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SALONE DEL LIBRO DI TORINO 2025

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- **Otago Focus** [3](#)
- **Otago Selection** [20](#)
- **Voland Highlights** [31](#)

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

FOCUS

VALERIO AIOLLI

«I WAS GLAD TO FIND ONCE AGAIN HIS CLEAR, UNWAVERING VOICE IN PORTOFINO BLUES—THAT STUBBORN REFUSAL TO FLINCH BEFORE CONTRADICTIONS, DOUBTS, THE SHADOWS THAT SHROUD OUR COUNTRY. THIS TIME, IT CARRIES HER INTO ANOTHER STORY WITHOUT CLOSURE, WITHOUT PEACE: THE DISAPPEARANCE, IN 2001, OF COUNTESS VACCA AGUSTA, WHO VANISHED INTO THE SEA FROM THE EDGE OF HER CLIFFSIDE VILLA.»

From the statement supporting Laura Bosio's nomination for the Strega Prize.

VALERIO AIOLLI was born in 1961 in Florence, where he lives. With his first novel, *Io e mio fratello* (e/o, 1999; published in Germany, The Netherlands, and Hungary), he won the Fiesole Prize and was longlisted for the Strega Prize. His other books are *Luce profuga* (e/o, 2001), *A rotta di collo* (e/o, 2002; winner of the Giusti Prize), *Fuori tempo* (Rizzoli, 2004), *Lo stesso vento* (Volland, 2016), *Nero ananas* (Volland, 2019), longlisted for the Strega Prize, and *Radio Magia* (minimum fax, 2023).



Some of his titles:

2025: *Portofino blues*, Italy (Volland)

2023: *Radio Magia*, Italy (minimum fax)

2019: *Nero ananas*, Italy (Volland)

2016: *Lo stesso vento*, Italy (Volland)

2007: *Ali di sabbia*, Italy (Alet)

2004: *Fuori tempo*, Italy (Rizzoli)

2002: *A rotta di collo*, Italy (e/o)

2001: *Luce profuga*, Italy (e/o)

1999: *Io e mio fratello*, Italy (e/o), Germany, The Netherlands, Hungary





PORTOFINO BLUES

Portofino Blues

A novel as tight as a noir and as expansive as a fresco, where Truman Capote's Swans meet their Italian counterparts in a whirlwind of gossip, love affairs, political intrigue, and industrial power games.



Longlisted for the
Premio Strega 2025



READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

«A clear and luminous prose, capable of shedding light on hidden shadows, delving into the human soul, and bringing us close to the people it portrays.»

MARCO VICHI, *La Nazione*

«The case of Countess Agusta has all the hallmarks of an Agatha Christie-style mystery novel.»

la Repubblica

«Francesca è stata ammazzata»

Il fratello della contessa Vacca Agusta parla apertamente di omicidio

Tutti ingredienti di una vicenda che sta facendo discutere e sta accendendo la fantasia dei cronisti: La villa, un triangolo misterioso, una vita intensa. Ma gli investigatori pensano anche al suicidio



Longlisted for the Premio Strega 2025, this spectacular blend of biography, true crime, and social commentary is written in a compelling prose that moves fluidly across genres and timelines. At its center is the larger-than-life figure of Countess Francesca Vacca Agusta, la dolce vita's most enigmatic star. From her rise to fame through marriage, to the excesses of a life lived under the spotlight, and ultimately, her mysterious death. On January 8, 2001, the millionaire socialite vanished from her luxurious villa in Portofino. She was drunk, depressed, and wearing only a bathrobe and slippers. She said she was going for a swim. Her body was later found off the coast of France. Suicide? Murder? No one truly knows what happened to her, even now. That mystery is what inspired Valerio Aioli to write a novel that "takes the facts of reality, breaks them down, reassembles them, and uses them to build a vast narrative that reflects the story of Italy over the past few decades" («Corriere della Sera»).

ALESSIO ARENA

BLENDING MUSIC AND LITERATURE, ITALIAN AND SPANISH CULTURE, AND A DEEP SENSITIVITY TO LANGUAGE, ALESSIO ARENA IS ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTEMPORARY WRITERS OF ITALIAN MAGIC REALISM

ALESSIO ARENA was born in Naples in 1984 and currently resides in Barcelona. 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 introduced Italian readers to works such as Alejandro Palomas' *Una madre* and *Un hijo*. In the music world, he has received numerous accolades, including the Andrea Parodi World Music Prize in 2021.

His previous novels, published by Fandango Libri, include *La notte non vuole venire* (2018; new edition 2025) and *Ninna nanna delle mosche* (2021), the latter of which won the **Premio Procida-Isola di Arturo-Elsa Morante** and will be published in the Dutch language in 2025.

His website is: www.alessioarena.com.



Some of his titles:

2025: *Il sesso degli alberi*, Italy (Fandango)

2021: *Ninna nanna delle mosche*, Italy (Fandango), The Netherlands/Belgium
(Borgerhoff & Lambergts)

2018-2025: *La notte non vuole venire*, Italy (Fandango)

2014: *La letteratura tamil a Napoli*, Italy (Neri Pozza)





IL SESSO DEGLI ALBERI

Sexing the Trees

A lyrical blend of magic realism and Spanish-Italian culture, his new novel follows an angelic-voiced—and queer—boy on a quest for his true identity, guided by a mysterious bond with trees and two delightfully peculiar aunts.



READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

«A story that feels like it could have come from a Roberto De Simone tale, reimagined through the visionary lens of Pedro Almodóvar.

Il sesso degli alberi is a novel of symbols—speaking and falling silent, communicating and converging—ultimately shaping a fate that is both troubled and, in the end, fulfilled.»

Il Mattino

Naples, 1980s. Matteo is eleven years old and comes from a stagnant Spanish town. He has grown up without the love of his parents, who cared only for his angelic, almost miraculous voice. When his father disappears, his mother sends him to Naples, where he is taken in by two eccentric aunts obsessed with botany, music, and the mystical numbers of the *Smorfia*.

There, Matteo discovers he is a descendant of Matteuccio, one of the greatest Neapolitan singers of the seventeenth century, who was (partially) castrated. But beyond his extraordinary gift for singing, Matteo harbors a mysterious connection to trees—he seems to understand their language and even their gender. As he embarks on a journey of self-discovery, he longs for a sense of belonging—both within his own body and in a new, unconventional family, made up of his inseparable friend, Elisangela, whose roots are in the Camorra, and the queer community of Naples' historic center.

