

**MONDADORI**

**Spring  
Rights  
List**

**2021**





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# FERZAN OZPETEK

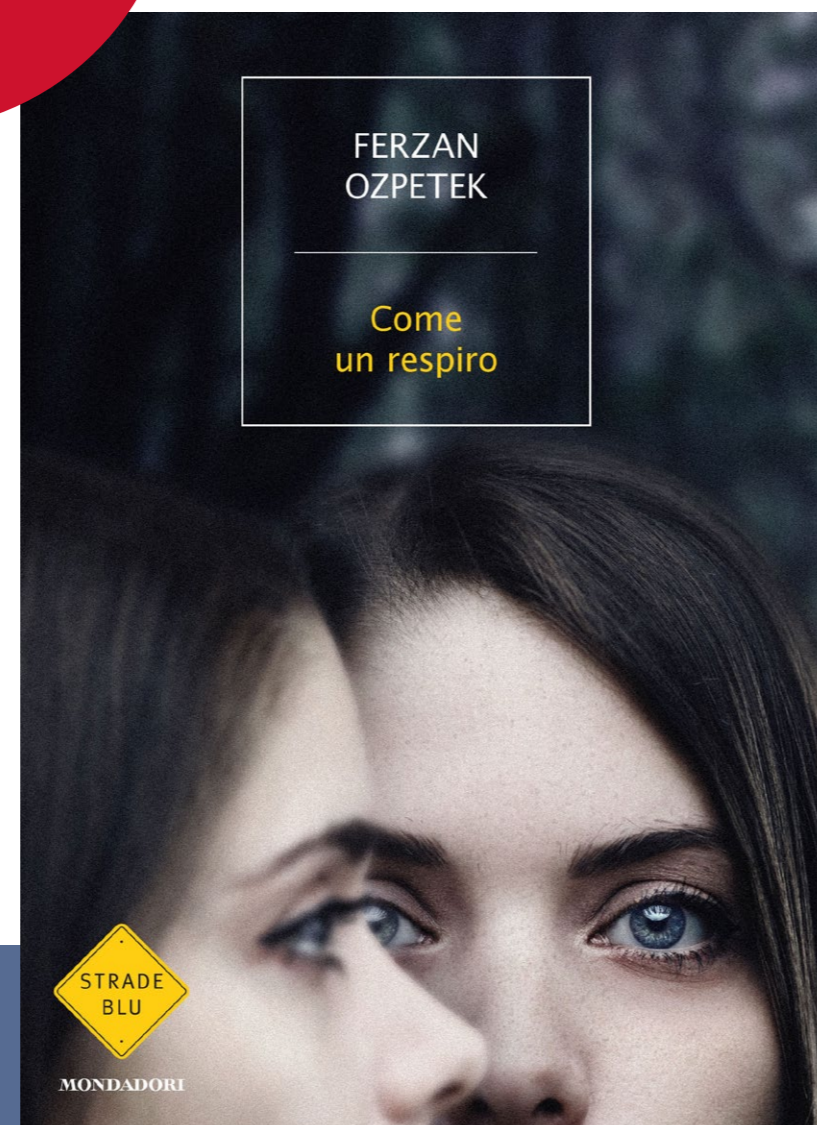
## Like a Breath

200.000  
copies sold

▶ Book trailer

A touching and  
twisty short novel  
about memory  
and regret in Rome  
and Istanbul

155 pp | April 2020



On a Sunday morning Sergio and Giovanna have invited their best friends for lunch. While waiting for their guests, a stranger arrives at the door and asks to see the house. Elsa explains that she and her sister once lived there and that she came all the way from Istanbul. In her bag she carries a bundle of old letters to her sister Adele. All the letters were returned, unopened. Who is Elsa, that strange woman? Why didn't Adele open her letters? What explains Elsa's fascination with an ordinary kitchen window? In alternating chapters, we learn of the lives of the two sisters – and about the rift that separated them five decades ago. The book alternates Elsa's unread letters with Adele's present-day recollections. Only at the end do we understand how the two sisters, once in love with the same man, responded to an identical trauma in very different ways.

**FERZAN OZPETEK** director and screenwriter, born in Istanbul and living in Rome, is the author of the bestselling novels *Rosso Istanbul* (2013) and *Sei la mia vita* (2015).

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# ALBA DE CÉSPEDES

## On Her Side

A novel-  
manifesto  
written by  
a feminist icon  
in 1949

500 pp | March 2021



Originally published in 1949, it's the very intense and powerful portrait of Alessandra, of a passionate love story and of a murder, of resignation which turns into rebellion. Rich in emotional strength, it captivates the reader all the way to its tragic end. Alba de Céspedes was recently praised by Elena Ferrante as one of her literary models in her workbook *La frantumaglia* where she dedicates pages to *Dalla parte di lei* (“a text of great literary intelligence”, “marvellous pages and a catalogue of the relations among women”) and confesses that while writing she loved reading “encouraging books” that could make her great company, and lists *Dalla parte di lei* among others.

Afterword by [Melania Mazzucco](#).

**ALBA DE CÉSPEDES** (1912- 1997) is one of the greatest novelists of XX century, author of massive international best-sellers such as *Nessuno torna indietro* (1938) and *Quaderno proibito* (1952).

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# ALDO CAZZULLO

## To See Again the Stars

150.000  
copies sold

An intellectual  
feat that will  
leave you  
astonished



278 pp | September 2020

Aldo Cazzullo re-writes the Divine Comedy as a novel and reconstructs 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 "*sets off frolicking in Florence and Italy's streets at the time of Dante Alighieri as if it were the neighborhood where he currently lives.*" (Giampiero Mughini)

"*This book is not only informational, it is a brilliant attempt to formulate a popular language, which, in the times of the omniscient ignorance of the Internet, can speak to the minds of the general public and captivate them in spite of their attention deficit.*" (Claudio Gallo, La Stampa)

**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.



# DARIA BIGNARDI

## Today I'm Playing Hooky

40.000  
copies sold

A luminous novel  
on abandonment,  
handled with a  
lightness that glides  
on a sort of innocent  
maturity

197 pp | November 2020



After being abandoned by her husband without an explanation, Galla spends her days sitting on the sofa, thinking of throwing herself off the balcony in order to escape her unbearable pain. When she finally takes a trip to Munich, she discovers the paintings by Gabriele Münter, the German painter and Kandinsky's partner until he left her abruptly.

From that moment on, Galla starts hearing a Voice: Gabriele's. She accompanies her, tormenting her, making her feel like a fool, and telling her about her long story with Vassily Kandinsky.

Galla's path crosses with the destiny of two patients under the same therapist: Bianca, a seventeen-year-old who can't go to school anymore, and Nicola, who constantly seduces one woman after another in an attempt to forget Rosa.

They are all looking for a way to escape their pain, and the unexpected consequences of these encounters might change their lives.

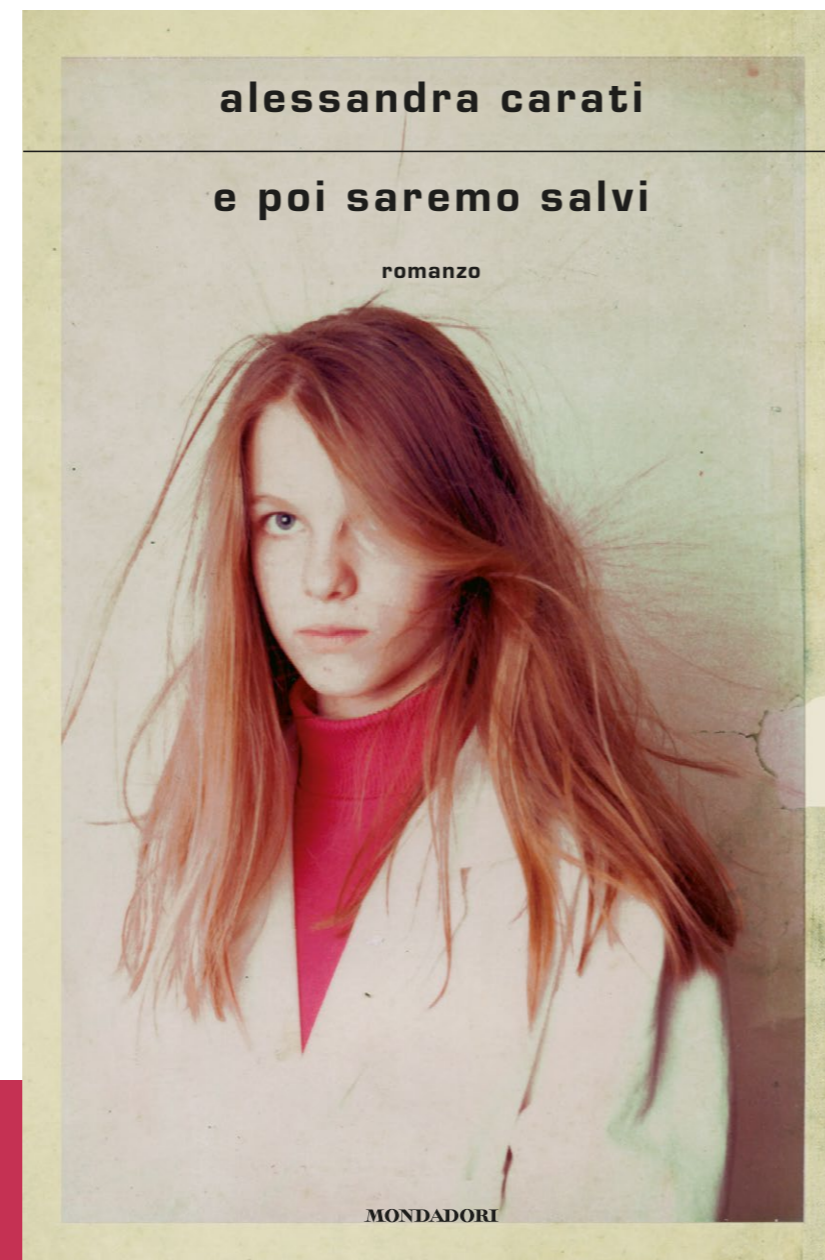
**DARIA BIGNARDI** (born in Ferrara), journalist, made her literary debut in 2009 with the novel *Non vi lascerò orfani*, a poignant literary sensation with over 100,000 copies sold. It was followed by other novels, among them the bestsellers *L'amore che ti meriti* (2014) and *Storia della mia ansia* (2018), widely translated abroad (Spain/**Duomo**, Albania/**Dudaj**, Turkey/**Kirmizi Kedi**, Brazil/**Bertrand**, Serbia/**Evro**, Germany/**Insel**, Russia/**Corpus**, Poland/**Evro Urban**).

