermo, she practised as a lawyer by opening the law firm 'Hornby&Levy' in Brixton, specialising in family and children's law. She has taught child law in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Leicester and was part-time President of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal for eight years. *La Mennulara*, her first novel, published by Feltrinelli in 2002 has been translated worldwide. Since then he has published several books including *La zia Marchesa* (Feltrinelli, 2004), *Boccamurata* (Feltrinelli, 2007), *Vento scomposto* (Feltrinelli, 2009), *La monaca* (Feltrinelli, 2010), *Camera oscura* (Skira, 2010), *Il veleno dell'oleandro* (Feltrinelli, 2013), *Il male che si deve raccontare* (with Marina Calloni; Feltrinelli, 2013), *Via XX Settembre* (Feltrinelli, 2013), *Caffè amaro* (Feltrinelli, 2016), *Nessuno può volare* (Feltrinelli, 2017). In 2017, he contributed a short story to the collection *Un anno in giallo* (Sellerio),

together with Andrea Camilleri, Esmahan Aykol, Gian Mauro Costa, Alicia Giménez-Bartlett, Marco Malvaldi, Antonio Manzini, Santo Piazzese, Francesco Recami, Alessandro Robecchi, Gaetano Savatteri, Fabio Stassi; in 2018 he published, with Massimo Fenati, *the graphic novel La Mennulara* (Feltrinelli, 2018). He has also published highly successful cookery-related books with a strong narrative component: *Un filo d'olio* (Sellerio, 2011), *La cucina del buon gusto* (with Maria Rosario Lazzati; Feltrinelli, 2012), *La pecora di Pasqua* (with Chiara Agnello; Slow Food, 2012) and *Il pranzo di Mosè* (Giunti, 2014).

He also published *La mia Londra* (Giunti, 2014), a personalised guide/memoir of London and the children's story *Rosie and the Squirrels of St. James* (with George Hornby; Giunti, 2018). All his books have been best sellers and have sold more than a million copies in Italy. On 2 June 2016, the President of the Republic honoured her with the Order of the Star of Italy in the rank of Grand Officer. Her latest novel is *Era un bravo ragazzo* (Mondadori, 2023)



Author: GIULIA ALBERICO

**Title: ANNA AND THE MONTHS - AND OTHER STORIES
(ANNA E I MESI – E ALTRI RACCONTI)**

Pages: 158

First Publisher: Galaad Edizioni

Publication date: 15th May 2025

Rights: Worldwide

Anna had seen the seasons come and go and had learned to recognize the signs of spring in certain glimmers of light on the water, in the hint of new green on the locust trees.

In June, the scent of white blossoms was intoxicating, and then a light breeze was enough to cover the pavements with a carpet of fallen white petals. That was the sign that the start of the holidays was near.

Anna, a mild-mannered office worker haunted by distant memories of love, arrives at a sort of enlightened ataraxia capable of healing the wounds of time and giving her days the quiet rhythm of ceremonies. The intemperate Yvonne, recalled by the man who has loved her since childhood, is a woman oppressed by her family and betrayed by her passions, who has always welcomed life as an insidious gift. A teacher in the 1930s makes a bold choice for the time, divorcing a wealthy landowner and returning on the back of a donkey, with her four children, to a remote village in the Apennines. The delicate fruits of a narrator with a clear language tinged with poetic flashes, Giulia Alberico's stories reveal the souls of disillusioned creatures who transform their renunciation of worldly compromises into exemplary acts of resistance. The stories are set against the backdrop of the author's native landscapes, which she captures with just a few strokes to convey their lush, wild beauty, and more urban atmospheres, especially in Rome. Here we find stories of problematic teachers and pupils, immigrants with their hearts set on their own country, bored wives who suddenly rebel, and a whole female universe torn between real needs and fantastical escapism, all rendered with a mimetic mastery that transforms it into literature.

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. Her latest novels, *The Lady of Flanders* and *Vittoria's secret* have been published by Piemme 2021 and 2024.



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 an 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: GIULIA BALDELLI

Title: THE WORDS YOU LEFT ME
(LE PAROLE CHE MI HAI LASCIATO)

Pages: 250

First Publisher: Guanda

Publication date: 28th May, 2024

Rights: Worldwide

THE REMAINS OF THE SUMMER - Rights sold:
Dumont Buchverlag (Germany), Editorial Dos Bigotes
(Spain), Melhoramentos (Brazil).

FINALIST AT CHIANTI PRIZE 2025

AFTER THE SUCCESS OF *L'ESTATE CHE RESTA*, TRANSLATED INTO GERMANY, SPAIN AND BRAZIL, GIULIA BALDELLI RETURNS WITH A POIGNANT FAMILY NOVEL ABOUT THE FRAGILITY OF ADOLESCENTS, THE VALUE OF MEMORY, THE BOND OF BROTHERHOOD AND THE STRENGTH OF THEIR COMPLICITY.

AN INTIMATE AND POWERFUL NOVEL THAT TELLS OF THE COMPLEXITY OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS AND THE UNBREAKABLE BOND BETWEEN BROTHER AND SISTER.

An emotional journey in search
of truth and answers that only time and forgiveness can bring.

« I woke up with the echo of her laughter in my heart as if I was the one laughing. Between my lips was a word I had already heard. I was immediately sure of it. It was the last word she had whispered to me in my bed when she was alive. »

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO GROW UP IN THIS DISORIENTATED TIME WITHOUT EMOTIONAL HOLDS? WHAT IS A SENTIMENTAL EDUCATION TODAY?

Seventeen-year-old Adriano has an older sister, Betta, who has long held his hand in place of an insecure mother and a father who left home. One night, however, Betta lies down on the tracks and dies under a train. Adriano closes himself off in painful resentment. He hates his father, detests his mother's weakness and goes so far as to despise the memory of his sister, who had long since ceased to be the sunny, determined girl to lean on, but had started using drugs and now left him alone. As everyday life resumes Adriano is only left with a family that has failed. Whose responsibility is this? His father's? His mother's? Or his own? And why did Betta not even leave him a word of farewell?

The search for answers leads him to an unexpected encounter, a woman, who pushes him to find the strength to educate his own wounded heart and the courage to understand what it means for a boy to truly be a brother.

<<'Do you understand, Adriano? We must prepare for the worst.' Even the worst, not even war. Three years later, lying on her bed, without her forever, pierced by memories, fever and a bad sun, I had to admit that she was indeed right. worse, worse.>>

THEY HAVE WRITTEN ABOUT HER DEBUT NOVEL:

"A story of clear writing, with continuous implications of waiting with its differentiated rhythms, thanks also to a rich world that revolves around the three protagonists, with many characters none of which superfluous and indeed well delineated even psychologically".

Ermanno Paccagnini, La Lettura Corriere della Sera

"As in a long sequence shot, this debut sneaks under the skin and makes us reflect on what has been, on what remains and on what, in order to survive, we had to let go. "

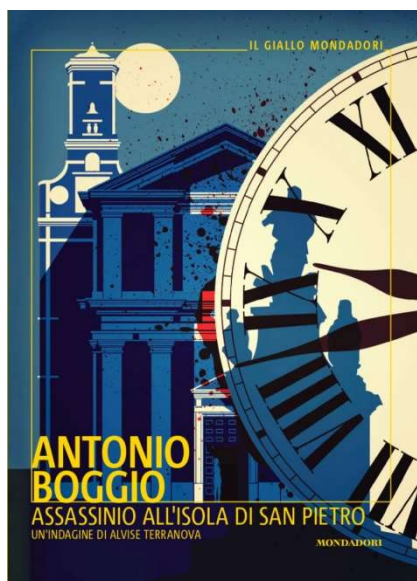
Marta Cervino, Marie Claire

"The thousand ways in which love dresses up, narrated in a story that does not care about genders and tolerates abandonment". **Io Donna**

"A powerful and unusual story about the essential truth of passion". **Elle**

"A stylistically mature novel, which tells a reckless and moving love story with many implications". **Giornale di Brescia, Francesco Mannoni**

Giulia Baldelli was born in Fano, on the Adriatic Sea, in 1979. In 1998 she moved to Bologna, where she obtained a degree in Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Technology. She writes and lives in Bologna, together with her husband and three children. Her debut novel, *L'estate che resta*, is published by Guanda, and has received a rave review and has been finalist at several Literary Awards.



Author: ANTONIO BOGGIO

**Title: MURDER ON THE ISLAND OF SAN PIETRO
(ASSASSINIO ALL'ISOLA DI SAN PIETRO)**

Pages: 264

First Publisher: Mondadori Publication

date: 6th May 2025

Rights: Worldwide

**“OMICIDIO A CARLOFORTE” AND “DELITTO ALLA
BAIA D'ARGENTO”, THE FIRST TWO ADVENTURES OF
THE COMMISSIONER CREATED BY ANTONIO
BOGGIO, HAVE SOLD OVER 20.000 COPIES.**

**MONDADORI LAUNCHES THE SUCCESSFUL SERIES SET ON
THE BEAUTIFUL ISLAND OF SAN PIETRO, INCARLOFORTE,
STARRING AN UNFORGETTABLE COMMISSIONER**

Autumn is still mild in Sardinia, but Commissioner Alvise Terranova has to put aside the lure of the sea and his beloved pomegranates: in Carloforte, the body of Cristian Galileo, a watchmaker and jeweller, has been found dead in his shop. On the surface, it looks like a suicide, and yet... there is something that does not add up. The man's daughter, Speranza, tells of a mysterious meeting the night before the tragedy, when Galileo seemed strangely happy. While the Quaestor pushes to file the case, Alvise is determined to dig deeper and, fortunately, the Public Prosecutor is on his side.

In the tangle of clues that surface, a disturbing portrait emerges of a man with dark secrets: who was Cristian Galileo really, and what was he hiding in his past? With his innate talent for grasping the detail that eludes everyone, Alvise will have to find the key to solving the mystery. But even his private life turns out to be an enigma: his relationship with Elisabetta is in turmoil, and this time not even the commissioner's unerring flair seems to be enough.

Antonio Boggio was born in 1982, and grew up in Carloforte, on the island of San Pietro, a small island in the south-west of Sardinia. He currently lives and works in Cagliari. His first two novels, *Omicidio a Carloforte* and *Delitto alla Baia d'Argento*, starring Alvise Terranova were published by Piemme in 2022 and 2023.



Author: ANNA BONACINA

Title: THE SUMMER WHEN STRAWBERRIES BLOOMED
(L'ESTATE IN CUI FIORIRONO LE FRAGOLE)

First publisher: Sperling & Kupfer, 2023

Publication date: 6th June, 2023

Pages: 250

Rights: Worldwide

Film TV Series Rights sold!

Rights sold: Bastei Lübbe - auction (Germany), La belle
Etoile – Hachette – two-book pre-empt deal (France) -
Vulkan Izdavaštvo (Serbia), Publishing house «Eksmo»
(Russia), Bata Press (Macedonia)

THE SECOND NOVEL SETS IN TIGLIOBIANCO "AUTUMN MAGIC"
WILL BE RELEASED IN ITALY ON 2026.

ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE
DETAILED ENGLISH SYNOPSIS AVAILABLE
FRENCH FULL TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

«These were the things that made her happy: to imagine extraordinary things behind the most unexpected ones.»

AN IRONIC AND BRILLIANT COMEDY.
THE STORY OF A BESTSELLING AUTHOR TANGLED UP IN A ROMANCE NOVEL CLICHÉ.

PRISCILLA, IN A CRISIS OF INSPIRATION, TAKES REFUGE IN TIGLIOBIANCO, A TINY VILLAGE OF 40 SOULS, TO CALL IT QUITS WITH LOVE AND THE PROTAGONIST OF HER NOVELS. BUT VERY SOON SHE DISCOVERS IN HORROR THAT SHE HAS BEEN STRUCK BY LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT, AND SHE FINDS HERSELF TANGLED UP IN A REAL ROMANCE NOVEL CLICHÉ.

«It happens to those who grow up surrounded by stories, that they cannot get out and end up creating a tiny and sheltered world, protected from reality. An Alice who had never come back from Wonderland. This was Priscilla. Hurt by real life, she had found refuge in the imagined one and she had curled up there, in the blank spaces between words. Where she was safe.»

It seems a summer like many others in the small village of Tigliobianco: the old ladies poke their nose in everyone's business, the children run wild, the ladies from the Book Club annoy the librarian... But then Villa Edera, the Victorian dwelling at the edge of the village, is rented for a couple weeks to Priscilla Greenwood, a romance novel author of great success in a crisis of inspiration, who is looking for calmness and anonymity to find a way of getting rid of Calliope of the Topaz, her cheesy and fiery

protagonist. Things in Tigliobianco, however, don't go as Priscilla planned: gossips at war, disappeared cats, young girls who want to become detectives, smuggled letters, a mythical recipe notebook, lost for years, that contains the secret to the most delicious cake in the world, the Supreme, not to mention the Strawberry Competition, that takes place every year on the last Sunday of July and where the whole village competes with strawberry cakes. And Cesare Burello, the plastic surgeon on holiday in his home town... That's how Priscilla finds herself tangled up in a real romance novel cliché. What should she do? Run or give a chance to Cesare who looks like a carbon copy of Roger MacMillan, the charming protagonist of the Harmony novel she wrote? Between nighttime picnics, conspiracies and an exquisitely literary treasure hunt, Priscilla will have to deal with the question that has been tormenting her forever: is it true that real life can't be like a novel? And meanwhile, what happened to the legendary recipe of the Supreme, the most delicious cake in the world, disappeared into thin air thirty years before, and to which Cesare's fate seems connected?

An ironic and amusing novel, halfway between a fairy tale and a comedy. With *The summer when strawberries bloomed* the author is capable of creating, with a light and ironic touch, a human community filled with original and extravagant characters.

Anna Bonacina was born in a small town in Friuli Venezia Giulia, and then became a librarian in Udine. So she loves to read stories, and sometimes to write them. She writes articles on children's literature for the magazine "Il Pepeverde" and novellas for the magazine "Intimità". Her short story with the title *L'amore è un airone azzurro* ("Love is a light blue heron") was selected among the finalists of the prize "Leggi scrivi Eataly" organized by Eataly and Scuola Holden and was published in the book by the same title. The second novel sets in Tigliobianco, will be released on 2026 by Sperling & Kupfer.

Author: ANNA BONACINA

Title: AUTUMN MAGIC

(MAGIE D'AUTUNNO)

First Publisher: Sperling & Kupfer

Publication date: August 2026

Pag. 250

Rights Worldwide

Rights sold: La Belle Etoile (France)

THE SUMMER WHEN STRAWBERRIES BLOOMED: Rights sold: Bastei Lübbe - auction (Germany), La belle Etoile – Hachette – two-book pre-empt deal (France) - Vulkan Izdavaštvo (Serbia), Publishing house «Eksmo» (Russia), Bata Press (Macedonia)
Film TV Series Rights sold!

AFTER THE INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS OF "THE SUMMER WHEN STRAWBERRIES BLOOMED", THE SMALL TIGLIOBIANCO VILLAGE RETURNS TO BE THE SETTING FOR A NEW BRILLIANT AND IRRESISTIBLE ROMANTIC COMEDY!

The church is packed, Penelope's funeral is in progress, the whole village attends the religious ceremony. It is early October, Tigliobianco is bathed in the colours of autumn and so, naturally, is Villa Edera, which is an explosion of red and yellow.

The question the inhabitants ask themselves is: in the absence of heirs (of whom no one has ever heard) what will happen to Penelope's house?

All hands on deck in Tigliobianco! The peaceful village is shaken out of its slumber when the mayor decides to demolish the house of the recently deceased old Penelope to build a supermarket. The residents, fiercely opposed to the project, decide to find an heir to Penelope to save her house.

In those same days, Villa Edera is rented by surprise by three women who intend to spend a month away from the hectic life of their city to dedicate themselves to meditation, mindfulness and yoga. They are Flora, Fiona and Frida, all in their seventies, and with them arrives Flora's niece, Azzurra, a woman in her thirties who takes advantage of her aunt's retreat to take a break herself from a job that was not what she expected. Azzurra is a perfumer, has a magical nose and a special talent, but the job for a large French perfume house is distressing her not a little.

The new guests, with their oddities, wreak great havoc among the villagers, but they also have a great fascination for the adults and children of Tigliobianco, and indeed some of the villagers soon join in their activities.

So, amidst sun salutations and children's fantasies about the guests, Penelope's heir apparent arrives unexpectedly: Maximilian, a young Michelin-starred chef from Taipei and son of Penelope's cousin, appears on the scene, it seems that the house is saved. But that's without counting on the mayor's cunning and the greed of an interior designer who wants to get her hands on Penelope's treasures to save her shop.

Will Maximilian choose to stay in Tigliobianco and keep Penelope's legacy alive, with the help of Azzurra, a charming perfumer?

The novel closes on 31 October with a Halloween party in the small village square, during which the community of Tigliobianco, together with the extraordinary guests of the season, will put an end to this new magical existential adventure. But before the end, secrets, hopes, repentances and new projects will be revealed, as the credits roll.

Anna Bonacina was born in Friuli and then became a librarian in Udine. Her debut novel, *The Summer when Strawberries Bloomed* (2023) is published in Germany, France, Russia, Macedonia and Serbia.



Author: ADRIÁN N. BRAVI

**Title: THE NIGHT SWIMMER
(LA NUOTATRICE NOTTURNA)**

Pages: 196

First Publisher: Nutrimenti

Publication date: 26 September 2025

Rights: Nutrimenti

Film/Tv rights available

**A MISSING FATHER. A HIDDEN TRUTH. A JOURNEY OF
DISCOVERY THAT WILL CHANGE JACOPO'S LIFE
FOREVER.**

**AFTER THE AWARD-WINNING “ADELAIDA”, ADRIÁN N. BRAVI SIGNS A POWERFUL
NOVEL ABOUT GENDER IDENTITY, LOVE AND THE COURAGE TO BE ONESELF.**

"When Jacopo Bordinola heard the telephone ring that morning and a woman he didn't know, but who said her name was Ingrid, told him his father had drowned in a river the night before, at a point, she explained mournfully, where the waters are swampy and become impassable, the first thing he thought of doing was to fetch the harmonica his father had given him as a gift long ago. He had kept it always in a bedside drawer, wrapped in an old silk handkerchief. Then he dropped onto the sofa, holding the harmonica, blowing lightly over the holes and thinking of the last time he had seen that man, many years before."

When he receives a phone call informing him of the death of his father Pietro, drowned in a river in Portugal, Jacopo has no idea that this event will start a journey that will upset all his certainties. He, who works in a cemetery and is a clumsy and awkward forty-something man, sets off accompanied by his friend Quinto in search of answers, taking with him only a harmonica and the few blurred memories of an ever-absent father.

In Rio Salgueiro, Jacopo will discover that his father was hiding a surprising truth. Between the cobbled streets of the Portuguese town and the rushing waters of the river, the protagonist will have to confront not only his own pain, but also a revelation that will challenge everything he thought he knew about his family and himself.

Through an intimate and profound narrative, with delicacy and poetry, Bravi explores universal themes such as gender identity, family relationships and the weight of secrets. The Night Swimmer is an intense and moving novel capable of tackling complex themes by interweaving the lives of the characters in a mosaic of emotions and revelations. A novel about searching for one's roots and accepting truths that can change the course of a life.

THEY SAID ABOUT “THE NIGHT SWIMMER”

“In the present, there is a mild-mannered young man, Jacopo, who is always awkward in his approach to life. In his humble job as a gravedigger's assistant lurks, like an unspoken promise of redemption,

the memory of a fabulous, bohemian father who abandoned him and his mother to lead a mysterious life in unknown places. One day, a phone call from Portugal announces his death by drowning, and so Jacopo begins the journey backwards that leads him to his father's remains, or rather, to a simulacrum of him that suddenly contradicts and unsettles both the memories so often repeated by his mother and his own memories, as well as the expectations of a son forced to become an orphan long before his time.

With the delicacy typical of his prose, with a gaze that captures an emotionally risky story without exaggerating it, Bravi knows how to tackle and convey in his narrative themes that have become hot topics today, even from an ethical and political point of view, starting with gender identity. The absence of rhetoric and the rhythmic cadence of a narrative that seeks out the reader without ever pandering to them or disorienting them with special effects testify, above all, that with *La nuotatrice notturna*, Bravi has reached his full maturity as a writer.” **Massimo Raffaeli, Il Venerdì di Repubblica**

THEY SAID ABOUT “ADELAIDA”

“A book that is at once memoir, history of Argentine literature, account of political commitment, and vivid testimony against any attempt at oblivion.” **Il Venerdì di Repubblica, Benedetta Marietti**

“By recounting the life of an out-of-the-ordinary woman, Bravi has also been able to narrate, to those who do not know or have forgotten them, the political and cultural events of an entire country, its oscillation between attempts at democracy and extreme violence according to “a mechanism for replacing governments elected by popular vote through the intervention of the armed forces”, and, at the same time, the existence of an indomitable intellectual ferment, of a constant critical elaboration, of a tenacious refusal of resignation.” **Francesca Lazzarato, Il Manifesto**

“Adelaida Gigli is a world that begins and ends in Recanati and that writer Adrian N. Bravi has recounted in a book that contains so many others, with men and women who are as lost as libraries; ideas and struggles that infect, become diaries, overcome subtractions and disappearances, tragedies and dictatorships.” **Marco Ciriello, Il Mattino**

“A wonderful book, let's say it now. Bravi has written a novel, an essay on the history of the Argentine dictatorship, another on Argentine literature, a book that is also an interview and memoir. Above all, Bravi has written a story of escape from tyrants and pain and how a friendship is born, is built and lasts.” **Gianni Montieri, Minima & Moralia**

“The life of a woman, an artist, a mother from whom the violence of the dictatorship snatched two children. Thus was born Adelaida, the fictional biography of one of the most surprising female figures of Argentina in the last century.” **Guglielmina Aureo, Il Secolo XIX**

Adrián N. Bravi was born in Buenos Aires, lived in Argentina until the age of 24, then moved to Italy to pursue his studies in philosophy. He lives in Recanati and is a librarian at the University of Macerata. Some of his published books: *Restituiscimi il cappotto* (2004), *La pelusa* (2007), *Sud 1982* (2008), *Il riporto* (2011), *L'albero e la vacca* (2013), *L'inondazione* (2015); *La gelosia delle lingue* (2017); *L'idioma di Casilda Moreira* (2019), *Il levitatore* (2020).

