

Simonetta Agnello Hornby Rights List



Author: SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY
Title: THE AUNT MARQUISE
(LA ZIA MARCHESA)

Pages: 322
First Publisher: Feltrinelli
Publication date: 2004

Rights: English World

Rights sold: Tusquets (Spain), Farrar Strauss (English world), Liana Levi (France), Piper (Germany)

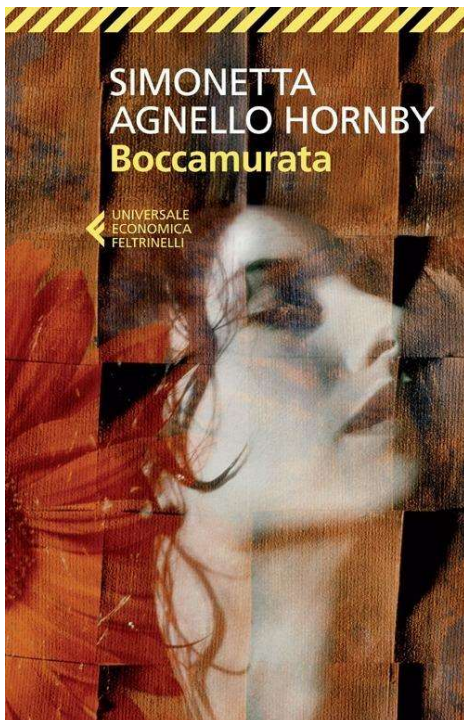
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Sicily at the end of the 19th century. Costanza Safamita is the only daughter of a wealthy family of landowners, as loved and protected by her father, Baron Domenico, as she is rejected by her mother. With her red hair and physical appearance almost 'of another race', she grows up among servants, amidst the paternal pride of blood and the somewhat reduced prospects of life in the provinces. It will be she, at her father's behest, who inherits the family's wealth and prestige. She will face the worldliness of Palermo and a conjugal life balanced between her love for her husband and the impossibility of abandoning him, she will know how to face the Mafia bosses and contain the family's downfall, in an archaic and barbaric world, photographed at the moment of the end.

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).

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Author: SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY

**Title: WALLEDMOUTH
(BOCCAMURATA)**

Pages: 416

First Publisher: Feltrinelli

Publication date: 2007

Rights: English World

Rights sold: Tusquets (Spain)

MORE THAN 170.000 COPIES SOLD!!

Who was Tito's mother? A no-good, as certain nasty rumours say? Or a lady from a good family forced to 'disappear', as his father Gaspare always said? Tito is at the head of a pasta factory, a source not only of wealth but also of conflict, tension and envy within a family in disarray. It is only his authority that holds it together, that keeps it united, with the strong support of the mild presence of an old aunt: Aunt Rachele has watched over Tito and then his children and has not lost the ability to intuit even that which one would like to keep hidden from her, but in her gaze confused memories and shreds of secrets tenaciously guarded for more than half a century begin to surface little by little. To stir the murky waters further, along with the beautiful, unscrupulous and enterprising Irina, Dante, the son of a former boarding school friend of her aunt, suddenly arrives. And some suspect dark motives. The more the story opens up to unexpected developments in the present, the more the past is thunderstruck by a new light and the mystery it concealed slowly unfolds with the force of a great love story.

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Author: SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY

Title: BROKEN WIND
(VENTO SCOMPOSTO)

Pages: 217

First Publisher: Feltrinelli

Publication date: 2009

Rights: Feltrinelli

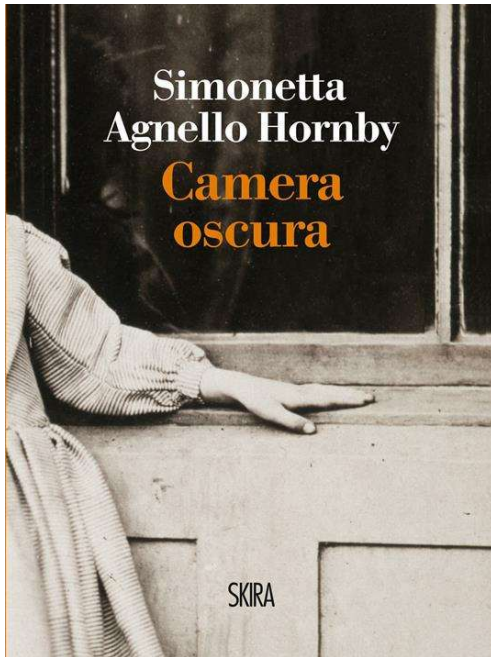
MORE THAN 100.000 COPIES SOLD!

"We are a happy and normal family. Do you understand? Happy and normal." The Pitt couple have just moved into their new home in the elegant Kensington district. Mike works in the City as a merchant banker, Jenny is a consultant for a prestigious chain of shops; they have two daughters, Amy and Lucy. A middle-class, affluent, 'normal' family. And yet something begins to go wrong when little Lucy's teacher reads disturbance and unease in the child's behaviour. It seems to be just a nuisance, but for Mike Pitt it is the beginning of a nightmare. In order to get out of the labyrinth of accusations that have him cornered, he turns to Steve Booth, a lawyer specialised in family law who is used to dealing with Brixton's disadvantaged and multi-ethnic clientele. While Jenny keeps repeating that "Lucy is perfectly fine" and firmly believes in her husband's innocence - which exacerbates the climate of suspicion and the hostility of the social services -, Steve Booth and his firm have to move through a web of accusations that thickens day by day, in an increasingly paradoxical game of ambiguity and obsession. Judicial and costume novel, social and family thriller in which innocence and guilt share the scene until the last page, *Vento scomposto* surprises Simonetta Agnello Hornby's readers with the contemporary theatre of the story, a London of upper-class interiors and suburban flats, of courtrooms, parks, streets and markets.