# ALESSANDRA CARATI

## And Then We Will Be Safe

A girl running  
away from a war and  
her tenacious search  
for a personal  
*Heimat*

211 pp | April 2021



Aida is barely six years old when she flees her home with her mother. It is April 1992: the war is about to tear through the small Bosnian village where she was born. Thanks to a combination of savviness, unexpected help, and luck, Aida makes it to Milan and here she grows up quickly, in a foreign country, raised in the pain and confusion of that forced relocation, which overturned the lives of her parents and her entire family, in Italy and in Bosnia.

Even the arrival of her brother Ibro can't put their time back in order. As the years go by, she realizes that the subtle nostalgia affecting her parents is an incurable disease: the house they stubbornly cling to and dream of returning to no longer exists. Tenaciously and alone, she finds a path to become an adult, at the cost of cutting herself off from her roots (abandoning her family and getting adopted by an Italian couple) and its atrocious consequences (her beloved brother's mental illness).

**ALESSANDRA CARATI** (40 years old) works in Milan as an editor and screenwriter. She lent her pen to Danilo Di Luca and Daniele Nardi for their best-selling books *Bestie da vittoria* (Piemme, 2016) and *La via perfetta* (Einaudi, 2019).



# GIANLUCA NATIVO

## Anyone Passing By

A sentimental  
education in  
Naples

216 pp | January 2021



Pierpaolo is twenty years old. He is an only child who lives with his parents in Naples. His father made his money dealing in speculations on the fringes of legality and gained a prominent position in the area. Pierpaolo is in his first year of med school, he is a good student, dedicated and methodical. He never went very far with girls and just realized that he is gay.

It is five in the morning, Pierpaolo is parked outside of his home with a friend he likes and one of them might be on the verge of coming out. Suddenly, the moment of intimacy is violated by the flashing blue lights of the police and he sees his father in handcuffs being led out of the building.

His own outward drive however prevails, pushing him to explore the city, sex, and love. It is the beginning of an increasingly audacious exploration of himself and his desires: he meets dozens of men in the streets of Naples, with encounters as exciting as they are disappointing. And hiding among them is the revolution of first love and maybe the hope of a different life from the one that other people imagined for him.

**GIANLUCA NATIVO** was born in Mugnano di Napoli in 1990. His short stories have been published in magazines and lit-blogs. He lives in Milan, where he teaches Italian in middle schools.



# GIUSEPPE CULICCHIA

## Time to Live with You

The story of a  
young terrorist,  
who was the  
author's cousin

151 pp | February 2021



Walter Alasia was twenty years old in 1976. He began his militancy at a very young age when got involved with Lotta Continua and then joined the Red Brigade. On the night between December 14 and 15, the police raided his parents' house to arrest him. He opened fire against the officers, killing two people. He then tried to escape but was gunned down by the police.

Culicchia was eleven years old at the time. Walter was much more than a cousin to him: he was the older brother he looked up to with admiration. He couldn't wait to spend the summer holidays with him, he was the one who taught him how to play basketball, who would put him on the handlebar of his bicycle, who drew cartoon characters for him. He was a role model.

In this brief and lean memoir, Culicchia reconstructs what he knew of Walter when he was a child, searching through his memories for the seeds of what would come to be. There is no victimization, there is no rhetoric, there is only an eleven-year-old's need to understand who the cousin he loved so much was, combined with the lucidity of a great writer who waited forty years to gain the awareness to tell this story.

**GIUSEPPE CULICCHIA** (born in Turin in 1965), a former bookseller, made his literary debut in 1994 with the hit *Tutti giù per terra*, translated in 10 languages and re-mixed in 2014. His last novels are *Essere Nanni Moretti* and *Il cuore e la tenebra*, both published by Mondadori.



# PAOLO NORI

## Still Bleeding

A heartbreaking,  
unforgettable  
portrait of Fëdor  
Dostoevskij

288 pp | April 2021



A novelised biography of Fëdor Dostoevskij, but at the same time a kind of autobiography of the author himself and of all the great number of readers, who were captured by Dostoevskij's world and couldn't leave it.

*“Raskolnikov, the main character from Crime and Punishment, at a certain point asks himself: “Am I like an insect or like Napoleon?” Well, back when I was fifteen years old, I also asked myself that question: “What about me? Am I like an insect or like Napoleon?” I had a distinct feeling that book, published 112 years ago, opened up a wound in me that is still bleeding. Why? This book explores the incredible romanticized life of Fëdor Michajlovič Dostoevskij, an engineer without calling, a translator humiliated by his publishers, an aspiring revolutionary sentenced to death, pardoned, sent to Siberia, and then readmitted to Saint Petersburg, an incompetent and desperate player, a husband completely in love with a stenographer twenty-five years younger than him, a man with insignificant looks, old even when he was young, a sick and confused man who managed to die at the peak of his biggest success. Through the novelistic life of this man, these pages endeavor to become a novel by simply seeking to answer that question: Why? Why is that wound still bleeding?”*

**PAOLO NORI** (born in Parma in 1963), a degree in Slavic Studies, is the author of a long list of essays and novel, among them *I russi sono matti* (2019) and *Repertorio dei matti della letteratura russa* (2020). He also translated works by Puškin, Gogol', Turgenev, Tolstoj, Cechov, Dostoevskij.

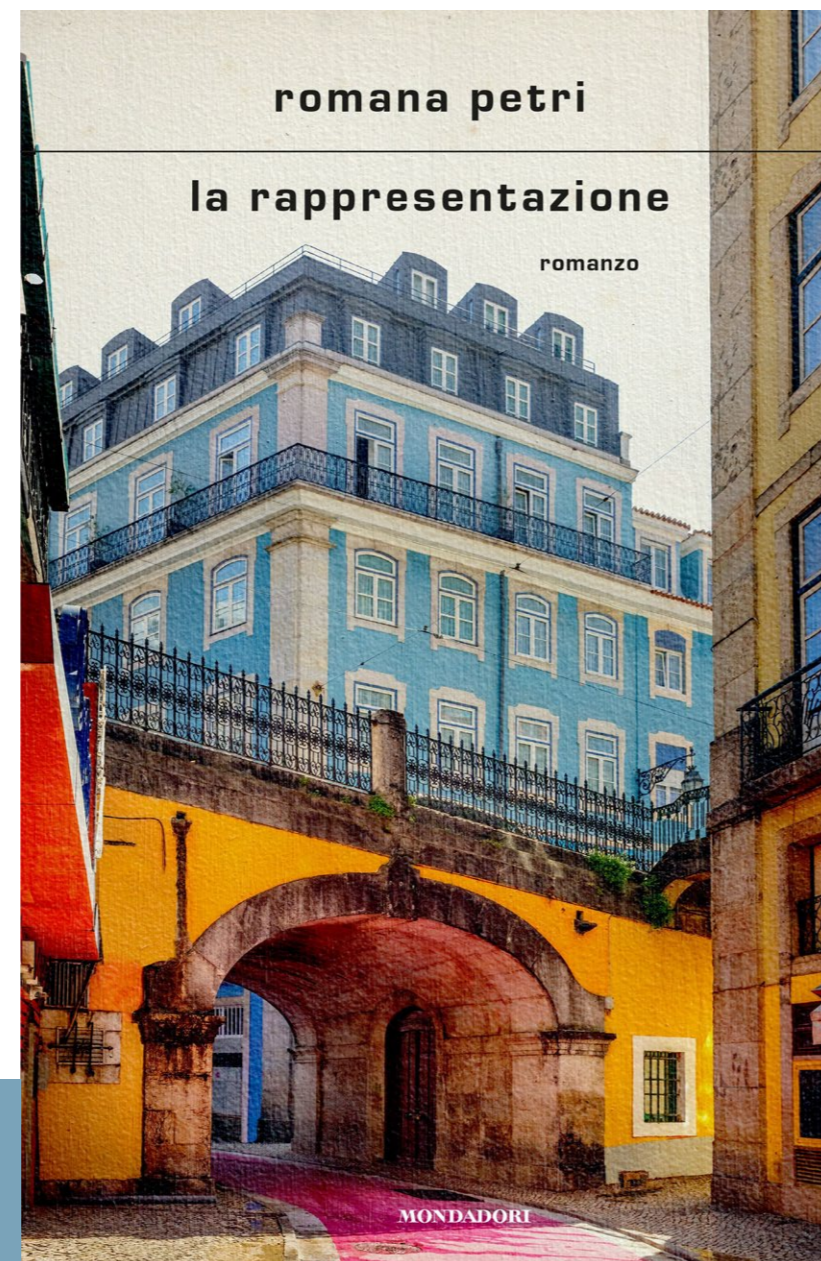


# ROMANA PETRI

## The Performance

A dazzling  
portrait of  
a family and  
its labyrinths

398 pp | May 2021



*“Romana Petri can look inside families and portray them like labyrinths where everyone gets lost, no exception. She is a writer who knows every detail of the characters she creates, making them credible, alive, with the concise elegance of a composition that stems from facts and uses them to come to terms with secrets and memories.”*

Nadia Terranova

After the exhibition in which Albertini portrayed her husband’s entire family, the couple is forced to move to Rome. Those “scribbles” irritates the family but Albertini doesn’t care, she hated those Sunday family lunches. A clever art dealer from Milan turns her into a hit. She is now a rich and famous artist. Too bad that after that famous exhibit in which she mocked his family, Vasco becomes a jealous and resentful partner and, after his sister’s mediation, he leaves Albertini and reconciles with his family returning to Lisbon. Albertini asks him what their love meant to him, he simply replies: “a performance.” When she receives an invitation sent by a British gallery owner, she thinks about how her relationship with Vasco had started in a similar way: with an invitation to create a small art show in Lisbon. London, Lisbon. What a bizarre thing. What to do?

**ROMANA PETRI** lives in Rome. Editor, translator and literary critic, she is the author of a long list of novels, that received multiple awards and have been widely translated abroad.

This novel is the third instalment in the saga that started with *Ovunque io sia* and continued with the widely acclaimed *Pranzi di famiglia* (both published by Neri Pozza).



