



**MONDADORI**

**Spring  
Rights  
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**2022**



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# 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.

# LAURA MARZI

## The Optional Class

Unconventional  
routes to happiness  
– or at least  
to anti-sadness

228 pp | February 2022



*“Laura Marzi is a new voice of Italian fiction who will leave her mark. Her talent, which doesn’t lean into moralism and constructive lessons, brings together fundamental issues like integration, education, feminism, religion, and, of course, love.”*

— Mario Desiati, author of *Spatriati*

The “optional class” is what students who forgo the hour of Catholic studies have to take instead. Their names are Hossein, Jamal, Safia, Michele and they are Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Italian. The protagonist of this story spends hours in the canteen, the AV room, and the gym talking to these kids, sometimes arguing with them, listening to stories involving selling drugs, bullying, revenge porn, racism. She sees eye to eye with them, she pushes them, she challenges them, she even stands up on their behalf. She also starts practicing lessons from the “optional class on love” in her personal life: she seeks an understanding, intellectual and physical, but she is not interested in exclusive relationships, in the dream of a family (her own collapsed, unable to deal with her sister’s addictions). For an entire school year, we follow her among meetings with the school board and her three or four overlapping relationships, in a crucial moment of her life trying to find unconventional routes to happiness – or at least to anti-sadness.

**LAURA MARZI** teaches gender studies at the University Lorenzo de’ Medici in Florence. She writes articles for *Il Manifesto*, *Il Tascabile*, *Leggendaria*, and *Letterate Magazine*. This is her first novel.

# TEA RANNO

## My Darling

A magical, cheerful,  
and sensual story set  
in Sicily

300 pp | July 2022



In the Sicilian town setting of Ranno's previous two novels, Luisa Russo runs Castidda, a wonderful farm on a hill gently sloping towards the sea. The latter was "a lost pile of stones," but with love and perseverance she turned the estate into the symbol of her economic freedom. Her husband can't stand the idea that Luisa is now a successful businesswoman. One day, Luisa faints while picking strawberries. Is it a sunstroke or something worse? When she regains consciousness, she can't remember anything. Luisa's amnesia sends her friends/business partners into a panic. She is the only one who knows the combination to the restaurant's safe, which contains a crucial document to save their business from an accusation that could put it in danger. While they desperately try to open the safe, Luisa deals with a long-repressed trauma. The healing power of the sea and "the old man who fixes memories" help her overcome that old bereavement and give her the strength to free herself from her oppressive marriage.

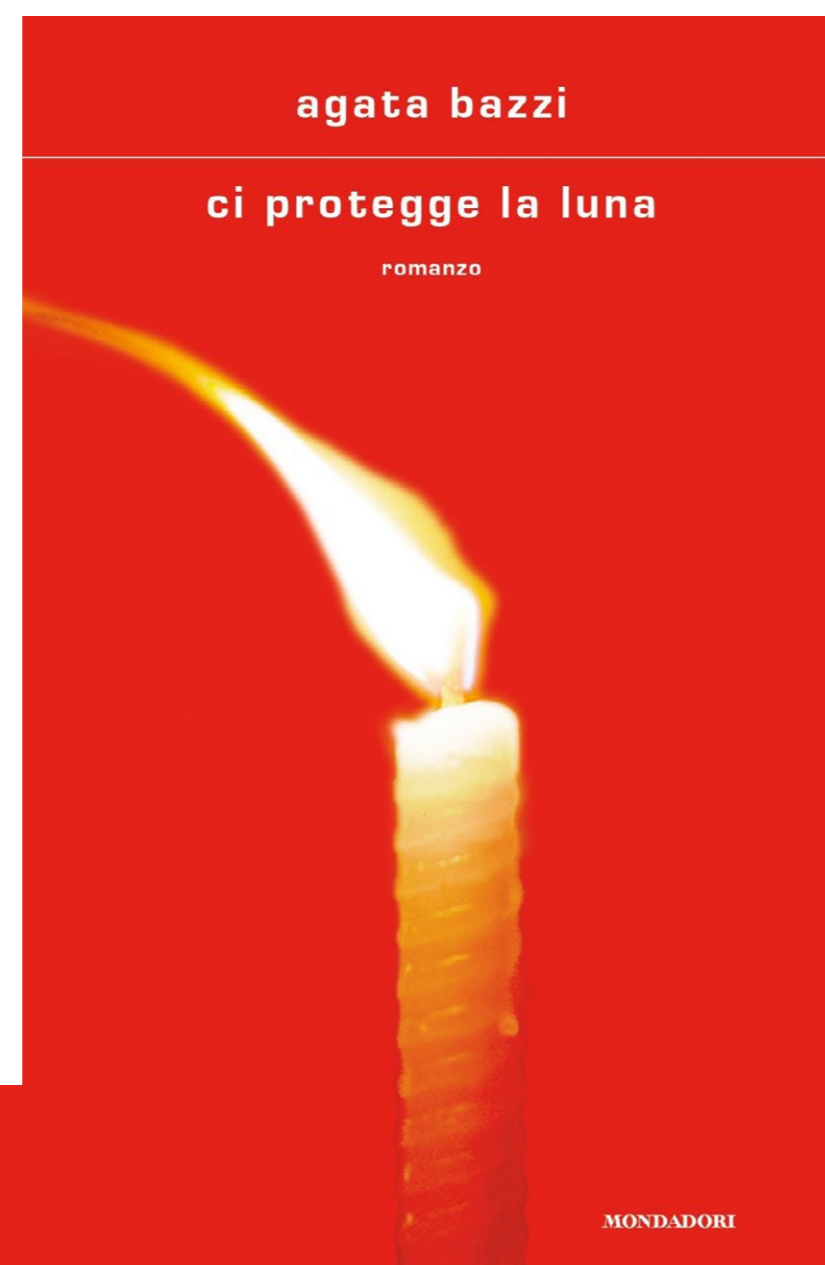
**TEA RANNO** was born in Melilli, near Siracusa, in 1963. She has been living in Rome since 1995. *Gioia Mia* is the third in a series of deliciously whimsical and heart-wrenching novels started with *L'amurusanza* (Mondadori, 2019) and followed by *Terramarina* (2020), translated in Germany by Nagel & Kimche.