Original Publisher: **FANDANGO** | Genre: **Novel** | Pages: 348 | Release: Feb 2025
Language: Italian | Rights: World

LONG SPANISH SAMPLE AVAILABLE

VITO DI BATTISTA

PUBLISHED BY FELTRINELLI, THE NEW NOVEL IS A FAMILY SAGA SET IN A MID-20TH-CENTURY SEASIDE VILLAGE, WHERE MAGIC REALISM BLENDS WITH TRUE STORIES AND COMETS FALL FROM THE SKY—BRINGING NEW LIFE, UPHEAVAL, AND EVEN DEVASTATION

PRAISE FOR PREVIOUS NOVEL, *IL BUON USO DELLA DISTANZA* (MAKING GOOD USE OF DISTANCE):

«It is worth following the author down this road and realizing that there is an idea in this novel, as well as beautiful writing to convey it. One could ask for more from a book, but not much more.»

PIERGIORGIO PATERLINI, *Robinson* – *la Repubblica*

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 for the literary magazine *Nuovi Argomenti* (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* (Gallucci, 2023), won the 'Premio Iannas' 2024. It was also shortlisted for 'Premio Letteraria', 'Premio Zeno' and 'Premio Nabokov', and longlisted for 'Fiesole Narrativa Under 40' award 2024; in 2025, translation rights have been sold to Editora Rua do Sabão (Brazil).

His new novel, *Dove cadono le comete*, is out with Feltrinelli in June 2025.



His works:

- 2025: *Dove cadono le comete*, Italy (Feltrinelli)
- 2023: *Il buon uso della distanza*, Italy (Gallucci)
- 2018: *L'ultima diva dice addio*, Italy (SEM)



COMING
SOON!

o t a g o

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DOVE CADONO LE COMETE

We Know a Place Where Comets Fall

Written in immersive, hypnotic prose and narrated through the voices of the village, this novel is inspired by the true chronicle of the author's family.



Set in a seaside village in central-southern Italy from the '30s to the '60s, this family saga follows a girl twice disgraced, a young man who finds solace in writing poetry and plays, a woman trapped by tragic fate, and a baby girl whose life might have been different—if only her father had allowed it.



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

DETAILED
ENGLISH
SUMMARY
AVAILABLE

Feltrinelli acquired the rights based solely on the synopsis and a short sample.

A hilltop village in the Abruzzo region, where many peculiar lives unfold.

First, there's Emma, a young farm girl. She knows the secrets of herbs—and perhaps can even see the dead—but never reveals her true thoughts. Abandoned by her fiancé when she became pregnant and cast out by her family, she now lives in a stable like a forgotten animal. After giving birth to a stillborn child, she finds herself pregnant again, with no choice but to give the baby up for adoption.

Then there's Anita, a sharp and well-mannered young woman with striking blonde hair. Once destined for a perfect life as a wife, a tragic accident in her father's bakery cost her an arm and condemned her to spinsterhood.

Next is Olimpo, who broke with family tradition, refusing to become a cobbler. Instead, he pursued writing, earning his living as a civil registry clerk and journalist.

Finally, there's Bianca, a little girl haunted by a voice constantly singing in her head. She was meant to be adopted by a wealthy family, but her father decided to keep her.

May 1938. Now married, Anita and Olimpo have a one-year-old son when Anita gives birth to a baby girl. A wealthy landowner asks Olimpo to adopt the girl as his own, since he and his wife are unable to conceive. Though Anita manages everything with just one arm, two children are a lot to handle. But Olimpo refuses. He names his daughter Bianca—after the color of comets—and vows to raise her with all the love he can offer. However, Anita doesn't have enough milk for both children. Olimpo approaches Emma with a proposal: she will live in the village to nurse Bianca and support Anita. And so, little Bianca grows up with two mothers, yet she will always feel that neither truly belongs to her.

This is only the beginning of a tale that spans an entire village—one deeply scarred by war when it finds itself on the front lines. It's a story of choices and secrets, of traditions and revolutions. A story of how pride can change the course of a life, and of comets that, when least expected, arrive or return, turning everything into a different story altogether.

Original Publisher: **FELTRINELLI** | Genre: **Novel** | Pages: 350 | Release: Jun 2025
Language: Italian | Rights: World



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.



RIGHTS SOLD TO BRAZIL IN 2025

«Splendours and miseries of the
publishing world».
RAI Cultura

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

WINNER OF THE 'PREMIO IANNAS' 2024

SHORTLISTED FOR 'PREMIO LETTERARIA', 'PREMIO ZENO', AND 'PREMIO NABOKOV',
LONGLISTED FOR 'PREMIO FIESOLE NARRATIVA UNDER 40' AND 'PREMIO ZENO' 2024

«A novel that proudly distinguishes itself, with original and masterful writing, from the commercial and narrative trends that often dominate the contemporary literary mainstream. In Pierre Renard's endless string of debuts (evoking a nearly namesake character from Borges), tragedy and irony intertwine, delving into the soul and the deepest nightmares of what it means to be a writer. A cast of unforgettable characters and a plot reminiscent of 19th-century novels give this work a rare strength and integrity, marking it as a truly unique piece destined to leave a lasting impact.»

Premio Iannas' Jury

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 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 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 eventually Pierre 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: 396 | Release: Nov 2023
Language: Italian | Rights: World | Sold to: **Brazil** (Rua do Sabão)

THIRD REPRINT!

VERONICA GALLETTA

THE HIGHLY ANTICIPATED NEW BOOK BY THE WINNER OF THE PREMIO CAMPIELLO
FOR DEBUT NOVEL AND FINALIST FOR THE PREMIO STREGA

«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**'; in 2025, translation rights have been **sold to Editora Rua do Sabão (Brazil)**.

Her latest novels, set in the imaginary Sicilian village of Santafarra, are *Pelleossa* (2023) and *Malotempo* (2025), both published by minimum fax.

You can find more about her work on her website: www.veronicagalletta.it.