# ANGELO MELLONE

## In the Best Families

A ruthless  
portrait of human  
relationships

288 pp | March 2021



“On the afternoon of December 24, the doors of the emergency room of Cortina’s hospital burst open. In comes a stretcher with a kid on it, followed by his father.”

This is the beginning of a great family romance, a fine bourgeois novel that keeps us enthralled by the protagonists’ destinies as the endless hours of the emergency room go by. A lucid, heart-rending, and ruthless portrait of our society and our human relationships.

The stories of Piero Cornetti and his family, so contemporary, so universal, will melt away one page after another as all the main characters wait with bated breath to hear about Denis’ fate. He is one of the children of Piero Cornetti and Elisabetta Pignatelli, first married, then divorced, and always part of Rome’s high society.

**ANGELO MELLONE** (Taranto, 1973) is a journalist, author, and section chief at Rai. He is the author of several books of essays, news reports, and theater projects. *Nelle migliori famiglie* is his fifth novel.

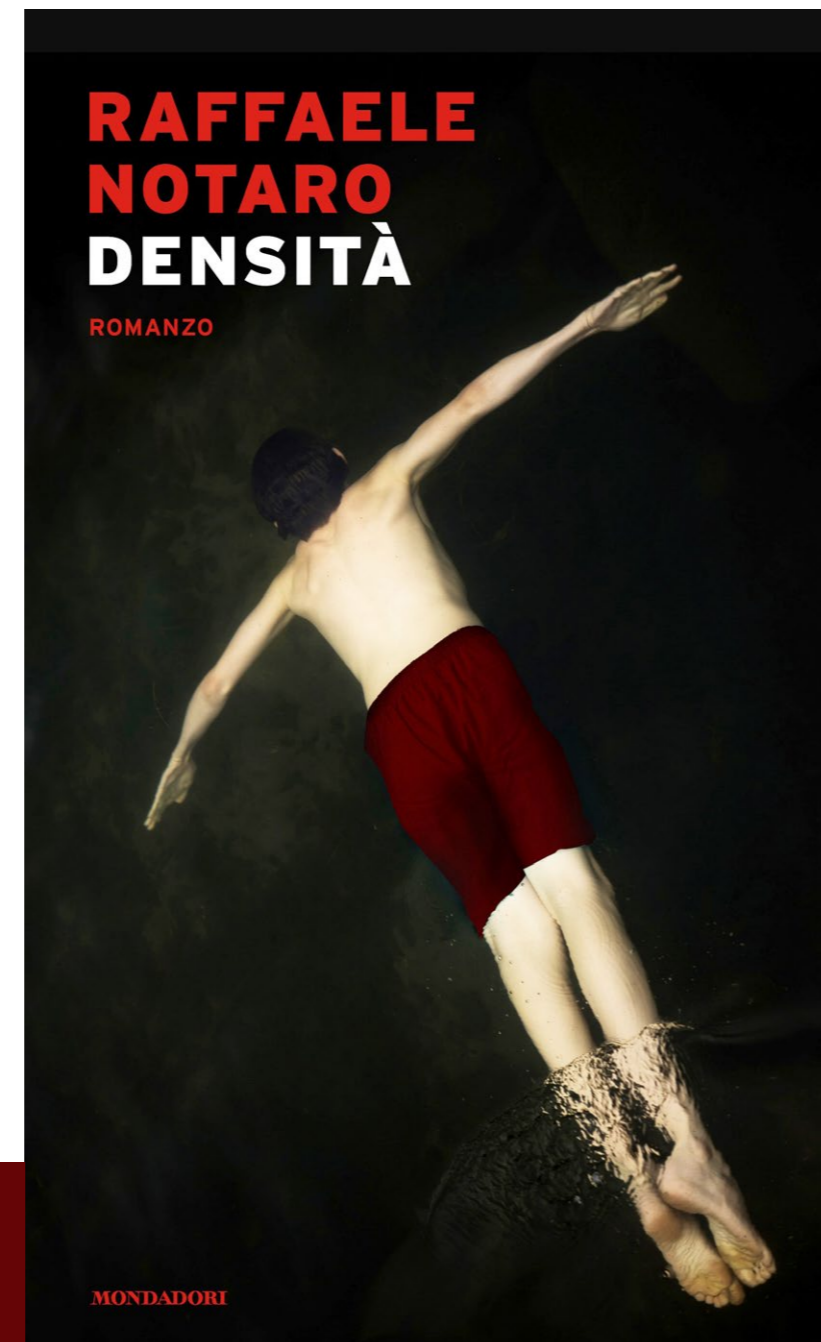


# RAFFAELE NOTARO

## Density

An inexplicable  
suicide

240 pp | April 2021



Filippo, a promising local swim champion, just killed himself by jumping in one of the empty pools of the sports complex where he trained.

Everyone is baffled by his death. They start looking into the kid's connections, including his strange friendship with Gabriele, a mediocre athlete, reclusive, with clear learning disabilities. What could the two of them possibly share? During the funeral, Gabriele explodes in an outburst and makes a series of wild accusations: what did he really see on the day of the suicide? And why does the pool's janitor accuse him of causing his friend's death by pushing him after an argument?

It will be up to Lorenzo and Sonia (Filippo's longtime rival and the girl who was in love with him) to get close to Gabriele and try to reconstruct with him the meaning of that tragedy so they can all move on.

**RAFFAELE NOTARO** (born in 198) lives in Rome. He is a copywriter, an editor, a content creator, and the author and presenter of the podcast *Le Bookoliche*, in which he discusses publishing and storytelling. His short stories and essays have been published on literary magazines. *Densità* is his first novel.

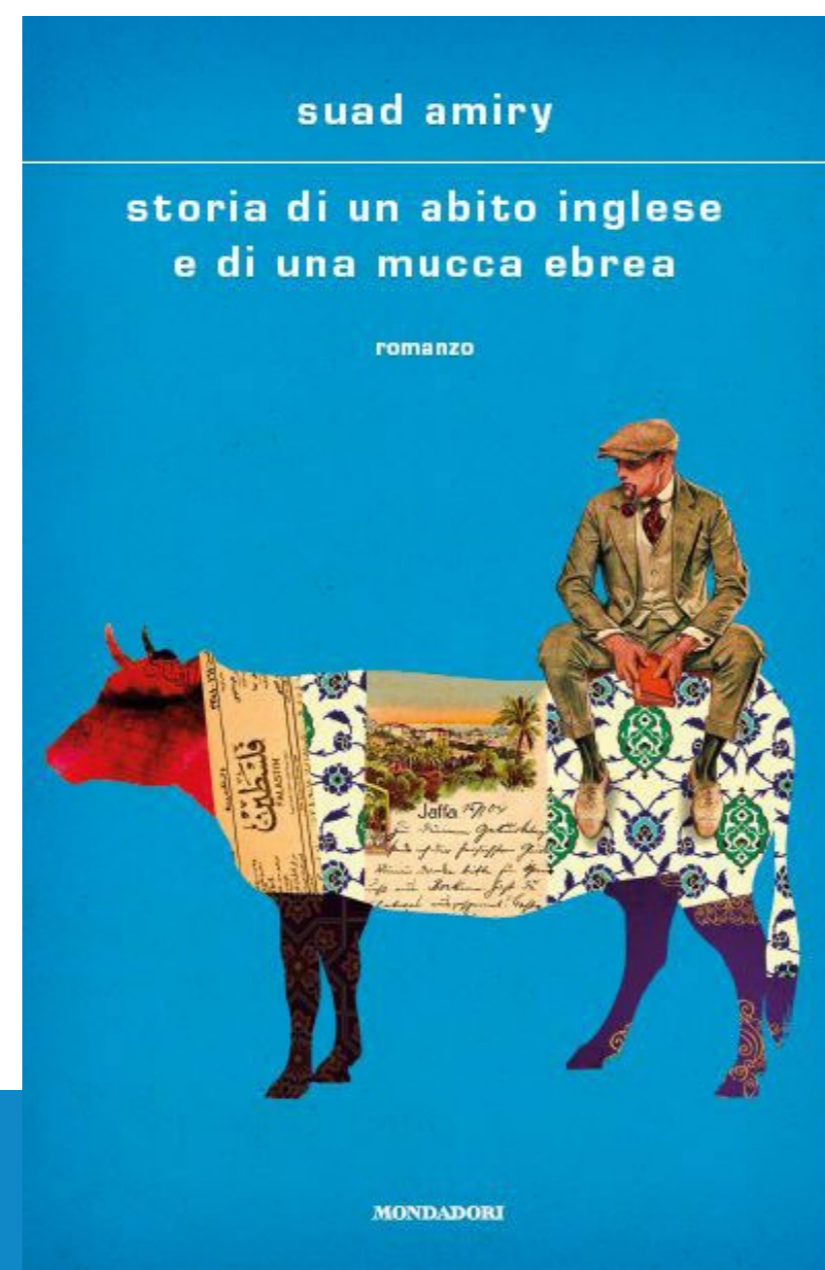


# SUAD AMIRY

## An English Suit & a Jewish Cow

A promise of love and one of the most lesser-known pages of history

235 pp | June 2020



Palestine, 1947. Jaffa is a lively city of merchants, cafés, crowded streets, facing the sea on one side and fragrant orange groves on the other. Subhi is a kid who dreams of becoming the Best Mechanic in town. After repairing an irrigation pump for a wealthy businessman, he receives a tailored English suit made of Manchester wool. Subhi gains a new sense of confidence with that outfit and daydreams about wearing it (despite the heat) to impress the girl of his dreams, the beautiful Shams.

But times are hard for love stories. The British just declared the end of their mandate in Palestine; Israeli forces bombard Jaffa, occupy it, and turn it into a ghost town. With the accords breached, hundreds of families flee, and their homes and orange groves are expropriated. In this theater of chaos and death, Subhi and Shams lose track of one another.

**SUAD AMIRY** is a Palestinian writer and architect who founded the Riwaq Centre for Architectural Conservation in Ramallah, where she lives. She is the author of several novels (all published by Feltrinelli). She was awarded the Premio Internazionale Viareggio Versilia in 2004 and the Nonino Rist d’Aur in 2014.

