

MONDADORI

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2020



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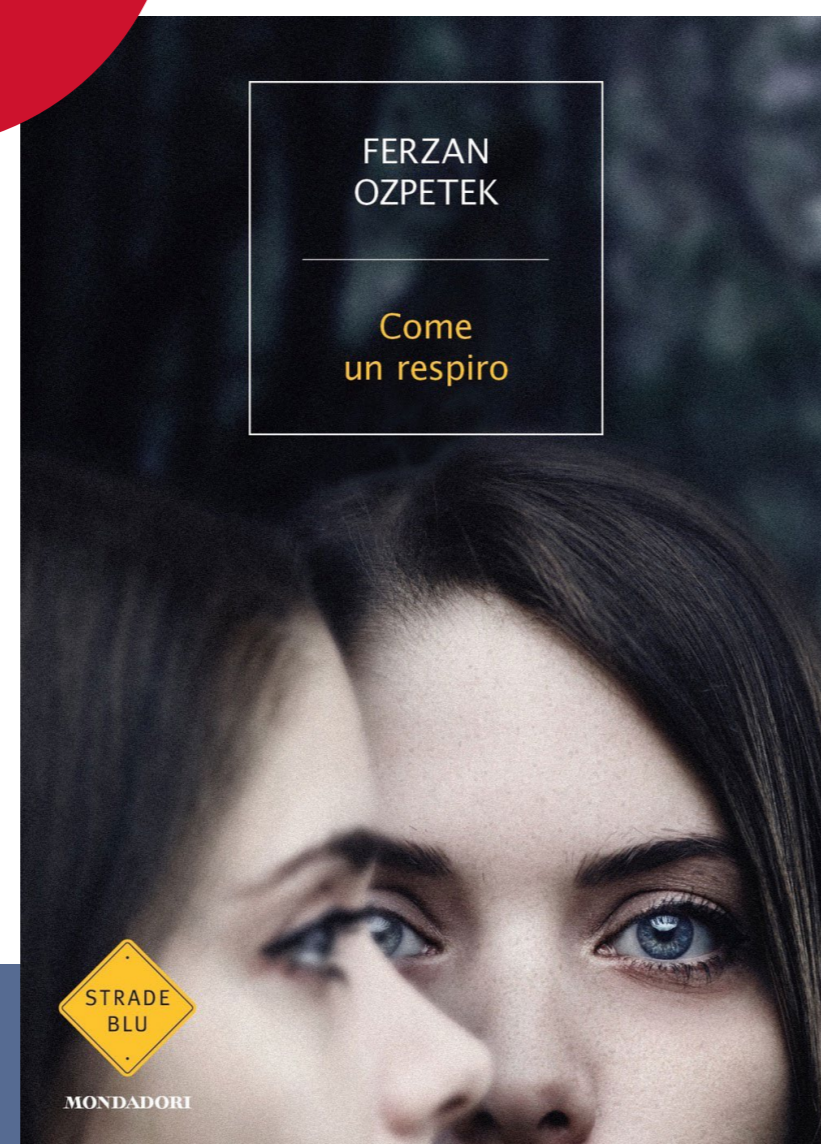
FERZAN OZPETEK

Like a Breath

180.000
copies sold

A touching,
intense
novel about
memory and
regret

155 pp | April 2020



On a Sunday morning, Sergio and Giovanna are waiting for their best friends for lunch when a stranger shows up at their door asking to see the house. She explains that she used to live there many years ago and that she came all the way from Istanbul. Elsa (that's her name) carries in her bag a bundle of old letters to her sister Adele, never opened. Who is Elsa, that strange woman? And why Adele did not even open her letters? What mystery is hidden beyond the kitchen window that Elsa keeps staring at?

The double point of view of the sisters flashes back to the rift that estranged them decades before, revealing only in the end how they experienced the traumatic love to the same person in different ways.

▶ [Link to the book trailer](#)

FERZAN OZPETEK was born in Istanbul but has lived in Rome since 1976. He is the author of acclaimed films, a retrospective of which was screened in 2008 at MOMA in New York, a honour given to few Italian authors. He is also the author of the bestselling novels *Rosso Istanbul* (2013) and *Sei la mia vita* (2015).

RIGHTS SOLD TO:

- Germany ▶ Piper/Pendo
- Greece ▶ Klidarithmos
- Turkey ▶ Can
- Serbia ▶ Laguna
- Brazil ▶ Skull Editora
- Bulgaria ▶ Colibri

DANIELE MENCARELLI

Everything Needs to Be Saved

Winner of
**PREMIO
STREGA
GIOVANI 2020**

A deep,
moving and
sweet novel

191 pp | February 2020



Daniele is twenty years old when he has a violent outburst of rage and is involuntarily committed into a psychiatric ward for a week. It is June 1994.

Throughout this experience, which feels like a delirious summer camp in a circle of hell, Daniele is flanked by his roommates, a bunch of disturbing and sweet characters and yet day by day, interviewed by indifferent doctors, taken in care by frightened nurses, they all share an unexpected sense of brotherhood and a sincere need of supporting each other.

In the depth of their madness shines a powerful humanity, which Mencarelli is able to voice with unique tenderness and strength.

DANIELE MENCARELLI (born in Rome in 1974) lives in Ariccia. He is the author of collections of poems and writes fiction for TV shows. In 2019, he made his debut with *La casa degli sguardi*, 2018's publishing revelation, awarded with premio Volponi, premio Severino Cesari opera prima, premio John Fante opera prima.

RIGHTS SOLD TO:

- Germany ▶ Fischer Verlag
- US+UK ▶ Europa Editions
- France ▶ Editions Globe

FILM
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ANTONIO PENNACCHI

The Road to the Sea

A wild,
compelling
and imaginative
story

489 pp | September 2020



Antonio Pennacchi returns with a rambunctious and picaresque novel of the saga of the Peruzzi family, a generation of poverty-stricken peasants from Veneto, who were enticed south in the 1930s by the promise of a land in the dreaded Pontine marshes, near Rome. We are now in the Fifties and Pennacchi, with his rich vein of humour, interweaves as ever the great History with “small” family histories of this anarchic, unrepentant clan. Otello, Manrico, Accio, grow up during the economic boom, when the “Road to the Sea”, connecting Latina to the beautiful landscapes of the Mediterranean Sea and Mount Circeo, is built and travelled also by celebrities from Italian and international jet-set, including Audrey Hepburn, and John and Jacqueline Kennedy.

ANTONIO PENNACCHI (born in 1950 in Latina) was a construction worker until the age of fifty. He won Italy’s prestigious Premio Strega in 2010 with *Canale Mussolini* (rights sold to **Liana Levi, Salamandra, Hanser Verlag, De Bezige Bij, Gyldendal Dansk, Algoritam, Dedalus, Dituria, Ili-Ili**), that was followed in 2018 by *Canale Mussolini II*.

“Pennacchi is a true narrator, a very rare species”

Bruno Gambarotta, *Tuttolibri-La Stampa*

DARIA BIGNARDI

Today I'm Playing Hooky

A novel full
of life that blends
ordinary and
mysterious
voices

197 pp | November 2020



Galla, the novel's main character (named after the Roman Empress Galla Placidia) started hearing a Voice after being abandoned by her husband and taking a trip to Munich: it's the voice of Gabriele Münter, the German painter and Kandinsky's partner until he left her without an explanation, just like what happened to Galla.

Bianca is seventeen years old, she can't go to school anymore, and she listens to the American rapper XXXTentacion all day long. Nicola constantly seduces one woman after another in an attempt to forget Rosa; he has been scared of flying ever since their relationship ended and can no longer go on assignments around the world for the NGO he used to work for.

They all are looking for a way to escape their pain and they are all seeing the same therapist, Anna Del Fante, young and recently widowed, sweet and mysteriously serene.

DARIA BIGNARDI born in Ferrara, journalist, made in 2009 her *début* with the novel *Non vi lascerò orfani*, a poignant literary case with 100.000 copies sold. It was followed by other novels, among them the bestselling *L'amore che ti meriti* (2014) and *Storia della mia ansia* (2018), widely translated abroad (Spain/**Duomo**, Albania/**Dudaj**, Turkey/**Kirmizi Kedi**, Brazil/**Bertrand**, Serbia/**Evro**, Germany/**Insel**, Russia/**Corpus**, Poland/**Evro Urban**).

ROMANA PETRI

The Wolf's Son

The sumptuously
imagined novel
of Jack London

377 pp | January 2020



What Romana Petri wrote is not a biography, but a novel based on the true story of Jack London, describing the fury of living of a man who was a boxer, a seal hunter, an insurance agent, a gold prospector; a man who loved the blue shade of the forest and the dazzling radiance of the sea, who looked at the soul of populations fighting and at the heart of women. And women are the true engine of the story: the petty-bourgeois fragrance of Mabel, the concreteness of Bessie, the intellectual charm of Anna Strunsky, the determination of Charmain (“to be many women in one”), the irreplaceability of his sister Eliza.

This splendid book is the story of a man suspended between the great narrator and the socialist who wants to talk like a revolutionary to seven million workers; a story of deep intelligence and sympathy.

