



FOREIGN RIGHTS CATALOGUE

FRANKFURTER BUCHMESSE 2023

O T A G O
Literary Agency
foreignrights@otago.it

FOUNDING MEMBER OF ADALI, THE ASSOCIATION OF ITALIAN LITERARY AGENTS
WWW.ADALL.ORG

Via Sant'Apollonia, 25 · 40126 Bologna (Italy)
Tel. (+39) 051 0336342
info@otago.it · www.otago.it

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/otagoagency>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/otagoagency>
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/otagoagency>
Spotify: https://open.spotify.com/user/otago_literaryagency

•	Otago Highlights	<u>3</u>
•	Otago Selection	<u>22</u>
•	Caracò	<u>32</u>
•	Voland	<u>36</u>

• *We are happy you are browsing our rights list (provided in alphabetical order)! •*

VITO DI BATTISTA

A NOVEL OF SECRETS, DECEPTIONS AND AMBITION IN THE FRENCH PUBLISHING SCENE OF THE 1970s

PRAISE FOR HIS DEBUT BOOK:

«A captivating prose that will enchant you from the very first page.»

PUPI AVATI, *film director*

«An enthralling journey down memory lane, filled with breathtaking twists.»

Corriere della Sera

Born in 1986, Vito di Battista works as a literary agent and translator. He lived in Florence, where he graduated in Comparative Literature with a study on the works of Romain Gary, Tarjei Vesaas, and J.M. Barrie. Then he moved to Alma Mater Studiorum in Bologna, focusing on American and English poetry. He wrote about Ted Hughes and Romain Gary for the literary magazine *Nuovi Argomenti* (issued by Mondadori). His first novel, *L'ultima diva dice addio*, was published in 2018 by SEM and was shortlisted for several awards. His second book, *Il buon uso della distanza*, is out with Gallucci in November 2023. After reading just a one-chapter sample, Feltrinelli Editore acquired the Italian rights to his next novel, with a publication planned for early 2025.



His works:

- 2023: *Il buon uso della distanza*, Italy (Gallucci)
- 2018: *L'ultima diva dice addio*, Italy (SEM)



COMING
SOON!

o t a g o

foreignrights@otago.it

IL BUON USO DELLA DISTANZA

Making Good Use of Distance

The story of an author who penned only debut novels,
loosely inspired by the 'Émile Ajar affair' of French writer Romain Gary.



Making Good Use of Distance tells us about a career that is both wondrous and plausible in its uniqueness. But how much freedom there can be for those who live a lie, and how much we miss out on others' lives by not sharing the foundation of our own?

With mesmerizing and vibrant prose, Vito di Battista skillfully navigates the perils of ambition and the intricacies of the human soul.



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SUMMARY

« An author fully aware of the unrepeatable nature of the moment,
of how memory is a form of invention, and life is akin to a theater performance
that fades as it unfolds. ».

SIMONETTA SCIANDIVASCI, *Il Foglio*

Paris, 1976. Pierre Renard, a 27-year-old who has moved to France from Florence, works at the publishing house that published his debut novel. When his editor tells him they're not interested in his new book, Pierre fears that his career might be over.

What appears to be a failure will unexpectedly turn into an insane opportunity. That very night, Pierre receives a letter from an unknown woman who only identifies herself as 'Madame.' She offers to pay him to write novels inspired by her letters, but they must never meet, and each novel must be published under a different pseudonym. Though initially reluctant, Pierre eventually agrees.

Over the years, Pierre will bend the rules of the world around him, concocting schemes, exploiting others' weaknesses and dark affairs, orchestrating vendettas, and creating literary intrigues about authors who don't exist—all to ensure that his novels are deemed worthy of publication. Meanwhile, his life becomes entangled with those who, to varying degrees of awareness, are part of his shadowy career: Colette, the madam of an illegal brothel chosen by Madame as her direct spokesperson; Philippe, Pierre's only true friend; Louis, an enigmatic and captivating young man with whom Pierre reluctantly falls in love; and Philippe's girlfriend Claire, an aspiring actress who is the only one to understand that what 'many call a gift is actually a life-long sentence.' It is to Claire that, after years of deceiving everyone and concealing parts of his life, Pierre finally reveals the whole truth. On that fateful day in 1976, when everything began, he had no idea that Madame harbored her own hidden agenda. An agenda fueled by resentment and family secrets that would ultimately shatter Pierre's life.

Original Publisher: **GALLUCCI** | Genre: Novel | Pages: 300 | Release: Nov 2023
Language: Italian | Rights: World

MARINA DI GUARDO

QUELLO CHE TI NASCONDEVO (WHAT I HID FROM YOU), A NEW THRILLER BY THE MOTHER OF FASHION DESIGNER AND BUSINESSWOMAN CHIARA FERRAGNI

«A lioness: brave, feminist, and passionate.»
Vanity Fair

Born in 1961, Marina Di Guardo is a highly popular public figure in Italy, frequently appearing on TV shows, in magazines, and at social events. Alongside her daughter Chiara Ferragni, she has served as the global ambassador for a Swarovski Summer campaign. Her gripping and visceral psychological thrillers have been published by Feltrinelli and Mondadori.



Some of her works:

- 2023: *Quello che ti nascondevo*, Italy (Mondadori)
- 2021: *Dress code rosso sangue*, Italy (Mondadori)
- 2020: *Nella buona e nella cattiva sorte*, Italy (Mondadori)
- 2019: *La memoria dei corpi*, Italy (Mondadori), Poland (Sonia Draga), Greece (Livanis), Brazil (Tordesilhas)
- 2017: *Com'è giusto che sia*, Italy (Mondadori)

700,000 followers on Instagram
from all over the world.

Rights to one of her previous works,
La memoria dei corpi, have been
sold to Greece, Poland and Brazil.

Marina Di Guardo stars in the
Amazon Prime series 'The Ferragnez',
with a new season available
worldwide starting in May 2023.



COMING
SOON!

o t a g o

foreignrights@otago.it

QUELLO CHE TI NASCONDEVO

What I Hid From You

‘You thought you knew her, but there was an unexpected abyss behind her.’



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

Marina Di Guardo's new book is a fast-paced psychological thriller
that delves into one of our deepest fears:
What if our loved ones are hiding terrible secrets?

«Marina Di Guardo delves deep behind appearances.»

Critica Letteraria

«Suspenseful and insanely filled with unexpected twists.»

il Giornale

“Ever since his wife, Allegra, died, falling from a cliff on Lake Como, Giacomo, the owner of a jewelry brand, lazily moves through grey mornings into unending afternoons, waiting for the moment he can shut out the world at the end of the day. His only wish is to pour a glass of his favorite whiskey and listen to his wife’s old voice messages, clinging to her voice as an illusion of her presence. During one of these solitary and melancholy nights, Giacomo suddenly catches a new detail: he hears another voice in one of Allegra’s messages, even if just for a split second. A voice he doesn’t recognize. A man’s voice. Consumed by doubt and anguish, Giacomo looks for clues in Allegra’s computer, uncovering an astonishing secret: Allegra’s death may not have been a tragic accident at all.

Original Publisher: **MONDADORI** | Genre: **Thriller** | Pages: 274 | Release: Oct 2023
Language: Italian | Rights: World

DRESS CODE

ROSSO SANGUE

Dress Code: Blood

Marina Di Guardo leverages her decades-long experience in the fashion industry to craft a decadent, mysterious, and gripping story, where the ultimate truth remains utterly unpredictable and obscure.



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

Di Guardo takes us into the world of lights and shadows in the Milan fashion scene, where the darkest secrets of its VIPs are concealed.

«Di Guardo is perfectly at home in the fashion world, something she's very familiar with.»
MilanoNera

«The most glamorous city in Italy is rocked by a scandal. The glittering scene of Milan is marred by blood.»
Thriller Café

At the age of 25, Cecilia spent her life following her father's dictum, to the point where she studied Law in order to work at the family firm. However, when she stumbles upon a job opportunity at the prestigious showroom of Franco Sartori, a globally renowned stylist, she seizes the chance, refusing for the first time to let others make decisions for her—neither her father Alberto nor her boyfriend Andrea.

Her choice quickly proves successful: Cecilia is skilled, closes major deals, and her ascent to the top is unstoppable. That is until Franco Sartori is found dead in a dilapidated farmstead, and all evidence points to a satanic ritual. This is just the beginning.

At the showroom, the Spring Sales not only attract customers but also policemen, new secrets, and, unfortunately for everyone, new victims. What is truly happening? And what if Cecilia is next on the list?

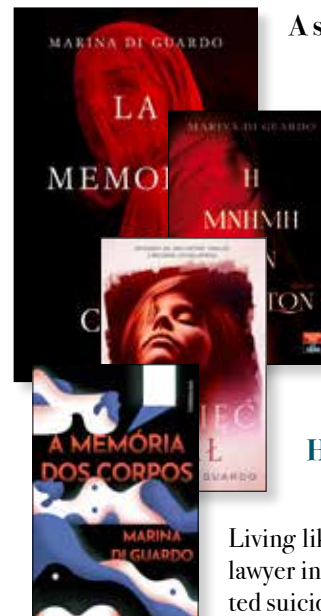
Original Publisher: **MONDADORI** | Genre: **Thriller** | Pages: 324 | Release: Oct 2021
Language: Italian | Rights: World

LA MEMORIA

DEI CORPI

The Memory of Bodies

A story reminiscent of *Basic Instinct*, filled with tension, eroticism, and an unexpectedly stunning ending.



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

«A strong, bloody story set in Val Trebbia, a place that Hemingway called 'the most beautiful hills of the world'.»
Vanity Fair

Living like a hermit in his luxurious family mansion, Giorgio is a former lawyer in his forties. His mother died in a car accident, his father committed suicide, and the only connection he has to the real world is Agnese, the housemaid who raised him.

Everything changes when Giorgio crosses paths with Giulia, and the two become entangled in a passionate and ambiguous relationship. The day Agnese goes missing, the net begins to close in around Giulia and her deceptions. However, Giorgio is harboring some unimaginable and dark secrets of his own..