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Author: SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY

Title: DARKROOM
(CAMERA OSCURA)

Pages: 144

First Publisher: Skira

Publication date: 2010

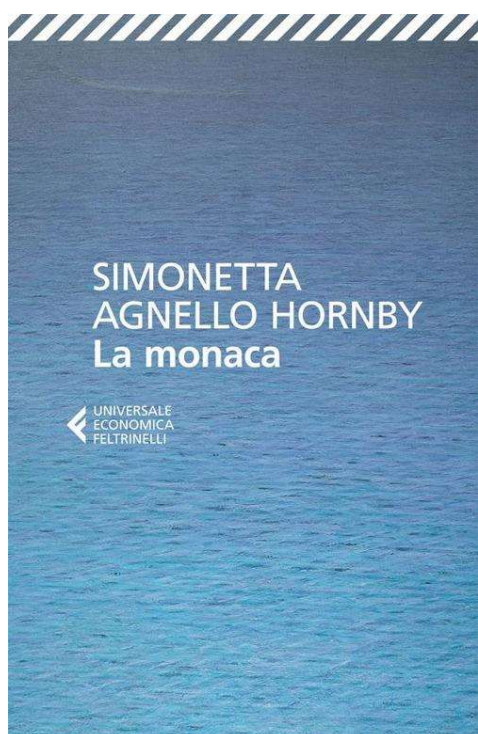
Rights: Worldwide

We all know that Lewis Carroll loved children and was a great storyteller. As a mathematics professor at Christ Church in Oxford, he sometimes took Principal Liddell's daughters on picnics. Little Alice Liddell was his favourite and he wrote 'Alice in Wonderland' for her. The book, it is known, was a resounding success and Lewis Carroll was increasingly surrounded by his little admirers, whom he, a pioneer of photography, loved to portray in exotic costumes, in tableaux vivants and, from 1867, also naked. All the families were satisfied with the photographs of their daughters naked, except for one, who abruptly ended the sessions. In this new tale, Simonetta Agnello Hornby tells the story of this interrupted friendship through the eyes of the now grown-up girl and her companion Alice. A series dedicated to tales of art. Unpublished stories to discover the curiosities and secrets of the great masters of art. Written by journalists, art critics and historians, musicians and archivists, these tales aim to bring an ever-wider public closer to the world of art, its curiosities and secrets.

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Author: SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY

Title: THE NUN

(LA MONACA)

Pages: 304

First Publisher: Feltrinelli

Publication date: 2010

Rights sold: Tusquets (Spain), Europa Publisher (English World)

MORE THAN 100.000 COPIES SOLD!!

Messina, 15 August 1839. In the house of Marshal Peppino Padellani di Opiri, preparations for the feast of the Assumption of the Virgin are in full swing. It is the last peaceful day in the life of Agata, who is in love with the rich Giacomo Lepre and is reciprocated by him. Agata must give up her love: the families cannot reach an agreement and, when the marshal dies, Agata's mother, donna Gesuela, decides to take her to Naples, where she hopes to obtain a pension from the king. The only steamship leaving is that of Captain James Garson. After a stormy voyage, James and Agata meet on deck and here she confides her torments to him. In Naples, Agata is forced into a convent. A world in which love, hatred, grudges, illicit passions and revenge are intertwined. But Agata seems to look beyond this and becomes passionate about the study and cultivation of medical herbs, learns to bake bread and sweets. She reads all the books James Garson sends her regularly and follows the fortunes of the movements aspiring to the unification of Italy in her sister Sandra's house. She has accepted the monastic life, but is torn between religious feeling and the desire to live in the world. She does not want to displease her aunt the abbess, but neither does she want to sacrifice her future. The Mediterranean sister of Jane Austen's heroines, Simonetta Agnello Hornby's Agata is capable of inhabiting History and at the same time bringing with her own story as a young woman, a new spiritual force, to be read from our time to arrive at her own.

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Author: SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY

**Title: A DRIZZLE OF OIL
(UN FILO D'OLIO)**

Pages: 288

First Publisher: Sellerio

Publication date: 2011/2024

Rights: Worldwide

Rights sold: Ebersbach & Simon (Germany), Gatopardo ediciones (Spain), Wydawnictwo Czarne (Poland).

AMONG THE FLAVOURS AND FRAGRANCES OF THE LAMB RECIPES ARE THOSE, NEVER NOSTALGIC BUT ALWAYS INTENSE AND FRAGRANT, OF TIME PAST TO WHICH THE WRITER'S TALENT GIVES THE TASTE OF THE ETERNAL PRESENT OF LIFE.

«For years I had wanted to transcribe Grandma Maria's dessert recipes, annotated by her in a small notebook with numbered pages and an index, a real book. Although we have lived on different islands for forty years, every summer we meet up in Moses - our countryside - and we still cook the way mum and aunt Teresa taught us.[...] The idea was to revive the culture of our home table through her recipes, period photographs and some 'narrative' pages for which I would draw on our memories and mum's stories.».

A journey into the deep roots of an archaic and in many ways lost Sicily, through family memories and the threads of history, chasing the scents and flavours that marked her childhood. Simonetta Agnello Hornby, the Sicilian writer and author of great successes such as *La Mennulara*, *La zia marchesa* and *Vento scomposto*, for the first time makes room for the memories of her life and writes a memoir entirely dedicated to the places and people that animated her holidays.

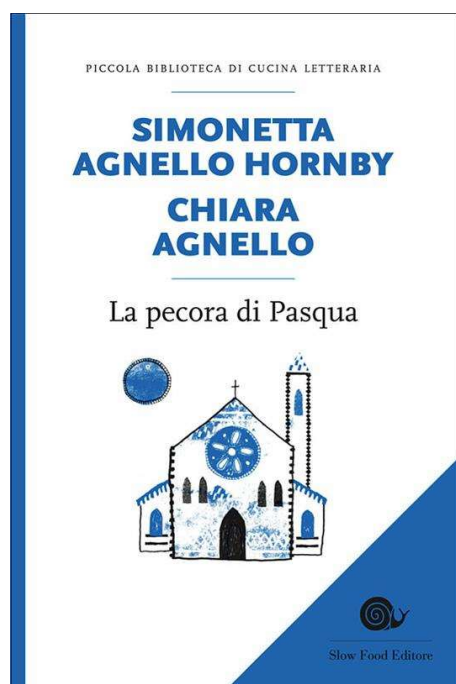
A few kilometres from Agrigento, near the Rupe Atenea, there is Mosé, Baron Agnello's country residence, a large farmhouse with its own chapel and barns, set among olive groves and fallow fields. Three families of peasants live at Mosé in winter, only at the end of May does the owner, the Baroness and her daughters, Chiara and Simonetta, join them, along with all the service staff of course: maids, cooks, seamstresses and nannies.

