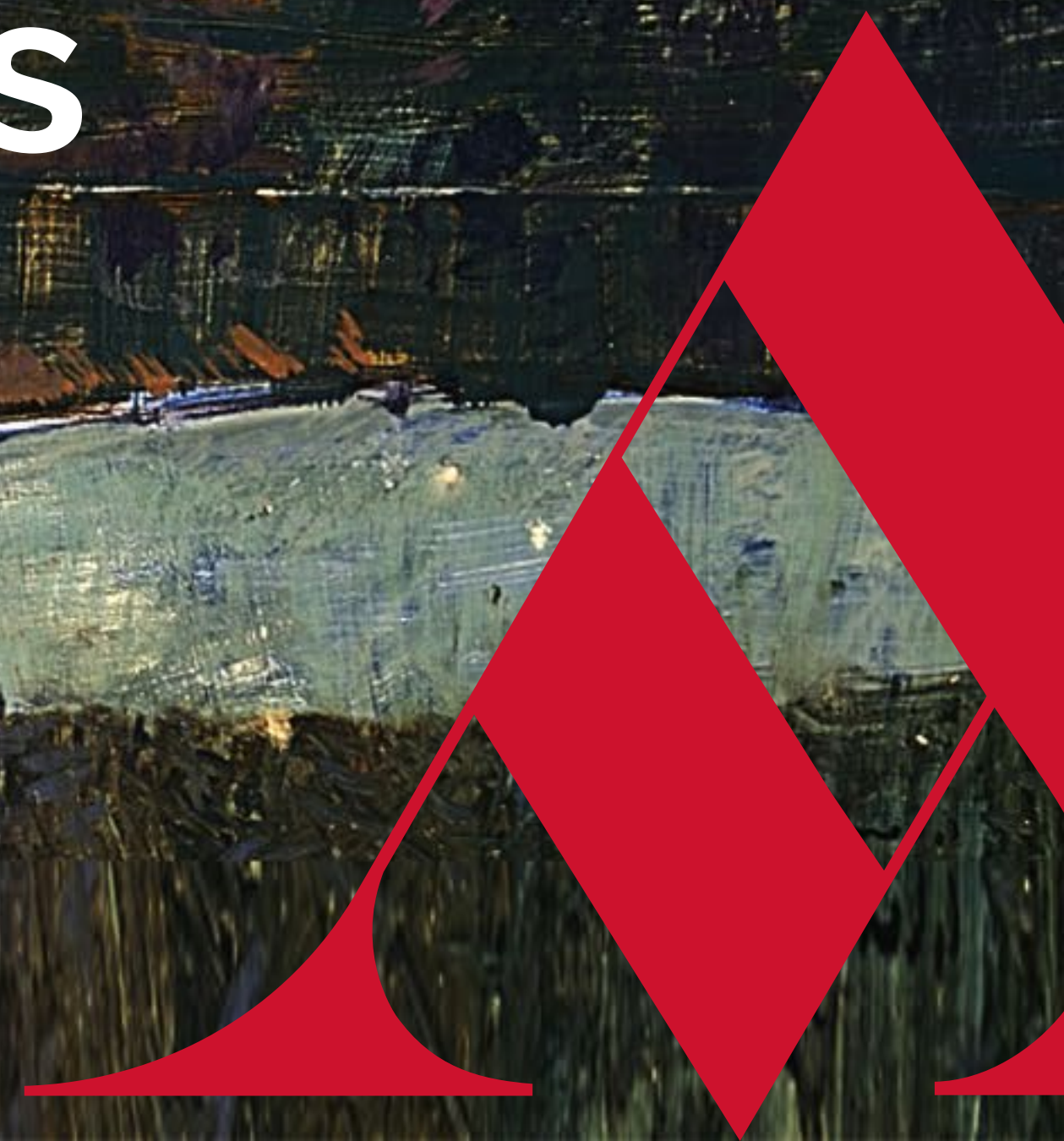


The background of the entire image is a reproduction of the painting 'The Starry Night' by the English Romantic painter J.M.W. Turner. The painting depicts a woman in a white dress standing on a grassy bank, looking up at a dark, swirling night sky filled with stars and a crescent moon. The water in the foreground is dark and reflects the sky. The overall style is expressive and textured, characteristic of Turner's work.

MONDADORI

**Rights
List**

2022



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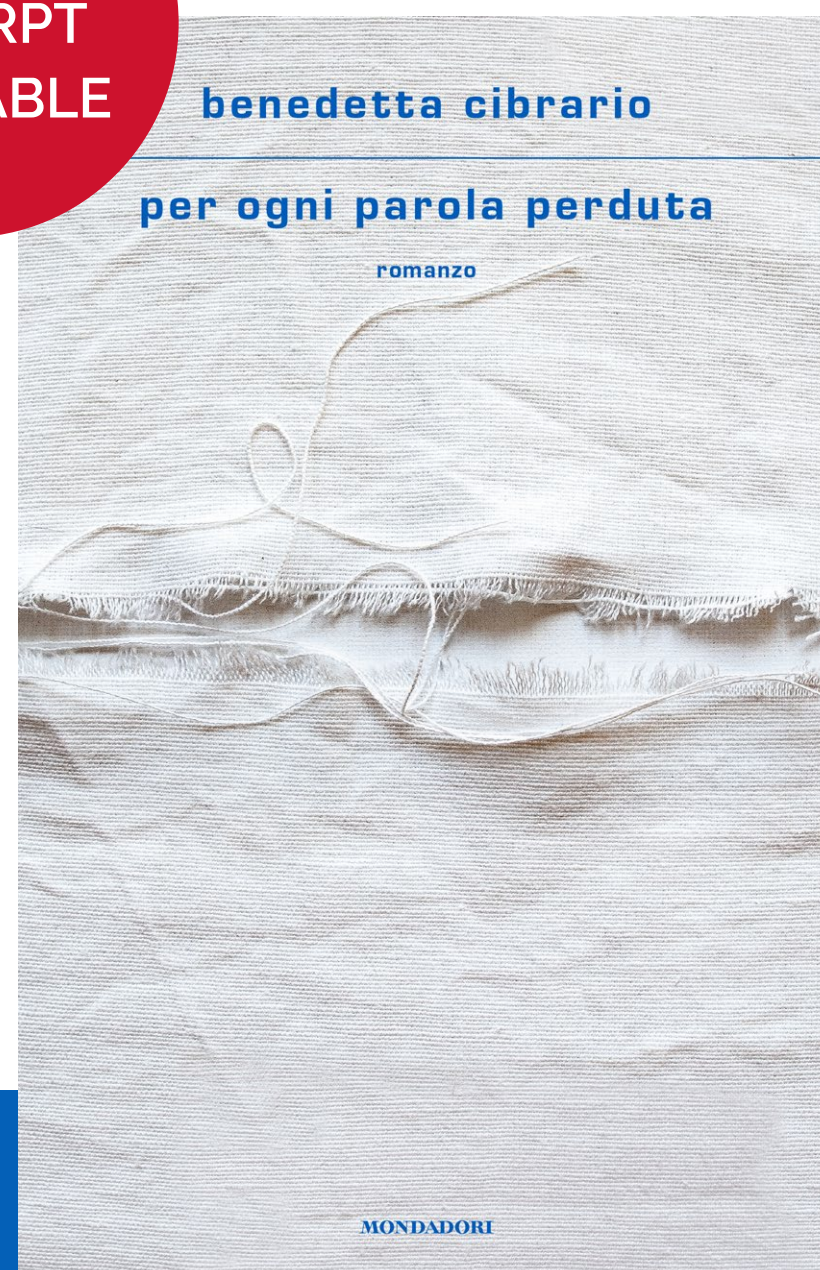
BENEDETTA CIBRARIO

For Every Lost Word

ENGLISH
EXCERPT
AVAILABLE

Four destinies hope
to “stitch up” fate’s
lacerations

348 pp | October 2022



Oxford. Sofia has withdrawn after the loss of her companion Nichola Obreskov, an academic historian specializing in Russian immigrants in Italy in nineteenth century. Her friend Edmund breaks through her seclusion: a wealthy collector, he has just managed to win at auction a hot air balloon that flew over Chambéry in 1784, and he now requires the skilled hands of Sofia, who is a fabric restorer. She resists, but finally agrees, and is also persuaded to conduct research on that flight and on the young Xavier de Maistre – the future author of *Voyage autour de ma chambre*. When she arrives in Chambéry, Sofia strikes up an unusual rapport with Pauline, who is stubbornly determined to keep her family’s antiquarian bookshop open, despite accumulating debts. Fates intersect. And in this intersection, Edmund, somewhat like a master of ceremonies, guides Sofia to self-discovery, while Sofia guides his restored hot air balloon over the skies of History. Edmund’s generosity is matched by Sofia’s magical and restorative needlework; Pauline’s youthful obstinacy is echoed by Nicola’s and de Maistre’s mysterious Russia.

BENEDETTA CIBRARIO was born in Florence and lives between Italy and England with her husband and four children. She is the author of *Il rumore del mondo* (Mondadori 2019) which sold more than twenty thousand copies and was runner-up for the Premio Strega 2019.

GIORGIO BOATTI

Part the Heavens and Come Down

What it means
to stand beside a
schizophrenic brother
for half a century

264 pp | September 2022



“To speak of madness, you need a poet. To tell stories about times long lost, you need a historian. Giorgio Boatti is both these things, as he demonstrates in this extraordinary novel, which is entirely true. I read it in one sitting, a wild ride through twentieth-century Italy as described in the stories of a family of humble origins—the ones who come in last, whom we always speak about far too little—and the portrait of an older brother who comes in last of them all, because he is sick with schizophrenia. This impossible brother is something of a prophet as well, asking questions no one can answer, and he becomes a metaphor for many other things besides. And then, unexpectedly, it all takes flight, as in a Chagall painting, and we readers are left with our heads craning up, transfixed and surprised.”

— Cristina de Stefano, international literary scout

Madness has a quick touch, and voices that make no sound. No one hears them when, by the hundreds, they knock on the doors of Bruno’s mind. We’re in the early fifties, and Bruno lives with his parents and younger brother Giorgio in a small town, enchanting as Rimini in Fellini’s *Amarcord*. Half a century of old insane asylums psychiatric wards, mental health centers and profound loneliness at home. It’s a journey into the labyrinth of mental health, but also an immersion in half a century of Italian history.

GIORGIO BOATTI was born in Zinasco in 1948. A journalist, historian and writer, he lives just outside of Pavia.