Her works:

- 2025: *Malotempo*, Italy (minimum fax)
- 2023: *Pelleossa*, Italy (minimum fax)
- 2021: *Nina sull'argine*, Italy (minimum fax)
- 2020: *Le isole di Norman*, Italy (Italo Svevo)





MALOTEMPO

Malotempo

The story of a small village in 1960s Sicily, an entire country, and a man confronting his roots—each teetering between the past and present, shattered dreams and the march of progress.



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

PRAISE FOR HIS PREVIOUS NOVEL:

«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

«Veronica Galletta masterfully and naturally dominates the architecture of his tales, as well as the plots that hold together places and characters, as evident in 'Pelleossa' where he manages to orchestrate around sixty characters moving within the imaginary town of Santafarra, intertwining their stories with History.»

il manifesto

Sicily, 1967. Paolino Rasura, a thirty-year-old man living in Palermo with his family, has failed to live up to his childhood dream. After the death of Filippu, the sculptor who instilled in him a love for art, Paolino returns to his hometown. This becomes an opportunity to pick up the pieces of his past, but he finds only broken fragments. He feels like a stranger, even among his siblings, and can no longer connect with the stone heads once sculpted by Filippu, which used to speak to him when he was a child. Instead, these sculptures now resonate with a group of kids led by the spirited Francesca. With the heads of Rachel Carson and Federico Garcia Lorca as her guides, this girl is trying to prevent the construction of a highway that would lead to the expropriation of the Garden and the demolition of its statues.

A transformation is underway, and while Paolino watches with resentment as others live the life he once dreamed of, the town becomes the stage for vast real estate speculations, illegal trades, mysterious antique dealers, and buried secrets that threaten to tear everything apart.

PELLEOSSA

Skin and Bones

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.



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).

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.

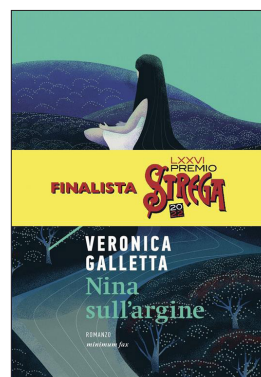
NINA SULL'ARGINE

Nina on the River Bank

«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

RIGHTS SOLD
TO BRAZIL IN 2025



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.



READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

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

Original Publisher: **MINIMUM FAX** | Genre: **Novel** | Pages: 220 |
Release: Oct 2021
Language: Italian | Rights: World | Sold to: **Brazil** (Rua do Sabão)

+ 15,000 COPIES SOLD
Edition for kiosk in Summer 2023



READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

MARTINO GIORDANO

A MESMERIZING DEBUT NOVEL ABOUT QUEER LIVES

Born in Palermo in 1997, MARTINO GIORDANO is a transgender author. He graduated in Literature and spent a year in Prague. He later studied at the **Scuola Holden** in Turin (founded and directed by Alessandro Baricco), where he currently lives while pursuing a **master's degree in Comparative Literature**. He has **written about Pajtim Statovci** for «SuccedeOggi», and one of his short stories is featured in the anthology *Quasi di nascosto*, a collection of works by authors under 25, published by Accento. His debut novel, *Variazioni sul tema*, is published by Solferino as part of a series curated by renowned journalist, author, and Premio Strega finalist Teresa Ciabatti.





VARIAZIONI SUL TEMA

Variations on a Theme

A tale of two lives adrift but not without hope, weaving together and pursuing one another in a subtle and unstoppable crescendo, until a final revelation uncovers what truly binds them.



DETAILED
ENGLISH
SUMMARY
AVAILABLE



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

«“The body is a ticking time bomb, speed is loneliness.” In his striking debut about intertwined queer lives, the Sicilian author captures the restless drift of Gen Z, lost in a world that doesn’t seem to fit.»

il Venerdì di Repubblica

Martino Giordano’s debut is a mature, self-aware, intimate, and gripping exploration of twenty-something queer individuals seeking meaningful connections. It delves into their struggles to find one another or their belief that they’ve met someone who genuinely recognizes them, leading to profound self-discovery.

Lidia, a 23-year-old student at the Sicilian Conservatory of Palermo, lives a seemingly perfect life with a supportive family, a loving girlfriend named Dalila, and a privileged position in the city’s elegant society. As she prepares for a crucial audition with the Berliner Philharmoniker, she grapples with an inner voice revealing that she feels trapped in the wrong body. Struggling with self-harm and doubts about transitioning, she risks both her audition and her future with Dalila.

Parallel to Lidia’s story is Leo, a young man new to Prague, trying to make sense of his unfamiliar surroundings. Living in a motel and wrestling with his sexuality, Leo becomes enthralled by a drag queen named Selene. After being assaulted and hospitalized, Leo finds solace with Selene, who turns out to be Lucien. Their turbulent relationship exposes their deep-seated struggles and the impact of their past decisions. As their stories converge, Lidia and Leo’s experiences intertwine in a shared journey of transformation and self-discovery.

LAURA GRAMUGLIA

THE NEW BOOK BY A DJ, ACTIVIST, AND FEMINIST WHO DELVES INTO THE LIVES OF WOMEN—including her own—to understand where the world is headed, or where it has already gone



Speaker, dj, podcaster, and author, Laura Gramuglia worked on Radio DeeJay, and on Radio Capital. She also collaborates with Swiss radio and television RSI. She wrote about music and women on «Rolling Stone», «Tu Style», «Futura – Corriere della Sera», and she took part to the launch of Spreaker, an international podcast platform.

She is a member of shesaid.so, a global community of women and gender minorities in the music industry. Her backlist includes titles such as *Rock in Love. 69 love stories* (translated into Turkish), *Pop Style* and *Bad habits. Eroticism in Pop*, all published by Arcana. Her latest book, *Rocket Girls*, has been published by Fabbri in Italy and by Belas Letras in Brazil.



Some of her titles:

- 2025: *Contro il matrimonio*, Italy (EDT)
- 2019: *Rocket Girls*, Italy (Fabbri), Brazil (Belas Letras)
- 2017: *Hot Stuff*, Italy (Arcana)
- 2014: *Pop Style*, Italy (Arcana)
- 2012: *Rock in Love*, Italy (Arcana), Turkey (Affectum Libris)



CONTRO IL MATRIMONIO

Against Marriage. A Guide for Girls: Then, Now, and Beyond

A journey through the stories of women in search of their other half, and others who believe they are already whole.



READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

Laura Gramuglia is the creator and curator of the “La Città delle Donne” festival in Bologna: talks, meetings, workshops, and performances to shape a city tailored for women.