In the summer of 1950, Simonetta rediscovered the intense flavours and fragrances of Sicily in the large family kitchen, thanks to the work of Rosalia, who is the true mistress of Moses, wife of the campiere Vincenzo Vella and mother of his nine children. Rosalia bakes bread every week, for herself and for all the farm labourers, she sets the work shifts for the other women, she bakes focaccias stuffed with olives and rosemary for all the children, she prepares the 'caffè d'u parrinu' for distinguished guests, she preserves in her skilful hands all the art and tradition of her land.

But the Baroness also expresses the best of her passions in the large patronal kitchen. In the early afternoon, while the servants are resting, she and her sister 'Teresù' churn out sponge cakes, biscuits, shortcrust pastries, kneading the genuine ingredients that the countryside has never skimmed on, not even in wartime. In a five-month-long merry-go-round, made up of continuous visits from friends and relatives, against the backdrop of an agrarian reform that promised the peasants land and threatened the barons with expropriation, Simonetta Agnello Hornby, with the precious help of her sister Chiara, recovers the recipes that were made then and are still made today in Moses' great kitchen. Twenty-eight summer dishes, all based on the vegetables of the season, but also many classic desserts of the Sicilian tradition, in which Chiara Agnello reveals all the secrets of a successful recipe and even the secret ingredient that no chef would ever dare reveal. A novel that suddenly becomes a precious guide, to be kept and consulted.

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Author: SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY & CHIARA AGNELLO

**Title: THE EASTER LAMB
(LA PECORA DI PASQUA)**

Pages: 48

First Publisher: Slow Food

Publication date: 2012

Rights: Worldwide

"In a few years you will take a husband," he told her. 'You will have a dowry richer than any other girl in the village: Narbone will be yours. If I am gone, remember that I want you to choose the man you marry. You, alone. Remind your brother of that too'."

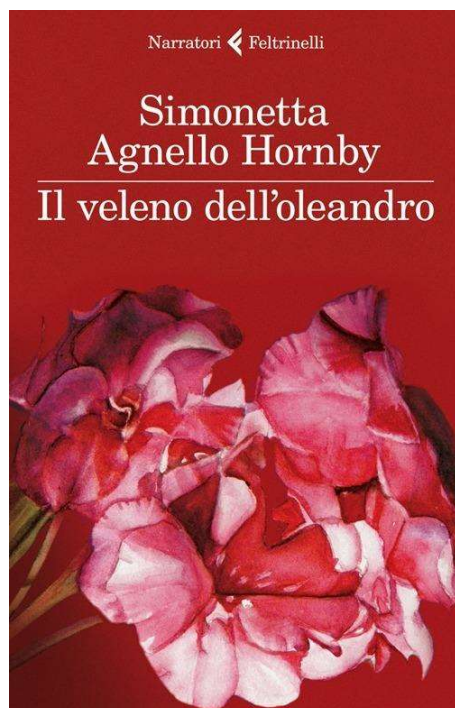
We are in Favara, in that part of Sicily that looks towards Africa. Gesuela is fourteen years old when she receives this very strange and demanding order from her father, a rich doctor of French origin, at a time when all marriages, even that of her parents, were arranged. Between impossible loves, breathtaking landscapes and Girgentan goats, almost mythological animals with majestic horns and milk with thaumaturgic powers, the tale of the birth of one of Sicily's most famous traditional sweets becomes literature.

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Chiara Agnello has an agritourism, Fattoria Mosè, in the province of Agrigento where he dedicates himself to cooking and welcoming his guests.



Author: SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY

**Title: OLEANDER POISON
(IL VELENO DELL'OLEANDRO)**

Pages: 217

First Publisher: Feltrinelli

Publication date: 2013

Rights: Worldwide

Film/tv rights available

Rights sold: Tusquets (Spain)

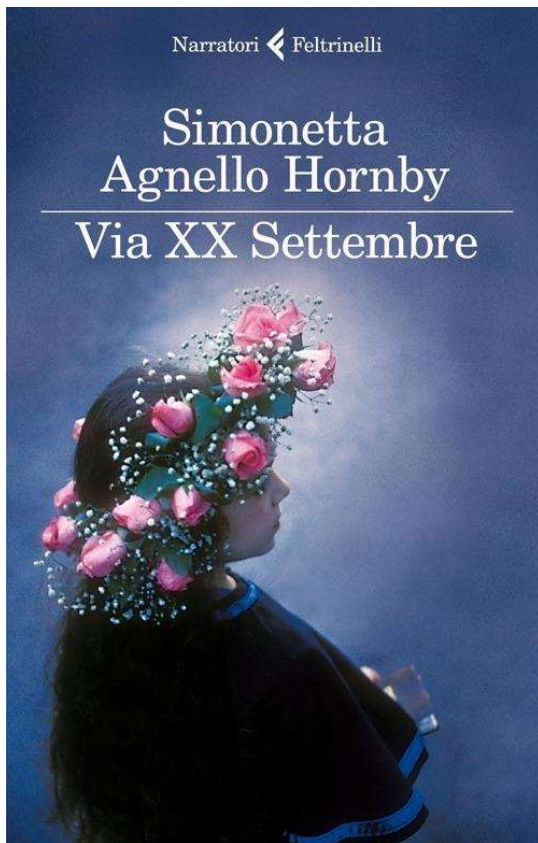
MORE THAN 150.000 COPIES SOLD!

Pedrara. The Sicily of the Hyblean Mountains. A villa lost beneath high rock walls amidst the peeping of ancient tombs and the swirling of streams caressed by the opulence of oleanders. It is here that the Carpinteri family gathers around the bedside of Aunt Anna, who has slipped into a carefree but prescient dementia. Do the stones the woman rants about in her bed really exist? Where are they hidden? But above all, what is the knot that binds the aunt to the handsome Bede, true guardian of the estate and ambiguous factotum? Like water in soft limestone, the Carpinteri dig into the past, search the cupboards, reveal secrets - they want, in unison, truths never told and riches never had. Between the shadows of day and the glimmers of night, influences of local notables, dealings with occult powers, and above all ungovernable passions emerge. The voices of Mara, Anna's favourite niece, and Bede guide us inside this sinuous labyrinth of relationships, removals, memories, until we cross the border of death itself. Simonetta Agnello Hornby brings into focus a micro-world that seems to widen, with a shudder, to represent the failures, ambitions and anxieties for liberation of the family universe, in its entirety.

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 book, *Era un bravo ragazzo* (Mondadori, 2023), is set in Sicily and tells a family affair, a mirror of society in the 1980s.