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# FEDERICO BACCOMO

## What is There to Laugh About?

Film rights  
optioned

The story  
of the young  
Jewish comedian  
who challenged  
Nazism



306 pp | January 2021

Berlin, 1930s. Erich, a Jewish boy who lost his mother, has a dream: he wants to tread the boards of cabaret theater. He is a step away from achieving it and also has the loving support of Anita, the girl he's always been in love with. Just when everything seems to be looking up for him, World War II breaks out and he is forced to flee the country. He moves to Amsterdam, but the Nazis soon take over the Netherlands. They capture Erich and send him to a prison camp, where he starts putting on cabaret shows with some of his old scene partners. After an insubordination, however, he is sent to Auschwitz as a punishment. He is exhausted and running on empty when a camp guard recognizes him from a show he had seen back in Berlin and forces him to perform for his tormentors. Erich would do anything to see the love of his life one last time, and she just so happens to be in the same concentration camp.

An exemplary tale inspired by many tragically real stories.

**FEDERICO BACCOMO** made his writing debut in 2009 with the novel *Studio illegale*, which was turned into a movie in 2013. He then followed it with several more books.

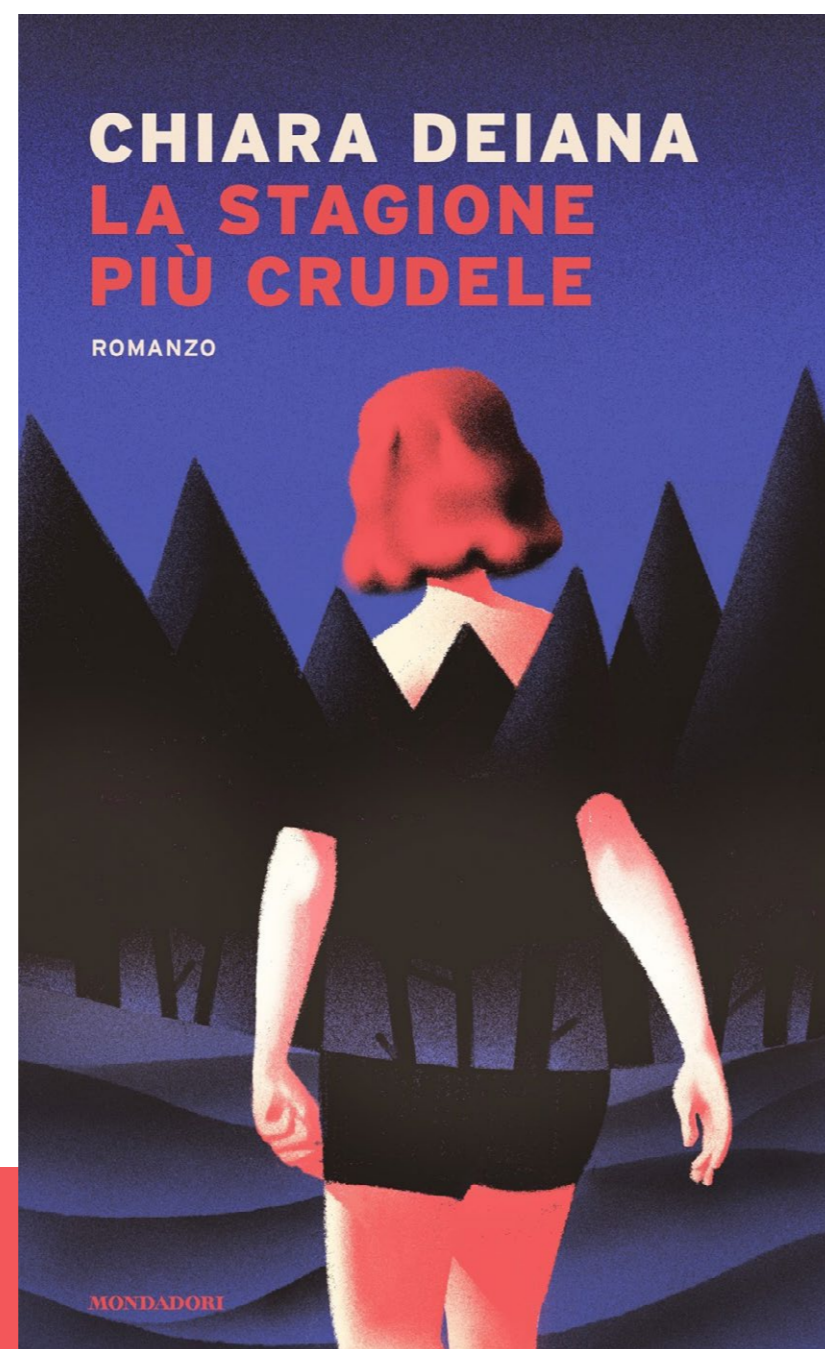


# CHIARA DEIANA

## The Cruellest Season

A sweet,  
sad tale about  
friendship and  
growing up

213 pp | February 2021



It would seem like a summer identical to all the previous ones: Asia is in the countryside with her grandmother and her father, a place where they go every year. There she will find her best friend Matilda and lots of books to read.

One day, Asia finds a naked dead body in the woods out. She is twelve years old at the time and her childhood crumbles in her hands. She struggles to confess the discovery to her father and the silence expands creating a rift between her and the adults. The body in the woods becomes an obsession and she slowly starts fostering a sense of protection toward it that pushes her to go back to the woods.

When Matilde arrives, Asia is convinced she will find an ally in her, but the friend is repulsed and afraid.

**CHIARA DEIANA**, born in 1989 in Trieste, has a degree in neuroscience and lives now in Milan, where she works as an editor. This is her first novel.



# GIORGIA LANZILLI

## A Flower Always Blossoms

An unforgiving disease, the end of dreams, and the unstoppable rebirth of life

250 pp | April 2021



Agata is twenty-nine years old and her dreams are coming true: she has a store that is well under way, and she found love. One day, as she is heading to meet a client at the entrance of her beloved fabric shop, she falls. It seems like it is only a broken foot, but further tests reveal a shocking verdict: brain cancer. Can life change from one moment to the next and take a new direction after what seemed like a simple loss of balance? For Agata it does.

All of a sudden, the only fixed point in her life is her long-time friend Nicole, who seems to have it all: accomplished, head over heels for her young daughter Eva, but on the outs with her husband Federico. And then there is little Eva, who is only six years old: through her eyes, the world still seems full of wonder and surprises.

As every certainty crumbles around her, Agata throws herself in a series of passionate one-night stands. Yet, destiny might still have something in store for her: a new love, a blossom of hope for the future. The important thing is believing that anything can happen and never stop trusting in the power of emotions. Never.

**GIORGIA LANZILLI** lives in Pescara with her husband and two children. Her Facebook page has over a hundred-thousand followers. Her book *Leggimi tra vent'anni* was published by Mondadori in 2017.

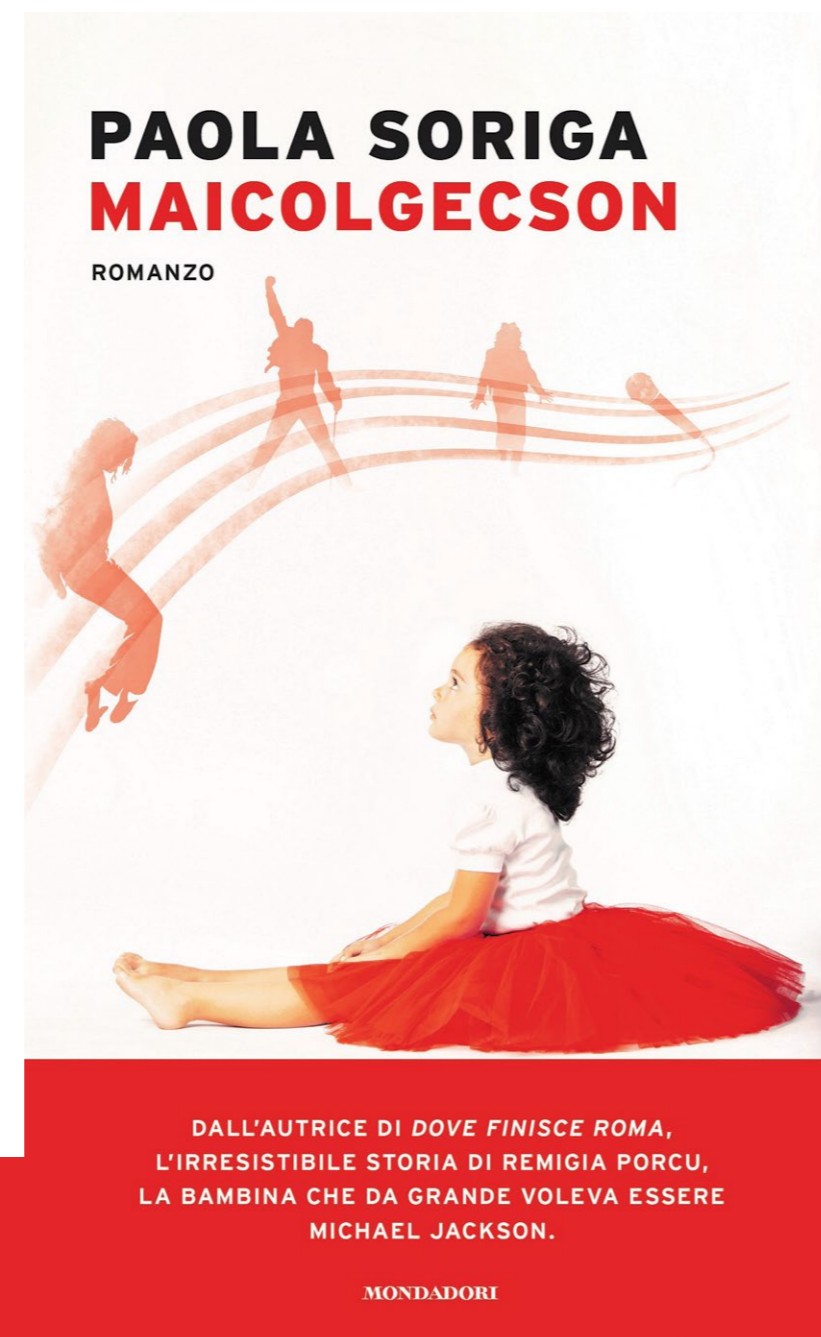


# PAOLA SORIGA

## Maicolgecson

The irresistible story of the little girl who aimed to be Michael Jackson

200 pp | May 2021



Little Remigia Porcu, born in 1980 in a small town in the hinterland of Sardinia, is an only child, but also the youngest among her very many cousins (or *didini* in Sardinian dialect).