Her podcast *Rocket Girls* won the MEI-Musicletter award for Best Podcast of the Year.

Is marriage really the perfect choice for women seeking happiness? Or is there another way? This is a guide for girls who want to challenge societal expectations and make their own decisions.

Virginia Woolf once said, “It is far harder to kill a phantom than a reality.” Nearly a century later, these words still ring true. The conventions that once confined women to domestic roles continue to shape our thinking today, both practically and mentally. Books, movies, and fairy tales taught us that marriage is the ultimate happily-ever-after, or, in some cases, a tale of submission and disillusionment. But challenging the traditional notion of marriage often feels like a taboo. It’s time for a new perspective—one that celebrates diverse ways of forming relationships and affirms everyone’s right to choose their own path.

Against Marriage. A Guide for Girls: Then, Now, and Beyond explores the stories of various couples—both past and present—whose relationships range from strong to fragile, offering insights into how to navigate love, partnership, and independence.

MICHELA PANICHI

BORN IN 2000, WINNER OF THE PREMIO CAMPIELLO GIOVANI AND FINALIST FOR THE PREMIO ITALO CALVINO, MICHELA PANICHI IS ONE OF THE MOST PROMISING YOUNG VOICES IN ITALIAN LITERATURE

MICHELA PANICHI was born in Naples in 2000. She graduated in Literature from the universities of Naples and Bologna and is currently pursuing a **master's in Serial Fiction Writing at RAI** in Perugia. In 2020, she **won the Campiello Giovani** with her short story *Meduse*. Another of her stories was included in the 2022 anthology *Quasi di nascosto*, published by Accento Edizioni. In 2024, her novel *La Cecilia* was a **finalist for the Premio Calvino**.

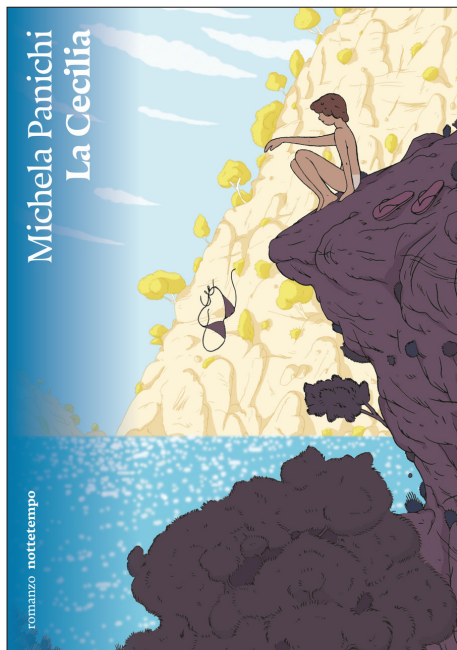




LA CECILIA

Caecilia

The upheavals of adolescence through the story of a thirteen-year-old questioning how well her body represents who she truly is.



DETAILED
ENGLISH
SUMMARY
AVAILABLE



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

A delicate and powerful queer debut novel, already a finalist for the 2024 Premio Italo Calvino, Italy's most prestigious award for unpublished authors.

«In a novel, the word is queen, and in this case, the value of the writing is undeniable, as is the unique ability to analyze family dynamics and adolescent relationships. [...] A memorable summer leaves Cecilia with a bittersweet taste, realizing that nature seems unbiased and open to every possibility.»

PREMIO CALVINO'S JURY

Ischia, a small island off Naples, in the late 1990s. At thirteen, Cecilia's body seems unready to grow, just as she struggles to understand who she truly is. Sharing her name with a South American amphibian that is both male and female feels like more than a coincidence.

As the summer unfolds, Cecilia navigates sun-drenched beaches, daring cliff dives, solitary moments, and innocent transgressions. Confused and grappling with her awkward age, she uncovers the true shape of her world: her beloved father reveals secrets and betrayals; her mother shows an unexpected side; and a new group of friends mistakes her for a boy due to her undeveloped body. Adopting the name Luca and using a silicone cup to maintain the ruse, Cecilia is unsettled by Alba, an older girl who shows unexpected interest in her. Through Alba, Cecilia faces the darkness of sex and the hypocrisy of social conventions in a timeless summer that will change her forever.

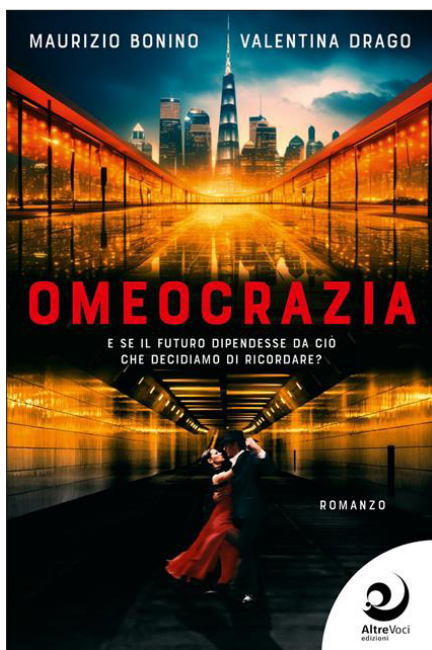
SELECTION



OMEOCRAZIA

Homeocracy

A gripping, thought-provoking, and disarming sci-fi novel that explores the boundary between past and future, identity and destiny, offering a glimpse into the fleeting abundance of youth and the potential pitfalls of our society.



ENGLISH
SAMPLE
AVAILABLE

MAURIZIO BONINO, a Turin-born film director, mechanic, and tech expert, is part of a female-led team developing an app for neurodivergence.

VALENTINA DRAGO, a math graduate from Turin with Sicilian roots, works as an autism advocate and manages a historic bocce club. She's involved in a neurodivergence project and collaborates with young autistic influencers leading a quiet revolution on social media.

Shortlisted for Premio Calvino.

What if the future depended on what we choose to remember?

New Year 18 of the Homeocratic Society, Turin. Life is governed by a simple equation: 28,317 days of conscious happiness, after which energy is returned. Filippo Orsi, a brilliant scientist at CRESO, has one mission: to perfect this mechanism and extend human life. In a society that has left the Anthropocene behind for a future of homeostatic balance, his work is crucial. But his mind is haunted by enigmatic dreams of a woman named Margherita, who seems to belong to a forgotten era.