With Nutrimenti he published *Verde Eldorado* (2022) and *Adelaida* (2024), **selected in the dozen of the Premio Strega, winner of the Premio Comisso, the Basilicata Literary Prize, special mention of the Premio Napoli, finalist of the Premio Procida Isola di Arturo Elsa Morante**. This year, the Argentinean University of Villa Maria awarded him the title of Honorary Professor.



Author: DARIO BUZZOLAN

Title: THE BLUE HOUSE

(BARACCA E BURATTINI)

Pages: 350

First Publisher: Mondadori

Publication date: 4th February 2025

Rights: Worldwide

***The Blue house* (Baracca e burattini) by Dario Buzzolan**

for the Premio Strega 2025

proposed by Massimo Gramellini

THE NOVEL IS IN THE FINALIST TRIO OF THE VIAREGGIO-REPACI PRIZE 2025!

A FAMILY NOVEL THAT WINDS ITS WAY FROM THE SECOND WORLD WAR TO THE PRESENT DAY, THREE GENERATIONS THROUGH SIX NARRATIVE VOICES, WHICH TAKE TURNS INTEGRATING, PASSING THE BATON, RECTIFYING, CONTRADICTING EACH OTHER, TRYING TO SHED LIGHT ON FAMILY SECRETS.

FROM GRANDFATHER ERMES ONWARDS, WHO LIVES GUARDING A HEARTBREAKING SECRET, NO ONE REALLY KNOWS HOW TO STAY WHERE THEY ARE, NO ONE KNOWS HOW TO KEEP THE PEOPLE THEY HAVE LOVED OR WHAT THEY HAVE BUILT, ALMOST AS IF IT WERE A SENTENCE HANDED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.

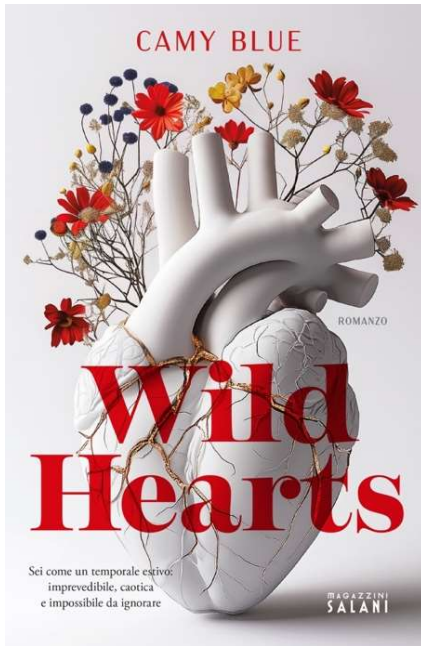
AS IN THE GREAT FILMS, THE SAFE HARBOR AROUND WHICH GENERATIONS COME AND GO IS A HOUSE, THE BLUE HOUSE.

“From the Resistance to the economic boom, from the 1970s to the present day, Dario Buzzolan's characters - not mere plot ‘functions’, but real people whose emotions it seems possible, page after page, to feel - traverse the century, its dreams, its ideas, its horrors, continually moving away from their centre and continually attempting a return that only one of them will be allowed to make.

There is, however, a place capable of attracting them with constancy, a sort of camp-base, but one that is located on the seashore: the ‘Blue House’, born in the 1930s as a shack and grown over time to become a welcoming home. It is she - an authentic living character - the witness of all their choices, loves, clashes, generosity and miseries. Above all, she is the guardian - very jealous - of the secret that has damned the entire family and that, at the same time, could redeem them.” **Massimo Gramellini**

Elle is an actress with conviction and with equal conviction depends on psychotropic substances. Behind her is the story of a family that stretches from World War II to our present. From grandfather Ermes onward one destiny: that which breaks, which consumes, which shatters. No one really knows how to stay (metaphorically, no) where they are, and indeed the expression “shacking up” recurs from generation to generation. No one knows how to keep the people they have loved or what they have built. All the more so Elle's father, Ranieri, who believes as a doctor that he can lift the terminally ill out of pain and life and finds himself at the center of a media campaign that, over time, debases him (“the doctor who wanted to play God”) and exposes him to dangerous relationships. The one place that episodically attracts the three generations is the Blue House, a hut by the sea that, over time, has become a refuge, a studio, a residence. Around the Blue House revolve the unspoken and the dark of the family, and it is there that with effort but also with determination one is able to illuminate the trail of violence, abandonment and rebirth that Elle is still serving on her skin.

Dario Buzzolan is a writer, playwright and television author. Born in Turin on October 12, 1966, he graduated in theoretical philosophy with Gianni Vattimo, with a thesis on Georges Bataille's Eroticism. His first novel, *Dall'altra parte degli occhi* (Mursia) won **the Calvino Prize** in 1998; he later published *Non dimenticarti di respirare* (Mursia 2000), translated in France at Lattès, *Tutto brucia* (Garzanti 2003), *Favola dei due che divennero uno* (Baldini Castoldi Dalai 2007) and *I nostri occhi sporchi di terra* (Baldini Castoldi Dalai 2009), a finalist for the 2009 Strega Prize. Following are *Se trovo il coraggio* (Fandango Libri 2013), *Malapianta* (Baldini e Castoldi 2016), *La vita degna* (Manni 2018), *In Verità* (Mondadori 2020) and *Perché non sanno* (Mondadori 2022). He is the author of the first Italian translation of Mark Twain's *Following The Equator* (*Seguendo l'equatore*, B.C. Dalai Editore, 2010). Since 2015 he has been a member of the “Amici della Domenica” the historical jury of the Strega Prize. Among his most recent television collaborations, he is the author of the program hosted by Bianca Berlinguer *È sempre Cartabianca* on Rete 4. He was chief author of *The Words of the Week* (2017-20), by Massimo Gramellini, and of Michele Santoro's *M* (with whom he conceived the program's format, 2017-2018). In 2010 he was among the creators of *Agora*, Rai 3's current affairs and politics daily, for which he was chief author until 2017. He has written plays (including *Visita dell'uomo grigio*, produced in 2001 by the Teatro Stabile di Torino, and *Target*, staged at the Nice European Theater Festival in 1999), an opera libretto for Lucio Gregoretto (*Apocalypse of Alexander*) and numerous short films, which he has also directed (among others, *Franz Kafka. In the penal colony*, a finalist for the 1999 Riccione TTV award). He is film critic, he co-directed the Bellaria Anteprima Festival for two years (1997-99, with Mario Sesti), and between 2008 and 2011 he was a consultant and selector for the Rome International Film Festival (“Extra” section).



Author: CAMY BLUE

Title: WILD HEARTS

Pages: 400

First Publisher: Magazzini Salani

Publication date: 30th May 2025

Print run: 10.000 copies

Rights: Worldwide

FIRST REPRINT AFTER 4 DAYS!!!!

The love map: Rights sold: Atticus (Russian)

Option to Film/Tv series adaptation sold!

The stars make no noise: Rights sold: Ast (Russian)

Option to Film/Tv series adaptation sold!

A JOB IN THE MIDST OF NATURE AND A LOVE NEVER FORGOTTEN. A SUMMER THAT REIGNITES EVERYTHING.

AFTER THEIR BREAK-UP, THEY NEVER SPOKE TO EACH OTHER AGAIN. NOW THEY ARE FORCED TO LIVE TOGETHER AND COLLABORATE ON AN ECOLOGICAL PROJECT, BUT FINDING EACH OTHER AGAIN REAWAKENS EVERYTHING THAT NEITHER OF THEM HAD FORGOTTEN.

«I hate your long tongue and your insolent replies, because I just want to shut you up by kissing you until you take your breath away».

«It's quantum entanglement. Do you remember that? Two particles, even very far apart, can remain connected. What happens to one of them instantaneously happens to the other. It doesn't matter where they are. It doesn't matter how far apart they are. They belong to each other. And we are the proof that love is the only mathematical formula that defies space and time».

“Camy Blue's writing is capable of engaging and dreamy. She is one of Book Tok's most original romance writers. Her stories capture all facets of love”.

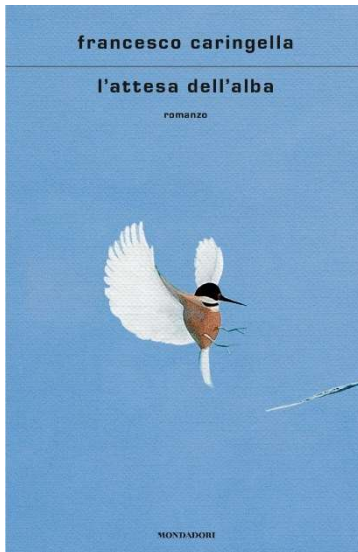
Ribes Halley, author of the bestselling Dance of bulls series

Sarah Sheridan is a chaotic, impulsive and incredibly creative video maker who dropped out of college to prioritise the career of what has just become her ex-boyfriend. Now she feels like a complete failure, but a master's degree at the Paris College of Art might help her believe in herself again. In order to find the funds to enrol on the course, she decides to answer an ad from an organisation that wants to produce a documentary on lake pollution in Montana. What Sarah cannot foresee is that the brilliant, rigorous and fascinating marine biologist who

will have to work closely with her to complete the project is Alexander Donovan. The two already know each other very well: Alexander, twelve years her senior, was Sarah's brother's best friend and teenage crush, but six years earlier a series of events have driven them irretrievably apart and they now loathe each other without appeal. Provocation after provocation, however, an attraction will grow between them as wild as the nature that surrounds them, in a summer where every certainty will be questioned.

The book tropes: Brother's best friend/Second chance/Forced proximity/small town/Age gap.

Camy Blue is the pseudonym of an Italian author, her first novel *The stars make no noise* has sold almost 20.000 copies with 8 reprints, *The love map* has sold 15.000 copies, both of them have been optioned for a tv/series.



Author: FRANCESCO CARINGELLA
Title: WAITING FOR THE DAWN
(L'ATTESA DELL'ALBA)

Pages: 300
First Publisher: Mondadori
Publication date: 25th February 2025

Rights: Worldwide

IS IT RIGHT TO BREAK THE LAW WHEN THE LAW SEEMS UNJUST TO US?

