

MONDADORI

Fall Rights List 2023

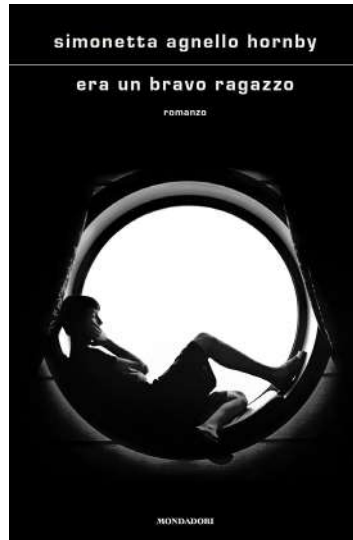


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SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY

He Was a Good Boy

"One of the most beloved and popular Italian authors joins Mondadori's catalog with her latest great novel. Nobody has ever written so up close about the fascination of power and money, the seduction of the Mafia, the violence of maternal love, the fire of friendship and the poison of ambition."

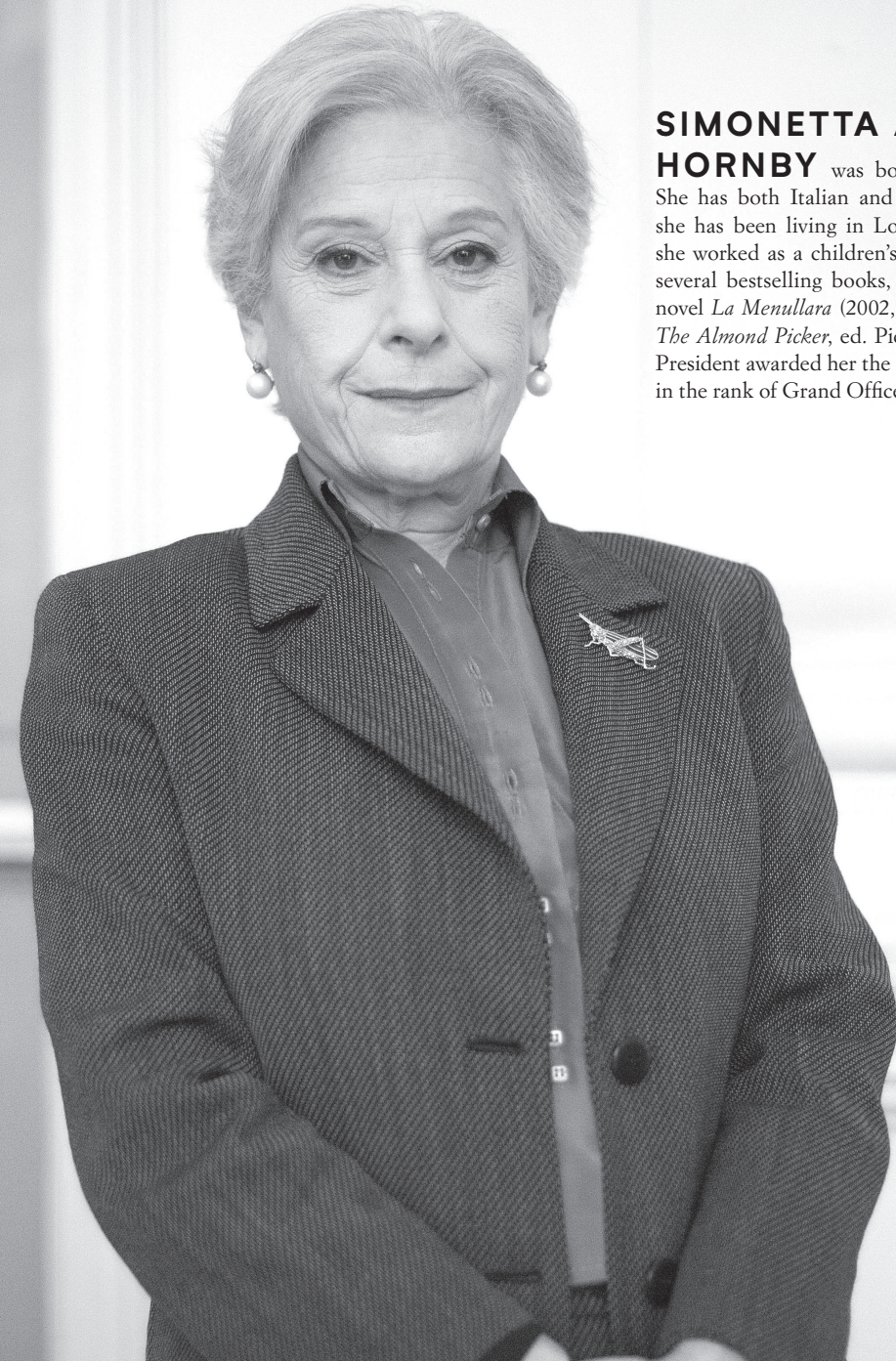


ENGLISH SAMPLES AVAILABLE

This is the story of two friends, two mothers, and two wives. A story that takes place between Sciacca and Pertuso Piccione, in Western Sicily. Giovanni and Santino are childhood friends who both dreamed of sweet redemption, between Gagarin's space-flight, American cinema, and the beauty of their hometown. Giovanni has to rise up to the social aspirations set by his mother Cettina. Santino wants to save his mother Assunta from the dubious destiny to which she exposed them to provide for their family. "What kind of men will we become?" They don't have time to find the answer as life catches up with them and they get gradually absorbed in deals made over their heads. Santino becomes a prince of concrete who accepts increasingly profitable contracts with more and more strings attached. Giovanni, a lawyer with shady and powerful connections, applies his skills as a man of the law to help those who use the law to conceal the advantage of a few against the needs of the many. They both end up in great marriages and thrive through the dark 1980s, the terrible years of the mafia wars. Anna, a lawyer with a social conscience specialized in water rights, would like to "save" Giovanni, who is married to Veronica. Santino's devoted wife Margherita provides him a stable family life and safe shelter from the blood and violence. But the public and private construction sector does not allow for transparency or justice, and the two friends are swept away in a spiral with no escape. The only things that endure are the barbels of adolescence and Assunta's radiant beauty, the embodiments of the Sicily from their dreams, which doesn't stop dreaming of its own well-being.

Simonetta Agnello Hornby's novel isn't just a book about a mafia that might not shoot but rules over the island's economy. Above all, it is a story about the fierce power of family and the heart-wrenching desire to return to the land where one's identity and hopes are rooted.

Foto © Pietro Motisi/Mondadori Portfolio



SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY

was born in Palermo in 1945. She has both Italian and British citizenship, and she has been living in London since 1972, where she worked as a children's lawyer. She has written several bestselling books, starting with her debut novel *La Menullara* (2002, published in English as *The Almond Picker*, ed. Picador, 2006). The Italian President awarded her the Order of the Star of Italy in the rank of Grand Officer in 2018.

ROBERTO COTRONEO

The Farewell Ceremony

The story of a modern Penelope, the story of a lifelong waiting.



It is 1976 in a small town like many others. Anna and Amos are deeply in love, they have two little girls and a bookstore, where they can pursue their passion for stories and poetry. They are having breakfast on a Sunday when Amos suddenly looks bewildered: he doesn't recognize Anna anymore, he seems to have forgotten everything, including their two daughters. Amos is experiencing an amnesia episode. He quickly regains his senses, but a few days later he goes to Rome with Anna to consult a specialist, and he insists on going out for a little walk by himself. But he never comes back from that stroll, he just disappears without a trace. What could have happened to him? Did Amos have another amnesia episode and get lost because he couldn't find his way back? Or did he decide to leave and abandon his wife and daughters? Anna keeps on wondering and almost loses her mind over it. Was Amos hiding any secrets? And the following question is always: will he come back? Anna retraces her life with Amos looking for a crack, for "a weak link," she tries to untangle the thread of his past, starting from the little she knows about it. She raises the girls in this suspended time, this time of abandonment, "which isn't an act, but a state of flux." Waiting becomes her default mode, a very long ritual that she needs to prepare herself for the farewell. She is an old woman when her friends reveal a secret that they have been keeping for decades, a detail that sheds a new light on Amos' disappearance.

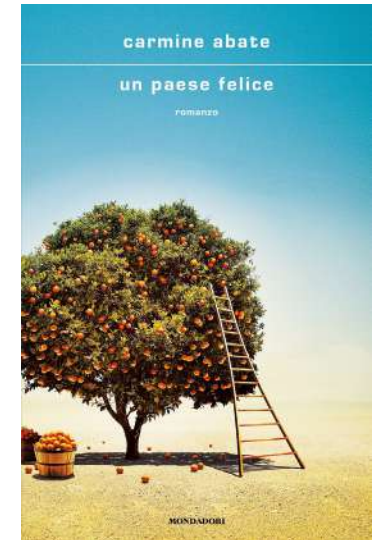
ROBERTO COTRONEO has published many novels and essays including *Presto con fuoco* (1995, winner of the Premio Selezione Campiello and the Premio Fiesole), *Otranto* (1997), *Questo amore* (2006), *Il vento dell'odio* (2008), *Niente di personale* (2018), and *Loro* (2021). His essays include *Se una mattina d'estate un bambino* (1994), *Il sogno di scrivere* (2014), and *L'invenzione di Caravaggio* (2018). Among his foreign publishers: Ecco Press/USA, Calmann-Levy/France, Suhrkamp, Hanser/Germany, Rocco/Brazzil, Shogun Sha/Japan.

CARMINE ABATE

A Happy Town

A novel interweaving the lives of memorable characters with the very topical and universal story of Eranova, the town that didn't want to disappear.