When Aldo introduces him to the Milonga, Filippo discovers a hidden world where the thirdborn of the old order live in contrast to the new society. Here, amid tango, wine, and tales of a forgotten past, he meets Malena, for whom he feels an unexpected fascination. From that moment on, dreams start to overlap with reality: who is this woman? What connection does she have with Margherita? And what terrible secrets lie within the old blu-ray his father gave him?

The truth is far from within reach, and Filippo must decide whether to leave behind what's lost or embrace the present and its challenges.

Original Publisher: **ALTREVOCI** | Genre: **Sci-fi Novel** | Pages: 360 | Release: Apr 2025
Language: Italian | Rights: World

FULL MANUSCRIPT AVAILABLE SOON



L'ULTIMA CROCIERA

The Last Cruise

An intimate novel about the “forgotten tragedy” of the Arandora Star, sunk by a German submarine with over 1,500 “enemy aliens” on board as it sailed from Liverpool to Canada.

With a steady, precise hand, attuned to every emotional nuance and unflinching in the face of historical trauma, Chiara Clini has crafted a captivating page-turner. World War II, anti-fascism, Judaism, and a love story fraught with tribulations yet culminating in a hopeful ending all converge in this gripping and deeply researched novel.



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

DETAILED
ENGLISH
SUMMARY
AVAILABLE

CHIARA CLINI graduated in acting from the Accademia dei Filodrammatici in Milan and has performed in various national theaters. She earned a degree in Literature from Ca' Foscari University and a master's in Screenwriting from Università Cattolica. She has written for popular TV series and directed plays at Teatro Goldoni and Teatro La Fenice.

England, Summer 1940. Jacopo Abramo Errera, a young Jewish socialist and correspondent for the Foreign Office at the BBC, has fled Venice for London due to racial laws. On June 10th, he is arrested with other Italians and taken to an abandoned school for interrogation, where he meets Harriet Smith, a secretary at the Alien Committee responsible for “enemy aliens.”

Harriet, a timid and insecure woman, lives with her son Ismay and her best friend and lover Julie, who has helped her after Ismay's father abandoned them. Despite Harriet's struggles, she and Jacopo form a deep connection, sparking hope in their bleak situation.

However, Jacopo is mistakenly interned in a prison camp in Bury, where conditions are dire. Harriet, driven by her feelings for him, travels to Bury but finds that Jacopo and other prisoners have been moved to Liverpool to board a ship bound for Canada. They meet briefly before Jacopo boards the Arandora Star, a ship intended for fewer than 400 passengers but now carrying over 1,500 men. The Nazi captain Gunther Prien attacks the ship, causing the deaths of more than 800 people, including 466 Italians. Jacopo survives and spends a month in a Glasgow military hospital. Harriet, determined to reunite with Jacopo, learns of the attack and resolves to find him.

Original Publisher: **PIEMME** | Genre: **Novel** | Pages: 350 | Release: Oct 2024
Language: Italian | Rights: World

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: Cicely Saunders.



AN AMAZON BESTSELLER!
+12,000 COPIES SOLD

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.

WINNER OF THE 'PREMIO COMISSO' 2024

«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

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 39, 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.



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

Original Publisher: **BOMPIANI** | Genre: **Biographical Novel** | Pages: 424 |
Release: Oct 2023
Language: Italian | Rights: World

FOURTH REPRINT!



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SUMMARY



SOTTOTERRA

Underground

A novel that lies at the crossroads of Italian-style giallo and noir, Lovecraftian horror, the creeping dread of Stephen King's *It*, and the unsettling suspense of Netflix's *The Watcher*.

A magnetic and unsettling story set in a small Italian village, where the echoes of its fascist past and a secret buried for decades rise to the surface. Literally.



ENGLISH
SAMPLE
AVAILABLE

Born in 1983, **FABIO FERRARI** lives near Ravenna. He won the 10th edition of Premio Inedito with *Lezioni di lingua*, and his short story *Origine* was published in the *Racconti di Milleparole* anthology. This is his debut novel.

After a year of wandering following his wife's death, Remo stumbles upon the seemingly peaceful village of Lorino, hoping it will bring him some peace. However, the welcome he receives is far from warm: from his first encounter with Giuseppe, the local innkeeper, it's clear that Lorino isn't fond of outsiders. Things take a darker turn when Remo learns that the local nutria population has burrowed a network of underground tunnels, and some believe that the land sometimes swallows things. Children speak of an underground city, convinced that their relatives, including Giuseppe's brother Paolo, live there. Though the village strictly forbids any digging, strange green lights, called "leccafossi," sometimes wander the fields at night.

The tension escalates when a couple vanishes, and Remo, after finding their bodies in a pit, earns the villagers' ire. But the oddities don't stop there—mysterious disappearances, families raising fungi and parasites, and anonymous letters filled with unsettling newspaper clippings all hint at something much darker. Remo soon realizes that Lorino hides a chilling secret—one that's tied to a fascist-era truck filled with confiscated wedding rings, which, as the story goes, sank into the swamp that once covered the area.

Original Publisher: **8TTO** | Genre: **Novel** | Pages: 280 | Release: May 2025
Language: Italian | Rights: World

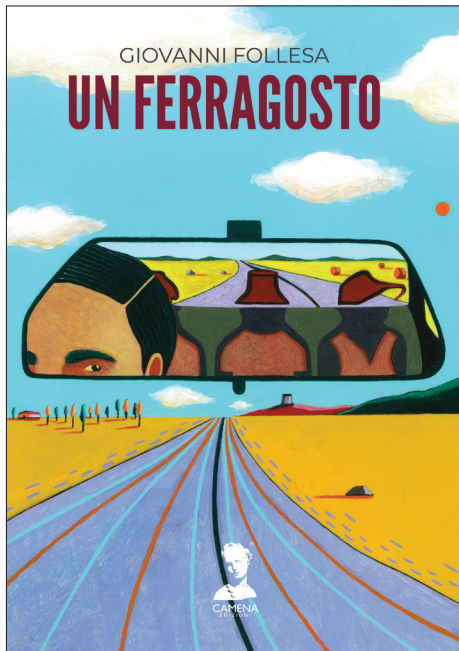
FULL MANUSCRIPT AVAILABLE SOON



UN FERRAGOSTO

A Ferragosto Day

To understand what others really think of him, the president of the Sardinia region signs up for BlaBlaCar and embarks on a journey with strangers.