Original Publisher: **MONDADORI** | Genre: **Thriller** | Pages: 256 | Release: Jan 2019
Language: Italian | Rights: World | Sold to: **Brazil** (Tordesilhas), **Poland** (Sonia Draga), **Greece** (Livanis) | Movie rights sold to: **Roman Way Production**, USA

EMMANUEL EXITU

**THE FIRST NOVEL EVER WRITTEN ABOUT BRITISH DAME CICELY SAUNDERS,
CHAMPION OF THE HOSPICE MOVEMENT AND THE BENEFITS OF PALLIATIVE CARE**

«With a keen eye and profound consideration for his heroine's inner thoughts, Exitu portrays the life of a woman who made a significant impact on the field of medicine.»

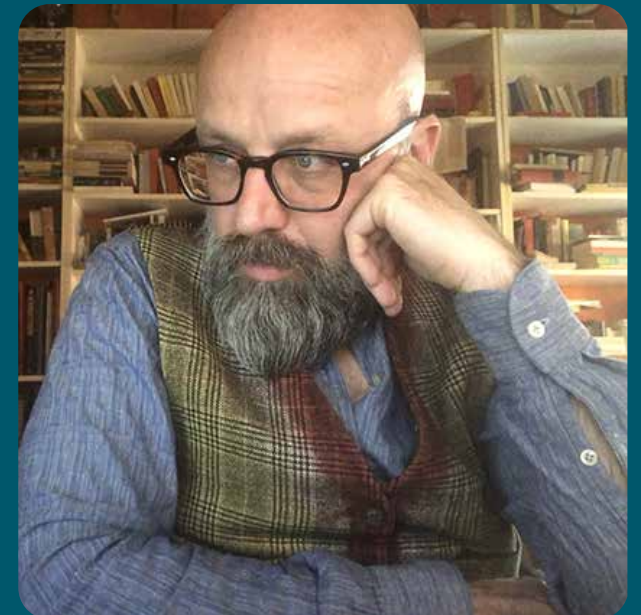
ALESSANDRO ZACCURI, writer and literary critic

Emmanuel Exitu is an author, writer, and director. He has been involved in various projects for RAI television, including the film *La stella dei re* (2006), which was based on his debut novel. His documentary *GREATER – Defeating AIDS*, a finalist at Cannes 2008, was selected as 'Best Documentary' by Spike Lee during the Babelgum Contest and showcased at numerous international film festivals. In addition to his work in film and television, he has contributed to advertising and social media campaigns for Wip Italia. In 2016, he founded Ways!, an agency specializing in 360-degree storytelling for businesses and products.



His works:

- 2023: *Di cosa è fatta la speranza*, Italy (Bompiani)
- 2006: *La stella dei re*, Italy (Marietti)



COMING
SOON!

o t a g o

foreignrights@otago.it

DI COSA È FATTA LA SPERANZA *What Hope Is Made Of*

An exceptional and illuminating biographical novel about an unforgettable woman who changed how the world looked at terminal care.



What Hope Is Made Of is a meticulously researched and vivid testament to the founder of the modern hospice movement – a woman who achieved success at a time when unconventional thinking was met with extreme hostility.



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SUMMARY

«Emmanuel Exitu has the perfect recipe for a great novel: a captivating character, a gripping plot, and, above all, compelling prose that serves as a testament to our most mysterious virtue—hope.»

DANIELE MENGARELLI, author of *Everything Calls for Salvation*, winner of Premio Strega Giovani and now a Netflix series

In the 1940s, Cicely made a decision that many considered unconventional. Instead of completing her degree at Oxford University, she chose to become a nurse because she felt a strong calling to help her country during the war. Her classmates at the prestigious Nightingale Nursery School often teased her for her clumsiness, partly due to scoliosis, and her unfashionable hairstyle. Despite the challenges, she earned her nursing diploma but soon realized that her back pain would prevent her from pursuing her dream. Undeterred, she enrolled in a social work course.

While working at St. Thomas Hospital, Cicely unexpectedly found herself falling in love with David, a terminally ill patient from Poland. Their relationship lasted less than two months, but it helped Cicely conceive the idea of a home-hospital—a place where the terminally ill, often deemed unrecoverable and neglected by the healthcare system, could receive compassionate care.

During her free time, Cicely volunteered at St. Luke's, a hospital run by nuns. Here, she crossed paths with the rebellious Sister Teresa and learned the significance of administering small, regular doses of opiates to bring comfort to her dying patients. She realized that to accomplish her goals, she needed to become a doctor.

At the age of 33, Cicely graduated as a doctor and began her research on pain management for cancer patients. She fell in love with Antoni, who, once again, was Polish and terminally ill. This time, her heart was shattered. She contemplated leaving everything behind, but doing so would mean abandoning her patients just as her dreams were beginning to take shape. In 1967, the St. Christopher Hospice was inaugurated, and Cicely's dream became a reality.

VERONICA GALLETTA

SHORTLISTED FOR 'PREMIO STREGA' 2022 WITH *NINA SULL'ARGINE*

WINNER OF 'PREMIO CAMPIELLO OPERA PRIMA' IN 2020 WITH *LE ISOLE DI NORMAN*

NEW BOOK OUT IN OCTOBER 2023

«A writing style that echoes Anna Maria Ortese's masterpieces.»
Corriere della Sera

Born in 1971, Veronica Galletta worked as a mechanical engineer for many years before dedicating herself exclusively to her writing. In 2015, her unpublished novel, *Le isole di Norman*, was shortlisted for the 'Italo Calvino' prize, the most renowned and reputable Italian contest for aspiring writers, which has launched the careers of authors like Marcello Fois and Paola Mastrocola. Finally published in April 2020 by Italo Svevo, *Le isole di Norman* won the prestigious 'Premio Campiello' for debut novel less than two months later, with a unanimous vote. This award is the most prestigious and important in Italy for debut novels and new authors. Her second novel, *Nina sull'argine*, was published in October 2021 by minimum fax and was shortlisted for the 'Premio Strega' in 2022, one of Italy's most esteemed literary awards. In the same year, it also received the 'Premio Letteratura d'Impresa.' Her latest novel, "Pelleossa," is out in October 2023. You can find more about her work on her website: www.veronicagalletta.it.



Her works:

- 2023: *Pelleossa*, Italy (minimum fax)
- 2021: *Nina sull'argine*, Italy (minimum fax)
- 2020: *Le isole di Norman*, Italy (Italo Svevo)



COMING
SOON!

o t a g o

foreignrights@otago.it

PELLEOSSA

Skin and Bones

The ten-years-in-the-making new book by a 'Premio Strega' finalist
and winner of 'Premio Campiello' for debut novel.



Pelleossa is an enchanting story that continues the exploration of the ambiguity between the real and the fantastic, a theme that has already distinguished Galletta's previous books, *Le isole di Norman* (winner of 'Premio Campiello Opera Prima') and *Nina sull'argine* (shortlisted for 'Premio Strega' in 2022).



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SUMMARY

«With a story that resonates with the tradition of magic realism, Galletta's characters navigate the realms of the living and the deceased, guiding us through the profound construction site of life.»

il Venerdì di Repubblica

Sicily, 1943. Paolino is a seven-year-old boy. To avoid being bullied by a group of young boys, he agrees to undergo a test of courage: he must enter the Garden of Filippu, an elderly man who lives alone on a hill and spends his time carving heads out of stone. The Garden is an enchanting place, where thousands of stone heads coexist among the olive trees, bearing witness to the changing seasons. Paolino and Filippu become acquainted, with the old man evolving into a friend and advisor to the child. An entire community revolves around them – a network of rivalries, ancient secrets, social and political changes, and unchanging rituals. In the four years that transform him from a child into a young boy, Paolino will come to understand the true meanings of betrayal, death, and love.

By mixing Italian and Sicilian dialect to create a new language – with influences from authors such as Leonardo Sciascia, Andrea Camilleri, Vincenzo Consolo, and Gesualdo Bufalino – Veronica Galletta recounts a period in history that is not as distant as it may seem.

Original Publisher: **MINIMUM FAX** | Genre: **Novel** | Pages: 340 | Release: Oct 2023
Language: Italian | Rights: World

NINA SULL'ARGINE

Nina on the River Bank

«Veronica Galletta brilliantly employs the riverbank as a metaphor for the soul: the soul of a woman compelled to grapple with herself, her life aspirations, and a male-dominated world. It's a story written with profound care and insight.»

La Lettura - Corriere della Sera



WINNER OF 2022 'PREMIO LETTERATURA D'IMPRESA'.
SHORTLISTED TO: 'PREMIO STREGA',
AND 'PREMIO CLARA SERENI', 'PREMIO DOLORES PRATO',
'PREMIO THE BRIDGE', 'PREMIO CITTÀ DI LEONFORTE', 'PREMIO BIELLA'

«A sense of loneliness, work alienation, a struggle with nature, and the impossibility of achieving perfection – all of this and more can be found in Galletta's novel. Galletta had already demonstrated her talent with her debut novel, which earned her the 'Premio Campiello Opera Prima'. Now, her gift is even more precise, palpable, and original.»

Nina sull'argine nomination letter for the 'Premio Strega'

As a young engineer taking on her first significant project, Caterina, known as Nina to her friends, is tasked with overseeing the construction of a riverbank in northern Italy. Surrounded by a predominantly male team, she grapples with a constant stream of challenges: demands from surveyors and council members, technical obstacles, environmentalist objections, safety responsibilities for her workers, not to mention a love story gone awry and a complex connection to her Sicilian homeland. Caterina's life soon transforms into a fog-covered construction site, as if she herself needs a riverbank of her own. The temptation to resign from her job grows, but gradually, the people around her cease to be defined solely by their roles and start to resemble real individuals. As the construction of the riverbank nears completion, Caterina's reckoning with her own inner demons compels her to live and learn before she can move forward with her life.

LE ISOLE DI NORMAN

Norman Islands

«An amazing and remarkable novel.»

TuttoLibri - La Stampa

«A fully mature and conscientious debut.»

La Lettura - Corriere della Sera



Ortygia is the heart of Syracuse, one of the most beautiful and ancient cities in Sicily. However, Ortygia itself is a small island, and it's here that Elena resides with her father, a man who continues to pretend that everything is fine, and her mother, Clara, a woman who hasn't left their island within an island for years. Clara spends most of her time in her bedroom, surrounded by books that she arranges and moves according to some mysterious order – a system that Elena has been studying in an attempt to unravel her mother's thoughts. Despite sketching 103 maps of these book movements, finding a solution to the riddle and her mother's depression appears impossible.