Lina is a university student, headstrong and rebellious like the founding fathers of her hometown, Eranova, in Calabria. They were a group of farmers who believed in Eranova so much that they made it real in 1896: they rebelled against the marquis who owned the land and claimed their freedom, giving substance to a utopia and building it in flesh and stone. When Lorenzo meets Lina at the University of Bari, he doesn't know the reason for the distress lurking in her green eyes: he doesn't know that her hometown is at risk of disappearing forever and being replaced by the fifth largest steel mill in Italy. Lina can't resign herself and she tries to convince people to stand up against this colossal madness that only serves the purpose of lining the insatiable pockets of the 'Ndrangheta. With Lorenzo's help, she writes appeals to the President, the Pope, the Prime Minister, to various ministers and politicians; she even writes to Pier Paolo Pasolini, whom she had met in a bookstore in Bari. In her letters, she asks them to stop the project, before it is too late. A dazzling story about love and rage, individual and collective destinies, the "violence of memories" and hope despite everything. A choir of voices so powerful and alive that they reach across a century of history, capturing our conscience and turning the story of Eranova, the town that didn't want to disappear, into a very topical and universal story.

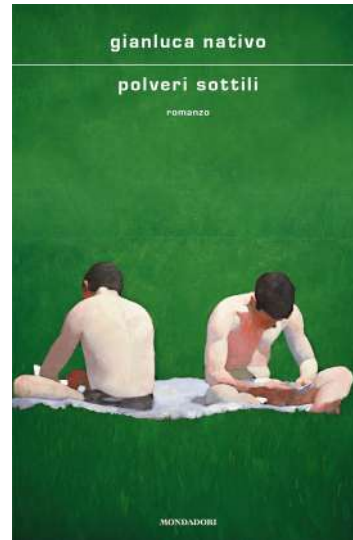


CARMINE ABATE made his literary debut in Germany with *Den Koffer und weg!* (1984) and in Italy with *Il ballo tondo* (1991). He then published some successful collections of short stories and novels. His books have received many awards and have been translated in several countries. He won the 50th Premio Campiello with *La collina del vento* (2012).

GIANLUCA NATIVO

Particulates

A story of a young love, captured in the exact moment when the protagonists try to confront the real world and fight to resist the urgent calls of adulthood.



Eugenio and Michelangelo are in the midst of their twenties when they first meet in the streets of the university district in Naples. With one foot in adulthood and the other still stuck in adolescence, they don't know that those glances exchanged so lightly are actually the beginning of their first real love story. They spend a season of pure happiness together, during which they discover that they are very different and complement each other perfectly. Eugenio just got his medical degree, he is ambitious, rational, and constantly in motion. Michelangelo, instead, "seems like an animal in hibernation," clumsy and contemplative, he spends his days fine-tuning his philology thesis and basks in the dream of becoming a writer. They feel invincible together, as if they could overcome any obstacle, even Eugenio's decision to go to medical school in the United Kingdom. "What if I came with you?" ventures Michelangelo. Six months later, they are sharing a room in the outskirts of South London. The couple has the sinking feeling of being just the latest newcomers: up close, the British dream soon reveals its first cracks. But just when that dream is about to shatter, Michelangelo receives an offer from Milan. It is the beginning of a romantic pursuit that spans across different cities and endless flights, in an attempt to bridge the distance that is growing between them day by day.

Gianluca Nativo entrusts the narration to the two characters, switching back and forth between their perspectives at an increasing pace, to present us with two complementary versions of the same story.

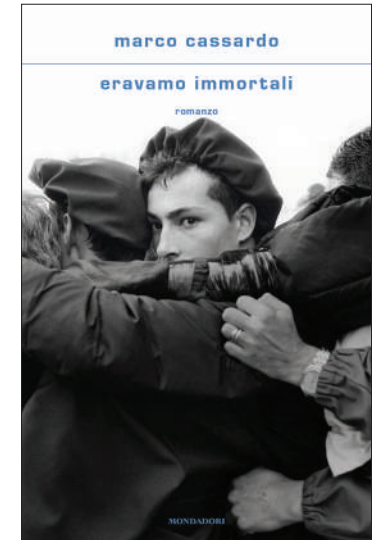
GIANLUCA NATIVO (1990), born in Mugnano di Napoli, lives and works in Milan. His short stories have been published in literary magazines like *Nuovi Argomenti* and *Altri Animali*, and one of them was also translated for *The Stinging Fly*, the Irish magazine directed by Sally Rooney. He published his debut novel *Il primo che passa* in 2021.

MARCO CASSARDO

We Were Immortal

"We were memories and we didn't know it."

Stefano and Nando, the two "immortal" friends in this novel, come from far away. They go through sixty years of our history, moving like Homeric heroes under the Trojan walls of Russia's dramatic retreat in 1943, the workers' struggles at FIAT, the battle for a new well-being, and the revolt of the younger generations. Stefano and Nando fight, for better or for worse, for an idea of the world that grows with them, with their loved ones, with their families, without forgetting the friendship that binds them. They belong to the people, and among the people they develop that wealth of emotions that made them who they are. They both started off as rising stars in the world of cycling, and they keep on chasing that two-wheel dream like the horizon of a never-ending challenge. Stefano and Nando belong to the people, and *Eravamo immortali* is actually a story of the people: it amplifies passions and fractures, it moves characters and destinies, it slides along the chain of the years until the two friends find themselves in front of increasingly clear-cut responsibilities. Including the last, major one involving the meaning of their friendship. As soon as we enter the story we start running; and, at every narrative turn, we are eager to find out which road will call to us, will get us involved, will make us learn, and will move us. Glory be to Cassardo, a fearless writer who, like a river in flood, places the reasons of storytelling in service of our identity, which comes from the past and looks beyond the present.



MARCO CASSARDO was born in Turin in 1965 and lives in Milan. He published the novels *Belli e dannati* (1997, 2003), *Va a finire che nevica* (2007), and *Mi manca il rosso* (2009).

MICHELA MURGIA

Three Bowls

The explosive novel of the most brilliant and controversial intellectual in recent years.



Every book by Michela Murgia is an event. This is a novel of interlocking stories.

The distinct voices of the characters in these stories, all unknowingly linked, make this a book that is both intimate and universal, where the real protagonist is the time of radical change, the threshold of events that overturns the paradigm of every biography, when existence turns on a dime and nothing can stop it. One evening you sit down at the table and the life you knew is over. Sometimes it is a mourning, an injury, a dismissal, an illness, the loss of a certainty or a love, but always it is a change in the horizon of your hopes that leaves you no escape. Crossing that crisis line shows that sometimes the best response to a disaster that you do not control is a disaster that you do control, even if you are the one who generates it.

In a state of grace, like the great narrator of *Accabadora*, Murgia writes a highly original book for all of us that refers to a constellation of other books. Fitzgerald's *The Crack-up*, Herringel's *Zen in the Art of Archery*, Didion's *The Year of Magical Thinking*.

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Foto © Claudio Sforza

MICHELA MURGIA (1972-2023) made her literary debut in 2006 with *Il mondo deve sapere*. She won the Premio Campiello with her novel *Accabadora*. Her books have been translated and published in over thirty countries. She and Chiara Tagliaferri co-wrote *Morgana. Storie di ragazze che tua madre non approverebbe* (2019) and *Morgana. L'uomo ricco sono io* (2021) inspired by the widely successful podcast with the same name created in 2018 for the platform Storielibere.



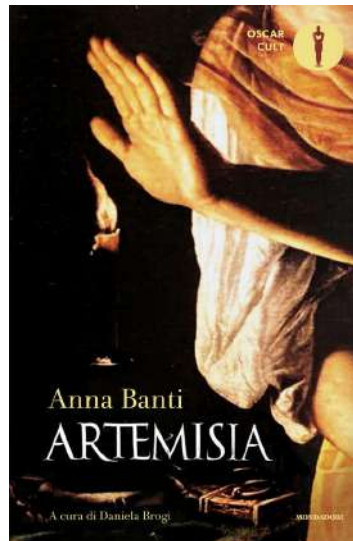
ANNA BANTI

Artemisia

The intimate and passionate portrait of Artemisia Gentileschi, the famous post-Caravaggio painter and a cult figure in women's culture.

"Banti's often moving novel presents a psychological evocation of the woman artist. We must be grateful to the author and her translator for this imaginative presentation of an extraordinary individual." *New York Times*

"Now translated (beautifully) into English, this novel should change the way we think about historical fiction and its possibilities. A thickly textured and moving portrait." *Boston Review*



Artemisia Gentileschi, born in 1598, the daughter of an esteemed painter, taught art in Naples and painted the great women of Roman and biblical history. She could neither read nor write, and she was the reviled victim in a public rape trial, rejected by her father, and later abandoned by her husband. Nevertheless, she was one of the first women in modern times to uphold through her work and deeds the right of women to pursue careers compatible with their talents and on an equal footing with men. She was an intrepid woman, independent, with a strong identity, capable of moving freely and autonomously in a man's world, that of seventeenth-century painting. Her paintings, which often portray fierce and vindictive women, are displayed in museums all over the world. It is to her that Anna Banti dedicated this famous biographical novel with its intimate and refined writing. She drafted it twice: the first manuscript was lost in the Florence bombing of 1944, and the book finally saw the light in 1947. This volume features a lavish iconographic supplement.

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Artemisia Gentileschi, *Self-portrait as the Allegory of Painting*, (1638–1639), Royal Collection, Windsor

ANNA BANTI

(Florence, 1895 – Massa, 1985)

the pen name of Lucia Lopresti, was born in Florence in 1895. Trained as an art historian, she turned to novels, stories, and autobiographical prose in the 1930s. *Artemisia*, her second novel, published in 1947, is the most acclaimed of the sixteen works of fiction she published during her long life, and is considered a classic of twentieth century Italian literature.

ALBA DE CÉSPEDES
Forbidden Notebook

“A best-selling novelist and political activist in her native Italy, she was admired for her sensitive depictions of women and their predicaments. Recently rediscovered, her work has lost none of its subversive force.” – *The New York Times*

“Championed by Elena Ferrante, de Céspedes’s neo-realist classic *The Forbidden Notebook* is being reissued 70 years after it was first published. It still speaks to women’s lives today”. – *The Guardian*

“Whether or not we choose to read *Forbidden Notebook* through a feminist lens, it is a radical novel. Freshly translated by Ann Goldstein with her signature energy, it blazes with significance. Women’s words are still laughed at, still silenced, still considered dangerous. De Céspedes vindicates, artfully and ardently, a woman’s right to write—a right that must never be taken for granted.” – *Jhumpa Lahiri The Paris Review*



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. An intimate confession that leaves the reader shaken, feeling a sense of recognition of the universality of human relationships.