ROMANA PETRI lives in Rome and is the author of several novels, that received multiple awards and have been widely translated abroad.

“A magnificent novel in which Romana Petri chronicles the life of Jack London, making it alive and contemporary, as if he had always been by our side.”

Nadia Terranova, *Il Foglio*

FABIO GENOVESI

I Will Fall, while Dreaming of Flying

A novel about
the marvellous
madness of
cycling

298 pp | January 2020



Fabio is twenty-four years old and studies law, even though his heart isn't really in it. One day he is sent to the mountains to do community service as an alternative to the draft and is assigned to a retirement home for old priests, run by an eighty-year-old former missionary: a gruff and moody man who barely leaves his room having lost interest in everything. Nonetheless they share passion for cycling and start watching the Giro d'Italia together, identifying in Marco Pantani the incarnation of a dream: a brave man, tormented and alone, facing colossal champions.

Thanks to this marvellous madness, Fabio and Don Basagni will find in themselves the courage buried within them to question the solid, reliable existence they were accustomed to put up with.

FABIO GENOVESI (Forte dei Marmi, 1974) published with Mondadori the four novels *Il mare dove non si tocca* (2017), *Chi manda le onde* (2015, winner of Premio Strega Giovani), *Versilia Rock City* (2012), and *Esche vive* (2011), widely translated abroad. Among his foreign publishers: **Lattes, Patakis, Signature, Europa Editions, The Other Press.**

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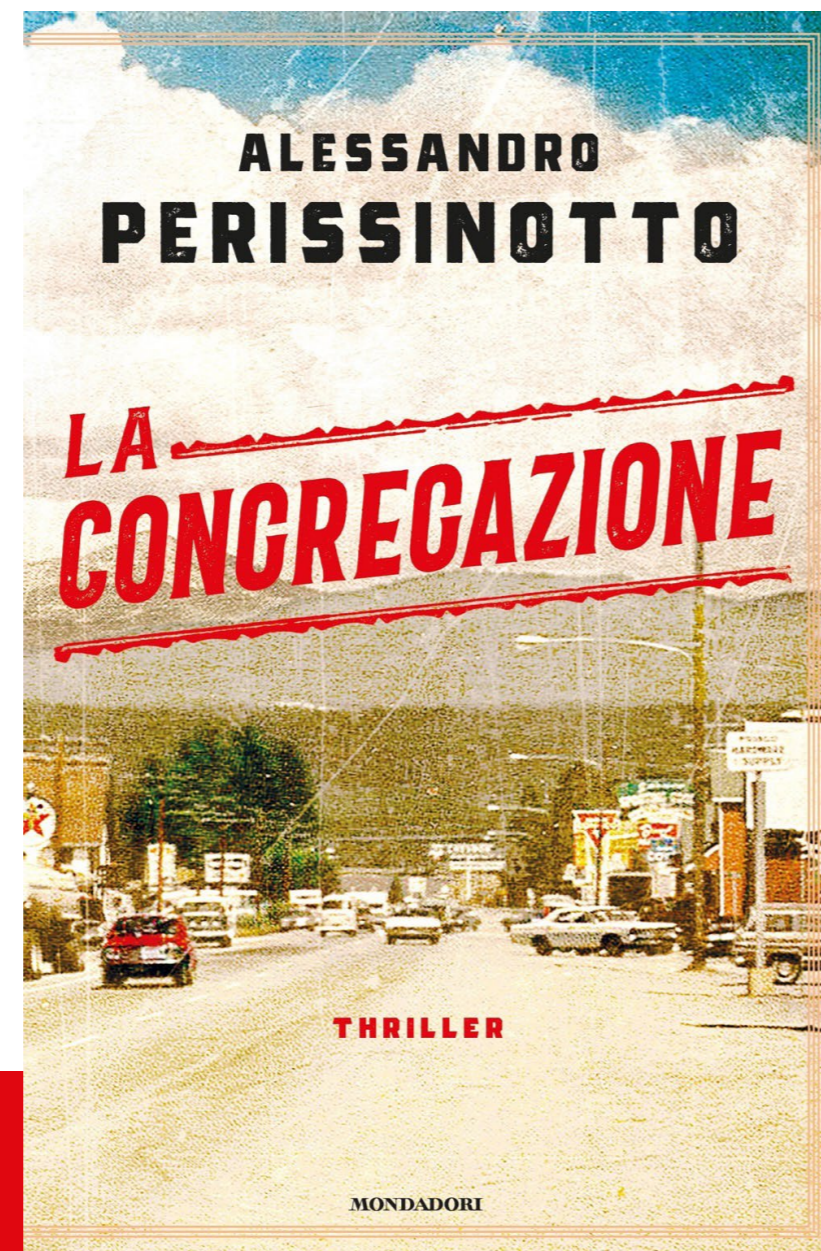
• Germany ▶ C. Bertelsmann

**ALESSANDRO
PERISSINOTTO**

The Congregation

A woman
and her past
impossible
to delete

243 pp | June 2020



Elizabeth is a fascinating and tormented woman in her late forties who occasionally works as a stripper and escort; she ends up in Frisco, a small town a few miles from Denver, Colorado, to serve her sentence of twenty-four months under house arrest. As she begins to settle in the small and seemingly friendly community, she starts receiving small undesirable surprises from an interloper who breaks into her house and leaves postcards in the most unexpected places... Evidently, someone discovered what it took her a lifetime to forget. Elizabeth is one of the very few survivors of the massacre in Jonestown, Guyana, the biggest mass-suicide in modern history. Elizabeth will soon realize that her past has come back to haunt her for finishing the work that History had failed to complete, i.e. killing her.

ALESSANDRO PERISSINOTTO (born in Turin in 1964) published with Mondadori two detective stories set in Estonia *Il treno per Tallinn* and *La neve sotto la neve* under the pen name Arno Saar, translated in France/**La fosse aux ours**, Estonia/**Tänapäev** and Denmark/**Arvids**.

RIGHTS SOLD TO:

• Denmark ► Forlaget Arvids

TEA RANNO

Terramarina

A gorgeous
Sicilian novel on
Christmas Eve

300 pp | September 2020



In a small Sicilian town overlooking the sea Agata, a young and beautiful widow, now the mayor of the community, decides to start a revolution with poetry. It's the first holiday she spends without her husband Costanzo, who though keeps on visiting her as a ghost. The priest suddenly barges into her house with a bundle in his arms: it's a newborn baby who was abandoned on a street corner. From the moment Luce (this is the name given to the baby girl) enters Agata's life, she triggers a domino effect that will transform Christmas in a tornado of solidarity, worries, doubts, and an unstoppable chain of events.

A deliciously whimsical and heart-wrenching novel.

TEA RANNO (born near Siracusa in 1963) lives now in Rome. She is the author of *La sposa vermiglia* (2012), *Viola Foscari* (2014) and *L'amuruzanza* (2019), rights of which were sold to Greece/**Livanis** and Germany/**Nagel&Kimche**.

*"A surprising fairytale that sweeps you away
and whisks you into an ideal world where we'd all
like to live."*