One day, Clara vanishes suddenly, prompting Elena to embark on a ritualistic journey through their peculiar hometown. She follows her mother's maps and leaves her books in different locations, hoping to piece together not only Clara's thoughts but also an incident from her own past when Elena accidentally spilled boiling water on her body, leaving scars resembling tiny maps themselves.

It is perhaps within this intersection of maps, burns, and secrets that the hidden truth of Elena's parents and the rest of the island around her is concealed.

With a remarkable eye for detail and a remarkably powerful voice, Veronica Galletta draws from her own experiences to vividly depict the imprints left by others and the hidden secrets we carry. She seamlessly navigates between the extremes and the nuances of everyday life in a distinctive yet deeply authentic city.



READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

Original Publisher: **MINIMUM FAX** | Genre: **Novel** | Pages: 220 |
Release: Oct 2021
Language: Italian | Rights: World

Original Publisher: **ITALO SVEVO** | Genre: **Novel** | Pages: 304 |
Release: Apr 2020
Language: Italian | Rights: World



READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

LUCA GIACHI

THE FIRST NEW ADULT NOVEL BY A 'PREMIO MONDELLO' WINNER

«Luca Giachi delves into the intricacies of the human soul and the unpredictability of life.»
la Repubblica

«An undoubted narrative talent.»
Gazzetta di Mantova

Born in Rome in 1977, Luca Giachi is a writer and musician.
His two previous novels have been published by Hacca: *Oltre le parole* (2008), winner of 'Premio Mondello Opera Prima', and *Come una canzone* (2018).



His works:

- 2023: *Senza disturbare nessuno*, Italy (Giunti)
- 2018: *Come una canzone*, Italy (Hacca)
- 2008: *Oltre le parole*, Italy (Hacca)

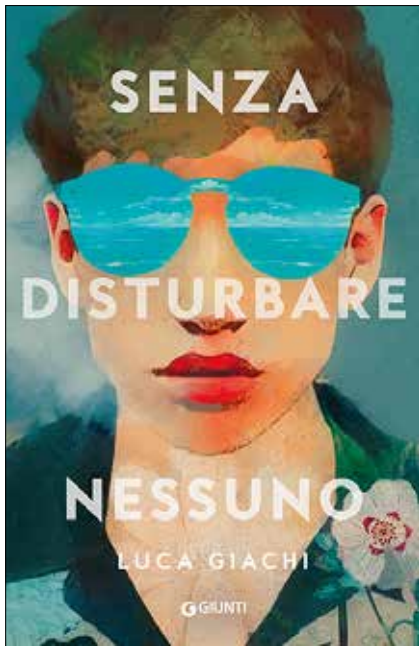




SENZA DISTURBARE NESSUNO

Without Bothering Anyone

An engaging story of first experiences, love troubles and exciting discoveries.



Told with delicacy and just the right touch of humor, *Without Bothering Anyone* is an irreverent coming-of-age novel that explores what happens when the best summer of your life takes an unexpectedly dramatic turn.



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

«An 18-year-old young man's tumultuous journey of self-discovery, exploration of the world around him, and, most importantly, his evolving relationship with the woman behind the mother.»

il Messaggero

«Vivid and unpredictable prose that authentically captures the sensitivities of adolescence.»

La Lettura – Corriere della Sera

«Rome emerges as the true protagonist in his novels.»

il manifesto

Enrico was supposed to graduate from high school at the end of June, experience his first intimate moment with his girlfriend Marta, and embark on an Interrail adventure with his friends. However, none of this unfolded as planned. He failed his finals, Marta left for the Interrail trip without him, and his parents compelled him to work at his uncle's beach resort, a few miles outside of Rome.

Consequently, his summer break became a division between the bustling life of the restaurant and the tranquility of the Eternal City, where the locals had departed, leaving only leisurely strolling tourists on the streets.

Amidst days of work and nights riding around on his scooter, a new friendship blossomed with Sara, a librarian, igniting an unexpected passion for books in Enrico. However, he also uncovered a secret that his mother had concealed from everyone, leading him to realize that, above all else, parents are simply human beings.

GIANLUCA LIONI

INDAGINE NELL'ARCIPELAGO (THE ARCHIPELAGO MURDER) IS THE STAND-ALONE SEQUEL TO LA PROCESSIONE DEI FANTASMI (GHOSTS' PROCESSION), PRAISED BY IL MESSAGGERO AS «A SUCCESSFUL DEBUT BY AN AUTHOR WHO POSSESSES A RANGE OF LANGUAGE REGISTERS»

**«An author who appears to be born to write,
doing so with such ease that he completely enchants his readers.»**
L'Unione Sarda

Born in 1981, Gianluca Lioni is a journalist and the official Spokesperson of Dario Franceschini, the former Minister of Cultural Heritage and Activities. He's also the author of the nonfiction best-seller *I grandi discorsi che hanno cambiato la storia*, published by Newton Compton.



His works:

- 2023: *Indagine nell'arcipelago*, Italy (Tre60)
- 2020: *La processione dei fantasmi*, Italy (Tre60)
- 2017: *I grandi discorsi che hanno cambiato la storia*, Italy (Newton Compton)





INDAGINE NELL'ARCIPELAGO *The Archipelago Murder*

An historical mystery novel set on a small island
that is a true paradise on earth.



READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

«Scenes from everyday life on the island of La Maddalena, a small and captivating microcosm where historical figures coexist with fictional yet intricately developed characters. It's a delightful novel brimming with the scents and colors of one of the most beautiful places in Italy.»

STEFANIA AUCI, author of the best-selling series *The Florios of Sicily*, sold to 23 Countries

«Lioni's triumphant concept thrives on his unapologetic manipulation of history. Following in the footsteps of Garibaldi's fame, amidst the arrivals and departures of adventurers, intellectuals, politicians, soldiers, princesses, and artists, he resurrects La Maddalena's international significance—an epicenter of the Mediterranean since time immemorial.»

il Messaggero

On the island of La Maddalena, Sardinia, in the year 1865, as everyone gathers to witness the fireworks and the traditional procession in honor of the patron saint, and enjoy games and various stalls, the lifeless body of a woman is discovered. She is a well-known prostitute by the name of Isis. Simultaneously, Enea, the coachman of one of the island's public carriages, mysteriously vanishes. But who could have a motive to harm a destitute prostitute, and why has Enea, who was awaiting a significant sum of money, disappeared without a trace?

Once more, the marshal of the Carabinieri Reali, Bachisio Tanchis, must step in.

However, the island of La Maddalena serves as a crossroads for conspirators, aristocrats, secret agents, and smugglers. The investigation will take the marshal and a former captain of the British Navy, Daniel Roberts, on a journey through the islets of the archipelago, amidst the crystal-clear sea, alluring vistas, and unique inhabitants. They will encounter everyone from the king of Tavolara to the lighthouse keepers of Razzoli, and the most famous of all, Giuseppe Garibaldi, the 'hero of two worlds' who retired to Caprera after his endeavors to unite the country. Bachisio Tanchis will soon find himself entangled in murky village schemes and a convoluted plot that extends far beyond the island's borders.

CLAUDIO MORANDINI

**AN AUTHOR HIGHLY PRAISED
BY BOTH ITALIAN AND INTERNATIONAL CRITICS AND READERS**

«Simply one of the greatest Italian writers of our time.»
il Giornale

«One of the best authors of the current Italian literary scene.»
La Lettura – Corriere della Sera

Claudio Morandini, a high school teacher residing in Aosta, is an accomplished writer with works that include radio plays, theater monologues, and numerous novels. His book *A gran giornate* won the “Città di Trebisacce” Literary Prize in 2013. His short story *Dita fredde* is included in *Santi – Lives of Modern Saints* (Black Arrow Press, USA, 2007).

In August 2018, Salani published his first children’s book, *Le maschere di Pocacosa*.

***Neve, cane, piede*, his most famous novel, has been a true literary phenomenon: a top 5 best-seller, it won the ‘Premio Procida-Elsa Morante-Isola di Arturo’ in 2016, with translations rights sold to 8 Countries so far. A new expanded edition has been published in June 2021 by Bompiani as part of “Le Finestre”, a series of novels by “great Italian authors”.**

The French paperback of *Le chien, la neige, un pied* won the ‘Prix Lire en Poche de littérature traduite’ (2021).

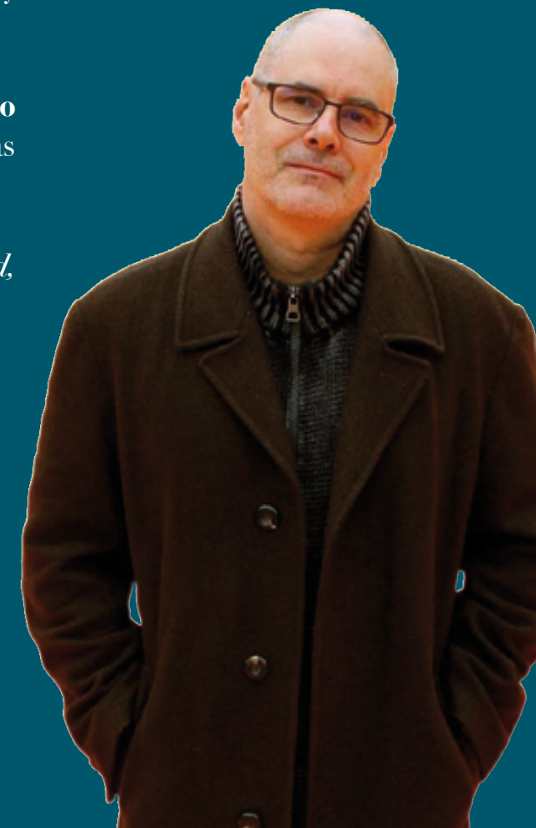
In 2022, *Snow, dog, foot* was shortlisted for the ‘John Florio Prize’ in the UK, and in 2023 the Dutch edition *Sneeuw, hond, voet* was a finalist for the ‘Europese Literatuurprijs’.

His new novel is out in October 2023 with *nottetempo*.