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INTO MORE THAN 25 LANGUAGES

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ALBA DE CÉSPEDES
(Roma, 1911 – Paris, 1997)

is one of the greatest Italian novelists of XX century, author of massive international bestsellers, such as *Nessuno torna indietro* (1938) and *Dalla parte di lei* (1948). Her books are translated into more than 25 languages.

ALBA DE CÉSPEDES
On Her Side

A novel manifesto written by a feminist icon in 1949.



Alessandra Corteggiani, retraces the events from her family and personal life to depict – strictly “from her side” – those years of Italian history between Fascism, Resistance, and Reconstruction. Among the characters, her mother stands out: she killed herself for love, and her daughter refuses to repeat that destiny. Her father sends her to live with relatives in a remote village in Abruzzo hoping she will learn to accept her subservient role. Alessandra grows instead more aware of “women’s issues” and becomes determined to obtain for women the same respect that is usually paid to men. The crucial event in her life is falling in love with Francesco. But their love is destined to a tragic end. A sophisticated game of mirrors from which a woman’s awareness emerges and manages, in a world increasingly dominated by men, to transform resignation into rebellion.

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ALBA DE CÉSPEDES
No Turning Back

The author's debut, banned in Italy by the fascist government on first publication in 1938.

Alba de Céspedes’ first novel, *No Turning Back* was banned by Fascist censors after publication in 1938 for rejecting the Fascist model of “the exemplary wife and mother” in favor of a non-normative femininity, one which was deemed potentially disruptive of the regime’s social rules. It later sold 200,000 copies, was translated in 24 languages, and placed de Céspedes among top international writers.

Set in 1930s Rome, the novel revolves around eight young women at Grimaldi, a women’s college run by nuns. As we follow Emanuela, Xenia, Silvia, Vinca, Anna, Valentina, Augusta and Milly, stories from their past and present mingle, which explore the need for identity, self-assertion, and autonomy from the domineering male figures in their lives, including fathers, lovers, suitors, and professors.



RAFFAELE LA CAPRIA

The Mortal Wound

Ferito a morte is a book you can't get rid of. It is like a sort of boomerang: even if you wanted to toss it with all your strength as far away as possible (say, because it is too beautiful, so as not to feel inferior), it would take advantage of the curvature of space-time and return to you, coming up behind you and catching you by surprise. Might as well give up: re-read it once in a while, and every time you finish the last chapter go back to the first one. I warned you, now do as you please.

– Sandro Veronesi



The story from *Ferito a morte* (*The Mortal Wound*) takes place over the span of eleven years: from the summer of 1943, when the protagonist Massimo De Luca met Carla Boursier during a bombing, until the day he moved to Rome at the beginning of the summer of 1954. Between these two moments in time, the story unfolds in fragments and flashes, each one present and remembered, each one referring to a different year, even though they all seem to be magically enclosed in the arc of one morning: underwater fishing, the boredom of the yacht club, lunch at De Luca's house... The last three chapters also present a summary of all of Massimo's subsequent trips to Naples, his disenchanted returns to the city that "mortally wounds you or makes you fall asleep, or both at the same time;" the city that he identifies with the unattainable Carla, with the sea, with the myths of youth. As E. M. Forster wrote, if "the final test of a novel will be the readers' affection for it," then *Ferito a morte* passed it with flying colors. The book, which the author himself defined as "not easy," is a cult for many critics and writers; it was (and still is) a popular book, loved and read, emotionally followed, even by readers who don't know much about literary issues but found in it their same nostalgia for a paradise lost and for a "perfect day." It is therefore a book of initiation, revelation, and discovery with universal value.

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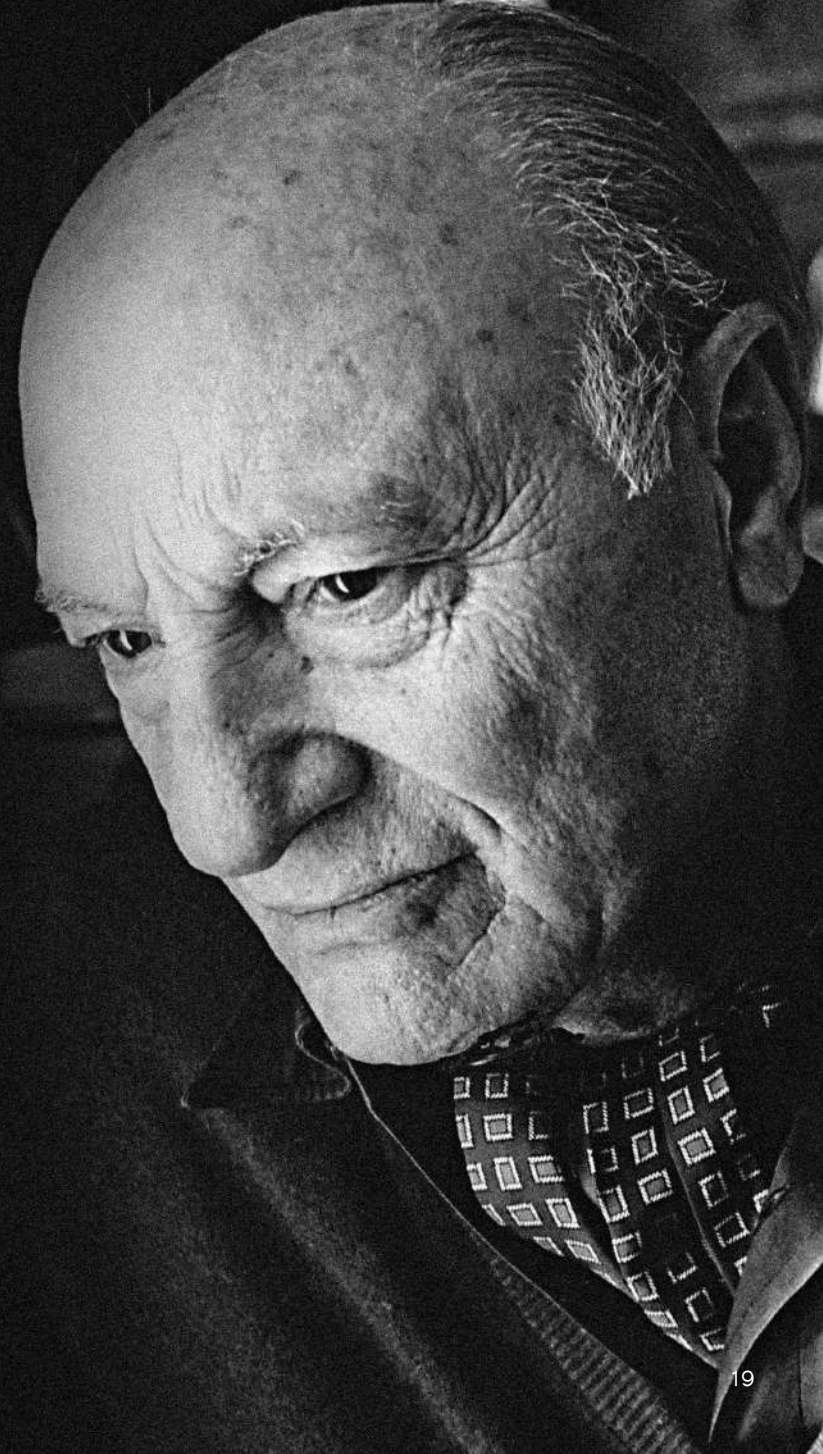
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Foto © Stefano Baroni

RAFFAELE LA CAPRIA

(Naples, 1922 – Rome, 2022)

made his literary debut with *Un giorno d'impazienza* (1952, published in English with the title *A Day of impatience*) and achieved notoriety with *Ferito a morte* (1961, winner of the Premio Strega, published in English as *The Mortal Wound*). His books include *False partenze* (1974 and 1995), *L'armonia perduta* (1986), *Letteratura e salti mortali* (1990), *La mosca nella bottiglia* (1996), *Lo stile dell'anatra* (2001), *L'estro quotidiano* (2005), *Doppio misto* (2012), *La bellezza di Roma* (2014), and *La vita salvata* (2020).



DANIELE MENCARELLI

Everything Calls for Salvation

"Salvation. For me. For my mother on the other side of the phone line. For all the sons and daughters. For all the mothers and fathers. For all the brothers and sisters of all times, past, present, and future. My disease is called salvation."



Daniele is twenty years old when he has a violent outburst of rage and is involuntarily committed into a psychiatric ward. It is June 1994. He would be a young man like any other were it not for his extreme sensitivity and the fact that he is stuck in a hospital room for a week. 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, incoherent yet wise. In the depth of this madness shines a powerful humanity, which Mencarelli is able to voice with unique tenderness and strength. The author sets the stage for the desperate, furious search for meaning of a boy imploring to be saved.

- TRANSLATED INTO MORE THAN 9 LANGUAGES
- ADAPTED INTO A NETFLIX TV SERIES
RELEASED IN OCTOBER 2022
- ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

DANIELE MENCARELLI was born in Rome in 1974. His debut novel *La casa degli sguardi* was published by Mondadori in 2018 and was awarded the Premio Volponi, the Premio Severino Cesari Opera Prima, and the Premio John Fante Opera Prima. His second novel *Tutto chiede salvezza* (Everything Calls for Salvation) was published in 2019; it received the Premio Strega Giovani, it was translated in nine countries and was adapted into a Netflix TV series that was released in October 2022. *Sempre tornare*, published in 2021, concludes his ideal autobiographical trilogy and received the Premio Flaiano 2022.

