

# FICTION - RIGHTS LIST

## FALL 2023

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### CONTENTS

#### Upmarket fiction

Carla Maria Russo, *The most beloved daughter*  
Carla Maria Russo, *The heart of a woman*  
Emanuele Galesi, *You are the son*  
Nicoletta Sipos, *The war of H*

#### Novels

Valentina Sgambato, *Like forgotten Tanzakus*  
Sveva Casati Modignani, *Still, life is wonderful*  
Sveva Casati Modignani, *Family dinner SERIES*  
Sveva Casati Modignani, *Merchant of dreams*  
Rubina Rovini, *The secret ingredient of happiness*  
Brenda Lodigiani, *Light my fire*  
Beatrice Mariani, *Lifetime friends*  
Diletta Pizzicori, *The years of our youth*  
Diletta Pizzicori, *The years of our memories*

#### Memoirs

Pamela Ferlin, *In this afghan night*

#### Thriller and Crime

Aldo Pagano, *Erba d'annata*  
Elisabetta Cametti, *A good mother*  
Arwin J. Seaman, *Off season murder*  
Paola Barbato, *The Gift*  
Paola Barbato, *The wrong way*  
Paola Barbato, *The last guest*  
Roberto Putzu, *Right before your eyes*  
Cristina Stillitano, *The carousel of forgiveness*

#### Fantasy, horror distopia

Beppe Roncari, *Engaged 1*  
Beppe Roncari, *Engaged 2*  
Caterina Signorini, *The Ring*  
Lucio Besana, Roberto De Feo, *The innocence of darkness*

#### Young Narrative

Masse78, *Like two planets*  
Cristian Bragaglio, *I told the moon about you and....*  
Adessoscrivo, *You have the sea inside*  
Mattia Ollerongis, *How much we love each other*

#### Historical

Daniela Musini, *The Enchantresses*  
Ciro Auriemma, *The blade and the ink*  
Valentina Cambi, *The youngest of kings*  
Livio Gambarini, *The high priestess of Milan*  
Valeria Ventura, *Female of the lume*  
A. Giovanile, V. Majetta, *Bastard daughters of France*

#### Dark Romance and New Adults

Kira Shell, *Meet Efrem Krugher SERIES*  
Kira Shell, *Kiss me like you love me SERIES*  
Maria Filocomo, *Life SERIES*

#### Recent Backlist highlights

Upmarket fiction

# Carla Maria Russo

## THE MOST BELOVED DAUGHTER

The new riveting historical novel by Carla Maria Russo, queen of the genre and idolized by her readers.  
The story of the Medici daughters like it's never been told.



400 pages – September 2023

In contrast to his contemporaries, Cosimo I de' Medici, duke of Florence and nephew of the great Caterina Sforza, prefers his daughters to his sons. He is barely eighteen when he sires Bia, a girl he adores and brings up just like a legitimate daughter. In searching for a wife, he goes as far as to expect the reasons of the heart to be taken into account, not just those of politics, and thus weds the beautiful Eleonora of Toledo. And yet, while good fortune and love seem to shower his family with blessings and joy, a tragic and painful twist of fate is looming. Bia dies a swift and brutal death, and Cosimo's grief is so deep as to threaten his own life. He finds a reason to live only in Eleonora's pregnancy. He is sure his wife will give him a new, beautiful daughter. And she does, giving birth to Isabella, a daughter the Earl will love so deeply and exclusively to put her above all others, thus making her an object of envy and resentment.

But a vengeful fate will strike yet again against the women of the Medici household, reserving an even more dramatic end for the ones Cosimo loved the most, the victims of vendettas he himself contributed to provoke.

With a unique talent for bringing back to life the protagonists of all historical ages – in their greatness and brutality, in their glory and misery – Carla Maria Russo offers us an unrivalled depiction of the Sixteenth century, and the unforgettably poignant portraits of its women.

**An author with a 250.000 copies backlist**

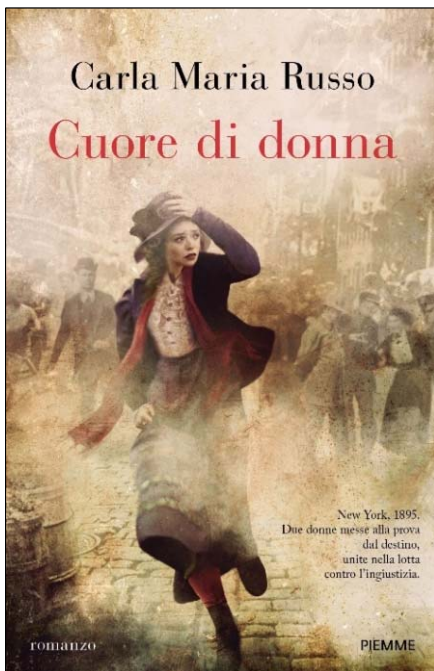
**Carla Maria Russo** is a passionate history buff and a lover of libraries, where she spends much of her time. With Piemme she has published a string of successful novels, including *La sposa normanna*, *Il Cavaliere del Giglio*, *L'amante del Doge*, *Lola nascerà a diciott'anni*, *La regina irriverente*, *La bastarda degli Sforza*, and *I giorni dell'amore e della guerra*, the last two focusing on Caterina Sforza. Also for Piemme she has published *Le nemiche* and *Una storia privata. La saga dei Morando*. In 2019, her novel *L'acquaiola* was short-listed for the Strega award and won the Pavoncella Award.

# Carla Maria Russo

## THE HEART OF A WOMAN

The first woman inmate at Sing Sing penitentiary. The first woman to step into a court of law as a lawyer.

A story of courage of passion from over a hundred years ago: a story of female empowerment and fundamental moral and civic values.



