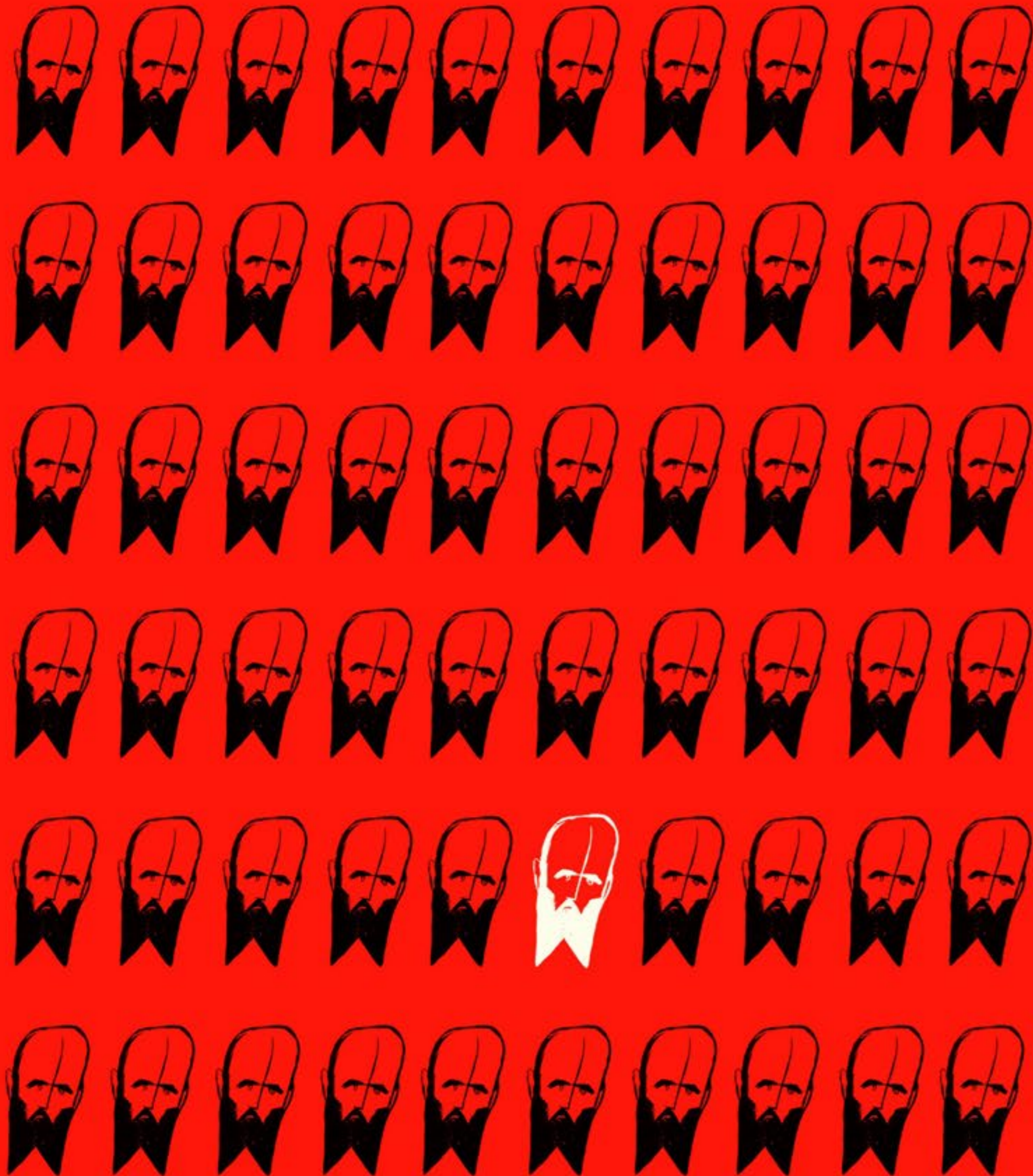


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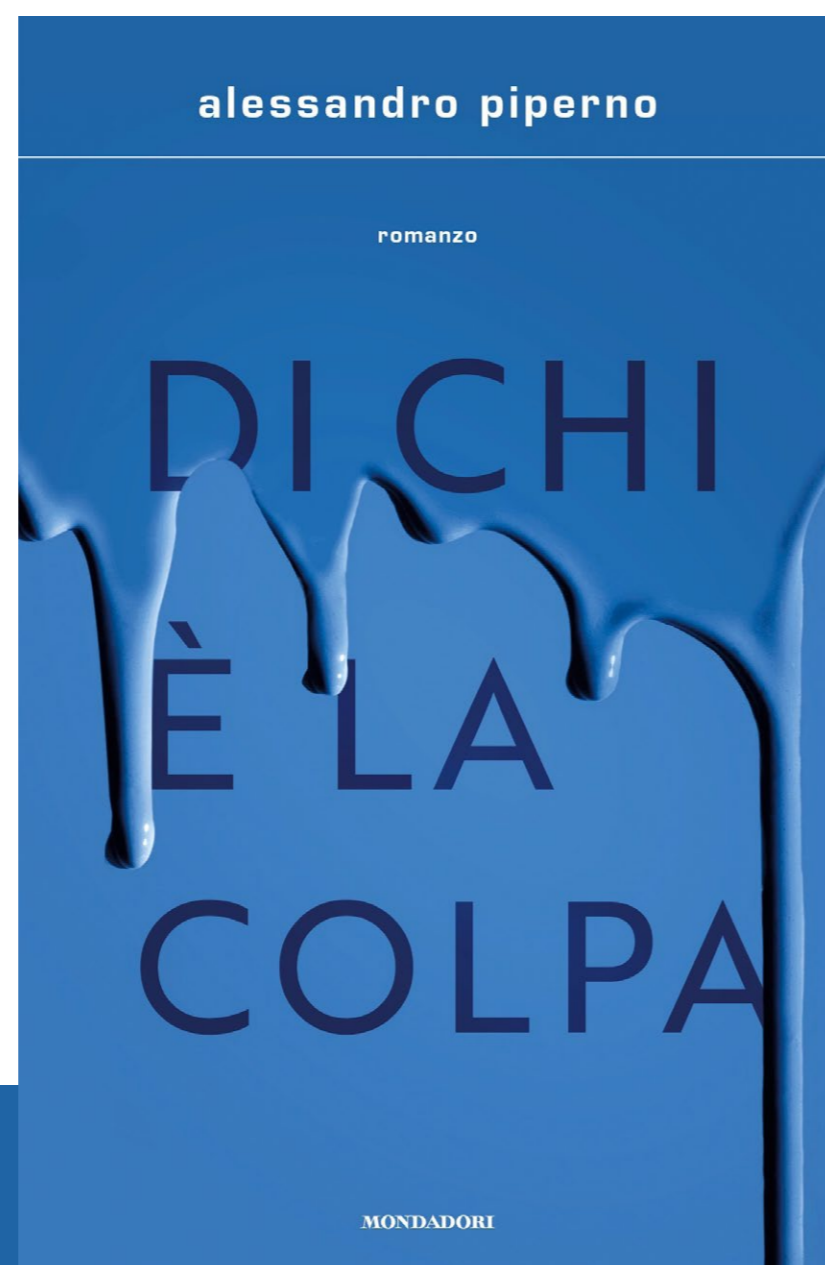
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ALESSANDRO PIPERNO

Whose Fault Is It?

Blaming
other people for
our own unhappiness
is a proven exercise
of bad faith

434 pp | September 2021



As the only child in a dysfunctional family where his debt-ridden parents always argued, he was an introverted kid who was used to being self-sufficient and seeking comfort in his own thoughts and in music. He grew up in a strictly mononuclear dimension, without knowing anything about his grandparents or relatives. On the threshold of becoming a teenager, he discovers that of course they have a past, and it is a particularly cumbersome one too. The protagonist finds himself engulfed in a bloody event and overnight he becomes part of a completely new family entering a life of sensational deception. He will meet fascinating characters, he will travel, he will go to the best schools and develop an obsession for literature in the wake of his desperate love for an eccentric cousin with a passion for Victorian novels. Hypocrisies, miseries, grudges, and unhappiness: he thought he had finally left them all behind him, but he will have to come to terms with the fact that these poisons infect every family. They are impossible to escape.

ALESSANDRO PIPERNO (Rome, 1972) teaches French Literature at the University of Rome and is a regular contributor to “Corriere della Sera”. In 2005 he made his sensational debut with *Con le peggiori intenzioni*, translated in twenty languages. It was followed by *Persecuzione* (Prix du Meilleur Livre Etranger 2011); *Inseparabili* (Premio Strega 2012) and *Dove la storia finisce* (2016).