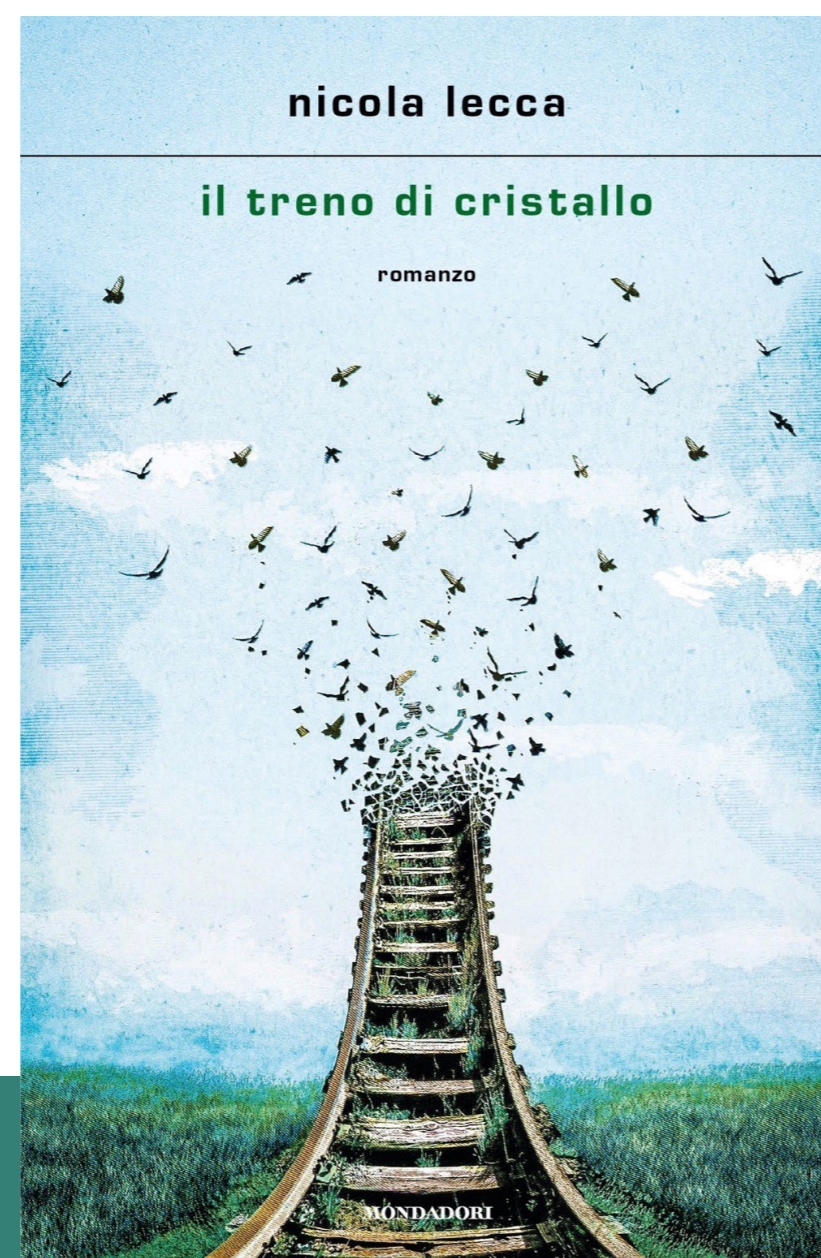
Sveva Casati Modigliani

NICOLA LECCA

The Crystal Train

A thrilling
contemporary
fairy tale

240 pp | January 2020



Broadstairs is a charming town on the English coast where Aaron lives in symbiosis with Anja, his depressed and over-protective mother who hides his father's identity and tells him nothing about Zagreb, the city they fled when he was just a little boy. His relationship with Crystal has been going on for just over a year, but it is only virtual. An unexpected event changes everything. Aaron receives a letter from a notary in Croatia informing him about the death of his father, annexing an interrail ticket to cover the journey to Zagreb to attend the reading of the testament. Ill-equipped and unprepared for life, Aaron faces his little Odyssey and travels to Zagreb passing through Hamburg, Prague, Ljubljana, Bratislava, and Szentgotthárd, finally confronting the world. He will face challenges, risks, and temptations, as well as unexpected encounters and immense beauty.

NICOLA LECCA (Cagliari, 1976) is the author of books published in thirteen European countries and in Brazil, among them *Hotel Borg* (2006), *Il corpo odiato* (2009), *La piramide del caffè* (2013), and *I colori dopo il bianco* (2017).

*"A dense and colorful book in which
the details become extremely important topics."*

Dacia Maraini

ELENA MOLINI

The Little Literary Pharmacy

A delicious read
to lift your spirit

260 pp | January 2020



Blu Rocchini lives in an apartment in Florence with three other young women in their 30s. After years of working for a major bookshop, one day she decides to fulfil a lifelong dream and open her own small, independent bookstore, but with a twist: it dispenses “cures” for emotional ailments via books and turns book into medicine, with dosage and all, to treat people’s souls.

All the while, Blu is trying to find a wonderful man straight out of *The Great Gatsby* with whom she spent an unforgettable night but forgot to ask for his phone number.

A fresh, uplifting and heartwarming story.

ELENA MOLINI was born in 1983 and lives in Florence, where in 2018, after years of working in a major bookshop, she founded the Little Literary Pharmacy (www.piccolafarmacialetteraria.it). This is her first book.

RIGHTS SOLD TO:

- Spain ▶ Maeva
- PR China ▶ Xinhua
- Germany ▶ Diana Verlag
- Portugal ▶ Presença

GIANLUCA GOTTO

The Coordinates to Happiness

Dreams, trips,
and pure life

377 pp | March 2020



“The book in your hands is the story of an exciting and absolutely possible way of life. The story of a kid who, despite not being special, still made a special life for himself. It might not give you the answers you were looking for, but it will prompt you to ask the right questions. In case you might also want to do someday what I did: start following the coordinates to your happiness. I dreamed of a life like this: free. And I felt I could really make it, from the very first day. Maybe that’s what made the difference: believing in it. Always believing in it.”

This book is Gianluca Gotto’s personal story and at the same time the manifesto of a generation of free spirits, dreamers and travellers who aimed to make of their life a unique and marvellous experience.

GIANLUCA GOTTO, born in Turin in 1990, moved to Australia when he was twenty years old, and then to Canada. Now he’s a digital nomad: he shares his life and travel experiences on his blog www.mangiaviviviaggia.com.

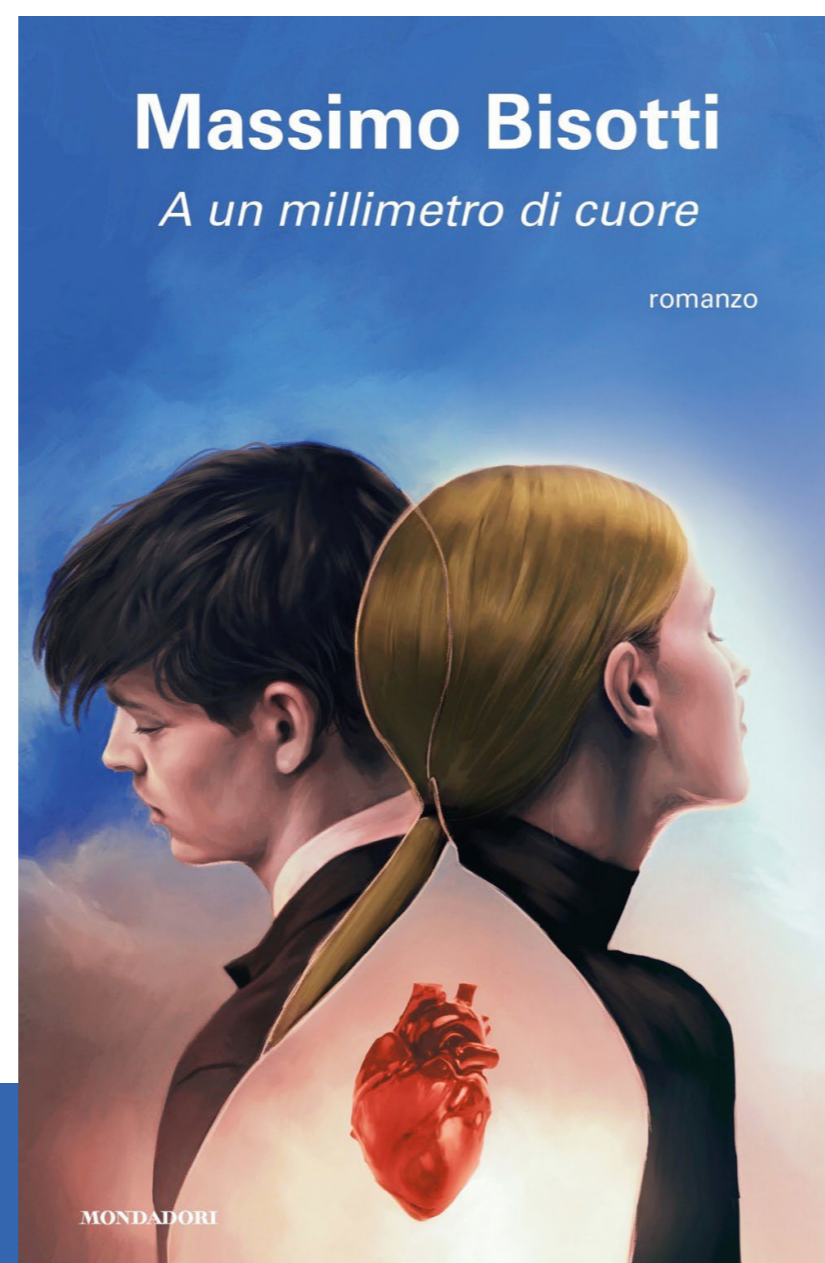
In 2019, he published his debut novel *Come una notte a Bali*.

MASSIMO BISOTTI

A Millimeter From the Heart

A love story that
speaks to all of
our hearts

209 pp | September 2020



“Can you be afraid of being alone and also be afraid of being loved?” That is what Meg is asking herself in the now empty house. Demian, a writer and the man she lived with for the last two years, just left her without any explanations. Meg met Demian while he was in a coma due to a tragic accident. He helped her get rid of her obsession with George Cabot, an imaginary man met in a dream, actually the character from one of Demian’s books. Now that Demian has disappeared, Meg feels bewildered. And a series of bizarre coincidences led her to realize that George Cabot really existed...

MASSIMO BISOTTI was born and lives in Rome. He is the author of inspirational and illuminating bestsellers, such as *Il quadro mai dipinto* (2017) translated in Spain by **Planeta** and in Brazil by **Bertrand**, and *Karma City* (2018).