WHAT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO? WHAT WAS THE IMPULSE TO LISTEN? WAS HE TO ACT AS A LAWYER OR AS A MAN? CONSCIENCE AND LAW, THE USUAL DILEMMA BETWEEN ETHICS AND LAW. BUT IN THAT VERY PARTICULAR CASE, WERE THINGS REALLY SO DIFFERENT? WHEN IT COMES TO THE DEATH WISH OF A SUFFERING PERSON, CAN THERE BE A LAW OTHER THAN CONSCIENCE?

Despite many years in and out of courtrooms, Filippo Santini is still convinced that justice is fever, desire, hunger, humanity. After all, if after graduating he decided to become a criminal lawyer, disappointing his cumbersome father Giovanni who wanted him to be a magistrate, it is because this is the only way he can be close to the only real protagonists of judicial events, the defendants. It does not even matter if they are innocent or guilty: each of them is the bearer of a unique story, and must be defended tooth and nail, because when you fight for your life, only the result counts. Filippo is not interested in morals: right and wrong is not his business, only the legitimate and the illegitimate. Everything changes when Sandra enters his office: fragile and beautiful, she tells him that five years earlier her beloved husband Alberto was run over by a hit-and-run driver, and since that day he has lived confined to a bed, dependent on others for everything. Now Alberto wants to die, and Sandra, with a shattered heart, has resigned herself to accept it.

Filippo chills: the lawyer in him cries out to stay away from such a thorny case, but a deeper part thinks otherwise... a deeper part that will soon be forced to ask whether life is a right or a duty, and what we are willing to do after answering that question. Francesco Caringella puts all his lucid knowledge of the eternal confrontation between Justice and Law at the service of a story about the most poignant and deeply human of dilemmas: life, and the right to give it up.

Francesco Caringella, a former police commissioner and criminal magistrate in Milan during “Mani Pulite” investigation, is president of a section of the Council of State. For Mondadori he published *La corruzione spuzza. All the effects on our daily lives of the disease that threatens to kill Italy* (2017), *10 Lessons on Justice for Curious and Perplexed Citizens* (2017), *Corruption Explained to Kids Who Care About the Future of Their Country* (2018). He is also the author of *Non sono un assassino* (Newton Compton, 2015), from which the film of the same name starring Riccardo Scamarcio was made, and two trial fiction *L'estate di Garlasco* (2019) and *Il delitto della dolce vita* (2020), both published by Mondadori in the collection Strade Blu. Again, by Mondadori, he has published two procedural detective stories starring Judge Virginia Della Valle, *Oltre ogni ragionevole dubbio* and *La migliore bugia*, both published in Giallo Mondadori and optioned for Tv movie series.



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: MATTEO CAVEZZALI

**Title: THE WONDER BROTHERS - GOD, COUNTRY AND STRAWBERRY JAM
(I FRATELLI MERAVIGLIA – DIO, PATRIA E MARMELLATA DI FRAGOLE)**

Pages: 300

First Publisher: Mondadori

Publication date: January 2026

Rights: Worldwide

Nero d'inferno: Film tv rights sold

Icarus: Film tv rights sold

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

It is the true story of two brothers, Alfredo and Franco, who are children during the years of fascism and teenagers when the Second World War breaks out.

In 1943, Alfredo, the eldest, who is 18, disappears into thin air. Franco, aged 16, decides to run away from home to look for him, crossing war-torn Europe. He discovers that he has been deported to Bergen Belsen concentration camp (Anne Frank's). After innumerable misadventures, after making false documents, being arrested by the SS and taken to Poland, after escaping and reaching Berlin under bombing, after meeting a Polish nurse, a German priest, an Italian prisoner and falling in love with an American soldier, he will eventually manage to find his brother. Together they manage to escape from the concentration camp and return to Italy.

The story is true, Alfredo was my grandfather. Waiting for him in Ravenna was his little girlfriend Ivana, who had never given up hope, and who would later become my grandmother. If he had not been saved, I would not be here.

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: ANGELO FERRACUTI AND GIOVANNI MARROZZINI

Title: THE LAST JOURNEY. STORIES OF LIFE AND END OF LIFE.

(L'ULTIMO VIAGGIO. STORIE DI VITA E FINE VITA)

Pages: 180

First Publisher: Il Saggiatore

Publication date: 7th October 2025

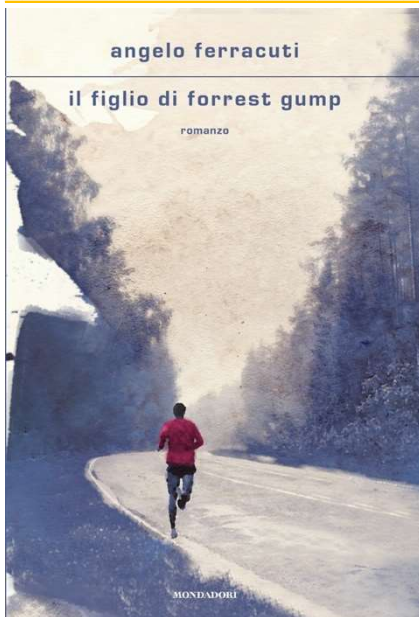
Rights: Worldwide

THE WORDS OF ANGELO FERRACUTI AND THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF GIOVANNI MARROZZINI TELL THE STORY OF AN INTIMATE JOURNEY BETWEEN THOSE FACING THE FINAL STAGE OF LIFE AND THOSE WHO MAKE IT MORE HUMANE.

Death is a subject that is largely ignored in Western societies, which tend to conceal suffering and pain, and even more so the end of life as an extreme act of departure from the world of the living. This book lifts the veil on invisible places inhabited by lives hanging in the balance—terminally ill patients afflicted by incurable diseases, the elderly and the young dying—and through stories told in images and words, it shows us how human and all too human this existential boundary is. Giovanni Marrozzini, in delicate black and white, portrays the purgatories of the Montegranaro Hospice, fixing his gaze on decaying bodies and ghostly places of abandonment, as well as Graziella, the ALS patient who stubbornly wants to live out the rest of her future. Angelo Ferracuti, on the other hand, takes a trip around Europe (Switzerland, Germany, Holland, Norway) to Swiss death clinics, meeting people such as Erika Preisig, euthanasia pioneers such as psychiatrist Boudewijn Chabot, recounting the 'political suicide' of Lucio Magri, the holy drinkers of Berlin, terminal alcoholics in a Protestant church hospice, and ways of dying in different cultures and anthropologies. A long journey into the lives of those who seek a dignified end and those who work every day to make it possible.

Angelo Ferracuti (Fermo, 1960) is a writer who has mainly published narrative reportage, including *Le risorse umane* (Feltrinelli 2006), *Il costo della vita* (Einaudi, 2013; Lo Straniero prize), *Andare, camminare, lavorare* (Feltrinelli, 2015), *Addio* (Chiarelettere, 2016), and the memoir *La metà del cielo e Il figlio di Forrest Gump* (Mondadori, 2019, 2024). He contributes to *il Manifesto*, *la Lettura del Corriere della Sera*, and *Radio 3*. With Il Saggiatore, she published *Non ci resta che l'amore* (All We Have Left Is Love) (2021).

Giovanni Marrozzini (Fermo, 1971) has produced reportages in Italy, Africa, South America, Israel/Palestinian Territories, and the Balkans. In 2020, together with writer Angelo Ferracuti, he founded the Jack London school of photography and literature.



Author: ANGELO FERRACUTI
Title: THE SON OF FORREST GUMP
(IL FIGLIO DI FORREST GUMP)

Pages: 300
First Publisher: Mondadori
Publication date: 8th October 2024

Rights: Worldwide

***The Son of Forrest Gump* by Angelo Ferracuti**
for the Premio Strega 2025
proposed by [Lorenzo Pavolini](#)

[ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE](#)
[EXTENDED INFOSHEET IS AVAILABLE](#)

[FINALIST AT FLAIANO LITERARY PRIZE 2025](#)

THE EPIC OF RUNNING, THE EPIC OF CHALLENGES, THE EPIC OF THE POLITICAL BATTLES OF THE 1970S: A FATHER AND SON CONFRONT EACH OTHER ON THE ROADS OF THE WORLD, TO TELL US WHAT THE DREAMS THAT KEEP US BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE MADE OF.

“HE WAS THE FORCE OF NATURE, THE INVINCIBLE, A KIND OF SUPERHERO AS I SAW HIM AS A BOY WHEN HE COMBED HIS HAIR WITH GREASE OR SHAVED WITH AN ELECTRIC RAZOR, HIS SCULPTED MUSCLES, THOSE INTENSE BLUE EYES THAT SHONE, THE MAN OF STEEL WHO NEVER STOPPED.”

[The motivation of the Nomination for The Premio Strega 2025](#)

“I am presenting Angelo Ferracuti's novel ‘*Il figlio di Forrest Gump*’ (Mondadori) at the 2025 edition of the Strega Prize, because it restores to family relationships, with their load of attraction and repulsion, the value of a public reflection. The coming-of-age novel of a young man who cannot manage anger and anxiety, becomes a moving reportage - a genre that Ferracuti has been practising with mastery for decades - of the environments where he grew up and which he is on the verge of abandoning, projecting himself outwards in search of a reconciliation out of time - or at least a contact, which can only take place in the space of literature.

Mental toughness, determination, loneliness belong to writing as much as to running long distances and they unite Angelo Ferracuti and his father Mario; a father who a few hours before his death, in a low voice, reiterates his wish that the son with whom he has always clashed should write about him. ‘Forrest Gump's son’ is the nickname some friends have given Angelo because of this father who, at a certain point in his life, started running and never seemed to stop, becoming the third Italian for marathons run, marching for 48 hours non-stop (303 km).” [Lorenzo Pavolini](#)

“Of the 1970s, *The Son of Forrest Gump* restores the climate, the moments of collective passion, the ardours and the most tremendous disappointments, the acidic sound from which moments of overwhelming tenderness were suddenly released. This, after all, is the paradox inscribed in every

memoir, that of being an autobiographical text that, however, is not exhausted in the spaces of a preordained autobiography.” **Massimo Raffaeli, Il Manifesto**

It is not easy to have a sedentary, distant, sometimes hostile father, collected in himself, a clerk who seems to magnetize in himself the traits of a dull, democratic province. Yet that same father, having escaped parotid cancer, suddenly begins to run, and when he starts, he seems never to stop. In the city they call him “the one who runs,” and from his exploits on the roads of the Marche he is on his way to becoming a leading figure in the “marcialonga”, first national then international, marathon, and endurance marches. He becomes what his son, wrapped up in his rebellious youth, would never have suspected: a legend, the third Italian by number of races run. The small-town scoffs at him, but he doesn't care. We find him from time to time in Swiss valleys, Austria, Flemish plains, Dutch villages, Norway. After so much hostility and indifference, the son goes in search of a ghost who reappears magical and immense, larger than life, and he does so by traveling the paths his father has trodden and those that, before he consumed his time on earth, he would have liked to travel.