ENGLISH
SAMPLE
AVAILABLE

GIOVANNI FOLLESA (b. 1969) is an Italian writer, journalist, and screenwriter, and a professor of Mass Media Theory and Methods at the Brera Academy in Milan. He is the artistic director of the Mont'e Prama and Monreale Literary Festivals, and co-director of Rainbook.

His latest book, *Yes, I Do: Stories of Civil Unions in Italy* (People, 2023), has a foreword by Nichi Vendola.

«A portrait, both tender and ruthless, of power, reminding us that rulers and the ruled are in the same boat (which, in this case, could even be a BlaBlaCar).

Only by stepping into the shoes of those governed can one truly understand those in power. This novel should be included in school curriculums and read in classrooms.».

Mescalina

What is political power, really? And what exactly do the three buttons on a mysterious control panel—accessible only to the regional president—actually control? Giorgio Sercinu has been elected governor of Sardinia. A year after taking office, he finds himself in the midst of both a political and personal crisis. Seeking a direct connection with ordinary people, he signs up under the alias “Lorenzo” on BlaBlaCar. Disguised, he spends several days driving across the island in the company of fellow travelers.

The story follows his final journey—on the scorching Ferragosto holiday in the height of summer. Riding with him are Bastiano, a recent philosophy graduate who, desperate for work, has joined the Sassari Brigade; Manuel, a young art student in Sassari who has the rare gift of drawing people as they truly are; and Ersilia, a flamboyant, eccentric elderly noblewoman from Cagliari.

Over the course of the day, Giorgio will come face to face with the soul of Sardinia—and with his own. From the ancient Nuraghe Losa to the ghostly village of Lollove, his vision of the world will be challenged and transformed.



CHIUDI GLI OCCHI, NINA

Close Your Eyes, Nina

The sincere and intimate tale of a family bond that transcends blood ties.

SHORTLISTED OF THE 'PREMIO WONDY' 2025

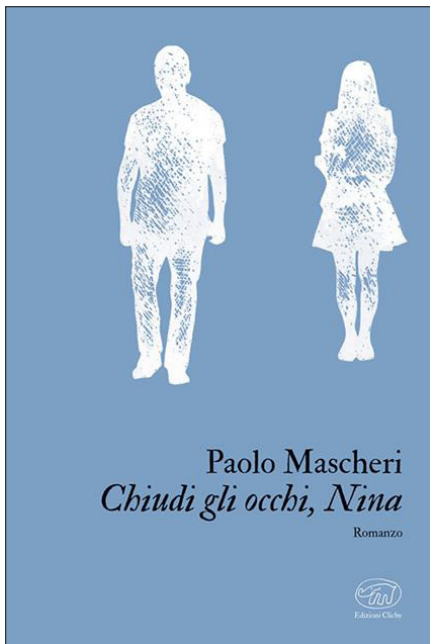
Chiudi gli occhi, Nina is a poignant tale, at once tender and profound. It navigates the complexities of modern family dynamics, exploring relationships that transcend biological ties. With sensitivity and insight, Paolo Mascheri masterfully depicts the bonds and pains that shape human connection, painting a vivid portrait of a few essential characters in a microcosm of life.

«Mascheri investigates paternal love».

La Nazione

«A homeopathic novel that teaches us how we can only heal from pain through pain».

Corriere della Sera



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

PAOLO MASCHERI (1978) lives in Tuscany. He is hailed by literary critics such as Filippo La Porta and Andrea Di Consoli as one of the finest writers of his generation. Mascheri made his literary debut at a remarkably young age with the collection of short stories *Poliuretano*. In 2008, his novel *Il gregario*, published by minimum fax, earned him the Perelà Prize. In 2021, he released the novel *L'albero delle farfalle* through peQuod.

Andrea earns his living as a gardener, seeking solace amidst the serene beauty of the Tuscan countryside. Shy and introspective, he finds himself in harmony with the tranquility that envelops him. However, tragedy strikes when his wife, Chiara, suddenly passes away, leaving Andrea to care for Nina, Chiara's daughter from a previous relationship. Nina embodies the innocence and curiosity of an eleven-year-old girl, and Andrea strives to maintain a sense of normalcy in their lives. He shields her from the harsh reality of her mother's death, confiding only in one of Chiara's former colleagues. Just as Andrea and Nina begin to find their footing, Nina's biological father resurfaces from Venezuela, where he now lives with his new partner. His desire to reconnect with Nina threatens to disrupt the fragile balance Andrea has worked so hard to maintain. Caught in a delicate balancing act, Andrea grapples with the dilemma of how much he should intervene in Nina's life. Can he protect her while respecting her father's right to be a part of her life?

LA CONCA BUIA

A Valley in the Dark

A story of petty Italian politics and unburied family resentments.



READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

«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 approach, Mayor Franco Gavaglià fears losing his job. Years of indulgent lunches have left him far from the rugged mountain man that voters admire. To win them back, he needs an Alpine hero—someone like his father.

However, his father is a cruel and selfish man who tormented his family. In politics, truth is often secondary, and Franco, a master of deception, must persuade him to attend campaign events. When sedation fails, Franco enlists his daughter Leda, the only one who can calm her grandfather. As tensions rise, Franco proves he'll do whatever it takes to win.

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

CLAUDIO MORANDINI is an accomplished writer with works that include radio plays, theater monologues, and numerous novels. His novels are translated into several languages. In his career, he has won numerous literary awards in Italy, France, and the UK.

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

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
BESTSELLERS 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.

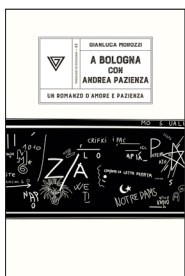
Snow, Dog, Foot is a unique little book that captivates readers with its intriguing characters and their sardonic wisdom.

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

A BOLOGNA CON ANDREA PAZIENZA

Walking in Bologna with Andrea Pazienza

The novel traces the Bologna experienced
by the great comic artist Andrea Pazienza.