380 pages - September 2022

*«You must be brave now, Maria Inez... This is your moment. Remember what you're fighting for. This is a fight for your freedom, for your rights, for your very life. And it's not just about you either. It's also for me and for all the friends who love you and care about you. Come to think of it, it's even more than that. This fight is about all women, wherever in the world, and for all times».*

**Little Italy, New York, April 1895.** Maria Inez Cortese, a young Italian immigrant and the victim of horrific domestic violence, walks into a tavern and stabs in the neck Cataldo Motta, the husband her mother had forced on her, making her give up the boy she loved. Or rather, this is the story the owners of the tavern will tell at her trial. On the strength of their testimony, the court will convict Maria Inez, sentencing her to be imprisoned in death row at Sing Sing, awaiting for execution on the electric chair.

**Over 8.000 copies sold!**

**August 1895.** Maria Inez is granted the right to an appeal. She can't afford a lawyer, so the NAWSA, the National Woman Suffrage Association, volunteers to take on her case in the hope of at least saving her life, and, in a decision that sends shock waves through the public and the judiciary system, chooses a woman as her defense lawyer – Ann Bennett, possibly the first ever woman in the history of the United States to earn a law degree and pass the bar. Through a series of suspenseful twists, in a rollercoaster of hope and desperation, the young lawyer, with the help of a journalist, Charles Stevens, and the Italo-American cop Joe Petrosino, will wage a war against time, against the conspiracy of silence, against fear, to uncover the true facts of the crime and bring the evidence in front of a jury. A gripping procedural and a moving human story of courage, passion, and powerful moral and civic values, the unfolding of an intricate series of dark events that will rivet the reader down to the last page, the very last word.

**Carla Maria Russo** is a passionate history buff and a lover of libraries, where she spends much of her time. With Piemme she has published a string of successful novels, including *La sposa normanna*, *Il Cavaliere del Giglio*, *L'amante del Doge*, *Lola nascerà a diciott'anni*, *La regina irriverente*, *La bastarda degli Sforza*, and *I giorni dell'amore e della guerra*, the last two focusing on Caterina Sforza. Also for Piemme she has published *Le nemiche* and *Una storia privata. La saga dei Morando*. In 2019, her novel *L'acquaiola* was short-listed for the Strega award and won the Pavoncella Award.

# Emanuele Galesi

## YOU ARE THE SON

It is not easy for a son to watch his father destroy himself.  
It is not easy to forgive, nor to hate.

Emanuele Galesi tells us, without rhetoric, a true story, dramatic and very sweet.



256 pages - February 2023

When he looks at the hospital room, above the bed he sees a man eaten through drugs. He feels anger. He feels tired, infinitely tired. And he feels ashamed, because he knows that to others that wizened dummy is just a junkie, a worthless poor man. But for him it is different, the man is his father. It is yet another hospital, yet another fall.

In the past, the father has always found the strength to come out of it, although each time it was more exhausting. He who has never shied away from fatigue, neither at work, as long as he managed to keep one, nor in the mountains, where with sure steps he lead his son as a child first and then as a young boy.

The relationship between the two has been made up of continuous subtractions, with drugs eroding the normality of their bond, until the inevitable reversal of roles.

And it is again the son who has to take care of the father.

But this time is different. This time, after the fall, there will be no getting up again. It might just be the end of everything, or it might become an opportunity to overcome their respective wounds and find something authentic to save.

A painfully honest novel that, through the protagonist's point of view, offers a fresh reading of the problem of drug addiction. Not the heartbreak of a parent who sees no a future for his or her child, but the disorientation of a son who must build on the rubble left by his father.

**Emanuele Galesi** was born in 1980 in Brescia, the city where he lives. He is a journalist and an elementary school teacher. *Sei tu il figlio* is his first novel, winner of the tenth edition of the Zanibelli Prize.

# Nicoletta Sipos

## THE WAR OF H

The rise and defeat of Nazism as seen through the eyes of a child.  
 A stirring true story that makes us reflect on the immense suffering of anyone  
 who makes war or must endure it.  
 And of the ever-growing need not to forget.



368 pages - January 2023

Heinrich Stein still holds in his heart the summer he spent on the Baltic Sea. It was 1938 and he was seven years old. It was the first time he had seen the sea and he was struck by all that beauty. With only one regret: being able to go to the beach only in the morning, because in the afternoon the coast was reserved for the maneuvers of the new planes built at the nearby military base in Peneemünde. In that fateful summer, Hitler's war was fast approaching even though the majority of Germans did not want to believe it and European statesmen were under the illusion that they could avoid the use of arms.

Through the memories of Heinrich, the eldest of a brood of five brothers, emerges the daily life of a large, educated and rational bourgeois family that gives the Nazis a detached support but does not go so far as to oppose them.

But the invasion of Poland changes everything. While the military go from victory to victory, occupying immense spaces, bringing home important trophies, for those left at home these are not days of celebration. People are hungry and cold, and the first death notices arrive. The military promised a *blitzkrieg*, but the fighting will go on for more than five years providing immense suffering also to the victors. Even his father, a mild and enlightened man and director of an aircraft factory, will pay a heavy price for a gesture of humanity. Little is said about the misery of the Germans during and after the war, but Heinrich Stein continues to think about it even as an old man, crushed between collective guilt and the bitterness of having been too silent.

A novel inspired by an enthralling true story about the struggle for survival, the search for happiness and the need for love, themes made more relevant now by the war in Ukraine. A reminder that there is no alternative to the search for peace

**Nicoletta Sipos** is married, she is mother of four children and grandmother of six grandchildren. After living in Hungary, Germany and the United States, she is now based in Milan. She has been working in daily and weekly newspapers for half a century. She has published *Il buio oltre la porta* and *Perché io no?*, both with Sperling & Kupfer, and *La promessa del tramonto* (Giuditta Prize in 2018) for Garzanti. Two of her novels- *Favola in nero* and *Storia di Chiara* -have been published in Germany by Zebulon Verlag.