ELEONORA C. CARUSO

It Should Have Been Our Moment

*It's because all girls are alone.
But some are more alone than the others.*

A girl is sitting on a flat spare tire in the middle of nowhere in the countryside outside Novara. Her hair, which used to be cotton candy pink, is now a jumble of unlikely colors. Few would recognize her as Cloro, the Internet celebrity with millions of followers around the world. Meanwhile, Leo is trying to fix the old car, which had already racked up thousands of miles; he is a disenchanted thirty-four-year-old, who didn't get anything of what he expected from life, despite not expecting much at all. Only someone like him with nothing to lose would have accepted to leave Milan and drive to Catania's countryside. And so their road trip from Sicily to Lombardy begins, but the sixteen-hour journey turns into a five-day ordeal, with various stops in cities and towns with increasingly surreal atmospheres as Italy braces for the lockdown. Leo and Cloro couldn't be more different from one another. During the trip, they retrace their lives and the reasons that brought them to that farmhouse; they argue, they misunderstand each other, they grow apart and then closer together, realizing that they are more similar than they are willing to admit. *Doveva essere il nostro momento* is Eleonora C. Caruso's continuation of an ideal journey that started with *Le ferite originali* and was followed by *Tutto chiuso tranne il cielo*, and it is her most layered and accomplished novel in the series. Through her amazing characters, she presents the fears, desires, and failures of two generations, always inches from grasping the meaning of their existence in the world (which always eludes them), seeking something to hold on to when everything seems to be sliding into ruin.

ELEONORA C. CARUSO's debut novel *Comunque vada non importa* (ed. Indiana Editore) came out in 2012. Mondadori published her books *Le ferite originali* (first in 2018 and then again in 2022 after its readers spread their enthusiastic word of mouth on TikTok) and *Tutto chiuso tranne il cielo* (2019).



FABIO VOLO
Everything Is Here for You

All I wanted was a fresh start.



“Tomorrow morning outside your house you will find a car with a plane ticket to join me in Paris. You don’t have to think about anything, I have it all planned out.”

Luca is very good at surprises, he knows how to make every moment special, even lunch breaks. He is a very independent man, but he couldn’t stand being alone. He has a significant past relationship behind him, that ended without a clear understanding of how or why (“when did good things become bad things?”). He is dating a much younger girl, he’s partly ashamed of it and partly likes her lightheartedness. But he also has a mother who disposes of him as if he had never become an adult and never misses a chance to make him feel wrong, as he owes her something. One day, by chance, he meets Lucia, his ex-girlfriend from his 20s. Their love was a movie one, together they had experienced all the first times. “Forever and ever” was their motto. Now she has a daughter and she is separating from her husband. What if they tried to pick up where they left off, to see what remained of those two? Fabio Volo’s new novel involves and excites page after page, with romantic scenes in which he seems to fly, between glasses of good wine and walks through the streets of Paris. And reflections that resonate when we feel a little lost. “Everything is here for you” is a book about the shadow-line that each of us have to overcome at a certain age, about the value of solitude and about the desire, and the chance for a new beginning.

FABIO VOLO writer, actor, TV and radio presenter is the most extraordinary publishing phenomenon in Italy with nine novels simultaneously still riding high in the bestsellerlist. Among his foreign publishers: Diogenes, Michel Lafon, Presença, Duday, Ripol, Livani, Plaza y Janes, Bertrand Brasil, Colibri, Beobook, Znanje, Pegasus, Nha Nam Publ. Thai, Sodam & Taeil Korea.

TIZIANO FERRO
Happiness at First

The girl looked at him without saying a word.
“She doesn’t talk.”
“What do you mean ‘she doesn’t talk’? Why?” asked Galassi.
“What am I, a doctor? Doctors cost, and if I were a doctor I wouldn’t be here. She doesn’t talk. She understands everything, in two languages. She’s alright in the head... she just doesn’t talk. If you want her, she’s yours!”

Angelo Galassi took advantage of a bureaucratic mistake that declared him deceased and covered his tracks so well that everyone thought him dead at this point: his parents, his agent, his adoring fans. The great singer-songwriter, the idol of the crowds, was actually a tormented and depressed man. He hoped that he could run away from himself and his problems by hiding among the New York skyscrapers. But life is stronger, and out of nowhere comes Sophia: the five-year-old daughter Angelo didn’t know he had and mute by choice. Tiziano Ferro tells the story of a “redeeming downfall,” a long descent into the underworld that started with an adolescence of abuses and obsessions and ended in a sensational surrender. *La felicità al principio* is a surprising book, filled with the rage of a howl, but also full of tenderness.



TIZIANO FERRO is an Italian singer-songwriter, a lyricist, and a record producer. The incredible popularity of his repertoire has made him one of the most appreciated and famous Italian artists in the country and around the world, as well as a reference point in international music. He sold over twenty million records throughout his career and received several prestigious national and international awards. *La felicità al principio* is his first novel.

STEFANO DI MARINO
The House of the Salamanders

The posthumous novel by one of the best-loved authors in detective and noir contemporary fiction.



The occultist scholar Bas Salieri finds himself in Bologna with a broken heart and no plans for the future. He is greeted under the porticoes by Mario Ghiddi, his longtime friend and a great expert on cinema and Italian Gothic. To distract him, Mario takes him to an event of the underground Bologna: a semi-secret auction that also includes a painting made by a tormented inquisitor from the sixteenth century. Many are vying for the painting, especially Verbena Vardi, the sole descendent of the last alleged witch sentenced by the inquisitor. Everyone knows why: according to the legend, the painter regretted his actions and hid in the brushstrokes the names of the people behind the false accusation that were made against the woman. The gallerist Ruben Moioli wins the painting's auction by bidding an exorbitant sum of money. Mario and his crew of handsome and ambiguous acquaintances suspect that there might be something going on... and the painting's dark reputation quickly confirms it. And then there is the Vardi's estate, a place known as "The House of the Salamanders" after a troop of bloodthirsty warriors whose dark souls are rumored to still roam in its basement. How many other secrets are hidden in the manor?

STEFANO DI MARINO (Milan, 1961-2021) has been called "the greatest pulp author in Italy," and "a twenty-first century Salgari." He was a writer, a translator, a literary critic, a film historian, and an Italian teacher. He published almost two-hundred novels under various pseudonyms during his extraordinary career.

VALERIO VARESI
The Ice Labyrinth

A man who decides to cover his tracks by taking refuge in an inhospitable mountain area.

A man grumbles from the exhaustion and cold. He is carrying a backpack, a little bit of food, and a radio emitting voices from the world that he decided to suddenly escape for reasons the reader will discover page by page. Now the white silence of a glacier makes him invisible and bloodthirsty like a wolf in the woods and guards his secret: a labyrinth where to hide, a disorienting gallery of underground tunnels that can withstand the intrusion attempts by humans and animals coming from the outside. And so we witness the exploits and chess strategies of a challenge against the risk of banality and anonymity; the gamble of a man with no name who pursues the possibility of asserting himself as the demiurge of his own identity and authenticity through his defensive tactics of the ice labyrinth. A voice rises from this confession novel, the desperate voice of a man who makes a life for himself as a fugitive and predator, a life full of mysteries and unsolved murders, escapes and chases, to rid himself of what others tacked onto him. But, as it often happens, fiction will turn out to be more real than reality.



VALERIO VARESI (Turin, 1959) is one of the most popular crime writers in Italy. His novels represent some of the best examples of "social noir" in Europe and have been translated in the United Kingdom, Germany, Poland, Spain, and France, where he has been called "the Italian Simenon." *Gli invisibili* (ed. Mondadori, 2019, published in English as *The Unseen*, ed. Patrician, 2022) and *Reo confesso* (ed. Mondadori, 2021) are his latest novels featuring Commissario Soneri.

NICOLA PESCE
The Scent of the Apricot Tree

A lit fireplace, a coffee, stories, and memories. That is all it takes to be happy.



Real life is made of little things, a lit fireplace, a good book to read, and stories to share. Nicola Pesce brings back the narrative warmth of his two previous books, his tender capacity to move the readers’ hearts with his short stories and teach them how to be deeply in touch with their feelings, putting it all in service of a new plot. A famous elderly writer who lives like a hermit in his remote cabin in the woods tells the stories that made his life worth living. A moving and nostalgic novel to understand happiness.

NICOLA PESCE is an author and editor. He wrote and published the literary sensation *La volpe che amava i libri* in 2021. He wrote and published the literary hit *La volpe che amava i libri* in 2021, followed by *La volpe che amava le piccole cose* (Mondadori, 2022). He is a digital nomad who travels around Italy and the world, armed with old notebooks with yellowed pages to write his novels and poems.

GIANLUCA GOTTO
Something Wonderful Always
Happens

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

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.”

MORE THAN 150.000 COPIES SOLD
ENGLISH SAMPLES AVAILABLE



GIANLUCA GOTTO is a digital nomad: he writes articles and books while traveling around the world, especially throughout Asia. He shares his Zen lessons and life experiences on his Instagram account and his blog “Mangia Vivi Viaggia.” In 2018, he wrote down his life story in the book *Le coordinate della felicità*, which he then followed up with the novels *Come una notte a Bali*, *Succede sempre qualcosa di meraviglioso* and *La pura vida*. His TEDx “Come essere felici ogni singolo giorno” is one of the most viewed videos in Italian.

SIMONE LAUDIERO
Brancalonia

The novel that celebrates the Italian-style fantasy genre, aka the “Spaghetti Fantasy”.