Because of her dark skin and curly hair as fine as steel wool, her older *didini* Stefano and Gina immediately nickname her Maicol Gècson. Her classmates make fun of her for the same reason, calling her Moroccan and telling her she was adopted.

Remigia nurtures a dream of singing and dancing. She listens to Michael Jackson, Freddy Mercury, and her cousins' other musical idols. She willfully manages to get her parents to sign her up for singing lessons and eventually participates in a TV show for young singers. Because of a regrettable incident that happens to the host, however, that episode goes down in history as her Great Failure. A few years later she has the chance to redeem herself on prime-time television show. Having regained her courage and thanks to her first requited love, she will undertake the incredibly selective process to get into a dance academy...

**PAOLA SORIGA** was born in Sardinia in Uta (near Cagliari) in 1979. She made her literary debut in 2012 with *Dove finisce Roma* (Einaudi), which was translated in several languages. Her last novel was *La stagione che verrà* (Einaudi, 2015).



# EMANUELA FONTANA

## The Angels' Breath

The frail  
and free life  
of the violinist  
and composer  
Antonio Vivaldi



310 pp | June 2021

The enthralling novel of Antonio Vivaldi's life : a real rollercoaster of highs and lows. Born in Venice in 1678 in a large family with little means, he was a red-headed child, frail and sickly. He suffered from a respiratory disease that would accompany him for his entire life, and nobody expected him to live past the age of three. Instead, he survived and became a violin virtuoso at a very young age, studying music with brothers Benedetto and Alessandro Marcello. He was forced into priesthood when he was a child, gaining the nickname of "red priest," but he couldn't do away with music, so he kept on writing, becoming a librettist and a composer of concerts and operas. And it was in the theater that he met the only important woman in his life, the singer Anna Girò; they had an ambiguous and contentious relationship, and she inspired him to compose some of his most famous concerts, like *The Four Seasons*. He performed and was a guest at the most prominent courts in Europe, but he also fell out of grace several times. He ended up dying poor and unrecognized in Vienna, and was then forgotten for over a century.

**EMANUELA FONTANA** has been living in Rome for several years where she works as a journalist for *Sole 24 ore* and *il Giornale*, among others. This is her first novel.

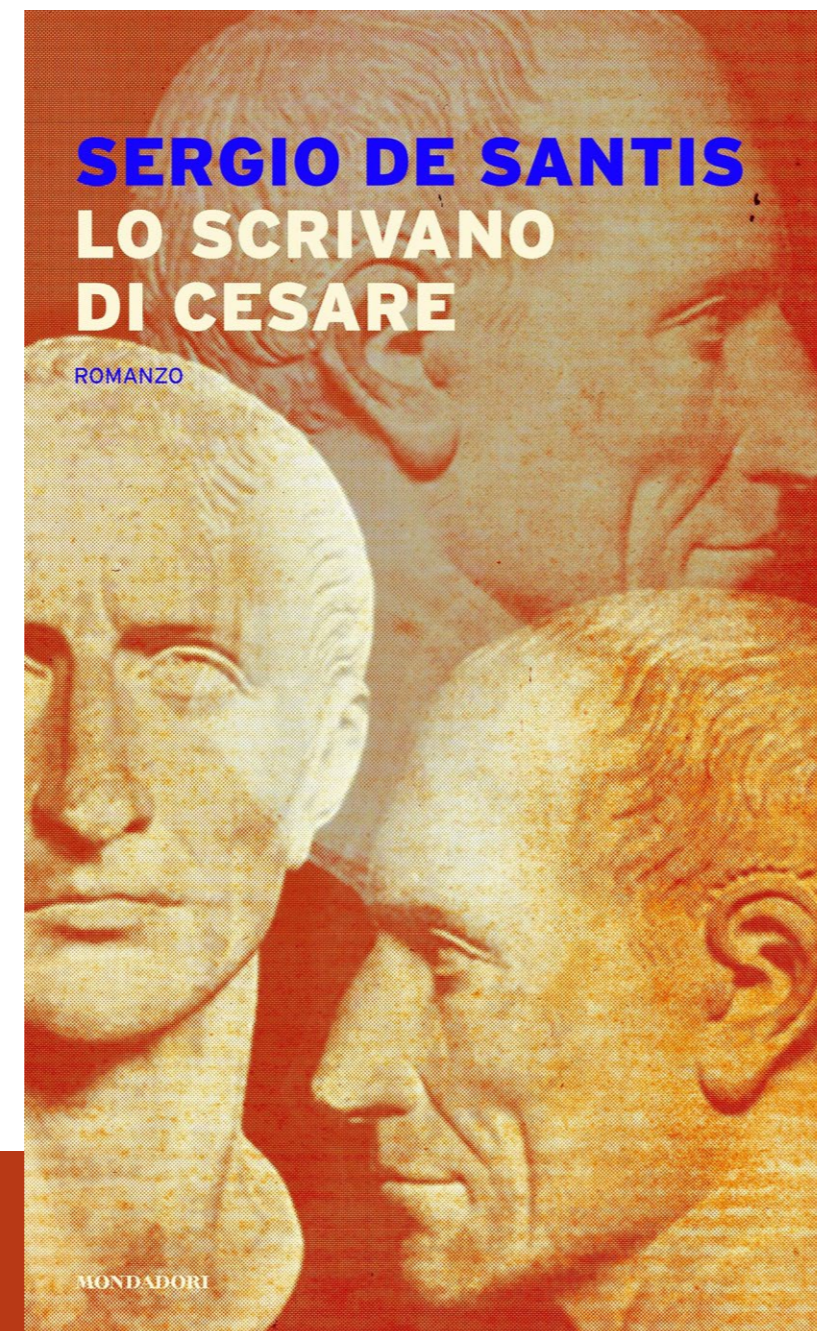


# SERGIO DE SANTIS

## Caesar's Scribe

A highly  
informative and  
highly readable  
story

240 pp | May 2021



Aristocles grew up in Rome, where a couple of wealthy merchants bought him as a slave and a playmate for their son, a dimwitted bully nicknamed “Piglet.” The son’s tutor takes a liking to Aristocles, who learns how to read and write splendidly. He is barely twenty years old when he manages to free himself from slavery and receives a recommendation from his tutor that allows him to get employed by Caesar as his scribe. He admires his courage and strategy but he also can’t help but notice the vanity and mystifications, the unscrupulousness with which he re-elaborates facts.

Aristocles’ life changes once again in a surprising way when he is sent to Piacenza to visit an old friend of Caesar’s. He is entrusted with the scrolls of his recently completed work, which will immortalize Caesar and his feats for posterity in what the entire world will come to know as *De Bello Gallico*...

**SERGIO DE SANTIS** was born in Naples in 1953. He published with Mondadori his novels *Nostalgia della ruggine* (2010), which was awarded the prize Napoli Letteratura Italiana 2010, *L’opera viva* (2014), and *Non sanno camminare sulla terra* (2018).



# FABIANO MASSIMI

## The Montecristo Club

The first investigation in the Mutineers' series

275 pp | February 2021



It has been eight years since the last time Marco saw Lans, who just got out of jail and is now asking for his help. A girl was killed and the police is falsely accusing an ex-con, whom he believes to be innocent. He just needs a couple of favors, nothing illegal. But Marco, aka Arno in another life, feels that his friend is lying. He has two kids now and he doesn't want any trouble. The first favor, in fact, seems very illegal and dangerous: it involves getting into the victim's email and social media accounts in search of clues that would exonerate the suspect. For a computer genius like him, it should be child's play, right? The second favor doesn't bode well either: he would have to go to the prison for an interview. One step after the other, Arno finds himself mixed up in an investigation led by a most peculiar organization. The members, who meet at the exclusive Montecristo Club, fulfill some very strict and unusual requirements: they are the Mutineers, former prisoners. They turned their criminal pasts into their main virtue, allowing them to move like covert detectives looking for evidence to support victims of serious miscarriages of justice.

**FABIANO MASSIMI** is a translator, literary editor and writer based in Modena. This book was the winner of 2017 Premio Tedeschi (the most important Italian prize for unpublished crime novels). He is the author of *L'angelo di Monaco* (Longanesi) that will soon be translated in many countries.



# SARA VALLEFUOCO

## Blackink

A series  
of seemingly  
unrelated murders  
in a superstitious  
and ferocious  
Sardinia

304 pp | April 2021



Summer 1899: the young brigadier Ghibaudo is transferred from Piedmont to a small town in the northern part of the island of Sardinia. The world that awaits him there is profoundly different from Turin, where he grew up, and it doesn't take long for Ghibaudo to realize it: there are many crimes but few charges, indicating that in those lands, justice isn't settled in the rooms of the police station. So it comes as a surprise when Lianora, a recently widowed commoner, asks him for help. When the brigadier arrives at her house, he finds a dead body in her bedroom. After a closer look, he identifies him as one of his colleagues from the team that tried to rescue Lianora's deceased husband from bandits a few months prior. The suspicions fall on Anania, one of the family's farmhands, but some clues lead Ghibaudo to believe the truth lies elsewhere. And while a secret stirs in the brigadier's heart (which he will have to deal with for the rest of his life), someone starts killing off the so-called "poets on the fly," the street rhymers who wander from town to town.

**SARA VALLEFUOCO** was born in Rom but now lives near Trento. She is a school teacher and a passionate pianist. This is her debut novel.