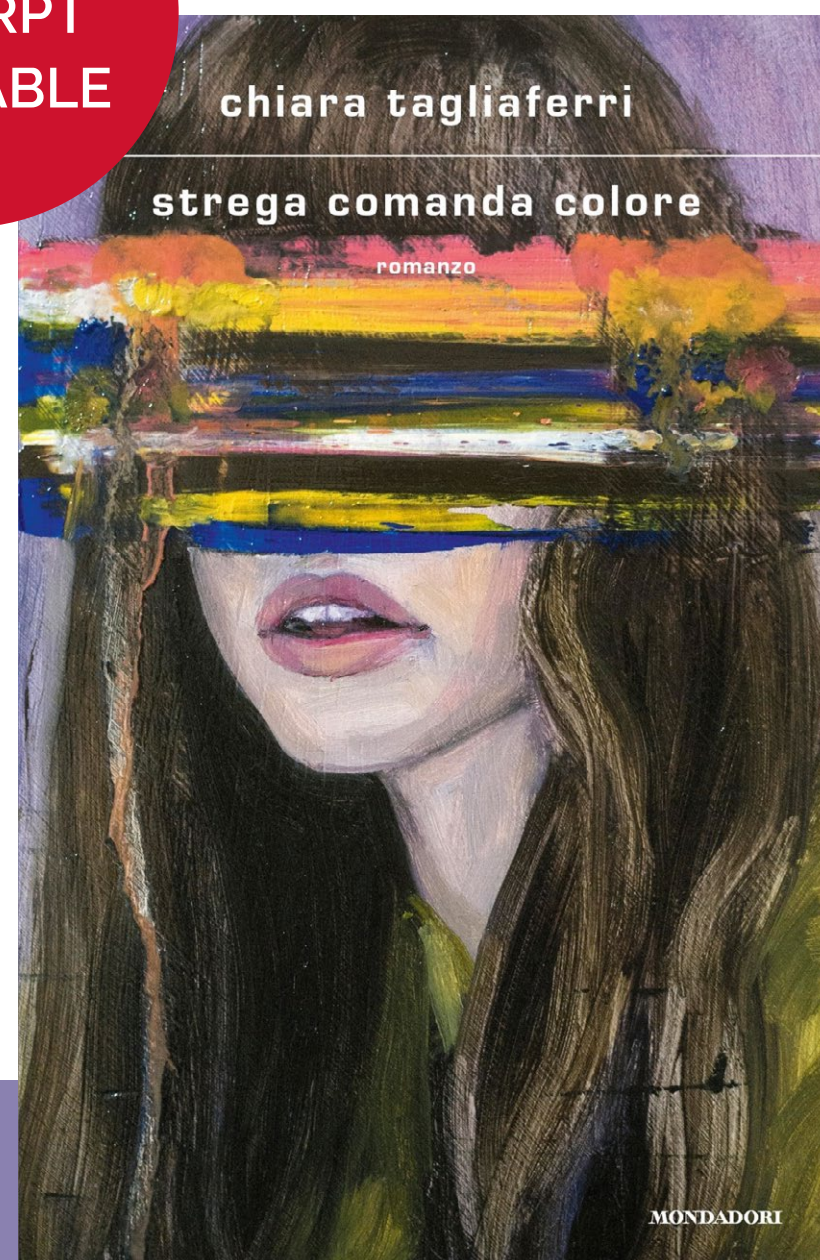
CHIARA TAGLIAFERRI

Strega comanda colore

ENGLISH
EXCERPT
AVAILABLE

The sentimental
education
of a bad girl

252 pp | May 2022



“Her ability to recall the worst (poverty, desolation, family adversities) with such lightness and to relate the best (redemption, revenge, sudden good fortune) without deluding herself and at the same time without minimizing it, for me has something magical.”

— Nicola Lagioia

It all begins in the most godforsaken province of the Po Valley, where a merciless grandmother holds her family in check through humiliation and cruelty. For her money is power, and power is control. At the age of five her granddaughter, the protagonist of this story, says to her mother, *“When Nonna Viviana dies I’m going to dance on her grave with red shoes.”*

The pulse of a fiery debut ignited by the iridescent colors of transgression, for which Chiara Tagliaferri has an absolute ear and the literary talent to recreate it through memorable female characters. The story of a girl who, amid violence, bitterness and tenderness, wants love, wants beauty, but she wants money even more. She arrives in a Rome radiating sunlight determined to strip everyone else to get what she wants. Stealing from others to give to herself becomes her real calling...until she meets the one person capable of making her vulnerable.

CHIARA TAGLIAFERRI was born in Piacenza and now lives in Rome. She is the co-author, with Michela Murgia, of the bestsellers books *Morgana. Storie di ragazze che tua madre non approverebbe*, 2019, and *Morgana. L’uomo ricco sono io*, 2021, published by Mondadori. This is her first novel.

VALENTINA FARINACCIO

Not Available at the Moment

A young woman
searching for herself
between eating
disorder and IG
addiction

156 pp | May 2022



Vittoria has an emotional void, she is obsessed with being in shape, and she has a conspicuous number of followers on Instagram. That number skyrockets and turns her into an influencer after she is photographed by chance next to a singer and everyone believes they are dating. Along with thousands of new followers, she also gets a new job that she doesn't know how to quite handle. She finds herself having to promote food because if there is one thing that Vittoria has always been great at, it's eating. Eating until you explode, eating to fill an existence that is getting out of hand, and to cure an old pain that she goes out of her way to avoid confronting. She talks about it with Mina once a week, her psychoterapist. Vittoria turns to Mina because, after an awkward move, the number of her followers has started to drop as fast as it had increased. Only after hitting rock bottom, Vittoria will manage to find her way back up, discovering what is essential for her and finding her authentic passion.

A contemporary story told through a young woman who is searching for herself, with her eyes glued to a screen and a hand always busy on her phone.

VALENTINA FARINACCIO (born in Campobasso in 1990) is a journalist and music critic. Her first novel *La strada del ritorno* won the Premio Opera Prima Kihlgren and the Premio Rapallo Carige and was translated in Spain by Grijalbo.

RIGHTS SOLD TO:

Czech Republic ► Grada

RENATO MINORE FRANCESCA PANSA

Ennio, the Alien

The portrait of
one of the great men
in Italy's literary and
cinematographic
culture

216 pp | October 2022



Pansa and Minore start this book like a biography from their native Pescara (a city reminiscent of D'Annunzio), but this is much more than just a biographical work. It is a labor of love for a historical figure who is extremely difficult to capture in a logical sequence of facts, and Flaiano himself was the first to shuffle the cards on the table. He arrived in Rome as a young man and, after serving in the war in Ethiopia, he worked with the major newspapers of the time. When Leo Longanesi asked him to write a novel in three months, he created *Tempo di uccidere*, the first winner of the newly launched Premio Strega. He wrote for all the filmmakers to whom we owe the rebirth of Italian cinema; his collaboration with Fellini was prolific, dazzling, and mysterious. Would there have been *La Dolce Vita* without Flaiano? Perhaps. But the miracle is the interplay between two people with such different sensibilities. A book about an Italian who didn't want to be Italian, a man who solicited the laughter of intelligence while being torn apart from within. He was a real writer, a Martian, an alien, a friend of the night. He was unique.

RENATO MINORE is a journalist, writer and poet. Originally from Abruzzo, he has been living in Rome for over forty years. He is a literary critic for *Il Messaggero*.

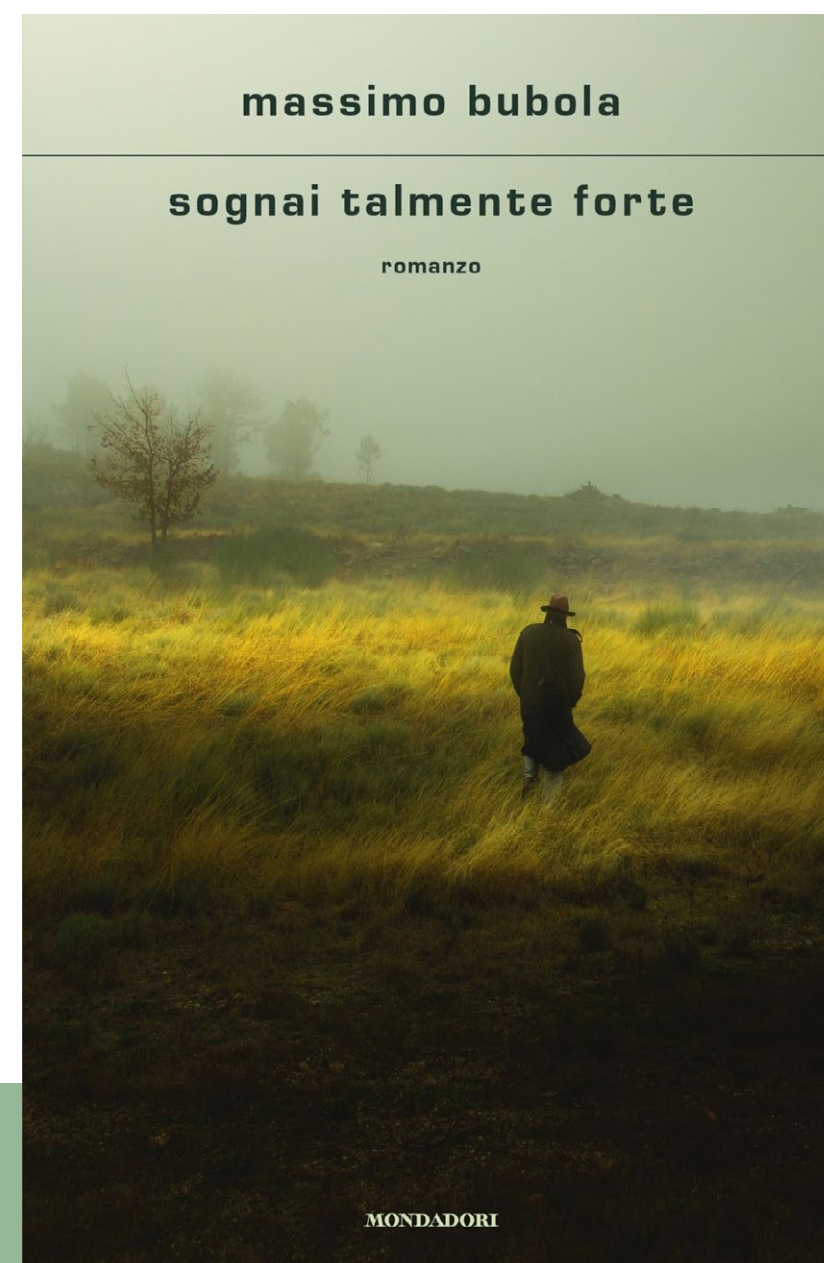
FRANCESCA PANSA is a journalist and TV writer. She worked in Rome's feminist theater Teatro della Maddalena along with Dacia Maraini. She has written and staged several plays, and is in charge of the literary project *Le fate sapienti*.