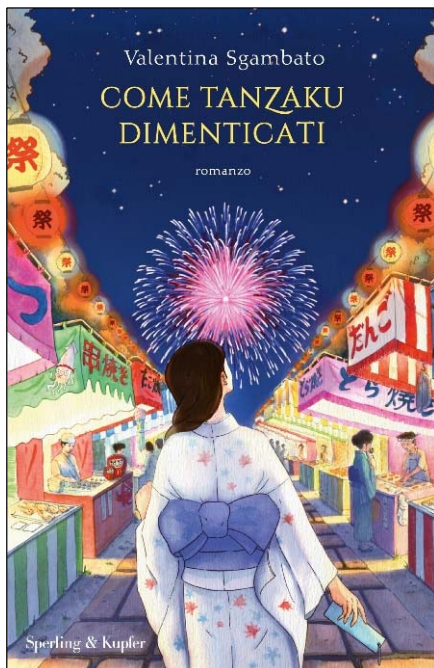
Novels



# Valentina Sgambato

## LIKE FORGOTTEN TANZAKUS

Two young people trying to find their destiny. A journey through the traditions and wonders of Japan. An unforgettable story on second chances.



352 pagine - Luglio 2023

At the Tanabata Festival, Ayame, a talented young woman and aspiring illustrator, will have the unique opportunity of showing her drawings on the stands of Hiratsuka.

Wearing her gorgeous yukata, Ayame gazes at the crowd enjoying the warm summer night, the lanterns festooning the stands, the pageant of colors and street foods filling the air with their aromas. She is waiting for Hirai.

After joining the crowd on the riverbank to watch the hanabi, the traditional fireworks show, Ayame participates in the tanzaku ceremony, the ritual of writing dreams and wishes on scraps of paper and hanging them on the bamboo trees in the hope they may come true. But one of Ayame's hopes for the night is dashed: Hirai never shows. Recently his job has been taking up all his time, separating him from Ayame, from his long-cherished dream of opening a patisserie, from the happy memories of his childhood.

On that magical night, the spirits' spell comes to fruition, and the fate of Ayame and Hari will take an unexpected turn. And when, at the next Tanabata, Hari discovers the prophecy in the forest of forgotten tanzaku, he will have no choice but to engage in a race against time, to retrieve what he has lost.

In his quest for happiness, Hari will encounter Shinzo, a wise and mysterious old man, visit the most enchanting sites of Japan, and finally learn to appreciate the beauty of small things, the value of time and of his own dreams. His feeling of loss and yearning will teach him what is truly important in life.

*«Thus spoke the spirits governing Earth: to learn happiness mortals must first experience loss. And there is no greater loss than that of your dreams».*

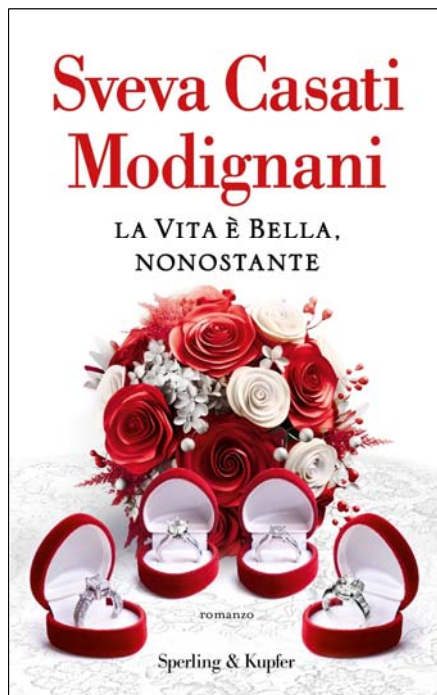
**Valentina Sgambato** (Rome, 1989) holds a degree in Environmental biology and was always fascinated by the care for nature in Japanese culture. For the last ten years she has travelled to the most secluded corners of Japan and loves to describe its traditions through the beauty of the seasons. She has studied Japanese at the Institute for Japanese Culture in Rome and promotes off-the-beaten-track tourism on her blog, Onigiro.com. In 2021 she published her first book, the guidebook cum novel *Un anno in Giappone* [A year in Japan], a four-season journey through the country.

# Sveva Casati Modignani

## STILL, LIFE IS WONDERFUL

The last chapter of the most beloved FAMILY DINNER series (over 400.00 copies sold!)

**A best-selling author with over 12 millions copies sold!!!**



320 pages - October 2023

Andreina, Carlotta, Gloria and Maria Sole are inseparable friends. They have moved us with troubled love stories and family secrets, surprised us with their revelations, thrilled us with unexpected twists of fate. They have stood by one another through thick and thin, and with the wisdom they have acquired through the years they are now ready to make life-altering decisions.

When Carlotta suffers the grief of an unexpected loss, no-one can understand her better than Maria Sole, whose dream of opening a nursery school has finally come true but whose family now needs radical readjustments. And while Andreina is still doubting the wisdom of being a single parent to little Vivian, Gloria is rethinking her love for Sergio, her life-long partner.

The four women will face great sorrows but also experience a myriad of small joys, moving all the while toward a surprising *finale*. For after all, the secret of happiness is to appreciate what you have, because life is still wonderful, despite all the pain it sometimes inflicts us.

*“My friends, I feel that we have become mature women. I am not only referring to the pressing years, but to an incontrovertible fact: we have grown up because we have gained awareness of our decisions. When we met, we were butterflies looking for the flower on which to rest, and this search was very challenging. We had moments of exaltation and others of pain. We laughed and cried but, supporting each other, we never stopped believing in a peaceful future.”*

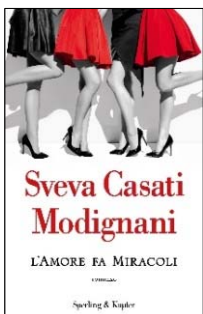
**Sveva Casati Modignani** is an acclaimed best-selling author in Women’s fiction. She’s the true Italian icon of Sperling & Kupfer and has been writing for us since 1981, with **28 best-selling novels**, **6 short novels** and **three autobiographical books**. She has been translated in many countries. She’s considered the queen of popular fiction and has developed a very faithful reading public.