The epic of running, the epic of challenges, the epic of the political battles of the 1970s: a father and son confront each other on the roads of the world, to tell us what the dreams that keep us between heaven and earth are made of.

Angelo Ferracuti was born in Fermo in 1960. Writer and journalist, he writes for *Il Manifesto*, *La Lettura del Corriere della Sera*, *Left*, *Il Reportage*. He has published the short story collections *Norvegia* (Transeuropa, 1993) and *Il ragazzo tigre* (Abramo, 2007), the novels *Nafta* (Transeuropa, 1997 and Guanda, 2000), *Attenti al cane* (Guanda, 1999), *Un poco di buono* (Rizzoli, 2002), the reportage books *Le risorse umane* (Feltrinelli, 2006 - 'Sandro Onofri' Prize), *Viaggi da Fermo* (Laterza, 2009), *Il mondo in una regione* (Ediesse, 2010), *Il costo della vita* (Einaudi, 2013 - **Premio Lo Straniero**), *I tempi che corrono* (Alegre, 2013), *Andare, camminare, lavorare* (Feltrinelli, 2015), *Addio* (Chiarelettere, 2016), the collection of theatrical texts *Comunista!* (Effigie, 2008), with Mauro Cicaré the graphic novel *L'angelo nero* (Barney, 2015), the novel *La metà del cielo* (Mondadori, 2019). His latest publications, *Non ci resta che l'amore. Il romanzo di Mario Dondero* (Il Saggiatore, 2021) and *Amazonia. Viaggio sul fiume mondo* (Mondadori- Strade Blu, 2022).



MASSIMO

Author: MASSIMO GEZZI**Title: ADRIATICA****Pages: 140****First Publisher: Gramma/Feltrinelli****Publication date: 7th October 2025****Rights: Worldwide**

“Before this book, Adriatica did not exist. Now it is an unforgettable place”. Andrea Bajani

“Massimo Gezzi explores and immerses himself in the underworld of everyday life, among bars and streets, where anger, desires, and loves explode with greater force.”

Marco Balzano

“Massimo Gezzi is particularly interested in portraying a world crowded with individuals who are often ignored by contemporary narratives. The story of their violence and their joys is equivalent to the dozens of underground, everyday stories that occur everywhere, in every suburb of the Western world.”

Francesco Brancati, Doppiozero

TWO DESTINIES MEET IN ONE NIGHT IN ADRIATICA: SHE, EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD, EMILIE, LIVES ALL STRETCHED OUT INTO THE FUTURE, IN AN IMAGINARY ESCAPE FROM THE PLACE WHERE SHE FEELS IMPRISONED, AND HE, SIXTY YEARS OLD, TULLIO, ALL CURLED UP IN A PAST THAT THAT VERY EVENING WANTS TO FORCEFULLY COME BACK TO THE SURFACE. THAT NIGHT THE TWO WILL MAKE AN UNEXPECTED NOCTURNAL CROSSING, UNTIL A SINGULAR EVENT PUTS AN END TO EVERYTHING OR FROM WHICH EVERYTHING CAN START AGAIN.

It is a mid-May evening in Adriatica, the moon is high in the sky, and the sea is almost still. Emilie walks toward the pier. She needs silence tonight. She has no desire to set foot in her home. Her eyes are swollen, and her throat is sore from screaming. Her mother drinks a bottle of wine a day and has the nerve to accuse her of being disgusting. It's too much for such a calm evening. Better the pier, better that “thing in the middle of the sea” on the strip of beach next to the outlet of the sewage treatment plant where she and Giada, her best friend, have just given vent to their desires, fantasies, and their unconfessable teenage secrets. Tullio also needs silence and the sea tonight. He is almost seventy and lives alone in the apartment his mother left him. His head is spinning, but he can't stop drinking. He blesses and curses the sea, the scent of acacia trees, the intermittent glimmer of the lighthouse, and a relic kept in a box buried in his bedroom cabinet: the image of a young woman, the most precious and dearest to him. Both the girl and the 68-year-old man walk along the Adriatic seafront and venture onto that pier, hoping to sort out their thoughts and find calm. But their lives will end up colliding and opening up to each other, and the two will discover that they share memories and secrets, gray areas and suspicions. Until, at the

end of their nighttime wanderings, consumed by a fire that reignites in a pub populated by noisy and racist fans, they witness a singular event that will put an end to everything, or from which everything can begin again. **Massimo Gezzi brings together different generations, lost dreams, and naive hopes in an imaginary province, an unforgettable province of the soul overlooking the sea. He blends youth and old age in a measured, precise, and clear portrait.**

Massimo Gezzi lives in Lugano, where he teaches in a high school. He has published the poetry books *Il mare a destra* (2004), *L'attimo Dopo* (2009, **Metauro Prize and Marazza Giovani Prize**), *Il numero dei vivi* (2015, **Carducci Prize, Tirinnanzi Prize and Swiss Literature Prize** 2016) and *Uno di niente. Storia di Giovanni Antonelli, poeta* (2016). He coordinates the literary site «Le parole e le cose2». He edited the commented edition of the Diary of '71 and '72 by Eugenio Montale (Mondadori, 20202), the *Oscar Poesie 1975-2012 di Franco Buffoni* (Mondadori, 2012), *Le Poesie scelte di Luigi Di Ruscio* (Marcos y Marcos, 2019) and *La città lontana. Poesie 1993-2009 di Adelelmo Ruggieri* (Marcos y Marcos, 2021). *Tra le pagine e il mondo* (Italic Pequod, 2015) he collected ten years of interviews with poets and reviews of poetry books. He published the book of short stories *Le stelle vicine* (Bollati Boringhieri, 2021).



Author: ROBERTA GUZZARDI

Title: ARE WE LIGHT OR SHADOW, MONSTER? stories of inner conflicts, hidden talents and the search for identity

(SIAMO LUCE OPPURE OMBRA, MOSTRO? Storie di conflitti interiori, talenti nascosti e ricerca di identità)

Pages: 280

First Publisher: Rizzoli

Publication date: 24th June 2025

Rights: Worldwide

AFTER THE GREAT SUCCESS OF 'IO E IL MOSTRO', MORE THAN 15,000 COPIES SOLD, THE LATEST BOOK BY THERAPIST AND ILLUSTRATOR ROBERTA GUZZARDI SPEAKS TO READERS' SOULS LIKE A BALM.

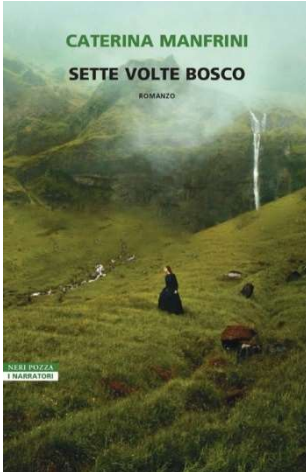
STORIES OF SELF-LOVE, FRAGILITY AND THE POSSIBILITY OF GROWTH

FROM THE COMBINATION OF THE PSYCHOTHERAPIST'S SKILLS AND ARTISTIC TALENT, A NEW, HIGHLY ORIGINAL PROJECT BY ROBERTA GUZZARDI

The new Monster book follows the evolution of the young girl, a character in constant growth, vulnerable but also courageous and determined. The focus of the story is her relationship with her inner Monster, initially perceived as dark, but who turns out to be a guide and guardian angel, intended to preserve her authenticity in the face of life's challenges.

The design of the new book delves into the theme of the search for identity, exploring the relationship with one's limitations and vulnerabilities, the discovery of talents and how to deal with the opportunities offered by life. Each chapter addresses specific questions about one's existence, encouraging reflection on who one really is and what one can do with one's unique characteristics. The hypothetical table of contents of the book suggests an articulated structure: the first chapter explores the search for oneself through the hidden facets of frailties, the second invites one to embrace vulnerability as an opportunity for growth, while the third guides one towards an authentic future, integrating dreams and talents with one's vulnerabilities. In sum, the book offers food for thought and stimulation to explore fundamental questions about one's identity, encouraging the reader to consider one's limitations as an integral part of the journey towards personal fulfilment.

Roberta Guzzardi (Corigliano Calabro, 1981) is a psychologist, psychotherapist and illustrator. She made her publishing debut in 2021 with *Io e (il) Mostro* (Me and (the) Monster), in which she recounts the adventures of a young girl with her inner monster (Jung's shadow), who turns from bitter enemy into guide and guardian angel. In 2023 he published his second picture book *Io e Te. I lost you and I don't know why*, a journey of inner healing from the wounds of relational loss. Always interested in the buried world that we all carry inside, she never stops trying to bring it to light through her illustrations with simple strokes, to make more visible, and therefore more manageable, the invisible inner self that never ceases to question us.



Author: CATERINA MANFRINI

Title: SEVEN TIMES WOODS

(SETTE VOLTE BOSCO)

Pages: 240

First Publisher: Neri Pozza

Publication date: 11th July 2025

Rights: Worldwide

FIRST REPRINT AFTER ONE WEEK!!

ADALINA TRAVELS ON AN OLD TRAIN TO RETURN HOME. THE GREAT WAR TOOK HER PARENTS AWAY AND LEFT HER HOMETLAND, 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.

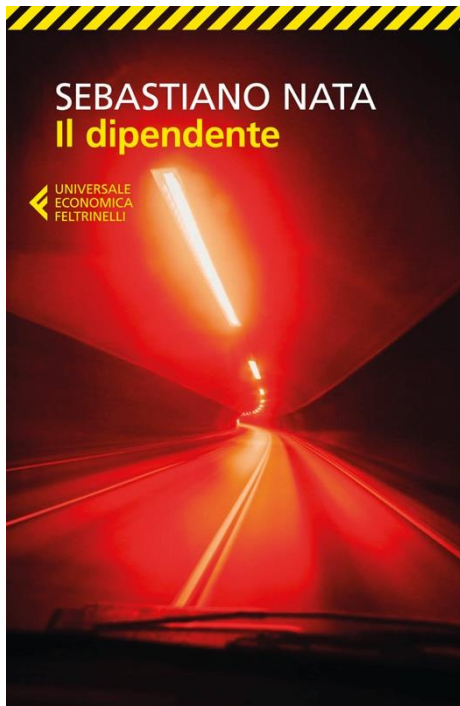
“Seven times forest, seven times meadow”: this was the prophecy they lived by. Life, in short, was a circle. Everything, in the end, returned to how it had been, and nothing they had was owed to them. Everything changed, went through phases and seasons, returned to how it had been and started again.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

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 mäs, 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.