MASSIMO BUBOLA

I Dreamt So Hard

The most famous and
beloved Bubola songs
as a novel

156 pp | September 2022



As the old Callimachus reaches the end of a life lived in song and music, he spends his last day surrounded by the many people who love him, sharing with them the most important moments of his life, his memories, his dreams, and his visions. He tells the story of when he was a “servant shepherd” as a young child, beloved and feared by the community for his indomitable spirit and light-hearted freedom; he converses in a dream with his daughter, the tearless Theresa, who left Rimini’s seaside for love and ended up dying in Argentina in a time of torture and dictatorship. He enjoys recalling the nursery rhyme *Volta la carta*, and he is moved to tears when his Native American friends tell him about the Sand Creek massacre. Callimachus also reminisces about the Irish sky in *Il Cielo d’Irlanda*, about *Hotel Supramonte*, and many other places and images that have become a part of the collective imagination of Italians through his songs. Bubola creates a great literary operation, destined to leave a deep mark on the history of contemporary culture: his songs make their return in these pages in a new form, coming back to life in this artistic prose enriched by new overtones, new facets, new light.

MASSIMO BUBOLA (Terrazzo, 1954) is a cult name and a central figure in the world of Italian singer-songwriters, poets, musicians, and authors. He has recorded twenty albums that trace a unique journey through Italy’s musical literature.

MASSIMO BISOTTI

Blue Moon

A new expanded
edition of the cult
bestseller *La luna blu*

204 pp | November 2022



“We are a contradiction, we live in a syncopated tempo, we drive on the wrong side of the road, we go against the wind, we are caught off guard. But we can’t go against our hearts.”

A story, a meeting, a tale. Small chronological space-time insights, and yet the three protagonists Meg, George, and Demian hold the reader in suspense one page after another. What will happen? Will they meet? Will they fall in love? A trail that reveals little by little the answers sought by his readers, while the author’s pressing reflections on love, life, and relationships offer them some deep and hard-fought insights on everyday life. “It seems that happiness isn’t found in doing well but in going back to doing well, otherwise you don’t even realize that you’re happy”. Meg, the main character, undertakes a journey within her soul in order to get rid of “that dark shadow that covers the blue sky when we feel rejected, unwanted, misunderstood, unappreciated, left out, put in a corner”. An intense book that leaves a pleasant feeling of waiting in its readers’ minds and warms their hearts with deep and poetic thoughts. A new commemorative edition that will win over thousands of new readers.

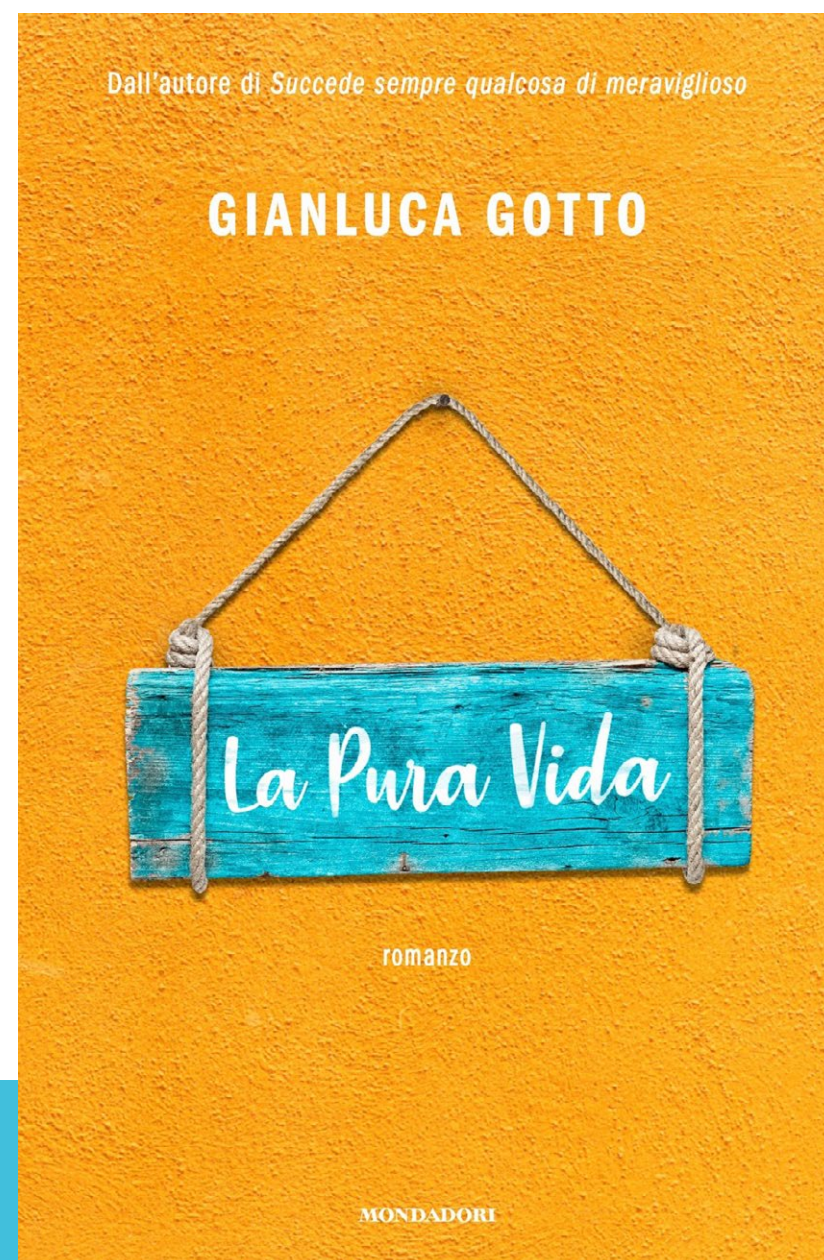
MASSIMO BISOTTI was born and lives in Rome. He says that he started writing so that his words could heal wounds and mend them into scars. He is the author of inspirational and illuminating bestsellers, such as *Il quadro mai dipinto* (2017) translated in Spain by Planeta and in Brazil by Bertrand, and *Un millimetro di cuore* (2020).

GIANLUCA GOTTO

Pura vida

An adventure to discover the “good living” beyond our frenetic lives

372 pp | March 2022



What happens when you get used to happiness? Alessio never thought about it until the day Elena walks into his life and shows him that there is something beautiful and bright beyond the responsibilities of work and an unchanging routine. But then Elena disappears just as suddenly as she arrived. And Alessio goes through a strange personal crisis. He is twenty-nine years old and decides to make the first real move in his life. After finding a bucket list of unfulfilled dreams by chance (or was it destiny?), he decides to embark on an adventure that will help him evolve into the person he would like to be: a journey to Central America, where he will discover that “good living” which so many people lose sight of in their frenetic everyday lives. In this new novel, Gianluca Gotto sets aside the eastern backdrop and dives into Costa Rica, where he lived for a few months between 2020 and 2021: it is one of the happiest countries in the world, the land of Pura Vida philosophy of living fully and without fear. A story that combines adventure and inspirational themes, turning into a journey within.

GIANLUCA GOTTO (Turin, 1990) runs the very successful IG blog *Mangia Vivi Viaggia* (lit. “Eat Live Travel”). His books *Le coordinate della felicità* (2019), *Come una notte a Bali* (2018), *Succede sempre qualcosa di meraviglioso* (2020) sold **200,000 copies**, and very followed is his TEDx “How to be happy every single day”.

RIGHTS SOLD TO:

Bulgaria ► Era Mediya

NICOLA PESCE

The Fox Who Loved Little Things

An inspirational
feel-good book for
adults and kids

280 pp | October 2022

Nicola Pesce
**LA VOLPE
CHE AMAVA
LE PICCOLE COSE**



MONDADORI

How can we find happiness? What does it mean to be ourselves? How can we live together in a world so full of diversity and complexity? In the wake of his successful book *La volpe che amava i libri* (*The Fox Who Loved Books*), Nicola Pesce tries to answer these questions in this new fairytale for adults through the philosophical conversations between the fox Aliosha and a mysterious character called Ka. With several references to Russian literature, *The Little Prince*, and many other works of literature, the author provides an accessible, tender and humorous metaphor of the human condition by giving a voice to the animals that populated the Russian forest from his first book.

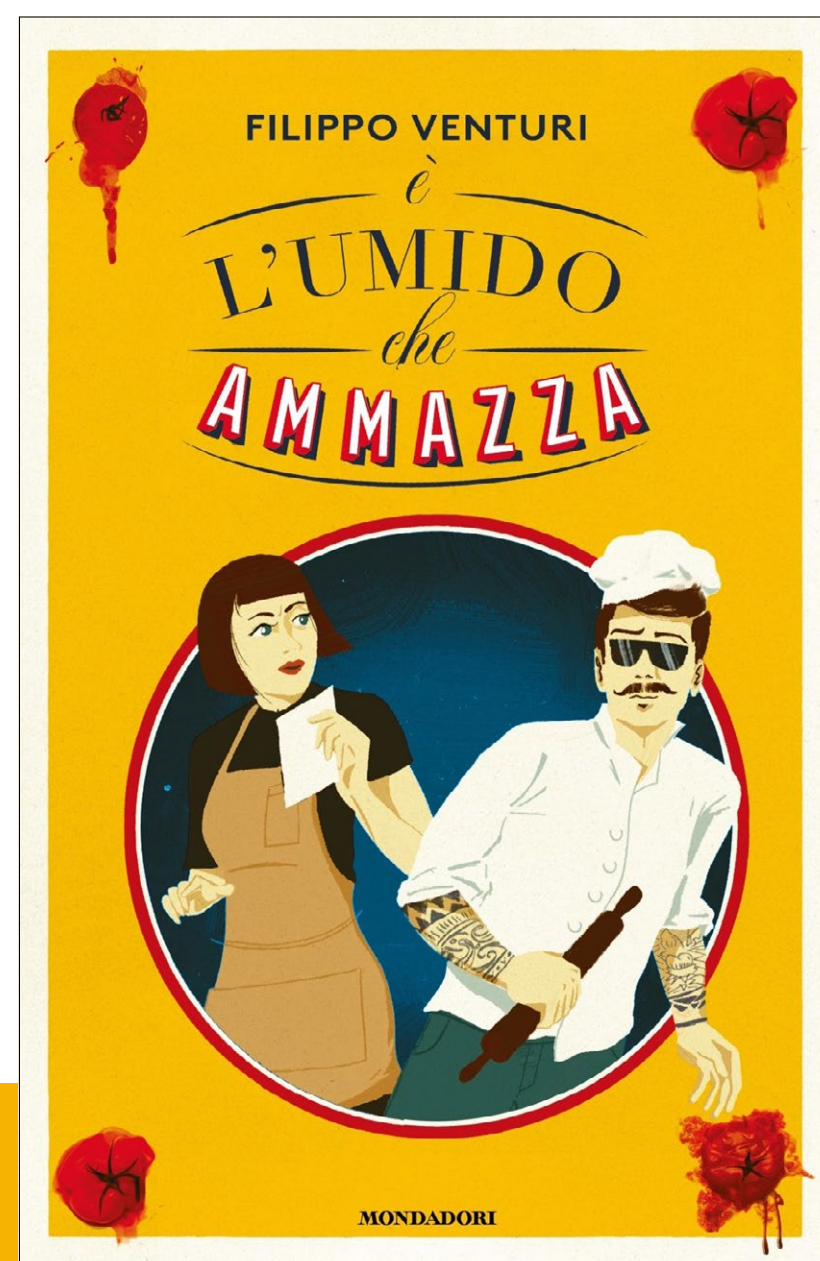
NICOLA PESCE is a writer and editor from Campania. He wrote and published the literary hit *La volpe che amava i libri* in 2021.