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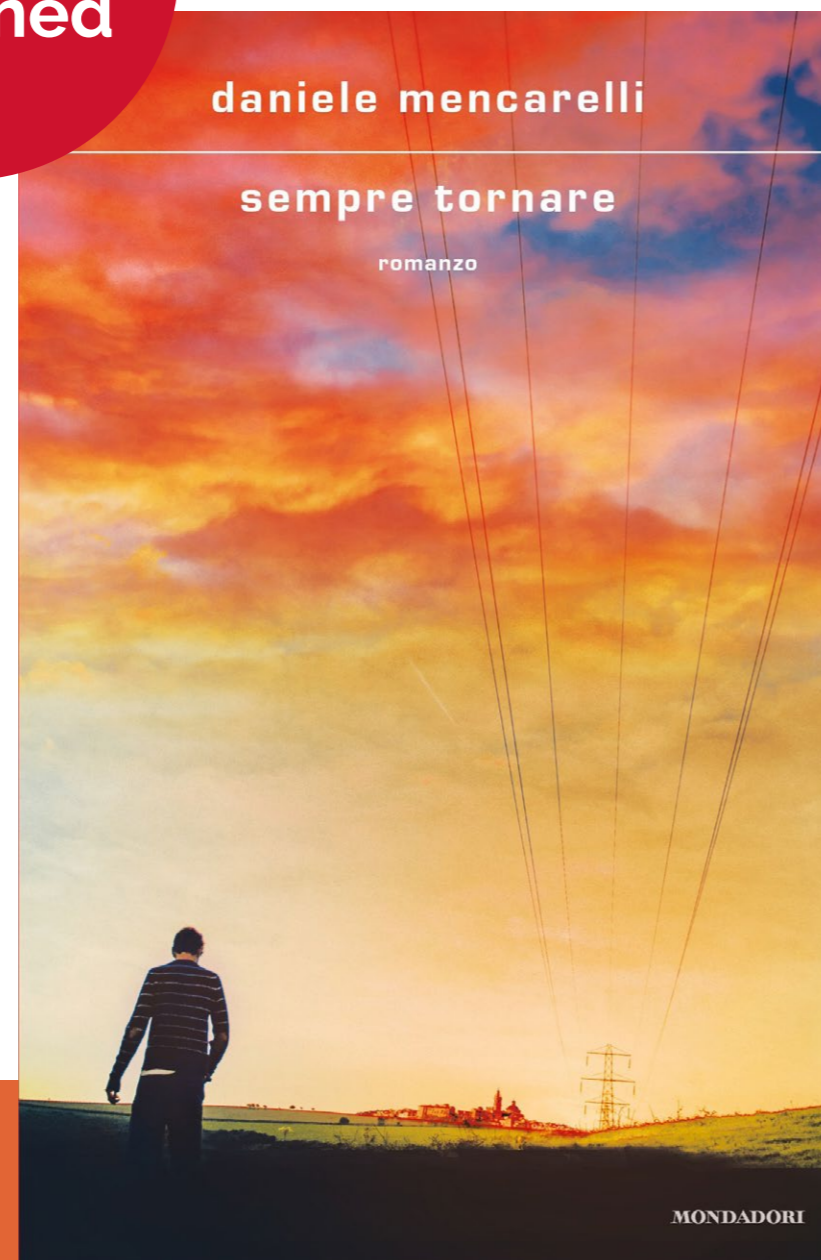
DANIELE MENCARELLI

Always Go Back

Film rights
optioned

A picaresque
and intense journey
from Rimini
to Rome

324 pp | October 2021



It's the summer of 1991. Daniele is seventeen and this is his first vacation on his own with his friends: two weeks away from home to live at the fullest between beaches, clubs, alcohol, and girls. But there is something he forgot to take into consideration: himself. All it takes is a minor inconvenience on a mid-August night and Daniele decides to leave his friends behind and continue the journey on foot by himself from Rimini to Rome. Free from distractions and social rehearsals, and rendering himself defenseless to the beauty of nature, which fills him both with joy and torment, he might be able to discover the reason for the anxiety that has always pricked and prodded him.

Film rights have already been optioned by Paolo Genovese's production company, who was behind the enormously successful film *Perfetti sconosciuti*.

DANIELE MENCARELLI (born in Rome in 1974) lives in Ariccia. In 2018, he made his debut with the well acclaimed *La casa degli sguardi*, followed in 2020 by *Tutto chiede salvezza* (Premio Strega Giovani 2020), that will be adapted in a **Netflix series** to be released in 2022 and the rights of which have been sold to UK+US/**Europa Editions**, Germany/**Fischer Verlag**, France/**Globe Editions**.



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ALBA DE CÉSPEDES

The Secret Little Book

A little gem
with echoes
of Ferrante

250 pp | April 2022



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 relationship.

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

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- **US** ▶ Astra House
- **China** ▶ Shanghai 99
- **Finland** ▶ Otava

ALBA DE CÉSPEDES

On Her Side

A stunning
novel where
resignation
transforms into
rebellion

530 pp | March 2021



“A great love story and a murder.” That is how the author herself defined *Dalla parte di lei*. The narrator of this memoir, 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, an anti-fascist professor whom she will marry. But their love is destined to a tragic end... Alba de Céspedes composes a stunning novel, a sophisticated game of mirrors from which a woman’s awareness manages, in a world increasingly dominated by men, to transform resignation into rebellion.

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

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- P.R. China ▶ Shanghai 99

FABIO VOLO

A New Life

A journey
to find a new way
of staying in
old things



285 pp | November 2021

Two friends driving across Italy in a red car. They are in their forties: Andrea is waiting on a verdict that will affect his love life. Paolo is in crisis with relationship, identity, mid life. Or maybe he just needs some levity. The car they travel in is an old Fiat 850 Spider. Paolo's father had to sell it years before to make room for the family; now that Paolo sees him weakened by the years, he decides to get it back and surprise him. As they drive the car back up from Apulia to Milan, Paolo and Andrea chat to one another with that ruthlessness that is only reserved for friends: they talk about their parents, women, children, work, the knots that emerge in their middle age and what used to seem like insurmountable problems deflate in the light with a touch of irony. A trip full of funny and unexpected incidents and discoveries, of beauties that often go unseen when we are too busy performing our duties. A journey that will lead Paolo to the discovery of forgotten happiness, fresh air, light and crisp, and a new way of staying in old things.

FABIO VOLO (born near Brescia in 1972), 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, So-dam & Taeil Korea.**

PAOLO NORI

Still Bleeding

A page-turner,
loving novelised
biography of Fëdor
Dostoevskij

288 pp | April 2021



Everything started with *Crime and Punishment*, a novel that Paolo Nori read when he was young: it's an initiation and an adventure at the same time. The discovery is violent in its own way: that novel, published one hundred and twelve years ago, three thousand kilometers away, opens a wound that won't stop bleeding. "I'm still bleeding. Why?" Paolo Nori asks himself, and the answer is just as bloody: the novel is about a man who never stopped feeling utterly out of place and exposed to his time. On the one hand, Nori reconstructs the key events in Dostoevskij's life, while on the other hand he lets emerge what Dostoevskij lets him reveal of himself in somewhat of a brotherly way. Paolo Nori seems to ask if we are ready to heed FD's call, to feel his disarming proximity, his being ferociously unique. "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). This book has been shortlisted of the Premio Campiello.

RIGHTS SOLD TO:

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ALESSANDRA CARATI

And Then We Will Be Safe

A girl running
away from a war and
her courageous search
for a new life

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. Courageous 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).

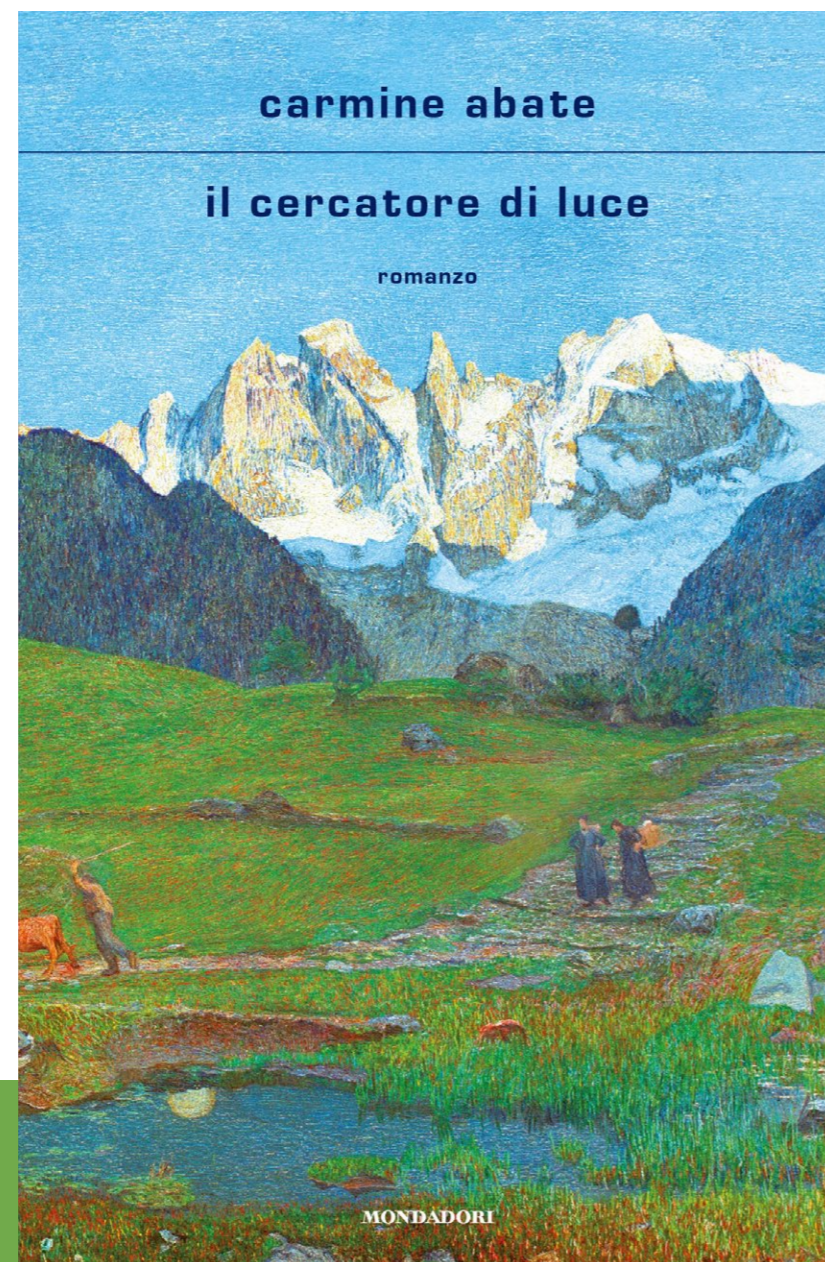
ALESSANDRA CARATI (40 years old) lives in Milan. She lent her pen to Danilo Di Luca and Daniele Nardi for their best-selling books *Bestie da vittoria* and *La via perfetta*. This is her first novel, awarded with Premio Viareggio - Opera Prima.