Andrea Pazienza (1956-1988), a legendary Italian cartoonist and graphic novelist, is celebrated for his bold, subversive, and deeply personal works. His most famous characters, such as Pentothal and Pompeo, have become iconic in Italian underground comics, often mirroring the political and cultural upheavals of 1970s Italy. Pazienza's groundbreaking style and fearless storytelling have left an indelible mark on Italian visual arts and literature, securing his place as an enduring and influential figure in contemporary art and culture.

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.



CHE FINE HA FATTO LA NEVE?

What Became of Snow?

A wide-ranging novel with an unpredictable interweaving
of stories and characters, vivid and convincing.

«Morozzi really knows how to make you laugh».
il Venerdì di Repubblica

«A breezy and rousing writing.»
Wired



Vilo Vulcano owns a small bookstore in the center of Bologna, which is also his home and office. Struggling with debts, he has a bed in the back of the bookstore and a desk in the rest of the space. Very clandestinely, Vilo Vulcano works as a private investigator too. Anyone with an absurd case to solve asks around, and sooner or later, they find him. He always says yes, even though he has no investigative techniques or the constitution for it. To solve cases, he relies on Star Trek episodes for inspiration or on an illiterate woman named Remedios, a nomad who has enlightening visions during moments of orgasm. As for the physical aspect of the matter, Vilo gets help from one of the few regular customers of his bookstore, a gigantic metalhead known as the Dreadful, who doesn't hesitate to act as his hefty Watson.

Vilo has a buried secret from his childhood: in the basements of his building, where he used to play with his little friend Snow, something horrible and inexplicable happened. Snow disappeared without a trace, never to be found again, and young Vilo, who remembers nothing, suffered terrible wounds. The scars from those wounds make it impossible for him to have sexual relations without experiencing excruciating pain. Furthermore, Vilo has a rare condition (Urbach-Wiethe disease): he cannot feel fear. He knows danger, he can identify it, but panic, terror, or even simple fear never touch him. He faces the most unsettling cases with absolute clarity.





ADDIO ARRIVEDERCI CIAO

Goodbye, See You, Hi

A tale of the mind's struggle between change and the comfort of stability. In this tension of progress and memory, we remain our own greatest obstacle.



ENGLISH
SAMPLE
AVAILABLE

Born in Naples and raised in San Giorgio a Cremano, **FRANCESCO SPIEDO** is a non-practicing engineer. His works have appeared in numerous literary magazines, as well as online and in various anthologies. He is the founder of Itaca Colonia Creativa, where he focuses on creative writing and works as a ghostwriter. So far, he has written three novels, all published by Fandango. **His debut novel will be published in Argentina in November 2024.**

«A modern tale, more gray than dark, centered on the protagonist's restlessness».

Satisficcion

«A fluid and adventurous novella. But above all, generational».

Crítica Letteraria

«Through a masterful portrayal of the universality of human emotions, the dehumanization of the individual, and the desire to reflect on the human condition in a universal rather than specific way, Francesco Spiedo creates a work that offers new insights with every rereading».

Limina

S. has had enough of the city and its rules, the same old company, and the routine that drives him. He's tired and ready for a change. He's planned a departure—the latest in a lifetime of many—but this time it feels different, final. The decision is made. With one last party, he bids his friends farewell. He won't be coming back.

Yet, the moment he finds himself alone, ready to cross the threshold and leave home behind, his departure turns into a journey on the edge of the surreal—an odyssey through a reality that bends to the laws of a new logic. Urban spaces dissolve, giving way to an out-of-place fauna. Streets, buildings, monuments—the very coordinates of his memory—blur and merge with impossible landscapes, other lives, alien presences.

At the precise moment when he should be leaving and forgetting, S. instead remembers. He remembers everything.



SOLO I SANTI NON PENSANO

Saints Don't Think

A poignant, unapologetic, and emotionally gripping literary debut.



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE

MATTIA TORTELLI (1996) was born in Milan. He works as a primary school teacher and a basketball coach for children. Additionally, he's blogger and podcaster, he serves as a cultural promoter in bookstores and libraries, and manages communications for the Italian publishing house Utopia. He has published short stories in numerous literary magazines. *Solo i santi non pensano* is his debut novel.

«I wrote it while listening to the soundtrack of the TV series *The Leftovers*.»
from the interview with the author on *Il Libraio*

«The theme of work emerges, even if it's not central, along with the struggles of a generation of thirty-somethings who are merely surviving. The novel delves into the relationship with memories and explores plant cuttings as a metaphor for the possibility of becoming something different while still carrying the cells of our parents. It discusses motherhood and being a child, care as a solution, overcoming trauma, and the exploration and reclamation of our bodies.»

Universo Letterario

With a poetic and “painterly” prose, *Solo i santi non pensano* tells the story of a young man searching for a way to be a son without giving up being himself.

Gabriele is thirty years old. He loves plants and works for a pest control company despite being an architect. He lives alone surrounded by pots, with his own private rituals and a few apps for occasional sex. He hasn't spoken to his mother for ten years, since he left the Jehovah's Witnesses, the religious sect that had become their entire life after his father's passing. One day, when Gabriele is at the cemetery for the anniversary of his father's death, his aunt, the person who instilled in him the love for plants and with whom he severed ties during his dissociation from the sect, is there waiting for him. He finds out some developments in his mother's life that, due to the long estrangement, he was unaware of and that will lead him to maybe reconsider his own steps. What remains of an individual when all their certainties are erased? How do we reconstruct our roots when our plant can no longer draw from the soil that nourishes it? What happens when our affections reject us, and what remains after the collapse of the dearest references we have had all our lives?



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](#).

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LA MALEDIZIONE DI RASPUTIN

Rasputin's Curse

Three generations marked by Rasputin's curse.



↑ READ THE
ENGLISH SAMPLE



↑ READ THE
PLOT SUMMARY

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.

His father, Giorgio, a Russian exile, was a university professor of Russian literature and an Italian translator of major Russian authors such as Majakovskij, Dostoevskij, Pasternak, Bulgakov, and many others.

«An exhilarating, ironic, tender, and funambulistic family saga, which the author - the protagonist's real son - openly acknowledges as overtly fictional. It's an epic of reconciliation and resilience. We journey alongside the protagonist, from his days as a refugee to his role as a resilient and stubborn communist, only to witness his understandable disappointment with real socialism. As he gradually learns to shake his head in disbelief, we empathize with his struggles. Additionally, we are deeply moved by his love story with Sigrid, a German Jewess.»