“I started writing so that my words could heal wounds and be transformed in scars”

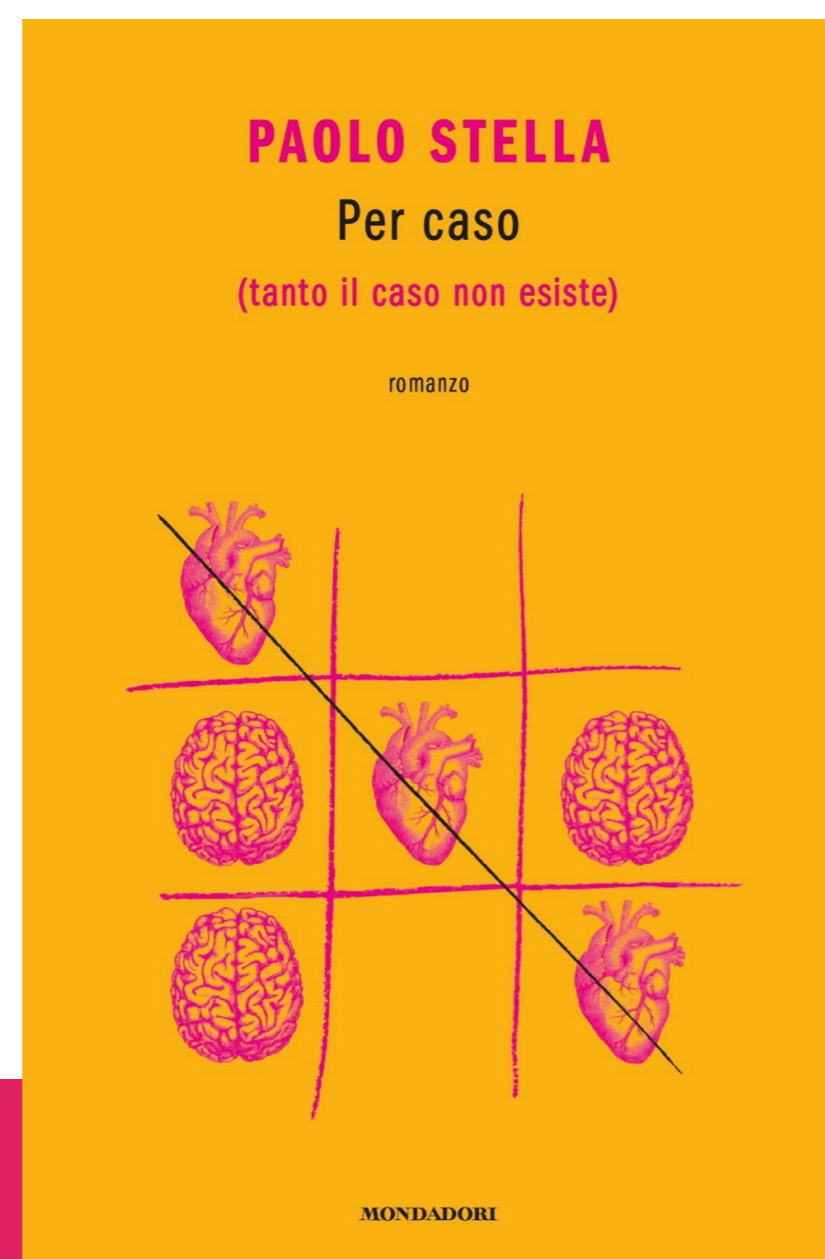
PAOLO STELLA

By Chance

(Chance Doesn't Exist Anyway)

A deep dive into
the mysterious
heart of a person

204 pp | May 2020



Paolo is an eleven-year-old boy with a problem: he can't grow. Despite coming from a relatively tall family, he has to acknowledge that his brother, who is going into first grade, is taller than he is, and he is starting sixth grade. The doors of the department for genetic disorders of Bologna's Sant'Orsola Hospital open up for Paolo. It is a place populated by harmless monsters: adults in children's bodies, kids with an extra limb, hermaphrodites, and people with other problematic conditions and yet in the aisles of this world he explores for the first time a different kind of love, and that story intersects with the life of a thirty-year-old Paolo who is happily engaged.

Paolo Stella, an influencer with the gift of writing, renders with his rich inner voice the peculiar love he experienced and creates a novel that is as intelligent as it is gripping.

PAOLO STELLA (Milan, 1978) is a creative director and one of the top fashion influencers in Italy with an astonishing number of followers on Instagram. In 2018 he debuted with his first novel *Meet me alla boa*.

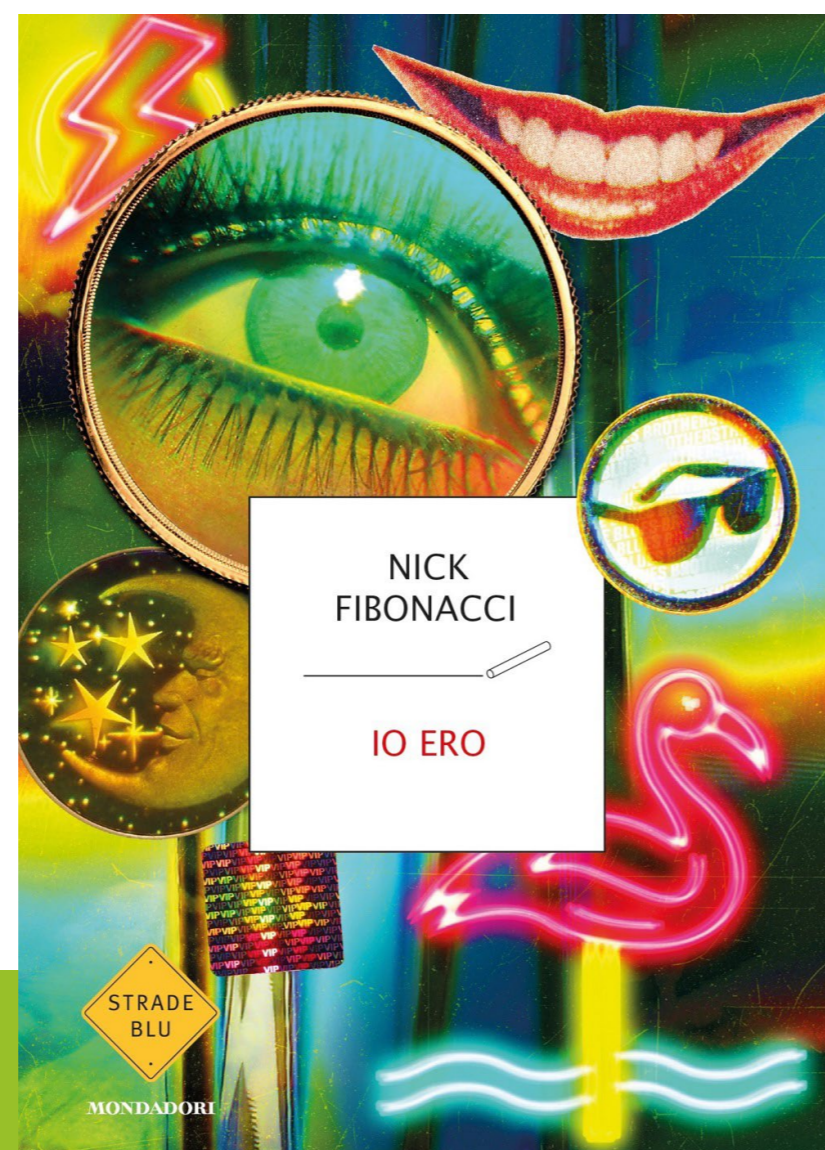
 [paolostella](https://www.instagram.com/paolostella)

NICK FIBONACCI

I Was (an Addicted)

A rollercoaster ride through the artificial Paradise

168 pp | September 2020



A rampant adventure around the world interweaving picaresque and dreadfully brutal episodes without ever relenting to moralism.

The streets of Bologna in the Eighties hide entrances to clubs where everything is allowed, the Riviera is simmering like the California of “The Doors”. Nick is twenty years old and has the adrenaline-packed belief that his destiny is to live at a hundred miles an hour. When he encounters artificial extasy, it’s a revelation: not only is the drug a portable catapult towards omnipotence, it is also an extremely effective social elevator, the key that opens the doors to rich people’s houses and their fancy life. In this whirlwind he soon finds himself importing large quantities of drugs supplying friends, experienced junkies, naïve dreamers and also celebrities.

Nick convinces himself that his star will never set, not even when his house of cards starts to collapse.

NICK FIBONACCI is a pseudonym. The novel’s main character crossed too many borders (geographic, legal, ethical) to reveal his identity. He doesn’t have any unfinished business with anyone, but the intrigues and relationships from those sizzling years advise him to remain anonymous.

GABRIELLA GREISON

I Will Kill Schrödinger's Cat

Quantum physics
explained to
everybody



348 pp | September 2020

This is a novel, the novel of the quantum physics. In her fascinating book, Gabriella Greison tackles the major challenge of turning quantum physics into narrative and makes it accessible to everyone. Alice, the main character, is a 28-year-old woman in the throws of an existential crisis. An imaginary friend comes to her rescue: Erwin Schrödinger. At first, he just exists in a poster hanging on her bedroom walls, but he eventually becomes a permanent fixture in her dreams. The compelling dialogue with the Austrian physicist will spark her passion for quantum physics, which will accompany her through her personal growth.

“Finally a contemporary novel that explains quantum physics to everybody. It was needed. Especially to say that Einstein and Schrödinger definitely won the war against Bohr and Heisenberg”.