Some of his works:

- 2023: *La conca buia*, Italy (nottetempo)
- 2022: *Catalogo dei silenzi e delle attese*, Italy (Bompiani), France (Anacharsis)
- 2021 (new edition): *Neve, cane, piede*, Italy (Bompiani), UK (Peirene Press), France (Anacharsis), The Netherlands (Koppertnik), Turkey (Timaş), Chile and Argentina (Edicola), Russia (Polyandria), Egypt (Al Arabi)
- 2021 (new edition): *Le pietre*, Italy (GEDI-la Repubblica), France (Anacharsis), Turkey (Timaş)
- 2019: *Gli oscillanti*, Italy (Bompiani), France (Anacharsis)



COMING
SOON!

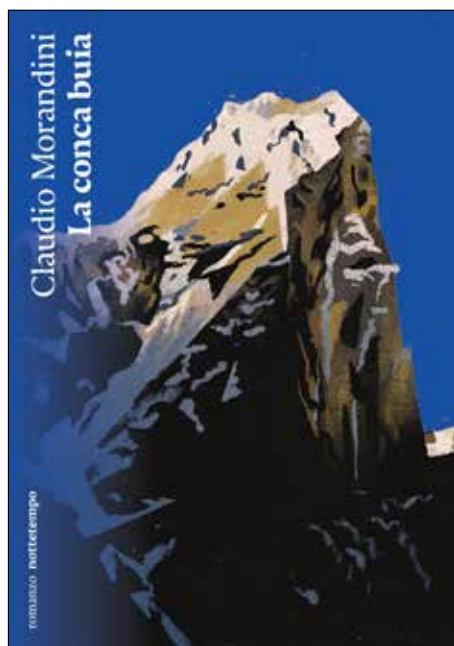
o t a g o

foreignrights@otago.it

LA CONCA BUIA

A Valley in the Dark

A story of petty Italian politics and unburied family resentments.



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SUMMARY

«His seemingly limpid prose contains murky depths.»

The Herald

«At its best, Claudio Morandini's mountain is shrouded in darkness.

At its worst, it transforms into an unmistakable hell.»

La Lettura – Corriere della Sera

As the municipal elections draw near, Franco Cavaglià, the current mayor of a mountain village, becomes increasingly preoccupied with the prospect of losing his job. The problem is that, after years of a sedentary lifestyle and indulgent work lunches, he no longer resembles the typical mountain man: his once hardy hands, slim figure, and weathered wrinkles have been replaced by urban obesity that might alienate potential voters. To regain the favor of his community, Franco requires the assistance of an Alpine hero, someone who embodies sacrifice, industriousness, and tradition. Someone much like his own father.

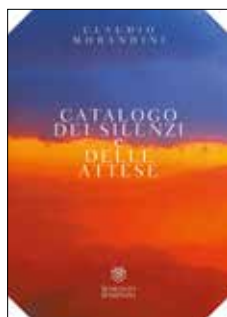
The truth, however, is that Franco's father is a loathsome, selfish, and cruel man who subjected his wife and son to years of abuse. Nevertheless, Franco understands all too well that politics and truth rarely align. As for the truth, he himself is a master in the art of deception, having learned it from a young age when he needed to evade his father's wrath. The real challenge lies in persuading the old man to accompany him to the grueling campaign meetings. Initially, sedation seems like the perfect solution, but this tactic quickly proves inadequate. This is where Leda, Franco's daughter, enters the picture. Though initially reluctant, she joins this unusual duo because she is the only one capable of soothing her grandfather. It's at this juncture that things take a dramatic turn, and Franco reveals his willingness to do whatever it takes to secure victory.

A Valley in the Dark is a 'mountain novel' focused on contradictions and petty rivalries among family members, revealing what lies beneath a bittersweet and satirical façade.

Original Publisher: **NOTTETEMPO** | Genre: Novel | Pages: 248 | Release: Oct 2023
Language: Italian | Rights: World

CATALOGO DEI SILENZI E DELLE ATTESE *All This Waiting and Silence*

A superb and emotionally charged coming-of-age story. A delicate portrayal of a life that is simultaneously ordinary and exemplary, as well as uniquely magical.



↑ READ THE
FRENCH SAMPLE

«You unmistakably sense that you are in the presence of an author who has a profound understanding of the most intimate mysteries of human life»

La Lettura – Corriere della Sera

«Morandini is a writer who knows how to dream.»

TuttoLibri – La Stampa

«Morandini's latest novel is the story of a lifetime, that of Cosimo Peragalli, yet another Morandinian character that we will struggle to forget.»

Blow Up

«A fictional existential catalog.»

Il Sole 24 Ore

Cosimo Peragalli is a shy, sensitive boy whose life is as ordinary as it gets – or maybe this is just what it seems on the surface. We first see him in his childhood years at his grandmother's (who is not the nicest person in the world, but that's ok), surrounded by nature and all its mysteries, wonders and laws. Then we grow up with him a little bit to try and understand the secrets of the opposite sex, or to explore a new friendship born out of a common passion for fossils. Next, we move forward and meet with a charming aunt and her off-key piano, or end up taking care of his dad's garden. The innocence and devotion of first love is not far away, and so it's the moment when Cosimo is now a son of two old people and a father himself.

Original Publisher: **BOMPIANI** | Genre: **Novel** | Pages: 220 | Release: Mar 2022
Language: Italian | Rights: World | Sold to: **France** (Anacharsis)

NEVE, CANE, PIEDE *Snow, Dog, Foot*

WINNER OF 2016 'PREMIO PROCIDA-ISOLA DI ARTURO-ELSA MORANTE' IN ITALY

WINNER OF 2021 'PRIX LIRE EN POCHE' IN FRANCE

RUNNER-UP OF 2022 'THE JOHN FLORIO PRIZE' IN UK

LONGLISTED OF 2023 'EUROPESE LITERATUURPRIJS' IN THE NETHERLANDS



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

**NUMBER 5 ON ITALIAN
BEST-SELLERS LIST**

New edition published
by Bompiani in June 2021

English rights now available again

«One of the 15 most beautiful
books of our century.»

Panorama

In the Alps, there lies a solitary valley where the elderly and absent-minded Adelmo Farandola roams, driven to madness by his isolation. Adelmo's sole companion is a persistent dog, and together, they create an oddly comical pair, for Adelmo possesses the rare ability to understand the dog's speech, as well as the voices of other mountain creatures. He can even decipher the voices of the wind, the sky, and the departed.

As Adelmo grapples with the harsh and unforgiving nature that surrounds him, we accompany him through the changing seasons and the repetitiveness of his actions. However, one Spring day, Adelmo and his faithful dog stumble upon a human foot in the melting snow.

Snow, Dog, Foot is a unique little book that captivates readers with its intriguing characters and their sardonic wisdom.

Original Publisher: **BOMPIANI** | Genre: **Novel** | Pages: 160 | New Release: Jun 2021
Language: Italian | Rights: World | Sold to: **UK** (Peirene), **France** (Anacharsis),
The Netherlands (Koppernik), **Turkey** (Timaş), **Chile** (Edicola), **Argentina** (Edicola),
Russia (Polyandria), **Egypt** (Al Arabi)

HELGA SCHNEIDER

THE LATEST NOVEL BY A WRITER WHO ONCE ENCOUNTERED ADOLF HITLER

«Except for a handful of post-war German authors, we are rarely given such a glimpse of life on the other side.»
The Washington Post

Born in 1937 in Silesia, which was part of the Third Reich at the time, Helga Schneider's life is a novel itself.

Abandoned by her mother in 1941, she finds out only three decades later that the woman was still alive and had left the family to work in the SS as a guardian in Auschwitz-Birkenau. **Schneider told this story in her best-selling novel *Lasciami andare, madre (Let me go)*, published in 2004 by Adelphi and translated into several languages.**

A biopic based on the book was released in 2017 and premiered at the Edinburgh International Film Festival.

She later published two more novels with Adelphi and others with Einaudi, Rizzoli, and Salani.

In 1996 she won the “Premio Rapallo”, and in 2015 she received the ‘Premio Ceppo’ Lifetime Achievement Award for her children’s books.

Her latest novel, ***Watching Bismarckstraße*, out with Solferino (RCS Group) in the Fall of 2023**, opens with a specific event that took place in 1944, with **Helga and her brother Peter meeting Adolf Hitler in his bunker** as part of a project by the Reich's Ministry of Propaganda.

Schneider has been living in Bologna since 1963.



Some of her titles:

- 2023: *Un balcone con vista Bismarckstrasse*, Italy (Solferino)
- 2017: *Un amore adolescente*, Italy (Salani)
- 2009: *La baracca dei tristi piaceri*, Italy (Salani) - paperback: 2022, TEA
- 2008: *Heike riprende a respirare*, Italy (Salani) - paperback: 2011, TEA
- 2006: *Io, piccola ospite del Führer*, Italy (Einaudi), Siruela (Spain)
- 2004: *L'usignolo dei Linke*, Italy (Adelphi), Germany (Piper)
- 2002: *Stelle di cannella*, Italy (Salani)
- 2001: *Lasciami andare, madre*, Italy (Adelphi), USA (Penguin), UK (Walker), France (Robert Laffont), Piper (Germany), Spain (Salamandra)
- 1995: *Il rogo di Berlino*, Italy (Adelphi), UK (Heinemann), France (Robert Laffont), Germany (Piper), Spain (Salamandra), The Netherlands (Wereldbibliotheek)



COMING
SOON!

otago

foreignrights@otago.it

UN BALCONE CON VISTA BISMARCKSTRASSE

Watching Bismarckstraße

A precious and powerful novel based on the true story of
a little girl who met Hitler.

«This story might seem like the plot of a breathtaking movie.
But Helga Schneider's story is not the plot of a film; it is her real life.»

Vanity Fair

«Helga Schneider's style is delicate, dry, careful to outline
the historical context.»

La Stampa



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SUMMARY

Berlin, December 1944. Helga is eleven years old, and like all children worldwide, she's living through the horrific reality of war. The city is under siege by Allied bombs, and those who can must seek refuge in basements. In Helga's family, her father is away at war, her mother vanished years ago, and her stepmother, Ursula, openly dislikes her.