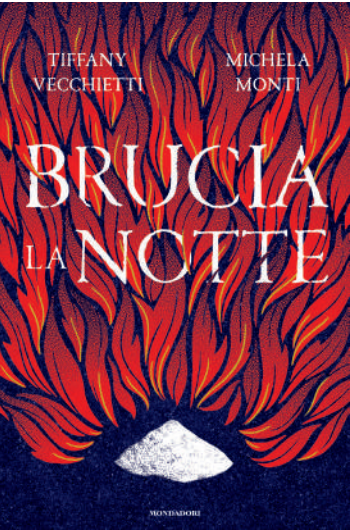
A ragtag group of actors is staging a wartime tragedy in the streets of Apollonia. After a particularly bad rehearsal, the peniless thespians walk around town in their soldier costumes hoping to scrape together some dinner. They end up in a tavern, where they get in a fight with a rival company of actors. Two outsiders, an old man and a young woman, watch the scuffle; after the costumed group gets the upper hand, they mistake them for real warriors and approach them. They offer to buy them dinner and, once they are seated at the table, they tell them their story. They come from a remote village in Macilento, a poor and rural region in Volturnia; they are looking for a group of noble-minded mercenaries to defend their little town from the threat of a gang of marauders in exchange for an honest pay. The actors have little doubt about it: they accept without even discussing it and commence their performance as men of arms. Once they get back to the dump where they are staying, they talk it over and come up with a plan: they will play the part, take the payment up front, and make a run for it before the bandits show up. Everyone knows that a dragon was killed in the area centuries ago and its treasure was never found. If they can figure out its location before the marauders’ arrival, then they could get away with the jackpot. And so the adventure begins.

SIMONE LAUDIERO is a member of the collective known as *La Buoncostume*. They have been working as writers, directors, authors, and actors since 2008, creating entertainment and fiction products for television and the Internet. Mondadori published their books *Millennials - Il mondo nuovo* (2018) and *Furioso – Il canto nuovo* (2022).

TIFFANY VECCHIETTI
MICHELA MONTI
The Night Burns

The first chapter of a two-volume dystopian feminist saga co-written by one of Italy’s most popular fantasy promoters on the Internet.

Ani is a young woman who works in the salt pans and lives with her fellows-in-captivity segregated in a salt marsh. Their work is essential to keep the State machine alive: salt represents the last and only resource for the survival of humanity. One day, after a tragic accident, Ani and Bianca (her only friend in the labor camp) have a chance to escape. After they get out, they run into Gizem, the sister Ani thought was lost for good. Gizem takes them to Congrega, where they meet Ebe, one of the community’s most powerful personalities. It is up to her and her sisters to explain to the newcomers what it means to be a striga (a witch), and how far they can push to free society from the yoke of an authoritarian and brutal government.



TIFFANY VECCHIETTI is a translator, an expert of the fantasy universe, a feminist activist, and an entertainer or, better, a cultural agitator. Thanks to *missfictionbooks*, her YouTube and Instagram channels, she is certainly one of the most interesting, influential, and charismatic people in the digital world that gravitates around books.

MICHELA MONTI won the award Giallo Garda 2018 with her debut novel 83500, the first volume of a trilogy that she followed with *MTVM* and *Otto* (ed. Triskell). She participated in “Salvataggi” (along with Alice Basso, Bianca Pitzorno, Nicoletta Vallorani, and forty-six other writers), a project by the non-profit organization Pangea in support of Afghan women.

PP. 156
PUBLICATION:
OCTOBER 2023

DANIELE GIANNAZZO

If It Were a Romantic Comedy

A romantic comedy that turn into a dark path that will take the reader to a jaw-dropping turn of events.



The twenty-six-year-old Eva and her nineteen-year-old brother Alex are headed to a remote resort in the California mountains. The trip is the birthday present that Alex asked his sister after being dumped by his longtime boyfriend, a way to blow off steam and spend some relaxing time with her. At least that is what he told Eva. Alex had actually suggested that they go to that specific resort after finding out that his ex was going to spend his winter holidays there. What better way to try to reconnect and convince him that their relationship isn't over? When he manages to run into him, though, he discovers something that changes everything, forever. Alex is unable to accept it, so he gets very drunk and is rescued by a mysterious and charming guy, who enters Alex and Eva's lives and disrupts their existence.

An entertaining and surprising novel by Daniele Giannazzo.

DANIELE GIANNAZZO is a TV series expert, web manager and influencer, and writes for several newspapers. He is the founder of *Daninseries*, a web community that has been collecting news, previews and curiosities on the world of TV shows and more since 2013.

PP. 276
PUBLICATION:
OCTOBER 2023

VALERIE NOTARI

Gamer Girl

An Own Voice novel about the world of e-sports.



Many people around her consider Giulia, a seemingly shy and delicate seventeen-year-old, to be the “odd girl.” This perception might be because she often hides behind oversized hoodies or tries her best to blend into the background. In reality, Giulia often disappears, mainly to avoid dealing with her parents’ constant arguments, a sister with whom she’s lost the close bond they once had, or the pain of being bullied or ignored by her classmates.

Luckily, there’s the Challenger, a gaming bar where she can escape and immerse herself in her favorite pastime: playing League of Legends. It’s a safe haven hidden from the rest of the world where no one judges her or tells her how she should act or feel. Even though Giulia is just an amateur player, she’s remarkably skilled, and one day, she gets a chance to participate in a tournament that catches the attention of a prestigious gaming academy’s staff. They make her an offer that’s hard to refuse. However, accepting it isn’t easy for Giulia. It would mean turning her solitary hobby, shared with strangers for a few minutes during a game, into something serious. And, most importantly, it would require her to share everything with her team. But maybe it’s time for her to summon the courage she has and confront her fears, trusting the instincts she’s often doubted. Perhaps it’s time to look toward the future without being paralyzed by fear, at least for once.

VALERIE NOTARI is a transgender writer and an internationally renowned cosplayer. In 2021 she published with Mondadori her first novel *Cosplay Girl*. Her passion for Video Games inspired this second novel. She is a LGBTQIA+ activist.

CECILIA SALA

The Fire

Reportage on a Generation between Iran, Ukraine, and Afghanistan

PP. 204
PUBLICATION:
SEPTEMBER 2023

A collective story, heartrending and true, that shows us “three fires that are burning the world,” rattling it beyond the borders of the countries where they were set ablaze.



Kateryna is twenty-eight years old. She has worked as a model, she has friends all over Europe, and she hoped that there would be a war in Ukraine at the beginning of 2022. “I’m not so cowardly as to prefer to live under Putin’s thumb for years and years, leaving it up to the next generation to confront him.” Kateryna is now a soldier.

Assim is twenty-three and studies aeronautical engineering at the University of Tehran. The day Mahsa Amini died, September 16, 2022, he and his friends started writing her name in university bathrooms and train cars. “We didn’t know what we were starting.”

Nabila is a kickboxing champion, a lesbian, and a faithful supporter of the Islamic Republic. But, like many religious women, she thinks that the case of the girl stopped at a metro station for an improperly worn hijab and returned to her family as a corpse a few days later, was “a collective disgrace and a blunder against God.”

Zarifa grew up thinking she would become a politician and came of age in an Afghanistan where it was possible, after 2001 and before 2021. She is part of the generation that imagined and then started to build their life upon premises that were incompatible with the fundamentalists’ codes; the generation that currently refuses to consider the Taliban’s movement, “which has existed for less time than cellphones, controlling for seven non-consecutive years every aspect of the country” and their destiny.

CECILIA SALA is a journalist for “*Il Foglio*” and the writer and voice of Stories, a podcast that every day explores a different story from around the world. She is the first podcaster correspondent sent to crisis areas: she reported from the field during the crisis in Venezuela, the protests in Chile and Iran, Kabul’s fall in Taliban hands in August 2021, and the war in Ukraine.

ALESSIA PIPERNO

Azadi!

PP. 540
PUBLICATION:
SEPTEMBER 2023

The inspirational memoir of the Italian traveller arrested in Iran.

After being falsely accused of participating in Iran’s antigovernment protests that were triggered by the death of young Mahsa Amini, Alessia Piperno was arrested and detained for forty-four days in the Evin prison north of Tehran along with political prisoners and dissidents of the Iranian government. Starting from her account of those very long days of captivity during which she couldn’t communicate with anyone, Alessia retraces the years she spent wandering around the world and tells us how her traveling experience helped her survive in such a challenging time. An inspirational book that begins with a dramatic news story and turns into a manifesto of the saving power of traveling and a passionate defense of freedom.



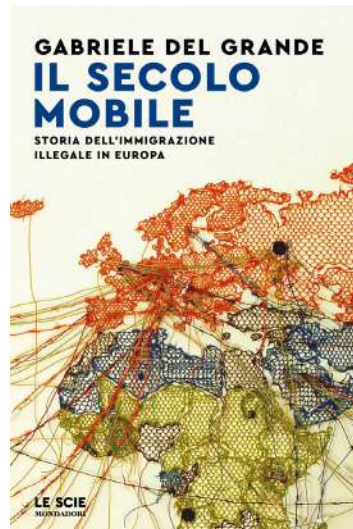
ALESSIA PIPERNO (Rome, 1992) left Italy in 2016 to explore the world on her own. She has lived, worked, and traveled in over fifty countries in five different continents, sharing her love for traveling on her Instagram page. In 2022, she was arrested in Iran and spent forty-four days in Tehran’s Evin prison. This is her story.

GABRIELE DEL GRANDE

The Century in Motion

A History of Illegal Migration in Europe

“Even though the visa system turned mobility into an obstacle course, the border has almost always remained open. That is the big misunderstanding. Travel bans didn’t stop the flow of people. They simply rerouted them into illegal channels.”



One hundred years ago, passports didn’t exist: people just traveled without permits or passes. Nowadays, instead, the Schengen visa system prevents most of humanity from entering Europe: poor and mainly non-white people from low- and middle-income countries in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. After being rejected by the consulates, all that remains for these migrants is to get smuggled on boats leaving from free ports in Turkey and North Africa. That is how three and a half million travelers without visas have crossed the Mediterranean in the past thirty years, while the bodies of another fifty thousand are currently lying at the bottom of the sea as fish food. With the rigor of a historian and the flair of a storyteller, Gabriele Del Grande writes the first history on illegal migration in Europe without losing sight of the global context of decolonization, racial desegregation overseas, the Cold War, the rise of Islamist movements, China and India’s return to the global scene, and Africa’s demographic (and potentially also economic) boom. A compelling narrative that weaves together stories of emigration and immigration, while also pitting the ghosts of the Euro-Atlantic supremacist past against a cautiously optimistic view of the future. Putting an end to the arrivals and shipwrecks is actually possible. But first we have to remove the last invisible line of color: the apartheid at the border.