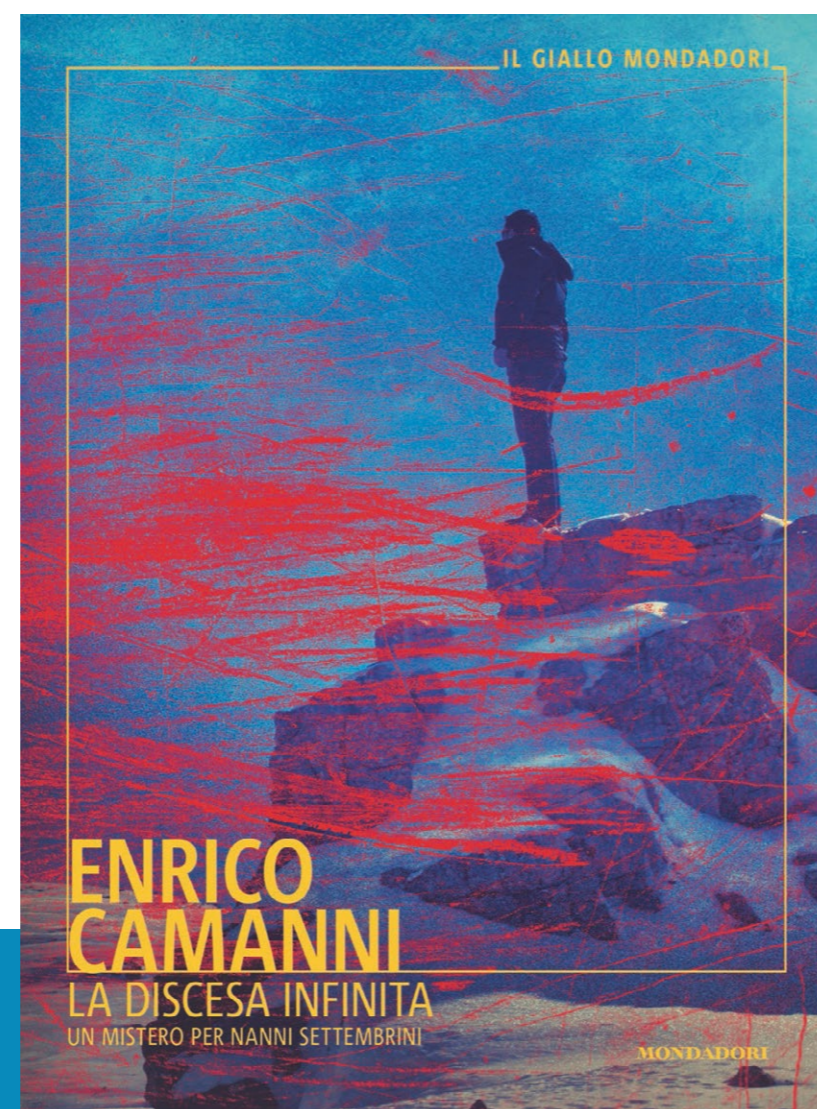


# ENRICO CAMANNI

## The Infinite Descent

Another  
mystery in the  
snow for Nanni  
Settembrini

320 pp | June 2021



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. As such he is able to shed light on the accidents on the mountains' peaks and on the even deeper secrets of the people who climb them.

One day, while finishing a climb on his first job, he receives a call: a group of hikers finds the body of a man buried under the snow. Who is the man? And how many years was he buried under the snow? Nanni knows that when the mountains return a broken life, they also return its story, its drama, its joys and dreams. It will be up to him to find answers and to discover what mysteries the man brought to the surface with him.

As ever in the Camanni's mysteries, the mountains are not just a mute backdrop but one of the main characters of the challenge Nanni Settembrini is called to take up.

A very lucky and original mix of mystery and mountain fiction.

**ENRICO CAMANNI** (Turin, 1957) is an author, a journalist, and a mountaineer who has created dozens of paths in the Alps. In 2020, Mondadori released *Una coperta di neve*, the first novel in the series of Nanni Settembrini.



# ELENA MOLINI

## The Little Literary Pharmacy with Murder

The first  
mystery set in  
the Little Literary  
Pharmacy in  
Florence

250 pp | June 2021



Blu Rocchini, lost, sweet, frail yet strong, managed to turn around her independent bookshop into the Little Literary Pharmacy, where she dispenses “cures” to treat people’s souls via books.

Things finally seem to be going well: tourists in droves, customers aplenty, and the beginning of a new adventure, the bibliotherapy group on Thursday evenings.

But something disturbs this newly achieved harmony: Blu finds herself having to defend one of her best friends from being charged with murder. But how to exonerate someone who seems unequivocally guilty? Blu is willing to find out and she starts working on solving the case with the help of four exceptional detectives (among them Maigret and Miss Marple).

Between red herrings and shocking twists, the situation becomes increasingly complicated. And if things weren’t at all as they seemed?

**ELENA MOLINI** (born in 1983) lives in Florence where in 2018 – after years of working in a major bookshop – founded the Little Literary Pharmacy ([www.piccolafarmacialetteraria.it](http://www.piccolafarmacialetteraria.it)). Rights to her eponymous first book were sold in Spain/**Maeva**, Portugal/**Presença**, Germany/**Diana Verlag**, PR China/**Xinhua**, Thailand/**Library Books**, and film rights already optioned.



# GIANLUCA GOTTO

## Something Wonderful Always Happens

A novel for  
a generation  
of free spirits,  
dreamers and  
travellers

304 pp | April 2021



The story of Davide’s journey, a young man who sees all of his certainties crumble one after the other, until he loses the will to live. And the story of Guilly, a character somehow not in the right time, whom Davide meets by chance or by fate in Vietnam and teaches him an alternative way full of light to deal with life. A story of rebirth to lose and find yourself, in which Gianluca Gotto explores the topic of the pursuit of happiness (a theme he also grappled with in his memoir *Le coordinate della felicità – The Coordinates to Happiness*) on a universal level: the final destination of this journey isn’t attaining a certain kind of life, but a state of mind. A warm feeling that is always inside us, regardless of what destiny has in store for us. We could call it many different things: serenity, internal peace, lightness, calm.

Or, as Guilly would say, “the feeling of being home, always.”

**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](http://www.mangiaviviviaggia.com). He is the author of the very bestselling novel *Come una notte a Bali* and of the memoir *Le coordinate della felicità*.



# VALENTINO NOTARI

## Cosplay Girl

“An enthralling story of love, cosplay, acceptance, against any prejudices.”

Licia Troisi

250 pp | April 2021



Alice is a teenager like many others: insecure, shy, and an all too easy target for her classmates' bullying. She always perceived herself as “different”, so she grew up feeling constantly isolated and alone. One day, almost by chance, she discovers the glittering and kaleidoscopic universe of cosplaying. It gives her access to a world full of colors, and people with whom to share her passions, hardships, and memorable moments. She feels like she is living a dream: she has finally found somewhere where she can express herself without the fear of being judged. She finally has the chance to make some real friends. And even find love. Soon, however, Alice discovers that this world, this apparently tight-knit and peaceful community, also conceals envy and malevolence. She is devastated. Just when she is about to leave it all behind, she meets Fede; she is just a little bit older and shares her same passion, and she convinces her that now is not the time to give up, on the contrary...

**VALENTINO NOTARI** works for Emergency and has been a world-famous cosplayer for years. He participates in some of the major competitions in Italy and abroad. This is his first novel.

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:**

• Bulgaria ► Artline Comics



# ALESSANDRO MILAN

## One Day I Will Tell the World

The much  
controversial  
trial of a man  
sentenced  
to death



305 pp | February 2021

This book explores the life and trials of Derek Rocco Barnabei, the Italian-American who was sentenced to death and executed in Virginia on September 14, 2000 for the murder and rape of seventeen-year-old Sarah Wisnosky. The famous criminal defense lawyer Alan Dershowitz, who offered his legal services pro bono, defined it “*one of the most egregious miscarriages of justice I’ve ever seen.*” Many rallied in vain against that sentence, both in Italy and abroad.

The author conducted several interviews with Derek Rocco Barnabei and collaborated on two extraordinary sessions of live coverage directly from death row. It is a human encounter that he is personally invested in and affected by. Milan combines in his book the precision of a judicial investigation with an autobiographic narrative. He doesn’t tackle the case from the perspective of someone who is fully convinced of his innocence, but rather someone who questions the death penalty and fights to get it abolished altogether. Barnabei’s trial was controversial to say the least, but, aside from his guilt or innocence, the main question for Milan remains always fundamentally just one: is it right to sentence a human being to death?

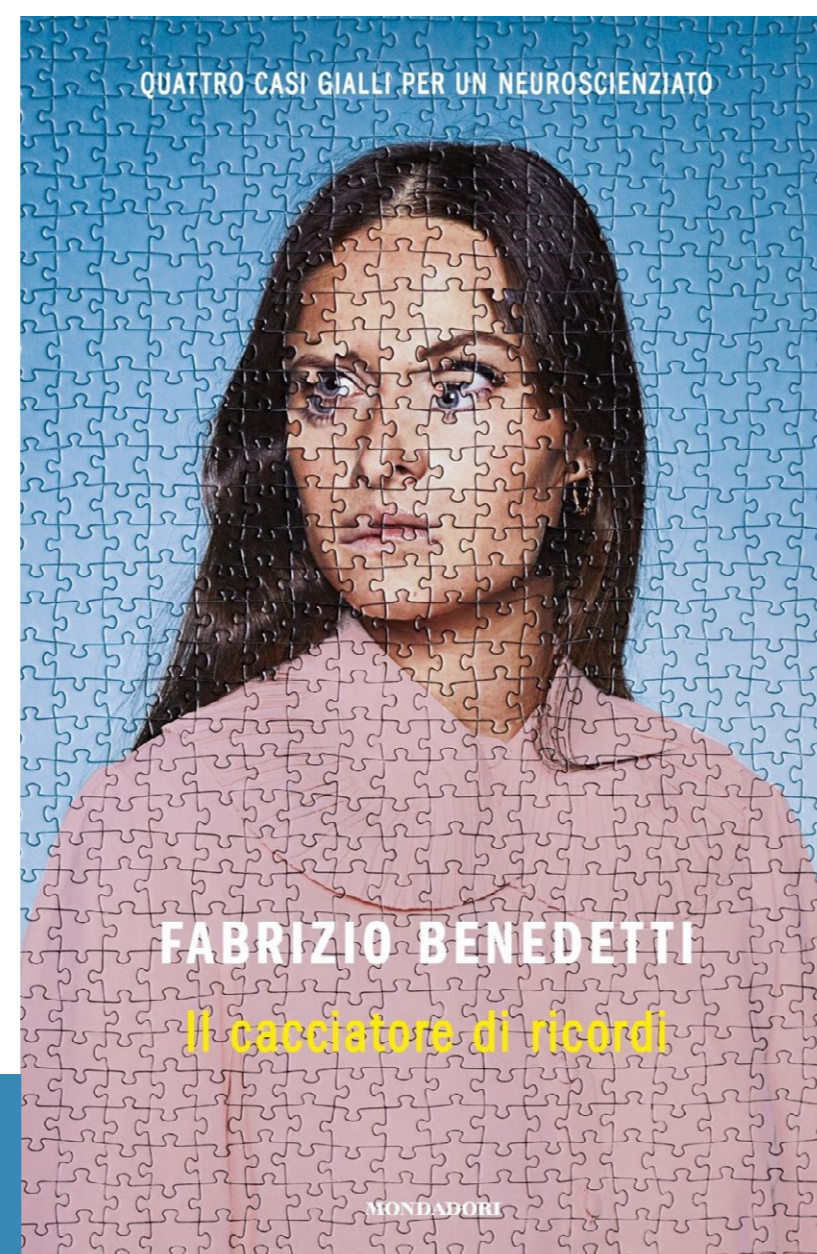
**ALESSANDRO MILAN** (born in 1970), journalist, radio host for Radio24, is the author of the two bestsellers *Mi Vivi Dentro* and *Due milioni di baci*. He followed the Barnabei story at the time as a young reporter for Radio 24.