# Sveva Casati Modignani

## FAMILY DINNER SERIES

Foreign rights sold to: Portugal

The stories of four inseparable girlfriends, between past and present.  
A mirror of contemporary women, navigating new aspirations and everyday issues.



304 pages - 2021

### LOVE CAN WORK MIRACLES– Gloria's story

122.000 copies sold

In her small circle of four friends Gloria has always been the most stable one, the one with her feet firmly planted on the ground. So much so that in twenty years she has never questioned her comfortable relationship with Sergio. Until her father is hospitalized for a heart attack, and she meets Bruno Arconati. The fascinating heart surgeon has saved her father's life but has wreaked havoc with Gloria's, because both she and Bruno have been felled by attraction at first sight. Gloria has been doing her best to keep her distance, but fate has other plans, and serves her the handsome

surgeon on a silver platter, at a medical conference. Will Gloria still find the strength to resist him? To further complicate her life and the lives of her best friends, a deadly virus sweeps the planet, leaving loss and sorrow in its wake. All will be impacted, including the characters of this story. Though luckily the will to live will prevail. Andreina is pregnant, though she still hasn't decided whether to tell the child's father, an oblivious American manager. After her marriage falls apart, Maria Sole, the youngest and most naïve in the group, finally meets true love. And Carlotta, the successful lawyer who's enjoyed a string of affairs with no commitment, will astonish her friends with an amazing revelation. The proof positive that love can really work miracles.



240 pages - 2019

### SECRETS AND HYPOCRISIES – Maria Sole's story

133.000 copies sold

The old year is almost over and a new one is about to begin, a year full of hopes, good resolutions and a few regrets. Maria Sole thinks back on the terrible deception that ended her marriage. How could she not see, she wonders, that her husband wasn't what he seemed, though she's known him since they were kids?

The young woman realizes her family has always kept secrets, so as not to tarnish the facade of respectability they show to the world.

Well, now Maria Sole wants to break free of all hypocrisies and take control of her life, for herself and her child.

Luckily she can count on the loyalty of three time-proven friends; Carlotta, Andreina and Gloria, ever ready to support each other when things get tough. Each one of the four «Thursday friends» - their nickname at the restaurant where they met each week - will start the year with a new challenge. A story as unpredictable as life itself, as magical as the dreams of every woman.



196 pages - 2017

### FAMILY DINNER – Andreina's story

167.000 copies sold

It's almost Christmas. In an already decorated Milanese restaurant the manager is ready to welcome her usual Thursday guests.

Andreina, Carlotta, Gloria and Maria Sole – four friends, four young women who reserve that one evening a week to catch up and confide in one another. Two are single, two in a relationship. All four are haunted by problems of the heart – so-so love stories, men who promised the world and made princely gifts and then either

vanished, or turned chauvinistic slobs who think kitchen appliances are all that's needed to make a woman happy.

On this particular Thursday there's a birthday celebration in store. But also an unforeseen piece of news. Andreina is pregnant. Who would have thought it could happen to her?

Whatever choice she will make her friends will stand by her, just like a real family.

Sveva Casati Modignani  
**MERCHANT OF DREAMS**  
 Foreign rights sold to: Portugal

The last novel by the best-loved Italian author of fiction.

**A best-selling author with over 12 millions copies sold!!!**



464 pages - October 2022

A gun-shot echoes in the foyer of an elegant palazzo in the center of Milan and a man collapses to the ground in a pool of blood. The attack is front-page news because the victim, Raimondo Clementi, is the legendary president of the Italian Stock Exchange, a universally respected and admired figure. Clementi survives, but the attack has raised so many questions that a major magazine decides to make it the cover story of its next issue. The journalist chosen for the task of interviewing Clementi is Giovanna Vitali – young, ambitious, and hopefully persistent enough to persuade a notoriously reserved man to drop his guard so she can piece together his life story. Their conversations – taking place at Villa Dorotea, on Lake d’Orta – become more and more intimate and confidential, as Clementi recounts page by page a past as riveting as any novel. From his studies at Università Cattolica to

the top posts in finance, the professional life of this merchant of dreams has written a major chapter in Italian history, and his private life was a succession of overwhelming passions and secret tragedies until, overcoming a thousand obstacles, he finally found Tilli, a never-forgotten childhood friend that became the true love of his life. Both a breathtaking saga and an intimate confession, *Mercante di sogni* [Merchant of Dreams] is the engrossing story of a man who dared to live a passionate life to the full.

**Sveva Casati Modignani** is an acclaimed best-selling author in Women’s fiction. She’s the true Italian icon of Sperling & Kupfer and has been writing for us since 1981, with **27 best-selling novels**, **4 short novels** and **three autobiographical books**. She has been translated in many countries. She’s considered the queen of popular fiction and has developed a very faithful reading public.

# Rubina Rovini

## THE SECRET INGREDIENT OF HAPPINESS

A successful young chef forced to return to her native country.  
A past to face that will rewrite her future, in the kitchen and in love  
An inspirational story



256 pages – May 2023

Teresa has worked long and hard to reach her position as executive and chef garde manger in one of the most exclusive restaurants in town. She's paid her dues, suffering through years of humiliation and discrimination, and even today some refuse to call her chef. They'll insist on saying "cook". Because women are not supposed to work in a starred restaurant. They should stay in their own kitchen, cooking the husband and kids.