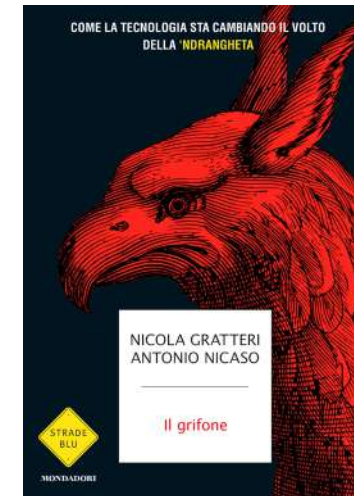
GABRIELE DEL GRANDE worked for over a decade as a reporter focusing on migration between Africa and Europe. In 2006, he founded Fortress Europe, the first observatory on the victims of migration along the border and since then, he has carried out his research in thirty countries on both sides of the Mediterranean and the Sahel, Mondadori published his book *Dawla. La storia dello Stato islamico raccontata dai suoi disertori* (2018).

NICOLA GRATTERI, ANTONIO NICASO

The Griffon

The Metamorphosis of Today’s ‘Ndrangheta

Gratteri and Nicaso's new investigation on how technology is changing the face of the ‘Ndrangheta.



As predicted by Tim Barnes Lee, founder of the World Wide Web, what we are experiencing is much more than a technological transformation. It is a major turning point, in which the digital sphere represents an extension of the human mind, where the real world is intertwined with the virtual one, blending into a nebula with indistinct boundaries. These changes obviously affect the mafias as well. In particular, the ‘Ndrangheta, one of the “richest and most powerful” criminal organizations in the world according to Interpol. The perception is that these mobsters have become more hybrid, capable of perpetrating their crimes both online and offline. They are not afraid of carrying their cellphone because they think they have a cop in their pocket. In this new book, Nicola Gratteri and Antonio Nicaso pursue their investigation on the evolution of the ‘Ndrangheta focusing on its technological ramifications. From the “deep web” to social media, how does the mafia 2.0 operate?

NICOLA GRATTERI is one of the most exposed prosecutors in the fight against the ‘Ndrangheta. He conducted investigations on the Duisburg massacre and international drug trafficking routes.

ANTONIO NICASO is an organized crime scholar and is considered one of the world’s foremost experts on the ‘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: RHM/ Spain, La Martiniere/France, Lebowski/ Netherlands, Avliga/Bulgaria.

MIMMO FRANZINELLI

Hitler’s Slaves

Italian Soldiers in Nazi Concentration Camps

PP. 432
PUBLICATION:
SEPTEMBER 2023

Franzinelli reconstructs the history of the Italian soldiers interned in the Reich camps after the armistice of September 8th, 1943.



The announcement of Marshal Badoglio’s armistice was broadcast over the radio on September 8, 1943. It was followed shortly thereafter by the collapse of the Royal Army both in Italy and abroad. From Milan to Rome, from France to Yugoslavia all the way to the island of Cephallonia, Italian troops were left without directives, exposed to the offensive of their former German allies. Over 750,000 soldiers and officers were captured and deported to the Reich’s concentration camps; only a minority of them accepted to join the Italian Social Republic in exchange for their freedom. The needs of the Nazi war economy transformed that mass of men into a source of forced labor, making them “Hitler’s slaves” until the end of the war. Drawing from journals, letters, and archival sources, Mimmo Franzinelli reconstructs the capture of thousands of young soldiers, their odyssey to concentration camps, the collaborationist dynamics, and the “persuasive” strategies of the Italian Social Republic, subordinate to the Nazis’ needs. These pages are counterbalanced with stories of everyday life in a state of absolute deprivation in the concentration camps, ordeals narrated directly by the source: men neglected by history so far, but also well-known figures, from Giovannino Guareschi to Mario Rigoni Stern. Mimmo Franzinelli’s work represents a proper tribute to those concentration camp survivors: they were strangers in their homeland, excluded from the collective memory for decades, and have only recently received a belated (and, for many, posthumous) recognition of the value of their Resistance.

MIMMO FRANZINELLI is a historian of fascism and the Italian Social Republic, has written many books, published by Mondadori: *Le stragi nascoste, Squadristi, Guerra di spie, Il Piano Solo, Il prigioniero di Salò, Il Duce e le donne, Bombardate Roma!, Disertori, Il tribunale del Duce, Tortura, Fascismo anno zero, Il filosofo in camicia nera, L’insurrezione fascista*, and *1960. L’Italia sull’orlo della guerra civile* (written with Alessandro Giaccone).

LAURA BRAZZO

Voices of the Shoah

PP. 276
PUBLICATION:
JANUARY 2024

A major work of historical reconstruction and a reflection on the story of the Holocaust in Italy featuring unprecedented testimonies.

On April 11, 1973, the former SS officer Friedrich Bosshammer was sentenced to life imprisonment for his role in the deportation of Jews from Italy to German concentration camps. The case against him went to trial in Germany, first in Dortmund and then in Berlin. The trial and the research work that was carried out by the Center of Contemporary Jewish Documentation represent a crucial turning point for all of the following research on the people who were deported and the Shoah in Italy. Through the testimonies gathered in those years (some of which were previously unpublished), Brazzo reinstates people, events, and emotions in the collective memory. A thorough work of historical reconstruction and also the chance to reflect on the story of the Holocaust in Italy.



LAURA BRAZZO has a degree in history and a PhD in political science. She was the manager of the Historical Archive and the Digital Library of the Center of Contemporary Jewish Documentation (Centro di Documentazione Ebraica Contemporanea, CDEC) and she became the institute’s deputy director in 2022. She is one of the founders of the magazine *Quest. Issues in Contemporary Jewish History*.

FRANCESCA CAPPELLETTI

The Strategy of Beauty

Female Portraits in the Halls of Power

A masterful essay combining history and art.



In the late seventeenth century, there were entire rooms in noble buildings that were dedicated to collecting portraits of “famous women” from the time, almost as if cataloging them. Contemporary ladies, influential characters at court, or legendary beauties whose fame spread quickly across Europe’s aristocracy. Wives of princes and future mothers of princes and cardinals, crucial links in political alliances, and irreplaceable pieces in complex family strategies. Famous for their beauty, often at the source of uncontrollable passions and tragic events. These portraits, known as “Le belle” (the beauties), were popular among art collections in Italy, decorating the walls in the homes of noble families like Chigi, Colonna, Odescalchi, Gonzaga, Farnese, Borghese, and throughout Europe. A trend that dates back to ancient times that provides through its evolution a new perspective to explore the role of women in history.

FRANCESCA CAPPELLETTI is an art historian and director of Galleria Borghese. She studied in Rome, at the Warburg Institute in London, at the Collège de France in Paris, and then taught art history courses on modern art and European art in Italian universities, most recently as a tenured professor at the University of Ferrara. She spent years studying Italian art collections from the Renaissance to the nineteenth century. She is the author of several essays and articles, and her work contributed to recovering *The Taking of Christ*, a Caravaggio painting that is currently at the National Gallery in Dublin. She participated in organizing and creating the catalogs for exhibitions around Italy and abroad. She also collaborated with the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles and was part of the Superior Council of Cultural Affairs at the Italian Ministry of Culture, where she was vice president from 2014 to 2018.

BRUNO VESPA

Resentment and Hope

After the success of his series on fascism, Bruno Vespa returns with a new book.

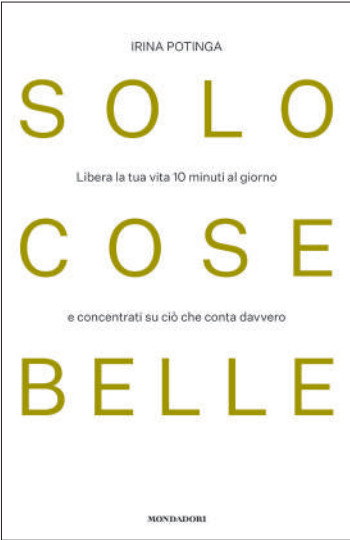
Bruno Vespa’s new book begins with a moving interview with Anna Vescovi, the woman who met and forgave the leader (over a hundred years old by that point) of the group of partisans who killed her father Giulio and fifty-three other people in the prison in Schio on July 7, 1945. Anna Vescovi is one of the few relatives of the victims of the carnage that took place between 1945 and 1948 who has forgiven the murderers. Many never recovered the corpses of their loved ones; many others never accepted the acquittals or the soft sentences inflicted upon the culprits, protected by the “political crime” shield created by Togliatti’s amnesty. Bruno Vespa digs through the many open wounds, talking to the victims’ relatives and updating the most significant and disturbing stories mentioned in *Vincitori e vinti*, his 2005 bestseller. He also goes over the progress and consequences of the war in Ukraine, which could take its most dramatic turn over the summer. He writes about his two meetings with the Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky, as well as the last, surreal, one-on-one dinner with the Russian ambassador before he left Italy in May. The last part of the book is also full of surprises and is dedicated, as usual, to current politics. The first year of Giorgia Meloni’s government, the PD party’s clamorous move to the left under Elly Schlein, Berlusconi’s latest rebirth, the fragmentations and reconstructions of the Third Pole. And, as always, the section on current politics will be updated until the day before the book’s publication.



BRUNO VESPA (L’Aquila, 1944) has been running the TV show “Porta a porta”, the most watched talk show on politics and current affairs, since 1996. 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.

IRINA POTINGA
Only Nice Things

Free your life by focusing on what really matters for ten minutes a day.