Leonard Susskind

GABRIELLA GREISON (Milan, 1976) is a physicist, a writer, a journalist, and an actor. She has been called the “Rockstar of Physics” and is the author of several books.

ENRICO CAMANNI

A Blanket of Snow

The mystery
of a woman
buried in the
snow

280 pp | March 2020



Many believe it is soft and white but, when you are buried under the snow, it is dark like the night.

Nanni Settembrini left Turin thirty years ago to seek refuge in the Aosta Valley, where he has been working as a tour guide and as head of the Alpine Rescue team. One day, while finishing a climb on his first job, he receives a call concerning the second one: an avalanche had taken place and a group of hikers who just dodged death reported that others were not as lucky. Nanni and his team find a woman buried under the snow, still miraculously alive; but there is a disturbing detail: her rope seems to have been cut. Was there someone with her? With the woman in a coma, it is up to Nanni to find answers and discover who was buried under that silent blanket of snow and which mysteries the avalanche has buried.

ENRICO CAMANNI born in Turin in 1957, is an author, a journalist, and a mountaineer, who has created dozens of paths in the Alps. He is a frequent contributor to the newspaper “La Stampa” and the author of many novels.

RIGHTS SOLD TO:

• Poland ► Wyd. Kobiece

FILIPPO VENTURI

Spaghetti Bolognese Don't Exist

A cozy crime
with great food
and humour

230 pp | May 2020



Emilio Zucchini, an unrepentant bachelor and an orthodox disciple of Bologna's culinary tradition, finds himself dealing with a girl who is apparently suffering from some form of food poisoning and entrusts her to the emergency medical services.

A few blocks away, Mirko Gandusio, a.k.a. the Great Gandhi, is devastated after losing both his job as a bouncer and the most serious relationship in his life. He enters Saint Peter's Cathedral and steals the Madonna of Saint Luke out of desperation; the effigy, which is considered the city's symbol, is brought to the Duomo of Bologna every spring before returning to the hills that have been its home for centuries.

The two events are intertwined, and as usual Zucchini finds himself involved in both.

FILIPPO VENTURI (Bologna, 1972) runs a trattoria in the heart of Bologna. In 2016 he started writing for the newspaper "la Repubblica", creating the column "Dietro al banco" in which he reviews the client. In 2018 he published *Il tortellino muore nel brodo*, the first novel in the series of the cook/detective Emilio Zucchini.

MARINA DI GUARDO

In Good Times and Bad

A woman
running away
from a violent
husband



254 pp | November 2020

Irene, thirty-four years old, has been living for a long time as a hostage of her husband Gianluigi, a jealous and violent manager. After the umpteenth black eye and thanks to her friend Alice Irene loads her young daughter in the car and escapes from Milan. She finds shelter in her parents' old house in a small town in the countryside. The woman hopes to put the pieces of her life together again, but Gianluigi tracks her down and orders her to return to the city, threatening repercussions - and not just from his lawyers. Irene starts to lose her nerve, but she discovers unexpected allies in town: an old neighbor, a shopkeeper with a soft spot for her, and her husband's ex-girlfriend who is seeking revenge. Soon, however, some disturbing incidents threaten her fragile serenity. Everything collapses when someone protecting her from Gianluigi is found brutally murdered...

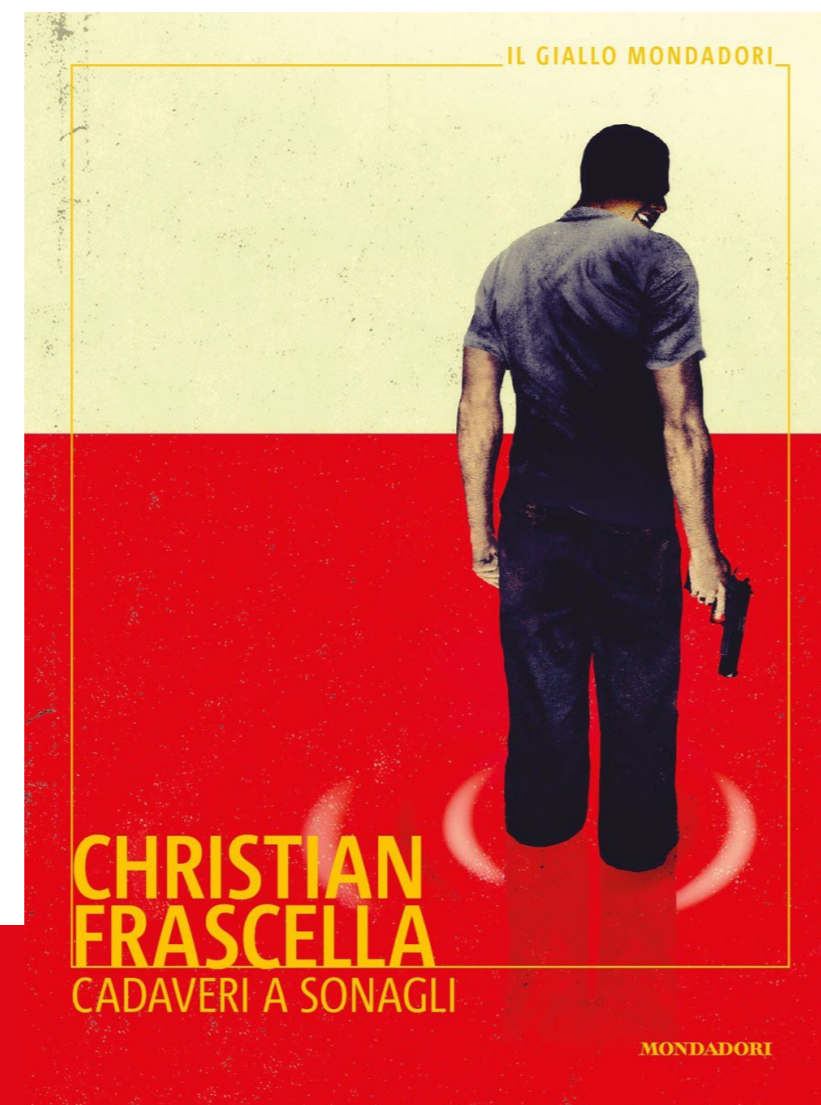
MARINA DI GUARDO (born in Novara in 1961) abandoned the fashion's world to dedicate herself to writing. She is the author of six novels, the latest of which is *La memoria dei corpi* (2019), rights sold to Poland/**Sonia Draga**, Greece/**Livanis** and Brazil/**Alaude Editorial**.

CHRISTIAN FRASCELLA

Rattlecorpses

A cynical and
stunning novel
between crime
and comedy

384 pp | October 2020



Returning home and finding it ransacked certainly isn't on the top of anyone's wish list. Running into your agonizing wife, instead, can turn into a pleasant turn of events, especially if she has a life insurance policy that could solve your money woes forever. And so, Gianni, forty years old and chronically exasperated with the woman he married only out of interest, decides it's time to give fate "a little nudge" and finish what those home intruders started. After dealing with practical matters, misleading investigators and lawyers, Gianni can finally devote himself to the money and spend it on his mistress.

Too bad that the burglars, still at large, already added up two and two, and they now expect their slice of the insurance payout.

CHRISTIAN FRASCELLA (born in Turin in 1973) made his spectacular debut in 2009 with *Mia sorella è una foca monaca*, followed by a long list of brilliant novels published by Einaudi. Among his foreign publishers are **Frankfurter Verlaganstalt** and **Fleuve Editions**.

DARIO FERRARI

The Fourth Version of Juda

A mystery in
the Fruttero &
Lucentini style



329 pp | September 2020

It's a freezing cold January evening in Viareggio. Comforted by a substantial dose of chocolate, Don Tony prepared himself to listen to his parishioners' confessions. That night, however, a murder takes place, rattling the community. There were many people around the crime scene: Doctor Ferri, the conceited gynecologist and objector; Pia, the ever-present gossip with certain inductive insights; a group of teenagers from Viareggio's middle class; a hustler called Franco LaVoce...

The investigation is assigned to Detective Klaus Russo, an aspiring author who interprets his work through the filter of the novels he has read and who dreams of writing. He is accompanied by Agent Carini, a menacing and silent guy, the violent arm of the law. Unwillingly, Don Tony finds himself in the eye of the storm and is thrown into a crisis by a pretty vegan girl who not only criticizes him for his terrible eating habits, but also asks him to hide her while refusing to provide any further explanations.

DARIO FERRARI was born in Viareggio in 1982. He is a translator and a professor in the high school. This is his first novel.

GIGI RIVA

Never Say Goodbye to Dreams

A new form of
slave trade in a
poignant novel

217 pp | September 2020



Life in Senegal can be bitter if you are born in one of the many towns swept by wind and poverty. Amadou grew up surrounded by his family's love; he is fourteen, his heart and mind are full of dreams, the biggest one is playing in Europe where his idols play. So, when two agents approach him telling that he has what it takes to make it in the youths' league of a major French team, Amadou and his parents see their redemption. Since a son in Europe would mean greater economic prosperity for all of them, no one questions the offer not even when the two agents ask them for money to get it all started. Amadou doesn't know it, but what awaits him at the horizon is an Odyssey in which many of his peers have drowned. Will he share the same fate?

