

The book that captivated millions is now a cult favorite.



THE GANG OF DREAMS Luca Di Fulvio

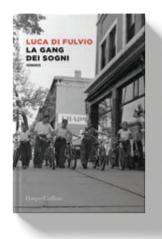
HarperCollins, September 2024 Pages 688

The Gang of Dreams is a novel as roaring as the years in which it is set, a story of redemption where dreams and imagination triumph over anger and despair. Originally released in Italy in 2008, Luca Di Fulvio's novel, much like its protagonists, found success beyond borders. Translated into twelve languages and with millions of copies sold worldwide, it has become one of the most successful Italian novels of all time.

The year is 1909. Concetta, known as Cetta, and her six-month-old son, Natale, are crammed onto a steamer bound for New York, along with hundreds of other migrants like them. They are fleeing Calabria and an Italy that, although now united, remains deeply divided. The privileges and abuses of the rich and powerful create a rift too vast for those who belong only to their masters and the fields.

Now, as Cetta gazes out through the grimy porthole of the ship, she dreams of America. Upon disembarking at Ellis Island, no one understands her language, and so Natale becomes Christmas—a new baptism for a new life and the beginning of a new story, one of hope, courage, and dreams.

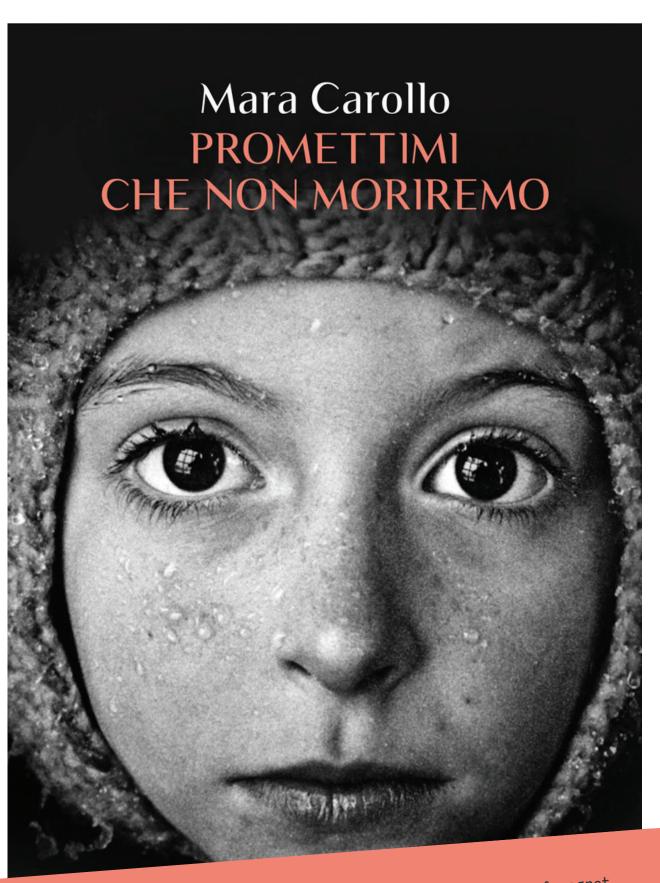
In the narrow, smelly streets of the Italian ghetto on the Lower East Side, Christmas begins to carve out his destiny. He survives gang skirmishes, saves the life of a rich and beautiful girl, and falls in love with her. But it is a special gift, one delivered to him at birth along with his name, that will lead him to establish the first independent radio station in the dazzling, electric New York of the 1920s—a moment that will change his life forever.



AUTHOR PREVIOUSLY SOLD TO: France (Istya Editeurs) Germany (Bastei Luebbe)



LUCA DI FULVIO (1957–2023) was a writer, actor and playwright. He wrote ten published novels, and two still unpublished in Italy. "The Gang of Dreams" was published in 2008 in Italy and became an international publishing case, with more than one million copies sold in Germany alone.



A haunting tale of love, desire, and the enduring weight of regret.

– La Scala



PROMISE THAT WE WILL NOT DIE Mara Carollo

Rizzoli, March 2025 Pages 500

Mara Carollo's novel, by reconstructing the intimate epic of its protagonist, is above all an investigation into desire, a dense and enthralling read to tell us that it is true: we chase illusions and impossible passions all our lives, but they are worth the journey.

When her father comes home from the war, in 1918, Caterina does not even recognise him. He is dirty, barefoot and his gaze is dull. For the first time, she is truly afraid of death. Yet, at five years old, Nina already knows what it entails to be born in the mountains of Veneto, in a district of a few houses where life means work in the pastures, toil in the woods and deprivation. However, when Mario, the companion of secret games and races through the fields, leaves for Milan where school, clothes that are always white and a better future await him, Caterina also begins to dream of a different existence for herself. She voraciously learns to read and work, she is in search of a destiny that will take her far away from there.

Spiky, stubborn, rebellious in her own way, Caterina is a memorable character: she traverses the 20th century in a Veneto province that changes profoundly while she remains fiercely attached to her old desires. And Mario is for Caterina the hope of total love, a ghost to chase through the decades.

"The story of a woman spanning a century, with all the things that shape the 20th century, from the two wars to the transition from country to city, and with all the things that shape a life, even the regrets, even the mistakes. Catherine is so real, so human, so similar to the less luminous parts of each of us. She jumps off the page in one piece, right from the first lines, and never leaves you again. Ever since I closed the book, this protagonist has haunted me."

Cristina De Stefano, international scout

MARA CAROLLO was born in Thiene in 1979. She graduated in Philosophy in Padua and has been working as a teacher in a high school in her city for ten years. Promise Me We Will Not Die is her first novel



Foreign Rights

Spain - Duomo Ediciones Poland - Publicat Romania - Editura Trei

yari selvetella

la mezz'ora della verità

romanzo



A fast-paced, thought-provoking novel that illuminates the frailties of our age.



THE HALF-HOUR OF TRUTH Yari Selvetella

Mondadori, January 2025 Pages 348

With biting humor and a cast of unforgettable characters, Yari Selvetella crafts a fast-paced, thought-provoking novel that illuminates the frailties of our age. Amid the contradictions of contemporary life, glimpses of unexpected light shine through, revealing both the absurdity and the poignancy of the human condition.

They creep into the intimacy of apartments, bounce between building facades, and hover in the streets and gardens of Aquarius Square: they are the responses of Varami, the app that can confirm or deny the truth of what people say. At first, it seems like the fulfilment of a forbidden desire—the ability to access others' thoughts.

Varami satisfies every curiosity, even the most unspoken ones: you can check if your spouse is faithful, if an elderly aunt plans to bequeath her apartment to you, or if the girl you're in love with truly reciprocates your feelings. It exposes the bluffs of politicians and the petty hypocrisies of daily life. But soon, troubling questions emerge: does this new oracle make us more sincere—or just more guarded? What are the criteria behind its judgments? And what is its real purpose?

As the weeks pass, rather than clarifying, the mystery deepens. At first, Varami infiltrates domestic spaces, delivering its judgments through smartphones, tablets, stereos, and TVs. Then, the situation spirals: every day at 6 p.m., using the city's loudspeakers, Varami broadcasts its universal pronouncements for exactly thirty minutes—the "half-hour of truth."

The protagonists are forced to confront uncomfortable questions: how credible is this story? And how authentic is the truth we're living?





YARI SELVETELLA (Rome, 1976) is an accomplished author whose recent novels include *Vite mie* (Mondadori, 2022), winner of the UmbriaLibri Prize – "Raccontami l'amore" and finalist for the Minerva Prize; *Le regole degli amanti* (Bompiani, 2020), recipient of the Cambosu Prize; *Le stanze dell'addio* (Bompiani, 2018), a Strega Prize candidate; and *La banda Tevere* (Mondadori, 2015). He also published the poetry collection *La maschera dei gladiatori* (CartaCanta, 2014).

A journalist and television author, he works for RAI, Italian National Broadcast.



Andrea Pennacchi Se la rosa non avesse il suo nome



The Bard's First Case is a thrilling new perspective on a timeless classic.



IF THE ROSE HAD NO NAME by Andrea Pennacchi

Marsilio, November 5, 2024 Pages 384

Andrea Pennacchi—actor, playwright, and Shakespeare scholar—takes us on a riveting journey. With urgency and humor, he propels us into the Bard's very first investigation, where Shakespeare becomes both a victim and solver of a case of love, death, and the infamous balconies we know as Romeo and Juliet. This dazzling debut reimagines the classic tale through the lens of a detective story.

William Shakespeare, having temporarily left his wife and children in his beloved England, embarks on a secret mission on behalf of the Crown. This mission is shrouded in utmost secrecy. The young Shakespeare—who has yet to realize he is destined to become a poet—arrives in the lands of the Serenissima and settles in Padua. There, he must locate an Englishman and bring him back home.

Padua, the intellectual heart of the Venetian Republic, is a bustling hub of political, social, and academic life. It teems with priests, noblewomen, physicians, magicians (or those claiming to be), hotheaded students, soldiers, and men who have abandoned the art of war. Among them is Vincenzo Saviolo, a former soldier and a walking contradiction—both corpulent and agile. With his walking stick and elegant demeanor, Saviolo becomes Shakespeare's guide and protector on this top-secret mission.

What begins as a discreet cloak-and-dagger operation takes a dramatic turn when young Shakespeare finds himself entangled in a deadly feud of power and love between the Montagues and Capulets. Romeo and Juliet are smitten with one another, but their families would rather see anything but a union between them. Amor vincit omnia, the Latins say—but they fail to mention that love does not conquer all swiftly, nor does it do so alone. Matters spiral further out of control when Shakespeare is accused of murdering Tybalt, Juliet's cousin. His secret mission is abruptly sidelined as he is forced to flee for his life.

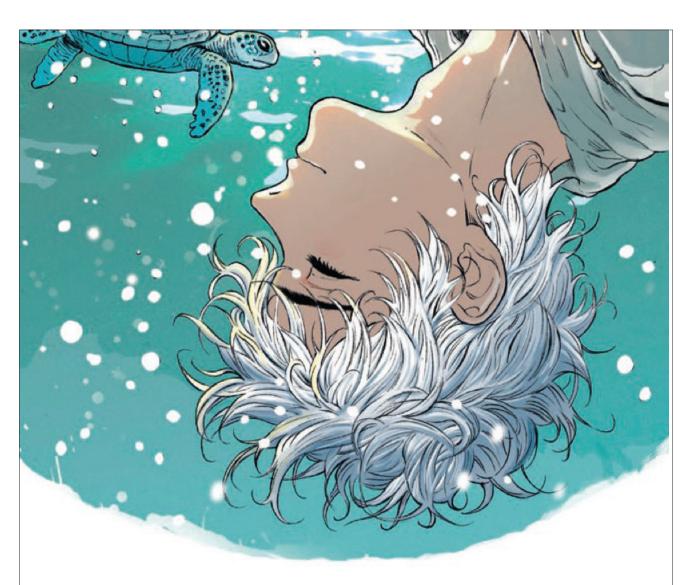
Joining Shakespeare in his escape are Saviolo, a wet nurse, a medical student harboring a mysterious secret, two other young men, Romeo himself, and eventually a monk. This peculiar monk, with his concoctions of mandrake and other herbs, is said to have the power to raise the dead—though resurrection, when not the work of God, often brings with it the shadow of the devil. Amidst a whirlwind of intrigue involving comic lords and ladies, doges, and good-hearted citizens,



For fans of
historical fiction and
Shakespearean drama,
Andrea Pennacchi
reimagines the
legendary tale in this
sparkling debut, where
love, death, and mystery
entwine to create a
detective story like no
other.



Andrea Pennacchi (Padua, 1969) is an actor, playwright, theater director, and writer. In addition to If the Rose Had No Name, his first foray into detective fiction, he is the author of several other works, all published by People.



MATTEO BUSSOLA LA NEVE IN FONDO AL MARE



A delicate journey into the profound and often heartwrenching journey of adolescent fragility.



THE SNOW AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA by Matteo Bussola

Einaudi, June 25, 2024 Pages 182

Matteo Bussola recounts a struggle of our time: adolescent fragility. He writes a touching story, full of grace, about the betrayal of becoming oneself. And he shows us, with honesty and delicacy, what it feels like to be faced with the pain of a child, but also the light of being parents, which even in the darkness continues to shine. Because it is difficult to accept the truth of those we love, especially if we have brought them into the world. But love always carries a rebirth.

A father and a son, inside a room. Facing each other, as they have never done. Each a mirror of the other. The two of them, together, in a children's neuropsychiatric ward. There are other parents, in that ward, other children. Teenagers refusing food or hurting themselves, experiencing the exhausting struggle of growing up, within families unable to give a name to their torment. And bewildered mothers and fathers, who share the same wound, the intolerable feeling of no longer being up to their task. With the warm, intimate voice of a lost father, Matteo Bussola photographs the frightening instant when parents and children stop recognising each other, and talking to each other becomes impossible. Through a handful of heartbreaking and beautiful characters, he reminds us that every human being is a mystery, even when we are the ones who gave birth to them.