When her beloved grandmother passes away, after much hesitation and with the – not quite disinterested – encouragement of a colleague, for the first time in years Teresa decides to visit her family at their small farm in Puglia. Returning home will mean facing the sorrow of her loss, as well as her father's constant criticism – he's never approved of Teresa's choice to live on her own and does his very

best to put her down. But it will also mean a new beginning, as Teresa gradually allows herself to enjoy the slow, soothing pace of the countryside, the presence of friends and family. She will rediscover her gift of understanding who people are by how they eat, and will learn that the secret ingredient for happiness had always been right there, in the one place she'd never thought to look for it. Rubina Rovini's debut novel is a story of cuisine and food, traditions, and family, inspired by her own life.

**Rubina Rovini** was born in Tuscany in 1981. After retiring as a ballet dancer, she tried her hand at a career in finance, and then decided to follow her dream: to communicate through food. In 2015 she participated in the fifth edition of Master Chef Italia and was a finalist in the only Italian edition of MasterChef All Stars. Today she is an entrepreneur and consultant in the restaurant in the catering industry and works as a personal chef all over Italy.

# Brenda Lodigiani

## LIGHT MY FIRE

From the surprising pen of the comedian Brenda Lodigiani, an irresistible debut novel.



256 pages – November 2023

Kelly, like that girl in Beverly Hills 90210, has always felt split down the middle. Growing up in the suburbs, she has Sinti blood running through her veins, inherited from her mother Luna. Her appearance - blonde, her features unquestionably Caucasian features - helps her hide her nomadic heart. In the flat in the centre of Milan, which she pays handsomely for, Kelly has built a tailor-made life for herself together with her partner Alessandro and their two children, Zoe (Piccola grande, Little big) and Tony (Piccolo piccolo, Little little). One day, however, comes an invitation to the

christening of her daughter his cousin Cameron, who still lives in the family camp in Brindisi, the one where Kelly spent her summers as a child. Memories begin to resurface, along with guilt at being estranged from her family and from a part of herself. So, one summer afternoon, Kelly hops into her father's old father's camper van together with Alessandro, Piccola grande (Little big) and Piccolo piccolo (Little little), and sets off on a journey that crosses all of Italy (passing also through the Seychelles) among suburbs, poor hygiene and ghosts from the past.

**Brenda Lodigiani** is an actress, comedian, influencer, mother. And now she is also a writer.

## Beatrice Mariani

# LIFETIME FRIENDS

A *Bildungsroman*, on growth and friendship, a story about those who have the strength to move forward and those who get sucked in.

Three women united by a deep friendship, divided by life's circumstances.  
Because facing one's demons is the only way to defeat them.



304 pages - March 2023

Valentina, Cristiana and Arianna are in their 30s and have been friends since high school.

Their characters couldn't be more different: Valentina is an accomplished and perfect woman, married to the ideal man and committed to a successful career;

Cristiana is restless and emotional, surrounded by the affection of a complicated family and tormented by an unhappy love;

Arianna is a free soul and dreamer and has just become a mother.

Suddenly, however, their lives change: grief, illness and betrayal come overbearingly into their daily lives, exposing contradictions and weaknesses. In the new journey the three of them will have to face, they will discover themselves different, they will feel distant. And if tragedy is around the corner, they are unable to see it. Yet, coming to terms with it is the only way to become women.

*"A thought nailed her to the wall: what if this were true? If this was it, just this, the instant that can change my life?"*

**Beatrice Mariani** was born in Rome where she lives with her husband and their two children. With a degree in Political sciences she has always worked in the field of research and communications. She is the author of *Mentre la vita corre* (Sperling & Kupfer 2020) and *Una ragazza inglese* (2018), published by Sperling & Kupfer in Italy and by HarperCollins Verlag in Germany.



## Diletta Pizzicori

A riveting, turn-of-the-century family saga. The story of a love that overcame time and social conventions. A narration based on the true story of the author's family, painstakingly pieced back together through the perusal of documents and interviews with witnesses



288 pages  
June 2021

### THE YEARS OF OUR YOUTH

Oxford, 1993. Nana has died, and two cousins, Julia and Martha Parker, find themselves going through heaps of old mementos in her attic, at the discovery of a past they heard so much about but is now just a distant memory. Leticia's sepia photographs and her old journals tell the story of the love of her life and of a painful family secret.

Meretto, 1919. The tiny Tuscan village in the Bisenzio valley is in turmoil. It's been five years since the Great War sent the Parkers scurrying back to England, but now they're about to return to the family estate. Primo Gualtieri, the young son of their gardener, fears their return will upend the delicate balances in his own family, or what is left of them. He still doesn't know it, but Primo will live a summer like no other.

The news of the 1920 workers' riots and peasants' revolts reach even as remote a location as Meretto, but they're just a distant echo, muffled by the stillness of the woods and by the renewed friendship between Letizia, the Parkers' first-born, and Primo.

Over a summer that will forever change both of their lives...

### THE YEARS OF MEMORIES

Only a year has passed since young Leticia Parker left the family estate in Meretto, Tuscany, but it seems a lifetime: by now she has become a woman, she is independent and ambitious, prone to the Florentine cultural effervescence. As her, the gardener Primo Gualtieri has also grown up.

Before their eyes, the protests and great changes that make their way in the Italy of the 1920s and 1930s. And amid violence, hatred and love, the dreaded secret of the family heir, Theodore Oswald Parker, his friendship with the young archaeologist Ranuccio Bianchi Bandinelli and with Matilde Castelfranco, and then the marriages, the children, the crimes of the Fascist squadrism, Hitler's visit to Florence. Echoes that reverberate until 1993, when Julia Patel returns to Meretto and must face her grandmother's past and her own future, in order to provide an answer to a drama that struck Val di Bisenzio so many years earlier: what happened to little Virginia?



288 pages  
February 2023

**Diletta Pizzicori** was born in Florence on July 28th 1990 and grew up in Vaiano, a small town just outside the city of Prato, where she lives to this day. She's always had her head in the clouds, and as a child she dreamed of becoming a hairstylist, then a veterinary, a painter and, finally, a writer. Today she is just as many different things - a mother, an archeologist, an avid reader - and hasn't lost her gift for dreaming and dreaming up stories.