FILIPPO VENTURI

Humidity Kills

A dark and hilarious
cozy crime comedy

204 pp | June 2022



Between one wave of COVID and another, the restaurant Vecchia Bologna has been intermittently shut down depending on the Prime Ministerial Decree of the week. That is when Alice, one of the restaurant's waitresses, disappears into thin air. Alice is also a friend of the owner Emilio Zucchini: during the first lockdown she crashed on his couch. At the very same time, the esteemed notary Degli Esposti is found dead, his body crushed by a heavy marble statue. The crime scene is so absurd and gory that it makes the blood curdle in the veins of Inspector Iodice. Shortly after, the accountant Farinetti is found agonizing in his silk sheets. Both belonged to a group of friends nicknamed the Little Lords: Emilio doesn't care about them; too bad that the few traces Alice left behind seem to lead him to the Little Lords' murders... and he finds himself earnestly hoping that he made a mistake in connecting the dots. Zucchini returns with a comedy more hilarious and darker than ever, capable of wittily downplaying even the consequences of the pandemic, flanked by a series of female characters destined to leave their mark.

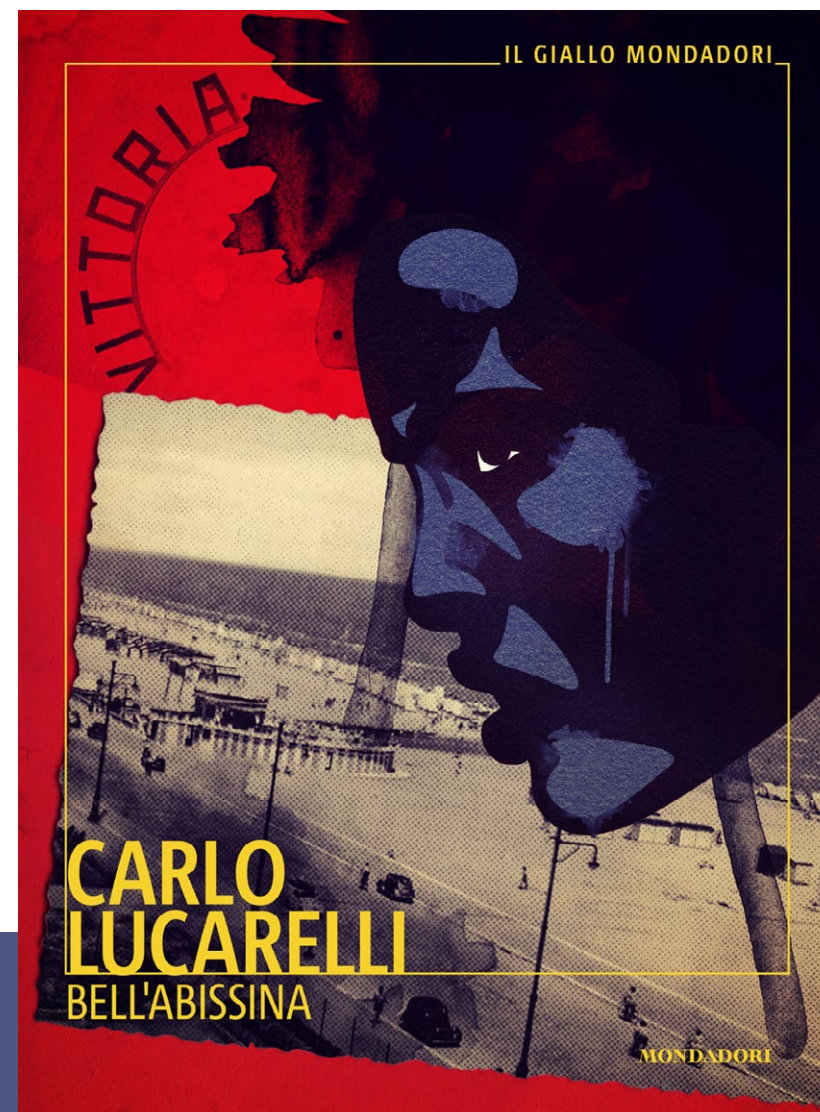
FILIPPO VENTURI (Bologna, 1972) runs a trattoria in the heart of Bologna. In 2016 he started writing for the newspaper "la Repubblica", creating the column "Dietro al banco" in which he reviews customers. In 2018 he published *Il tortellino muore nel brodo*, his first novel featuring the restaurant-owner/detective Emilio Zucchini; his second case *Gli spaghetti alla bolognese non esistono* followed in 2020, winning the award Giallo a Palazzo Web.

CARLO LUCARELLI

Pretty Abyssinian

A dangerous investigation reopens an old case that threatens the fascist regime

248 pp | November 2022



Within the Presidential Unit, the branch of the police that handles Mussolini's security, the "Sewer Team" special group is tasked with patrolling underneath the streets where il Duce will make a public appearance, searching for explosive devices. During an inspection, the bones of a woman's skeleton are found. Ten years later, Inspector Marino returns to Rimini's police station after an unauthorized investigation that turned him into an active antifascist. A former colleague, also aligned against the regime, confides in him: maybe the girl was killed by the son of a wealthy entrepreneur who made his fortune in the colonies. A young man who seems to be irreproachable and untouchable: his family is well connected to the Party, bribing corrupt politicians; the young man is also particularly skilled in doing "magic tricks" to multiply, conceal, and distribute streams of dirty money. Him being the culprit would allow Inspector Marino to detonate a scandal of devastating proportions, but his only helper may be the young Eritrean woman who lives with him: Marino is sure that she will be the next victim, but she is in love with the lad, who suspiciously reciprocates her feelings.

CARLO LUCARELLI (Parma, 1960) is the author of essays, screenplays, and novels, including the successful *Almost Blue* (1997) and *Léon* (2021) and a TV host for crime and mystery shows. His novels have been translated into many languages and have been adapted into movies and TV series (such as *L'ispettore Coliandro* and *Il commissario De Luca*).

FRANCESCO CICCONE

Female Skeleton

A trans boy searching
for himself: a deeply
moving and unsettling
autofiction

204 pp | November 2022

TENTATIVE COVER

FRANCESCO CICCONE

Scheletro femmina

romanzo



MONDADORI

This novel follows the story of Francesca as she slowly turns into Francesco, interwoven with the story of his very special relationship with Sara, whose presence (as well as her absence) has always left a deep mark on him ever since they were young. Sara, indeed, will become his great love and, above all, the person who accompanies him on his journey of self-discovery all the way to its most challenging phase: coming out and beginning his path to transition. A novel that can be at times very crude, but also full of love and tenderness. Like the unconditional love of Grandma Gioli, the powerful love he feels for Sara, and the self-love that Francesco has to build for himself. The story told by Cicconetti, which mixes elements from his real life with fictional bits, is certainly a unique and special tale of individual transformation, but it is also a universal story: a metaphor of the fight that we all engage in to discover who we really are and how to be ourselves to the fullest.

FRANCESCO CICCONE is an influencer who is barely twenty-six years old. He was born and grew up in Rimini, and he is a passionate activist for LGBTQ+ rights. This is his first novel.

LAUDIERO, BASSETTI, LUISI, TAMBURINI

Frenzy

An ambitious
reinterpretation
of an Italian classic,
The Frenzy of Orlando
by Ludovico Ariosto

350 pp | May 2022



Sixty years after the events that took place in *The Frenzy of Orlando*: the war against the Saracens is won, the Holy Roman Empire is complete, Charlemagne is dead. Unable to find a successor worthy of his name, the empire's provinces have been split up among his paladins, very powerful warriors capable of fighting entire armies. Rinaldo, Orlando, and the other paladins have reigned supreme over their realms for decades, but without Kind Charlemagne to give them purpose, these semi-immortal beings with superhuman strength have fallen prey to their own more ambitious and unruly side. They have no empathy, only appetites that lead them to exploit every resource, natural, human, or magical, for their personal gain. Women, weapons, honor, zeal, and knowledge are but empty shells that have lost all meaning in their lives. In the background, a series of mysterious catastrophes, from earthquakes to floods, which foreshadow an impending apocalypse that even the famous paladins from those glory days can't withstand. Orlando, the strongest among them, is lost in yet another love quest and has left no traces. Astolfo only thinks about returning to the moon. Rinaldo struggles to hold together the empire in danger. Is it time for a new generation of heroes to step forward?

SIMONE LAUDIERO, CARLO BASSETTI, FABRIZIO LUISI, PIER MAURO TAMBURINI have been a creative team for years, writing together articles, books, screenplays for short films and feature-length movies, and content for television and the Internet. Mondadori published their dystopian novel *Millennials – Il mondo nuovo* (ed. 2018).

MANLIO CASTAGNA

The Reincarnation of the Klun Sisters

The dark side of a family in a fantasy thriller between horror and esoterism

552 pp | October 2022



Italy, 1950s. When the little Klun sisters die in a hit and run, their father doesn't give up: he believes they will return to life, reincarnated into his newborn twins. Ever since birth, one of the twins displays some unsettling supernatural signs.

Present day: a police officer without talent or intuition is investigating the death of the two husbands of Rina Monforte, a member of a millenarian sect called the Partnership and the paramour of its charismatic spokesperson, the writer Attila Mesmeri Tribolati.

1970s: an orphan is adopted and raised in secret by a Jesuit priest in a monastery lost in the woods, where he learns the ancient art of invisibility.

Stories and characters separated in space and time, apparently unrelated yet connected by an intricate design of Lights and Shadows that will lead them to unexpected and terrifying discoveries.

MANLIO CASTAGNA (Salerno, 1974) made his directorial debut in 1997 with the award-winning short film *Indice di frequenza*. He is the creative director for the Doha Film Institute in Qatar and a film critic for Virgin Radio. He writes and directs videos, documentaries, short films, and web-series episodes. After publishing several essays on cinema and about dogs, he made his literary debut with the novel *Petrademone. Il libro delle Porte*.