Author: SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY

Title: XX SEPTEMBER STREET

(VIA XX SETTEMBRE)

Pages: 225

First Publisher: Feltrinelli

Publication date: 2013

Rights: Feltrinelli

Rights sold: Gatopardo Ediciones (Spain)

MORE THAN 70.000 COPIES SOLD!!

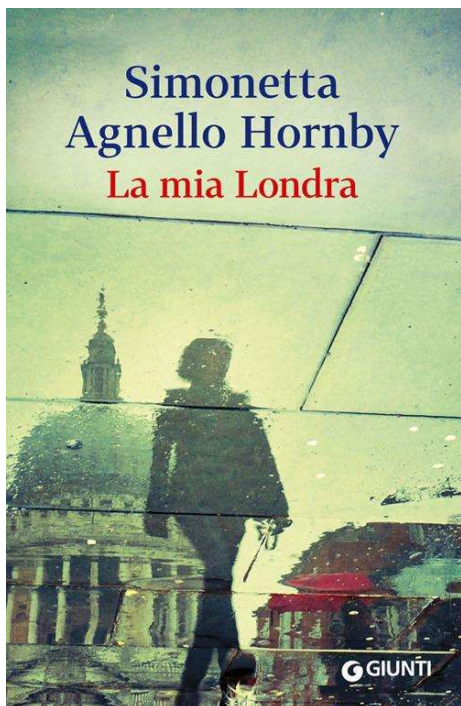
**MADE OF MEMORY, WITHIN MEMORY THIS
NOVEL DRAWS THE PROCESS OF A
SENTIMENTAL EDUCATION AND A
PASSIONATE FAMILY HISTORY**

Via XX Settembre is not far from the Politeama theatre, in the heart of Palermo: this is where the Agnello family came to live in 1958 after leaving Agrigento. Simonetta is thirteen years old and about to enter secondary school - the move was decided in order to offer her and her sister Chiara a more stimulating life. A new family balance is established in Palermo - the father is often absent to follow the countryside, rhythms and habits are dictated with iron sweetness by the mother. To reaffirm the continuity with the past, the small world of uncles, cousins, family members, friends, relatives. In the background, but actually the protagonist, is a city in which the wounds of war are being compounded by those, even more devastating, of building speculation. Fastidious and miserable, Palermo seduces Simonetta: it stuns her with beauty and fragrances, tempts her with the impassive physiognomies of the sugar puppets and the crunchy gold of the pannelle. Nonetheless, the perception of an increasingly evident degradation creeps in. The city reveals itself to her as she reveals herself to herself, through a lively world of women, through her love of books, through the first glimmers of a civic and political conscience. Having taken Via XX Settembre, the formation is consummated within a perspective cut that goes beyond Palermo and Sicily: the looming detachment that takes Simonetta to England gives a glimpse of a new maturity, a new existence.

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Author: SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY

Title: MY LONDON

(LA MIA LONDRA)

Pages: 272

First Publisher: Giunti

Publication date: 2014

Rights: Giunti

Rights sold: Gatopardo Ediciones (Spain)

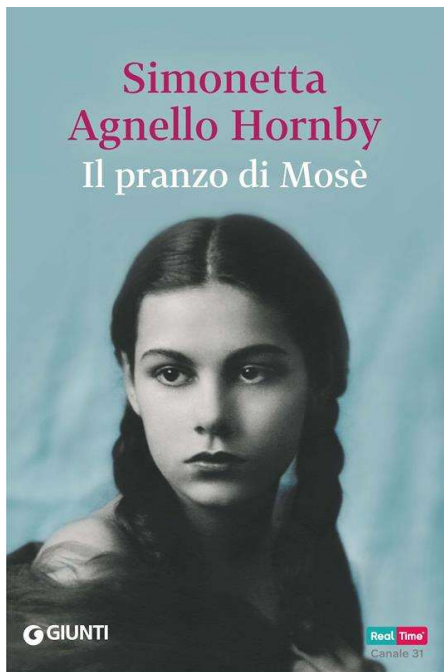
Simonetta Agnello arrives alone in London in September 1963 - three hours from Palermo, she is in another world. The city immediately appears to her as a place of rituals and magic: the queue of aliens at passport control; the elevated motorway becomes a flying carpet. The fear of not

understanding and not being accepted mercilessly forces the transition from adolescence to adulthood. She becomes Mrs. Hornby. She has two children. A whole life as an Englishwoman and as a Sicilian. Now Simonetta Agnello Hornby can reknit the threads of memory and accompany the reader to little-known museums, to strolls in the parks, to the beloved house in Dulwich, to the charming flat in Westminster, to the City and to Brixton, where she practised law; at the same time, she captures the soul of her London, deeply tolerant and democratic, which offers people of all ethnicities the chance to work. A tale of stories and a very personal guide to the city, this book is a hymn to a London that continues to grow and change: each tide of the Thames brings something or someone new to make us think and rethink. In this sense, the discovery of Samuel Johnson, an intellectual who arrived here on foot, aged 27, in search of work, plays a formidable role; he compiled the first English dictionary and is considered the father of the English Enlightenment.

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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).

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Author: SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY

**Title: MOSES'S LUNCH
(IL PRANZO DI MOSÈ)**

Pages: 212

First Publisher: Giunti

Publication date: 2014

Rights: Giunti editore

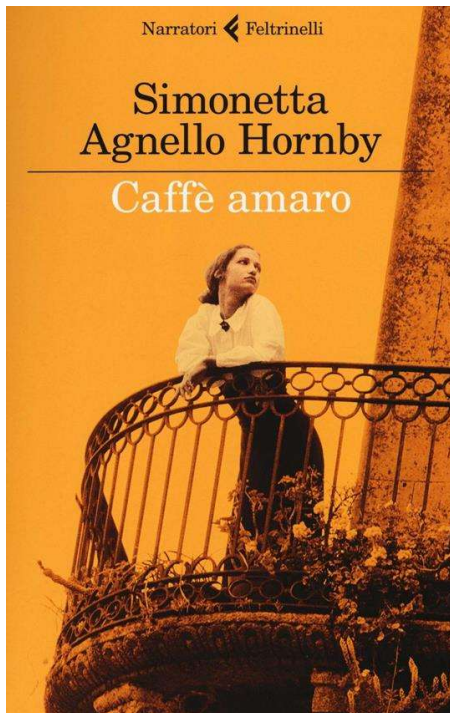
SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY OPENS THE DOORS OF MOSES' HOUSE, THE ESTATE WHERE HER MOTHER'S FAMILY HAS SPENT THEIR SUMMER HOLIDAYS FOR FIVE GENERATIONS. TOGETHER WITH HER BELOVED SISTER CHIARA, SHE ACCOMPANIES US ON A DISCOVERY OF THIS ENCHANTED PLACE. IN THE COUNTRYSIDE OF AGRIGENTO, A FEW KILOMETRES FROM THE VALLEY OF THE TEMPLES, STANDS ON A HILL THE 19TH-CENTURY MASSERIA THAT EVERY SUMMER WELCOMES RELATIVES, FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES OF THE FAMILY IN A CEASELESS PROCESSION.