CARMINE ABATE

The Light Seeker

An intriguing family story interwoven with the artistic adventure of Giovanni Segantini

348 pp | October 2021



Carlo is twelve when he goes to Trentino to spend the summer break in the family's mountain cabin. His parents argue the entire time, the tension is palpable. And yet he feels an unexpected sense of relief when he immerses himself in the painting hanging in his room: a young woman carrying a child in her arms. Who are they? They seem familiar to the boy, and his grandmother tells him that his grandfather had met the painter Giovanni Segantini. Carlo finds himself reconstructing the captivating story of Segantini's life and how it intersects with his family. As he deals with the turmoil of having a crush for the first time, the kid becomes fascinated with the love story between the artist and Bice Bugatti: the charismatic woman and loyal partner who was always by his side from the moment they met in Milan to their years in Switzerland.

An intriguing family story interwoven with the extraordinary existential and artistic adventure of one of Italy's greatest painters. A powerful choral novel that tackles the universal themes of life, nature, death - the same as Giovanni Segantini's *Tryptic of Nature*.

CARMINE ABATE was born in 1954 in Carfizzi, an Italian-Albanian community in Calabria. He is the author of a glorious series of bestselling and prize-winning novels, among which *La collina del vento* (Premio Campiello 2012). His foreign publishers include **Seuil**, **Aufbau**, **Europa Editions** and **Toena**.

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.

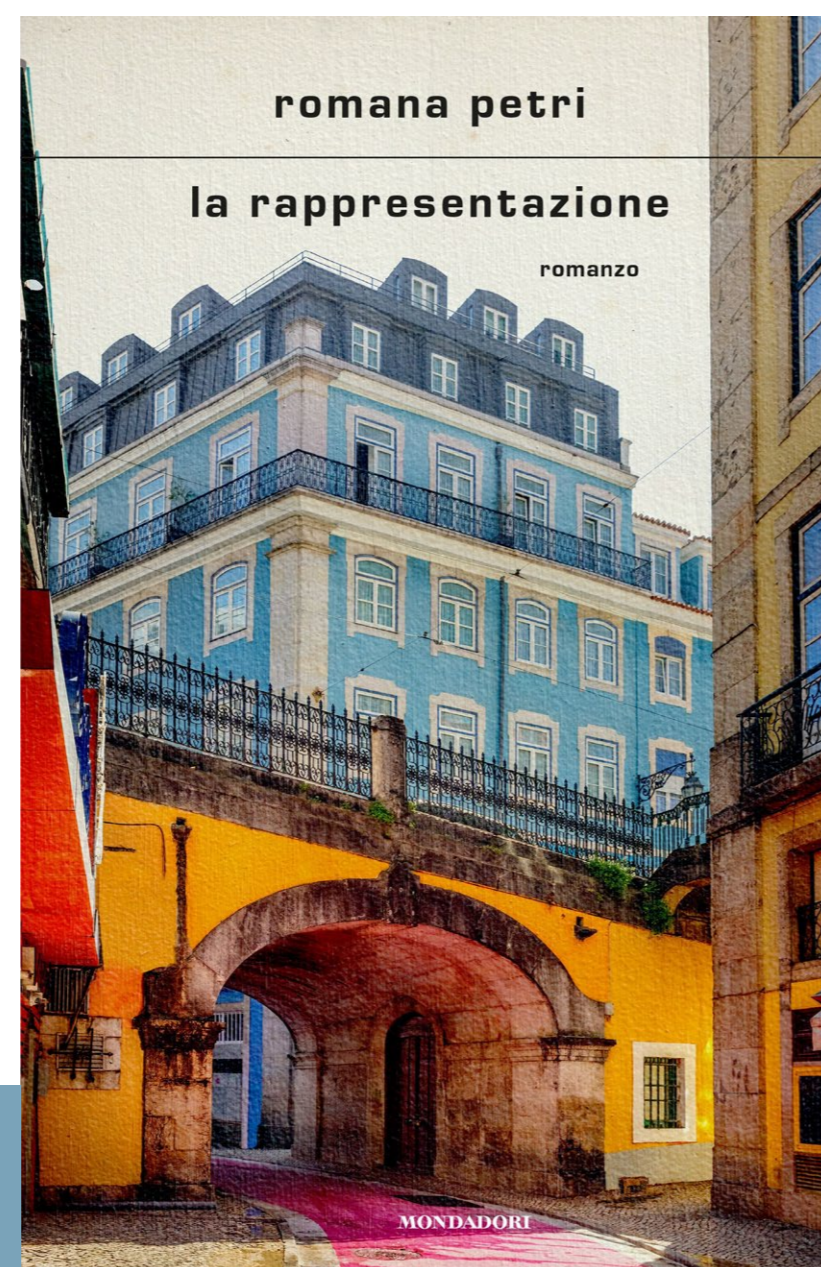
GIANLUCA NATIVO was born in Mugnano di Napoli in 1990. His short stories have been published in magazines and lit-blogs. He lives in Milan, where he teaches Italian in middle schools.

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 now her husband 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.”

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. Among her novels: *Ovunque io sia* and *Pranzi di famiglia* (both published by Neri Pozza).

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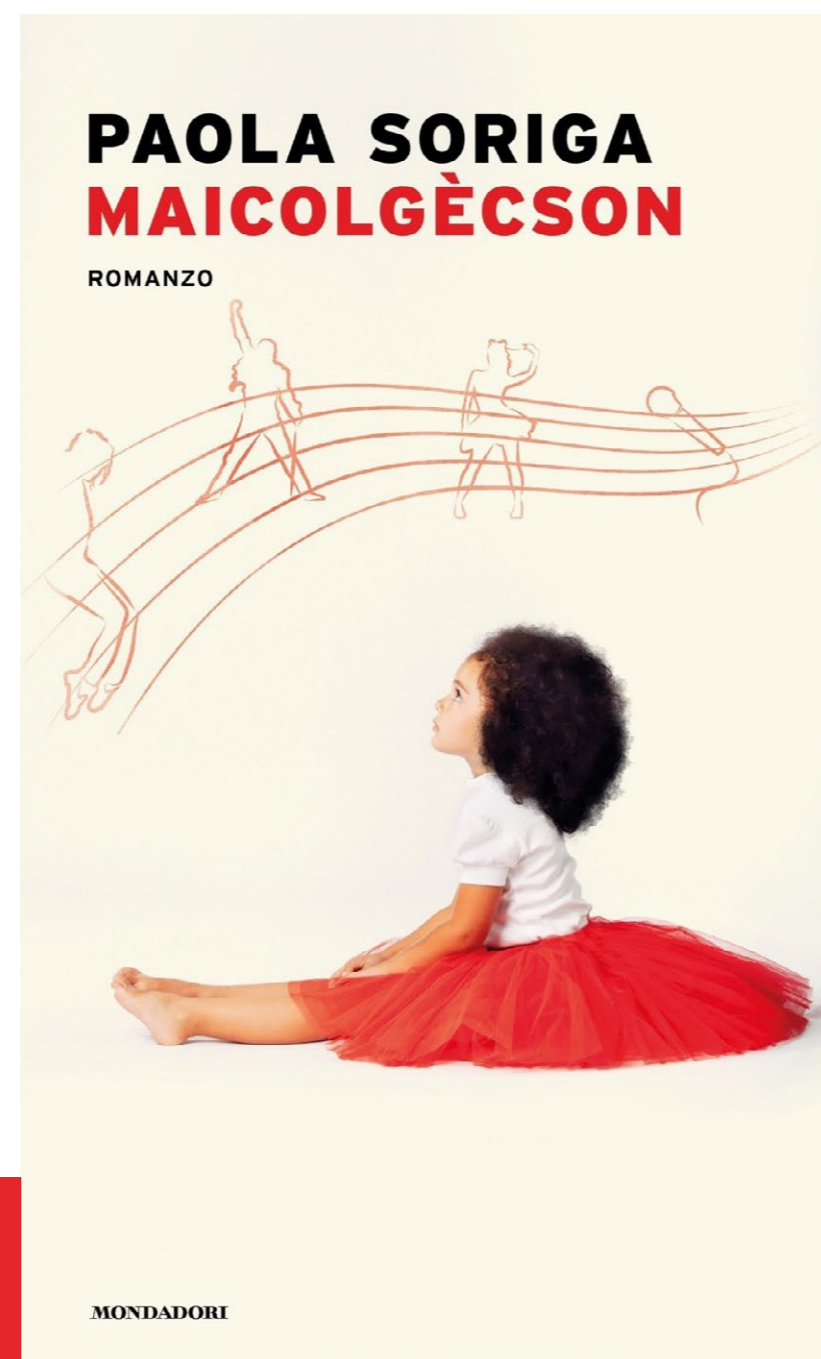
• Portugal ▶ Saida de Emergencia