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, *Il Libraio***

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: SEBASTIANO NATA

**Title: THE EMPLOYEE
(IL DIPENDENTE)**

Pages: 154

First Publisher: Theoria, 1995

New Edition: Feltrinelli, March 2025

With the introduction by Emanuele Trevi

Rights: Worldwide

Film Rights Sold!

THIRTY YEARS AFTER THE FIRST EDITION, ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL ITALIAN NOVELS ON THE WORLD OF WORK RETURNS TO BOOKSHOPS. A BOOK THAT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN YESTERDAY - OR RATHER, TOMORROW.

«And if you confess to someone how much they pay you, you reveal your value. The pay packet is a kind of universal judgement.»

«I have always said that. For me, strippers are like bullfights for Hemingway. Only after what happened to me at work and with Laura even there, I don't enjoy it. I participate nothing. I get distracted. A catastrophe. Better times will come, though. Michele Garbo's great revenge. The games have just begun. I bend but do not break. »

NO ONE HAD TOLD US WHAT DIES BEHIND THE MIRRORED GLASS OF THE BUILDINGS WHERE MONEY RULES; NO ONE HAD UNCOVERED THE SKULL OF AN EMPLOYEE TO SHOW US WHAT HELL BURNS THERE

The grip of work that creates dependency, the mechanism that alienates and resets identities and dreams. Between grotesque and tragedy, one of the most incisive stories of the 1990s.

«The employee is the first-person confession of a manager with a goal too big for him. Michele Garbo only fools around with this goal, and ends up daydreaming about triumphs that are destined to remain hypothetical. His private life is a disaster. His profession only repays him with stress and humiliations to break professionals more solid than himself. In all this, Michele Garbo never redeems himself. Never a gesture of pride, courage or even true affection. He is a perfectly, incredibly mean man. »

Aurelio Magistà - Il Venerdì di Repubblica

«The end of the employee is not the dismissal: if he is really an employee, that is, one who has his life outside himself, he is already finished when he is hired, when he works, when everything goes well. In 'The Employee' Michele Garbo's dense, compact, streamlined novel, Sebastiano Nata's first work, tells precisely the end. The loss of work as a loss of life, physically: as death. » **Ferdinando Camon - La Stampa**

«The reader witnesses the destruction of an individual who, killed in his humanity, slips into degrading and brutal living practices. But at this point the (naive) reader asks himself: but is not the victim himself, with his desire to make himself important and wealthy, somehow responsible for such ferocity and destruction? How naive!, that reader replies, and (with naive eggs) adds: this life we live is so intimately repressive that it prevents us from choosing. You cannot avoid going to the slaughter. » **Angelo Guglielmi - L'espresso**

«To approach it with the tools of the moralist - an approach encouraged by the author himself - *Il Dipendente*, Sebastiano Nata's debut novel, could be read as a sort of apologue: a violent indictment of contemporary society (hegemony of profit, crisis of the couple, vinification of values), which inevitably leads, through the iron mechanisms of its internal logic, to the self-destruction of the individual. »
Stefano Giovanardi - La Repubblica

Michele Garbo is the manager of an international credit card company, Transpay. Working for such a multinational has its advantages: high salaries, luxury company cars, benefits of all kinds. But time for oneself is scarce, and projects follow one another non-stop at a gruelling pace. In the press of tasks and responsibilities, Michele unconditionally accepts his role as 'employee' and tries to win the trust of his superior. But if his work successes, although frenetic, can gratify him, the night in Rome allows no escape, and Michele finds himself having to come to terms with a broken marriage, with a daughter who has moved to Brazil to be away from him, and with the relationship that has just ended with Laura, who has kicked him out of the house to get involved with a woman. Lonely, clinging to the anxiety of having to produce, to produce more and more, Michele lives in a hotel and spends his nights inside his Audi, inside red-light clubs, inside nameless prostitutes, until the day when a misstep, a single misstep, leads to his dismissal. Disenchanted, raw and melancholic, *The Employee* is a novel that takes a bite out of the myth of work and delves into the darkest darkness of a society that has put production first. There is anger in Nata's novel, an unquenchable rage that demands justice against a world that judges its inhabitants on the basis of their work achievements.

Sebastiano Nata was born in Rome in 1955. He made his debut with *Il dipendente* (1995 Theoria, 1997 Feltrinelli, 2025 Feltrinelli) which was a literary case. He then published *La resistenza del nuotatore* (1999, winner of the **Premio Mastronardi Città di Vigevano**), *Mentre ero via* (2004), *Il valore dei giorni* (2010), all with Feltrinelli. With Barney Edizioni he published *La mutazione* (2014) and with Atlantide *Tenera è l'acqua* (2020). A manager in various international technology companies, he is now active in the Third Sector. He conceived the Mastercard Literature Prize and is chairman of its Steering Committee. He is one of the founding partners of Edizioni di Atlantide. His latest novel is *Memorie di un infedele* (Bompiani, February 2023).



Author: PAOLO PAGANI

Title: REVOLUTION! STORY OF AN IDEA THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

(RIVOLUZIONE! STORIA DI UN'IDEA CHE HA CAMBIATO IL MONDO)

Pages: 300

First Publisher: Treccani Libri

Publication date: February 2025

Rights: Worldwide

«REVOLUTION IS THE COLLECTIVE EVENT PAR EXCELLENCE THAT GOES BEYOND THE ASPHYXIATED INDIVIDUALISTIC HORIZON. THE REVOLUTION ALWAYS AND ONLY WANTS THE COMMON GOOD». Paolo Pagani

REVOLUTIONS ARE THE BREATH OF HISTORY.

The idea that triggered them, the desire to transform the world, remains the one burning utopia that never ceases to seduce men. Thinking about the overthrow of the existing necessarily directs the gaze towards the definition of an image of the future.

Revolution is a break in the ordinary course of days, it is a promise of happiness, it is a search for salvation.

It offers the guarantee of being able to escape the past. From the revolts of antiquity to the discovery of Reason as the supreme guide, to the action and overthrow of a pre-established order; from the French Revolution to the peremptory imposition of Marxism, and then of course to the Soviet October and the greatest revolutionary of all time, Lenin, the author reconstructs the complex and adventurous history of the idea that founded Modernity. Without ever being afraid to glimpse the poisonous ambiguity of every revolutionary earthquake: the desire to improve human life can unfortunately produce its opposite.

The philosophical narrative of these pages rehabilitates, however, the most vertiginous ideal and political parabola that has ever crossed the history of man in society.

HAVE WRITTEN ABOUT 'WALKING WITH WALTER BENJAMIN'.

"Pagani's writing proceeds with a method that is not philosophical, but narrative: with all the twists and turns necessary for the dramaturgy of the character, with the result that we find ourselves before

a 'sentimental reportage', a 'philosophical drama in motion'.

Massimo Onofri, Avvenire

'What Pagani manages to communicate to us, starting from geography, is the depth of a restlessness that has the bluish colour and gloom of certain canvases by Munch'.

Paolo Di Paolo, La Repubblica

Paolo Pagani born in 1957 in Milan, he studied philosophy with Mario Dal Pra at the University of Milan in the early 1980s after graduating from the Liceo Classico Parini. Married with two children, he is a professional journalist and has worked for several decades in periodicals, newspapers and television as a correspondent and, as editor-in-chief, has launched digital start-ups (he was deputy head of the Rome office of CNN Italy) and led web editorial offices.

With Neri Pozza he has published *I luoghi del pensiero* (2019) and *Nietzsche on the road* (2021), with Rizzoli *Citofonare Hegel* (2022): with the same title he has realised for Choramedia a philosophical podcast in 60 episodes of 7 minutes each, online exclusively on Spotify and reached third place in the ratings in Italy. He lives and works in Milan and contributes to the *Domenicale del Sole24Ore*. In early 2024 he published with Neri Pozza *In cammino con Walter Benjamin. Il naufragio di un genio e le idee della sua epoca*.



Author: ENRICO PEDEMONTE

**Title: THE HUMAN FARM
(LA FATTORIA DEGLI UMANI)**

Pages: 250

First Publisher: Treccani

Publication date: 1st November 2024

Rights: Worldwide

HOW DIGITAL PLATFORMS ARE REDESIGNING OUR LIVES

«Thirty years of legislative vacuum have allowed a handful of companies to control the key infrastructures of digital society: not those of a single country but of the entire western world. [...] Their business model is surveillance, espionage, manipulation, modification of the future. [...] The main objective is economic, but the project is anthropological because it radically changes our relationship with others and the very way we conceive our position in the world».

Why, after 2005, are the number of democracies in the world thinning, distrust in governments growing, newspaper sales plummeting and mental disorders among teenagers increasing? And why are protests and conflicts multiplying all over the planet? What role did the Internet - whose spread in those years exploded everywhere thanks to social networks and smartphones - play in this wave of instability?

Interweaving chronicle and research, Enrico Pedemonte recounts how digital platforms - managed by a handful of companies that have become more powerful than states thanks to a world without rules - have invaded our lives, changed our habits, our way of informing ourselves, communicating, and spending our time. The path traced is that of a true revolution in progress: from the utopias of the 1990s to the hegemony of Google, from the birth of Facebook to the uprisings in Arab countries, from Obama's election to Brexit and the rise of Donald Trump, from mass disinformation to the crisis of democracy, up to the latest, astonishing new models of artificial intelligence that, while they fuel the hope of solving many of humanity's problems, induce fears and generate bubbles of millenarian culture.

Enrico Pedemonte A graduate in Physics, he is a journalist and writer. He has been a correspondent for 'Secolo xix', New York correspondent for 'Espresso', editor-in-chief at 'la Repubblica', and director of 'Pagina99'. He has covered science and technology, international politics and economics. He has published the essays *Personal Media* (Bollati Boringhieri, 1998), *Morte e resurrezione dei giornali* (Garzanti, 2010) and, with Vincenzo Tagliasco, *Vantaggi dello sboom demografico* (FrancoAngeli, 1996) and *Genova per chi* (Fratelli Frilli Editori, 2006). He has also written two novels: *La seconda vita* (Frassinelli, 2018) and *L'ultima partita* (Rizzoli, 2022). For Treccani he is the author of *Fear of Science* (2022).



Author: NIKOLAI PRESTIA
Title: PLANTS CONSCIOUSNESS
(LA COSCIENZA DELLE PIANTE)

First Publisher: **Marsilio**
Publication date: **20th September 2024**
Pages: 250

Rights: **Worldwide**

WINNER AT PREMIO COMISSO UNDER 35

ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

A NOVEL ABOUT OUR PRESENT IN WHICH FRAGILITY IS A CAUSE OF SHAME.