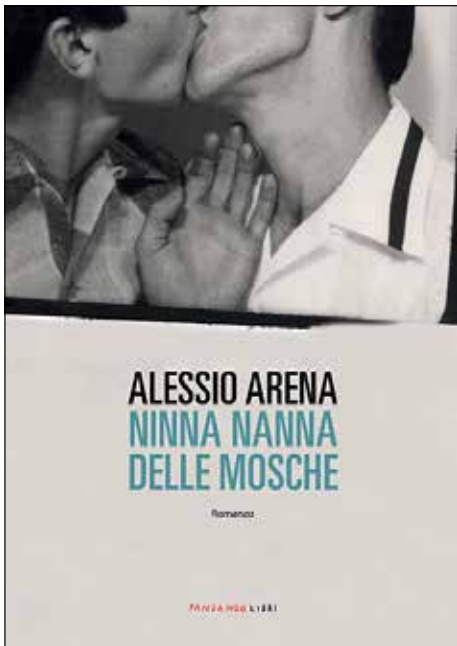
However, on this December morning, Helga decides to run away because she refuses to meet him. Her grandfather always claims that he is evil and responsible for Germany's suffering. Yet, she eventually returns home because she doesn't know where else to go. Along with her brother Peter, she is selected to visit Adolf Hitler himself as part of a propaganda effort to boost the German people's morale in the face of the virtually lost war. Fast forward to 1948. The war has ended, Helga's father has returned, but Berlin lies in ruins. The family relocates to a small village in Austria. There, Helga believes she might finally find happiness. Amid new friendships and minor misunderstandings, she experiences a carefree summer that offers a semblance of normalcy at last.

Original Publisher: **SOLFERINO** | Genre: YA Novel 13+ | Pages: 204 | Release: Nov 2023
Language: Italian | Rights: World



NINNA NANNA DELLE MOSCHE *Flies' Lullaby*

Once more, Alessio Arena hits the mark with his 'Latin-Neapolitan magic realism' in the new novel—a tale that spans oceans and demonstrates how love can truly endure a lifetime.



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE



↑ READ THE
SPANISH SAMPLE

ALESSIO ARENA was born in Naples in 1984 and currently resides in Barcelona. He is a multi-talented artist (singer-songwriter, guitarist, writer, and translator). His debut novel earned him the prestigious 'Giuseppe Giusti Opera Prima' award. As a translator, he has brought works like Alejandro Palomas' novels 'Una madre' and 'Un hijo' into the Italian language. In the realm of music, he has received several accolades, including the 'Andrea Parodi - World Music Prize' in 2021. His website is: www.alessioarena.com

WINNER OF 2022: 'PREMIO PROCIDA-ISOLA DI ARTURO-ELSA MORANTE',
AND 'BOOKCIK LEGGE' AWARD

RIGHTS SOLD TO THE NETHERLANDS IN 2023

«Love, passion, and nostalgia intersect as Italian emigrants navigate the
challenging and desolate terrain of Chile.»

LAURA PUGNO, *L'Espresso*

«A love story that also serves as a compelling social critique, akin to the verses of a song
by Violeta Parra.»

La Repubblica

At the dawn of the 20th century, a community of Italian miners discovers their promised land in northern Chile. They establish themselves in the vast pampa surrounding the nitre quarries, living off perilous underground work, with few distractions beyond alcohol and an overwhelming sense of nostalgia.

Gregorio is one of these miners, tasked not only with his grueling underground labor but also with composing letters on behalf of his illiterate comrades, allowing them to maintain contact with their families in Italy. However, his own letters addressed to Berto, a young baker, remain unanswered.

Enveloped by a perpetual melancholy, Gregorio cannot help but ponder the fate of the boy he once fell in love with when they both resided in the south of Italy. Then, one fateful day, everything changes: Berto receives a letter from his clandestine love, complete with a small fly trapped inside the envelope. Motivated by this correspondence, he decides to leave behind his entire world to be reunited with Gregorio.

A captivating and poetic narrative of unspoken desires, *Flies' Lullaby* is a novel that transports its readers to the ends of the earth, where they will burn with the flames of passion and revolution.



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SUMMARY

Original Publisher: **FANDANGO** | Genre: **Novel** | Pages: 250 | Release: Sep
2021 | Language: Italian | Rights: World
Sold to: **The Netherlands/Belgium** (Borgerhoff & Lamberigts)

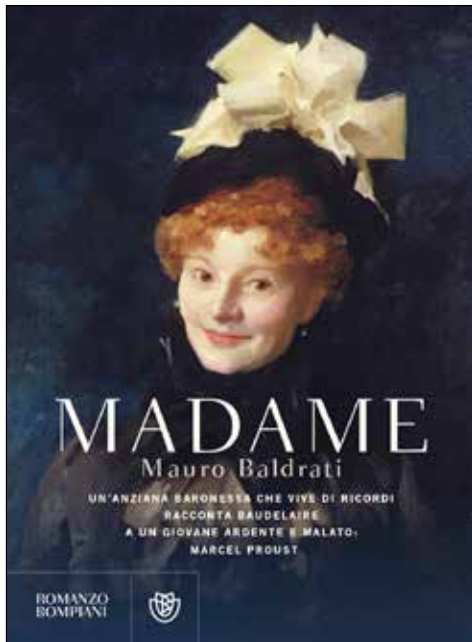
Some of his previous works:

2018: *La notte non vuole venire*, Italy (Fandango)
2014: *La letteratura tamil a Napoli*, Italy (Neri Pozza)



MADAME Madame

Released on the centenary of Marcel Proust's passing, *Madame* is a captivating story of love, longing, and desire, reminiscent of a forgotten novel by Guy de Maupassant.



Born in Emilia-Romagna, **MAURO BALDRATI** now lives in Bologna.

In 1980 he moved to Milan where he worked as a freelance photographer.

Over the years, his short stories have been published on several anthologies, magazines and websites, including *Nazione Indiana* e *Carmilla*.

His new novel, *Madame*, is out in October 2022 by Bompiani, on the centenary of Marcel Proust's death.

«A gentle and delicate prose.»

La Lettura - Corriere della Sera

«The prose effectively transports the reader to the Belle Époque era, and the depiction of Proust's courtship of Madame feels like it could have been plucked from an unpublished passage of the *Recherche*.»

il manifesto

«An historical novel that explores the twists and turns of life and the unlikely connections that can develop between vastly different individuals.»

RAI Cultura

«An indispensable read for enthusiasts of the Ville Lumière.»

Affari Italiani

Paris, 1894. Veronique Fourier is an elderly widow, once married to one of Napoleon's generals. Her days are now spent in the dimness of her palace or attending the soirées in the salons that have long been, and still are, a significant part of her life. During a luncheon, she encounters a young man who seeks to interview her. He is working on an essay about Baudelaire, and he knows that in her youth, Veronique had spent considerable time with the poet. This young man is quite melancholic and remarkably graceful. His name is Marcel Proust.

As the two engage in conversation, an old and charming world is resurrected through their words. Marcel and Veronique embark on a journey of secrets and revelations, returning Madame to a time of decadent passion and bringing the young writer closer to the object of his fascination.

Original Publisher: **BOMPIANI** | Genre: **Historical Novel** | Pages: 144 | Release: Oct 2022
Language: Italian | Rights: World

Some of his previous works:

2020: *Lo specialista*, con Shi Heng Wu, Italy (Fanucci)

2018: *Io sono El Diablo*, Italy (Fanucci)



CINEMA ZENIT

«Andrea Bruno is a great master of dark and anti-narrative comics, and *Cinema Zenit* is his latest effort. This story was previously published in three tabloid sized books, perfect to experience Bruno's dense, gloomy and enveloping imaginary. It's now collected in a smaller format; however, it still works pretty good as a regular graphic novel.»

The Comics Journal – “The Best Comics of 2022”



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

Born in Sicily in 1972, **ANDREA BRUNO** is a cartoonist and illustrator. He lives in Bologna, and his works are frequently exhibited in Italy and abroad (St. Petersburg, Lucerna, Buenos Aires, Paris, and Geneva).

His books have been published by Canicola and Coconino Press in Italy, and by Rackham in France. He has been awarded with the Gran Giunigi Prize for Best Author at Lucca Comics in 2007, and with the Micheluzzi Prize for the Best Illustrator at Naples Comicon in 2010.

«A profound darkness from which figures emerge as if they were etchings from rocket ships. *Cinema Zenit* once again demonstrates that Andrea Bruno is a top-tier author, not solely for his illustrations.»

Blow Up

«A rediscovered manuscript unveils a tale reminiscent of J.J. Abrams' *Lost*. Bruno's illustrations are striking and captivating, evoking both a sense of alienation and unease.»

la Repubblica

«Day and night converge in this extraordinary and dreamlike metaphor of post-modern narrative. Bruno's insight enlightens us all as we delve into its pages.»

Internazionale

«A true masterpiece that firmly establishes Andrea Bruno as one of the foremost contemporary Italian cartoonists.»

Lo Spazio Bianco

A girl returning to her hometown, now occupied by foreign settlers. An abandoned movie theatre, a city in flames, a never-ending night. A dreamlike and out-of-time scenario, decadent and grand, like a David Lynch film.



Original Publisher: **CANICOLA** | Genre: **Graphic Novel** | Pages: 136 | Release: Nov 2022
Language: Italian | Rights: World | Sold to: **France** (Rackham)

FULL ENGLISH
TRANSLATION AVAILABLE



IL SENSO DELLE STELLE

The Meaning of the Stars

A polyphonic novel, a compelling and eerie narrative that draws from Jodorowsky's psychogenealogy, exploring the concept of family inheritance that transcends generations.



Born in Turin in 1981, ANTONIO L. FALBO is a teacher of art history, a video maker and an author. Among his main publications: *Bonding* (2009), *Finché brucia la neve* (2014). He was the screenwriter of a graphic novel *Revolushow* (2016), drawn by Alessandro Caligaris. He lives between Italy and Holland.

«His prose is both elegant and potent, occasionally visionary. In his exploration of the intricate relationship between humanity, nature, and enigmatic subconscious forces, he demonstrates a profound grasp of and a refreshing approach to the legacy of Cesare Pavese and Federigo Tozzi.»

SARA TOSETTO, editor and literary critic

«In his novels, Falbo delves into the 'inside' rather than the 'outside'.»