PAOLA SORIGA

Maicolgècson

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...

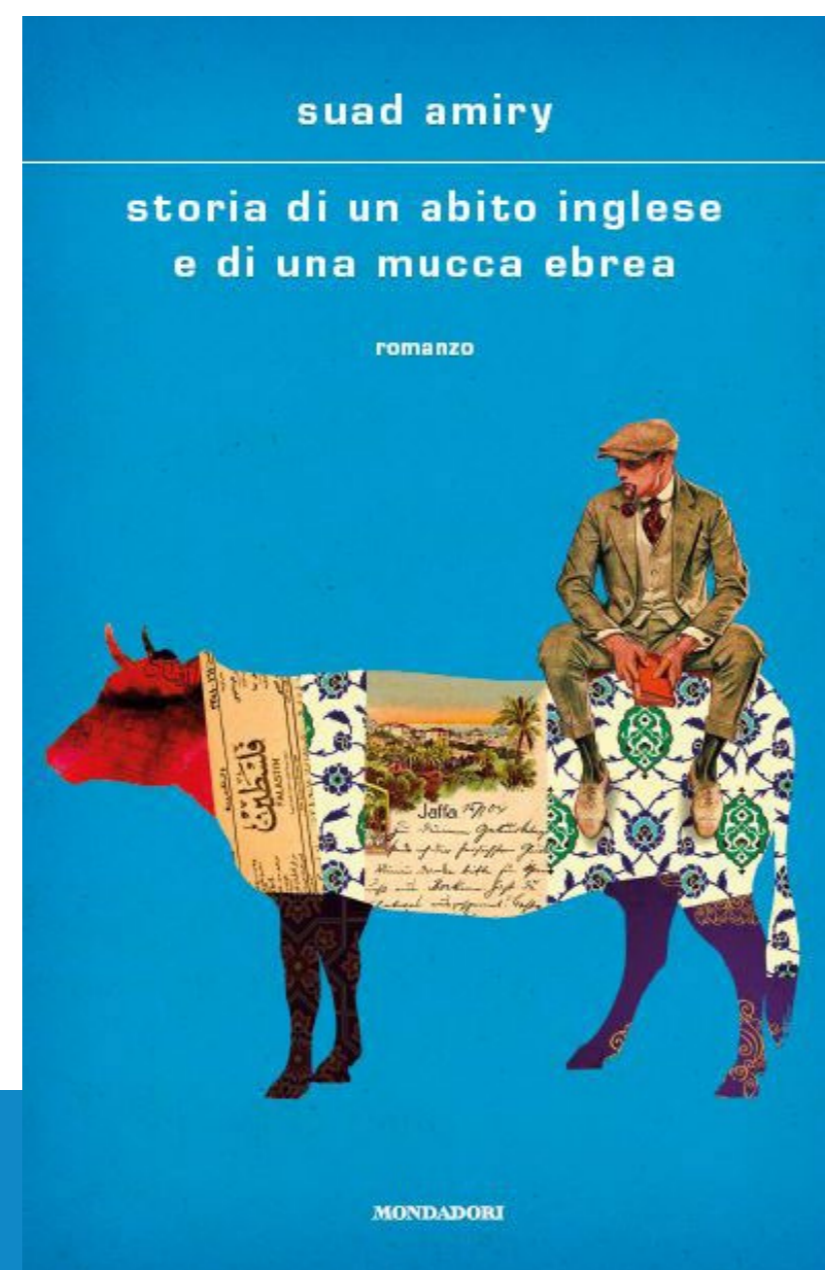
PAOLA SORIGA was born in Sardinia in Uta (near Cagliari) in 1979. She made her literary debut in 2012 with *Dove finisce Roma* (Einaudi), which was translated in several languages. Her last novel was *La stagione che verrà* (Einaudi, 2015).

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.

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EMANUELA FONTANA

The Angels' Breath

The novelised
life of the frail and
free great composer
Antonio Vivaldi



466 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.

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 enormously successful 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. He is the author of the very bestselling novel *Come una notte a Bali* and of the equally bestselling memoir *Le coordinate della felicità*.

GIANLUCA CALVOSA

The Treasurer

A compelling story of money, political intrigues and international espionage

396 pp | September 2021



Italy, 1972. After fourteen years spent in the dusty hallways of a stifling archive in the outskirts of Milan, Andrea Ferrante is resigned to his anonymous role as a minor political officer, far from the radiant career he once seemed destined to undertake. His relationship with his wife Sandra is dragging along wearily. With his son Umberto he exchanges little more than the occasional argument. He is brusquely awakened when he is unexpectedly summoned to Rome where, against all odds and reason, the new secretary of Italy's Communist Party nominates him as the party treasurer. His excitement about the prestigious appointment, however, is quickly replaced by consternation: not only was his predecessor found dead in mysterious circumstances, but as his first assignment Ferrante has to interrupt the stream of money flowing from Moscow. It's a time of turmoil, between occupied universities, protests in the streets, and the first victims of terrorism. Italy is strategic indeed and Rome, sedated by the embrace of the Dolce Vita, becomes the real epicenter of the standoff between Moscow and Washington, turning into the amusement park of international espionage.

GIANLUCA CALVOSA (Naples, 1969) a manager, founded OpenEconomics (a leading company in socioeconomic impact assessments) and Standard Football (a spin-off for financial analysis in the sport industry). He was then the editor-in-chief of the publishing houses of *Il Riformista*, *New Politics*, and *Quaderni Radicali*, and in 2004 contributed to creating *Formiche*, a multimedia magazine on politics and economics, which he still runs.