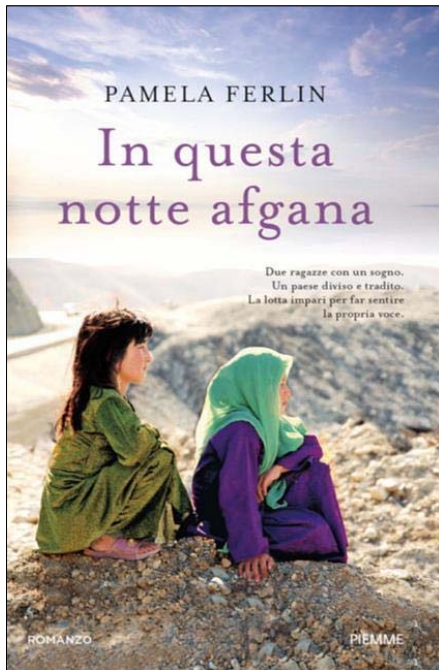


Memoirs

# Pamela Ferlin

## IN THIS AFGHAN NIGHT

Based on a true story, a pressingly relevant novel, stripping away the blinders to our own hypocrisies, large and small, but also a story of redemption, offering the hope for a better world



240 pages - August 2023

*I don't even try to escape the fate they have in store for me, and I have no idea how final this instant may turn out to be. I liked to think I was brave, but now I find myself scared and inadequate. With no effort at all, a man with a machine gun took over my job at the paper and my whole country.*

Sima is twenty years old and a student at Kabul University, the place she has been dreaming of all her life. But on August 15, 2021, the Taliban take over the city and shatter her dreams. She has no choice but to go in hiding, hoping no-one will discover her past. Her friend Aziza is just as frightened. On the verge of a law degree and a career as a lawyer, Aziza is well aware that the few women's rights the new government has promised to uphold are hanging by a thread, and that she is bound to experience the same restrictions and atrocities she heard told in her mother's stories. The two young women have but one hope – Vittoria, the Italian journalist who has done so much for Afghan women and would like to do so much more but finds herself utterly powerless. No-one is allowed to leave Kabul, and even just getting it touch with Vittoria could put all of their lives at risk.

So the story – based on true events – unfolds, through brief text messages, forbidden photos, articles, attempts to cross the frontier.

And it's through the encounter and sometimes the clash of cultures that we realize to what extent we, as citizens of the West, have broken the promises made to Afghanistan and its women especially. We encouraged those women to study, telling them knowledge equals empowerment, identity, and freedom, for the educated can never again be enslaved. And then we up and left, abandoning them to a world where an educated woman is hunted down like an outlaw.

But maybe there's a light at the end of this dark Afghan night.

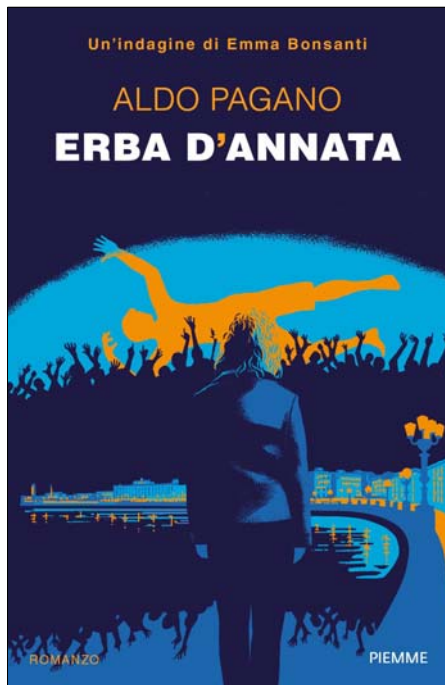
Thrillers and Crime

# Aldo Pagano

## ERBA D'ANNATA

A new case for Emma Bonsanti

Aldo Pagano is a true master of mysteries, blending a passion for the genre and for police investigations with a unique understanding of the human soul.



304 pagine - September 2023

It's a Monday morning in mid-December, freezing cold and with biting northern winds, when the DA Emma Bonsanti reaches the outskirts of Bari and the warehouse where the body of a young man from the upscale circles of town as just been found. The chief of police, Michele Lorusso, informs her that the victim is Giorgio De Santis, 23, law student, apprentice in a notary firm and the son of well-known local restaurateurs. The body is lying on the pavement, just outside the warehouse, disfigured by multiple fractures after a 30-foot drop from the peak of the roof. An accident, a suicide, foul play: the coroner is keeping all the options open. It's up to Emma to ascertain the truth. But the fact is she is in no mood to investigate yet another violent death. She is going through a rough patch, feeling lonely, hollow, useless, and has no energy to spare for what she believes was the self-destructive act of a troubled kid from the jeunesse dorée.

But when Lorusso discovers a number of suspicious details in the life and death of De Santis – a rave party at that same warehouse, a violent fight just before he went missing; a wedding plan he may have been trying to get out of, and the not quite legal growing of marijuana – Emma realizes it's time to shake off the blues and throw herself once more, body and soul, into a case that is looking less and less like a suicide.

*The body of Giorgio De Santis is lying on the pavement right outside the warehouse, just a few feet from the three-story roof. Lying on his back, in apparent repose. His eyes are half closed and he doesn't look dead. It's like he laid himself down to rest after a long, exhausting journey. This kid died close to a crowd a people. Close and yet far removed.*

**Emma Bonsanti is the intense protagonist of a sociological noir populated by a host of characters just as fascinating as she is. All depicted in a smooth, distinctively unique style.**  
«Corriere della Sera»

**Aldo Pagano** was born in Palermo in 1966 and has lived for years in Rome, Bari, Milan, and Como. A former journalist and sommelier, among the many careers he is fond of remembering are his stint in public relations and the launch of an awesome beach bar. His books with Piemme include *La trappola dei ricordi*, *Motivi di famiglia* and *Caramelle dai conosciuti*, all with the unforgettable Emma Bonsanti as protagonist. Two of his novels were shortlisted for the Scerbanenco award



# Elisabetta Cametti

## A GOOD MOTHER

A mother can be light or deafening darkness.  
 The pillar that holds up our future or the abyss into which we sink.  
 We are not allowed to choose who gives us life: someone is born in an embrace, someone else in hell.