# AGATA BAZZI

## The Moon Protects Us

A story that spans  
across two lives and  
two enchantments

305 pp | February 2022



“It wasn’t even a town, just a cluster of huts.” History doesn’t even seem to reach that remote village, out there in the middle of the countryside, among the rocks, under the scorching sun. But it does. It’s the years following World War I, we are in Sicily, the magic of an archaic lifestyle remains intact.

It shines even brighter when Caterina gives birth to Rosa, a girl who can read into the nature of things and can tread lightly into the secrets of the human soul. Some would like to take the “little witch” and lock her away in a convent, but the Church recognizes her natural aptitude for helping others without ever asking for money in return. The girl grows into a woman, she gets married and has three sons, Mimmo, Ignazio, and Beniamino. Like some sort of magical circularity, Beniamino turns out to be just like his mother, with a particular sensibility: he is delicate, kind, the other kids call him girly and, despite being protected by his brothers and his friend Pietro, he is exposed to a diversity that his own mother struggles to accept. And yet, when Rosa dies, Beniamino is also ready to fight to change the world.

**AGATA BAZZI** (born in Palermo in 1956) is the author of *La luce è là* (2019), the moving saga of her German family in Palermo: after finding a collection of letters she thought was long lost, she decided to write her family story.

# CHIARA TOZZI

## The Necessary Spark

An amorous pursuit  
through time  
and space

168 pp | March 2022



Nicola is a TV journalist who traded dissent for ratings. Sara is a non-conformist involved in social causes who is convinced that “if you save one life, you save the entire world.” They have known and loved each other since they were children, even though they were never really a couple. When Nicola accidentally discovers that she has gone missing, he decides to start looking for her, putting his job and his peaceful marriage at risk. An amorous pursuit through time and space, from the first sparks of their love in the sixties until present-day Italy and the world, entwining characters and events that made our history: the 1968 protests, terrorism, the euphoria of the eighties, the hopes of the nineties, the new century and the attack on the Twin Towers, Barack Obama’s election, and the COVID pandemic.

Chiara Tozzi skillfully evokes the absent figure of Sara, tracing the story of an instinctive woman, true to herself, through the eyes and memories of a man who is frailer and more confused. A love story full of twists and turns with an exciting, unexpected, lively ending.

**CHIARA TOZZI** (born in Florence in 1954) is an author, a screenplay-writer, a teacher, and runs a Jungian psychotherapy practice. She is the author of several collections of short stories and of the novel *Quasi una vita* (ed. Feltrinelli, 2008).

# CHRISTIAN MANNU

## Portrait of a Woman

A novel on the complex relationship between a daughter and a mother

132 pp | April 2022



A novel structured in three acts set between Sardinia and Paris. In the first part, the daughter, an accomplished writer with some loose ends in her personal life, is at her mother's bedside. There is a photo of her as a child on the nightstand. She also has a copy of that photo, but it's a smaller version in black and white. The daughter always saw in that image her mother's aloofness, her distance. Looking now at the larger, colorful version of that image, it seems to tell a different story, more complex...

The perspective shifts in the second part of the novel, the mother becomes the narrator, constantly alternating between past and present, in a prose characterized by its metric rhythms.

Finally, the perspectives are interlocked in the third act and the respective revelations culminate in a bird's eye view (in the third person) that captures the birth of a new and unexpected bond.

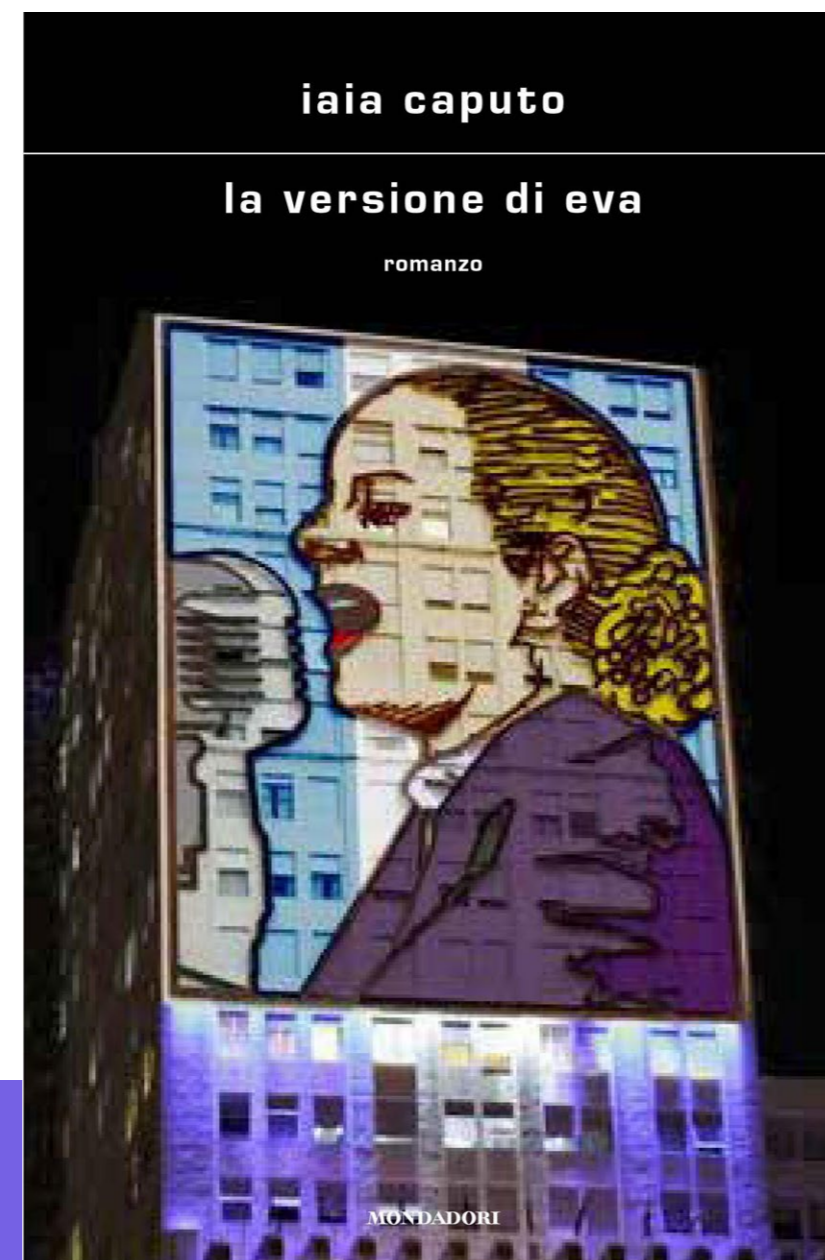
**CHRISTIAN MANNU** is a father of three and lives in Cagliari, where he was born in 1977. His first novel, *Maria di Ísili*, was the winner of Premio Calvino 2015.