PIERGIORGIO PULIXI

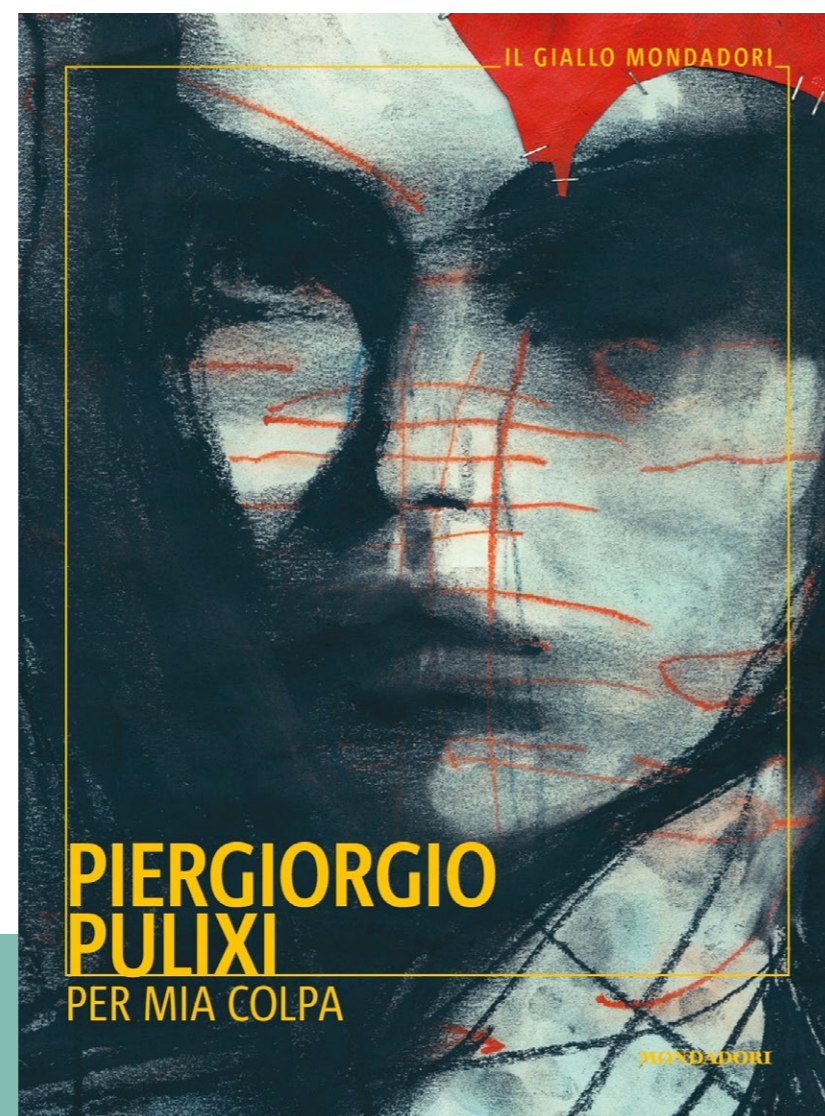
Through My Fault

A girl looking
for help

A mother who
disappears into thin air

An old friend
to protect

280 pp | September 2021



Sometimes leaving is the only way to turn the page. That is what Deputy Inspector Giulia Riva resigns herself to do as she decides to put an end to her secret affair with a superior, which was only causing her grief. She has just put in the request to be transferred when Elisa, a nine-year-old girl, shows up at her police station in Cagliari with a chilling plea: find her missing mother. Giulia can't back out. Virginia Piras was a serene wife and mother, so in order to disappear like that she was probably killed. But by whom? And why? Everyone seems to have forgotten about her, including Inspector Flavio Caruso, Giulia's partner and mentor, who is assigned to the case. Caruso, however, is not the cop he used to be, and Giulia realizes that he might have made some fatal mistakes. So she asks to join the case, hoping to solve it and sparing her partner the potential humiliation. But she can't imagine that the search will push her to question even her own past mistakes: because the heart has two sides, one to love and the other one to hate.

PIERGIORGIO PULIXI born in Cagliari in 1982, lives and works in Milan. He is the author of over ten novels. His book *L'isola delle anime* was recently published in France by **Gallmeister**, and he is among the finalists for the "Grand Prix de Littérature Policière 2021", one of the most important awards for crime fiction worldwide.

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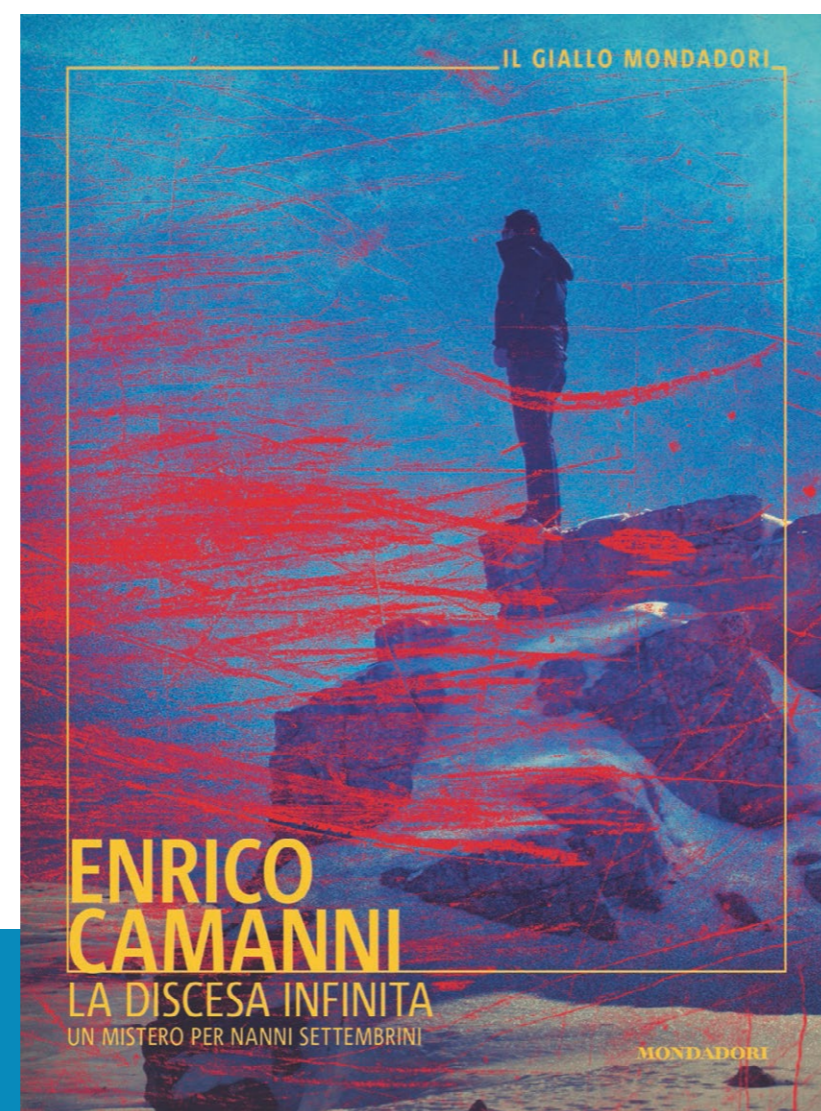
• France ► Gallmeister

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.

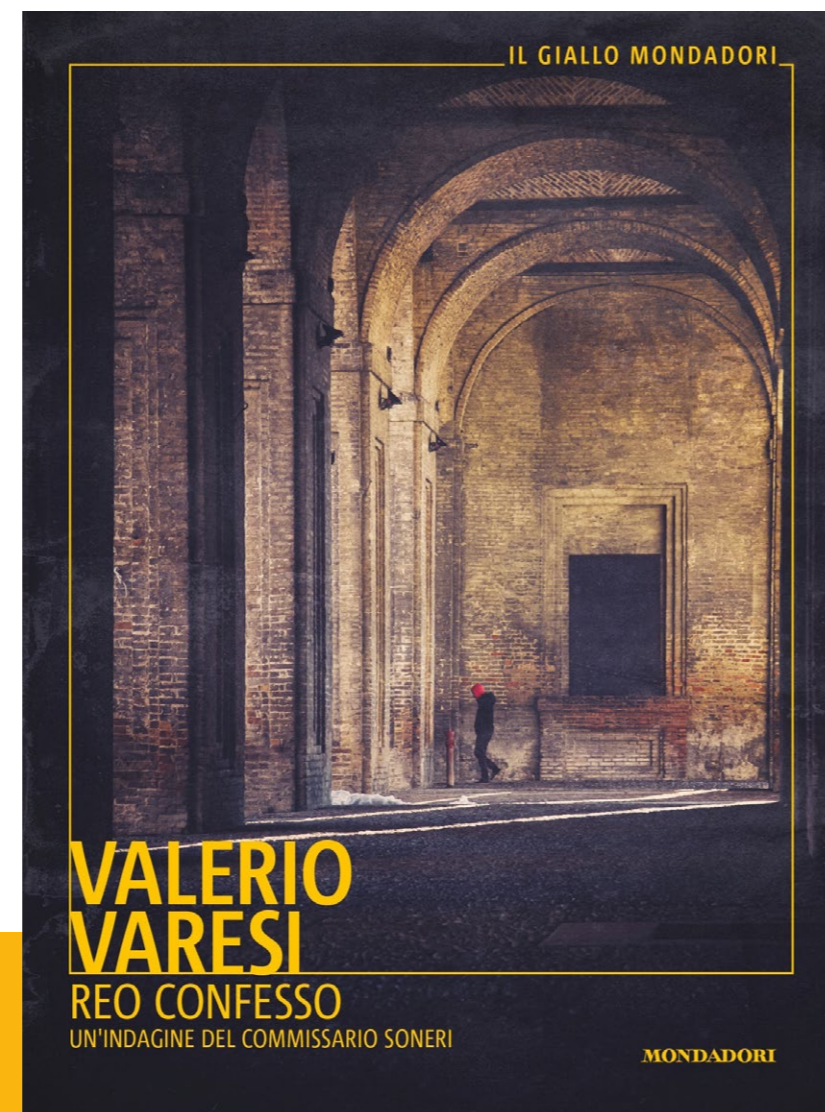
ENRICO CAMANNI (Turin, 1957) is an author, a journalist, and a mountaineer who has created dozens of paths in the Alps. In 2020, Mondadori released *Una coperta di neve*, the first novel in the series of Nanni Settembrini (Polish rights sold to **Wyd. Mova**).

VALERIO VARESI

Self-Confessed

A new
investigation for
Commissario
Soneri

352 pp | June 2021



Commissario Soneri is strolling in the park of Parma's Citadel when he walks by a man lying on a bench. As he approaches him to determine if it's just a homeless person asleep or someone feeling ill, he cannot imagine that one of the most absurd and intricate cases of his entire career is about to begin.

The man, in fact, a certain Roberto Ferrari, confesses to Soneri that he just committed a murder. He killed a financial planner who had ruined him, squandering Ferrari's life savings on illegal deals and cocaine.