TOMMASO FUSARI

Promise Me You Will Learn How To Swim

A touching story
about how we deal
with both our and
other people's pain

312 pp | October 2022



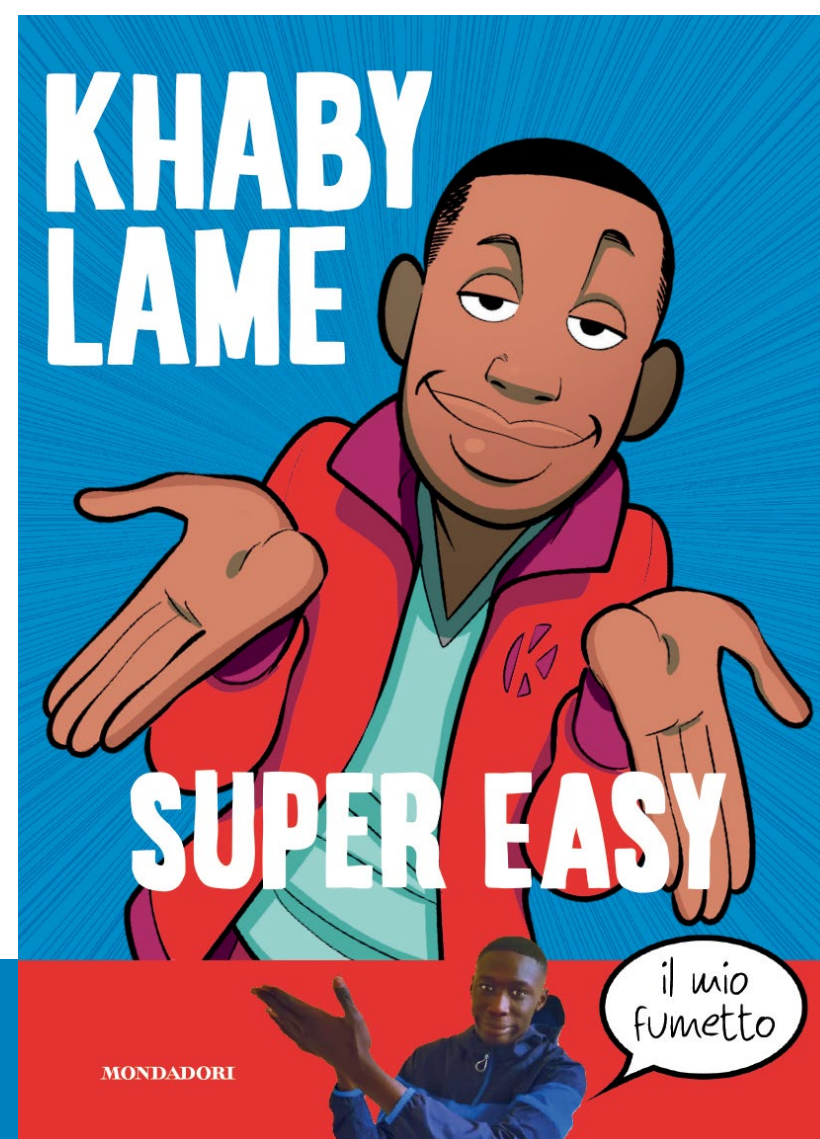
Alessandro is twenty-six years old and, ever since he was a child, he has had to deal with a particular gift: he can feel other people's pain, deep within his bones. A skill that he always felt was more like a curse, at least until Claudia walked into his life: the girl who insists on using an old Walkman to listen to her music, the girl who made him think that maybe, despite everything, life could have something nice in store for him. Now that Claudia is gone, Alessandro decides to withdraw back into himself, in order to atone for the guilt he feels about what he did and counter the effects of his gift/curse. Still, no man is an island, and Alessandro will realize it soon enough thanks to a chance encounter with a motley group of people and their respective wounds. Among them Achille, the elderly owner of the music store where Claudia brought Alessandro to listen to vinyl records together. Achille is still mourning his family losses, but he also holds a message that Claudia recorded for Alessandro a while back. A message that Alessandro is supposed to listen to when he finally understands that feeling other people's pain doesn't have to be his doom: it could be a crucial chance to save someone, perhaps even himself. Maybe that moment has finally arrived.

TOMMASO FUSARI was born in Rome in 1992. He works part-time in a sporting goods store while attending university. His previous novels are *Tempi duri per i romantici* (2017) and *Quello che non siamo diventati* (2019).

KHABY LAME

Super Easy

The superhero
who makes our lives
easier



103 pp | January 2022

In this comic book, Khaby Lame draws from his life experiences to become Super Easy, the superhero of simplicity, a kid like any other except for his special power: finding humor in the daily little big challenges and scaling down every problem that life presents us.

A collection of amusing adventures strips solving needlessly complicated situations that we often create on our own.

«It's my face and my expressions that make people laugh». His silent reactions are a proper «global language».

The New York Times, June 2021

KHABY LAME is an Italian Senegal-born Tiktok content creator and influencer based in Italy.

He became known for his short silent comedy skits where he sarcastically points out people who complicate simple tasks for no reason.

In 2022, he became the most followed person on Tik-Tok in the world.



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- Germany ▶ DTV
- Portugal ▶ Nuvem de Tinta/PRH
- Serbia ▶ Propolis Books
- Turkey ▶ Yediveren Yayinlari

MEDMAKI

S3X TALK

Sexuality, Orgasms, and Unconventional Relationships

Stories and practical
advice to learn about
sex without taboos

156 pp | September 2022



How do you climax? Is it possible not to feel pleasure during intercourse? How do you figure out your sexual orientation? How do you come out? These are complicated questions; we often feel like we can't ask our parents, teachers, or even our friends about them, so they often remain unanswered. Medmaki tackles on the subject and sheds both society's moralistic views and porn's exaggerations. After all, knowing yourself intimately also means knowing yourself better.

Medmaki is more than a sexual education expert, she is like a sister ready to listen to your most embarrassing thoughts without ever being judgmental. She offers a safe space to open up and better understand everything that has to do with sex, away from stereotypes, taboos, and rules that society still imposes us. A book full of real stories about contemporary sexuality, practical advice, and information, revealing every secret about sex with sensitivity and competence, to finally be able to experience it in full freedom, awareness, and pleasure.

ASJA TILOTTA is a young medical student and a sexual education expert. She garnered a massive following on Instagram in just a few months, thanks to her precious advice and her sensitivity in dealing with these topics.

VERONICA BARTOLUCCI has a degree in biological sciences and a past as a researcher. She collaborates on the Medmaki project with the goal of making sexual education more accessible and inclusive through social media.

GIULIO GUIDORIZZI

The Greek Myth

The best stories
from Greek mythology,
narrated and
illustrated

224 pp | November 2022



Giulio Guidorizzi is one of the most renowned international scholars of ancient Greece and a great expert of classical cultures, known and loved by the public for his two successful essays *Il racconto degli dei* and *Il racconto degli eroi*. In this book he writes about the most fascinating stories in Greek mythology, the ones that shaped our civilization. His words are accompanied by illustrations made by the great artist Maria Brzozowska. The resulting volume is a popular and accessible piece of literature for an audience of kids and adults alike; it is also a journey into the world of gods and heroes, which combines the simplicity and pleasure of reading with complete cultural consistency.

GIULIO GUIDORIZZI is a Greek scholar, a translator, an expert in classical mythology and anthropology of the ancient world, and a professor at the universities of Milan and Turin. He wrote countless essays, such as *Letteratura greca* (2002), *Il mito greco* (2009-2012), *Io, Agamennone* (2016), and *Ulisse* (2018). He is currently coordinating a major project, the new edition of the *Iliad*, which he is translating himself and will be published by Fondazione Lorenzo Valla.

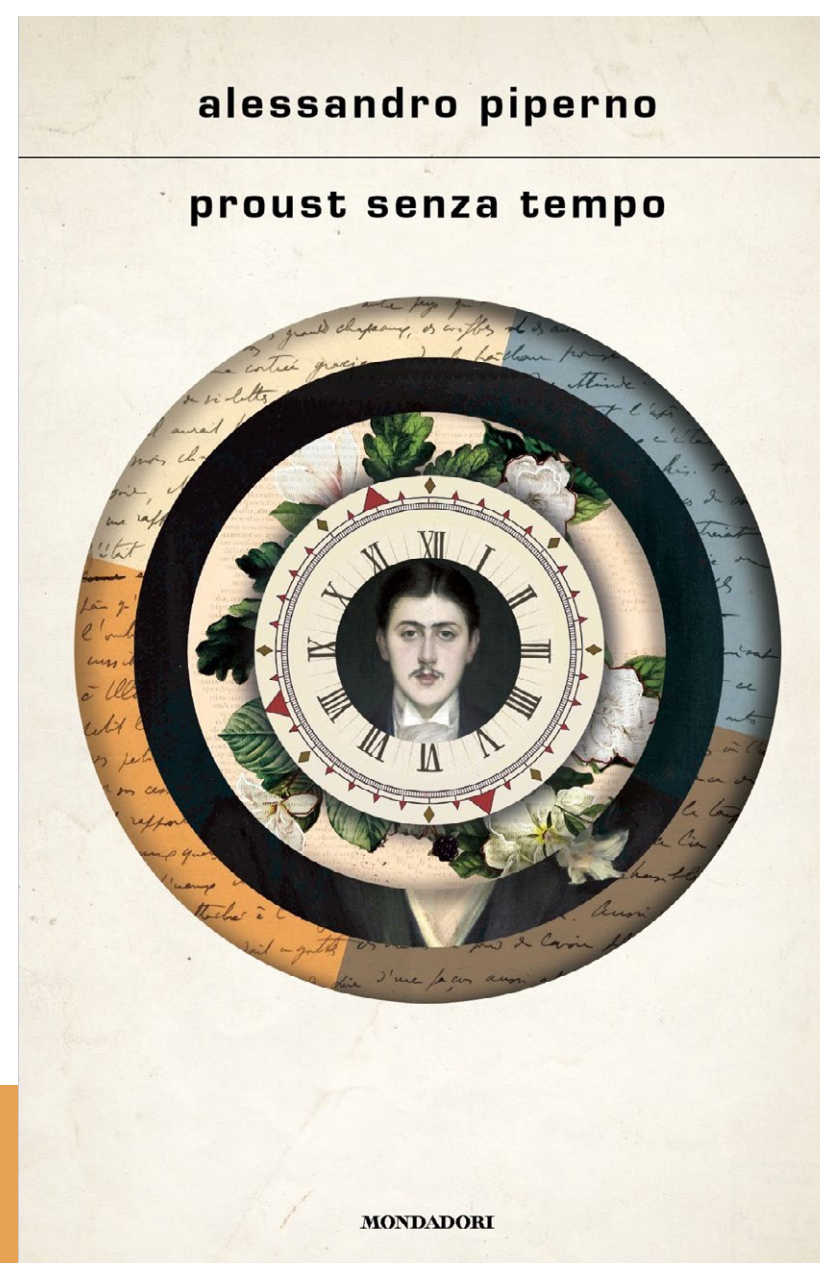
MARIA BRZOWSKA Born in 1992 in Poland, she now lives in Turkey. A visual storyteller who enjoys taking a poetic approach to her art creating new, unknown lands, she uses traditional painting techniques aided by digital methods. She has been a finalist in various competitions, has published various illustrations for children's books and had solo exhibitions in the UK, Turkey and Italy.