# IAIA CAPUTO

## Eva's Version

An original portrait  
of Evita Péron locked  
in her youth and  
mortified by the  
reason of state

250 pp | May 2022



*“I met her for the first time in Buenos Aires. She had been dead for almost forty years, but she was everywhere, she was a presence. And she was alive. Not only in the imagination of Argentina’s people, but also in the very soul of the country, a country of immigrants, orphans, mestizos. They found a mother in Evita, the “illegitimate child,” the pariah, without a father or an education, emphatic and sentimental. Far away, lost, like one’s homeland.*

*This contradictory and multifaceted woman could only be narrated by multiple voices, each describing “their” Evita, to try and recreate a complexity that is maybe untraceable. To reconcile with what is perhaps the only possible truth: that Evita was an invention of her own doing.”*

A fascinating portrait of Evita seen as listless, unloved, suffering, locked in her youth and mortified by the “palace”: all the passion she pours forth is what connects her to her people.

We witness the sun setting over an immense dream, without the splendor of a great exit, unraveling in one of the darkest pages of the reasons of state.

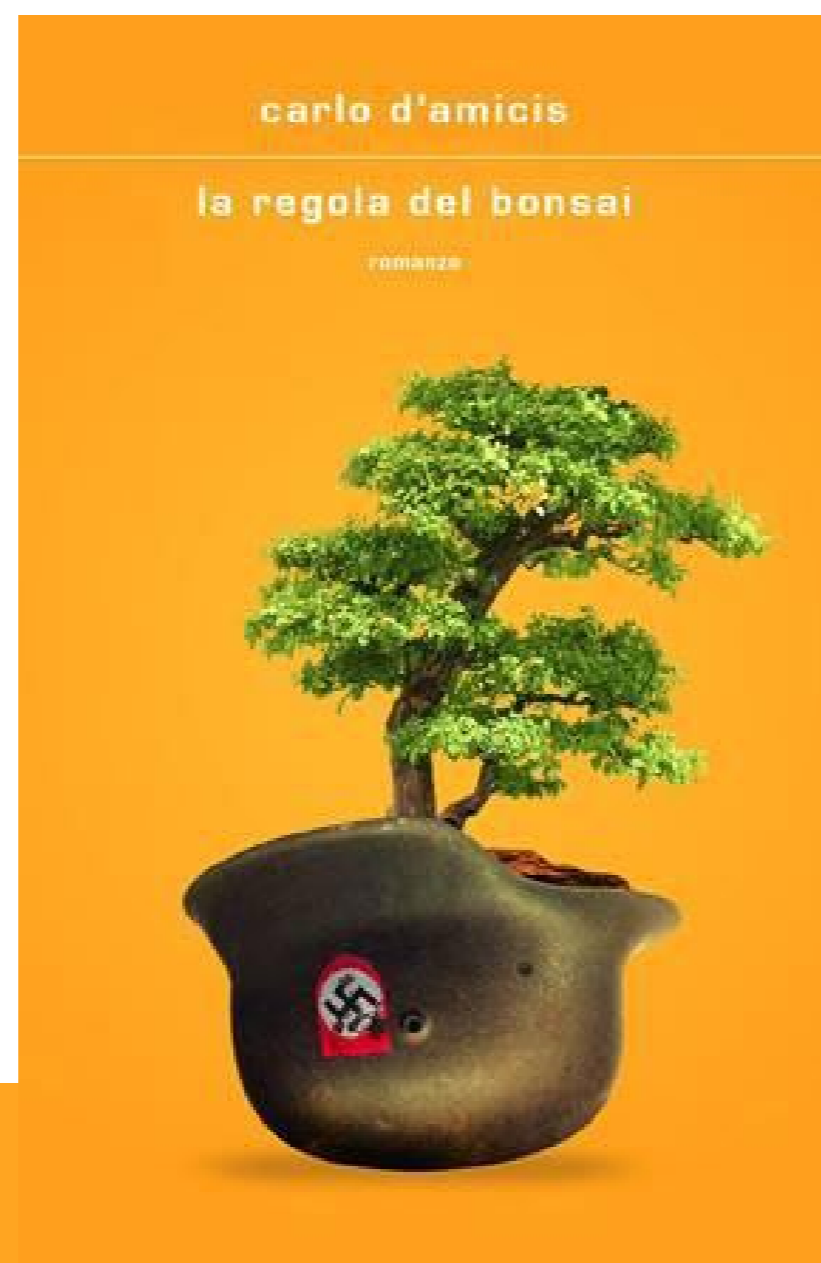
**IAIA CAPUTO** (Naples, 1960) lives in Milan, where she works as a journalist and teaches classes and workshops on auto-biographical writing. She is the author of many novels.