Thriller Magazine

Brothers Filippo and Tobia have been estranged for years. Filippo, a young widower, is now the sole caregiver for Cischì, the son he had with Lara. Tobia, on the other hand, lives a precarious life, consumed by his sole 'love': heroin. The brothers share a haunting memory of their tumultuous childhood, marred by the violence of their father, known as the Caporal. However, it's when the Caporal passes away in their old family farmhouse that the two brothers are reluctantly reunited, returning to the place where it all began. The ghosts of the past are far from dormant: the house appears to be haunted by the lingering presence of the Caporal, compelling Filippo to perpetuate the same violence he once endured on young Cischì. Meanwhile, Tobia grapples with his personal demons and the enduring memory of his unspoken love for Lara, his brother's late wife. As inexplicable events unfold on the farm and Cischì exhibits peculiar abilities, Filippo becomes convinced that a mysterious curse hangs over their family. The only one who maintains a semblance of desperate lucidity is Tobia. Will it be enough to awaken his brother's conscience and unravel the enigma surrounding Cischì and the farmhouse before it's too late?

Original Publisher: **FUNAMBOLO** | Genre: **Novel** | Pages: 314 | Release: Mar 2023
Language: Italian | Rights: World

His previous works:

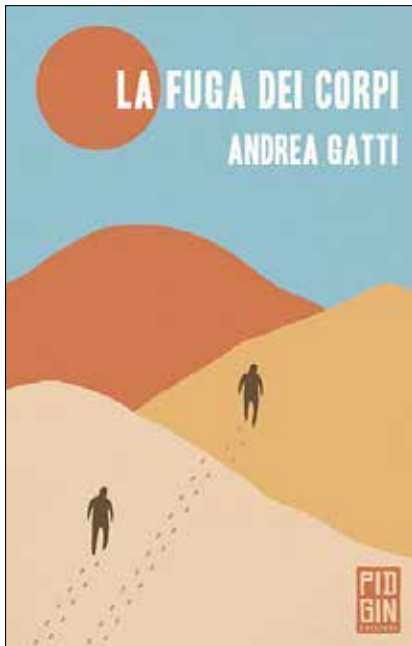
2016: *Revolushow*, con Alessandro Caligaris, Italy (Eris)
2014: *Finché brucia la neve*, Italy (Curcio)
2009: *Bonding*, Italy (Pendragon)



LA FUGA DEI CORPI

Bodies on the Run

Two friends embark on a quest to discover a mysterious beach hidden in the Andalusian desert. As their journey unfolds, it exposes the complex dynamics of their relationship, ultimately compelling them to make a decision with irrevocable consequences.



FINALIST OF THE 2022
'PREMIO COMISSO - UNDER 35'



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE



↑ READ THE
SPANISH SAMPLE

Born in Rome in 1992, ANDREA GATTI currently lives in Cádiz (Spain), and he is a literary translator from Spanish. He studied Filmmaking and Storytelling Techniques at the “Scuola Holden”. His short stories have been published by a number of magazines and websites, and one is included in a collection edited by Filippo Tuena. *Bodies on the Run* is his debut novel.

Andrea Gatti is one of the contributing authors to the upcoming *Guida Verde Andalusia* by Touring Club Editore, scheduled for publication in 2024.

«One hell of a debut. This is a fierce and courageous novel that also serves as an opportunity for introspection, especially for those who recognize that the only true refuge lies within themselves.»

ALESSIO FORGIONE, *Corriere del Mezzogiorno*

«A thought-provoking exploration of the inner journey from a bold and contemporary perspective»

il Riformista

«Andrea Gatti has crafted a novel of exceptional intensity and mature style.»

Critica Letteraria

To escape their mundane and suffocating lives, Vanni and Daniel embark on a journey to Cala Bruja, a beach in the Andalusian desert rumored to be home to a self-sufficient community devoted to the pursuit of pleasure. The two friends traverse cities like phantoms, their faces concealed by masks as they play music in the streets and draw protective circles on the ground with chalk. It's a mutual initiation, a challenge to prove their ability to achieve anything they desire. However, as they share time and space in their quest, their connection becomes all-consuming, veering into the morbid. Their individual desires clash, and their friendship unravels. Vanni and Daniel descend into acts of ferocity and extremes, as if violence is the only outlet for their rebellion, frustration, and disenchantment.

Amid fallen myths, mystical journeys, and mind-altering experiences, *Bodies on the Run* is a narrative told through two distinct voices, each with their own personalities, unforgivable flaws, and imperfect humanity.



IL GIORNO IN CUI RITORNANO

The Day They Return

Every year, on the same day, the dead returns.

This intricately crafted novel plunges readers into an atmosphere reminiscent of *Stranger Things* and *Les Revenants*, ensnaring them on the page within a labyrinth of mysteries, expectations, and twists.

«A compelling debut novel with unexpected twists.»

SoloLibri



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

Born in Sansepolcro, Tuscany, in 1984, **TAREK KOMIN** is an author of Syrian origin. After studying piano at the Perugia Conservatory, he graduated in historical-anthropological studies at the University of Siena.

He wrote several novels and poetry collections.

In 1996, 13-year-old Neri experiences a tragic loss when his mother suddenly passes away. In the wake of this tragedy, his father makes the decision to uproot their lives in Florence and relocate to Holzbrücke, a small village nestled on the outskirts of the enigmatic Black Forest. Their new community, however, exudes an unwelcoming and somewhat eerie aura, as if concealed mysteries and unspoken fears lurk in the shadows of every encounter.

Neri quickly unravels the unsettling truth surrounding Holzbrücke: every year, on the 11th of November, the dead return from the afterlife, paying visits to their families in the neighborhood. What's even more disconcerting is that the deceased have no awareness of their own state, and the living residents work diligently to maintain this facade.

Amidst this macabre annual ritual, the inhabitants harbor their own hidden secrets. There's the young boy still grappling with the loss of his mother, a spirited tomboy whose parents' marriage conceals cracks, two treasure-seeking thieves, a patient widow awaiting her husband's return, and a cantankerous old woman who might be the sole possessor of the village's darkest mysteries, including the 'why' behind it all.

Original Publisher: **GALLUCCI** | Genre: **YA Novel 13+** | Pages: 350 | Release: Nov 2022
Language: Italian | Rights: World



LA CANTADORA

La Cantadora

The story and mystery of the first Sardinian female singer who stood up to the chauvinist and backward society of her time.



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

VANNI LAI lives in Sardinia. He is a two-time finalist of Premio Calvino, the most important award in Italy for unpublished authors. The prize launched the careers of several esteemed writers, including Veronica Galletta (winner of Premio Campiello Opera Prima award and finalist at Premio Strega), represented by Otago Literary Agency. *La Cantadora* is Vanni Lai's debut novel.

Vanni Lai spent years researching the story and personality of “La Cantadora” Candida Mari (1877-1927), a tangled mix of truth and myth. With very few written sources at hand, he had to rely mostly on oral tales and testimonies.

No photographs or voice recordings of “La Cantadora” survived – or maybe existed in the first place.

«The mythical story of a woman poet with a gun.»

La Nuova Sardegna

On the enchanting island of Sardinia in the early 20th century, a fearless woman with a pistol tucked in her pocket embarks on a journey, traveling from village to village, festival to festival. Her name is Candida Mara, but throughout the island, she's renowned as ‘La Cantadora.’ A woman with a mystical aura, she's often perceived as a witch, a goddess, and, above all, a legendary figure capable of challenging the male singers and their guitars in late-night showdowns that draw crowds to bustling squares. These cantori vie for a humble prize of soup and a few glasses of wine, but it's said that La Cantadora possesses a remarkable and spellbinding voice that can captivate anyone who listens, bending them to her will. The last man to surrender his heart to her is Antoni Zusepe, a married man who forsakes his wife to begin a new life alongside Candida Mara. They establish themselves in the city of Sassari, venturing into the world of Arabian horse breeding and illegal racing. But as time unfolds, their idyllic existence proves ephemeral.

Quick to temper, simultaneously cherished and reviled, Candida Mara emerges as the first Sardinian female singer to command the stage at rustic country festivals, boldly challenging the chauvinistic and backward norms of her era. A charismatic yet long-forgotten figure, her legacy is shrouded in decades of mystery and legends. That is until an intrepid writer takes it upon himself to uncover her enigmatic tale, nearly a century later.

Delving into dusty archives, confronting reticent elderly residents, and deciphering the perplexities presented by eccentric musicologists, the writer stumbles upon a golden gramophone that may hold the key to buried and profound secrets.

COMING
SOON!

o t a g o

foreignrights@otago.it

QUELLA STAGIONE DAL COLORE AZZURRO *That Blue-Colored Season*

The story of a young man on the verge of adulthood, disillusioned by love but always on the cusp of wanting to understand what growing up truly means.



Poet, author, and former professor, **GIUSEPPE ELIO LIGOTTI** resides in Rome. He has authored numerous collections of poetry and novels, often using pseudonyms for some of his works. Notably, in 2014, Ligotti published *Il buono, il brutto e il figlio del cattivo* with Bompiani, a literary work that can be considered a sequel to Sergio Leone's iconic film *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*. However, this book faced legal challenges and was withdrawn from the market merely two weeks after its initial publication due to objections raised by the director's heirs.

«Time is the central theme in Ligotti's literary works.»

FABIO STASSI

«An author who meticulously tends to every detail with obsessive precision.»

Senzaudio

In 1973, Pino, a recent graduate, leaves Rome for Nives, a small town near Venice, to take up his first job as a middle school professor. He's a sardonic and chronically indecisive young man, suddenly immersed in a microcosm filled with colorful characters such as the alcoholic Latinist Viscount Tomaso Tomasi and the passionately liberal Francesco Beduschi. Pino's heart, however, is quickly captured by the enchanting Venis, and their intense and tumultuous relationship soon exposes not only the cultural differences between them but also within their respective families.

These years are marked by political changes, and Pino becomes increasingly involved with GUS, a left-wing political association willing to go to great lengths to make its voice heard. Amid nights of drinking, turbulent political battles, and a romance that's simultaneously idyllic and ill-matched, Pino embarks on a journey of self-discovery. Along the way, he realizes that cynicism and irony alone may not be enough to confront the complexities of the world.