Simonetta Agnello Hornby opens the doors of Moses' house, the estate where her mother's family has spent their summer holidays for five generations. Together with her beloved sister Chiara, she accompanies us on a discovery of this enchanted place. In the countryside of Agrigento, a few kilometres from the Valley of the Temples, stands on a hill the 19th-century masseria that every summer welcomes relatives, friends and acquaintances of the family in a ceaseless procession. Anyone who climbs the little road leading to the manor house is welcomed, fed, cared for. As Mamma Elena and Aunt Teresa once did, Simonetta and Chiara put every newcomer at ease; they have learnt, from helping their mother and aunt, the art of hospitality and conviviality. At Moses they still cook the produce from the garden and what is offered by the farm, using oil from the ancient olive grove that covers the sides of the hill. The dining room table continues to stretch and shrink to accommodate guests. At the table, food is discussed and serene hours are spent, enlivened by the company and pleasure of lively conversation. Moses has remained the warm and magical place where Mamma Elena and Aunt Teresa used to move safely. Simonetta demonstrates this by recounting six occasions of conviviality in today's Moses, showing us seasonal produce and guiding us through the choice of menus. She reveals recipes handed down through generations, and the secret recipes of the nuns, and transforms the leftovers into exquisite dishes.

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

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Author: SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY
Title: CAFFÈ AMARO

Pages: 348
First Publisher: Feltrinelli
Publication date: 2016

Rights: Worldwide

Rights sold: Tusquets (Spain), Saga Egmont (Germany)

Film/tv rights available

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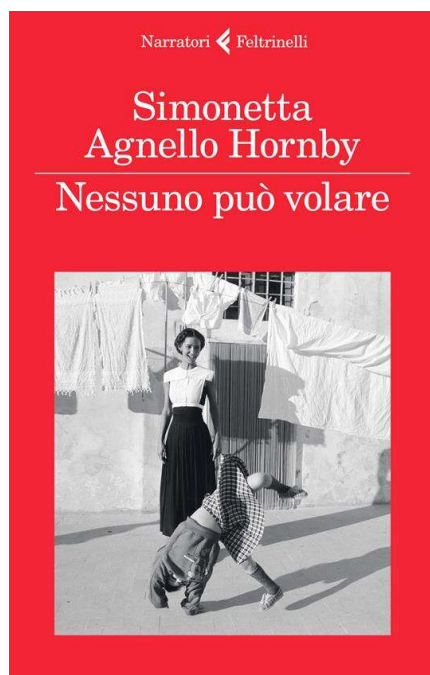
"She was burning, that hand, and even her palm was hot. They understood!"

Maria's large, deep, almond-shaped eyes, her regular features, her thick brown hair: her beauty is one that casts a spell on anyone who sets eyes on her, just as it does on Pietro Sala - who falls in love with her at first sight and asks for her hand without any dowry - and, less obviously, on his friend Joshua, who was brought up by her father and whom Maria considers a sort of older brother. Maria is only fifteen, Pietro thirty-four; he is a wealthy *bonvivant* who loves travelling, gambling and women; she comes from a socialist family of high ideals but limited means. Yet marriage to Pietro proves to be a happy choice: outside the family walls, Maria discovers a broader sense of existence, a freedom to live that coincides with a profound perception of the right to pleasure and enjoyment. Through eros, to which Peter initiates her with wise naturalness, comes for her the knowledge of herself and her own desires, as well as an openness to beauty and a very personal feeling of justice. During a holiday in Tripoli, with the desert as an accomplice, Maria also discovers what the relationship that, until then obscurely, has bound her to Joshua is made of. A scorching love affair begins, spanning more than twenty years of meetings, separations and clandestine meetings waiting for a new peace.

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 she 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,

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Author: SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY

**Title: NOBODY CAN FLY
(NESSUNO PUO' VOLARE)**

Pages: 220

First Publisher: Feltrinelli

Publication date: 2017

Rights: Worldwide

Rights sold: Gatopardo Ediciones (Spain)

Film/tv rights available

MORE THAN 140.000 COPIES SOLD!

A story that unfolds from the unusual Sicilian family to more recent travels with their son George and grandchildren, discovering the treasures of our artistic heritage and the architectural barriers that limit access to them.

When one is born into an unusual family such as Simonetta Agnello Hornby's, from an early age one grows up with the awareness that one is "all normal, but different, each with their own characteristics, sometimes a little 'strange'". Through a series of savoury and affectionate portraits, we thus make the acquaintance of cousin Ninì, deaf-mute ("Ninì doesn't speak well", she explains to strangers), of the beloved Hungarian nanny Giuliana, a bit lame, of the father with a bad leg and of the 'pinched' great-aunt Rosina, a kleptomaniac - when the silverware disappears from the table, the relatives sneak up on her to take the cutlery out of her pockets, slowly, without her noticing, because 'the aunt must not feel embarrassed'. And then, of course, we get to know George, both through his mother's words and through his voice, which alternates as an ironic (one hundred per cent British) but firm counter-song in recounting the many obstacles of those who move around in wheelchairs. And just as Simonetta with her stories of a bygone era gives us an unusual and genuine look at the world, so too George, who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis fifteen years ago, gives us a different point of view from which to observe the cities we live in, the people around us and ourselves.

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,

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Author: SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY & MASSIMO FENATI

Title: LA MENNULARA

Pages: 192

First Publisher: Feltrinelli

Publication date: 2018

Rights: English World

Film/tv rights available

"It is as if Mennu has turned into a spirit that hovers over us and will not subside until we have obeyed her orders..."