- Discovering the depth of a child's sadness, not even sixteen years old, is like finding something in a place where you never expected it. Where it just shouldn't be. - What do you mean? - Like, I don't know. Like finding snow at the bottom of the sea.



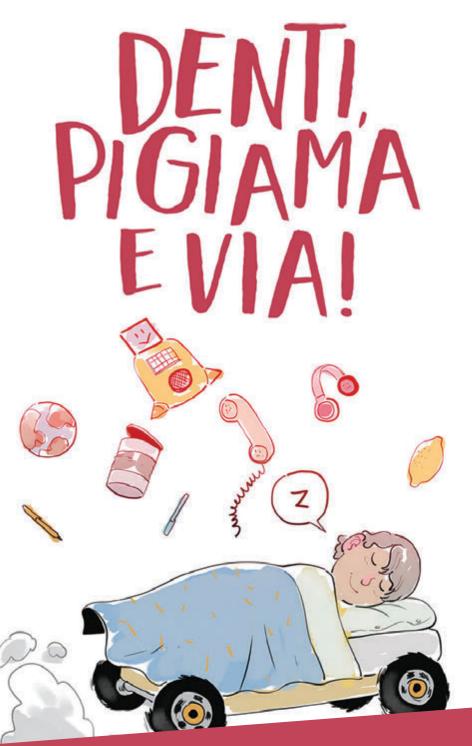
AUTHOR PREVIOUSLY SOLD TO:

Germany (Penguin Verlag) France (Editions Kero) Spain (Aguilar) **USA** (TarcherPerigee) Albania (Dituria) Croatia (Uliks) Serbia (Laguna) **Greece** (Kalendis) Israel (Kinneret) Korea (Chungaran Media) Poland (Biuro Literackie) Turkey (Serenad)



Matteo Bussola (Verona, 1971) has published for Einaudi Stile Libero the bestsellers Notti in bianco, baci a colazione (2016, translated in many countries), Sono puri i loro sogni (2017), La vita fino a te (2018), L'invenzione di noi due (2020), Il tempo di tornare a casa (2021), Il rosmarino non capisce l'inverno (2022), Un buon posto in cui fermarsi and, with Emilio Pilliu, the manga Zeroventi (2023). For Salani he published the children's books Viola e il Blu (2021) and Mezzamela (2023). He hosts a radio programme on Radio 24, Non mi capisci, and has a weekly column in 'F', entitled Uno scrittore, una donna.

GIACOMO KEISON BEVILACQUA



"An unpredictable book that invites you to view reality through the lens of pure imagination."



TEETH, PYJAMAS AND GO! Giacomo Keison Bevilacqua

Salani, August 27, 2024 Pages 208

Talking pianos, teleportation phone booths, magic headphones to explore the world, and an unpredictable book that invites you to view reality through the lens of pure imagination.

"There's a jar in the center of my chest. It smells like coffee and is filled with dreams, emotions that I'm still learning to untangle, and stories that emerge when they're ready. This jar has been talking to me since I was a child, and I always answer it kindly."





GIACOMO BEVILACQUA is an Italian cartoonist and co-founder of the publishing house and web marketing company Gigaciao, alongside Sio, Fraffrog, and Dado. He is the creator of the hugely popular Panda Likes, winner of the Micheluzzi Award for Best Web Comic, which was later released in multiple print editions. Throughout his career, he has written comedy scripts for theater and television, as well as published several graphic novels.

In 2023, he released *I Am a Panda-head*, his first autobiographical work, followed in 2024 by *Panda Likes to Understand Himself*. This marks his debut in children's literature.



"Does it take a Super-Hero or a Super-Mistake to save the earth?"





THE INCREDIBLE ADVENTURE OF A SUPER-MISTAKE Enrico Galiano

Salani, September 16 2024 Pages 336

Trust me: if you're obsessed with perfection and can't handle mistakes, put this book down right now. This story is packed with mistakes—but all for a good cause. It all began when two aliens, who looked suspiciously like K-pop idols, handed Ricky a superhero costume.

Only, Ricky feels more like a SUPER-MISTAKE than anything else. Not only is he painfully shy, but the suit that was supposed to grant him incredible powers turns out to be an old pair of tights that accentuate his belly and itch like crazy. Then, things get even weirder: donut trucks explode to the cry of "APPLE IN THE BIDET!," flying dictionaries appear, frogs run away, and most surprising of all, Ricky—the shy guy, remember?—starts standing up against the greatest injustices on Earth.

Fortunately, he's not alone in unraveling these mysteries. By his side are Jo, a budding computer genius; Toni Tanaka, a slightly mad ex-cop; and a stuffed hippo with a sharp-tongued artificial intelligence inside. Oh, and let's not forget Flu, a color-blind chameleon.

Who am I, you ask? That's a secret... for now. But maybe, just maybe, this mystery will be revealed in the end...

"A Dead poets society type of teacher."

Massimo Gramellini



After the success of The Secret Society of Word Rescuers, Enrico Galiano returns with a heartwarming tale of friendship and courage, but also of failure and rebirth, celebrating mistakes as a crucial part of personal growth.



ENRICO GALIANO was born in Pordenone in 1977. A teacher in a provincial school, in 2020 II Sole 24 Ore included him in the list of the ten most influential teachers on the web.

He has published many novels with Garzanti, including And Yet We End Up Happy, which became a successful TV series and won the Città di Como International Prize as best first work and the Mediterranean Culture Prize, but he is also the author of essays, including the bestseller The art of Failing Big.

The Secret Society of Words Rescuers, his first novel for children written for Salani, won the Bancarellino Prize 2023. In 2024 he won the Nastro d'Argento for the movie *Il punto di rugiada*, awarded Best Story. The secret of a good teacher for him is: 'They won't listen to you if you don't listen to them first'.



"A thrilling and fun ghost story about friendship."



CLARA'S GHOSTS Ilaria Palmosi

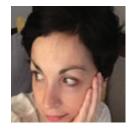
Mondadori, September 17 2024 Pages 224

Clara Rot from Bellamì is eleven years old. She has a dog missing three teeth, a father known as the King of Punishments, a little sister, a fake mother, a real mother who died years ago, and a grandmother who lives in an ancient home called Rickety House. A fairly normal life—except for one thing: Clara talks to ghosts.

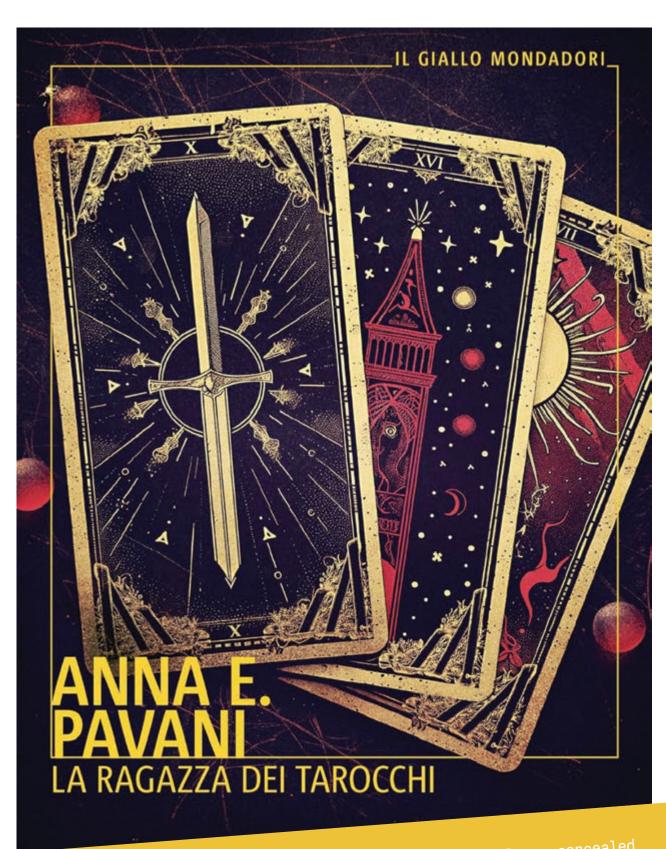
The first time it happened, she was seven and didn't know that Mr. Martino was dead. But when she saw him sitting atop the highest branch of an oak tree, she grew suspicious. That's when she discovered she was a vessel, someone capable of helping the "Gones" move on, to resolve what they left unfinished in life. Everything was going fine until Mira appeared. Though undeniably dead, the girl neither seeks Clara's help nor seems willing to leave her alone—a big problem, especially since Clara loves her solitude. But as the Shadows begin to creep over the village of Bellamì, Clara may need help more than ever.



"WE WERE COMPLETELY IMMERSED IN A CLOUD OF NOTHINGNESS-DARKNESS AND MIST-IN WHICH I COULD BARELY MAKE OUT MIRA. A LAUGH PIERCED THE SILENCE, A LAUGH DEVOID OF JOY. 'YOU ARE MINE!'."



ILARIA PALMOSI was born in 1982, and lives in Dolo. She teaches Italian in secondary school, has three children and two dogs, loves nature, animals, living by the sea, and inventing absurd stories, which she later writes down. Clara's Ghosts is her first novel for children.



A captivating Chinese box mystery, where the truth is always concealed beneath yet another hidden layer.



TAROT GIRL Anna E. Pavani

Mondadori, February 2025 Pages 252

Anna E. Pavani enters the Giallo with a fascinating Chinese box mystery, in which the truth always lurks beneath an even more hidden.

Verona is decked out for the patron saint's day when the body of Carlo Bonfati, an entrepreneur who recently made headlines for saving a historic confectionery company from bankruptcy, is found in a downtown alley. The case ends up on Giovanni Russo's desk, and the commissioner quickly realizes he has a hot potato on his hands: the clues at the crime scene are few, but upstairs they are pressing for a quick resolution of the case, because Bonfati was a close friend of the Commissioner. At home, too, the situation is not simple: his wife Claire, until a few years before a brilliant mind, is hostage to a creeping depression, and John, though he sincerely loves her, feels her increasingly distant. Fortunately, the commissioner has a team of trusted collaborators, thanks to whom he traces back to the last person to have seen the victim alive: this is Ambra, a university student with a passion for reading tarot cards. The girl definitely had the opportunity to kill, but what about the motive? And soon the situation becomes complicated, because Giovanni only needs to scratch the surface of Bonfati's life to realize that so many have gained from his death....





ANNA E. PAVANI lives in the beautiful scenery of Valpolicella, in the province of Verona. She loves nature and animals, has a horse, a dog and two cats, all of which were rescued and adopted. Passionate about painting, in her spare time she paints and makes pictures and trompe-l'oeil with subjects inspired by the landscapes that surround her and the sea, which she has loved since childhood. She is the author of adventure novels, published under a pseudonym. With Mondadori she published Voci nella nebbia (2020).



A wonderful debut novel already sold in 15 countries.



ALL THE LIFE THAT REMAINS Roberta Recchia

Rizzoli, March 2024 Pages 400

A family that tries to mend a deep tear, that over the years, experiences the delicate balance of affections.

A novel about forgetfulness, about the pain that almost suffocates the possibility of existing. A story about being parents and being children, about care and love that go beyond loss.

Rome, mid 50'. The Balestrieri family has owned a grocery store near Via Merulana for generations. Their existence flows quietly until their second daughter, Marisa, cracks the perfect picture. She remains pregnant with her boyfriend, who suddenly and unexpectedly leaves her. Her parents then decide to give her to their young apprentice, Stelvio. What was meant to be just a loveless arranged marriage will instead become a relationship full of love and complicity.

In the eighties, Stelvio and Marisa Ansaldo are truly satisfied: their business is going well, they love each other deeply, their eldest son is a concert pianist who travels the world, and their daughter, Betta, is a lively and dynamic sixteen years old girl.

The family spends their summer holidays in Torre Domizia with their grandmother and granddaughter Miriam, Emma's daughter, and sister of Marisa. Betta and Miriam are the same age, but that's about all they have in common; just like their mothers, they couldn't be more different. Nonetheless, they spend their first day of vacation together, enjoying their company and catching up. At night the two girls sneak away from home to reach a bonfire by the sea.

Unfortunately, they never get there: they are assaulted and raped by a group of boys. Betta dies in the sand from an asthma attack, crushed by the weight of her aggressors. Miriam survives but, deeply affected by the trauma, reveals nothing of what happened.

Betta's body is found the next morning, and her family loses its center right there. The loss drives the Ansaldo couple further and further away, leaving behind only the memory of the couple they once were.

In the background, the investigation of Betta's murder stagnates, slowed by prejudices and omissions.

Miriam, abandoned to herself, is overwhelmed by the consequences of her secret. Only meeting with Leo, a young man from Rome, will change the fate of her story.

Despite mourning, once again, in the history of this family, love and sincere relationships help bring the truth to light and strengthen the deepest bonds. The characters, finally exposing their fragility, can question themselves on the value of hope and the meaning of faith in front of a pain that seemingly eradicated all certainty.