***La coscienza delle piante* by Nikolai Prestia**

For the Premio Strega 2025

Proposed by Daniele Mencarelli

«Time, space and language. A writer stands between these themes with lucidity and no less instinct. He knows how to grasp the falling point of a phenomenon by the obsessive exercise of his gaze, and he knows how to put it into words. Nikolai Prestia, with his *The Conscience of Plants*, warns us of a danger, reversing the point of view with respect to the supposed crisis of our youth. The problem is not the new generations, but us, the adults and our world, where only the goal and its achievement count. So many, like Marco, the novel's protagonist, fail, not the goal. But it is from failure that true self-awareness is generated. *The Consciousness of Plants* is a raw novel, dense with life and reality, and Nikolai Prestia is a writer who will remain engraved in the coming years of our literature.» **Daniele Mencarelli**

MASSAROSA AWARD 2023 FOR THE DEBUT NOVEL

WITH THE FRESH AND IMAGINATIVE PROSE THAT HAD ENCHANTED THE READERS OF *DASVIDANIA*, HIS DEBUT NOVEL, NIKOLAI PRESTIA TELLS THE DISCOMFORT OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE INEVITABILITY OF BEING CRUSHED BY THE EXPECTATIONS OF OTHERS AND BY THEIR LOVE.

«Around me the average age is low only for cemeteries. I open my eyes. I have kept them wide open most of the time, only now do I feel I have them under control. The images I can comprehend, they flow unimpeded, they don't come back and they don't overlap. The valium must have taken effect. "Listen, what about calling me the nurse?" the lady lying on the crib next to my gurney asks me. I ignored her, bringing my left hand to my face to hide. I would like to disappear.»

“With straightforward prose, Prestia recounts the inadequacy, the fear of disappointment, the fear of failure of more than one generation, to whom success continues to be told in terms of speed, money or popularity. “ **Internazionale** , **Nadeesha Uyangoda**

After a panic attack, Marco is admitted to the emergency room. He cannot speak, he is confused, and while all around him the other hospitalized patients mark time with their complaints, a psychologist takes care of him by inviting him to go over his past. Inside, Marco has many things, but mostly the pains, falsehoods and failures collected during his university studies in Siena. The stream of consciousness in which he plunges is punctuated by his last four cigarettes, with a promise, when the story is finished, to quit smoking. He then recalls his brilliant college career, until that failed exam that gradually turned into emotional and social discomfort. To escape the weight of reality, he invented a parallel world in which he was still keeping up with exams. Having come to the brink, he confessed everything to his father and grandfather - managers of a restaurant in the same small Calabrian village that Marco had left years earlier to move to and enroll in law school - and, finally light, resumed his studies. It was then that he met a girl who was a victim of his own lies. They promised each other never to lie to each other, and especially to finish their studies together. However, if Marco managed to graduate, the same cannot be said of her. And now, within the bare walls of the emergency room in which he is hospitalized, Marco must come to terms with the traumas of his own past, but also - and perhaps above all - with his own future, which awaits him in another ward, a few rooms away. *Plants Consciousness* tells of the anger of living in an age where the result is worth more than the path, and where speed is the only parameter by which we all, more or less consciously, judge success. With the fresh and imaginative prose that enchanted readers in *Dasvidania*, his debut novel, Nikolai Prestia - a young Zeno who wants to quit smoking and tries to understand what is happening to our future - tells of youthful discomfort and the inevitability of being crushed by the expectations and love of others.

Nikolai Prestia, was born in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia, in August 1990. At the age of eight, he was adopted by a Sicilian couple together with his sister. A law graduate from Siena, he now lives in Rome. He made his debut with the novel *Dasvidania* (Marsilio, 2021), **Massarosa Prize 2022**, a memoir about his childhood in Russian orphanages.



Author: GIULIANA SALVI
Title: CLEMENTINA

Pages: 325
First Publisher: Einaudi
Publication date: **18th March, 2025**
Print run: 16.000 copies

Rights: Worldwide

Rights sold: Bertrand (Portugal)

4 REPRINTS IN THREE MONTHS!!

20.000 COPIES SOLD!

NOVEL SELECTED FOR THE READERS' PRIZE LUCCA-ROME 2025

ENGLISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

**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.



Author: ENRICO TERRINONI

**Title: LITERATURE AS DARK MATTER
(LA LETTERATURA COME MATERIA OSCURA)**

Pages: 250

First Publisher: Treccani Libri

Publication date: 25th October 2024

Rights: Worldwide

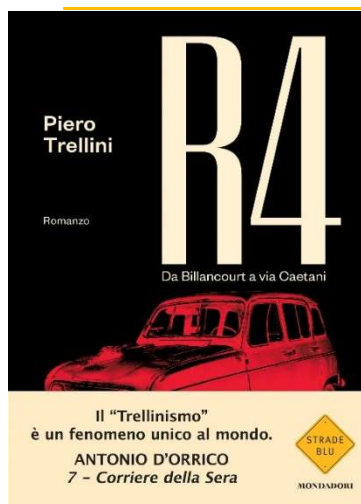
**A FASCINATING JOURNEY AND UNPREDICTABLE
JOURNEY INTO THE MYSTERY OF LITERARY
CREATION**

«Texts remain a dead letter until we resurrect them through reading and make them interact with us and our time. Only then do they come to life and show what they really are, but also what they are not. Only then does the eternal transmigration of their souls begin».

What do Einstein and Joyce have in common? Both sought to challenge, with different tools, the mystery of Meaning and the All. Reading the classics of antiquity or the more modern ones somehow confronts us with the same kind of imponderability offered by the mysteries that drive science. The starting point of the book lies precisely in this parallel between the composition of language and that of the universe, with its singular phenomena, its obscurities, its apparent arbitrariness. A literary text, whatever it may be, and irrespective of its creator's intuitions, his will, and even the conditions under which it sees the light, would be a dead letter if there were no reader to bring it to life. But also in science, particularly in the relational interpretation of quantum mechanics, something similar happens: only when objects interact are their properties seen, which are not to be considered, so to speak, intrinsic to things, but precisely relative, relational. This prompted the author to apply some concepts from quantum theory and others from the study of the universe to the reception of literary texts. Because «as with science, in literature only in the face of the obscure can imagination be unleashed».

Enrico Terrinoni is Professor in Residence at the National Italian Academy "Lincei". He holds the Chair of English Literature at the University for Foreigners in Perugia and teaches Translation at the IULM University in Milan. In 2019 he was 'Visiting Professor' at the University of Notre Dame and in 2022 he was 'Visiting Professor' at the National Normal Taiwan University. Previously he had been 'Mendel Fellow' at the Lilly Rare Manuscripts Library, University of Indiana, 'Research Fellow' at University College Dublin, and 'Research Scholar' at Marsh's Library, Dublin. He is the President of the James Joyce Italian Foundation. His books include *Beyond Dwells Silence. Translating Literature* (Il Saggiatore, 2019), *Joyce and the Occult* (Cambridge SP, 2008), *James Joyce and the End of the Novel* (Carocci, 2015), *Who's Afraid of the Classics?* (Chronopius, 2020) and *On all the living and the dead. Joyce in Rome* (Feltrinelli, 2022). He was awarded several international prizes for his translations and his works. With Declan Kiberd (editor of *Ulysses* for Penguin), he is co-editor of *The Book about Everything* (Head of Zeus), a critical work on Joyce's *Ulysses* featuring contributions by

Jhumpa Lahiri, Joseph O'Connor, Marina Carr, Tim Parks and Edoardo Camurri. He collaborated with several publishers: Mondadori, Feltrinelli, Bompiani, Einaudi, Il Saggiatore, Newton Compton, Safarà, Del Vecchio, Neri Pozza and Paginauno. He has translated and edited works by James Joyce (Ulysses, Finnegans Wake, Letters and Essays), Oscar Wilde (The Happy Prince, Vera or The Nihilists, The Portrait of Dorian Gray), George Bernard Shaw (St. Joan), George Orwell (1984 and Animal Farm), Nathaniel Hawthorne (The Scarlet Letter), Alasdair Gray (Lanark, 1982 Janine), Bobby Sands (Writings from Prison) and many others. He is the Italian translator of the President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins whose Poems and Writings on Revolution he edited. He is the author of countless essays and introductions on other writers such as Arthur Conan Doyle, Laurence Sterne, Jonathan Swift, Giordano Bruno, D.H. Lawrence, William Shakespeare and Simon Armitage. He has lectured in more than twentyfive countries, and participated in radio broadcasts such as Fahrenheit, La lingua batte and Tutta l'umanità ne parla on Radio3, and Moncrief on Raidió Teilifís Éireann (Irish Radio and Television). He writes for Il manifesto, Left-Avvenimenti and Il tascabile and his contributions over the years have appeared in Tuttolibri, Robinson, Il Venerdì, La Lettura, Repubblica, Il Corriere della Sera, The Irish Times, The Times (Ireland), Il Messaggero, Nuovi Argomenti, Alfabeta2, Minima&moralia, Doppiozero. He participated in many TV programs like Punto di svolta (Rai3) with Edoardo Camurri and in the TV series on soccer legend Francesco Totti (Sky). In 2023 he published with Bompiani *La vita dell'altro. Svevo, Joyce: a brilliant friendship*. In 2024 his first narrative work, *A Beautiful Nothing*, was published with Edizioni Atlantide.



Author: PIERO TRELINI

Title: R4 - FROM BILLANCOURT TO VIA CAETANI
(R4 - DA BILLANCOURT A VIA CAETANI)

First Publisher: Mondadori (Strade Blu)

Publication date: October 24th, 2023

Pages 720

Rights: Worldwide

LA PARTITA. IL ROMANZO DI ITALIA BRASILE (Mondadori, 2019) -

Rights sold to: Pitch Publishing (English world), Debate/Penguin

Random House SP (Spanish World), Grande Area Livros (Brasil).

Film Rights: Eliseo Multimedia (Sky docu-series, 2022)

PIERO TRELINI ONCE AGAIN SURPRISES US WITH A KALEIDOSCOPIC STORY THAT
FROM A CAR BECOMES THE STORY OF A WORLD.

AN EXTENDED SYNOPSIS IS AVAILABLE

"Trellinism is a one-of-a-kind phenomenon in the world".

Antonio D'Orrico – Corriere della Sera

"Piero Trellini's 'novel', R4, is a formidable journey backwards, zigzags, jumps, flashes in the saga, and one might say in the unconscious, of a car and a brand that in history, politics, news, customs and the collective imagination has imprinted indelible traces, even of tyres."

Marco Cicala – Venerdì di Repubblica

"A saga centred on Renault's iconic car, masterfully intertwining the stories of people and machines." La Lettura, Corriere della Sera

Proposed for the STREGA PRIZE 2024 by Francesco Caringella, with this motivation:

With great joy and deep conviction I propose "R4. Da Billancourt a Via Caetani" (Mondadori, 2024) by Piero Trellini for nomination for the 2024 Strega Prize.

I do so because, like authentic works of fiction, it is not one book, but several books together, knotted together by the winking, welcoming nose of France's best-selling car.

It is a book about the history of France, Italy, Europe, the two world wars, industrial dynasties and workers' struggles, a story that is told through other stories in a game of mirrors that involves and envelops an incredibly vast gallery of worlds and eras.