It only takes ten minutes a day and a few simple rules to clear the clutter that surrounds us and focus on the essential, on what we really love and who we truly are. Irina Potinga, creator of the project “Spazio Grigio,” has been working for the past few years on spreading her minimalist philosophy through her social media channels. She presents a full spectrum journey of relief that starts from shedding superfluous clothes and objects that clutter our homes, all the way to thoughts, bad habits, and relationships that hinder us from living the life we would like to have. “The first part of the book will actually tackle the closet, because that is often the place where useless things tend to pile up, and because it is under our eyes every day. The second part is dedicated to decluttering the rest of the house, especially objects like books, souvenirs, documents. The third part deals with the minimalist lifestyle: how to apply minimalism to relationships, thoughts, and activities. In the last part of the book, we will go over the good habits that will allow us to move forward on this path of awareness and live our best life. When I started to get rid of the clothes first, then the stuff around me, then some of the activities, people, old memories, and the negative and limiting thoughts, I cleared my mind. I realized what I really love, what brings me joy and satisfaction, what my priorities are, what adds value to my life. Now I feel happy and grateful for everything I have, my home, my family, and what I do every day. When I get home and open the door, I get this feeling of peace and lightness. When I look around, I only see nice things.”

IRINA POTINGA is the creator of “Spazio Grigio” (a blog, YouTube channel, and newsletter) and is specialized in minimalism, personal growth, and sustainability. Born abroad, she grew up and studied in Italy, earning a degree in economics and a master’s in marketing. After living in Japan and Belgium, she now lives in Turin with her husband and son. She changed her life and now her mission is to help others free themselves of their burdens and find lightness in their closets, in their homes, and in their lives. Her course on minimalism has helped thousands of people.

DANIEL LUMERA
28 Breaths to Change Your Life
How to Achieve an Enlightened Mind

A nine-step journey that starts from the crossroads between neuroscience and ancient millenary traditions to unlock the secret of well-being, happiness, and quality of life.

Daniel Lumera combines neuroscience and ancient traditions that are thousands of years old to trace a path that is as effective as it is revolutionary. A journey to reconnect with our natural state of well-being, to reset the rhythms and harmony of our entire organism, of our lives, and thus go back to the basics, to what is essential. A return to the “simple” life that we have forgotten, and that today’s latest scientific studies are rediscovering as the most effective natural medicine. This book is a voyage into the mind’s and the breath’s potential. It teaches us the best strategies to experience the power of mindfulness, to awaken the heart’s intelligence, to recognize our authentic desires, to understand the real nature of the mind, to eliminate mental poisons, to free ourselves from dysfunctional and unconscious behavioral codes, to foster creativity, to live extraordinary perceptual and cognitive experiences, which go beyond the customary worldview. A method within everyone’s grasp to create a lifestyle of peace, harmony, beauty, and reach an experience of complete well-being. Starting with 28 simple breaths.



DANIEL LUMERA is a naturalist biologist, a professor, and an international reference in the science of well-being and meditation, which he studied with Anthony Elenjittam, a direct disciple of Gandhi. He is the author of several bestsellers published by Mondadori. He created the method My Life Design® and founded My Life Design ODV, which applies the technique to projects with a high social impact.

ALBERTO GRANDI

Invented Designation of Origin

Marketing lies about typical Italian products.



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The Parmigiano Reggiano most similar to that created so many centuries ago by the wisdom of the Emilian monks? It's the Parmesan produced in Wisconsin, USA. And that sweet and juicy marvel, pampered by the sun and air of Sicily, called the Pachino tomato? It's a hybrid produced in a laboratory by an Israeli multinational seed company. Not to mention Marsala: it was invented, marketed and produced on a large scale by an English merchant who added alcohol to the wine for the sole purpose of preserving it better during transport to the motherland. And all that fuss about defining DOC, DOP or IPG wine on the basis of supposedly thousand-year-old vineyard traditions? A noble intent that pretends not to know that in the second half of the 19th century, a parasite destroyed all the vineyards in Italy and Europe. Having to start from scratch, our winegrowers compulsorily used non-native vines and various grafts. Alberto Grandi, professor at the University of Parma, reveals how much marketing is behind the resounding success of the Italian food industry. The many typical Italian products, most of the dishes and the Mediterranean diet itself are delicious, but the legends of history and wisdom that accompany them are much more recent inventions, triggered by the industrial crisis of the 1970s: it was at that time that Italian entrepreneurs and growers teamed up to invent an alleged thousand-year-old tradition of our food and the consequent storytelling to support it. 'Invented Designation of Origin' is a book that will anger - but perhaps also reason with - all those who are fideistically in love with the great myth of Italian typicality.

ALBERTO GRANDI (Mantua, 1967) is an associate professor at the University of Parma. He teaches History of Businesses, History of European Integration and has taught Economic History and Food History. He is the author of around forty essays and monographs in Italy and abroad.

Foto © Leonardo Scotti

FINANCIAL TIMES

FT Magazine Food & Drink

Everything I, an Italian, thought I knew about Italian food is wrong

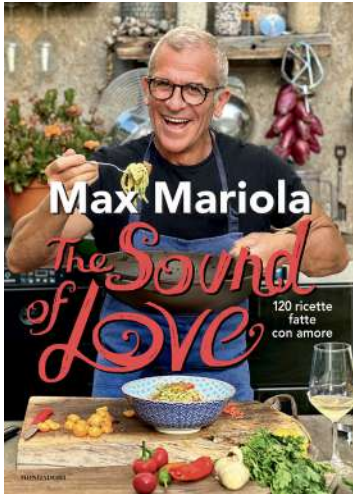
From panettone to tiramisu, many 'classics' are in fact recent inventions, as Alberto Grandi has shown

For Grandi, the story of carbonara perfectly encapsulates Hobsbawm's idea of the "invention of tradition". To shed some light on this national favourite, I call Bernardino Moroni, the 97-year-old grandfather of a Roman friend. "We only had pasta on Sundays," he says on a video call from his home in Morlupo, in the province of Rome. His childhood meals were mainly minestra, beans and vegetables from the family's kitchen garden, he explains. When I ask him about carbonara, a supposed staple of Roman cooking, he looks away from the camera. "Maybe once a year we ate amatriciana [a tomato-based recipe with bacon], when we could afford to kill a pig. But I'd never heard of carbonara before the war." That is because, as the food historian Luca Cesari, author of *A Brief History of Pasta*, puts it, carbonara is "an American dish born in Italy" and it wasn't born until the second world war. The story that most experts agree on is that an Italian chef, Renato Gualandi, first made it in 1944 at a dinner in Riccione for the US army with guests including Harold Macmillan. "The Americans had fabulous bacon, very good cream, some cheese and powdered egg yolks," Gualandi later recalled. Cesari dismisses myths that carbonara was the food of 18th-century Italian charcoal workers as "ahistorical". For Italians born after boom years, carbonara has an unalterable set of ingredients: pork jowl, Roman pecorino cheese, eggs and pepper. But early recipes are surprisingly varied. The oldest was printed in Chicago in 1952 and featured Italian bacon, not pork jowl. Pork jowl didn't come to replace bacon until as recently as the 1990s.



MAX MARIOLA
The Sound of Love

These are the components. But before you delve into my recipes, let me give you one last piece of advice: freedom! You should always feel free in the kitchen, even free to make mistakes.



So, we are here to talk about my idea of cooking. That's easy, it's Italian cuisine. I grew up with my mother's meatballs, my grandmother's peperonata, and my aunts' handmade pasta: I have always loved cooking thanks to them. I worked for twenty years in some great restaurants and traveled halfway around the world, combining my experience with my mother's lessons and getting to a cuisine with simple but solid foundations.

1) Quality ingredients: plants and animals that had a good and healthy life will also make us feel good when we eat them. 2) A good cuisine starts with good grocery shopping: go to the market, look around, make friends with the greengrocer or the butcher so they treat you better. 3) Seasonality: discover ingredients and recipes that are always new and fresh depending on the season. 4) Local is better: there are thousands of different products in Italy, let's not let them go extinct like pandas. 5) Less, but good: buy less ingredients, but get the good ones. 6) Sustainability: let's learn from our grandparents how to set leftovers aside so they can be used later. 7) Tradition: region by region, it is a priceless gift in terms of health and happiness, which needs to be passed on to the next generations. 8) Everything, but in the right amounts: balance is necessary to stay healthy, to cook products with love, attention, and lots of good olive oil. 9) Fitness: whisking eggs requires a strong arm. 10) Cheerfulness: if we feel good about ourselves, we will love our ingredients and the people eating our dishes.

120 RECIPES MADE WITH LOVE

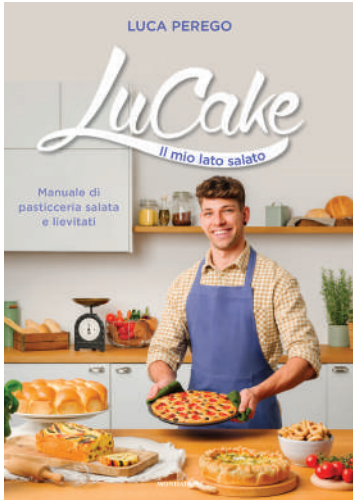
Foto © Ekaterina Grigoreva



MAX MARIOLA started cooking when he was just a boy after watching his mother in the kitchen. That is where his passion was ignited. After a long journey training professionally, he started teaching various cooking classes and landed on television on Gambero Rosso Channel. He is the Executive Chef and Quality Control Supervisor for Catering at the Boscolo Hotels chain in Italy and Europe. He is the Consultant Chef for AIA Food and the Veronesi Group. He is the Executive Chef of the restaurants Agata e Romeo, Park Royal Hotel, and Simposium in Cartoceto. A few years ago, he decided to share his knowledge as a chef on his social media channels, where millions of people around the world follow him as he prepares his recipes from the spectacular kitchen on his terrace.

LUCA PEREGO
LuCake - My Savoury Side

A recipe book of savoury pastry and leavened products.