His destiny might seem sealed, but no one is stronger than a boy who doesn't want to give up on his dreams.

GIGI RIVA (born near Bergamo in 1959) is a novelist, a screenwriter for film, and currently an editorialist for "L'Espresso". His first novel *L'ultimo rigore di Faruk* (2016) was translated in France by **Seuil**.

LORENZO TOSA

One Step After Another

A journey into
an Italy that
is resisting
degradation

222 pp | September 2020



From Liliana Segre to Mimmo Lucano, the journalist and author Lorenzo Tosa connects the dots of apparently remote stories and composes for us the ideal map of an Italy that is resisting the civil and cultural degradation in which it has fallen, bringing out against all evidence the deepest sense of what it means to be human. It's a collection of stories of men and women, tales of both famous and ordinary people, but they all are lives of ordinary humanity and extraordinary beauty.

"We will be beacons of light in the darkness, compasses on the open sea, men and women marching together one step after another, facing the same struggles as those who fought for our rights before us."

LORENZO TOSA thirty-seven years old, is a professional journalist who in 2019 launched his blog "Generazione Antigone", where he presents the lives of men and women, famous and ordinary, who commit heroic acts or small daily deeds that contribute to creating a better Italy to defend human and civil rights. It is the third most popular web page in Italy.

RIGHTS SOLD TO:

• France ► Radici

MATTEO LOSA

Another Day Together

A heartwrenching
special love story



376 pp | September 2020

Giovanni (J) and Barbara (Barbie) are two eighteen-year-olds who meet by chance in the hospital. He is there for his treatment and she is the daughter of the head of the oncology department. They notice one another, then they meet, they argue, and very spontaneously fall in love. But things between them are not that simple. Giovanni has been fighting cancer for years and doesn't have many expectations about the future; to be honest, he doesn't even have any plans beyond surviving until the next CT scan.

Barbara, always trying to please everybody, spends her days planning every detail of her life: she is eighteen years old and her future is already set in stone. Her father, however, doesn't approve of her relationship with J.

The two lovebirds will have to question themselves and their convictions in order to live without fear and fully experience the extraordinary adventure that is their relationship.

▶ [Link to the book trailer](#)

FILM
RIGHTS
OPTIONED

MATTEO LOSA is a journalist, writer, and photographer who has been personally engaged in a battle against his disease for over ten years. In 2017 he published with Mondadori *Piccole fiabe per grandi guerrieri*.

MICHELE ARENA

How Fires Are Born

A new voice
with a special
sensitivity



337 pp | September 2020

An extraordinarily touching and original voice to narrate the lives of three teenage friends with challenging stories as they try to grow up through thousands of difficulties. The main character (whose name is never revealed) lives by himself with his mother. He has two friends, Ismail (the youngest of five brothers from a Moroccan family, obsessed with girls and a deep hatred for everything that surrounds him) and Rachele (whose father has frequent bipolar crises that nobody can contain, which cause his daughter to both hate and love him).

When the protagonist's mother gets cancer, their lives explode; they look for improbable and fatally disastrous solutions, but each of them ends up starting a small fire of their own.

The story of three teenagers, "different" but "similar" to many others, unfolds between levity and drama, irony and awareness.

MICHELE ARENA works as an educator in the outskirts of Florence. He founded a non-profit writing school for kids called "Porto delle Storie" (affiliated to the organization 826 Valencia created by Dave Eggers).

www.portodellestorie.it

 Porto delle storie

MELISSA PANARELLO

Arcane Hearts

Love,
cartomancy and
a magic Sicily

250 pp | June 2020



Greta is seventeen years old. After losing both her parents, she moves in with her grandmother, a mysterious woman with a passion for cartomancy. When she also dies, Greta is left alone in the world and is entrusted to a family-home. She brings just a few clothes with her and some items that belonged to her beloved grandmother, including a deck of strange cards wrapped in a velvet cloth.

Among the other kids living there, there is also a boy with terrible dark eyes, whom she feels hopelessly attracted to despite his strange behaviour: he is capable of reading into her like no one else before, but nobody seems to know anything about him. Or maybe they are trying to hide something from her? A guy with a cruel destiny awaiting him, and she is the only one who can stand in its way.

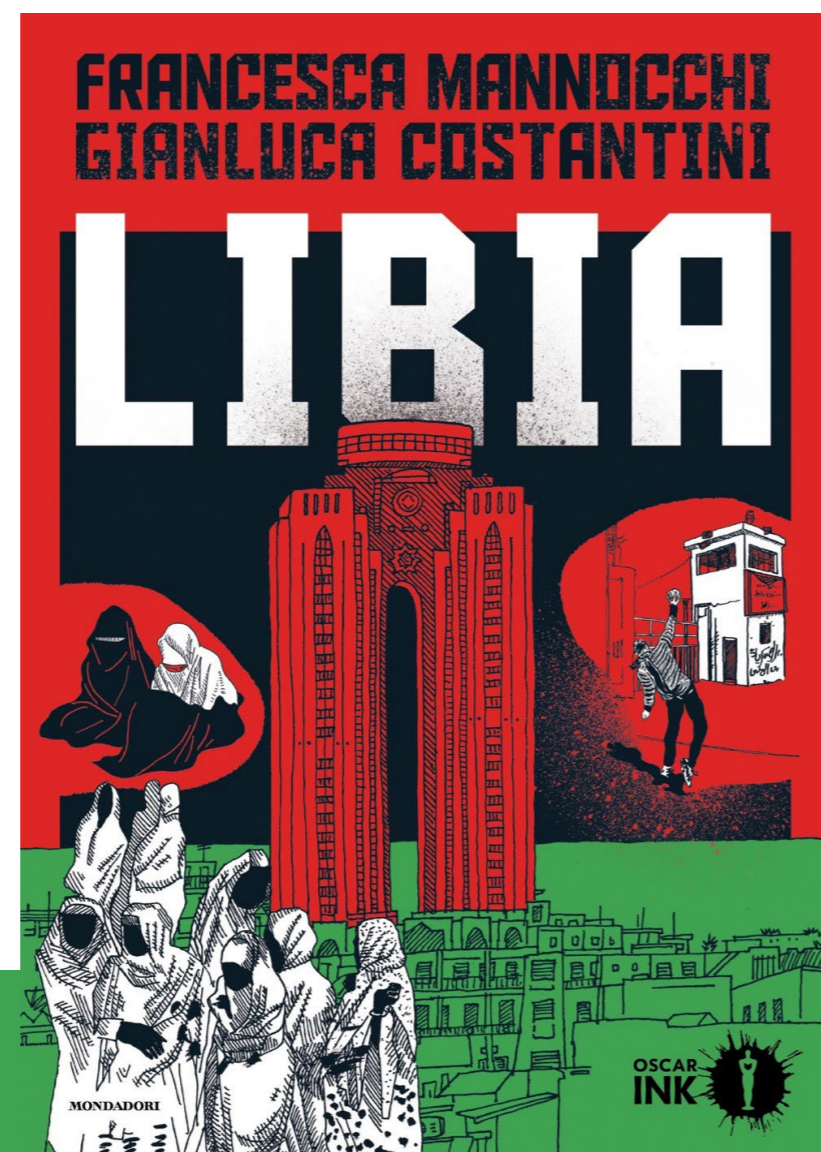
MELISSA PANARELLO was born in 1985 in Catania. At seventeen under the pen name of Melissa P. she published her first novel *Cento colpi di spazzola prima di andare a dormire*, which turned into a massive international bestseller. She has been running the astrology column for the weekly magazine “Grazia”.

FRANCESCA MANNOCCHI GIANLUCA COSTANTINI

Libya

Libya in a
milestone
of Italian graphic
journalism

144 pp | October 2019



This book portrays the Libya of Libyans, among human traffickers, religious fundamentalists, disaffected youths and people nostalgic of the regime. The Libya of people who fought the Ghaddafi regime and now miss him because “at least when he was around” they felt safe, they didn’t have problems with money, electricity, or fuel. The Libya of elderly people who endured decades of dictatorship and constantly look over their shoulders. The Libya of common people who are subjected every day to military extortion, abuses, kidnappings, and live in a constant state of fear. In the words of Francesca Mannocchi and the illustrations by Gianluca Costantini.

FRANCESCA MANNOCCHI is an investigative reporter who reports for prestigious international newspapers (“L’Espresso”, “Al Jazeera”, “Middle East Eye”, “Stern”).

GIANLUCA COSTANTINI is a human rights activist who placed his artistic talent in the service of important humanitarian causes collaborating with Action-Aid, Amnesty and Emergency. He received several awards for his artistic and humanitarian work, including Amnesty International’s Art Award.

RIGHTS SOLD TO:

• France ▶ Rackham

ALDO CAZZULLO

To See Again the Stars

A book on Dante
and the birth of
Italian identity

278 pp | September 2020



Aldo Cazzullo re-writes the Divine Comedy as a novel and re-constructs Dante's journey into the Inferno word by word. At the same time, he also describes Dante's other journey, the one through Italy, with frequent incursion in history and current events.