RIGHTS SOLD TO:

Serbia (Dereta)

France (Slatkine in a preempt) Germany (Fischer Verlag two book deal in a preempt) The Netherlands (Xander in a Preempt) Denmark (Gronningen 1 in a preempt) Romania (Editura Trei in a preempt) Greece (Psichogios at auction) Portugal (Porto Editora at auction) Poland (Publicat) Czech Republic (Grada) Spain (Alianza Editorial) Israel (Keter Books) Uk and Commonwealth English (Dialogue Books - Hachette Group) **Turkey** (Epsilon at auction) Albania (Botime Pegi)



ROBERTA RECCHIA was born in Rome in 1972. She graduated in European and American Languages and Literature. She lived in Lille, France, where she earned a master's degree in Relations Interculturelles et Coopération Internationale. She worked for ten years for a big company and then quit office work to devote herself to teaching. She currently teaches English in a high school in Rome. She is passionate about film and literature, especially Russian and French. She lives with his Chihuahua. Claudio, in a small town on the coast of Lazio.

About the novel

After a 5 ways auction here in Italy (won by Rizzoli, in a two-book deal), I'm excited to introduce our newest highlight, an incredibly powerful debut novel.

It's been quite some time since we read a novel so engaging and rich in nuances, both in the plot and the complexity of the protagonists.

The author, covering 30 years, gives us a vivid family portrait in which the relationships between each character leave permanent traces in their stories. These family tales chase each other, repeat each other, and create references for future ones.

This novel is a living, circular creature that envelops the reader like an embrace: each thread is stretched to intertwine with the next, in a continuous change of perspective that crosses the entire narrative, up to the very last page.

Starting from the fifties in Rome, the author introduces us to the first household and its obsessions, secrets, and shame, and then she leaves room for the story of Stelvio and Marisa, who try to create a different family, freer and full of love.

Unfortunately, this attempt will be shattered by an overwhelming tragedy hitting every character involved.

This novel leads us to reflect upon family relationships and their legacies, on what the word belonging means, and, simultaneously, what distance, rejection, and indifference mean.

A wonderful debut that reminded us of Elena Ferrante and Donna Tartt.

Letter from the author

I always write following an instinct, trying to put an order in the chaos of stories, voices, and faces that inhabit my head. I collect fragments that become sharper and sharper as I bind them together while my fingers run on the keyboard. I have always imagined myself as a tool to narrate something that has already existed, somewhere, in another time, and is just waiting to be told.

This story resembles the box of photographs in which, in the end, Marisa Ansaldo finds the meaning of her existence. Looking through its pages, I see traces of things that have been part of my life or that I have been missing.

It's a novel about memory, love, and hope that, despite the pain, gives meaning to who we are. I would like those who read it to find, between the pages, emotions and feelings that belong to them that perhaps they had forgotten, or new ones to discover as it happened to me with the books I most loved. But this is also a novel about the complexity of evil, which reminds us of how vulnerable we are.

From the publishers

No matter how much you've suffered or how hard your life's been, if you don't accept the truth, look it in the eyes, and find the courage to say it out loud, you can't go on. This happens to the characters in Roberta Recchia's novel: they struggle through the pages until they find that courage. And the readers can't help but follow them eagerly, captivated by Recchia's brilliant writing and how she masters a plot that covers 30 years and several main characters – all wonderfully portrayed. This is the kind of book every reader – and every publisher – is always looking for: the one you can't put down and won't stop talking about after you've finished it.

Arianna Curci, Editor at Rizzoli, Italy

We all know these very special moments: You start reading something and after some pages you begin to feel that there is something very special to the text. This doesn't happen very often, but when it does, it's always a highlight in the professional life of an editor. And that was what I experienced when I started reading ALL THE LIFE THAT REMAINS.

I was utterly impressed by the maturity of the writing and would never have thought that this is a debut novel. It's a text that you get instantly hooked to and just keep turning the pages. I fell in love with the characters, of course with Marisa in the first place, but also with Stelvio, who became my favorite character, and later with Miriam. They feel so alive and so authentic and their feelings are so comprehensible that I just wanted to continue reading to know what will be happening to them. This is a brilliant novel that combines so much: very special characters, drama, tragedy, feelings, tenderness and a bit of humour, love and twists and turns and family life. And of course about coping with a terrible trauma. I'm absolutely convinced that this book will be a gem on our list and you can be assured that we will put all our energy and enthusiasm into making it a huge success on the German market.

Julia Schade, Fischer Verlag, Germany

All your characters moved me deeply and lastingly, I can't stop thinking about them. Is it because I found in each a piece of my own life – which will be the case for all your readers – or because you have the talent of very great writers to bring your main characters to life through your secondary characters? [...] You have the rare gift of taking your reader by the hand, picking them up, and prancing them from one genre to another with no possibility of stopping the joy of this ride until you have turned the last page. Hats off. Henri Bovet, Publisher Slatkine & Cie, Switzerland and France

We completely fell in love with the story. It's a love story, a crime novel, a coming of age, a family saga — full of intrigue, family secrets, complicated relationships and suspense. It's impossible to put it down until you have read the very last page and we would love to publish this amazing story in Dutch. The strength of the novel is the fact that the reader gets attached to all the characters, feels for them and roots for them. They jump from the pages as if they are real, and they help propel the story forward. ALL THE LIFE THAT REMAINS is poignant and thrilling, and Roberta Recchia manages to keep all those different elements of this sweeping saga together thanks to her very effective narrative rhythm, her strong message but above all her extremely skilled writing. Her writing style truly is the other magic trick of this novel: it's sharp, effective and straight forward, and hits you right in the feels. The dialogue is strong and realistic, the description of the tragedy takes your breath away and clever little details strengthen the story even more (the sand between Miriam's teeth for example, when she wakes up after the horrible night). Roberta Rosella Recchia keeps up an impressive pace, without ever losing the reader as she goes.

TUTTA LA VITA CHE RESTA works on many different levels, and I think it would be a perfect fit for Xander Uitgevers. We are always looking for fresh and original books, and the versatility of this book only triggers us more to position this exactly right, as that is what we do best.

Lotte Dijkstra, Editor at Xander Uitgevers, The Netherlands

When you read a great novel, life changes. It brings you insight and human experience. Sorrow and joy. Tutta la vita che resta is about FAMILY, how to live together and get through life, also when it bites, played by deeply human characters.

Louise Vind, Gronningen 1, Denmark



MARTA LAMALFA

L'ISOLA DOVE VOLANO LE FEMMINE

ROMANZO



A novel made of flesh and blood, of bodies, but also of dreams and yearnings for freedom.



THE ISLAND WHERE WOMEN FLY Marta Lamalfa

Neri Pozza, May 2024 Pages 224

An extraordinary debut that brings to light a historical fact of great originality and fascination that occurred on the island of Alicudi: the collective hallucination caused by a parasitic mushroom containing the basic ingredient of LSD.

Alicudi, 1903. Caterina looks at the cold, hard as a crust of bread body of Maria, her twin sister, and thinks that from that moment on, her life will change forever. An evil illness has taken her away and everyone in her family – from the great–grandmother who can no longer see well but understands everything, to Palmira, the mother who has a baby in her belly for the fourth time but has lost her mind in grief – thinks it is the fault of Salvatore a young man serving political exile in Lipari Castle, who wants to start a revolution. Now that Maria is no longer there, even though Caterina's room has expanded, life has become much tighter: she works in Don Nino's fields until sunset, delivers salted anchovies with her donkey and helps her mother with the housework, waiting for the day when all the females in the family get together to knead bread, the only time she enjoys it.

For some time, small, coal-black horns have sprouted from the island's rye, in the village they call it tizzonara. At first, they didn't trust themselves to eat it, but now that's all that's left, so Catherine too throws down those hard, death-smelling bites.

Perhaps, however, in those painful morsels lies the key to escape from an increasingly lonely present, and reach the majare, the witches who fly naked to Palermo, laughing loudly in the extreme freedom of the night. It is not only Caterina who sees things that have disappeared when she wakes up, but also the rest of the family and the seven hundred and thirteen people who live on the island.

But for everyone, the time will come to return to reality.

An original and powerful new voice, echoing the pens of successful writers with a unique world view. A story based on an event that really happened in Alicudi at the beginning of the 20th century, extraordinary and yet took place in the smallest and most forgotten of the Aeolian Islands.

Marta Lamalfa, with a sharp and antique language, masterfully transports us to a windswept land, tiny, because beyond the sea one cannot conceive of going, and yet extraordinarily wide and universal.



RIGHTS SOLD TO: France (Editions Phébus) Portugal (Alma dos Livros) Poland (Wydawnictwo Poznańskie)



MARTA LAMALFA was born in Palmi, Calabria, in 1990. She lives in Rome, where she works in the press office of a humanitarian organisation. She graduated in Middle Eastern Languages, specialised in Publishing and Writing and studied piano at an academic level. She attended the annual workshop of Bottega di Narrazione, a creative writing school directed by Giulio Mozzi and Giorgia Tribuiani. Her novel *L'isola dove volano le femmine* was among the commended entries in the 36th edition of the Italo Calvino Prize.

valeria sirabella il mondo che da qualche parte esiste romenzo

On the Tower, one is nothing, just a part of the emptiness surrounding it.

MUNDADORT



THE WORLD THAT SOMEWHERE EXISTS Valeria Sirabella

Mondadori, May 2024 Pages 192

On the Tower, one is nothing, just a part of the emptiness surrounding it.

That's why Vanda decides to move her daughter Ginevra away from the big building they live in, twenty-two floors of concrete on the outskirts of Rome, and enroll her in a prestigious high school in a wealthy neighborhood of the city, where she can mingle with the children of influential people. For Ginevra, indeed - Vanda is sure of it - there is hope for redemption: at fourteen, her body has blossomed into an unexpected beauty that sets her apart from the other inhabitants of the Tower. It seems designed to seduce, conquer whatever she desires, and speak of a better life. More aware than Vanda of her unavoidable difference from her new schoolmates, Ginevra finds herself catapulted into an unknown world. She befriends Camilla, a girl raised hyperprotected by her father Claudio, with whom she shares a morbid love, and in a perpetual cold war with her mother Eleonora. While Camilla struggles with her sense of inadequacy towards everyone - the boy she's fascinated with, her peers, but above all, herself - Ginevra wants to be free, from the Tower, from a predestined life, but also from Vanda and her suffocating love. To do so, she needs money, and the people she ends up associating with have plenty of it.

Ginevra, Vanda, Camilla, Claudio, Eleonora: in a desperate effort to counteract the inertia that cages them, each one tries to untangle the threads of their own story, making complicated choices that sometimes will prove to be definitive.





VALERIA SIRABELLA was born in Acqui Terme and grew up in Rome. This is her debut novel.



An all-Italian Percy Jackson in which history, mythology, and modernity intertwine in an explosive and highly entertaining mix.



CHRONICLES FROM HADES Mattia Corrente

Salani, April 2024 Pages 160

An all-Italian Percy Jackson in which history, mythology, and modernity intertwine in an explosive and highly entertaining mix.

Michele is eleven years old, has one 'funny' arm, and a crippled seagull for a friend. Nothing too strange for the few souls that inhabit the island of Stromboli, but enough to be an outcast. Everyone keeps him at a distance because of his disability and the crimes committed by his father, a notoriously corrupt tour guide, who died years earlier in a volcano accident caused by his greed. But things are not as Michele has always been told. To discover the truth and redeem his father's soul, there is no other option than to descend into Hades personally. Here, Michael will cross the Styx together with the smuggler Charon, take lessons in military strategy from a certain Umberto Eco, and discover on the island of haters that hatred on social media proves to be a boomerang for those who practice it.

Strong themes such as diversity, inclusiveness, gender freedom, failure as a resource and not as defeat, and the right to be vulnerable.



AUTHOR PREVIOUSLY SOLD TO:

France (Le Bruit du Monde)
Poland (Uniwersytetu
Jagiellonskiego)
Czech Republic (Grada)

"Two unlikely heroes, a mysterious secret linked to a volcano, and a daring descent into Hades. The most hilarious journey to hell ever".



MATTIA CORRENTE, born in 1987, resides in Sicily in a small town in the province of Messina overlooking the enchanting panorama of the Aeolian Islands. He has an affinity for Calvino, Carver, Hemingway, Pavese and stories told by Stromboli's fishermen. He has collaborated as a ghostwriter with significant Italian publishing houses. His debut novel, *La fuga di Anna (The disappearance of Anna*, was released by Sellerio Editore in 2022 and sold in France, Poland, and the Czech Republic.

Dall'autore di «Eppure cadiamo felici»

ENRICO GALIANO Una vita non basta



"Do not extinguish the fire within you."



ONE LIFE IS NOT ENOUGH Enrico Galiano

Garzanti, April 30 2024 Pages 432

"When you long for something, be like the hummingbird: don't be afraid to fall. In fact, learn to do it at full speed, and then rise again."