352 pagine - November 2023

Fabrizio Ravizza and Aria have met only once.

He is a successful publisher, belonging to a prominent Milanese family, she a tattoo artist widely followed on social media, who wants to erase her past. A few days after that meeting, Fabrizio vanishes without a trace. His story is taken care of by Giorgia Morandi, the host of the television program that has filled the institutional vacuum on the subject of people disappearances. For her, every case is a mission, every life a puzzle to be solved. And she does not stop at appearances, not even when Fabrizio's family claims that he went away voluntarily.

Aria is found next to the dead body of a man at an abandoned gas station. She wields the murder weapon and confesses the murder. She has obvious personality disorders and is suspected of having killed other times: the media dubbed her "the serial ink killer," prosecutors consider her a socially dangerous individual. But Annalisa Spada, head of the Squadra Mobile of Milan, does not believe in her guilt. Two parallel cases. Two roads paved with lies, betrayals and unmentionable truths. A single secret, kept silent for more than thirty-five years.

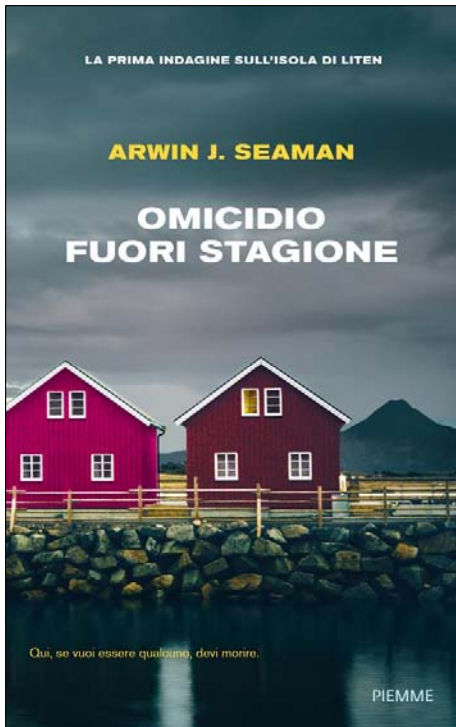
Elisabetta Cametti, one of the foremost experts of true crime in Italy, sinks her claws into the darkest folds of the criminal mind. And shows us that evil is everywhere. Also here and now.

**Elisabetta Cametti** Born in 1970, with a degree in business and management at Bocconi University, Elisabetta Cametti has worked for twenty years in publishing, alternating between Milan and London. The press calls her "the Italian lady of thrillers". In 2013 she published the first novel of the K series, *I guardiani della storia*, her debut thriller and an international bestseller. *Nel mare del tempo* was released in 2014, and *Dove il destino non muore* in 2018. In 2015 she launched the 29 series with *Il regista*, followed in 2016 by *Caino*, both published to critical and popular acclaim. With Piemme she published *Muori per me*, in 2021. Her books are published in 12 countries around the world. She is a frequent guest of news and current events programs on Ra1 and Mediaset.

## Seaman Arwin J.

# OFF SEASON MURDER

Between Louise Penny and Camilla Läckberg, a classic, incredibly intriguing detective story with an irresistibly fascinating Nordic setting written by a great 'undercover' Italian writer.



384 pages - March 2023

*"So, did you see her?" he asked bluntly.*

*"No." replied Henning.*

*"You know you're going to see her, right?"*

*"Not if I hurry."*

*"You'll see her even if you hurry, honey."*

*Carola approached the body and lit a small torch to take a closer look at the eyes, the ears, the nose and the oral cavity.*

*"This must not affect the quality of your work. Understand, Henning?"*

*Everyone expects you to make a mistake with this case."*

*"I don't see why. I've never been wrong."*

*"You never had anything to do with Liten. You never had anything to do with her."*

*The forensics officer looked away, perhaps from Erika's body, perhaps from Carola.*

*"I won't be mistaken," he concluded.*

*"Never had such a thing happened here."*

This is the phrase that forensic officer Henning Ohlson hears constantly since his arrival in Liten, a volcanic island wedged in a patch of sea between Sweden and Denmark.

Because the murder of a fifteen-year-old girl has nothing to do with the quiet, lonely life on that pile of rocks and woods on which Henning had not set foot for four years. And to which he hoped he would never have to return. In Liten nothing ever happens, and he knows this very well given all the weekends he has spent there trying to bring the woman he loved back to the mainland. The extinct volcano with its perfectly circular lake, so turquoise in colour that it looks drawn, is a beautiful attraction during the summer months. But now that very lake is the scene of a horrendous crime, a girl murdered, tied up to look like a star, and abandoned in the crystal-clear water that has created a thin layer of ice around her. No, nothing like this ever happened on the island. Henning has been called in for his vast experience in forensics, but what he will have to do in Liten will be much more than a few surveys and hundreds of photographs.

No one there knows how to conduct a real investigation and he is the only one with experience. He and the reason he hates the island, Annelie Lidhal.

Together with Kay Bak, a young photographer with brilliant ideas and an atavistic need for recognition, Commissioner Owe Dahlberg, who would rather attend an apple-picking festival than a murder investigation, and Malin, a restless teenager and aspiring influencer, they will try to unravel the first chapter of what seems to be the beginning of a nightmare.

# Paola Barbato

## THE GIFT

Every gift has its price. A life for a life.  
 When it turns out that the victim of a car accident was a serial killer ,  
 his organs had already been transplanted into the bodies of seven people.  
 And now those seven organs are hungry.