So his reinterpretation of Dante's *Inferno* reveals its modernity or, rather, its eternal contemporaneity. One Canto after another, Cazzullo retraces Dante's journey, comparing the eminent poet's fourteenth century reality with our present times. It is a real expedition through our country, where vices and virtues are always the same, those of a population long divided by wars and foreign conquerors, who struggled to find its identity and its unity.

"That is Italy's extraordinary feature compared to other nations. It wasn't born out of politics or war. It was born from culture and beauty. It was born from Dante and the great writers that came after him."

ALDO CAZZULLO (born in Alba in 1966) is a special correspondent for the newspaper "Corriere della Sera". His immensely popular essays on Italian history and identity have sold more than one million copies.

LUCA FEZZI

Caesar

The early life
of the great
leader



215 pp | September 2020

With his steady hand, Luca Fezzi traces the personality and psychological profile of the young Caesar, who was obfuscated even in ancient sources by the splendor of his later greatness, both military and political.

Who was Caesar? The nephew of Gaius Marius, who lost his father at a young age. He also married at a young age. He was politically persecuted and had an alleged affair with a much older Asian monarch. He was a mysterious military *plebeian* tribune, an ambitious *quaestor*, a suspected conspirator, and a *pontifex maximus*. As a *praetor*, he was accused of complicity with Catiline, but was also a paladin of civil rights. He was a loving father, a betrayed husband, an extraordinary lover, and so much more.

So this book doesn't speak about the great Roman emperor as charismatic orator, conquering general and powerful dictator but cover lesser-known chapters.

LUCA FEZZI is an associate professor of Roman history at the University of Padua. He has written several books, including *Il dado è tratto. Cesare e la resa di Roma* (2017), which was translated in France by **Belin** and in the UK by **Yale University Press**.

DANIELA LUCANGELI

With Mind Alight

How to help kids
create their best
possible world

215 pp | September 2020



Daniela Lucangeli has been working for years on understanding how to help children in need, kids with neurodevelopmental and learning challenges, but also kids who are suffering, struggling, and feel misunderstood. Her work consists in helping them bring out their neurological, psychological, and behavioral potential and establishing with them a connection made of reciprocity and human understanding. Daniela Lucangeli tells some of these children's stories in her book, because science and life aren't enclosed in different compartmentalized areas: they are intertwined. That is how you help create the best possible world for these kids, so they can find in themselves through someone else the strength to be the best version of themselves.

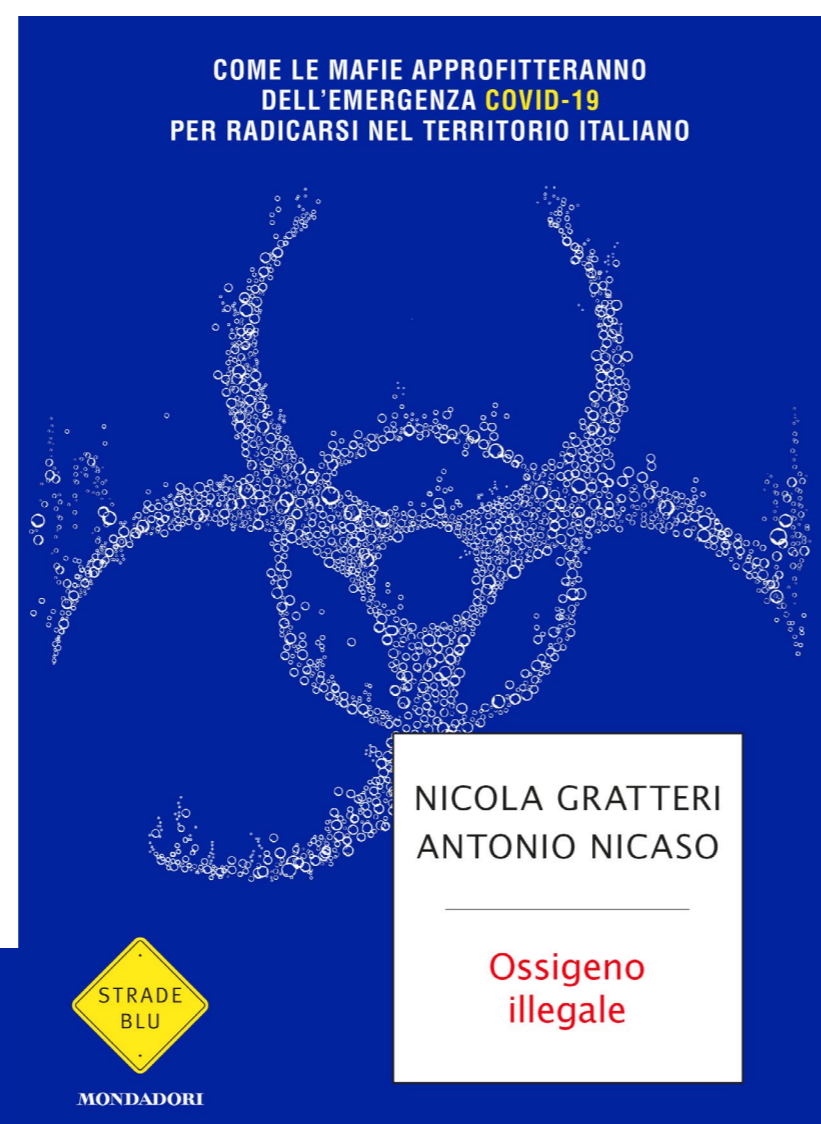
DANIELA LUCANGELI is a tenure professor of developmental psychology at the University of Padua. She wrote several books and is a member of the International Academy for Research in Learning Disabilities (IARLD). Her classes are available online on the Facebook page "[Daniela Lucangeli Official](#)."

NICOLA GRATTERI ANTONIO NICASO

Illegal Oxygen

The Covid-19 emergency represents a great opportunity for organized crime. As a matter of fact, there are concrete risks: not only will mafias take advantage of the liquidity crisis experienced by companies and sidelined workers by injecting their dirty money at loan-shark rates; they will also intercept the funds destined to relaunching the country in the absence of regular controls and a mapping of the sectors at risk. The authors explore how mafias will seize this crisis as an opportunity to launder money, create new avenues in the economy, and root themselves in the strategic sectors in Italy.

The hands
of mafia on
the Covid-19
Emergency



156 pp | Dicembre 2020

NICOLA GRATTERI is Italy's leading prosecutor in the fight against *'ndrangheta*.

ANTONIO NICASO is one of the world's foremost experts on *'ndrangheta*.

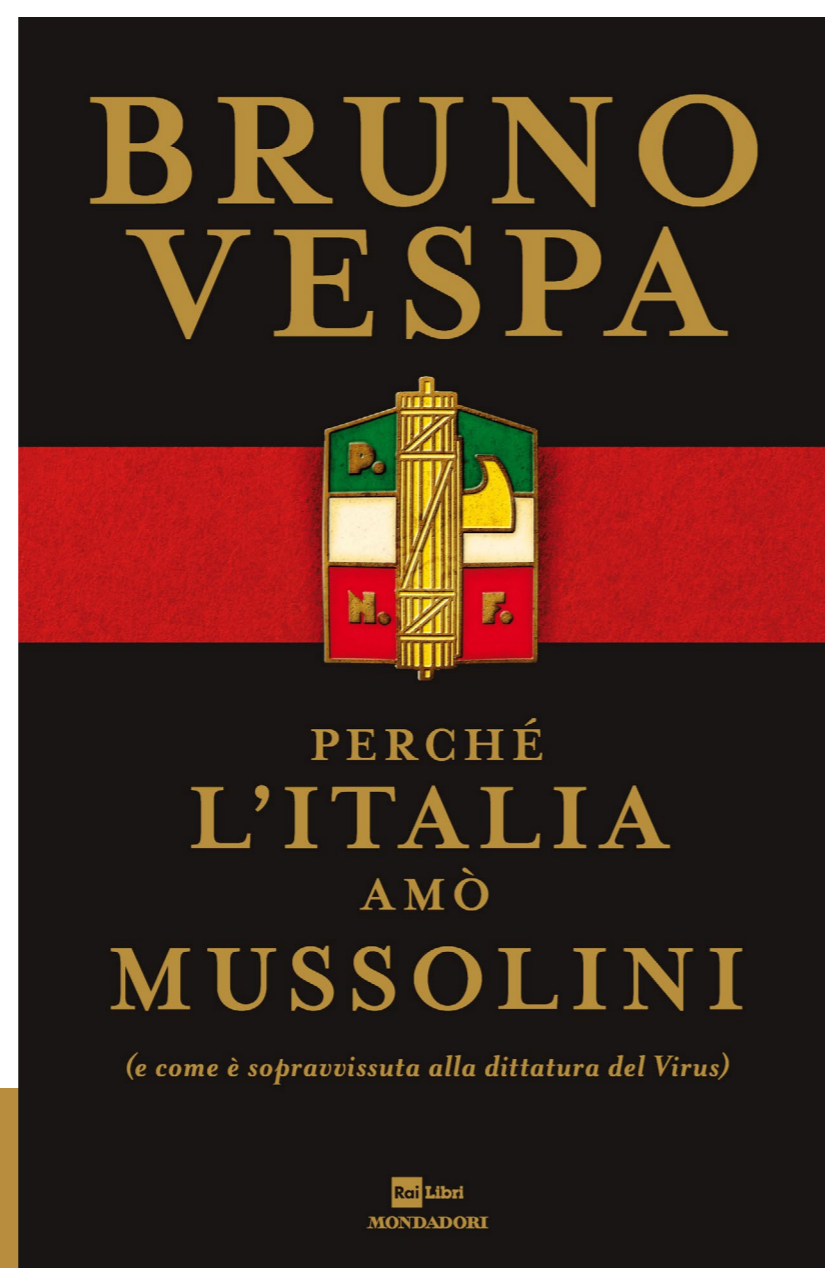
Both of them have received threats. Gratteri has lived under police protection since 1989. Nicaso was forced to leave Italy and has been living in Canada since 1990. They co-authored a long list of bestselling essays. Among their foreign publishers: **PRH, La Martiniere, Lebowski, Avliga, Ikar.**