# CARLO D'AMICIS

## The Bonsai Rule

An attempt  
to escape from a sin  
never committed

250 pp | May 2022



Werner is seven years old. He is watching the moon landing with his father Rudolf when he discovers something that will change his life forever: his mother Klara is the secret offspring of Eva Braun and Adolf Hitler. Which makes Werner the grandson of Hitler, the most heinous criminal in history.

From that moment on, his life turns into an impossible escape from himself and from the shame of a sin he never committed. Meanwhile, his mother, a beautiful woman with a failed career as an opera singer, sells her blood to decrepit Nazi sympathizers for a bottle of vodka.

Werner, now in his fifties, is living in a cabin on the outskirts of Berlin. He is refusing to treat a recently diagnosed blood disease, a mocking mirror of the original sin written in his blood. He is balancing between the hostility of his father Rudolph, an old and paranoid nurseryman with a passion for bonsais, and the attacks of Danny Grunberg, a grotesque showbiz agent who intends to transform him in a sideshow, because memory is the real business of our times.

A novel full of symbols, punctuated by action, overturning the usual perspectives on memory.

**CARLO D'AMICIS** (Taranto, 1964) lives in Rome. He is the author of many cultural programs on RAI 3 and several novels, including *Il gioco*, a finalist for the 2018 Strega Prize, film rights of which have already been optioned.

# GIULIANA ALTAMURA

## The Eye of the Robin

A contemporary  
novel with a Lynchian  
atmosphere

168 pp | February 2022



Errico Baroni is a physics researcher at CERN who is obsessed with the idea of achieving quantum vision. Despite the long waiting list, he manages to set a meeting with Egon Meister in his elegant studio in Geneva. Meister is apparently capable of seeing the present, past, and future of the person sitting in front of him, he can access a holistic view of reality, beyond the boundaries of time. Ever since Errico started working on designing a quantum computer, he has been running into the limitations of his studies; understanding is not enough, he wants to see like Meister sees. But after meeting the man, who dismisses him with a cryptic statement, he is so unsettled that he decides to take a break from work for a few days and go on vacation in the mountains with his wife Greta. They go to the family cabin, a place looming with ghosts with an unresolved past and also his relationship with his wife used stopped working. Greta feels caged by those walls, she can't write her verses anymore and becomes increasingly restless, while Errico spends a lot of time in the woods. And in those remote paths he discovers a mystery that will make him question everything he believes.

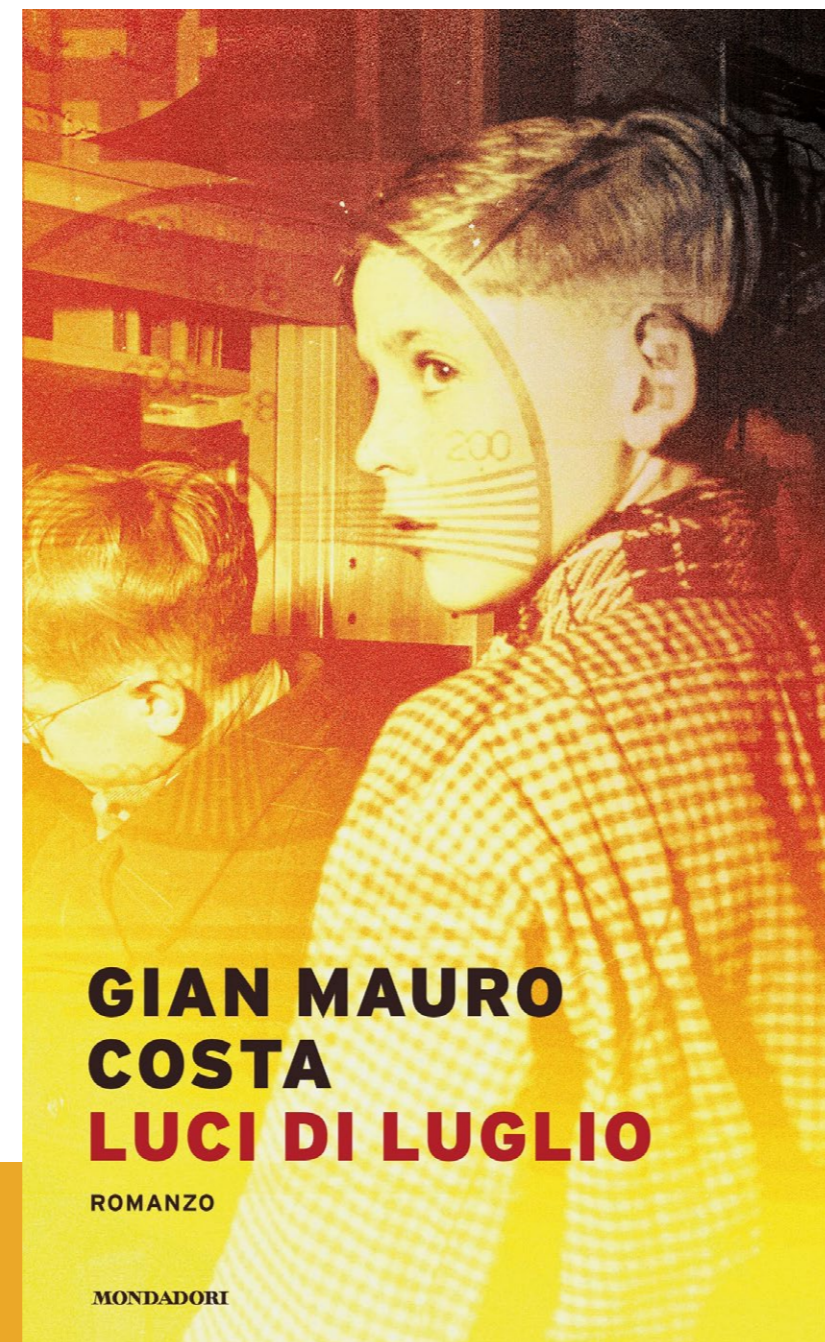
**GIULIANA ALTAMURA** (Bari, 1984) made her literary debut in 2014 with the novel *Corpi di Gloria* (ed. Marsilio), winner of the Premio Rapallo Carige Opera Prima. In 2017, Marsilio published her second novel *L'orizzonte della scomparsa*.