This time, however, it seems impossible for Teo to climb back up: he flunked out of 10th grade, but more importantly, he did something really wrong, and will now have to serve a summer of community service. He knows it is a just punishment, yet there is something inside him that he cannot keep at bay. Teo calls it the "Thing" precisely because he is unable to give it a name: he only knows that it is an enemy that is too strong and that he does not have the courage to tell anyone about. Certainly not to his parents, that feel like they are miles away from him, and not even to Peach, his best friend, the only one who can read his silences and mend his crooked days with music. Everything changes when on a bench he meets an elderly gentleman who claims to be a former professor named Francesco Bove. Day after day, the professor takes him to the most amazing places and talks to him about Greek myths and philosophers in words Teo has never heard: words that urge him not to give up, to ask the right questions, so that he understands that he is not alone, that we are all in search of a reason for living, of a gift that makes us special. The only thing is, that to understand what it is, you have to never stop trying, failing and trying again, cultivating the art of imperfection to bring out the masterpiece that lives inside us. Even at the cost of discovering truths that frighten us, such as the end of a mysterious girl of whom no one knows anything and whose story seems to tell Teo something.

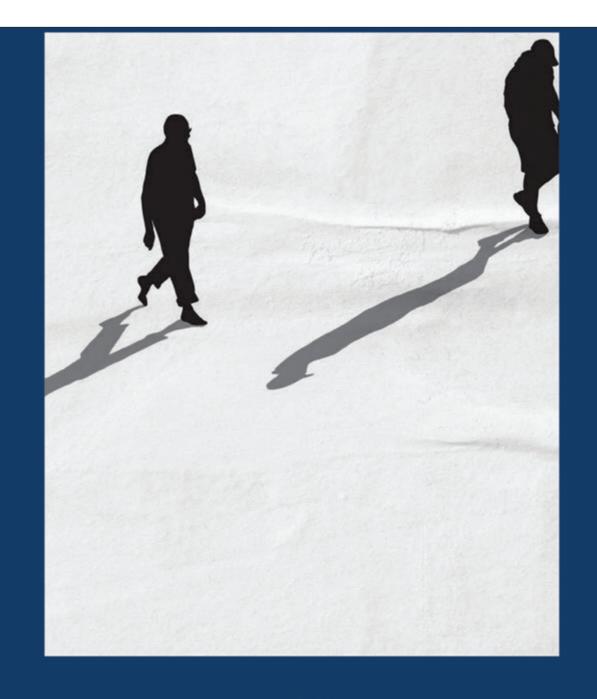
The author who has been climbing the charts for years and enchanting the press and booksellers is back with one of his best-loved characters of all time: Professor Bove of *Eppure cadiamo felici*. A novel about the fears that prevent us from being happy: fears that should not be pushed away, but listened to. Because sometimes you have to go through the dark to discover the wonder of a glimmer of light.



In his novels Enrico Galiano gives us a snapshot of a generation, its fragility and its potential, its uncertainties and ability, often left unexpressed, to see things and to fly free.



ENRICO GALIANO was born in Pordenone in 1977. A teacher in a suburban school, he created the webseries Cose da prof, which has exceeded twenty million views on Facebook. He started the #poeteppisti movement, flashmobs of students daubing poems all over the city. In 2020, the 'Sole 24 Ore' listed him as one of the ten most influential teachers on the web. With his funny and somewhat out-of-the-ordinary lessons, he brings school to the theatre with the very popular show Horrible School. The secret of a good teacher for him is: 'They won't listen to you if you don't listen to them first'. Every now and then he takes his bicycle and rides off around the world with a backpack, a pen and a longing for wonder. His debut novel, Eppure Cadiamo Felici, which is currently being translated across Europe, was the revelation book of 2017 and won the Città di Como International Prize as best first work and the Mediterranean Culture Prize. With Garzanti he has also published Tutta la vita che vuoi (2018), Più forte di ogni addio (2019), Dormi stanotte sul mio cuore (2020), Felici contro il mondo (2021), Geografia di un dolore perfetto (2023) and the essays L'arte di sbagliare alla grande (2020) and Scuola di felicità per eterni ripetenti (2022). With the children's book La società segreta dei salvaparole (Salani) he won the Bancarellino prize 2023.



ROMANZO

MARCO LAZZARIN L'ULTIMA PRIMAVERA DI KRONENBERG

A hymn to the power of writing that can be both a gift and a burden.



THE LAST SPRING OF KRONENBERG by Marco Lazzarin

Garzanti, April 2024 Pages 250

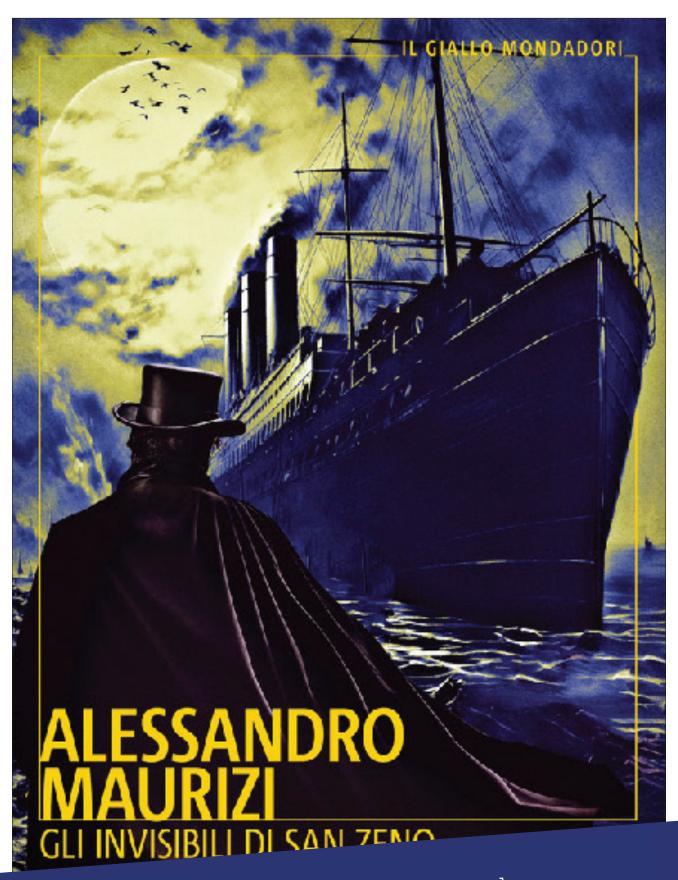
A hymn to the power of writing that can be both a gift and a burden.

Jacopo knows the novels of the famous Lionel Kronenberg by heart; from there, his idea of becoming a writer was born. A dream now closed in the furthest drawer of his mind, drowned by an ugly twist of fate. So, when he finds himself chauffeuring Kronenberg for a literary festival, he expects nothing more than to meet his favorite author. However, Kronenberg turns out to be irritable and unfriendly. It seems that nothing can break through that wall. Indeed, it is not the admiration that Jacopo shows him. He had never thought that there was only a man behind the great writer. A man with a secret he doesn't want to reveal. Even those who live by words can choose to use some and leave others in oblivion. Yet, telling one's own stories is not always a conscious act but a primal need. It is the only way to make sense of the chaos of reality. There is an instinct that breaks every resistance. That challenges every attempt to find a hiding place. Kronenberg did not expect it to happen then, and Jacopo was not ready to be overwhelmed by that tornado of essence and truth. The only option is to take up the pen again and face the darkest part of oneself. Only from there does a masterpiece emerge. Only from there does one learn about life. But it takes courage—the courage of a great author.





MARCO LAZZARIN was born in 1987 in the Treviso region, where he currently resides. He was born in dialect, grew up in Italian, and studied in English. At university, he delved into American literature, mainly focusing on Philip Roth. He spent some time in London and attended a creative writing workshop. After a stint in the world of contemporary art, he teaches English. "The last spring of Kronenberg" is his debut novel.



Shadows conceal more than they reveal.



INVISIBLES OF SAN ZENO by Alessandro Maurizi

Mondadori, April 2024 Pages 337

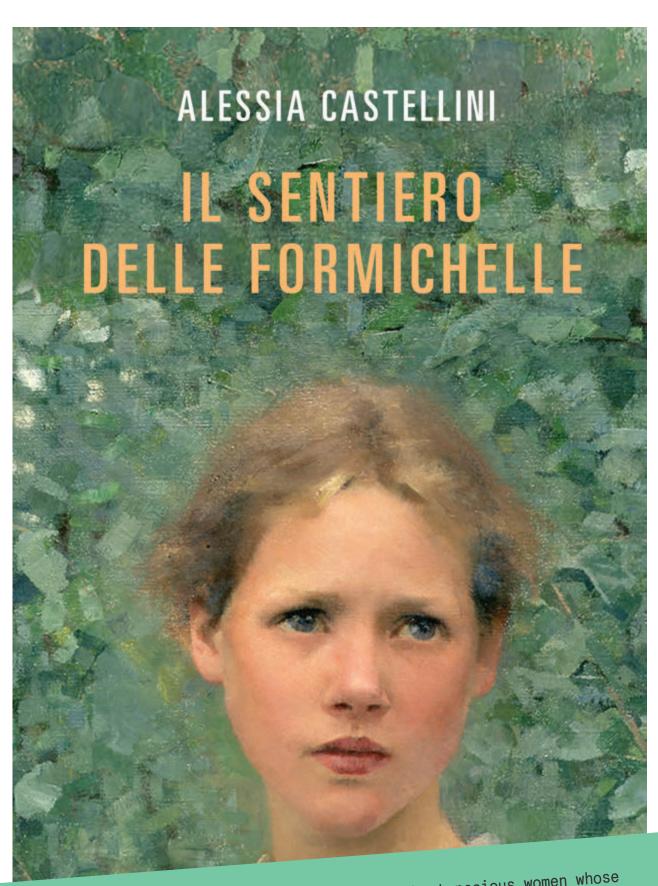
In late 19th-century Italy, a young prosecutor investigates a series of murders and ends up encountering an even more criminal network of high-ranking connivance.

Verona, 1880. A great exodus is moving through the countryside, the mirage of a better life overseas persuades thousands of destitute families to sell everything to embark in Genoa on the great steamships of hope advertised by the Casa Generale di Spedizioni Marittime (General Shipping House). Federico Giorio, a young legal prosecutor and fervent republican, is in search of evidence that can hold Isaia Bordignon, head of the Casa Generale di Spedizioni Marittime, guilty of fraud, accountable. A tip leads him to rummage through a poor man's house, where decisive evidence for the trial is supposed to be hidden, but someone has ratted him out, and the raid turns out to be a bust. The King's Prosecutor Visentin, tired of waiting for concrete results, moves Giorio to a lesser case: that of Angelo Galanti, a penniless tax collector, whose body has been found deeply battered. A stinging defeat for the idealistic prosecutor. In reality, the only one to be mistaken is Visentin, because Angelo Galanti is intimately linked to the exodus of peasants... Inspired by the true story of Federico Giorio - a legal prosecutor who paid dearly for his honesty -, Alessandro Maurizi makes his debut in the Mondadori Giallo series with a tense story, a serial killer with more moral fibre than his victims, and an indomitable detective who will also have to reckon with his own heart and the flimsiest conventions of a society in which he does not always recognise himself.





ALESSANDRO MAURIZI born in 1965 in Tuscania, a State Police inspector, he lives and works in Viterbo.



An ancient and evocative world, populated by tenacious women whose sisterhood turns out to be indissoluble.

PIEMME



THE PATH OF LEMONS Alessia Castellini

Piemme, May 2024 Pages 345

Alessia Castellini, with a unique grace of writing, immerses herself in an ancient and evocative world, populated by tenacious women, and tells a profound and moving story of sisterhood that teaches how ties, of blood and land, are indissoluble even when they seem to blossom without strength and roots.

Amalfi Coast, 1940s. Rachele and Nannina cross the mountain every day, carrying heavy baskets full of lemons to the coast of Maiori, where the sea stretches open. It is the destiny of all the women of Tramonti.

Rachele believes that the world has fixed and invariable rules and is proud of the traditions of her country, while Nannina has dreamt since childhood of lands far away from the steep path that they will have to walk for a lifetime, until they break their backs and knees. Different in every way, they cannot, however, think of being apart. It is in their footsteps that eighty years later, two sisters, Ninfa and Alelì, arrive in the village. They are convinced that this story is just a figment of the imagination of their grandmother, a writer, who died recently. Instead, they discover that Rachel and Nannina really existed, and that the lemons path holds a secret that their family has forgotten for decades. There are voids that swallow you up and voids that embrace you. In the former you sink, in the latter you float.



RIGHTS SOLD TO: France (Michel Lafon)



ALESSIA CASTELLINI was born in Palermo and is thirty-one years old. She has a PhD in theoretical physics and is co-author of scientific articles published in international journals. She travels and takes photographs with her reflex camera, always in search of stories to tell.

MARZIA SICIGNANO Dove si nascondono le lacrime

romanzo



I cannot tell if I am more afraid of destroying your life or mine.