ALESSANDRO PIPERNO

Timeless Proust

An intimate and
deepfelt series of
essays about Proust
and literature

156 pp | September 2022



I would like to talk to you about Proust. About the central role that he played in the lives of many people like me, how he contributed to changing our lives, but also how he managed to poison them for good. Because you have to beware: once he gets into your system, he will never leave you alone.

It all started with an unexpected Christmas gift. A giant book bound in navy blue faux leather with gilded inlays: it looked more like a motel bible than a novel. The volume was *Swann's Way*, the first tome of *In Search of Lost Time* by Marcel Proust.

Several years later, Alessandro Piperno returns to the reasons behind that happy encounter, opening up for the first time in a very intimate way. Proust isn't just the author to whom he consecrated most of his intellectual life, the one who inspired him in a way no other writer could. After a certain point, he fatally became the bar against which all the other beloved authors were measured. "This book offers an arbitrary old-school approach that, if taken the right way, could help people understand Proust and the other masters that I chose to place by his side."

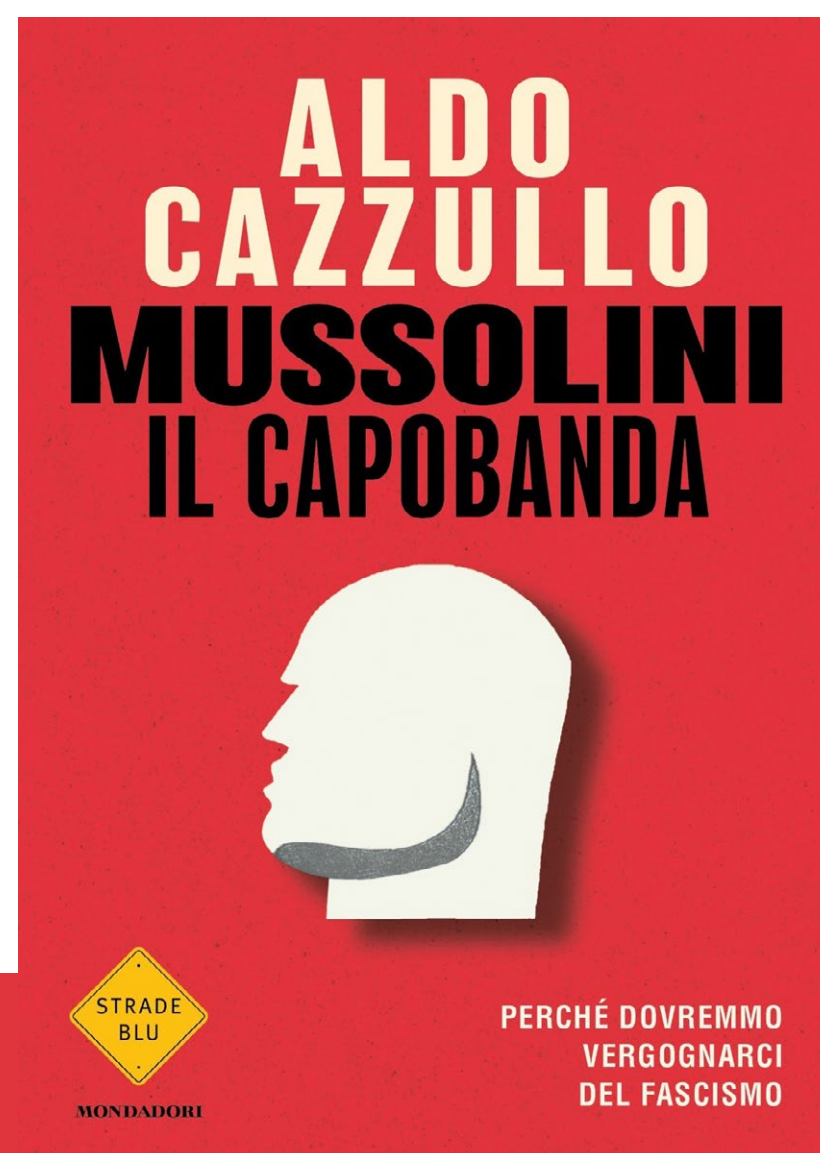
ALESSANDRO PIPERNO (Rome, 1972), a scholar of French Literature at the Rome University and a frequent contributor to "Corriere della Sera", made his sensational debut in 2005 with *Con le Peggiori intenzioni*, translated in twenty languages and soon to be turned into a film. It was followed by *Persecuzione* (Prix du Meilleur Livre Etranger 2011); *Inseparabili* (Premio Strega 2012), *Dove la storia finisce* (2016) and *Di chi è la colpa* (2020).

ALDO CAZZULLO

Mussolini, the Ringleader

The history of
fascism debunked of
its lies: not all italians
were fascists

360 pp | September 2022



“A hundred years ago, our homeland fell into the hands of a gang of thugs led by a ruthless and cruel man. A man capable of anything, even locking up his wife and son in insane asylums, where they both died.” This is how Aldo Cazzullo begins his book on Mussolini. Most Italians have a wrong impression of him: they see a statesman who did everything right until 1938; too bad for the alliance with Hitler, the racial laws, the war. Cazzullo reminds his readers that, prior to ‘38, Mussolini had caused the death of his main opponents: Matteotti, Gobetti, Gramsci, Amendola, Don Minzoni, Carlo and Nello Rosselli. He seized power through violence, reaping hundreds of casualties. He committed crimes in Libya (forty thousand dead civilians), Ethiopia (from mustard gas to massacring Christian monks), and Spain. He used Italians as guinea pigs to test incorrect cures for malaria and lethal vaccines. The war was not a sign of the Duce’s madness, it was the logical outcome of fascism: the oppression of one state at the hands of another and one race overcoming them all. These ideas unfortunately did not die with Mussolini. But Cazzullo demolishes another cliché: it isn’t true that all Italians were fascists. And anti-fascism should be a common value for every party and every Italian.

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. His two books on Dante (*A riveder le stelle* and *Il posto degli uomini*) have sold over three-hundred-thousand copies.

GIADA MESSETTI

China Is Already Here

ENGLISH
EXCERPT
AVAILABLE

Why we have to
urgently understand
how the Dragon
thinks

152 pp | March 2022



Not a day goes by without talking about China. The topic, however, is often addressed (both in private and in public) through a simplistic narrative: everything is black or white, the Celestial Empire represents absolute evil or the most efficient place in the world. In this book, the author creates an essential map of a culture full of charm and also profoundly different from our own and help us find our way in the labyrinth of an ancient civilization, another world altogether, deciphering the differences that separate us. A captivating journey of discovery that examines some of the most distinctive features of the Asian giant: from the wonders of writing to its concepts of society and time, from power “with Chinese characteristics” to the mechanisms that guide and determine its foreign policies; and also the pervasive influence of Confucianism and Taoism, the aspiration to “collective harmony,” and the habit of “Sinicizing” everything the Dragon encounters along its way. *China Is Already Here* is a bridge-book that would like to avoid the clash of civilizations that is already around the corner for many. It is time to recognize that “*the West needs China as much as China needs the West*”.

GIADA MESSETTI is a Sinologist who lived extensively in China, where she collaborated with RAI, *Corriere della Sera*, and *la Repubblica*. Upon returning to Italy in 2011, she worked for TV and radio shows. She is the author of *Nella testa del Dragone* (Mondadori, 2020).

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SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY COSTANZA GRAVINA

La Cuntintizza

Little things that
makes life worth living

240 pp | April 2022



What a pleasure it is to make a little ball of sugar and coffee. Or sensually plunging your hands in a bowl of dough. Or yearningly holding onto an object that belonged to someone who is gone. Many different occasions, many “little things” that Simonetta Agnello Hornby and her granddaughter Costanza Gravina write about, discovering the concept of *cuntintizza*, the art of finding joy in little things: it isn’t just part of their Sicilian cultural heritage, it ends up representing an enthusiastic chapter of moral philosophy that can be shared by everyone. A simple concept. As Simonetta writes, “*la cuntintizza is intimate and private; it thrives on observation and curiosity. La cuntintizza paves the way to hope and inner well-being.*” Food and the art of drinking play a very important part because they both train us to perceive and enjoy the good that comes from human civilization.

SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY was born in Palermo in 1945. She made her literary debut with the highly successful *La Mennulara* (*The Almond Picker*) widely translated abroad.

COSTANZA GRAVINA was born in Palermo, where she works as a pharmacist.

RIGHTS SOLD TO:

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LUCA FEZZI

Rome in the Balance

Twists, turns, and
alternative scenarios
of a millenary history

300 pp | May 2022



The legendary adventures of Romulus, Lucretia, and the Capitoline geese; Alexander the Great's early death, Hannibal Barca's hesitation after the resounding victory at Cannae, Gaius Julius Caesar's extraordinary life and his brutal murder; the decisive battles of Philippi, Antium, Teutoburg, the Milvian Bridge, and Adrianople. These characters and events, legendary or real, represented veritable turning points in the history of Ancient Rome; because of their importance and, often, unpredictability, they made people ponder even back then over the destiny of mankind and the world, inspiring alternative and counterfactual musings. In other words, they generated those famous "what ifs" that we were taught never to use to make history. But maybe we need to make an exception when it is the very men who made history like Caesar, Napoleon, or General Montgomery, or the great intellectuals like Livy, Plutarch, Burckhardt, or Toynbee, who ask themselves that question. The historian Luca Fezzi certainly thinks so and he explores a dozen of those "ifs," all rigorously from historical figures guiding us along the road of the millenary vicissitudes of the *Urbe*.

LUCA FEZZI is Professor of Roman history at the University of Padua and the author of a long list of books, among them *Il dado è tratto. Cesare e la resa di Roma* (2017), translated by Talandier and Yale UP, and *Cesare. La giovinezza del grande condottiero* (Mondadori, 2020).

RACHELE FERRARIO

Umberto Boccioni

The story of
an iconic artist
in Italian art history

420 pp | November 2022



Rachele Ferrario reconstructs Umberto Boccioni's short but extraordinary life story: his love for Margherita Sarfatti, his connections with Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, his apprenticeship with Giacomo Balla, his friendship with Mario Sironi, his skirmishes with Ardengo Soffici and Giuseppe Prezzolini; his trips to tsarist Russia and Picasso's Paris, his arrest, his fights in Milan at the turn of the century. And she vividly describes the creation of his masterpiece *La città sale* (*The City Rises*), currently on display at the MoMA in New York. The painting, which features a bucking horse, is almost like an omen: Boccioni would die a few years after completing it, falling from a horse on the sidelines of World War I. Rachele Ferrario captures a chapter of Italy's history through Boccioni's life: the industrial revolution, the rise of Futurism, the Great War, and the roots of fascism.