It would seem like the quickest case in Commissario Soneri's history, also because Ferrari provides all the evidence needed to prove that he did it: there is a victim, a motive, and a self-confession.

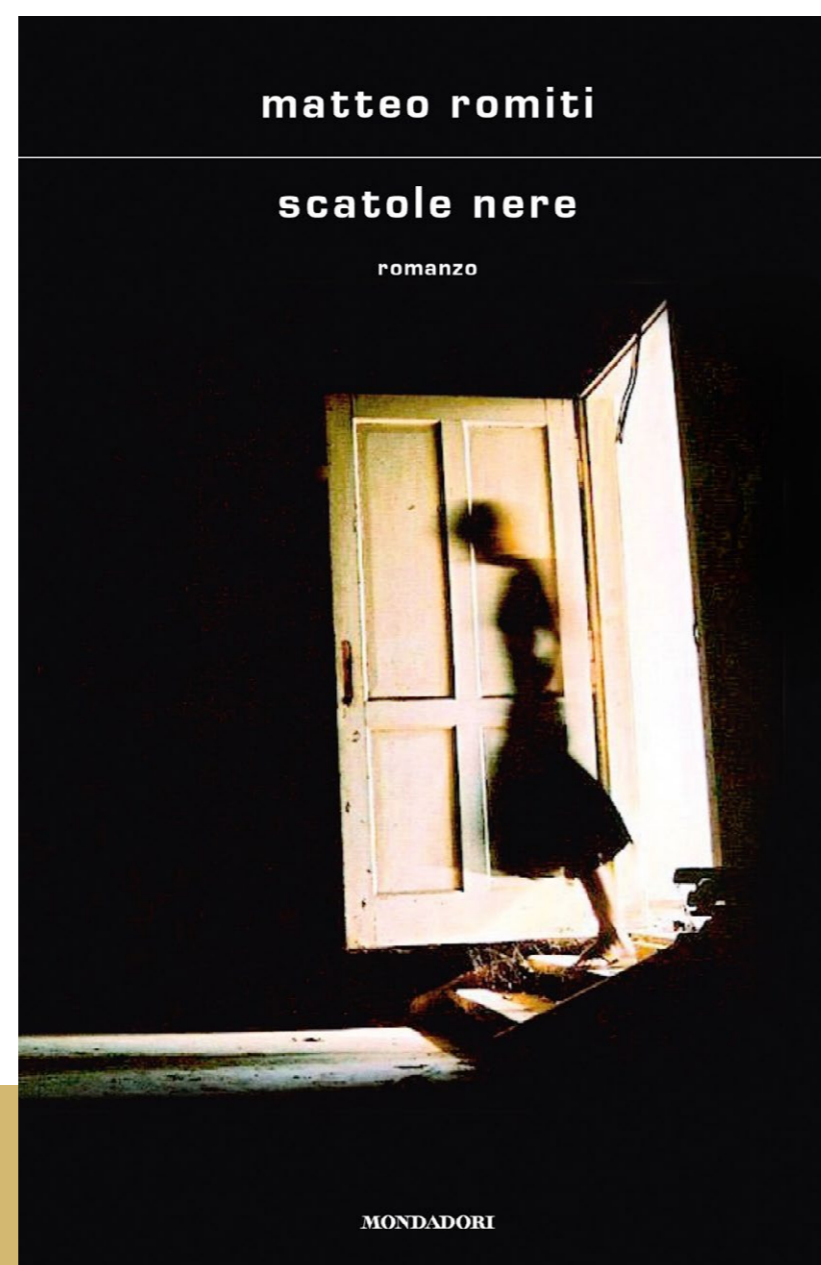
But Soneri is not a man of papers, technology, or fingerprints. He is a man of intuition, and his gut tells him that something does not add up: there is something suspicious in this apparent simplicity. He has no idea how right he is.

VALERIO VARESI (born in 1959) is the author of a series of crime novels featuring Commissario Soneri, a literary detective, which inspired the TV series *Nebbie e delitti*. Varesi lives in Parma and works for *la Repubblica* in Bologna. His novels represent some of the best European examples of "social noir" and have been translated in the United Kingdom, Germany, Poland, Spain and France.

MATTEO ROMITI

Black Boxes

A black,
disconcerting,
fast paced novel
between thriller
and dystopia



360 pp | May 2021

A tragedy rattles the local community of Castel Carpino: Filippo, a promising local swim champion, has killed himself by jumping in one of the empty pools of the sports complex where he trained. Everyone is baffled by his death, so they begin looking into the kid's connections outside of his family and school circles. Starting with the strange friendship between Filippo, a cheerful and talented person, and Gabriele, a mediocre athlete, reclusive, with clear learning disabilities. What could the two of them possibly share? Moreover, Gabriele exploded in an outburst at the funeral and made a series of wild accusations: what did he really see on the day of his friend's suicide?

The boy's mother, Angela, will have to defend her family, while ancient disagreements and family feuds bubble to the surface. To make matters worse, Tonino (the pools' janitor, an adult whose mind is stuck at childhood) starts talking about strange appearances near the fence of the sports complex, and he accuses Gabriele of causing his friend's death by pushing him after an argument.

It will be up to two teenagers, Lorenzo and Sonia (Filippo's long-time rival and the girl who was in love with him) to get close to Gabriele and try to reconstruct with him that tragedy.

MATTEO ROMITI was born in 1973 in Paris. He works as a psychologist. This is his first novel.

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.piccolafarmacialeteraria.it). Rights to her eponymous first book were sold in Spain/**Maeva**, Portugal/**Presença**, France/**Michel Lafon**, Germany/**Diana Verlag**, PR China/**Xinhua**, Thailand/**Library Books**, and the film rights have already been optioned.

SERENA VENDITTO

Grand Hotel

A Christmas
murder mystery
for four roommates
and a black cat

228 pp | September 2021



Can a pastry class open the doors to an investigation? Of course it can, if the detectives on the case are the four roommates from Via Atri 36. The innate curiosity of Malù (the archeologist and in-house detective) leads her to take a cake design class at Vomero Hill, one of Naples' luxury hotels, where she meets a young bartender, Emiliano Marchese. He hires her as an amateur detective to take on an unofficial investigation: looking into his mother's death. It's an old case that was ruled as a "natural death," but he suspects there was foul play, especially after finding some paperwork belonging to the victim that seems to point in a different direction. Malù becomes certain of it too when Emiliano is found dead in his apartment a week before Christmas. Someone learned about his suspicions and silenced him for good. But will she be able to convince Inspector De Iuliis that a sudden illness and a robbery gone wrong, which took place two years apart, actually conceal two murders?

The real challenge for our four amateur detectives from Via Atri 36 however is another, much more arduous one: creating a cat-proof Christmas tree.

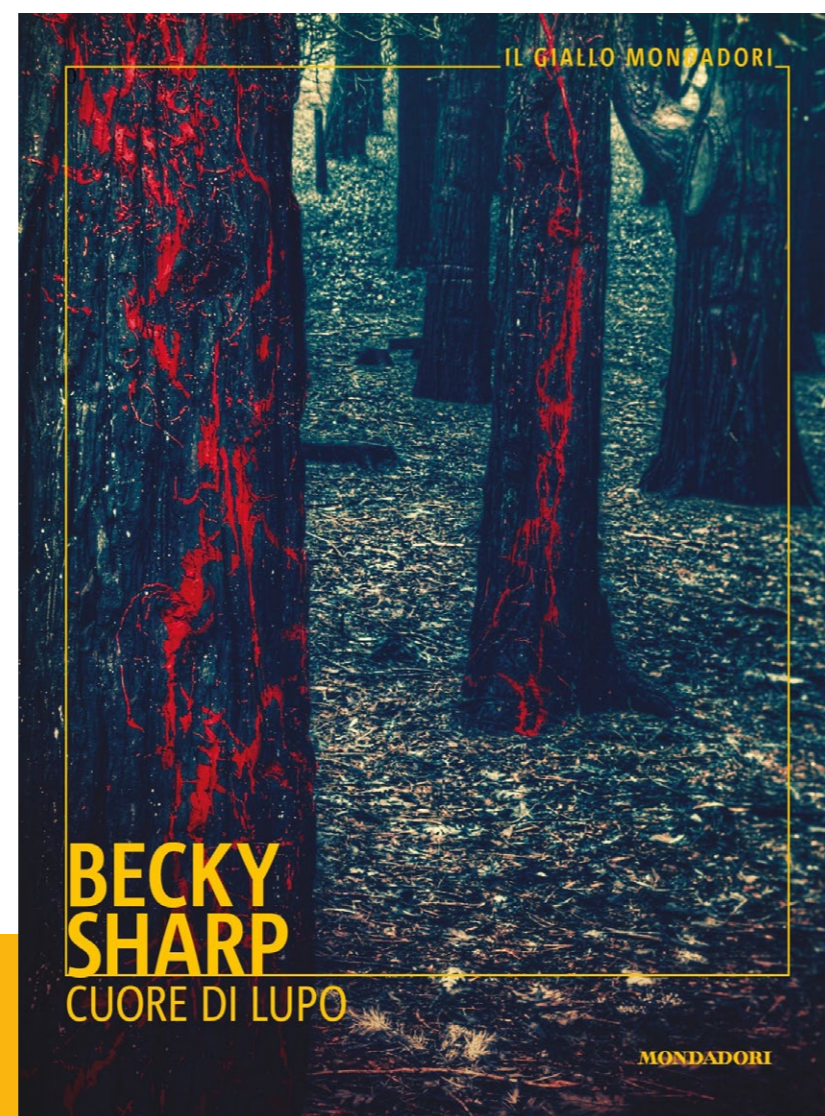
SERENA VENDITTO (Naples, 1980) works at the National Archaeological Museum in Naples. With Mondadori she published her novels *Aria di neve* (2018) and *L'ultima mano di burraco* (2020).