Original Publisher: **RONZANI** | Genre: **Novel** | Pages: 222 | Release: Nov 2023
Language: Italian | Rights: World

Some of his previous works:

2023: *L'alga del tempo*, Italy (Molesini)

2014: *Il buono, il brutto e il figlio del cattivo*, Italy (Bompiani)

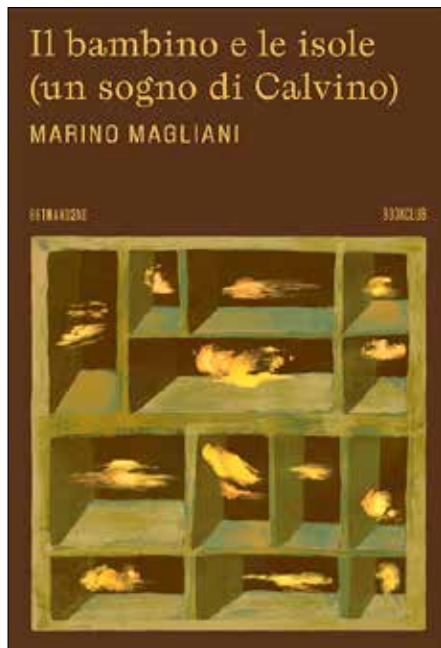


IL BAMBINO E LE ISOLE

Where the Railway Ends

An extraordinary and visionary fictional biography of Italo Calvino,
published to commemorate the centenary of Calvino's birth.

US ENGLISH RIGHTS SOLD
BEFORE PUBLICATION!



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

Marino Magliani was born in 1960 and lives in The Netherlands. He is a novelist and translator from Spanish and Dutch, and he has been honored with several lifetime achievement awards. Some of his novels and short-stories have been translated into English, Dutch, Spanish, French and German.

Prima che te lo dicano altri, published by Chiarelettere (an imprint of GeMS group), has been awarded with the 2019 'Selezione Bancarella' prize and 'Augusto Monti' prize, with film rights optioned.

His novel *Il cannocchiale del tenente Dumont*, published in 2021 by L'Orma (the Italian publisher of Nobel Prize's Annie Ernaux, amongst others), has been **longlisted for 'Premio Strega' 2022**.

Throughout his career, he also won the 'Lericipea' prize (2012), the 'Frontiere' prize in 2010 and in 2017, the 'L'Albatros' prize (2018), the 'Novaro' prize (2019) and the 'Sergio Maldini' prize (2022).

«Tristano, Dantés, Pereira, Chatwin, and Calvino: dressed up with brand new guises, all of these voices resonate inside a novel by Magliani.»

la Repubblica

«A marvelous, almost mysterious prose.»

La Lettura – Corriere della Sera

‘Premio Strega’ nominee Marino Magliani resurrects Italo Calvino’s lifelong secret project—a story about a man in search of the end of a railway. Instead of completing it, Magliani speculates about its origins, offering a beautiful tribute to the unforgettable writer and a poignant tale of endless yearning.

1935, Sanremo, a coastal city in Liguria. A young boy named Italo Calvino encounters a man who disembarks from a train with a suitcase filled with children's books. The man's name is Walter Benjamin. They cross paths several times during that summer, and Walter becomes an inspiration to young Italo, encouraging him to write a tale about a boy who loses his ball near the railway. His mother has always warned him not to cross the tracks, so how can he retrieve his cherished toy?

Many years later, Italo has become a celebrated author and editor, and the boy from his childhood fantasies is now a real person. He's a 'railway flaneur', an idiosyncratic wanderer with a peculiar fixation. Whenever Italo publishes a new novel, this man visits the public library to read it. Sometimes, he struggles to grasp Italo's narratives, and occasionally, he dislikes them. However, as he delves deeper into the pages of Calvino's works, he starts to recognize himself within the words. But how is this possible?

Intricately weaving together the lives of Italo Calvino, Carlo Levi, and other intriguing characters, Marino Magliani delves into the ceaseless daydreams that exist beneath and beyond the realm of words.

Il bambino e le isole is an imaginative dialogue between two authors who share the same hometown. It's a journey through the landscapes of Italo Calvino and Marino Magliani, where the sea glistens silver, distant islands beckon, and dreamy stories come to life.

Original Publisher: **66THAND2ND** | Genre: **Novel** | Pages: 192 | Release: Apr 2023

Language: Italian | Rights: World

Sold to: **USA** (Bordighera Press)

Some of his previous works:

2022: *Peninsulario*, Italy (Italo Svevo)

2021: *Il cannocchiale del tenente Dumont*, Italy (L'orma)

2018: *Prima che te lo dicano altri*, Italy (Chiarelettere), Chile/Argentina (Edicola)



L'ETÀ DELLE MADRI

A Mother's Age

A brave debut novel where everything is ambiguous,
starting with the love triangle at its core.



WINNER OF THE 2022 'PREMIO CITTÀ DI
AMANTEA' UNDER 25

FINALIST AND SPECIAL MENTION OF THE JURY
OF 2021 'PREMIO ITALO CALVINO'

SELECTED FOR FESTIVAL DU PREMIER ROMAN
DE CHAMBÉRY (2023)



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

Born in 1998, VITTORIO PUNZO lives near
Naples. In 2019 he attended a creative writing
class at Scuola Holden in Turin.

«An extraordinary writing.»

PIERGIORGIO PATERLINI, *Robinson - la Repubblica*

«Ingenious splinters of thoughts and conversations that it's up to the reader to
put back together.»

Style - Corriere della Sera

«A sketch of suburban life, mental narrowness, and creeping gossip.»

Il Mattino

«A fascinating story on the threshold of a dream.»

L'Indice

Domenico is 16 years old and has no intention of dealing with school anymore. He aspires to become a collage artist, but, above all else, he wants to prove to the world that he is no longer a kid. His girlfriend, Maria Vittoria, is 21, and everything runs smoothly until Domenico decides to meet her mother. That's when the trouble begins. Maria Vittoria's mother, Anna, welcomes him into their house of never-ending drinking, crazy quarrels, and floor-cleaning robots. Unresolved traumas from the past are soon added to this enigmatic present, while the house where this unusual trio gets separated from the rest of the world keeps becoming more and more claustrophobic and dangerous – up until the point when Domenico asks himself, “How can I go back to the start?”



Caracò deals with traditional and multimedia publishing, educational projects, and theatre.

Their roots are in Naples, Bologna, and Palermo.

In old Neapolitan language Caracò means *snail*.

Their name and their symbol are the link between tradition and future.

Their books, their shows and their workshops try to explain reality and work on the present.

One of their projects is the online platform [Educativvù](#).

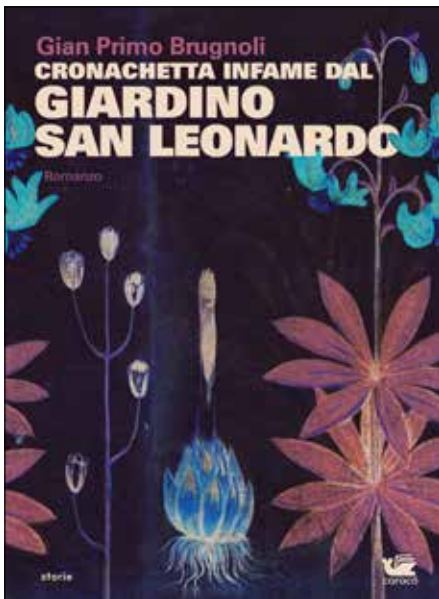
Via Sant'Isaia, 73/2 · 40123 Bologna (Italy)
info@caraco.it · www.caraco.it

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/caraco.it>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/caraco.it>



CRONACHETTA INFAME DAL GIARDINO SAN LEONARDO

The Scandalous Chronicle of Saint Leonard Garden



Shortlisted for the 'Italo Calvino' prize, the most renowned and reputable Italian award for aspiring writers, with a special mention from the Treccani committee.

Born in 1939, **GIAN PRIMO BRUGNOLI** lives in Bologna. He worked as an engineer and wrote several short-story collections. His debut novel was shortlisted for the 2020 'Italo Calvino' prize and received a special mention from the Treccani committee.

«At Treccani, we appreciate the way the Italian language changes, evolves, and adapts to new forms of expression. This novel is undoubtedly worthy of attention.»

MASSIMO BRAY, director of Treccani Institute

«The literary virtuosity of an 84-year-old writer making his debut.»
la Repubblica

Among the backstreets of downtown Boi (which is basically Bologna), where drug addicts seek shelter in the cellars at night and students hang out in the small Saint Leonard Garden during the day, live people whose misery is absolute and irretrievable. Even if no one cares much about it, everyone knows what's happening there: there are individuals in search of a lady who can make them happy for a few hours – for the right amount of cash. Schizophrenic and manipulative, Moana Papi is always on the hunt for money. There's also a young prostitute who has entrusted her with her three-year-old daughter, Albarella. Moana didn't take on this mission out of human pity. Like a skillful puppeteer, Moana also has her man, Beppe Salluzzo, under her control. He welcomes his woman's every request and, armed with a knife, executes various petty crimes. But then one day, Albina, the old lady who lovingly takes care of the Saint Leonard Garden, is brutally attacked. A journalist goes to interview her, and Albina begins to describe in full detail how Moana Papi is holding an entire neighborhood hostage.

Original Publisher: **CARACÒ** | Genre: **Novel** | Pages: 294 | Release: Jul 2023
Language: Italian | Rights: World



BESTIE AFFAMATE

Hungry Beasts

A refined, passionate and hilarious debut.



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

Born in 1981, EMANUELE FERRETTI lives in Milan. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Bologna. In 2005 he published his first poetry collection, and in 2020 *Butter*, his first record with the musical project called Exwyfe.

**Disclaimer: "No animal has been killed in this book.
Except for me."**

«Ferretti portrays an obsessive and stubborn love, where eroticism clashes with disillusion, and awareness takes surreal turns. Set in the streets of Bologna, amidst alcoholic parties and endless conversations under the Porticoes, *Hungry Beasts* is, at its core, about the end of youth. This is a unique moment when everything seems possible, even though it almost never is.»

MATTEO B. BIANCHI

«Fun and upsetting.»
Mangialibri

Mattia has one peculiar passion, or rather an obsession, for "little men." Not Homo erectus but rather Hominus herectus, a small, not particularly ugly, but definitely hairy and slightly overweight species of man. In other words, a mediocre man. The day Mattia finds the perfect candidate to fulfill his desires is also the day when the travesty of his life reaches a new level of craziness, turning his passion into real torture.