# GIAN MAURO COSTA

## July Lights

A game show  
that made history.  
A professor who  
disappears.

192 pp | March 2022



Palermo, July 1960. The police shoot on a crowd of demonstrators during a general strike, killing several people. In a nearby square in Monreale, people are gathering by the stage of a very popular TV show in which Italian towns challenge each other in a quiz on sports and culture. Monreale is getting ready to face Chioggia, a small city near Venice, igniting the conflict between Northern and Southern Italy.

Meanwhile, the preparations for the traditional celebrations in honor of Saint Rosalia are on their way. In this whirlwind of events, two teenagers meet by chance and decide to join forces in a harebrained scheme: since the “battle” between Monreale and Chioggia is too crucial for the island’s honor, they are going to kidnap a professor.

Too bad that the professor in question, the culture champion, has gone missing.

**GIAN MAURO COSTA** was born and lives in Palermo. He is a journalist, a director, a screenwriter, and the author of several books.

# CLAUDIO FAVA EZIO ABBATE

## FIAT 126

A brave and desperate  
woman rebelling to  
mafia's code

258 pp | June 2022



Gasparo and his eight-month-pregnant wife Cosima set off for a day at the seaside just outside Palermo, where they live. Cosima is resting on the beach when Gasparo goes to a small pier nearby where his lifelong friend Turi is waiting for him to go fishing, and he kills him. Cosima knows that her husband's job involves murdering, stealing, and following every order from Palermo's mob. Cosima has already lost two pregnancies; she is convinced that her spontaneous abortions are a divine punishment, so she makes her husband promise that he won't kill anyone until the birth of their son. That evening, the crime boss asks Gasparo to steal a Fiat 126 with young Fifetto, an inexperienced twenty-year-old and Turi's nephew. Cosima, in the meantime, receives a phone call from Turi's wife and realizes that it was Gasparo who killed her husband; but this time she decides it will be up to her to defend the life of her unborn child.

**CLAUDIO FAVA** (born in Cagliari in 1957) is the son of Giuseppe Fava, the journalist killed by Cosa Nostra in 1984. He was the director of *I Siciliani* and later worked with *Corriere della Sera*, *l'Espresso*, and RAI. He co-wrote the screenplay for *I cento passi – One Hundred Steps*, winner of the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival in 2000, and he is the author of several books.

**EZIO ABBATE** is a screenwriter and a scriptreader for RAI CINEMA 01.

# ORNELLA ALBANESE

## The Falconer of Kings

A compelling historical novel about the schemes for finding the successor to Frederick II

336 pp | March 2022



Apulia, December 1250. Frederick II (King of Sicily, Duke of Swabia, and later Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire), known to the world as *stupor mundi* (wonder of the world), is on a hunting trip in his lands. He is accompanied by a young falconer, Matthias: he comes from humble origins, but the king recognized in him his same passion for knowledge and life, as well as for hunting, so he entrusted him to train his most majestic bird, a strong and quick-tempered goshawk. Despite being far apart in age, origins, and destiny, the two men seem connected by an ancient bond. Until a sudden illness forces Frederick to stop in Florentinum and brings him to his death; even in those last moments, Matthias is by his side. He watches over him day and night, like a son, listening to his secrets and making his vision his own. He decides to devote his life to his mentor's family and his children: the tormented Corrado; Enzo, held prisoner in Bononia; and especially the valiant Manfred. The noble and beautiful Lucretia of Torre Ventosa stands by his side, a passionate woman whom Matthias always believed to be unreachable. In the midst of schemes and fights over the succession, Matthias undertakes an adventurous journey that will take him to Bologna.

**ORNELLA ALBANESE** (born in Abruzzo) has published short stories and several novels. Since 1997 under the pseudonym of Alba O'Neal she wrote eight novels.

# MARIA ELISA ALOISI

## The Moth's Song

The truth doesn't  
matter, because  
it is never one

192 pp | May 2022



Good lawyers never let emotions get the better of them during a case. But a good person does.

Ilia Moncada is a young lawyer with a strong intuition and somewhat awkward manners. She decides to go against her own rules and accepts a hot assignment after being pressured by her friend Irene Marra, a bubbly socialite from Catania. The case involves flanking a young and inexperienced lawyer in defending Speranza Barone, a woman accused of murdering her husband. The man, a rich accountant from Catania, was found in his villa in Nicolosi, on the slopes of Mount Etna, killed by two bullets.

The evidence stacked up against Speranza seems overwhelming: she has no alibi and they found some traces of her DNA on a glass at the crime scene. The murder is already a media frenzy: everyone is convinced of the accused woman's guilt, including the public prosecutor, who is also Ilia's former partner.

Working on this case really seems to Ilia like scoring a goal against her own career. But in Speranza's eyes she sees no traces of her being a murderer: they are just filled with pain and secrets. To discover the truth, Ilia will have to give it her all, digging through the mud and never trusting appearances.

**MARIA ELISA ALOISI** is the winner of the 2021 Premio Tedeschi, the highest literary award in Italy, with this novel.

# PIERDANTE PICCIONI PIERANGELO SAPEGNO

## DOC – In Your Hands

The novelisation of  
DOC, the international  
TV series with a  
record-breaking  
following

276 pp | March 2022



After the sensational success of the TV series taken from the touching *memoir* of the primary of an Hospital, who has lost all the memories of the last 12 years of his life following a head injury, here is the novelization of the second season of the TV series.

The hospital Policlinico Ambrosiano is overwhelmed by a devastating pandemic and Milan is the world's epicenter. Andrea Fanti and his colleagues try to deal with the most difficult challenge of all: going back to normality without isolating themselves, without losing hope or losing the pleasure of being around other people. Each of them has a wound that needs to heal, whether it's the loss of a loved one, discovering an unknown fear, the bewilderment of dealing with something that can be conquered only with collaboration and empathy.