WHERE THE TEARS HIDE

Marzia Sicignano

Mondadori, March 26 2024 Pages 264

Why do we return to places even knowing we cannot go back? Maybe a part of us really believes that the past just sits there, eternally, and that we can go back to it to know that it is there and still lives. But does the past ever stop living?

Chiara and Samuele set foot on the island years after their last meeting. Years that made their hearts heavy. Before everything fell apart, Chiara and Samuele were not just cousins, almost brothers; they were one thing so mixed up inside each other that they did not understand where he began and where she ended. And it had always been this way since they had spent their summers, as children, at their grandmother's house, the marvelous villa on the island, a majestic and cozy nest that had cuddled them and made them feel protected, happy in their isolation.

however, meeting Syria changed everything, making visible the cracks in the bond between the two of them between them and their grandmother, and especially the idea they had of love.

A love in which everything – that's how it was in their family – was mixed: black and white, the acceptance of a hug and the glances of admonishment, defeat and victory, jealousy and oneness–. Everything, because that was what love was, wasn't it? The greatest contradiction to be resolved is a war that you don't win and you don't lose, that keeps you alive more than anything else, and that, in the end, is never resolved. Now, however, after being wounded and lost, they are forced to see each other again and relive their past, coming to terms with frailties, guilt, sentences thought and never said. Separating for may have been a way for them to find each other, although perhaps the

may have been a way for them to find each other, although pernaps the right word is to find themselves.

The only possible one for those who, like them, had blended until they lost themselves.

"I cannot tell if I am more afraid of destroying your life or mine."



Marzia Sicignano, born and raised in Scafati, province of Salerno, is not even thirty years old and already has five novels to her credit: *Io, te e il mare* (2018), bestseller in Italy and also published in Spain, *Aria* (2019), *Ovunque sia, saremo insieme* (2020), *Dove non esistono gli addii* (2021) and *Dove ti nascondi* (2022). All her books are published by Mondadori.





Sometimes life hits us until it knocks us down. What if, instead of getting up, we tried to look at the world through the eyes of those who are down?

The act of surrender could bring unexpected happiness.



A GOOD PLACE TO STAY

by Matteo Bussola

Einaudi, June 2023

Sometimes life hits us until it knocks us down. What if instead of getting up, we tried to look at the world through the eyes of those who are down? Perhaps the act of surrender can bring unexpected happiness.

After the outstanding success of "Rosemary doesn't get winter", the new, moving novel by Matteo Bussola.

Few have been able to recount male fragility without stereotypes, without prejudice, and without shame. Matteo Bussola knows how to do it with candor and humanity. In these excruciating, yet light-filled pages, a man finds the courage to desert his own existence and build a dream. In the neuropsychiatric yard, a father with his son learns to accept the wound of those he has given birth to. An elderly husband, caring for his wife suffering from Alzheimer's, wonders what remains of a relationship when the one we love disappears, even if we can still touch him. A hikikomori who fell in love online would like to meet the one who has become so important to him, but fear of leaving imprisons him. An obedient child discovers the unexpected beauty of disappointing expectations. Cracked, bent, defeated, yet capable of searching for meaning, of catching a glimpse of it where they would never have believed, each of these protagonists finds a personal, authentic, unashamedly honest answer to the question: "What makes a man, a man?"

After the outstanding success of Rosemary doesn't get winter, the new, moving novel by Matteo Bussola.



Matteo Bussola was born in Verona in 1971. He has written several books, all bestsellers: Notti in bianco/Sleepless Nights, Baci a colazione/Kisses for Breakfast (2016), Sono Puri i loro sogni/Their Dreams are Pure, Lettera a noi genitori sulla scuola/A Letter about School to us Parents (2017), La vita fino a te/Life Until You (2018) and L'invenzione di noi due / The Invention of Us Two (2020), Violet and Blue (2021), Il rosmarino non capisce l'inverno / Rosemary Does not understand winter (2022). He works with Repubblica's Robinson and, together with Federico Taddia, has a weekly programme on Radio 24 on the role of today's new fathers. A graduate in architecture from Venice, he is also a cartoonist and illustrator. He works with different publishers, both Italian and international. He lives in Verona with his companion, three daughters and three dogs.



AUTHOR PREVIOUSLY SOLD TO:
Germany (Penguin Verlag)
France (Editions Kero)
Spain (Aguilar)
USA (TarcherPerigee)
Albania (Dituria)
Croatia (Uliks)
Serbia (Laguna)
Greece (Kalendis)
Israel (Kinneret)
Korea (Chungaran Media)
Poland (Biuro Literackie)
Turkey (Serenad)

"Life is not a mountain to be climbed, a train not to be missed, a goal to be hit, but it is a small room to be furnished with care. It is not a summit to be reached at all costs. It is the choice of a good place to stop."

With his latest novel

Matteo Bussola has climbed the Italian publishing charts.

But this is not dazzling news for the author.

Matteo's several novels all published in Italy by Einaudi and translated in several countries, including France, Spain, and the United States, have been steadily appearing in the Italian top ten bestsellers list right after their release.



SIMONE RAUSI Il colore delle cose non dette Romanzo 00 Due sconosciuti, un condominio, 36 domande per salvarsi

Two strangers, an apartment building, 36 questions to save themselves.





THE COLOR OF THE THINGS UNSAID 36 questions to find you again Simone Rausi

Two strangers, an apartment building, 36 questions to save themselves. From a New York Times experiment, a story of rebirth and secret complicity.

As a child, Nina played with different paints, dreaming of creating a new color. Now she is twenty years old and works as a graphic designer, but since the death of his brother Samuel her life has lost all colors. She doesn't leave the house and doesn't want to talk to anyone. Then, an anonymous message: a person who claims to live in her building and seems to know everything about Samuel. Before revealing its identity, the stranger proposes a game: 36 questions to be answered alternately and wholeheartedly. Nina is appalled: does she really know so little about her neighbors? And what about her brother? Thus begins a dialogue in the dark, two perfect strangers who stretch their hands to save themselves from pain. Thanks to this invisible thread, the world of Nina will become colorful again and the memory of Samuel will be enriched with new, unexpected shades.

A contested first novel among the major Italian publishers. A new, surprising pop voice of our narrative.





Simone Rausi was born in Catania in 1986. He works as a copywriter and has been writing for newspapers, blogs, radio, and TV for over ten years.

FAUSTO BRIZZI SIAMO SCRITTI A MATITA

ROMANZO



A hymn to love, life, and books.



WE ARE WRITTEN IN PENCILFausto Brizzi

Longanesi, May 2 2023 Pages 320

How many stories does a library contain? And how many stories can two lives contain? And if those lives are told in the twilight, on two comfortable armchairs nestled between the shelves of an old bookcase, it is easy to lose sight of boundaries and wonder what is born of fantasy and imagination and what is pure reality.

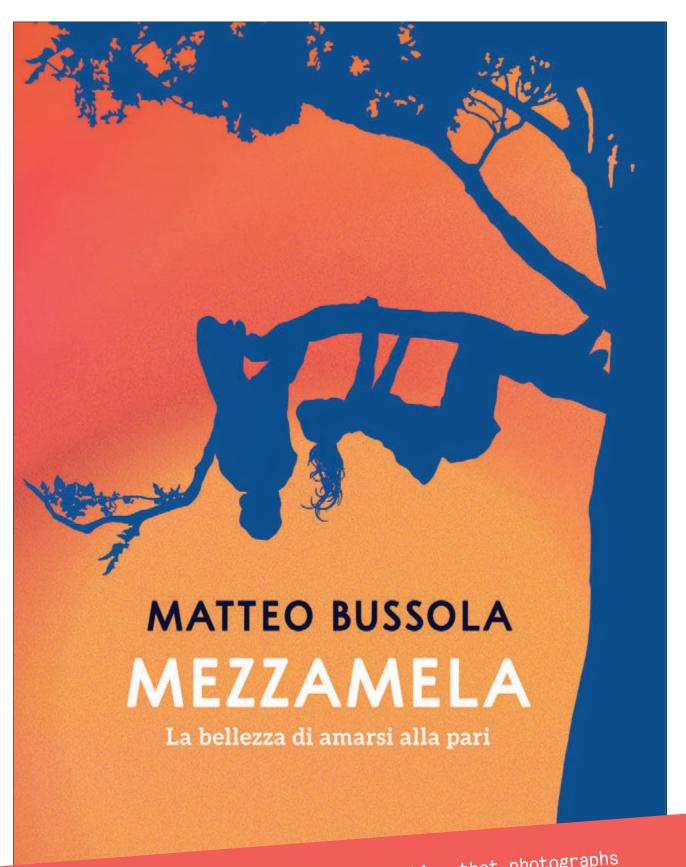
Sitting in those armchairs, surrounded by volumes, there are two elders, Alfredo and Betta. A couple of old-fashioned booksellers grappling with the most difficult moment of their love: Betta has Alzheimer's and no longer remembers anything of what they have experienced. And so Alfredo tells her the story of their life since the day they met. An adventurous existence, punctuated by many special events. So many that Alfredo's tale does not seem to be true: between episodes of espionage, exotic scenarios, and choices that intertwine with the fate of the world, it seems that the bookseller's imagination has been far too much on his beloved novels. It seems. Because, as we continue to follow Alfredo and be moved by the love with which he leads his wife by the hand, filling her memory with life, adventure, wonder, and happiness, another doubt arises among us, the readers: what if it is not all made up?

Fausto Brizzi returns to the novel with a story of moving lightness that speaks of fragility, endless love, and a bet on the future, despite everything.





FAUSTO BRIZZI (Rome, 1968) divides his time between filmmaking and writing and is as much the author of appreciated books such as *One Hundred Days of Happiness*, and *I Married a Vegan* as he is the screenwriter, producer, and director of films that have smashed the box office, starting with his debut *Notte prima degli esami* with which he won the Italiani prizes David di Donatello and Nastro d'Argento. *We are written in pencil* is his first novel published by Longanesi.



A gentle diary of sentimental education that photographs adolescence and all its changes.



HALFAPPLE The beauty of loving each other as equals Written and illustrated by Matteo Bussola

Salani, January 2023 144 pages

FALLING IN LOVE IS NEVER EASY.

What happens when you realize, for the first time, that you like someone? Viola became aware that she saw Marco with different eyes on an October afternoon, on a Monday, in the middle school yard while he is playing soccer and big white clouds are running in the sky, one looks like a bear. Marco, on the other hand, has had feelings for Viola for a while now, but they have been friends for many years, and you know that when you tell someone you like them, then things change, and almost never for the better. And it is right there, at the moment of awareness of new feelings, when everything should be simple and beautiful, that things instead become more complex. When do you stop being friends and perhaps become something else? How do you tell the difference? How do you speak to the same person in a new voice? With what eyes does one look at it? How do you get over that giant cliff of awkwardness and misunderstanding without having to start all over again?

A gentle diary of sentimental education that photographs adolescence and all its changes, a novel about first loves but also about fragilities, and about stopping protecting yourself out of fear. Because it doesn't matter if you are male or if you are female, if your body is changing and you can't keep up with it, what matters is that we (re)begin to look into each other's eyes. What we choose to see will depend only on us.

«I don't know why I ran away like that. Maybe because when you feel that you like someone a little bit, you get scared. Maybe love always makes us a little scared, I think... I feel like Marco has suddenly become a nice juicy apple, and I, on the other hand, I'm still kind of in the middle. A halfapple.»



AUTHOR PREVIOUSLY SOLD TO:
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Albania (Dituria)
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Greece (Kalendis)
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Korea (Chungaran Media)
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Turkey (Serenad)

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Matteo Bussola was born in Verona in 1971.

He has written several books, all bestsellers: Notti in bianco/Sleepless Nights, Baci a colazione/Kisses for Breakfast (2016), Sono Puri i loro sogni/Their Dreams are Pure, Lettera a noi genitori sulla scuola/A Letter about School to us Parents (2017), La vita fino a te/Life Until You (2018) and L'invenzione di noi due / The Invention of Us Two (2020), Il tempo di tornare a casa/Time to go back home (2021) and Il rosmarino non capisce l'inverno/Rosemary doesn't get winter (2022). He works with Repubblica's Robinson and, together with Federico Taddia, has a weekly programme on Radio 24, Non mi capisci/You don't get me, on teenagers and their world. A graduate in architecture from Venice, he is also a cartoonist and illustrator. He works with several different publishers, both Italian and international. He lives in Verona with his companion, three daughters and three dogs. This is his second book for Salani after Viola e il Blu/Violet and the Blue.





limiting beliefs. The new "The Story of a Seagull and the Cat Who Taught Her to Fly"



VIOLET AND BLUE Be the color you want to be Written and illustrated by Matteo Bussola

Salani, March 2021 73 pages

A STORY FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS THAT AFTER ONLY FOUR DAYS OF SALES WENT STRAIGHT INTO THE TOP FIVE ITALIAN BESTSELLER LIST

This is the story of Violet, a little girl who plays football, shoots around on a push scooter and likes wearing Blue and Purple – she writes the names of the colors in capital letters, because they're exactly like people: each person is unique. But not everyone agrees with her, especially the adults. A lot of them think there are 'boy things' and 'girl things' but Violet has never really understood this. So one day she decides to ask her father, who is a painter and knows all about colors. It's May, a Friday afternoon, the sky is an intense blue, dotted with white clouds and her father is in the garden tending to the gentians. Gentians have a female name in Italian and yet they're blue flowers. Fortunately nobody has anything to object when it's a matter of flowers. Not like people, thinks Violet. A flower is fine for everyone just the way it is...