Cookbooks have asserted themselves as one of the most popular holiday gifts. In his second book, Luca Peregò, Instagram’s baking star beloved for his talent and great professionalism, guides us in the discovery of the savory side of baking and the world of leavened products. Quiches, hors d’oeuvres, breads, pizzas, and focaccias: recipes for special occasions, as well as dinner-saving dishes and ways to empty out the fridge. A book accessible to everyone, with recipes involving common utensils and widely available ingredients. As the son of a baker, Luca grew up around flour, doughs, and batters in the family bakery, which has been in business for over 120 years; that is where he learned the trade secrets that have been passed on by four generations. He now shares these secrets with us in a clear and lavishly illustrated manual that explains the techniques and processes step by step. A mouthwatering book and a perfect holiday gift.

LUCA PEREGO, known as LuCake, is a baker with a passion for photography who decided to share his expertise on the Internet, creating accurate still-lives of his gorgeous recipes. In 2018, he ranked first in the Food category of the “Rising Star” chart by Buzzoole. He worked with various magazines and brands over the years and undertook an artistic journey in radio and television. He presented his first book *LuCake. Il mio manuale di pasticceria per tutti* (ed. Mondadori) in November 2021. He appeared in the Social Media category of Forbes’ “100 Under 30” chart in March 2022.

ROSSELLA MIGLIACCIO
Faces
A Guide to Facial Shapes to Enhance Your Image

The bestselling author of *Armocromia* returns with a book on facial shapes.

“Beauty is simply the harmony of parts.” Classical sculptors and painters were well aware of it and used the golden ratio to create magnificent works of art. The expert and acclaimed image consultant Rossella Migliaccio draws from the same ratio to advise and guide her clients, not in pursuit of unattainable beauty standards, but to highlight one’s uniqueness. In this new manual, she teaches readers how to recognize their facial shape so they can find the best haircut, makeup, and accessories. After examining every detail of the face, from the forehead to the neck, she shows them how to balance everything thanks to hairdos and makeup, glasses and jewelry. A book for both women and men to overcome their fear of looking in the mirror and exalt their diversity.



ROSSELLA MIGLIACCIO is an entrepreneur and image expert. After graduating from Bocconi University in Milan and gaining experience in the world of advertising and fashion publishing, she earned an international certification as an image consultant in London. She founded the Italian Image Institute, and she works with international luxury, fashion, and beauty brands. She is the author of the books *Armocromia* (2019), *Forme* (2020), and *Colori* (2022), which were published by Vallardi.

BARBASCURA X

The Scientific Satyr – Shitty Stories

The second issue of the popular science book-magazine by Barbascura.



For the second issue of his book/magazine, Barbascura X selected an extremely common topic: excrements. In nature, in fact, feces aren't just a waste product: they also represent a communication system, a way to relate to one another, and, in many cases, they also determine the survival chances of a species. From the dung beetle to our (highly sophisticated) digestive system, from predators to the chemistry of feces: a journey between popular science and comedy exploring one of the topics that unites all of the planet's living creatures.

BARBASCURA X is a chemist, science populariser, theatre performer, writer, author, musician and video-maker. With a degree in organic chemistry and a PhD in green chemistry and production of materials from renewable sources, he has worked in major laboratories across Europe. He has become famous on the web for his column "Scienza Brutta" (Ugly Science), a series of parodic and irreverent pseudo-documentaries in which the lesser-known and shocking aspects of the natural sciences are recounted. Between popularisation and satire, he has brought science to theatres, conferences and various television programmes. For his unusual way of dealing with these topics, he has been called the punk of science popularisation.

MARCO MARTINELLI

Bonds, Explosions, Transformations

An amusing popular science book on high school chemistry. A useful instrument for students and teachers.

Everything is chemistry. The food we eat, the air we breathe, our very own bodies. But many don't know about it and are therefore diffident and afraid of this discipline that is, yes, complex, but also extremely fascinating. Mastering chemistry's building blocks is useful in everyday life to understand how to eat, how to clean, how to best use some appliances, from batteries to solar panels. Marco Martinelli goes over the high school chemistry curriculum to overcome the widespread gaps in knowledge and share his passion for this branch of science, explaining it in a clear and entertaining way. From pH to particles, from reactions to electrochemistry, the resulting manual is full of fun and handy information. A useful instrument for students and teachers, and an enjoyable book for science enthusiasts.



MARCO MARTINELLI majored in molecular and industrial biotechnologies at Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in Pisa, where he then earned a PhD in plant biotechnology and is currently a research affiliate. As a popular science communicator, he combined his passions for science and showmanship in the TV shows Memex. In 2022, he wrote and hosted the show *Il Piccolo Chimico* for Rai Gulp.

FERDINANDO DE GIORGI

Selfish Team Players

Enhanced the Team Without Sacrificing the Talent

PP. 156
PUBLICATION:
SEPTEMBER 2023

The method of leadership and personal growth of one of the most successful coaches in Italian sports.



A leadership and personal growth method from the Italian head coach and volleyball world champion Ferdinando “Fefé” De Giorgi, a volleyball legend and an iconic figure in Italian sports. First, he became a world champion as a volleyball player; then, as a head coach, he graduated in just two years from the European to the World Championship with his team of bad boys. With his innate team management skills, he forged a very young group of players into a team capable of tackling the challenges with enthusiasm and clarity. Drawing from his coaching experience, De Giorgi’s book presents a system of leadership techniques and personal growth practices that can be applied to every aspect of one’s personal and professional life.

FERDINANDO DE GIORGI is the head coach of the Italian volleyball national team, the reigning world champions. He has won everything in his career, distinguishing himself for his unique leadership style based on listening, kindness, and firmness.

JAVIER ZANETTI

The Ball of Contention

The Eternal Rivalry Between Italy and Argentina

PP. 180
PUBLICATION:
NOVEMBER 2023

The soccer rivalry between Italy and Argentina in the words of a champion who knows them both.

Argentina and Italy have always been close to one another, in soccer and in history. Many Italian migrants went to South America seeking their fortune, contributing to Argentina’s soul, its economy, and its culture. Javier Zanetti’s great-grandfather was among them. In this book, Inter Milan’s former captain reveals the magical bond between what he considers his two countries. Through Argentina’s soccer and its great protagonists, from Maradona to the more contemporary Messi and Dybala, Zanetti guides us in discovering a country that many have only imagined: its cities, its traditions, the glorious moments and also the dark ones, the passions and the cultural meaning of being a soccer fan. Weaving together personal memories with epic and timeless matches, he writes about moments of rivalry and connection between two countries separated by an ocean, but close to one another in terms of exchanges, tradition, and culture.



JAVIER ZANETTI was born in Buenos Aires in 1973. He is a supporter of Independiente, and he played in Argentina for Talleres and Banfield before arriving at the Italian club Inter Milan in 1995 every appearance record and wearing the captain’s armband for fifteen seasons. Overall, he won: five Scudetti, four Coppa Italia, four Supercoppa Italiana, the UEFA Cup, the 2010 Champions League, and the FIFA Club World Cup. He decided to retire as a player in 2014 and became a club director. He is currently vice-president of FC Inter Milan and a member of the Organising Committee for FIFA competitions. Mondadori has published his books *Giocare da uomo* (written with Gianni Riotta, 2013) and *Vincere, ma non solo* (2018).

PILAR NANNINI

I Eat Everything

Creating a Positive Relationship with Food for Your Children

PP. 232
PUBLICATION:
SEPTEMBER 2023

“This book is for you: mothers, fathers, grandparents, uncles, teachers. Step by step, I will show you how to prepare healthy and conscious food for the entire family, and how to overcome your children’s challenges.”



Mealtime is the most dreaded moment of the day for many parents. Children who are picky eaters are often described as “fussy” or “choosy” because they tend to reject certain types of food. The pediatrician and nutritionist Pilar Nannini goes to the root of this behavior to decipher its causes and suggest some effective solutions. First of all, she reminds us that children’s food preferences start forming the day they are conceived, they are influenced by the mother’s behavior, and they keep on developing as they grow based on their parents’ habits. She then reveals that, often, the trick to overcome their pickiness is teamwork. The collaboration of the entire family (aunts, uncles, grandparents, nannies, and even teachers), mutual trust, and spending quality time together: these are the secret ingredients for every dish eaten with pleasure. Io mangio tutto is a book for parents who are struggling to make their children eat; it is full of tips to help their kids approach a whole range of new flavors through a series of new seasonal menus that are never boring, always full of flavor and consistency, and suitable for all ages. Because getting children used to experimenting with different foods, recognizing them through their five senses, and actively participating in their preparation is the only way for kids to develop healthy and balanced preferences that will accompany them throughout their lives.

PILAR NANNINI is a pediatrician with a master’s degree in nutrition and dietetics. She is the author of several scientific articles published in national and international journals, and she works closely with many industry publications and popular science website.

MARTINA PANAGIA

Knowing It Ahead of Time

Expert Answers on Child Health, Care and Education

PP. 216
PUBLICATION:
SEPTEMBER 2023

The expert answers on raising children and their health that every parent wants to know.

From childbirth to breastfeeding, from sleep to physical and cognitive development, a mother’s life is filled with an endless series of doubts, challenges, and joys. That is why the author decided to ask all her questions to twenty-three of the world’s foremost experts in early childhood (pedagogists, obstetricians, nutritionists, speech therapists, and so on): to find the necessary answers to make every mother’s life easier and more serene. Page by page, you will find in this book all of their advice to deal not only with all the stages of your children’s growth, but also with issues you might run into as parents. What you have in your hands is basically the first interdisciplinary manual that combines the practical experience of a mother’s real life, her stories, her dreams, and her fears, with the specialized knowledge of some of Italy’s leading experts. Saperlo prima is a journey of constant support between theory and practice, a discussion and a source of comfort, a place where you can feel understood and reassured, and where you can find the necessary support to best undertake the wonderful experience of being a parent.



MARTINA PANAGIA is a TV host and Vera’s mother. She interviews experts and professionals on her social media channels, helping other mothers like her understand something every day about that wonderful, challenging, and sometimes confusing experience of becoming a parent.

Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

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