BRUNO VESPA

Why Italy Loved Mussolini

An intriguing
essay combining
history and
current events

408 pp | November 2020



Bruno Vespa returns with a new book discussing fascism, from its rise to the years of its affirmation. Matteotti's assassination, the totalitarian state, the one-party system, its grip on Italian society. The cult of Romanism and autarchy, the Battle for Grain, the disastrous imperialistic campaigns, and its descent into war. On June 10, 1940, Mussolini announced that Italy would join the war from his balcony overlooking a crowded Piazza Venezia; eighty years later, that same square (along with the rest of the country) was completely deserted when everything went on lockdown because of the Coronavirus. Two squares. Two dictatorships. When the fascist dictatorship and the war ended, no one could imagine that we would have to undergo other ones, even more universal and relentless. Against an invisible and unknown enemy. How did Italy fight and survive? What wounds will it suffer because of it? What transformations will the Coronavirus make to our society, our economy, and our politics?

BRUNO VESPA (L'Aquila, 1944) has been running since 1996 the TV show "Porta a porta", the most watched talk show on politics and current affairs in Italy. He published with Mondadori a long list of bestselling essays, giving his many readers a chance to better understand the delicate political and financial situation in Italy.

MARIO CALABRESI

What They Don't Tell You

A story that was
never told

250 pp | November 2020



Marta's father disappeared before she was born, he didn't even have the chance to know that his girlfriend was pregnant. Marta was born eight months after the day her father was swallowed by the vortex of terrorism. Marta never asked about him for forty-five years, but we can't live with ghosts forever: there will always come a day when we have to deal with our memories, even the most painful ones. She therefore decided to approach Mario Calabresi and asked him "Can you help me discover who my father was?" He accepted and together they started the journey to find some traces of a young man who lived suspended between two worlds, between downtown and the outskirts, between medical research and revolutionary sirens, between sports cars and a desire for social justice. As they dug through the memories of a Milan where the past is still present, they managed to pick up the threads of a story that was never told.

MARIO CALABRESI (born in Milano in 1970) has served as a managing editor of the Italian daily "la Repubblica". He is the author of the bestseller *Spingendo la notte più in là* (2007), the powerful and deeply moving *memoir* about his father, a police inspector killed by terrorists in 1972 (rights sold to **Gallimard, The Other Press, Debate, Schirmer&Graf**).

ILARIA CAPUA

The Aftermath

30.000
copies sold

The Virus
That Forced
Us to Change
Mindsets

ILARIA
CAPUA

*Il virus che ci ha costretto
a cambiare mappa mentale*

DOPO

MONDADORI

135 pp | May 2020

In this illuminating book, Ilaria Capua tries to explain the essential issues around pandemics to the public trying though to maintain scientific integrity and also trying to explain to people why these viruses should be respected. This pandemic is an epocal event we have to learn from, to head toward a future less in a hurry, with less cars, less ping-pong air travel, and more online meetings. We need to plan a virtuous existence with Mother Nature because we would go extinct without her; she is the one who will save us, and she is telling us that we can't keep on carrying on the way we have thus far and is also giving us advice on how to plan for a new world. There's a lot of room for improvement and for exploring new areas in professional life and the author dedicates a special space to women because this could be the time that women actually make their way where they deserve to be.

▶ [Link to the book trailer](#)

ILARIA CAPUA is a veterinarian by training. She led several research groups and laboratories in Italy and abroad for over thirty years, focusing on animal diseases transmitted to humans and their epidemic potential. She also spent three and half years as a member of Italian Parliament In 2008, *Seeds* named her one of the top “Revolutionary Minds” for her sharing the data on viruses and supporting of open-source science. She is currently the Director of the One Health Center of Excellence at the University of Florida.

FEDERICO RAMPINI

History's Construction Sites

TEMPTATIVE
COVER

How do you
start over after
a major crisis?



204 pp | November 2020

How do you start over after a major crisis? What recipes could create a miracle?

The history of people and nations is studded with disasters, which are often followed by regenerations. As we navigate through a major crisis, Federico Rampini's latest book revisits some historical regenerations and draws precious conclusions from them. He accompanies us on a journey through History that goes from the Great Depression in the United States, passing through Japan (that was defeated twice by the US and also struck by nuclear disaster) and the Europe that was reconstructed by the Marshall Plan, and going all the way to the nuclear disaster in Fukushima and the Tienanmen Square protests in Beijing, that crushed the dreams of a generation, but they also paved the way for the Chinese tiger to take its first leap. A journey to better understand our present times and to deal with the challenges of the future.

FEDERICO RAMPINI lived in Beijing for several years and is currently working as the New York correspondent for the Italian daily "la Repubblica". He has taught at the universities of Berkeley and Shanghai. He is the author of a long list of brilliant essays, widely translated. Among his foreign publishers: **Laffont**, **Dokoran**, **Presença** and **Galapagos**.

DIEGO PASSONI

We Are All in the Same Ark

A personal interpretation of the Bible, a book that still speaks to our hearts



264 pp | November 2020

“I’d like to present you with a challenge. Start reading with me the most sold and least read book in the world: the Bible. I read quite a bit of it when I used to go to the oratory as a kid, and then later on when I was in a religious community on a trial basis. It was many years later, however, that I started reading it from the beginning, a little bit a day, every day. As time went by, I realized that the Bible doesn’t provide answers, but it inspires us to ask many questions. Because those who wrote it didn’t want to offer us a determined truth, they wanted to instill in us the desire to search for it.”

With his original and entertaining voice, Diego Passoni accompanies us through the Book of Genesis, the first book in the Bible, showing us how it still speaks to our hearts nowadays. A book that invites us to ask ourselves who we are and what is the meaning of our ride on this planet. *“We are here, together, for what little time we have at our disposal. We are not individual rowers competing against each other on a placid lake. We are in stormy open waters and, above all, we are all on the same ark.”*

DIEGO PASSONI (born in Monza in 1976) hosts a very popular radio show every day on Radio DeeJay. In 2019 he published his first book *Ma é stupendo*.

ALBA DE CÉSPEDES

The Secret Little Book

A little gem
with echoes
of Ferrante



250 pp | November 2021

Originally written in 1952, *Quaderno proibito* is still striking for the modernity and relevance of its themes.

Until Valeria began confiding her secret thoughts and feelings to a little black book, she never suspected how dissatisfying she had become with the shabby gentility of her bourgeois life. Suddenly she realized that her individuality was being stifled by the demand of her own high standards of devotion and duty to her husband, her daughters and her son. What goes on behind Valeria's respectable *façade* – the conflict between the parents and children, husband and wife, their friends and lovers – is gradually unfolded.

Told with realistic shrewdness and compassionate insight, the reader feels a sense of recognition of the universality of human relationship. The author can do a woman's interior dialogue like no one else, it reads like an intimate confession that leaves the reader shaken.

ALBA DE CÉSPEDES (1912-1997) is one of the greatest novelists of XX century, author of massive bestsellers such as *Nessuno torna indietro* (1938) and *Dalla parte di lei* (1949).

RIGHTS SOLD TO:

- Germany ▶ Suhrkamp
- US+UK ▶ Pushkin Press

FRUTTERO & LUCENTINI

No Fixed Abode

A masterful
work, a
beautiful story
of love and
mystery



304 pp | November 2019

Originally published in 1986, *L'amante senza fissa dimora* has never gone out of print and has been since then continuously reprinted. The setting is Venice. The month November. The length of the adventure three days from the arrival on a flight to the departure on a steamer. She is an elegant Roman princess who scouts for one of the English large auction houses. He is a fascinating mysterious man of undetermined age, the group leader of tourists. But who is he really? Around them the canals and the lagoon of Venice, which becomes a character into the novel unto itself. Written with elegance and wit, this is an atypical, sophisticated, elaborated novel of love and mystery.

FRUTTERO & LUCENTINI (or F&L) was the usual way for Carlo Fruttero and Franco Lucentini to sign their joint work, including bestselling and celebrated novels, among them *La donna della domenica* (1972), turned into a movie with Marcello Mastroianni and Jacqueline Bisset, *A che punto è la notte* (1979) and *Enigma in luogo di mare* (1991), widely translated abroad.



www.librimondadori.it

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