Meanwhile, new challenges and threats await Andrea Fanti. And this time they come from the people he trusts the most.

**PIERDANTE PICCIONI** is currently head physician at the Codogno Hospital.

**PIERANGELO SAPEGNO** is a journalist and author, and a special correspondent for the "Stampa".

Together they wrote the "memoir" *Meno dodici*, a massive best-seller inspired by Piccioni's real life turned into the record-breaking TV series DOC, aired all over the world.

# 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** (born in Turin in 1990) is a digital nomad. He shares his Zen lessons and life experiences on his Instagram account and on his 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 approximately **200'000 copies**, and very followed is his TEDx “How to be happy every single day”.

# 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).

# SALLY SACCAROLA

## The Period Club

A coming-of-age  
novel about  
sisterhood and the  
natural experience  
of menstruation

200 pp | June 2022



Jenny is starting her third year of high school when she has to leave the small town where she grew up to Milan. It isn't the first time she has had to adjust to overwhelming life changes: her mother died when she was still a child. Since then, she and her younger brother Alfredo have been raised by their father Luca. So Jenny has grown up around men, she doesn't really know what it means to become a woman, and the first time she gets her period takes her completely by surprise. Diana, who was open and warm from the get-go, gives her a pad and a sweatshirt to wrap around her waist to hide the damage. They become inseparable and, inspired by how they met, they start the "period club", a group chat for girls from their school, a safe space where they can meet, ask questions, and find answers.

Through the shared experience of menstruation, the novel turns into a coming-of-age story about sisterhood and today's girls: free, but also engaged every day in fighting stereotypes and judgments.

**SALLY SACCAROLA** is a twenty-year-old from Venice. A few years ago, she created a social media page "*account ciclo*" (lit. "*period account*") in which she writes every day about the menstruation experience with levity, sensitivity, and especially without taboos. The page became a hit with many followers. This is her first book.

# LARISSA IAPICHINO

## Running on air

Sport is about the  
challenge rather than  
the victory

147 pp | March 2022



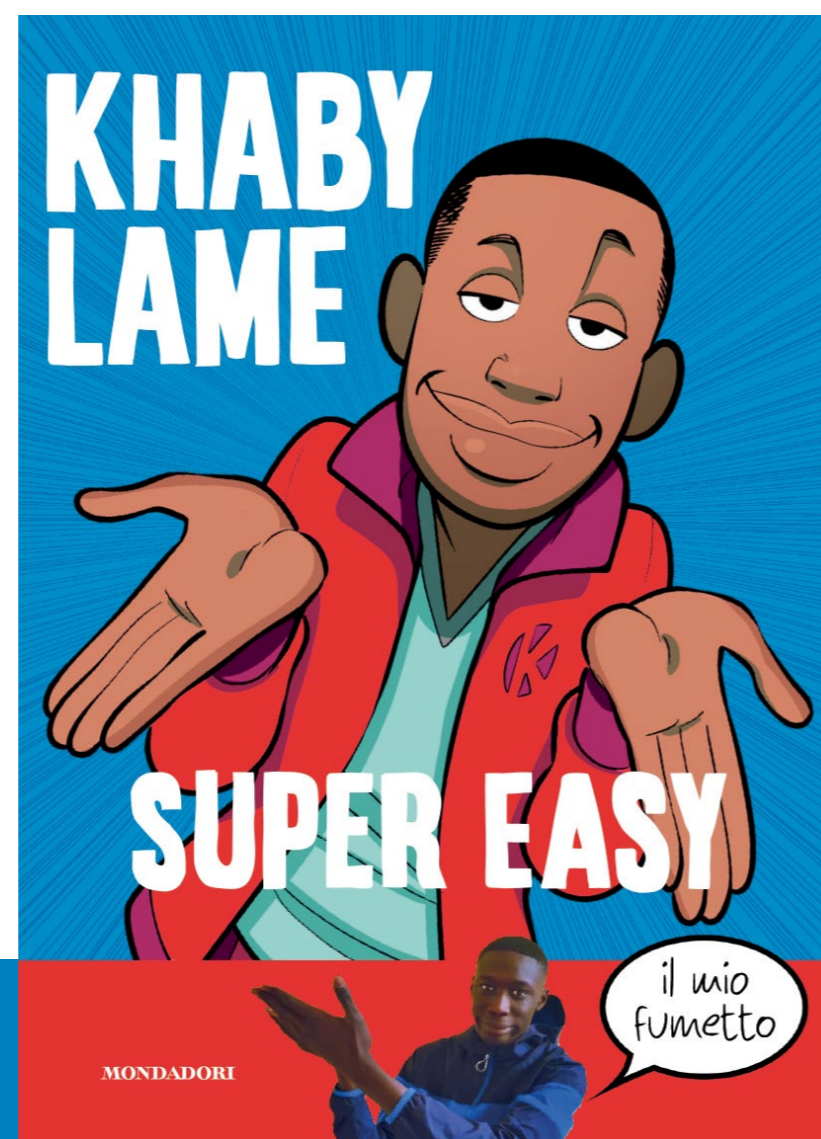
Daughter, sister, friend, professional athlete, woman, student: Larissa is only nineteen years old, but she is already many things. She is a girl like all the others, with dreams, challenges, growing pains, searching for herself. And yet, Larissa is also special: she can jump further than any other girl her age in the world. Sport, like everything in life, pushes us to know our limits and then teaches us to overcome them, but also to respect them. And the long jump is just another of the thousand ways in which she tries to do so. Like friendship, love, fashion, school, Florence, and all the other puzzle pieces of her life. In this autobiographical novel, she writes about what it means to be born special but to still feel normal. A book about generation Z, about wanting to emerge and chase your dreams, even the ones that seem impossible. Starting from an idea and taking it far, very far. Jumping from a spot and always flying further.

**LARISSA IAPICHINO** was born in Florence in 2002. She is the daughter of the pole-vaulting champion Gianni Iapichino (who is also her trainer) and the award-winning champion Fiona May. The long jump is her specialty: in 2021 she jumped 6.91 meters (22.67 feet), matching her mother's record and setting the new world record for the under-twenty category.