RACHELE FERRARIO is a historian and art critic; she teaches at the Brera Academy of Fine Arts and curates art archives and exhibits. Her books recently published by Mondadori include *Regina di quadri. Vita e passioni di Palma Bucarelli* (2010) and *Margherita Sarfatti. La regina dell'arte nell'Italia fascista* (2015). She writes for the newspaper *Corriere della Sera* and for the TV channel RAI Storia.

ANTONIO GIUSTOZZI

The Endless Laboratory

The story of
Afghanistan's role
between past and
future

264 pp | September 2022



For a long time, Afghanistan was a white spot on the map for almost all of us. At least until 1978, when this mountainous country without resources, fragmented among hundreds of tribes and ethnicities, was invaded by the Soviet Union and suddenly rose to prominence in world news. That is when the “endless war” began, and still goes on after over forty years. A war that has turned the country into the ideal laboratory where the Islamist intelligentsia’s doctrinal discussions on the jihad as a moral duty merged with the practical and technological know-how that transformed it into an actual war on the field. Add to this a restless background of rival factions, the geopolitical interests of neighboring states, 9/11, and the transformation of the Taliban’s guerrilla warfare from a national jihad into a global one under the pressure of both Al-Qaeda and ISIS.

Antonio Giustozzi closely follows the thread of the frenetic events from Afghanistan’s “endless war”, asking questions about its implications and future developments. Because laboratories like this one will be the ones that determine the balance between Asia, Africa, and the West in the next few years.

ANTONIO GIUSTOZZI, born in Ravenna, holds a PhD from the London School of Economics. He is a senior research fellow at the Royal United Services Institute in London. Many of his books were published by Columbia and Princeton University Presses, among others. His articles have appeared in the newspapers *The Guardian* and *La Repubblica*.

CAMILLO RICORDI

Healthspan Code

An exciting journey
to return biologically
young

192 pp | June 2022



Recognized worldwide for his contributions to diabetes research and stem cell research, Camillo Ricordi aims now to a new goal: to alleviate age-related chronic neurodegenerative diseases and reverse biologic aging. What can we do to prevent or mitigate the progression of the Pandemics of the 21st century, such as viral, autoimmune, and chronic diseases linked to unhealthy longevity? All these Pandemics share common risks, derived not so much from an unavoidable genetic background, but rather from acquired epigenetic changes, linked to environment, diet, lifestyle, and insufficient protective factors. Professor Ricordi identifies these risk factors and explains the basis of unhealthy longevity, outlining the strategies that can help us to successfully defeat the Pandemics of the 21st Century, from healthy nutrition and fitness, to polyphenols, sirtuins activators, Omega 3, Vitamin D3 and fisetin, all natural weapons that can prolong a healthy lifespan. His goal is not so much to allow us to live beyond 120 years, but rather to prolong healthy survival, also reducing the impact that unhealthy longevity has on the world economy.

CAMILLO RICORDI descendant of the legendary dynasty of music editors of the works of Rossini, Donizetti, Bellini, Verdi and Puccini, becomes the “black sheep” of the family, applying his genius to medicine. Since 1993 he has been working at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, where he directs the Diabetes Research Institute and the Cell Transplant Center.

RUGGERO ROLLINI

Chemistry at Home

Everyday science
that makes your life
better

180 pp | September 2022



A book that answers all the questions about everyday science, showing us how chemistry, which people often find scary, is actually a valuable ally.

Ruggero Rollini shows readers that the phenomena that surround us aren't part of a hostile universe, on the contrary, they are governed by the same laws of nature. With the support of his field research, he examines the most common applications of chemistry in our daily lives: from dealing with limescale deposits to homemade digestives; from the unwarranted distrust in tap water to the unquestioning celebration of water bottles; from the way soaps and detergents work to the disinfecting power of chlorine; from human saliva (a cleaning agent worthy of the Ig Nobel Prize) to the accidental and revolutionary invention of Post-it Notes.

This brilliant and thoroughly researched exploration gives us a fresh perspective on the reality that surrounds us. Because the scientific approach doesn't spoil the hidden poetry of things; on the contrary, there is surprising beauty in "pondering over the microscopic interactions hidden behind the waves of the sea, in the mountain peaks, in a leaf, in the sun, in our breath." Managing to convey even a fraction of this is the challenge that this book sets for itself.

RUGGERO ROLLINI has a chemistry degree and is a scientific communicator. He used to teach chemistry communication for the Italian Chemistry Society, and he has been working with the popular tv show *Superquark+* since 2019.

ANDREA BATILLA

What You Wear

What lies beneath
the clothes you wear

168 pp | September 2022



Anyone can tell their story with words, but few can do it through fashion. We are often led to believe that fashion is something abstract and superficial, something that mostly pertains to women and gossip magazines. Yet we forget clothes are one of the ways through which we build our identity. Dress codes don't come about haphazardly; they are created by the dominant classes or as a reaction to the policies and ideologies they impose. As history teaches us, fashion doesn't only have an aesthetic value, it also contains a much deeper socio-cultural significance.

Andrea Batilla has been working in the world of fashion for years and knows it very well. In this book, he dives into its inner workings to decipher its hidden messages, from an apparently distant past to a future that is already upon us, analyzing some iconic clothes and revealing their real meaning. Because an item of clothing is never "neutral": it always carries a precise view of the world and its social roles. Batilla's long voyage through time and space reveals with skill and humor how the choice behind a fabric, a style, or a color has always been more than just a matter of appearance.

ANDREA BATILLA worked as a designer and textile researcher for some of the major Made-in-Italy brands. He was the director of the European Institute of Design in Milan for five years, and created the first Italian association of fashion schools. He published the books *Instant moda* (2019) and *L'alfabeto della moda* (2021), and writes for the newspapers *Il Post* and *Domani*.

BENEDETTA SANTINI

Plato, I Have Anxiety

Eight philosophers
to find your place
in the world

156 pp | November 2022



The journey to find your place in the world never seems to end and, during moments of darkness, you ask yourself why you feel different from everyone else but, at the same time, you are afraid of not being special at all. Sometimes you believe it is okay to give up a part of yourself just to feel at ease with others. Other times, instead, it feels crucial to remain true to yourself despite a world that seems to be ordinary and cruel. It is a difficult war to win, especially if you are fighting alone.

Benedetta Santini takes us on a journey of psychological and personal growth, helping us find examples and tools to overcome the difficulties that sometimes cage us in our lives: learning how to forgive ourselves, finding happiness, overcoming the anxiety of other people's opinions, figuring out how to make a decision... From Plato to Nietzsche, from Socrates to Schopenhauer, the stories of eight philosophers who had to fight against powerful men, disappointments, rejections, and even against themselves. They are philosophers but, above all, they are people who found their place in the world, and now they can help us find ours as well. A book for those who feel like they don't belong or, like many of the greatest philosophers, are deemed too weird or even annoying.

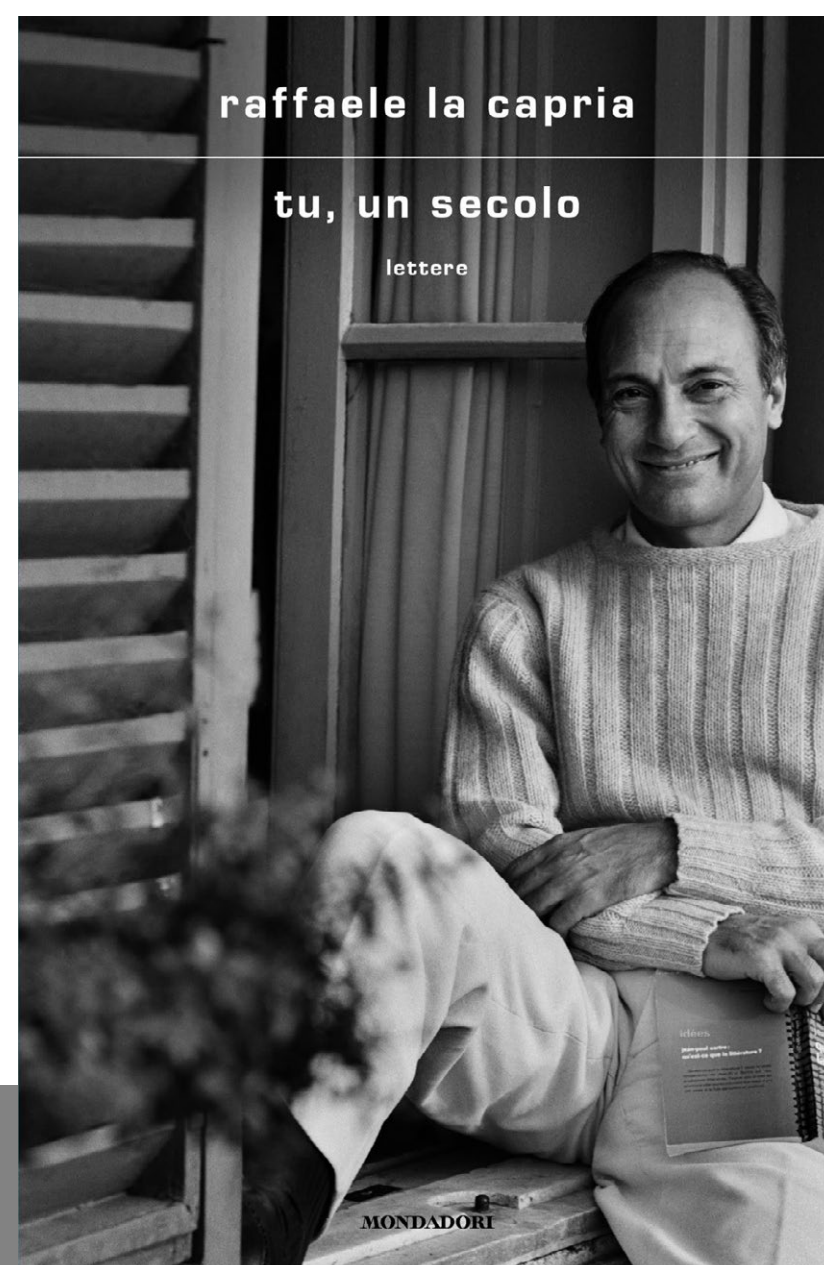
BENEDETTA SANTINI is a professor and a psychologist. She was a speaker for TEDx and for the festival *Parole ostili*, which received 1.5 million likes on TikTok. She has worked with Mondadori and Città della Scienza, but her greatest satisfaction remains having explained Socrates to the youngest.