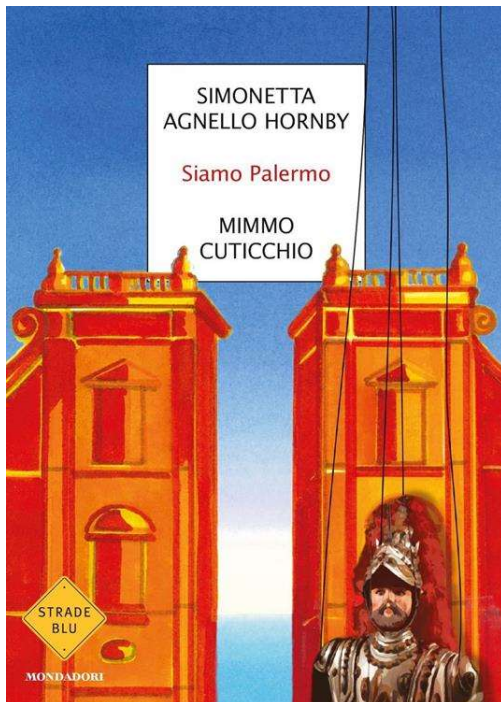
After 350.000 copies sold in Italy and translated in 20 languages, 'La Mennulara' Simonetta Agnello Hornby's debut novel has now become a graphic novel, created by Massimo Fenati with the author's supervision. In this book, the character Rosalia Inzerillo, known as the Mennulara, lives again and takes shape. And with her, the entire gallery of co-protagonists in this family saga.

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).

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Massimo Fenati was born in Genoa, but has lived and worked in London since 1995. He is a cartoonist, illustrator and animator. His success is especially linked to the characters Gus & Waldo, protagonists of a series of books also published in Italy by tea: *Il libro dell'amore di Gus & Waldo* (2008), *Il libro del sesso di Gus & Waldo* (2011) and *Arte pinguina* (2015). With an animated short film based on these books, he won the Sub-ti competition at the Venice Film Biennale in 2009 and the audience popularity award at the iris animation festival in Rio de Janeiro and the Queersicht in Bern in 2010. He has also published *L'insospettabile utilità di un suricato morto* (Mondadori, 2013) and the comic series for children *Cico e Toto* on the pages of the 'Fatto Quotidiano del Lunedì' (from 2012 to 2014). He also creates TV graphics for the bbc, Channel 4 and Sky uk, and keeps a comic strip cooking column for the 'Corriere della Sera' website. For Feltrinelli, in the 'Comics' series, he has created *La Mennulara. Graphic novel* (2018) by Simonetta Agnello Hornby. Her latest book, *Era un bravo ragazzo* (Mondadori, 2023), is set in Sicily and tells a family affair, a mirror of society in the 1980s.



Author: SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY & MIMMO CUTICCHIO

**Title: WE ARE PALERMO
(SIAMO PALERMO)**

Pages: 198

First Publisher: Mondadori

Publication date: September 2020

Rights: Mondadori

WE ARE PALERMO: THAT IS, WE ARE MADE OF THE SAME STUFF THIS CITY IS MADE OF. SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY AND MIMMO CUTICCHIO MET IN RECENT YEARS, A FRIENDSHIP WAS BORN, AN UNDERSTANDING THAT AROUSED THE TWO VOICES' VISION OF PALERMO, ITALIAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2018.

« I see and feel, and in that feeling is my journey into the world, since Palermo, in that case, is properly the world, the world when it reveals itself as destiny.»

Simonetta Agnello Hornby

«From my earliest years, the sirens ended up announcing the city to me, they mixed the sea and the land, and they never stop smiling at me, and being the vision that makes me enter my Palermo. Magic. Enchantment. Miracle.»

Mimmo Cuticchio

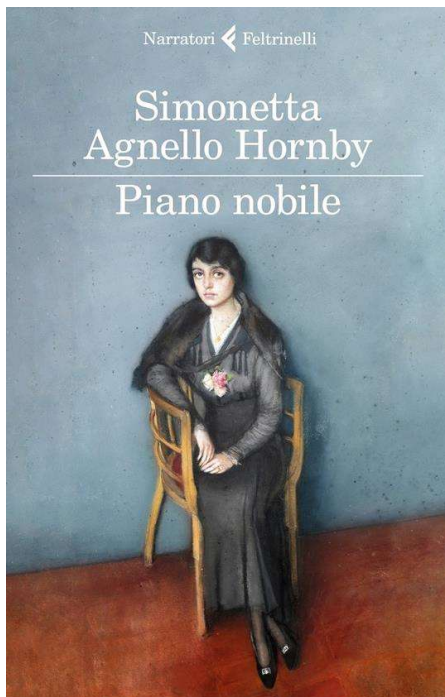
Simonetta and Mimmo tell their stories and tell themselves, obeying the fascinating labyrinth that history and memory draw for them. Here then is the Palermo of the war, the Palermo seen from the sea and through the transparencies of the fresh waters that still flowed through it, the Palermo of the wild reconstruction, the Palermo of the mafia deaths. Here are the alleys of the 'munnizza', the aristocratic palaces, Serpotta's statues, magnificent and sensual, the prostitutes (the blonde Nicoletta who made the stones she walked on rise), the cuntista who swung his sword to impress the public, the great figures of the Church who sided with the poor and against the mafia, the bloody atmosphere of the 1990s, the Spasimo and Palazzo Butera, Palazzo Branciforte, art and the pedestrian islands. Simonetta and Mimmo evoke a city that looks to Europe, not only because of its beauty and contradictions, but also because of the desire for the future expressed by the institutions and the new generations.

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 book, *Era un bravo ragazzo* (Mondadori, 2023), is set in Sicily and tells a family affair, a mirror of society in the 1980s.

Mimmo Cuticchio, direct heir and careful interpreter of the Palermo tradition of the Puppet Opera, has been able to innovate an art that seemed destined to inexorable decline, becoming one of the most authoritative voices of contemporary Italian theatre in the world. Picking up the inheritance of his father Giacomo, who had opened his first theatre in Palermo in 1933, Cuticchio began his activity as a puppeteer and opante with his travelling shows in the 1970s. In 1977, he set up the Associazione Figli d'Arte Cuticchio and together with the ancient art of the *cunto* - the oral tale of the exploits of the Paladins - he began a tenacious work of reinvention that contributed to the recognition awarded by Unesco to the Puppet Opera as part of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. He has published, among others, *Il "Cunto"* (Liguori, 2011) and *Alle armi, cavalieri!* (Donzelli, 2017).