BECKY SHARP

Wolf's Heart

A murder in murky circumstances and the echo of a legend rumbling through the valleys

368 pp | June 2021



Torves, a mountain town perched on a cliff overlooking a lake, is encased in a crystal peace. A kind of peace that Ophélie finds creepy. She followed Pierre there, resigning herself to spending a year in the place where he grew up before becoming a scholar and moving to Paris. But the unthinkable happens: Gerda, the girl from the mountain hut, shows up in Ophélie's garden one night completely out of her mind and with her hands covered in blood. Shortly thereafter, the police find her mother brutally murdered. She was killed in a ritual reminiscent of the legend of the Wild Man, a scary mythological monster from the local lore. Ophélie follows her gut and decides to defend the girl's innocence. She teams up with an amateur detective to discover the truth, but she runs into the disapproval of Pierre and his strange group of friends. And yet, the shadow of the monster seems to be calling out to her: is she the one looking for him or is he the one finding her? Why is it that, underneath it all, she feels like she understands him? A silent past pulls her further and further away from the person who should be protecting her.

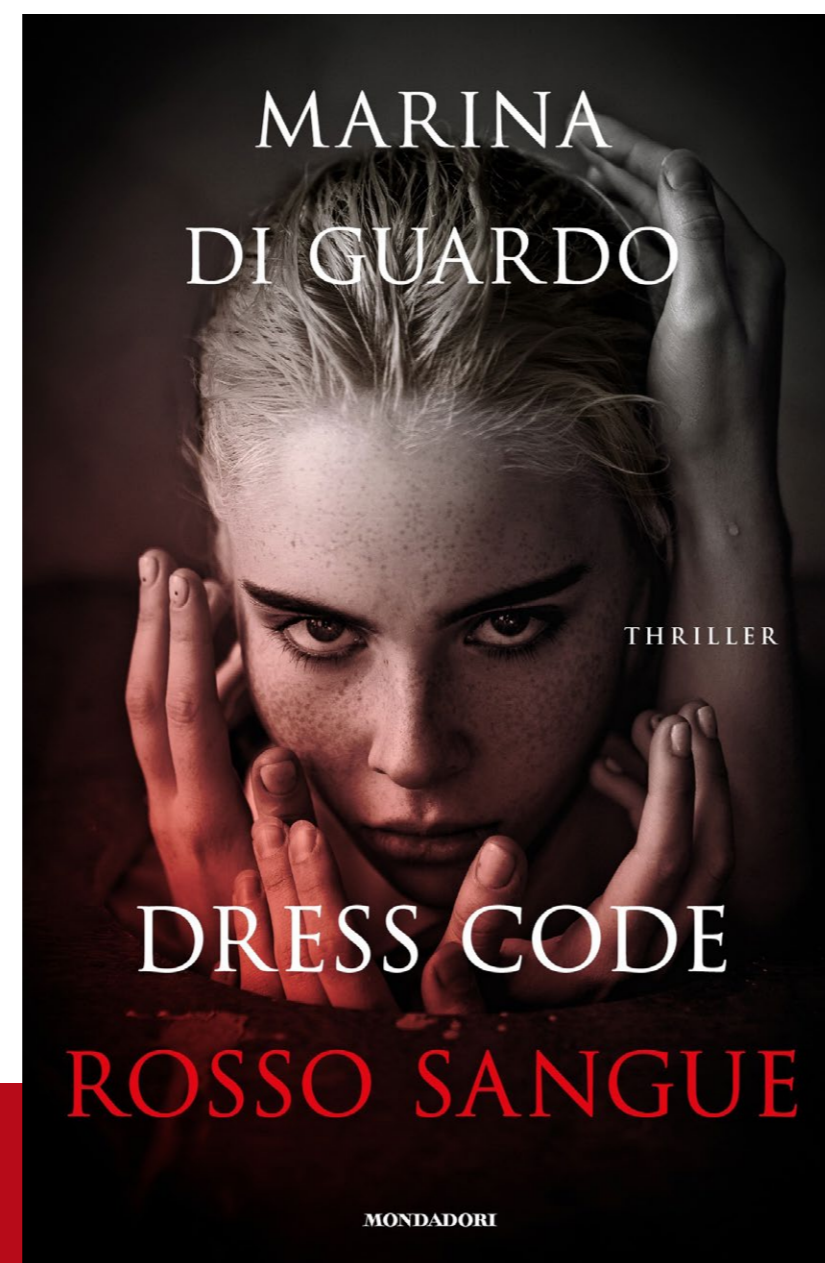
BECKY SHARP studied philosophy and works as a translator, author, and copywriter. She published three murder mysteries in the Penelope Poirot series with Marco y Marcos.

MARINA DI GUARDO

Dress Code: Blood Red

An adrenaline-filled thriller among the thousand lights (and shadows) of the fashion world

324 pp | October 2021



Cecilia Carboni is twenty-five and she has been living most of her life under her father's thumb, Alberto Carboni, one of the most highly rated lawyers in Milan. Her future seems to be already set in stone in the family's law firm until, one day, she receives a tempting job offer from the prestigious showroom of Gianni Sartori, one of the most famous fashion designers in the world.

For once, she doesn't hesitate: she decides to finally allow herself the chance to make her own life choices, irrespective of what other people may think, including her boyfriend Andrea, who also works as a lawyer for Alberto. It turns out to be a good move: Cecilia is great at her new job. But destiny has some surprises in store for her. Franco Sartori is found murdered in a derelict farmhouse: his body was in a silk garment bag for his evening gowns and he had an upside down cross carved in his chest.

It's the frenziest weeks of spring sales and the showroom fills up with clients as well as cops, mysteries, unexpected secrets, and also more victims found in new and unsettling circumstances. Who is behind these murders? And what if Cecilia is next on the list?

MARINA DI GUARDO was born in Novara but has Sicilian origins. Before making her literary debut, she worked in the world of fashion. Mondadori published her novels *Com'è giusto che sia* (2017), which is being optioned for a TV series, *La memoria dei corpi* (2019), which was translated in several countries and will be adapted into a movie, and *Nella buona e nella cattiva sorte* (2020).

ANNA OSEI

Under the Same Sun

An inspiring story about the value of diversity

248 pp | July 2021



Marlene is twenty years old, she is smart and beautiful, and her parents can give her everything her heart desires. Over time, however, that “everything” becomes a burden because she feels that she has to constantly prove to the world that her arrival added value to her family. Her skin is black, she was born in some remote village in Africa, and she was adopted by a wealthy family. She starts going to Caritas as part of a university project, where she meets Steven: a young Nigerian man with blue eyes who landed in Italy in hope of a better future. He has a difficult past behind him and the present is all up-hill for him, so Marlene represents a breath of fresh air for him. Steven, on the other hand, gives her a chance to get in touch with her roots. As they get to know each other, they find out how hard it is to go beyond the usual stereotypes (including their own) and that they must never stop fighting to build themselves a life that is as faithful as possible to their soul, warmed by the same sun that accompanies them regardless of distance and differences.

ANNA OSEI was born in 1999. After graduating from high school, she moved to the United Kingdom, where she earned a degree in international law from Coventry University.

ALDO CAZZULLO

Men's Place

Dante in Purgatory,
where we will all
end up



278 pp | September 2021

Everyone knows the *Divine Comedy*, but how many have truly read it?

Aldo Cazzullo continues rewriting the novel of the *Divine Comedy*, reconstructing Dante's journey in the afterlife word for word. After the extraordinary success of *A riveder le stelle*, the first volume dedicated to the *Inferno* (which sold over 200,000 copies!), the author continues to travel and takes us to Purgatorio: the place of "almost," of waiting for happiness, which is a form of happiness in itself. A world of yearning but also consolation, where the passing time doesn't bring you closer to death but to salvation. A frontier territory between man and God, with the charm of a border town. The narrative technique is the same. The reconstruction of the journey in the afterlife is enriched by references to history, literature, and the present. Purgatory is the place where artists end up: the musician Casella, the poet Guinizzelli, the miniaturist Oderisi, who also mentions Dante's friend Giotto. The poet describes Italy along his way through Purgatory and on the peak of the mountain, he finally finds Beatrice, even more beautiful than how he remembered her.