In this story, inspired by his conversations with his daughters, Matteo Bussola explores gender stereotypes through the eyes of Violet – a child who is already quite clear about who she is and what she wants to become. This is a story for everyone, which celebrates the strength of diversity and the importance of growing up amidst the wonder of all the various different shades of being life has to offer. A story dedicated to all those who want to paint their lives in the colors they choose.



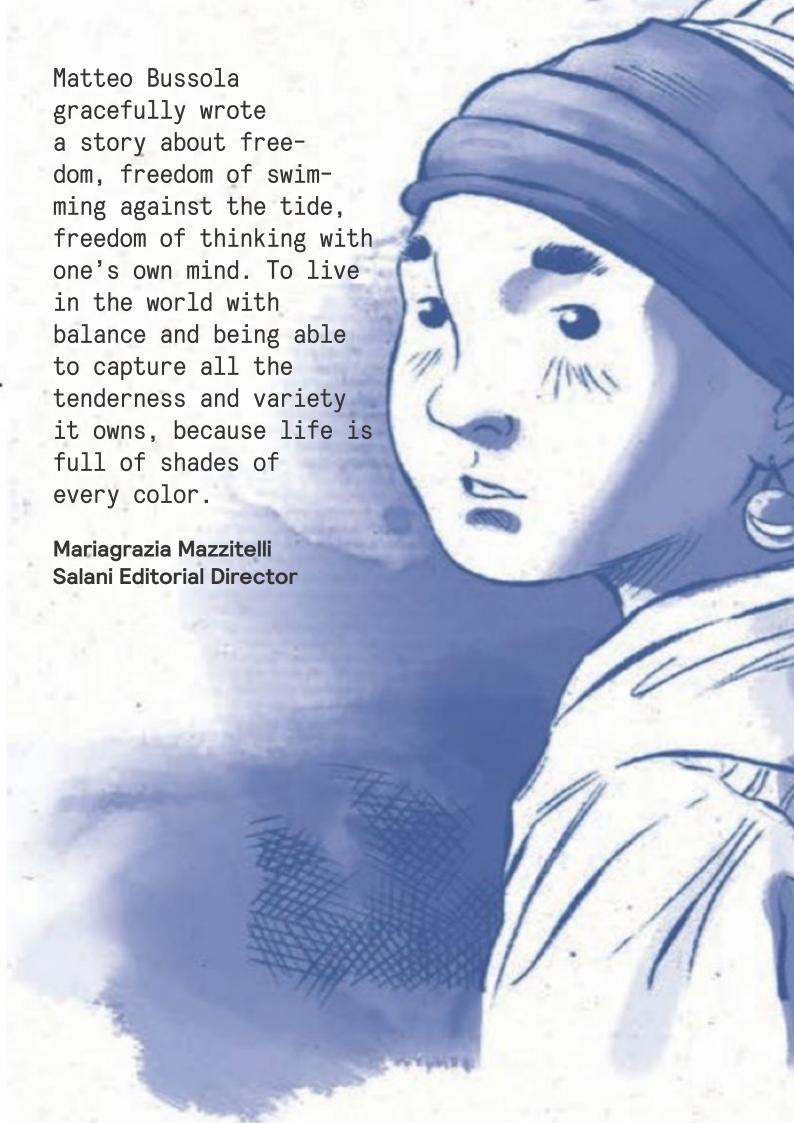
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Korea (Chungaran Media)
Poland (Biuro Literackie)
Turkey (Serenad)

A welcome reminder to girls that nothing stands in their way no matter waht other people say or think.



Matteo Bussola was born in Verona in 1971.

He has written several books, all bestsellers: Notti in bianco/ Sleepless Nights, Baci a colazione/Kisses for Breakfast (2016), Sono Puri i loro sogni/Their Dreams are Pure, Lettera a noi genitori sulla scuola/A Letter about School to us Parents (2017), La vita fino a te/ Life Until You (2018) and L'invenzione di noi due / The Invention of Us Two (2020). He works with Repubblica's Robinson and, together with Federico Taddia, has a weekly programme on Radio 24, I Padrieterni/ The Holy Fathers, on the role of today's new fathers. A graduate in architecture from Venice, he is also a cartoonist and illustrator. He works with several different publishers, both Italian and international. He lives in Verona with his companion, three daughters and three dogs. The author's books have been previously sold in Gemany, France, Spain, USA, Albania, Croatia, Serbia and Turkey.



PRESS REVIEWS

VIOLET AND BLUE AFTER ONLY FOUR DAYS OF SALES WENT STRAIGHT INTO THE TOP FIVE ITALIAN BESTSELLER LIST

Violet is a girl that rejects stereotypes, she hates pink and plays soccer. Her story, told and illustrated by Matteo Bussola, is one of freedom, inspired by author's conversations with her three daughters. It's all about the joy of swimming against the tide.

Maria Novella De Luca, laRepubblica

Violet as the color made by mixing pink and blue. Violet as one of the flowers that Nature gifted us with, in its smashing variety and diversity. Violet as the name of a girl tired of having to do only 'girl things', the impatine main character of the first book for childre, boys and girls – but helpful to adults, too – written and illuustrated by one of the writers most loved among modern parents: Matteo Bussola.

Federico Taddia, TTL - laStampa

The book, good for readers of all ages, is an ode to freedom and self-determination. Told with both tenderness and strenght, the story of Violet and Blue urges us to get out of the box we have been put in and to look for the box of our uniqueness.

Natasha Barratto – L'Arena

A STORY FOR CHILDREN TO GROW UP WITH NO BOUNDARIES



CORBIEBE DELLA SERA

Corriere della Sera Lo Letturo April, 4 - 2021 TOP 10
BESTSELLER LIST
IN THE FIRST WEEK OUT

FOR WEEKS AT THE TOP

OF THE CHILDREN'S BOOK BESTSELLER LIST

> 4 REPRINTS IN 2 WEEKS

150 5 STARS REVIEWS







No one can forbid children to dream. No one can stop their imagination.



THE MYSTERIOUS DREAM FACTORY Alessia Piemonte

Garzanti, September 2023 Pages 192

No one can forbid children to dream. No one can stop their imagination. Fortunately, Janie and her friends are ready to protect them and set off on the most fantastic adventure of their lives.

Dreaming is forbidden in Dreamland. The only way to do so is to buy one of the colorful bottles produced in the mysterious Dreams Factory. There are the green ones, for fantastic dreams with gnomes, fairies, and dwarves; the blue ones, for dreams with memories; the yellow ones, for out-ofthe-ordinary dreams with talking animals; the red ones, for scary dreams with supernatural beings; the purple ones, for adventurous dreams with dragons and spaceships; and finally, the orange ones, for investigative adventures. But while everyone thinks that dreaming has never been possible in Dreamland, Janie believes the legend that a witch stole all dreams and trapped them in bottles. Yet, when she receives one for her ninth birthday, she is excited because she hopes to see her mother, whom she misses so much, in a dream. But the unbelievable happens while she is at school that day: The Dream Factory is destroyed by fire. Everyone runs away, but Janie returns home to save her bottle. She will be left alone, but her friend Tommy has followed her, curious to know what she wants. But it's not only him. On the streets, they meet Billy, the talking dog, and Balder, a young knight fighting a dragon. Janie cannot believe her eyes: the dreams' protagonists have come to life! This strange bunch will decide to find out what happened to the factory, even if it means going through the Nightmare Forest and facing the terrible Dreamland witch.

It is an incredible story that takes you to a magical world where anything is possible.



"Grandpa, can you tell me the legend of the Dreamland witch?" Janie asked. "Mrs Esse had never dreamt, but she would have much liked to so she began to devote herself to black magic to do that, but every attempt was in vain. And then she decided that no one could ever dream again." "Grandpa, how do we know this is not just a legend?"

"Only you can decide which side you are on. Whether to believe or not."



Alessia Piemonte grew up in Milan's district, teaching and working in children's publishing. She graduated from the Brera Fine Arts Academy and attended la Scuola del Fumetto. Her works have appeared in the 'Corriere della Sera' and were finalists at the Villa Celimonatana Jazz Smile and Trasimeno Blues Cartoon Festival competitions. The Mysterious Dream Factory is her first novel.

Camilla Ghiotto TEMPESTA

Non è mai troppo tardi per imparare a essere figli, né per riannodare la memoria al presente.



For freedom can never be won once and for all.

SALANI LE STANZE

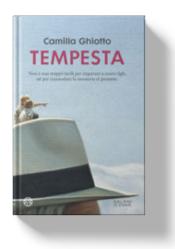


STORM Camilla Ghiotto

Salani, January 17, 2023 Pages 352

With writing of unusual sensitivity, capable of ambushing and always revealing new angles of being, Camilla Ghiotto gives voice to a generation aware that it must fight battles different from those of the past, but no less decisive. For freedom can never be won once and for all.

Renzo and Camilla are no ordinary father and daughter. Ninety-two years old he, seventeen she, a whole life divides them, or even more than one. Of this man who was already gray-haired when she was born, whom she never saw as young and strong as her friends' fathers, Camilla has always been a little ashamed. And so, when Renzo becomes seriously ill and is admitted to a clinic from which it is soon clear that he will never return home, Camilla has the unmentionable feeling that she can finally dive into the future without looking back. Her father's illness confronts her with the realization that you can't build anything without first coming to terms with your roots, that you can't lose someone without trying to get to know them, and that perhaps she still has some time left to really be his daughter. So she will begin to search the past to discover the boy Renzo was so many years before, when the war was inflaming Italy, young men were climbing mountains, shooting, starving and freezing, trying every day and every night to make sense of their actions. The time when Renzo was 'Storm', commander of a partisan brigade. For Camilla, reclaiming family history and a collective memory that has not stopped vibrating will mean finding a new perspective to open up to the world, to others and to love.



It is never too late to learn how to be a child or to reconnect memory with the present.



CAMILLA GHIOTTO was born in Vicenza and lives in Rome, where she studies Philosophy. This is her first novel.

Mattia Corrente La fuga di Anna



"Each truth inherently contains a violence, each abandonment a wound that will not heal, each choice that makes us happy will end up hurting someone else."

oenerio



THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ANNA Mattia Corrente

Sellerio, February 24, 2022 Pages 228

The truth does not always set you free.

The wife, after a lifetime spent beside her husband one day goes out and just disappears.

One year later he decides to leave everything behind, Stromboli, the island where they lived, all their things, all their habits, he is ready to go find her. Anna, the old Severino and his hope of bringing her back home.

This is how begins a trip down memories lived and left all around Sicily that becomes not only an investigation on his past but also a test of his actions, his choices and a confrontation with long evaded, devastating, merciless truths. It is facing ghosts, men and women that could have been someone else if only traitors or violators did not surround them.

In this story of voices, point of views and ambiguities emerging page after page, Anna lives despite her absence. In Severino's look their past takes shape only to be understood together along with the personal story of a woman that unwillingly obeyed to orders, the first of which was her mother's: a woman only purpose in life is to be a husband's wife, a mother's child. This was her destiny but towards the end, when she had become all that she needed to become Anna looked forward and disappeared. At last she turned into the person her father wanted her to be when she was a little girl: free. A freedom that means chaos because what the novel is trying to say through its characters and its writing is that each truth inherently contains a violence, each abandonment a wound that will not heal, each choice that makes us happy will end up hurting someone else. But the understanding and the acceptance of this truth is a lifelong experience.



RIGHTS SOLD TO:

France (Le bruit du monde)
Poland (Uniwersytetu Jagiellonskiego)
Czeck Republic (Grada)

"The unexamined life is not worth living, he reckoned."

From the French Publisher

We have been swept away by this first novel whose narrative depth comes hand in hand with a deeply original voice. Shedding light on Anna's story through the lens of her husband's viewpoint, the author offers an original insight into the inner conflicts brought about by marriage and motherhood. Old Severino's quest to find Anna unravels as both a personal quest as a husband and a universal questioning on womanhood as a drama per se. The depiction of Sicily is more than a mere backdrop, it drew us into this ancient rural world where voices and places are beautifully intertwined by Corrente's delicate prose. Anna's story mingles with Severino's and the constant to-and-fro pattern of the narrative convinced us that Mattia Corrente is a great writer in the making whose voice should be heard by French readers. We are glad to say that La fuga di Anna will be our main debut of 2024.