Author: SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY

**Title: NOBLE FLOOR
(PIANO NOBILE)**

Pages: 352

First Publisher: Feltrinelli

Publication date: 2020

Rights: English World

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Film Tv Rights available

MORE THAN 100.000 COPIES SOLD!

After *Caffè Amaro*, the new episode of a majestic Sicilian trilogy. Simonetta Agnello Hornby unravels stories that are also episodes in the history of the whole country and dilate that ability to connect the overall vision and the power of detail.

"This is the new episode of a majestic Sicilian trilogy. Simonetta Agnello Hornby unravels stories that are also episodes in the history of the whole country and dilate that capacity to lace the overall vision and the power of detail." **Avvenire**

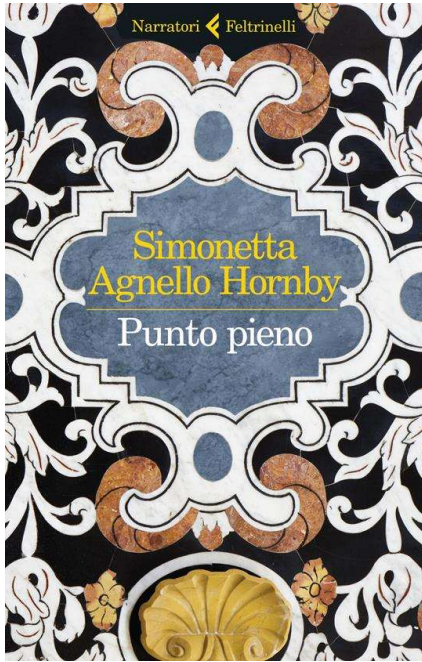
Families are families, and who knows how much longer they will prevent, hide, confuse.

Palermo, summer 1942. On his deathbed, Baron Enrico Sorci sees the recent history of his family pass before his eyes, as if in a lucid delirium. He sees the devotion of his wife, his daughters Maria Teresa, Anna and Lia, his sons Cola, Ludovico, Filippo and Andrea, but he also sees the bastards, and at the same time the destiny of a city that at the turn of the century was shining with opportunity and new wealth, with trains arriving laden with goods. Shortly before his death, the baron orders that the news of his passing should not be announced immediately, and in fact, unaware, the relatives gather around the large table in the dining room for a crowded symposium that takes place amidst silences, winks, tensions, bickering, old poisons and new ambitions. It is as if the piano nobile of Palazzo Sorci were the centre of the world, of the world that is waning - between the Allied bombings and the end of fascism - and the world that is coming, full of hope but also of a new and more aggressive criminality. Cola, by his father's express wish, sits in the place of the head of the family. And his is the look with which the new events open. After him, all the characters who are most closely involved with the family's fate take the floor. One after the other, they bring testimonies, visions, memories that coil, as in a spiral of facts and passions, around the events that marked Palermo from 1942 until April 1955. Offended by the war and the occupation, the city opens up to new

wealth and new alliances with politics and the underworld with reckless enthusiasm. In the folds of the Sorci family, loves, escapes, passions, rebellions, ruins are consumed. And everything flows, incessantly. Agnello Hornby unravels stories that are also episodes in the history of the whole country and dilate that ability to connect the overall vision and the power of detail, which readers have already learnt to recognise in *Caffè Amaro*.

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).

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Author: SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY

**Title: FULL DOT
(PUNTO PIENO)**

Pages: 336

First Publisher: Feltrinelli

Publication date: 2021

Rights: English World

Rights sold: Turquets (Spain)

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MORE THAN 70.000 COPIES SOLD!

From 1955 to 23 May 1992, when Giovanni Falcone, Francesca Morvillo and the agents of the escort were killed, Simonetta Agnello Hornby holds tight the thread of the family saga that began with *Caffè Amaro* and continued with *Piano Nobile* to give us a passionate embroidery of murders, obsessions, loves, and violence in Sicily that came out of the Second World War and was ready to suffer, protagonist and victim, other wars.

We are fragile, and we are imperfect. Imperfect is the world, not love. And we embroider, we continue to embroider, with love.

Andrea Sorci, in a fit of rage, kills his 'continental' maid. The murder is covered up by Baron Sorci's illegitimate son, the very powerful Peppe Vallo, otherwise known as the Americano. Rico, Andrea's nephew, who knows but does not speak, is a tormented man, disillusioned by the wounded post-war Sicily: he lives next door to Rita, whom he loves and cannot help but betray. Yet something is moving: three women, the aunts the Sorcis have renamed 'the Three Wise Women', found the Circolo del Punto Pieno (Full Stitch Circle) in the sacristy of the Santi Scalzi church, where they embroider layettes, tablecloths, sheets, towels. From the noblewoman to the nun of the house, to the prostitute, in that 'feverish jubilation of the fingers' a sort of women's gathering is formed where they discuss, comment, console each other, offer hope for change and mend social and family traumas. It is a new sisterhood based on a 'separation from the world outside that only women, when together, are able to create and defend'. Meanwhile, however, man flies to the moon, students rebel. And the positive tension of the movements at the turn of the sixties and seventies clashes with the contradictions of the island.

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Author: SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY & COSTANZA GRAVINA
Title: LA CUNTINTIZZA

Pages: 288
First Publisher: Mondadori
Publication date: July 2023

Rights: Mondadori

THIS BOOK WAS BORN FROM AN UNDERSTANDING, THAT BETWEEN SIMONETTA AND HER NIECE COSTANZA, FROM THE FAMILIARITY OF THEIR MEETINGS IN PALERMO AND FROM OCCASIONAL CONSIDERATIONS OF PLEASURE

This book was born from an understanding, that between Simonetta and her niece Costanza, from the familiarity of their meetings in Palermo and from occasional considerations on the pleasure linked to the ritual of the aperitif, a bridge between different generations and cultures. From those considerations, it was almost automatic to arrive at the contemplation of all the small reasons for the beauty of living that punctuate the daily routine of our feeling. Just as naturally, Simonetta and Costanza came to discover that those 'little reasons' could well be housed in the cosy shell of what, in the Sicilian linguistic heritage, sounds like *cuntintizza*. Here, then, is this fascinating duet that, with a wealth of episodes and family memories, evokes the subtle pleasure of rolling a ball of sugar and coffee, the sensuality of sinking one's hands into shortcrust pastry, the comfort of that 'just enough' that dwells in recipes, the yearning with which one caresses the object that belonged to a person who has passed away, the wonder that unfolds in the pointed blades of the prickly pear, the delicate cascade of coloured goblets, glasses and shot glasses. An example of *cuntintizza*? Here it is.