RAFFAELE LA CAPRIA

You, a Century

The life of a great
italian author through
his letters

168 pp | October 2022



Raffaele La Capria, one of Italy's most influential voices of the twentieth century, pays tribute to literature (his life companion and lifeline in a time "without masters") and to his many friends (some of whom have also sailed off to an intangible beyond) through over seventy years of letters, written and received. From Claudio Magris to Sandro Veronesi, from Emanuele Trevi to Silvio Perrella, and also Pier Paolo Pasolini, Eugenio Montale, Elisabetta Rasy, Edoardo Albinati, and Pietro Citati.

Tu, un secolo is a collection of the most significant epistolary exchanges in La Capria's life, along with open letters, memories, and short but precious introductions written by the author himself. What emerges is a delicate and clever story, inspiring to ponder the passing of time, friendship and its value, and drawing from multiple points of view and humor in a way that was always distinctive of the author. A chance to explain himself to others, without ever giving up on understanding oneself.

A journey back in time through memories and the life that was. But above all, another clear demonstration of the spiritual and literary heritage of one of Italy's most fundamental authors.

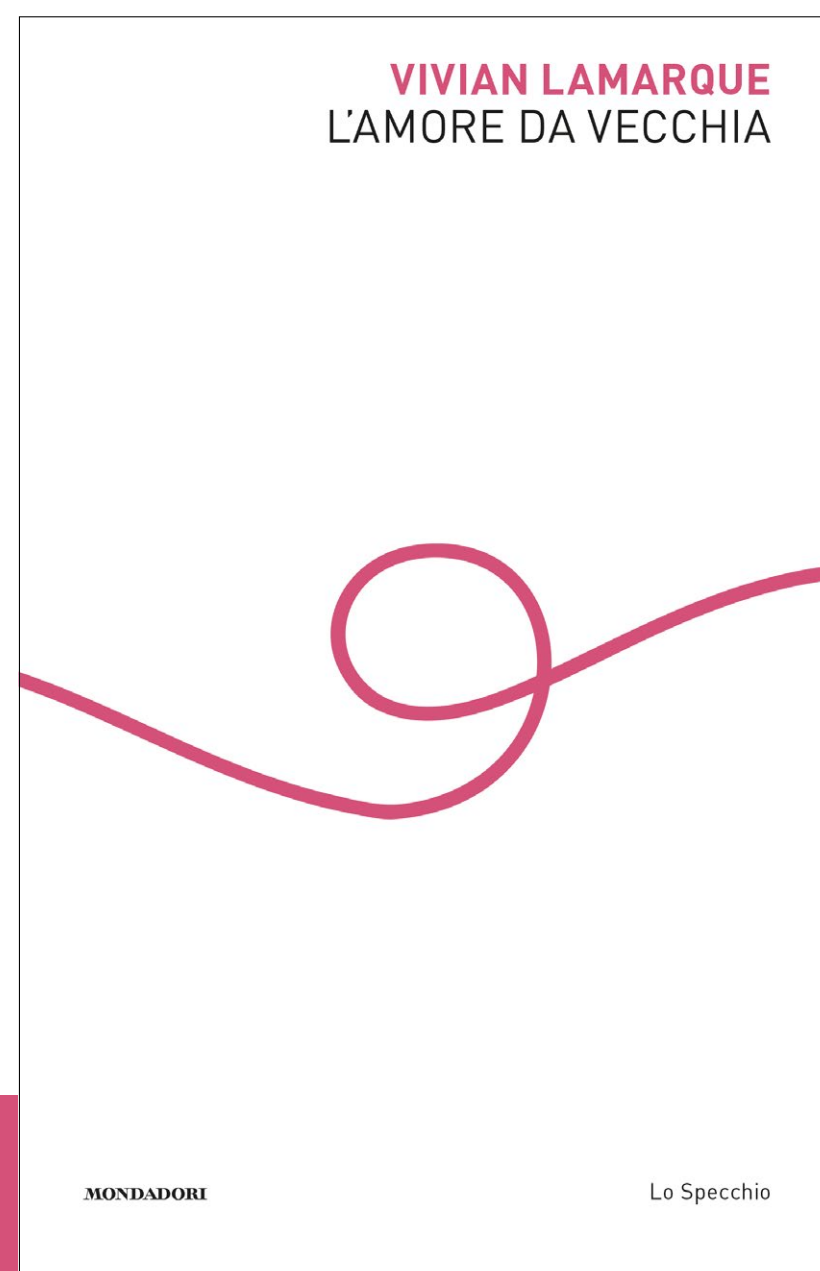
RAFFAELE LA CAPRIA (Naples, 1922-2022) was one of Italy's most significant writers from the mid-twentieth century on. He made his literary debut with *Un giorno d'impazienza* (1952) and reached fame with his masterpiece *Ferito a morte* (winner of the 1961 Premio Strega). La Capria's entire work is published by Mondadori in the collection *I Meridiani*, curated by Silvio Perrella.

VIVIAN LAMARQUE

Love as an Old Lady

An original, poetic
take about old age and
distant memories

160 pp | November 2022



Vivian Lamarque returns with a new book filled with impressions, events, and omens that follow one another like scenes in an expansive, free-ranging movie. The author looks over images and familiar faces resurging frequently from memories, all the while preserving her vital openness to wonder and to the various sparks of her imagination. She expresses herself by conjuring a reality made of animals and plants, or the city and its daily rituals, reassessing her autobiographical time and space. She muses about the meaning itself and the nature of poetry in a journey of awareness into the heart of experience. Still, a general sense of the precariousness of life carries within itself the pervasive consciousness of the future, of the inevitable nothingness, of not existing anymore, accompanying us until our “last thought.” And, as the author feels the age of winter advancing, she pays more attention to the present, with its new and unexpected threats.

Vivian Lamarque writes with a cheerful variety of expressive solutions, moving from prosaic compositions to subtle passages, preserving the accents of the refined colloquial tone that manifests a lyrical sense of serene and profoundly human wisdom.

VIVIAN LAMARQUE (Teseo, 1946) has always lived in Milan, where she used to teach Italian and literature to foreign students. Part of her work is published in the volume *Poesie 1972-2002* (2002). Among her awards, the Premio Viareggio Opera Prima (1981), the Andersen Award (2000), the Premio Carducci (2016), and the Premio Bagutta (2017).

SIMONETTA SCIANDIVASCI

Children I Don't Want

A spirited debate
over a crucial topic
close to many

204 pp | November 2022



We are facing a demographic winter: everybody is talking about it, many are concerned and worried about it. But when it comes to analyzing the reasons why people aren't procreating in Italy, we often find ourselves in front of schematic positions that only offer a partial view of the situation. Women are generally represented either as victims of the challenges involved in raising a child in our country (job insecurity, low wages, inaccessible pre-schools and kindergartens, insufficient welfare programs) or as a bunch of cynical careerists and future repenters destined to become old and lonely, filled with regrets for not having had any children. Women are actually in between these two extremes, and they find their voices in the responses to the humorous and lucid article written by Sciandivasci. Why do some women choose to have kids while others opt against it? Why can't the adoption process be simpler for single parents? How can women contribute to creating an alternative idea of the future in which they can also redefine their role? And why don't men participate in this debate? These questions and many more are put forward by writers and intellectuals the likes of Viola Ardone, Caterina Soffici, Michela Marzano, Daniele Mencarelli, Elena Loewenthal Ester Viola, Marco Franzoso, Nadia Terranova, and Loredana Lipperini.

SIMONETTA SCIANDIVASCI was born in Tricarico in 1985 and works for the cultural section of the newspaper *La Stampa*. She has also written articles for the publications *Il Foglio*, *Linkiesta*, *Rolling Stone*, *La Verità*, and *La Repubblica*.

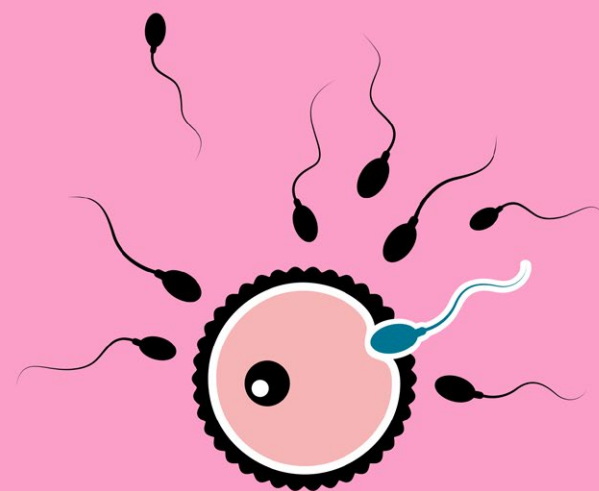
VALERIA VALENTINO

The Road to Fertility

A journey in search
of your child

224 pp | November 2022

**Valeria
Valentino**



**LA VIA DELLA
FERTILITÀ**

Un viaggio alla ricerca del tuo bambino

MONDADORI

Doctor Valeria Valentino dedicated her life to supporting couples in their journey to conceiving a child. In this book, she explores the topic of human fertility in its every nuance, building on the stories of patients with whom she has worked over the years. Starting from some small but fundamental adjustments that people can make in their daily lives to preserve their fertility, she explores the main causes of male and female infertility and presents an overview of the causes and treatments available to overcome the obstacles in the way of conception. The resulting volume is a comprehensive and thorough tool that is useful not only to people facing specific cases of infertility or sterility, but also to anyone interested in finding out what to do, here and now, to preserve their own reproductive future.

VALERIA VALENTINO is a gynecologist specialized in reproductive physiopathology with a Master's Degree in clinical sexology. Over the course of her career she worked with major publishers and scientific journals, publishing over thirty articles on assisted reproductive technologies and sexology. She works as a medical director for the Local Health Authority of Tuscany's northwestern provinces, but she also manages her own private practice, and has a community of over forty thousand followers on Instagram.

**NICOLA GRATTERI
ANTONIO NICASO**

Beyond Borders. 'Ndrangheta in the World

Italy's most
powerful criminal
organization and
its ramifications
throughout
the world

204 pp | November 2022



The reach of the 'Ndrangheta extends far beyond Italy's borders. It has always known how to take advantage of situations of instability and conflict to expand its sphere of influence in all five continents. In their new book, Nicola Gratteri and Antonio Nicaso start from the concept of economics and politics of a catastrophe to explore the mafia's affairs abroad. In Ukraine, where the war facilitated the illegal weapons trade and refugee trafficking; in Latin America, shedding light on the relationship between the 'Ndrangheta and the drug cartels; in China, looking into the new frontier of synthetic drugs; in Africa, where the 'Ndrangheta is involved in the coltan black market; and, finally, in Malta and Rome, the nerve centers of gambling and politics, respectively. To complete the picture, they also outline the relationship between the 'Ndrangheta and the virtual world, because in its "farsighted" way the mafia keeps a steady eye on the future.

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

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

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



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