ALDO CAZZULLO (Alba, 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. The first book in the series of the *Divine Comedy* *A riveder le stelle. Dante il poeta che inventò l'Italia* was released in 2020 and sold so far **200,000 copies**.

ILARIA CAPUA

Wonder and Transformation

▶ Book trailer

TEMPTATIVE
COVER

The brave
regenerative
push of “Circular
Health”

ILARIA CAPUA
La
MERAVIGLIA
e la
TRASFORMA-
ZIONE *per una nuova*
SALUTE CIRCOLARE

216 pp | October 2021

MONDADORI

Despite the raising of alarms by the scientific community based on data collected from influenza outbreaks and their potential international dangers, the risk of an infectious disease pandemic event was severely underestimated. We were substantially unprepared to manage the “pandemic of our time”. However, it offered us the opportunity to develop a new awareness of the interconnected nature of the ecosystem in which we live: the health of human beings, animals, plants, and the environment are all interdependent. The pandemic shock brought into sharp focus the many frailties that our way of life creates. It showed us that we urgently need to stop considering health as a disparate collection of individual elements and start treating it as a contiguous system: we need to start talking about “Circular Health.” The pandemic must create a regenerative push, an opportunity to change for the better. It is a real-time example of why we need to capitalize on existing knowledge whilst discovering new converging forces in our production and our behavioural compartments. The identification and leveraging of synergies between these individual compartments will drive society’s evolution through the post-pandemic phase.

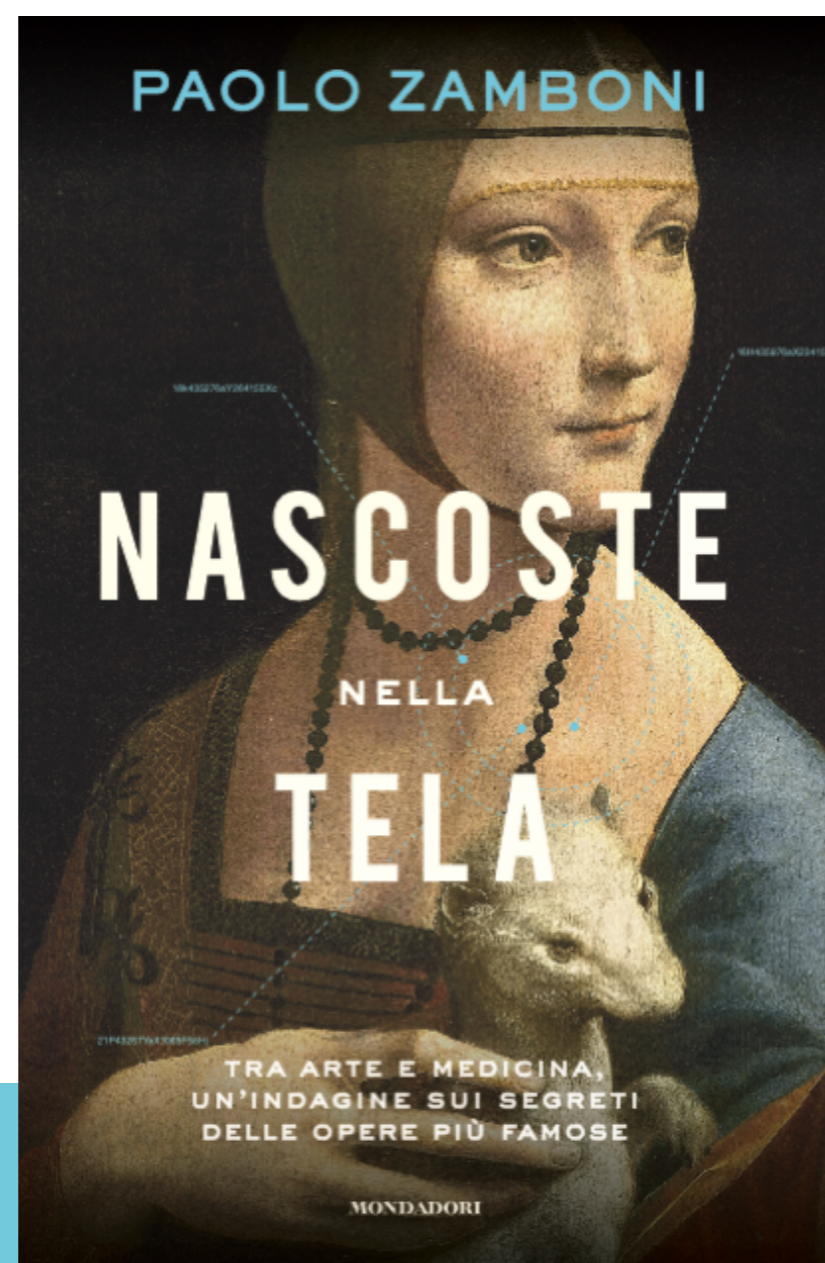
ILARIA CAPUA is a veterinarian with a PhD in virology and a specialization in public health. In 2008, she was named by *Seed* one of the top “Revolutionary Minds” for her role in supporting data-sharing on the influenza viruses on open-access platforms. She is currently the Director of the One Health Center of Excellence at the University of Florida, USA.

PAOLO ZAMBONI

Hidden in the Canvas

An investigation
between art and
medecine

280 pp | November 2021



Paolo Zamboni is a doctor with a passion for art. During his artistic evasions in books, trips, and exhibitions, however, he realized that he couldn't avoid being a doctor even in front of the most extraordinary paintings by the greatest masters of all time. That is how he started noticing the clinical signs of illnesses depicted, in some of the most famous works of art. If we carefully look at these paintings, we discover, for instance, that Caravaggio's *Young Sick Bacchus* suffered from Addison's disease; that there is a benign lipoma on the hand of the *Mona Lisa*; that the monk painted by Masaccio or Filippino Lippi in the Brancacci Chapel has a melanoma on his face; and that the cause of Battista Sforza's premature death could have been giant cell temporal arteritis, which Piero della Francesca skillfully depicted in the famous diptych of the Duke and Duchess of Urbino hanging in the Uffizi in Florence.

The author places every work of art in its historical context to tell us something more about the artist and the people portrayed. He carries out actual investigations, starting from visual clues and available sources, getting to the cause.

PAOLO ZAMBONI a doctor with a passion for art completely dedicated his life to his patients and to medical research, becoming one of the Top Italian Scientists (TIS). He is also a full professor at the University of Ferrara.

BEATRICE MAUTINO

It's Natural, Baby!

TEMPTATIVE
COVER

A help to orient
ourselves in the
world of natural
cosmetics

Beatrice
Mautino
**È LA NATURA
BELLEZZA**



MONDADORI

180 pp | November 2021

On the one hand, there are advertisements announcing miraculous products that erase your wrinkles or make your hair grow and coax us into spending a bunch of money. On the other hand, there are blogs and social media raising alarm bells about certain ingredients that can be harmful or cause terrible diseases, stirring up a panic. Luckily, Beatrice Mautino is in the middle of all this: she is a science writer who looks at cosmetics with the eye of a scientist and helps us expose fake news and hearsay with intelligence and levity, exploring the so called “clean beauty” trend of natural cosmetics, revealing its lights and shadows. The organic industry has become increasingly popular and Mautino explains the differences (if there are any) between the “organic,” “eco-friendly,” and “natural” labels that often appear on the packaging of cosmetics. She answers questions about their ingredients, and therefore about the safety of certain products, and she debunks some myths, like the one about how castor oil makes your eyelashes grow, or how almond oil prevents stretch marks. She also delves into the production of strange ingredients (like the famous snail slime) and sheds light on some trends (like microbiomes or vegetable substitutes for ingredients of animal origin).

BEATRICE MAUTINO a degree in biotechnology, is one of the most popular science writers on social media. She is the author of the book *Contro natura* with Dario Bressanini (2015), *Il trucco c'è e si vede* (2018) and *La scienza nascosta dei cosmetici* (2020)

LUCIANA LITTIZZETTO

I Trust You

The story of
my children born
from my heart



168 pp | October 2021

There is a hidden story in the life of Italy's most beloved comedian; a story that starts when she adopts two kids and that continues over the years with everything involved with raising children: doubts, fears, meetings with teachers, first relationships, tattoos, tiredness, the constant sense of guilt and inadequacy. A complicated story that has also funny moments.

“God, how I hated those perfect mothers, those natural parents with their perfect children. They are like pitons with judgy eyes, always ready to make you feel inadequate and useless like the pinky finger of a harp player. Ready to crush your heart when you are bending over backwards to try to transform that bundle of debris into a peaceful and happy child. Why don't you try, oh joyous mother, to be forty and have to invent yourself as the mom of a nine-year-old and an eleven-year-old without a shred of training...”

A personal story indeed told with sincerity and grace, sparing nothing, not even the toughest times.

LUCIANA LITTIZZETTO (Turin 1964) a former teacher of musical education, is one of the cult figures in Italian humour. Her seven books, all massive bestsellers, sold **4,000,000 copies**.

Among her foreign publishers: **Bertrand Brasil, Ripol, Alma Littera, Eichborn, Presença**.



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