# 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 a 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 July 2021, he became the second most followed person on TikTok in the world, and the first in Europe.

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- Germany ► DTV
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**GABRIEL GARCÍA MÁRQUEZ**  
**UGO BERTOTTI**

# Love in the Time of Cholera

Gabo's most popular  
book reinterpreted by  
a master of comics

128 pp | September 2021



Over forty years after his first publication, one of the most beloved books of the nineteenth century has been translated into drawings and colors, creating new art out of art.

*Love in the Time of Cholera* by Gabriel García Márquez becomes a graphic novel thanks to the unmistakable lines of a real master of comics, Ugo Bertotti. We all know the story written by García Márquez: Florentino Ariza, a young man with a passion for poetry and a skilled violinist, falls desperately in love with Fermina Daza, the most beautiful girl in Caribe. For fifty-three years, seven months, and eleven days, he will keep on hoping to accomplish his impossible dream: marry her. An unwavering love which the protagonist keeps on nurturing, against all logic, until its incredible conclusion.

We find the same passion, enriched by the beautiful drawings and vivid colors created by Bertotti in the 128 pages of this graphic novel, which will be published under Mondadori's Oscar Ink collection.

**UGO BERTOTTI** was born in Trento in 1954. He graduated from the Brera Art Academy in Milan. He learned the foundations of illustration and animation at Studio Ink. He worked with several magazines, started drawing comics and getting published in Italy and also in France. He moved to Romagna and set up his base there. He has been working in the world of graphics and illustrations for over twenty years.

# SIMONETTA AGNELLO HORNBY COSTANZA COMITINI

## *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 Comitini 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. An example of *cuntintizza*? “*Cleaning the fresh salad leaves that I just picked from my vegetable garden, removing the little bugs and washing the salad. It creates a connection between my hands, my eyes, and the leaves still full of lymph, as if both of us (me and the vegetables) were aware of being part of the circle of survival: us human beings and the plants that will grow other leaves.*”

**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 COMITINI** was born in Palermo, where she works as a pharmacist.

# MARIA FALCONE LARA SIRIGNANO

## The Legacy of a Judge

A testimony by  
the sister of Judge  
Giovanni Falcone,  
killed by the mafia



204 pp | May 2022

It is May 23, 1992, when the mafia kills the Judge Giovanni Falcone, his wife Francesca Morvillo, and four body-guards by detonating five-hundred kilos of TNT on the highway between Trapani and Palermo. A heinous and vile attack that rattles the entire country and imprints itself in the collective memory, which is shaken again just two months later when the same tragedy unfolds in Via D'Amelio, killing Judge Paolo Borsellino and his security. On the thirtieth anniversary of the Capaci bombing, Judge Falcone's sister shares stories about her brother. Her memories of those terrible days, wanting to react, the commitment and activism to promote a culture of legality. And she reflects on how much Italy and the fight against the mafia have changed since then. A testimony that combines personal history with one of the most tragic pages in our country's recent history.

**MARIA FALCONE** is the sister of the Judge Giovanni Falcone, the magistrate who was killed by the mafia in Capaci on May 23, 1992. She teaches law in high schools, and she is the president of Fondazione Giovanni Falcone. She has been constantly involved in promoting educational activities raising awareness of legality, especially in schools, since 1992.

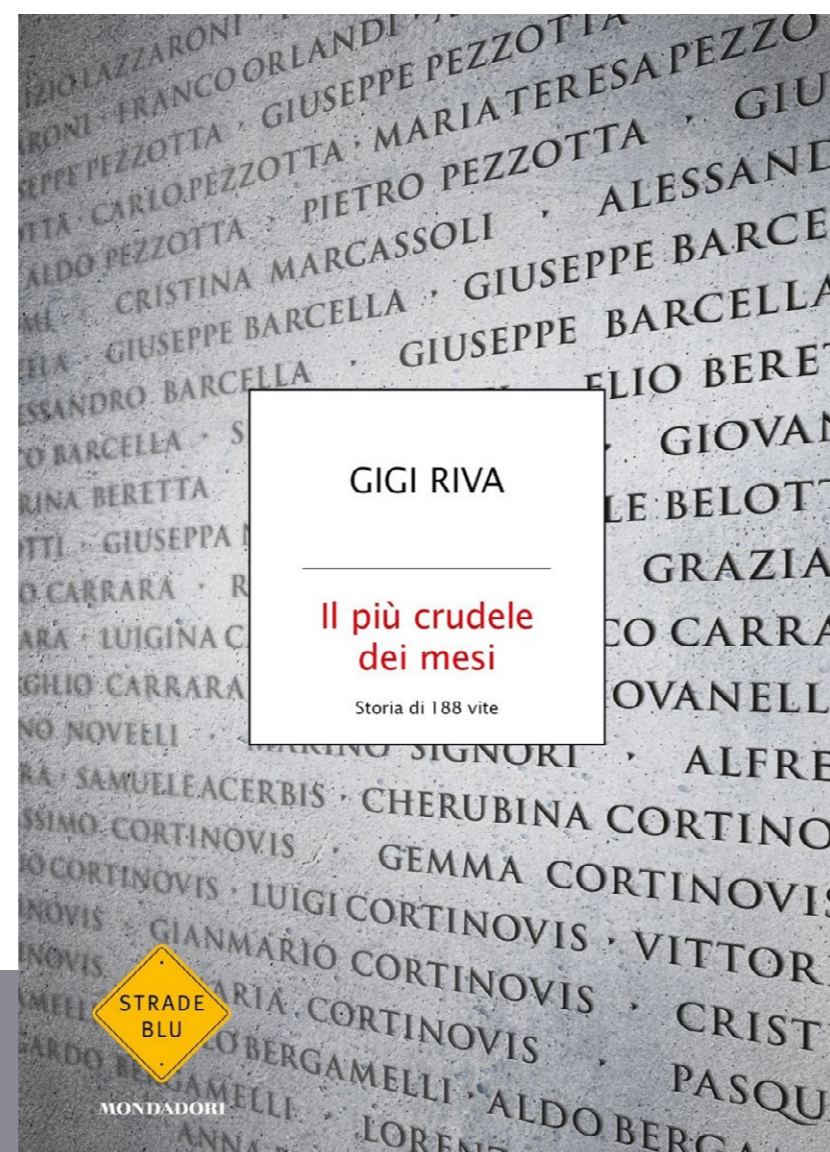
**LARA SIRIGNANO** is a journalist who has been covering legal stories for ANSA since 1998. She has been working with Fondazione Giovanni Falcone since 2018.