MATTIA CORRENTE was born in 1987 and lives nearby Messina, in the island of Sicily. He has a PhD in philosophy and human sciences. He often worked as a ghostwriter for major Italian publishing houses, this is his debut.

FROM THE PRESS

For some reasons the title given by Mattia Corrente to his novel The disappearance of Anna does not do justice to his debut. Though it is true that around Anna leaving her household at 74 after fifty years of marriage revolves all the story as does her husband Severino in his quest for her wife, it is even truer that behind this decision there is a whole life, Anna's life, and her need to get away from herself and her feelings, to escape a promise made to her father, Peppe. Disappearance seems to be into Anna's family DNA, her father left, her son left to break free from a mother's love that she had always tried to domesticate without succeeding. Corrente's novel is hence a very well-orchestrated story that unfolds following different paths strongly relying on an elegant writing. For each path a perspective, first Peppe's, from a lost little island «a tiny, miniscule Sicily emptied of people», between 1959 and 1965, a stonecutter burdened by a remorse entrusted to a journal, then Severino's and a «solitude he is unable to accept» as he walks through his life and the places he has been with Anna in an imaginary dialogue with her.

And all of this takes place in a lush Sicilian landscape, rich in colors and smells a «pilgrimage» accompanied by Severino, a journey which becomes itself the reason for writing and reading. A journey through Severino's memories that unveils long forgotten episodes, like when he cheated on her because Anna's world only revolved around being a mother. Anna under the spell of a «strong and stubborn» mother, Anna and her marriage «a cage you decided to stay in to hurt no one» especially «the man that married me, I owe him gratitude, I signed a contract» because «you had already decided that no love would be enough for you. A life fed by gaps, emptiness».

Anna through the people Severino meets along his journey, a new Anna, a person "in disguise, a person you never made the effort to really see». And her ambiguities on being a wife without never really wanting it and being a mother full of doubts and fears, but above all her father's legacy «his lesson of freedom». A «sick freedom» maybe, gained at the expenses of others' pain and sufferings, a freedom that will live her with an existential question: «Do you ever think about someone else? About the price the others pay for your relentless need to be yourself? ».

It is a continuous balanced exchange between a story told from the outside and memories, very large memories «all that has been said so far, it all belongs to the man I no longer am and maybe I have never been. The more I look for you the more I feel like I am disappearing. You are making me disappear even in my own memories». The unveiling of oneself that brings to an acquired wisdom: «Now that I surrendered the helm why should I care if it's late and I have no place to go? Freedom is knowing where you don't belong anymore». Ermanno Paccagnini, laLettura, Corriere della sera

LETTER FROM THE AUTHOR

Mattia Corrente

There is a family portrait on the cupboard in the living room. It has always been there but only I noticed two years ago, on a winter day, as restless I woke up to get water in the kitchen. A candle sheds a light over it, there is nothing strange about the picture, there is my mother's family in it, one of those sepia vintage photos with colors that look drawn. My grandfather, a tall and elegant man, holds a girl dressed in white in his arms, she has blond straight hair wrapped around a ponytail. Beside him my grandmother, a cold and serious looking woman. She, too, holds a little girl in her harms, white dress and straight long hair wrapped around a ponytail: twins.

I spot my mother right away, she holds a grudge, a sad grimace that, after my grandfather's death – she was only eight years old –, will never leave her face. In that picture a man and a woman I have never met and two little girls – my mother and my aunt – two grownup women that built two very similar lives though afar from each other. And there talking to myself: «You already knew about this story. How many times you have been told about that smart, stubborn creative man, your grandfather, a man full of projects that one day while biking home was run over by a van and died alone on a hospital bed in still very dubious circumstances. How many times you have heard about your grandmother, a strong, uncompromising woman that raised alone two children without ever changing her dress, not even once, that same black dress she wore from her husband's death until hers».

The day after, I went to the basement looking for and old book by Cassola I wanted to read again. It belongs to my father. He used to read a lot when he was young. Read it and put it back where you found it, he says every time. He wants for his books to be kept hidden down there. Who knows why. While rummaging in the box full of books I see a green artificial leather suitcase, with rusty metal buckles and straps. It has always been there only I never noticed. I open it. There is a wedding dress neatly folded inside, a pair of white pearl gloves, and a pair of white shoes with heels, maybe handmade. It is all intact. The bride inside the suitcase is my mother. I know that. I have seen so many pictures taken that day, a day of July, the eight, 1964, they are all kept in a scrapbook hidden in a drawer of my parents' bedroom.

But if the bride locked in that suitcase is my mother, why did I start fantasizing about another woman being her without actually being her?

A family portrait of a father gone too soon, deified by a daughter that chose to fight away sorrow through memories - fake perhaps - of an irreproachable man that deserved to live to save us all. A man I started to imagine still alive, somewhere, out there.

A family portrait of a mother dressed in black that was seen smiling only once, right before her death and after having said her husband's name.

A family portrait of two little girls that never stopped to look alike and I would so much love to set them free from that resemblance. A wedding dress secluded in a suitcase. Wedding photos I so often looked at without ever wondering a thing.

I believe in the existence of event objects. Objects containing stories to be told, stories cherished as potential energy waiting to be expressed. Isn't the writer job to shape that energy, to express the unexpressed? "The disappearance of Anna" is not something that truly happened but it is not invented either. It unravels the literary visions evoked by my mother's history. Her objects talked for her, they wanted to be given a voice.

It tells a truth about freedom I did not know about yet: the same delusion imprisons who choses freedom at the expense of others and who does not choose it to keep other safe.

It tells the story of becoming a mother without having maternal instinct, where a mother gives birth to a son because the weight of procreation weighs over her destiny.

It tells the story of chasing the ones you love, making promises for the ones you love and keeping them even at the cost of losing oneself.



FROM THE PRESS

Mattia Corrente is among the most acclaimed debut of the year and is also one of the youngest authors to be chosen by the iconic Sicilian publishing house. Severino's wandering on the roads of Sicily is not only a search for his wife, is an investigation of the past, a dive into memories, a scrutiny of one's actions and choices. A mature writing, a true to life novel. Donatella Tretjak, Il Piccolo

Corrente's novel is also a book about maternity, brilliantly narrated through the lost wandering of a male character that finds itself alone in discovering women's secrets, plans, as they manage that atrocious change from being daughters to being mothers while they are still processing their endless love for their fathers. When the reading is over the feeling is that the story of Anna and Severino is like a water surface to look into to find out if you are navigating a sea, a lake or a pond. Eleonora Lombardo, la Repubblica

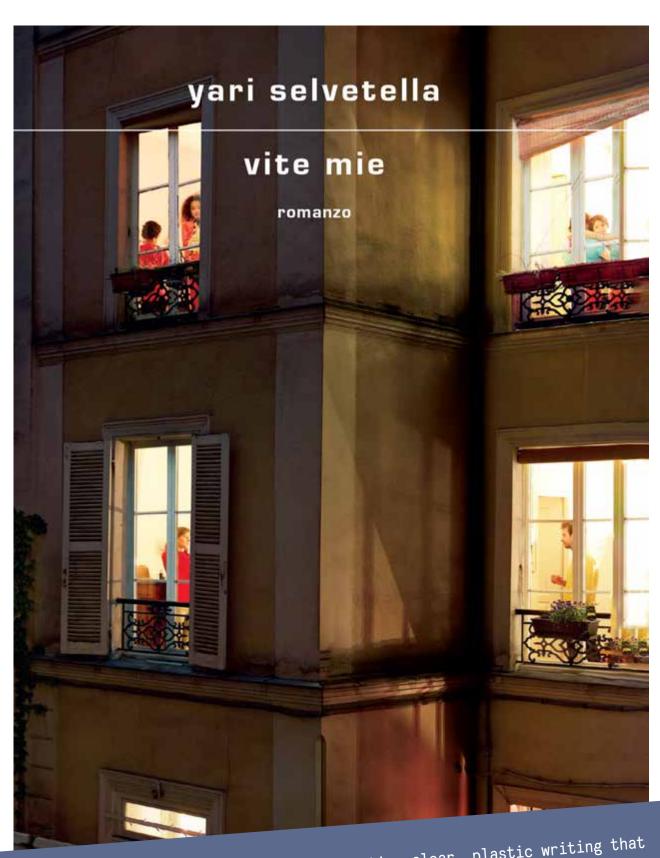
In Corrente's writing the will of thinking about the bond between freedom and violence and between happiness and unhappiness of others is lucid. But knowing and accepting this brutal truth needs a life long experience. Mohamed Maalel, Giornale di Sicilia

There is something deeper and more radical to find in this psychological novel. The act of leaving is made of many different nuances. Gaia Manzini, Il Foglio

The disappearance of Anna is the first though already mature, deep, and outstanding novel by Mattia Corrente. Little by little, with recurring flashbacks and paths walked backwards guided by memories it makes that disappearance somehow not only credible bu "necessary".

Vincenzo Guercio, L'Eco di Bergamo

Look at me, Anna: this is how the astounding literary debut by the young Sicilian writer Mattia Corrente begins. That cry goes out not only to old Severino's wife as he starts looking for her through the streets of Sicily after her sudden disappearance, it is also an invitation made to the reader to enter a mechanism of rare perfection, softly Pirandellian, where everything turns into its contrary, certainties falter and each character, sooner or later, has to face the selves it has not been but maybe encountered somewhere along the journey of life. Anna Mallamo, Gazzetta del Sud



An inspiring and moving book with a hypnotic, clear, plastic writing that tries to tell us that essential something that always escapes us.

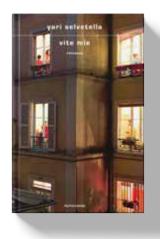


LIVES OF MINE Yari Selvetella

Mondadori, October 2022

A novel permeated with thoughts about love, family, our relationship with time passing by. An inspiring and moving book with a hypnotic, clear, plastic writing that tries to tell us that essential something that always escapes us.

Love is not enough, you have to know how to do it. Sometimes a whole life is not enough to learn it or the ability you cultivated in years just mysteriously vanishes and nothing is left but a feeling of inadequacy and nostalgia. Claudio Prizio needs more than a life to get to feel he is really starting over. To begin with he needs to look for himself in others. Claudio asks for a shelter, as he always used to, to his family, but something is off at home. He has a normal and yet peculiar family that guards big sorrows, unusual bonds and moment of authentic happiness. Everyone has to find the strength to let go of the past: his partner Agata, his four children two of which are adults now - and him above all. Claudio seeks for himself at home, but in his city, too: Rome is so generous with encounters that ends up dazing him in a twist of coincidences. Lately in fact he keeps noticing resemblance in people he comes across: a distracted driver that almost kills him at a traffic light, an aging rocker, a real estate agent, a woman who fled to the country. His peers are like mirrors, but instead of helping him in the discovery of his own identity, they wrap him into an inescapable play of reflections. How do you go beyond preserving your memories, without becoming their slave? Rome, a city that all cherishes and seems to pay no attention to what happens, is a master in this art, and it will suggest Claudio the ploy - the one last illusion, maybe - to free himself and the ones he loves. Lives of mine is a tempestuous existential exploration pushed forward by burning questions: what does love mean at one point in life, and when life has already hit hard? How can we not take for granted our relationships and make them special, unique and longlasting instead?



LONGLISTED FOR 2018 STREGA PRIZE WITH "LE STANZE DELL'ADDIO"



YARI SELVETELLA (Rome, 1976) published the novels La banda Tevere (2015) and Le stanze dell'addio (Bompiani, 2018), longlisted for the Strega Prize, and the poetry collection La maschera dei gladiatori (2014). He works as a TV anchorman and author for Rai Uno.



SEVEN EDITIONS AND 95.000 COPIES SOLD IN ONLY TWO MONTHS



ROSEMARY DOESN'T GET WINTER

by Matteo Bussola



SEVEN EDITIONS - 95.000 COPIES SOLD

«Rosemary goes untouched through winter and blossoms again in spring, hence the title, because these women so profoundly human, they suffer life's bad weather, love, death, sickness, betrayal and they can dry up for a while, but they come back, they always do».

Tuttolibri - LA STAMPA

«Matteo Bussola always gives the impression of handling pain with such tenderness, but underneath those soft words there is a merciless life, moments to remember and moments you would rather forget... Maybe though his secret lies in the tenacious belief that, no matter what, life is always worth living».

LA REPUBBLICA

ROSEMARY DOESN'T GET WINTER by Matteo Bussola

Einaudi, June 27 2022 Pages 154

There are only a few authors like Bussola, authors who can recount, with such delicacy and profoundness, the contradictions of human relationships. Only a few can seize with such modesty our desire and fear to be happy.

A lonely woman who finds love in her late-life. A daughter who struggles to forgive her mother. A young woman who does not want children because she would not stand their suffering. A widow who writes to her husband. A sixteen years old girl who falls in love with her girl friend. An old lady who tells a terrible secret to her caregiver. The heroines of this book are everything but heroes, they are normal people, they could be our neighbors, our colleagues, our sister, our daughter, they could be us. Fragile and strong, meek and cruel, restless and happy, they love and hate with all they have, because they think love is their key chance. They fall, like all of us, and yet they hold up, like rosemary when winter tries to bring it down and yet it resists to be born again in spring despite its scars. A novel made of ordinary and exceptional stories intertwined, moving, touching, questioning stories.