It is a book of men and women, of aspirations and breaths, of dreams and destinies, of suicides and adventures, of tumbles and resurrections.

It is a book that recounts, with the lucidity of a movie camera, the terrible days of Moro's kidnapping, sculpted in the harsh and cold atmosphere of the years of Lead.

It is a book that perfectly embodies the Kafkaesque lesson according to which a true novel is a blow of an ice axe that breaks the sea of ice within us." Francesco Caringella

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«The R4 proceeded confidently. From Via Montalcini it drove along Villa Bonelli and came out on Via della Magliana. The driver Moretti's only concern was to arrive at destination. Like all the other men behind the wheel, turning around, at that point he saw only what he needed for his goal, sensing just the route he had decided, the other moving vehicles, the obstacles placed in front of him as he progressed and the place where to stop. His thoughts were not that different from those of all the other drivers. Because the same mechanism was driving them. That of machines which had turned men into machines.»

That nose attracted fondness. But maybe it hid its true nature. The back equipped with a large trunk and a stretched floorboard to facilitate loading operations. When the Renault 4, also known as Marie Chantal, debuted at the Grand Palais in Paris, they said it would be everyone's car. And that reddish purple R4, Export model, purchased in 1971 by Filippo Bartoli, became everyone's car. From the moment when, on May 9, 1978, after 253,839 kilometers of life, it stopped breathing together with the body it was transporting. He was the most important man in Italy. She was the best-selling car in France. She had been created in Billancourt, the Parisian factory that had modeled the face of a nation. Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, photographer Robert Doisneau, philosopher Simone Weil, singer-songwriter Georges Brassens and even Gusztáv Sebes, coach of the Mighty Magyars, had worked in its workshops. But not only them. Inside that plant, sprouted in the garden of Louis Renault's mother, other existences had wandered, destined to pass through two world conflicts, the Cold War, 1968, the economic crisis and the armed struggle. Following that extremely long thread which links an origin to an ending, line after line Pietro Trellini takes us on an incredible ride into a story that must be seen from the bottom up, where car headlights are guiding us. Along the way, everything connects. Thoughts intertwine, by Henry Ford, Adolf Hitler, Ernest Hemingway, Francis Scott Fitzgerald, Clare Boothe Luce, George Marshall, Eduardo De Filippo, George Patton, Jean Paul Sartre, Le Corbousier, Gian Giacomo and Inge Feltrinelli, Sandro Pertini, Renato Curcio, Pier Paolo Pasolini, Henry Kissinger, Paul VI, Aldo Moro and many others. The slow transformation of their minds, through an invisible chain of links, will divert history, taking that car and those thoughts to breathe the same air and embark on the same journey. To find themselves, in the last sensational pages, overlapping and coinciding in the most dramatic coordinates.

THEY HAVE WRITTEN ABOUT HIS BOOKS:

In the last four years, Piero Trellini scored three masterpieces (I think it's a world record). Besides this superb *L'Affaire* ("The Affaire", the father of all legal thrillers), he published *La partita. Il romanzo di Italia Brasile* ("The match. The novel of Italy-Brazil", an Iliad of soccer) and *Danteide* ("Danteid", a Recherche of lost Dante Alighieri).

Antonio D'Orrico, 7 del Corriere

"The Dreyfus case remains a primordial scene and a vertiginous laboratory of Modernity. Piero Trellini has given back that vertigo in a centrifugal book where, like in a Russian doll, each story opens another one and all of them end up intersecting in a formidable, explosive glimpse of an era.

Of a period marked by irreversible revolutions in ideology, media, technology, science, art. Mutations that in some way still concern us".

Il Venerdì di Repubblica

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“Gripping, titanic, grandiose for the capacity of the author, faithful to historical documents, to tell the unbelievable tale of captain Dreyfus. And in our opinion the book of the year.”

Giovanni Pacchiano

“An extraordinary book by Trellini. A great knowledge of facts and great storytelling capacity, which is very rare”. **Giuseppe Scaraffia, Il Foglio**

“A remarkable tale, as everything pouring out of a magnificent obsession”.

Marco Cicala – Il Venerdì di Repubblica

“Trellini transformed his sweet, strong “obsession” in this volume representing a soccer Odyssey (...) I had never read, on a single match, anything as complete and engaging. In its genre: a masterpiece.” **Darwin Pastorin – Huffington Post**

“You will wonder how it is possible to match the size of Moby Dick writing of twenty-two men that are kicking a ball... Trellini has taken it upon himself to explore all that can be explored about the protagonists of that challenge...” **Giuseppe Culicchia – La Stampa**

“A big book, but you read it in one breath: the match arrives only after about four hundred pages, but Trellini - like a good crime writer - is very skillful in slowly making our mouths water”.

Corriere dello Sport

“The match” by Piero Trellini is an extraordinary endeavor (...) Books like this can't be found anymore. It's a super novel (just like we say super hero), it has super powers, the strongest of which is that he makes us relive the competition with unbearable suspense, as if we didn't know that Paolo Rossi would score three goals. I recommend “The match” to those who are not soccer fans. They will discover many things. Of life and not of soccer”.

Antonio D'Orrico, 7Corriere

«An ode to soccer, a heart-wrenching ode to the most beautiful game in the world. The 90 minutes, from the starting whistle, begin at page 429, not before. Before there's a sum of wonderful stories, that keep you glued to the page”.

Walter Veltroni, La Gazzetta dello Sport

“Danteid is all you don't expect from a book on Dante: Trellini doesn't settle for the tale of well noted facts about the Tuscan poet, but as a neorealist director, he investigates, he follows his character (starting from the finding of the poets's skeleton) and describes him as an ordinary man. Trellini knows how to write, he's a real writer, reading these pages you are overwhelmed, you have fun, you feel tormented, you find yourself in a plot worthy of the best TV series. Here are his pages!”

Roberto Saviano

“In Danteid every reference is purely Dantesque. Trellini uses only original spare parts. Technically the book is a spin-off, but as if Dante in person had written it. Things are then complicated by the type of writer that Trellini is... Danteid is a cross between Dante's software and Trellini's software”.

Corriere della Sera, Antonio D'Orrico

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“An unpredictable novel that, starting from the recovery of the head of the supreme poet in a wooden crate in Ravenna, in 1865, retraces the figures, the atmospheres, the characters who surrounded him: from Paolo and Francesca to Guido Cavalcanti, from Guido da Montefeltro to count Ugolino.” **L'Espresso**

“Among the many books published this year, the most audacious and pop is *Danteid* by Piero Trellini (Bompiani). Serious commitment, result of laborious research (more than five thousand texts consulted indicates the bibliography) and inspired by the desire to make Dante interesting for the young; not an interpretation of the work nor a biography in a narrow sense, but an attempt to describe the world surrounding Dante, what he has seen. The book has the pace of an adventure novel, if not to say even a TV series. The story progresses through plot twists, phantasmagorical coincidences, mysteries, striking generalizations.

Walter Siti, Domani

Piero Trellini, writer and journalist, collaborates for “la Repubblica”, “La Stampa”, “Il Sole 24 ore”, “Domani”, “Il Messaggero”, “il Manifesto”, “Il Foglio” and “Art e Dossier”. He published *La partita. Il romanzo di Italia-Brasile* (“The match. The story of Italy v Brazil”, Mondadori 2019; **2020 Bancarella Sport Prize, 2020 Ape Prize, 2020 “First novel” Mastercard Letteratura Prize, 2020 Massarosa “Technical jury” Prize**), that was an immediate critical and public success and on which, among others, were based a television series, airing on Sky, and a photographic edition, *Le immagini di Italia Brasile* (“The images of Italy-Brazil”, Mondadori 2022), a proper “illustrated Artist’s book”. He also published *Danteide* (“Danteid”, Bompiani 2021) and *L’Affaire* (“The Affaire”, Bompiani 2022), nominated “Book of the year” by the readers of Corriere della Sera.



Author: MARIANGELA VAGLIO

Title: THE FOUNDER. ROMULUS AND THE MYTH OF ROME'S ORIGINS

(IL FONDATEORE. 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.”

Alba 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...

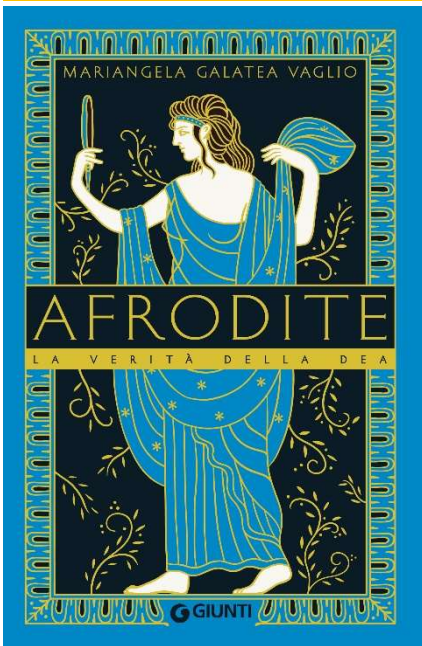
Latium, 753 BC.

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 inarguable 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.

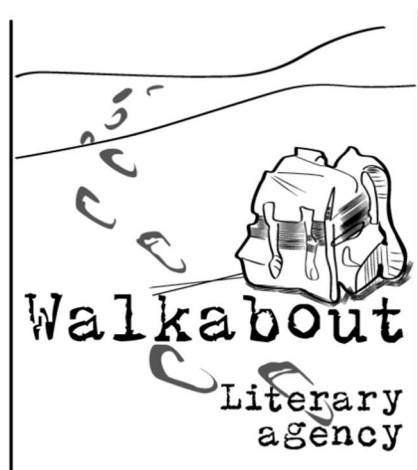
In the aftermath of the fall, she is left with her son Aeneas. Aphrodite hates Homer and instead loves Virgil, who has been able to recount her heartbreak as goddess and mother. And she loves the Romans, whom she considers her avengers. She intervenes in the affairs of her son, whom she loves because 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).

Walkabout Literary Agency



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 few foreign writers as the Greek Ersi Sotiropoulos (2025 Nobel Price candidate, translated in 10 languages) and the Turkish Burhan Sonmez (Pen Writers President, translated in 21 languages), as well as some leading Italian writer as Simonetta Agnello Hornby, Pino Cacucci, Simona Baldelli, Piero Trellini, Enrico Terrinoni, Adrian Bravi, Nicola Bruniati, Francesco Caringella, Matteo Cavezzali, Antonio Iovane, VVVVV, and new and talented voices as Giulia Baldelli, Emanuela Fontana, Giacinta Cavagna, Silvia Ciompi, Anna Bonacina, Carola Benedetto, Luciana Ciliento, Caterina Manfrini, as in the fields of literary and commercial fiction, children's fiction, and general non-fiction.

In twelve 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, Bologna and Turin.

The agency is based in Rome, Italy.

Walkabout Literary Agency is proud to be one of the 37 founders [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 transmitting 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.