GIGI RIVA

# The Cruellest Month

188 lives swept away  
by COVID in a month  
in Nembro.  
Why Nembro?

204 pp | February 2022



*“In front of the cemetery in Nembro there is a tombstone in memory of the fallen: there are 126 names for World War I and 98 for World War II. Between the end of February and April 2020, COVID-19 killed 188 in a town of 11,500 people. 164 of them died in March alone, the cruelest month of all. Many of them were friends, acquaintances, or simply familiar faces from my town’s human landscape. A generation swept away, the other ones licking their wounds, rolling up their sleeves, and asking themselves over and over: why Nembro?”*

Until the beginning of 2020, Nembro was simply a town in the province of Bergamo. Then it became something else: it was the town that was hit by COVID-19 the hardest.

Gigi Riva, a native of Nembro, pieces together those fateful weeks through the narrative technique of literary realism, creating a vivid *Spoon River* that weaves together the lives of several victims, their stories, and their moral legacy; but also the lives and stories of those who provided assistance, or those who couldn’t even do that and then, in their memory, found the courage and strength to start over.

**GIGI RIVA** was born in Nembro (near Bergamo) in 1959. He is a novelist, a screenwriter for cinema, and is now also a columnist for *L’Espresso*. His first novel *L’ultimo rigore di Faruk* (ed. Sellerio, 2016) became a small cult phenomenon. In 2020, Mondadori published his book *Non dire addio ai sogni*.

# GIULIO DEANGELI

## The Way of the Genius

The strategies  
and secrets that  
allowed the author  
to get five degrees  
in six years



291 pp | February 2022

Giulio Deangeli, since childhood, has always been tremendously interested in the brain and its processes. He managed to accomplish an amazing feat: in just six years he achieved five degrees, all cum laude, in medicine, engineering, biotechnology, and molecular biology. He then earned a master's degree in medical sciences from the University of Pisa and has been working as a researcher in chemical neurosciences at the University of Cambridge.

This book is a precious resource that unveils the secrets of the brain and provides a real learning technique that is both enjoyable and fast. He explains the processes that are at the basis of learning (from memory to retrieval, from reading to the importance of motivation), without forgetting to consider the importance of sleep, physical activity, and stress management. Along with the theoretical side, he also provides some very useful practical strategies: mnemonic techniques, underlining, creating diagrams, tricks to motivate yourself to study, and how to learn a foreign language quickly. And he also shares some of the “crazy things” that he also put into practice.

**GIULIO DEANGELI** is a true Italian excellence, a great example to follow. In 2020, he was the first Italian student to simultaneously complete five degrees with top grades and win five scholarships to continue his research work at Cambridge University.

# VIRMAN CUSENZA

## Gamblers

The anti-fascist lawyer who saved Mussolini's spokesperson. A story that intrigued Leonardo Sciascia

216 pp | January 2022



Brescia, November 1945. The socialist and anti-fascist lawyer Enzo Paroli is in the crowded prison to visit Telesio Interlandi, accused of collaborating with the Nazi invader. Interlandi wasn't just an ordinary journalist, he was Mussolini's spokesperson and a symbol of his regime throughout the entire fascist period: he was the director of the extremist newspaper "Il Tevere" and of "Difesa della razza", the magazine created in 1938 with the purpose of leading the antisemitic campaign and paving the way for the racial laws.

Paroli feels uncertain. He is aware of the risk and the gamble involved in defending an unrepentant fascist, a journalist who built his fortune on racism and was always protected and generously compensated by Mussolini. In the end, however, Paroli accepts the mission. And, after the prisoner's inexplicable and daring release, he decides to hide him and his family in his home for eight months, until the post-war amnesty.

Paroli's gesture, inspired by a sense of piety, is an act of humanity, of solidarity that breaks through walls and iron curtains. Several years later, the story caught the interest of the author Leonardo Sciascia, who wanted to write a book.

**VIRMAN CUSENZA** (Palermo, 1964) is a journalist. He was the editor of *Il Mattino* and *Il Messaggero*, and he worked for London's *The Independent* in 2007. He is now a current events consultant for *Freemantle*.

# BARBARA GALLAVOTTI

## Invisible Boundaries

What we learned  
about microbes and  
the challenges ahead

228 pp | February 2022



This book rises from a new awareness: we are not the masters of the Earth, we share the planet with countless minuscule inhabitants, sometimes more powerful than us. Since the dawn of time, bacteria, viruses, and microorganisms have been precious allies, but also terrible enemies. Gallavotti explores the history of microbes and examines the brilliant ways they developed to avoid extinction, taking advantage of every opportunity to grow in strength and numbers. Over the centuries, science gave us weapons way more powerful than what our immune system could provide on its own. Mankind's long adventure on Earth is inextricably linked to our relationship with the world surrounding us, from the infinitely large to the infinitely small; in one word, with everything we call "nature." And our survival depends on this increasingly compromised relationship.

Because life on the planet would go on even without human beings; without the environment and the wealth of its biodiversity, some new organisms might pop up, but humans are doomed to extinction. This is perhaps the most important lesson we could learn from the recent pandemic: our health depends on the health of the Earth and all of its species.

**BARBARA GALLAVOTTI** is an author and science communicator. She has been writing in-depth TV shows for over twenty years. She was also head of communication for the National Institute for Nuclear Physics.



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