«I decided to write about women because I am not one. Because I feel I do not know them well enough, even if I live with four of them. And because it is much more useful to write about something you want to get to know better than to write about something you think you know a lot about » .

Matteo Bussola



AUTHOR PREVIOUSLY SOLD TO:
Germany (Penguin Verlag)
France (Editions Kero)
Spain (Aguilar)
USA (TarcherPerigee)
Albania (Dituria)
Croatia (Uliks)
Serbia (Laguna)
Greece (Kalendis)
Israel (Kinneret)
Korea (Chungaran Media)
Poland (Biuro Literackie)
Turkey (Serenad)

«What does a woman think about when, deafened by the voices of others, she suddenly understands she repressed her own? »



Matteo Bussola was born in Verona in 1971. He has written several books, all bestsellers: Notti in bianco/Sleepless Nights, Baci a colazione/Kisses for Breakfast (2016), Sono Puri i loro sogni/Their Dreams are Pure, Lettera a noi genitori sulla scuola/A Letter about School to us Parents (2017), La vita fino a te/Life Until You (2018) and L'invenzione di noi due / The Invention of Us Two (2020), Violet and Blue (2021). He works with Repubblica's Robinson and, together with Federico Taddia, has a weekly programme on Radio 24 on the role of today's new fathers. A graduate in architecture from Venice, he is also a cartoonist and illustrator. He works with different publishers, both Italian and international. He lives in Verona with his companion, three daughters and three dogs. The author's books have been previously sold in Gemany, France, Spain, USA, Albania, Croatia, Serbia and Turkey.



A sensual and powerful coming of age.



BLESSED BE THE FRUIT

by Giulia Villoresi

Marsilio, June 2022 Pages 293

Faustina, of Portuguese descent, spent her teenage years in a small town in the outskirts of Rome dreaming of her future as a nun with the same confidence girls her age dreamt of theirs as brides. This is all she knows about herself. Motherless, with a rude and unresponsive father and many relatives in the clergy, she is not even twenty when she takes the vows end enters a prestigious religious institute as a novice. We are in Rome in the early nineties. Now that her dream came true, Faustina can finally breathe. She is sharp, reliable, kind with her sisters and welcomed by the Mother Superior; she blushes all the time and she never thinks poorly of something or someone; she is not ambitious, she has no real friends nor something interesting to say. It looks like she has all she ever wanted from life. And yet, underneath this personality there is another one desperately trying to be acknowledged. On a day like any other, Eros, "like the Northern wind, red with thunders", shows up uninvited in Faustina's life. What will follow is the tale of a nun and also the story of everyone who discovers their body belatedly.

Because Faustina's tale draws on one of the most powerful erotic (and literary) cliché of all time, it tells the story of the sexual repression of society as a whole. A novel about the body, written through it, to be read by it.



«It is not the truth that sets Sister Faustina free, it is sex instead. And this is all women's truth».

Teresa Ciabatti

Blessed be the fruit is Giulia Villoresi's new novel, out on the 7h of June by Marsilio Editore. It tells the story of the discovery of sexuality for Faustina, a young half Italian half Portuguese nun, living in Rome in the Nineties. It's an erotic novel, a story of a coming of age, a book full of theological insights. The novel has a specific kind of writing, so enlighted and precise that even in the sex scenes it manages to convey to the reader both emotion and arousal. It is a novel that can make the reader uncomfortable with its meticulous descriptions but that contains, in its warning to the reader, suggestions on how to approach the book: "The only advice I have for the readers is: while you are reading this, trust your heart".

Robinson, la Repubblica



Giulia Villoresi (Rome, 1984) majored in Modern History and took a Ph.D. in Religious Institutions and Church-State History. She writes for L'Espresso and laRepubblica. Feltrinelli published her first two novels La *Panzanella* (2009, Vittorini's debut novel prize) and *Chi* è felice non si muove (2014).

An interview to Giulia Villoresi

Robinson, la Repubblica

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We spoke about it with the author.

Giulia Villoresi debuted in 2009 with La Panzanella (Feltrinelli) winner of the Vittorini prize for debuts. After that, in 2014, she wrote Chi è felice non si muove (Feltrinelli).

Why coming back to writing after all these years?

I started doing autofiction. Proust did it and it was astounding but unfortunately today it mostly turns into ego-ficition and it is something that prevents you to let your imagination run free. Given that imagination is the cornerstone of novels, I wanted to write with a voice that wasn't my own. The novel is in first person but the voice is Faustina's, an Italian-Portuguese nun. She's writing.

It's a long road from this realization to writing an erotic novel.

The decision was merely practical. You write a lot and you don't earn much. I was looking for something that could make money and, even though I didn't really know the genre, I thought I could try the erotic novel. At first, I didn't want to write it with my name, I thought I could build it like Faustina really existed. I wasn't looking for polished writing because in the end it was a nun's prose, and just like that I was freed from the problem of writing and I started in total freedom. In this freedom, I found an uncanny way of writing, particularly in the sex scenes, usually really troubling for writers.

In those scenes, there's no aim to be literary. Usually, sex scenes are vaguely funny because the literary urge, which can be artistic but shouldn't be felt, has little to do with sex.

It was like I lived Faustina's most arousing memories and, through her need to evoke them, I wrote them with total candour, the only purpose was to really just tell them. The writing came to me like I was in a transcending state, there was no consciousness.

A transcending state in which you decided to put a nun. It's very bold to choose to deal with the sexuality of a religious person. I went to a Catholic school, with nuns, the same in which Faustina lives. I was wondering what was their meaning of life until I realized that in some individuals exists a very powerful spirituality. A nun can't have sex but, as Faustina says, there are some people that experience sexual incontinence. What happens if, at some point, the Eros takes over a nun? It's something completely absorbing that can't be lived openly, it's a primary need, something animal that, in the end, reconcile us with a part of ourselves.

Your book reveals the importance of discovering one's identity through sexuality.

Usually, when you try to learn about yourself you go through the mind but that doesn't work because the mind is ruled by the ego. The mind is deceitful, repetitive, unreliable, and dismissive. What's trustworthy? Emotion because it's the body speaking. When we feel aroused we react directly, there's no mediator, and we have the certainty of truly being ourselves. We chose to ignore that or explore it. The three elements to start finding yourself are eros, body, and emotion.

Sister Faustina does not only tell a story about sex, she is also about devotion, something you are really interested in having a Ph.D. in Religious Institutions and Church-State History.

I am all into faith and spirituality, but here I tried to avoid direct references to the sublime I navigate, and unlike my first two books this time I did not need to try reaching those sublime waters, it was easy to get there and exciting giving the readers hints through the pages.

The book moves on different levels, it faces sexuality with really hard scenes but it is also about affections and one's identity, parenthood.

I contain the overwhelming nun, the theologist, the reader. All these characters are in the book but no one takes over the other exactly as it happens in the inside of me. I threw myself into these pages with the same questions I am personally attracted to, sex, religion, friendship, the opinion of others and the one we have on ourselves. These are my things and they are all in here. In addition, there is a desire for the mother, a regret for the mother.



ENRICO GALIANO



SOCIETÀ SEGRETA







THE SECRET SOCIETY OF WORDS RESCUERS Enrico Galiano

Garzanti, April 2022 Pages 400

Enrico Galiano's incredible debut in children's fiction: a story about friendship, courage and loyalty that teaches us the importance of always protecting words, the most important weapon to defend ourselves from the evil of the world.

When words begin to disappear, Samu thinks that it is not a big deal. Fewer words means fewer things to learn and as long as it is words like muffler or iconoclast to disappear he is fine with it.

But what if words like jam, holidays, friendship, love disappeared? Samu could lose his best friend Nico, and surely, he would have to give up the hope of winning back Rachele, the girl with raven black hair and unpaired socks that makes his heart beat. No, it is a risk that Samu is not willing to take. That is why he chooses to become a words rescuer. That is why with the help of a rather rickety team, he will throw himself in an adventure full of secret missions, coded messages and mysterious snatches.



RIGHTS SOLD TO:

Albania (Didactica)

"A Dead poets society type of teacher."

Massimo Gramellini

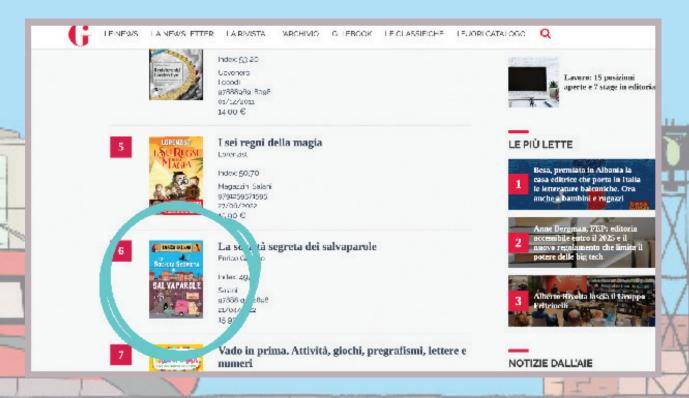
« I swear to defend words at all costs.
I swear to defend three above all: friendship, honor, courage.
I swear to help friends when in trouble.
I swear to never betray my mates.
I swear to never betray myself.
I swear to always be the mirror of my words.
I swear to always believe that the world can be a better place ».



ENRICO GALIANO was born in Pordenone in 1977. A teacher in a school in the suburbs, he created the web series Cose da prof / Teacher Stuff, which has been viewed more than twenty million times on Facebook. He launched the movement #poeteppisti, flashmobs of students who painted the towns with poetry. In 2020 the "Sole 24 Ore" included him in the list of the top ten teachers with most followers on the internet. For him, the secret to being a good teacher is: "They don't listen to you, unless you listen to them first". Every now and then he takes his bike and goes around the world with just a backpack, a pen and a strong desire for amazement. His first novel, Eppure cadiamo felici / And Yet we End up Happy, now being translated throughout Europe, was the surprise of 2017 and won the International "Città di Como Award" as best first novel, and the "Premio Cultura Mediterranea Award". With Garzanti he has also published Tutta la vita che vuoi / All the LIfe you Want (2018), Più forte di ogni addio / Stronger than any Goodbye (2019), Dormi stanotte sul mio cuore / Sleep against my Heart Tonight (2020) and the essay, L'arte di sbagliare alla grande / The Art of Failing Big (2020). The author's books have been previously published in Germany, Netherlands, Poland and Kuwait.

THE SECRET SOCIETY OF WORDS RESCUERS

in the bestseller lists of Bookshops Journal and amazon.it





MASSIMO VITALI



Massimo Vitali strikes this strange, compelling balance between being incredibly humorous on the surface, and being incredibly serious beneath.

Sperling & Kupfer



THE BROKEN HEARTED CIRCLE Massimo Vitali

Sperling & Kupfer, June 7, 2022 Pages 457

Were you ever out of a relationship without being really out of it? And what if the only way to start dating and living again is to share your experience with other heartbroken souls?

The end of some relationships feels like the end of love entirely. Instead of opening up to your future, you have the certainty that you will never find someone like the one you have lost.

This is what Pietro feels when he breaks up with Ginevra. In fairness, they've broken up before, countless times, for many reasons, but for him, it always feels unexpected, like the end of the world as he knows it.

Now that it's been two months and five days since they last spoke to each other, Pietro is starting to realize that sometimes love can be a true addiction, one that leads to withdrawals and alters your perception of reality. So maybe, as it helps treat other addictions, a support group may be a good idea. So, Pietro decides to put together The Broken Hearted Circle, a support center for the heartbroken in which everyone can share their hurtful experience. His best friend Cesare will host the meeting every Wednesday, the "Ten Rules for being freed by Love" have been written and a lot of people are starting to show up.

The group is doing really well, Pietro is starting to feel whole again and has also met another incredibly beautiful girl, Chiara. Everything is going perfectly until Ginevra shows up in one of the meetings and says that she's missing her ex, Pietro...

Thanks to his wonderful and distinctive writing, Massimo Vitali shines a light on the absurd and tragicomic side of some relationships, a delicate and profound comedy inspired by a true story: ours. Because everyone, at least once in their life, has thought that their universe was ending because of a break-up... right until they found someone else to fall in love with!





MASSIMO VITALI was born and lives in Bologna. He has published three novels: L'amore non si dice (Fernandel, 2010), Se son rose (Fernandel 2011; Sperling & Kupfer 2021) and Una vita al giorno (Sperling & Kupfer 2019). He teaches creative writing, organizes fantasy workshops for schools, and hosts a radio show called Ufficio Reclami, where he receives complaints from everyone, including readers of his novels. In 2021 his life changed forever. If you want to know how, follow him on instagram, you will find another story.