Surprisingly funny and sensual, *Hungry Beasts* is a very eccentric and unusual debut novel.

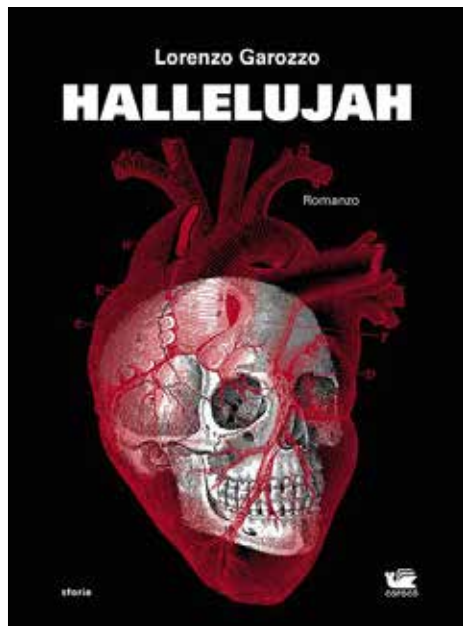
Original Publisher: **CARACÒ** | Genre: **Novel** | Pages: 200 | Release: Jun 2022
Language: Italian | Rights: World



HALLELUJAH

Hallelujah

A nameless man from an ordinary suburbia –
a place as toxic and fierce as himself.



Born in 1982, **LORENZO GAROZZO** is a playwright and a theatre instructor. He also works as a teacher at the University of Brescia. He was a runner-up for the prestigious Premio Riccione in 2013. *Hallelujah* is his debut novel.

«This is the story of a borderline man. However, another central theme is the idea of friendship, as at a certain point, the protagonist encounters a person who will change his life.»

La Provincia

A solitary and malevolent man. He doesn't have a name. He collects debts on behalf of a mafia king and seduces wealthy married women whom he later blackmails. He seemingly has everything yet nothing at the same time.

One day, he attempts to blackmail the wrong woman. She's as fierce, reckless, and perhaps as fragile as he is. Their encounter triggers something within his mind, a small crack that leads to doubts. Perhaps, as Jeff Buckley sang, love can save us all.

Original Publisher: **CARACÒ** | Genre: **Novel** | Pages: 190 | Release: Jan 2023
Language: Italian | Rights: World



Founded in 1995 by Slavist Daniela Di Sora, Voland is a publishing house based in Rome.

Just as the character from Bulgakov's *The Master and Margarita*, Voland's passion is exclusively for good literature.

In 1999 and 2003 they have been presented with Culture Awards by the Italian Government for «their prestigious work in the publishing industry» and their «significant engagement in cultural mediation» through high-level translated titles.

They are the Italian publisher of Belgian author Amélie Nothomb,

In 2021 Voland won the Premio Strega Europeo with *Cronorifugio* by Georgi Gospodinov, and in 2022 they won this prestigious prize again with *Primo sangue* by Amélie Nothomb.

Their catalogue of foreign fiction and non-fiction books is enriched every year by a carefully selected list of Italian authors.

To see their complete catalogue [CLICK HERE](#).

Via di San Benedetto in Arenula, 14 - 00186 Rome (Italy)

Tel. (+39) 06 45496060

redazione@voland.it - www.voland.it

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/volandpage>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/voland_edizioni

IL PESCE DEL TEMPO

The Fish of Time

A call-out to the triviality and monotony of contemporary arts.



The main character in this story is a man who was originally supposed to work solely as an accountant in a contemporary art gallery. However, his duties become progressively more absurd, especially when he is tasked with cataloging the nails, teeth, and hair of a very rude artist. His initial disgust soon transforms into an obsession when he comes to believe that he is the sole individual capable of comprehending the genuine meaning behind a peculiar art piece—a fish constructed from some of the nails that he had cataloged. Now, he must make a decision regarding his next course of action: whether to allow this unusual fascination to consume him or to compel himself to revert to being just an accountant. Circumstances will ultimately dictate his choice.

«Original and
amazing.»
L'Adigetto

For a long time, Yael Artom lived between Italy and Israel. She studied English literature at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and worked for an NGO and Keter Publishing. She now teaches English literature at an international school in Genoa.

Original Publisher: **VOLAND** | Genre: **Novel** | Pages: 208 | Release: Jun 2022
Language: Italian | Rights: World

FOGLIE SPARSE

Scattered Leaves



Russia, August 1917. The revolution is relentless, with murders and aggression escalating, leaving no one safe. Ol'ga Pavlovna Olsufieva makes the difficult decision to leave their country estate just outside Moscow, where she had sought refuge with her five children and two nannies. Her family, one of the most significant and noble in Russia, has long been connected with the Tsars and witnessed the major events of the 19th and 20th centuries. This is the story that Ol'ga imparts to her children during their arduous journey, which will first take them to Moscow and then to Constantinople, Athens, Southern Italy, and, ultimately, almost two years later, to Florence. All the while, history unfolds in the background.

Scattered Leaves is the result of two decades of research by the author, Alessandra Jatta. Beginning with her great-grandmother's journals, she meticulously reconstructed the history of her ancestors and presents us with a novel that is as moving and authentic as only real life can be.

«History is typically
written by the victors,
but with her novel,
Jatta is providing a
voice for the defeated,
offering us a real-life
fairytale from a world
of the past.»

il Venerdì di Repubblica

Born in 1960, ALESSANDRA JATTA works as a translator, interpreter and journalist. She studied Russian language and history at the Sapienza University in Rome and French literature at Sorbonne in Paris.

Original Publisher: **VOLAND** | Genre: **Novel** | Pages: 144 | Release: Feb 2022
Language: Italian | Rights: World

LA MALEDIZIONE DI RASPUTIN *Rasputin's Curse*

Three generations marked by Rasputin's curse.



He's from Russia, and she's from Germany. Their lives and destinies become inexorably entwined due to their love and the necessity to seek refuge from the oppression of tyrannies and the cynicism of democracies. Their journey is marked by private tragedies, Nazi persecutions, political disillusionment, and a lifelong pilgrimage through the Soviet Union, Italy, Germany, Romania, Afghanistan, and Brazil. All of this they must endure in their quest to eventually reunite and seek a means to break free from the curse that has shaped an entire century.

Born in Rome, **SERGIO KRAISKY** worked for more than thirty years as teacher of Italian for foreigners and immigrants. He wrote several "apocryphal novels" about Sherlock Holmes, turned into radio plays for RAI Radio.

Original Publisher: **VOLAND** | Genre: **Novel** | Pages: 256 | Release: Nov 2022
Language: Italian | Rights: World

DNA CHEF *DNA Chef*

«Roberta Lepri wrote an ambitious novel set in the Tremiti islands.»

La Lettura - Corriere della Sera



Guido Nocentini is fully aware that he is destined to become a great chef. His grandfather, Giovanni, a Florentine cook who was confined to the Tremiti islands during the fascist era, is still celebrated by the islanders for a remarkable dish—tagliatelle with sea urchin sauce. This delectable creation is now being served by his grandson at a prestigious London restaurant. Is it mere coincidence or the result of inherited culinary talent? To fulfill his late father's final wishes and seek confirmation of certain intuitions, Guido returns to San Domino, just as the island is on the brink of its first lockdown. Little does he know that an astonishing past awaits him there...

Born in 1965, **ROBERTA LEPRI** has published ten novels and won several literary awards, including Moak, Teramo and Cimitile prizes.

Original Publisher: **VOLAND** | Genre: **Novel** | Pages: 160 | Release: Jan 2023
Language: Italian | Rights: World

STORIA DELLE PRIME VOLTE *A Collection of First Times*

A sophisticated literary game composed of ten cross-border stories where reality and fiction collide and seamlessly blend together.



A young graduate student relocates to Berkeley. A translator is on the brink of meeting her author along the riverfront in Turin. A researcher eagerly awaits her boyfriend in Liguria. A professor meticulously crafts the final chapter of his essay while traveling by train to Rome. A high school teacher pens letters with a Negroni in hand. And then there are more students, graduates, and writers. There's always someone who is either writing, reading, or translating. But could they all be the same person?

Born in Bulgaria, STILIANA MILKOVA teaches Comparative Literature at the Oberlin College, Ohio, and works as a translator. She wrote several essays, including *Elena Ferrante as World Literature*, published in 2021 by Bloomsbury.

Original Publisher: **VOLAND** | Genre: **Novel** | Pages: 112 | Release: Oct 2022
Language: Italian | Rights: World

EREDITÀ COLPEVOLE *Guilty Heritage*

A true story turned into an unsettling noir novel.

IN 2023, DIEGO ZANDEL WAS AWARDED HONORARY CITIZENSHIP IN SERVIGLIANO, WHERE HE RESIDED AS A CHILD FOR FOUR MONTHS IN A REFUGEE CAMP FOR ISTRIAN PEOPLE.



The son of refugees originally hailing from the city of Fiume (Rijeka), located in modern-day Croatia, Guido Lednaz is a journalist who becomes engrossed in the investigation of the murder of Judge La Spina. This homicide has been claimed by a far-right party as retaliation for the acquittal of Josip Strčić, a war criminal who bears a striking resemblance to Oskar Piškulić, Tito's chief of police and the mastermind behind the Foibe massacres. Lednaz embarks on a journey between Rome and Trieste to unearth the truth about one of history's bloodiest events, a journey that will ultimately lead to a profoundly tragic revelation.

«A thriller inspired by the author's own memories.»

Il Piccolo

«An educational heritage for the new generations.»

L'Incontro

«A compelling investigation between Rome and Trieste.»

RTL 102.5

«Diego Zandel expresses himself masterfully.»

Thriller Magazine

DIEGO ZANDEL was born in 1948 in the refugee camp of Servigliano. His parents were Fiumian refugees. He wrote more than twenty novels for several publishing houses, including Mondadori and Mursia. Later, he worked on the 2022 docufilm *Hotel Sarajevo*, produced by Clipper Media and RAI Cinema.

Original Publisher: **VOLAND** | Genre: **Novel** | Pages: 256 | Release: Feb 2023
Language: Italian | Rights: World