# FABRIZIO BENEDETTI

## The Memory Hunter

Four clinical cases that seem like real mysteries



238 pp | February 2021

As a neurophysiology professor, Fabrizio Benedetti has to explore people's minds and their memories. In certain ways, his job is similar to a detective's: starting with the information at hand, in fact, he often finds himself investigating in an empiric way, by trial and error, searching into the human mind, its deceptions, and its false memories.

This book presents four clinical cases that, by their very nature, seem like real mysteries. There is Sonia's story, a woman suffering from dementia; as her condition gets worse, she will reveal a dark secret from her past: but did it really happen or was it a false memory caused by her illness? Or also Magda's story, who is convinced she witnessed a tragic event while she was undergoing surgery: could it have been a case of awareness under anesthesia? It will be up to the doctor to assume the role of detective and scan the minds and memories of his patients in search of a possible truth.

**FABRIZIO BENEDETTI** is a professor of Neurophysiology and Human Physiology at the University of Turin. He is one of the world's leading experts in the placebo effects and the author of *Placebo Effects* and *The Patient's Brain*, both published by Oxford University Press. With Mondadori he published in 2018 *La speranza è un farmaco*.



# ALBERTO LUINI

## Know Your Breasts

How to take  
care of your  
breasts for your  
well-being

159 pp | January 2021

Alberto  
Luini



**CONOSCI  
IL TUO SENO**

Come prendersene cura  
per il proprio benessere

MONDADORI

Not many people know it, but senology was born in Italy. It developed from the quadrantectomy studies carried out in the Seventies at the European Institute of Oncology founded by Umberto Veronesi, where Alberto Luini has been the right-hand man for thirty years. The author takes us on a journey to reveal this organ, its morphology, and its anatomy. We will discover how breasts grow, how they evolve in the various stages of a woman's life, what happens to them during menopause, and, finally, how they get sick, the types of cancers that affect them, and the most innovative therapies to treat them. To this end, Luini underscores the importance of prevention, which involves undergoing regular clinical screenings; but he also emphasizes above all the importance of leading a healthy life, far from the enemies of breasts, like alcohol, smoking, stress, and being overweight. The objective is to focus on the psychophysical balance, on the harmony of body and mind: not only is it important when breasts get sick, it is especially so after therapeutic interventions to treat them, when it becomes fundamental to heal from the "outside" as well as from the "inside."

**ALBERTO LUINI** is a breast surgeon at the European Institute of Oncology founded by Prof. Umberto Veronesi. He was directly involved in Veronesi's main studies on breast surgery, and he created with his colleague Giovanni Paganelli the ROLL technique for non-palpable lesions (which was adopted worldwide).



**LUCIANO PIGNATARO**  
**GIANCARLO VECCHIO**

## The Cilento Method

The five  
Cilento secrets  
for longevity

204 pp | January 2021



One of Italy's best kept secret is the Cilento Coast, one of the most unspoiled part of the Campania region, just two hours South of the chaos of Naples. In these tiny sun-bathed villages, people live longer than anywhere else in the world. The reason behind the highest concentration of centenarians in the world has been a mystery for years. In this book, the authors delve into the reasons for this surprising longevity and offer this handbook to daily life. Five practical advices that go beyond nutrition, from re-discovering spirituality and rituals to counter stress, to the importance of walking and of being together, and to disconnect from our frenetic existences, social networks, and the anxieties that stifle our days in order to rediscover the importance of slowness and of slow-life in general. And make us live longer and happier. As an appendix, a collection of traditional and tasty (and easy-to-make) Cilentan recipes.

**LUCIANO PIGNATARO**, a journalist specialized in food and wine, is Ambassador of the Mediterranean Diet in the world. Born in Cilento, he spends most part of the year there.

**GIANCARLO VECCHIO** has been for years a tenured professor of oncology at the University of Naples Federico II.

RIGHTS SOLD TO:

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# STEFANO ERZEGOVESI

## Vegetables in Fifteen Steps

Cooking  
vegetables,  
loving them, and  
living happy

345 pp | April 2021



An ancient mistrust still makes us suspicious of fennels, broccoli, and zucchini: the boring necessities of a daily menu that are not particularly enticing to the senses. And yet, there is a vast literature on the healing properties of vegetables, and the important role of eating green to prevent various diseases. In this book, Stefano proposes a new and refreshing way of looking at the infinite resources of the world of vegetables. The ideal approach is empathy: to take advantage of the beneficial virtues of green beans, cabbages, and carrots, and also enhance their qualities at the dinner table, you have to “put yourself in their shoes.” You have to know their nature and their “character.” You have to respect their seasonality and harvest times, where they come from, their cultivation systems and conservation methods. The author accompanies us on an unusual path to discover the world of vegetables, investigating the territory with the curiosity of an explorer and revealing to us its colors, scents, and secrets. Not just an anthology of traditional recipes, but also an essay on the rich biodiversity of Italy’s crops and a map to rediscover a hidden treasure of ingredients.

**STEFANO ERZEGOVESI** is a psychiatrist, a nutritionist, and the director of an important Center for Eating Disorders in Milan. He published the books *Il digiuno per tutti* (2019) and *La dieta della mente felice* (2020). His dream, which has now come true, is to heal people inside a great kitchen.

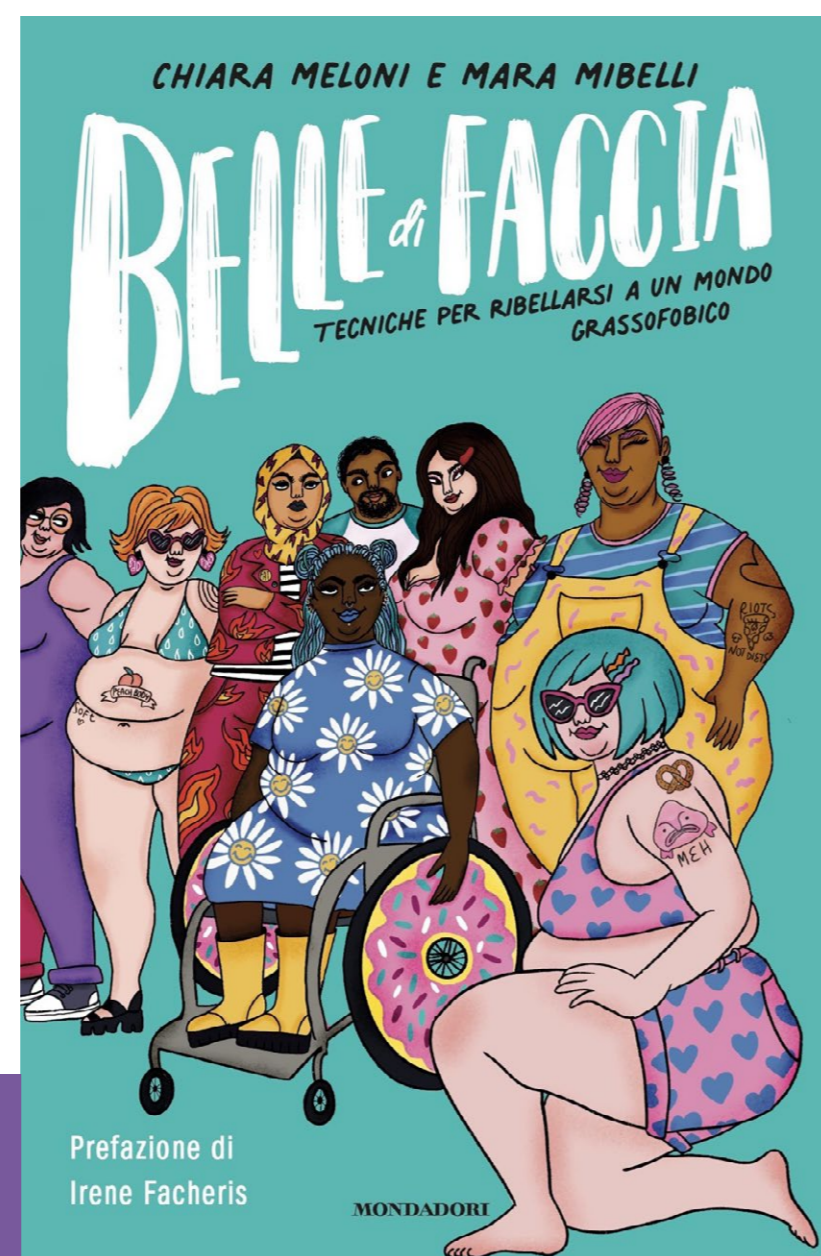


**CHIARA MELONI**  
**MARA MIBELLI**

## Great Face

How to rebel  
to a fatphobic  
world

176 pp | February 2021



If fatphobia were music it would sound like a bassoon accompanying the awkward stride of the caricature of a fat person. If it were a compliment, it would go along the lines of “*You have such a great face, too bad for the rest*”. If it were an advice, it would be “*Eat a salad*”. Well, it is time to put an end to it.

In a society where fat bodies are constantly pathologized and compared to an epidemic (we are not contagious, we swear), using the word “fat” without negative connotations was a liberation for us, a revolution. Many people correct us when we call ourselves fat, and the usual response is “*No, you’re beautiful as you are*”. When did we ever say otherwise?

Reading this book isn’t exactly as relaxing as reading Marie Kondo, but then again neither is being fat in a fatphobic world. The humiliations, the offenses, the microaggressions, our unbridled passion for making lists of defects, have all contributed to making us the persons we have become. Because this is the only true detox we need to do, the only toxin we need to eliminate: we need to kick fatphobia in the ass, within us and around us.