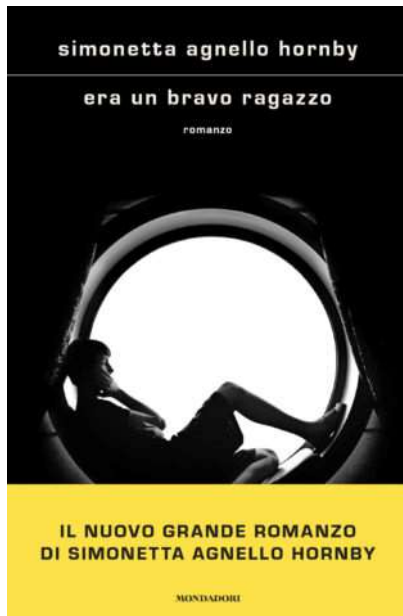
"I love peeling freshly harvested vegetables from the garden, peeling potatoes and onions, washing and cutting mint and basil. As I rinse and remove the remaining insects, a relationship is created between my hands, my eyes and the leaves still full of sap, as if both the vegetable and I are aware that we are part of the cycle of survival: we humans and the plant from which more leaves will sprout."

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

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Costanza Gravina di Comitini, born in Palermo, is a pharmacist by profession. She cultivates, with passion, the art of mixing and cocktails.



Author: SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY

**Title: HE WAS A GOOD GUY
(ERA UN BRAVO RAGAZZO)**

Pages: 240

First Publisher: Mondadori

Publication date: October 2023

Rights: Worldwide

MORE THAN 40.000 COPIES SOLD!

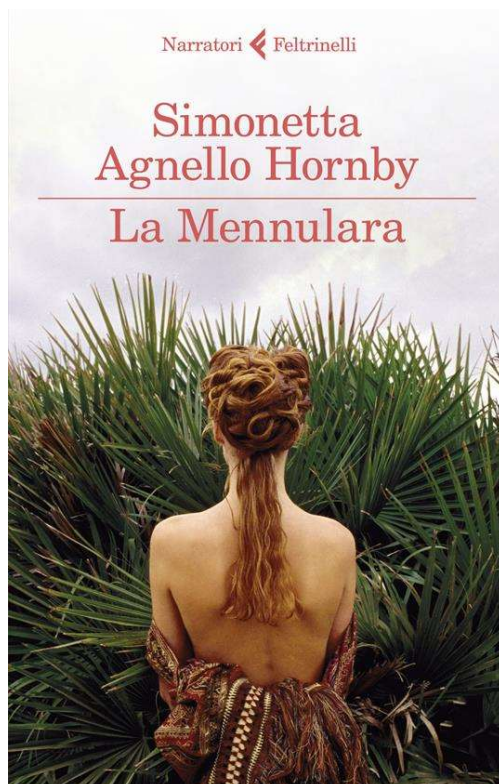
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY HAS SO DECISIVELY ENTERED THE WORLD OF THE MAFIA IN A NOVEL. IN ADDITION TO TAKING UP HER MOST CONGENIAL THEMES IN THE STORY - SICILY, THE FAMILY, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL RELATIONS, JUSTICE AND POWER - IN ERA UN BRAVO RAGAZZO SHE RECOUNTS, IN FACT, HOW THE DESIRE FOR AFFIRMATION OF SO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE ENDED UP INTERTWINED WITH THEIR DEPENDENCE ON THE COSA NOSTRA.

«Everyone had to know how important relationships were for a contractor; it didn't matter if politicians changed, the important thing was - whoever they were, and from whatever side - to have them on your side.»

This is the story of two friends, two mothers, two wives. We are between Sciacca and Pertuso Piccione, in western Sicily. Giovanni and Santino have both dreamed of a sweet redemption, between Gagarin's flight, American cinema and the beauty of the country where they live. Giovanni has to satisfy his mother Cettina's social ambitions, Santino wants to save his mother Assunta from the dubious fate to which she has exposed herself in order to support the family. What will happen to us when we grow up? And what does it mean to grow up? What kind of men will we be? They have no time to give themselves answers: they are progressively absorbed by closed deals over their heads. Santino becomes a concrete prince, accepting ever richer and ever more manoeuvred orders. Giovanni, a lawyer, recommended by ambiguous and powerful figures, puts his skills as a lawman at the service of those who use the law to conceal the advantage of the few against the need of the many. They both make good marriages and triumph in the dark eighties, the terrible years of the mafia wars. Anna, a committed lawyer, specialised in water law, would like to 'save' Giovanni, married to the rich Veronica. Margherita, a devoted wife, assures Santino a family life that seems safe from blood and violence. But the building industry, public and private, allows neither transparency nor justice and the two friends are sucked into a hopeless spiral. Only the glimmers of adolescence and Assunta's dazzling beauty remain, embodiments of a dreamed Sicily that never stops dreaming its own good. Simonetta Agnello Hornby's is not only a novel about a mafia that may not shoot but governs the island's economy, it is above all a story about the fierce power of the family and the yearning desire to return to the land in which identity and hope are rooted.

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).

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Author: SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY

**Title: THE ALMOND PICKER
(LA MENNULARA)**

Pages: 209

First Publisher: Feltrinelli

Publication date: 2002

Rights sold in 19 countries including: Tusquets (Spain), Picador USA (English world), Piper (Germany).

Rights: English world

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A GREAT NOVEL. A GREAT SICILIAN STORY

***"A majestic entertainment."* Aldo Busi**

Sicily, 1963. Maria Rosalia Inzerillo, better known as the 'Mennulara' (the almond picker), is dead. Domestic servant of the Alfallipe family and administrator of its estate, the Mennulara is, however, above all a mystery to the townspeople. Everyone talks about her because there are rumours about the wealth she allegedly accumulated, perhaps favoured by her relations with the local mafia. Everyone talks about her because they know and do not know, because there are those who hate and curse her and those who remember her with gratitude. Without her, Orazio Alfallipe would have dissipated property and income. Without her, Adriana Alfallipe, once her husband died, would have been left alone in a huge palace. Without her, Adriana and Horatio's children would have grown up without a future.

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 book, *Era un bravo ragazzo* (Mondadori, 2023), is set in Sicily and tells a family affair, a mirror of society in the 1980s.