GIANCARLO DE CATALDO, *Tutto Libri - La Stampa*

«A love story amidst dictatorships and regime cynicism. Reading it feels akin to being slightly intoxicated, inclined to smile along with the author even as he narrates both significant and private tragedies.»

PIERGIOGIO PATERLINI, *Robinson - la Repubblica*

«Kraisky recounts the October Revolution, the rise of Nazism, and the Second World War, which serve as a watershed for the private affairs of the protagonists, with a good-natured and amused detachment.»

Alias - il manifesto

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.

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



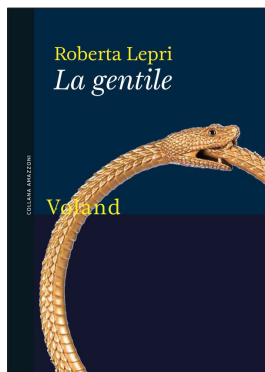
LA GENTILE

Gentile

A gripping historical novel that explores the limits of love and the vital force of hatred.

«This compelling story traces the early steps in the fight for women's rights, told not from the grassroots perspective, but through the eyes of someone who, with the advantage of financial resources, education, and a visionary mindset, was able to help pave the way, at least for part of the journey.»

La Lettura - Corriere della Sera



Arriving in Italy at the beginning of the 1900s, the American Alice Hallgarten married Baron Leopoldo Franchetti and convinced him to fund a major philanthropic project: the establishment of a school for the children of farmers. Alice's story thus intertwines with that of Ester, poor and uneducated, a descendant of converted Jews: a "gentile." Born into a family that does not understand her ideas and hinders her in every way, thanks to the support of the noblewoman, the young girl is able to attend school and nurture the hope of one day becoming a teacher. But the baroness's health soon deteriorates, forcing her to leave Ester to her fate...

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: 192 | Release: Sep 2024
Language: Italian | Rights: World

LA SCRITTRICE

NEL BUIO

The Writer in the Dark

A novel that will captivate those who love reading of literature, filled with unexpected twists and turns.

«His voice is both original and exquisitely mannered; one can hear Walter Siti's influence and sometimes Humbert Humbert's tone, as well as echoes of Foster Wallace and Vollmann.»

minima&moralia



Marco and Federico couldn't be more different: one is shy and introverted, hailing from a humble family, while the other is outgoing and flamboyant, born into wealth in Padua. Despite their disparities, a bond forms between them fueled by their mutual love for literature, albeit tinged with a fierce rivalry. Their lives soon intertwine with that of Vittorio Ferretti, a journalist and writer who, during the 1960s, engaged in extensive correspondence with a young author from Veneto, Pier Luigi Carraro. As Federico delves into editing the letters exchanged between Ferretti and Carraro, he uncovers Ferretti's profound admiration for a poem penned by the enigmatic Maria Zanca. This epistolary revelation propels Marco and Federico into a perplexing narrative, fraught with unsettling implications.

Born in 1991, **MARCO MALVESTIO** works at the University of Padua, where he manages a research project on Italian science fiction and ecology. He is the author of two essays and numerous articles on science fiction, gothic literature, and contemporary fiction. His first novel, *Annette*, was published in 2021 by Wojtek.

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MOSCHE

Flies

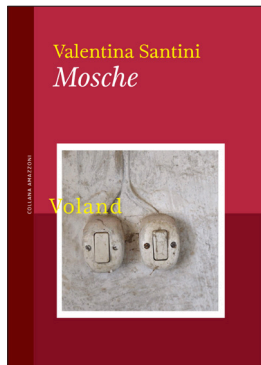
The rebirth of a man who discovers the secrets of his own past.

«Valentina Santini has a surgical and essential style.»

Leggere:Tutti

«Given her skill in crafting her writing, Santini has a bright future ahead of her.»

Altro Giornale



At forty-six, Daniele Sforzi lives with his parents and delivers flyers on his bike. When tasked with refurbishing his grandmother's mansion, he discovers its dilapidated state, revealing hidden objects and secrets. This process forces Daniele to confront the falsehoods he believed about himself. As reality begins to shift around him, he hears a persistent buzzing, reminiscent of flies, while navigating the infested rooms. What starts as trauma becomes a catalyst for his transformation. Daniele experiences a profound self-realization and gains newfound assertiveness, evolving from a low-paid delivery rider to a political figure with unexpected confidence, ultimately finding himself responsible for the fate of the country.

VALENTINA SANTINI was born in 1983 in Tuscany. Holding a degree in psychology, she actively collaborates as an editor and copywriter with several publishing companies. Her short stories have been featured in various collections and online magazines. Additionally, she serves as a co-writer for the interactive TV series *Il confine di Moebius*. In 2022, she published the novel *L'osso del cuore* with Edizioni e/o.

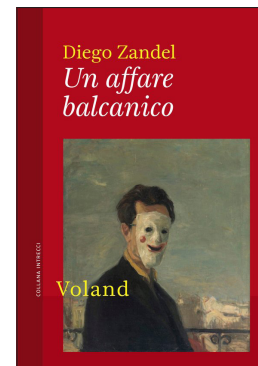
UN AFFARE BALCANICO

A Balkan Affair

A blend of historical truth and fiction, this novel masterfully intertwines mysterious women, dancing bears, Serbian folk singers, shady political dealings, and bursts of Kalashnikov fire.

«A gripping book, an action-packed novel that captures the reader from start to finish. At the same time, it sheds light on a story where the boundaries—those that should exist—between politics and corruption disappear, a story we know little or nothing about. One of the many mysteries of Italy, in short.»

il Fatto Quotidiano



In late April 1997, after lengthy negotiations, Telecom Italia (along with the Greek company OTE) acquired 49 percent of Telekom Serbia's shares. The deal, which also involved the secret services of both countries, was facilitated by shady figures—so-called “fixers”—connected to Serbian President Slobodan Milošević. The Italian company paid an enormous sum: 1.5 billion Deutsche Marks, which Milošević insisted on receiving in cash, part of which was delivered to him by private jet in eighteen jute sacks from the Serbian Postal Service. A Balkan Affair is inspired by this unsettling transaction. At the time of these events, the author was head of Telecom Italia's Corporate Press.

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. Lately, he worked on the 2022 docufilm *Hotel Sarajevo*, produced by Clipper Media and RAI Cinema.

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