**CHIARA MELONI** is a writer, illustrator, a feminist and body positive activist. She created the sustainable clothing brand “Chiaralascura” and she is a co-founder of the project “Belle di Faccia.”

**MARA MIBELLI** is a writer, a feminist, and body positive activist. She co-founded the project “Belle di Faccia.”

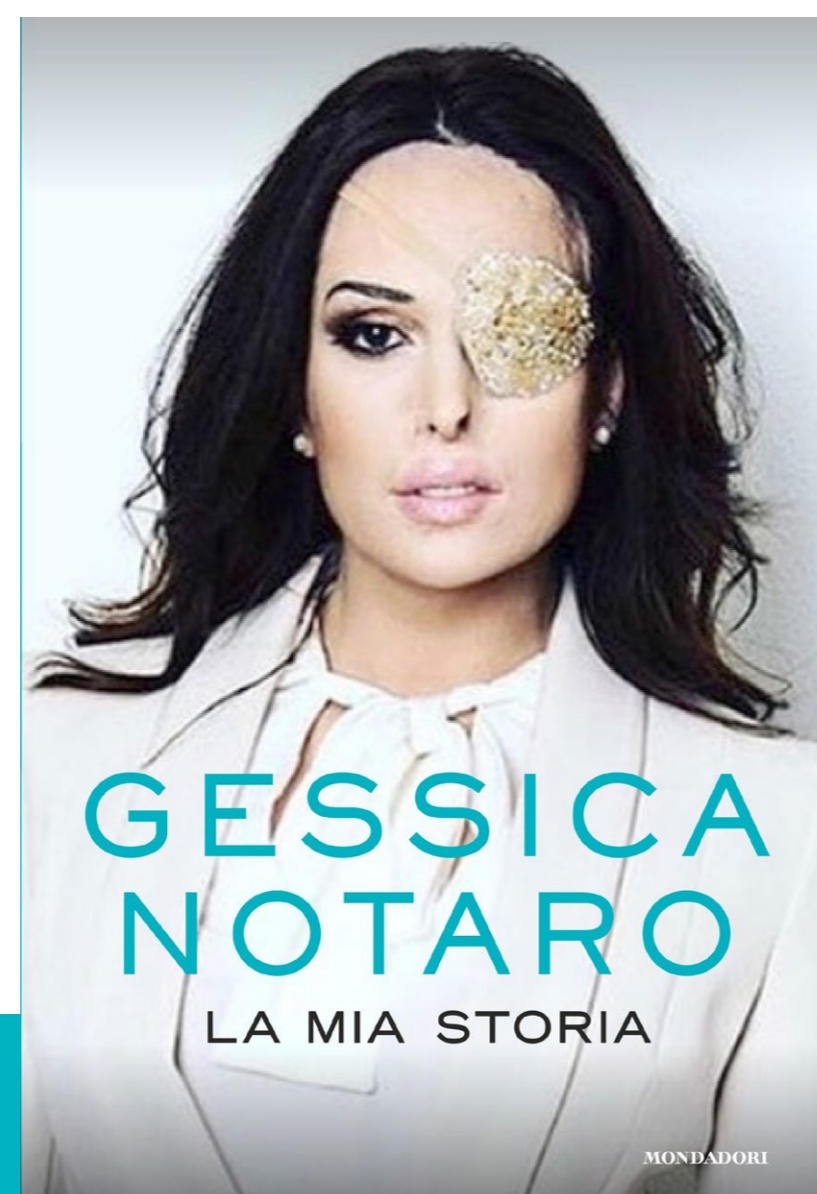


# GESSICA NOTARO

## My Story

A book for all  
women in danger

200 pp | May 2021



Gessica Notaro was born three times. The first time was on December 27, 1989, from her Argentinian mother and Italian father. In this life, she entered the world of show business, working as a model and singer. In 2011, her brother took his own life and she had to overwhelm a deep sufference. Then, on January 10, 2017, Gessica was attacked with acid by her ex-boyfriend, who was subsequently convicted to fifteen years in prison. Her face was badly injured, and she lost the sight in one eye, which she has now to keep covered. That's why she started wearing an eye-patch for the first time, black like a pirate's but sparkling with glitter. In this book, Gessica talks about her tragic experience, how a twisted love story starts and ends, and how she managed to rebuild herself without losing her smile.

A book for all women in danger.

**GESSICA NOTARO** (1989), a model and a singer, appeared in several TV shows during the 2000s. She works now for and with women who were victims of violence. She has recently released a music video *Gracias a la vida* showing her wounds to warn women about violent partners and to celebrate her journey towards the rebirth.



# ROCCO SIFFREDI

## Sex Lessons

Sex-ed class  
by the porn  
legend

200 pp | May 2021



IL MIO CORSO  
DI EDUCAZIONE  
SESSUALE

MONDADORI



Rocco Siffredi, the porn star, takes the stage with all of his authority and huge experience to help us humans free ourselves from the taboos and self-consciousness, to discover the simple secrets of a fulfilling sexual life. Kids mostly get their sexual education from the distorted channel of online pornography, which means they are growing up without knowing the true reality of sex. Rocco Siffredi discusses this reality in his book, drawing from his life experiences as a porn star all the way to being a father.

He writes in particular to young people when he insists on the difference between pornos and real life, or when he invites them to nurture their self-confidence.

This book can therefore be considered as a quick sex-ed course that is not only useful but also mandatory in the times of YouPorn.

Good sex is good for your health and it extends your life, science says so.

Good sex is exploration: on your own or with your partner, it's getting to know oneself, it's experimenting, it's pushing the boundaries imposed by a proper education and a common sense of decency.

Good sex is without shame.

**ROCCO SIFFREDI** was born in 1964 in Ortona and is the winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award at the European Erotic Oscars (Hot d'Ors) in Cannes. Before that he was the distinguished recipient of numerous European Erotic acting awards for his explicit film. He is also the winner of the 1995 Hot d'Ors Best Beginning Director Awards.

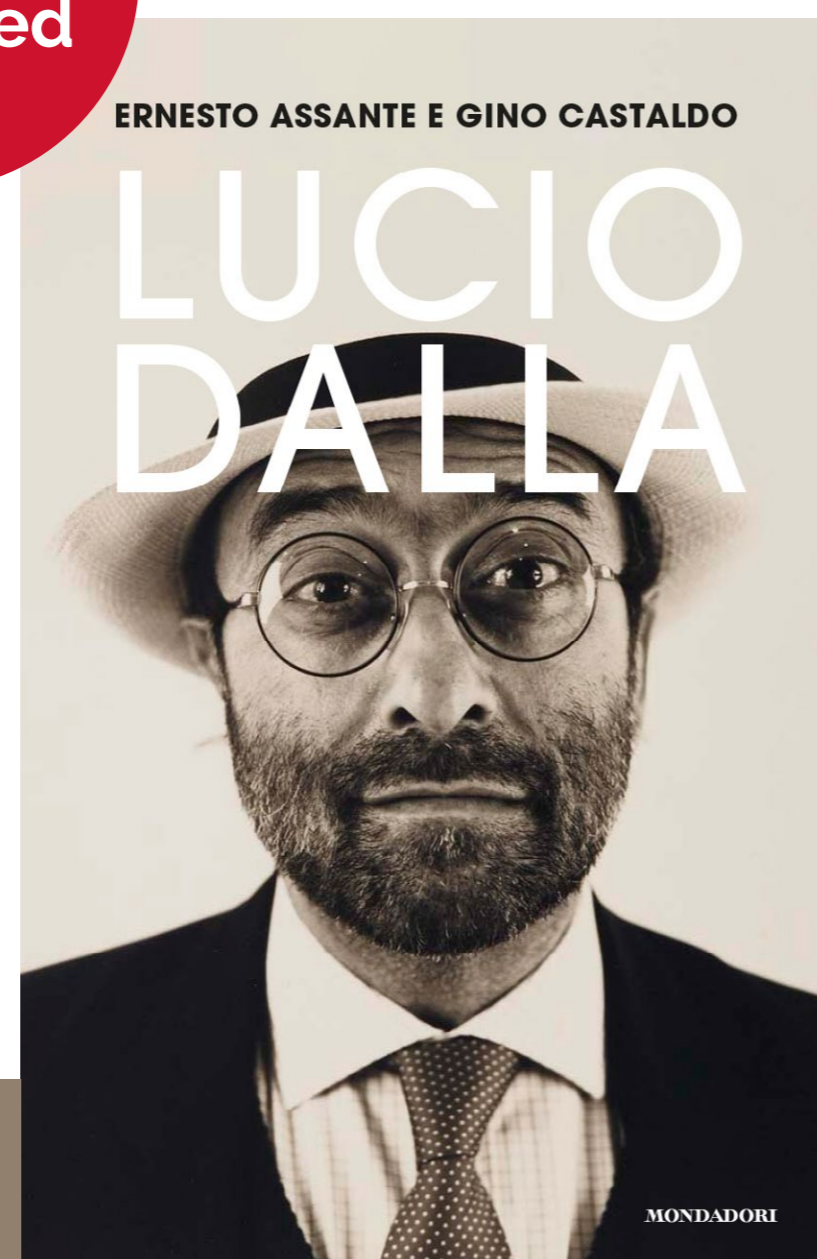


# ERNESTO ASSANTE GINO CASTALDO

## Lucio Dalla

Film rights  
optioned

The first  
biography  
of one of Italy's  
best singer-  
songwriters



360 pp | February 2021

His fingers were too short to play the piano, he didn't know music well enough to compose, he didn't have the body for the part, he had a collection of failed songs, and he didn't have the culture of an intellectual. And yet, he became one of the greatest singer-songwriters in the history of Italian music. The authors recovered all of Lucio Dalla's traces and notes to reconstruct a portrait that didn't previously exist and was definitely needed. Extremely popular but never conformist, always in the spotlight yet inscrutable, beloved but without love, Lucio Dalla moves through these pages with all of his charm and unpredictability. From the songs of "lyricists" to those of "poets," from jazz to canzonetta, from mass consumption pop to songwriting, to a sort of musical theater with a deep civil and political conscience: he moves through Italian music history in his funny and sardonic way, with that look of a dazed jester that allowed him to do as he pleased. A unique and incomparable artist, a free and irreverent prime number.

**ERNESTO ASSANTE** and **GINO CASTALDO** are two experts in Italian music journalism. They are both journalists, music critics, and authors of several essays on music.





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