432 pages - May 2023

"It was my heart. I didn't do it." With these words, shouted at a white wall in his parents' flat, and a bloody knife in his hands the man greets the police. Everyone knows him, he is a journalist who has always covered crime news, a well-known face on TV, the only person to whom many criminals have decided to give an interview. A man of integrity, calm, far from the shouted journalism of many colleagues. A respected man. Who has now become a brutal murderer. A monster. Inspector Flavia Mariani is a tough, uncompromising woman, she does not have many friends but in her work she has always been one of the best, perhaps to prove to the world, but also to herself, that a woman in the police can be worth more than a man. When she goes and visit the murderer in the prison infirmary, disappointed by the man she esteemed and who turned out to be a criminal, she is ready for the typical behaviour of those like him: silence, lies, invention. Instead, the reality that is returned to her with incredible lucidity is exactly the one that the first findings established: the manner of the attack, as well as times and places. But something does not convince her.

Why does he speak of his own heart as if it were an entity other than himself?

And why are there signs of persecution and threats in his house?

The answer, or at least a first clue, is in the man's safe, in the form of a piece of paper. The man is a heart transplant patient and the donor is Valerio Felici, a serial killer who had acted undisturbed for years, until, at a very young age, he died in a trivial car accident. Only months later, in the cottage where he lived, the evidences of his crimes were discovered by chance. Apparently too late to prevent his heart from living on in someone else's body, turning him into a murderer. But the heart is not the only organ that has been donated and now Flavia must find the others. To save them. Or to stop them.

**Paola Barbato** was born in 1971 in Milan. She now lives in Verona with her companion, three daughters and three dogs. She is a comic book writer and screenwriter, including Dylan Dog. She published *Bilico*, *Mani nude* (winner of the Scerbanenco Prize), *Il filo rosso*, *Non ti faccio niente*, *L'ultimo ospite*, *La Cattiva strada*. With *So chi sei* and *Zoo she* began the trilogy that ends with *Vengo a prenderti*, an unique extraordinary ending of the two parallel stories. He wrote and co-wrote the movie fiction *Nel nome del male*, with Fabrizio Bentivoglio. [www.paolabarbato.it](http://www.paolabarbato.it)

# Paola Barbato



320 pages - May 2022

## THE WRONG WAY

Foreign rights sold to: Spain, Poland

**Just an ordinary job. A small transgression. And suddenly your life is on the line.**

He should have known better than to open that box. It was one of the unspoken rules of the assignment. But he'd been afraid he'd somehow damaged the contents, and thought he could undo the damage, so he'd opened it. Signing his own death warrant. Giosciua Gambelli never expected much from life and life repaid him by the same token, first saddling him with that ridiculous name, chosen by his father, and then with all the things he is not, has not been able to do, will never accomplish. Yet now, at thirty, for the first time in his life Giosciua has finally landed a job he's actually good at, something that feels just right for him. He is a courier, though he's never sure what it is he is delivering, and never thought to wonder. Maybe that's why they hired him. No ambition, no curiosity. They hand him a package, he delivers it, and that's that. No questions asked, never a glitch. Always at night.

But on a night like any other, once he's seen what's inside that small cardboard box, Giosciua realizes he is trapped, and must do what he's never dared before - disobey. And everything changes forever. The anxiety of what will happen if someone were to stop him is overwhelming. And then comes the fear, if ever the senders discovered what he's seen. Because now he is not the man he was before, the dumb courier who always did as he was asked. Now he is a witness. And he's seen to many movies not to know what's in store for those who stick their nose where they shouldn't. But when a series of chilling signs shows that the one who hired him is close, and follows his every move, there's only one thing left to do - escape. And there's only one place where Giosciua can be safe - the highway he is travelling on. And which he can never leave.



416 pages - June 2021

## THE LAST GUEST

Foreign rights sold to: Lithuania, Poland

**A page-turner by an unrivalled queen of the Italian thriller scene will keep you awake without shedding a single drop of blood. Or almost.**

At the start it's just a vague feeling, a creeping sense of unease. The smell of dust and mold, no doubt. But also some sort of dissonance, the feeling that something is wrong. It's what Letizia feels the first time she sets foot in the ancient, crumbling villa where she'll be confined for several days along with Flavio, the solicitor who has offered her a new job and a reason to start over again. The ninety-years-old woman who owned the house has died leaving no heirs and no written will, so a host of distant relatives has crept out of the woodwork to fight tooth and nail over the villa. And everything within it. An ordinary estate dispute, then. But not this time. It's the small details that just don't add up.

A misplaced throw-cushion. The endless secret closets hidden behind the boiserie. Letizia's dog, who adamantly refuses to step into the house. And a sudden blue light glimpsed behind the basement windows. It's just your eyes playing tricks on you, is what Flavio keeps saying, rational as ever. But Letizia sees it differently. And her imagination runs wild when she starts to find traces of a child buried deep within the house - locks of blond hair, small mementos.

Why would a woman with no kids or grand-kids collect such things? And why did she hide them? Now Flavio and Letizia are stuck inside the house, with no way out, and however different their respective natures, a terrifying thought starts haunting them both - what if they're not alone?



# Roberto Putzu

## RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES

A riveting thriller shedding light on the connections between heads of State, intelligence agencies, and international banks.



336 pages – October 2023

The boldest bet ever played in the history of stock exchanges: a daring financial operation known only to a select few, including the leader of the People's Republic of China, a wealthy Pakistani magnate, and the president of the European Central Bank. An event that could blow apart the geopolitical order of the world, weaving together the destinies of Alessandro Matti, one of the most skillful traders on the planet, Giulia Costa, an Italian investigative journalist, Yasser Farid, an agent of the Pakistani secret services, and Ramid Manshour, an ISIS militant.

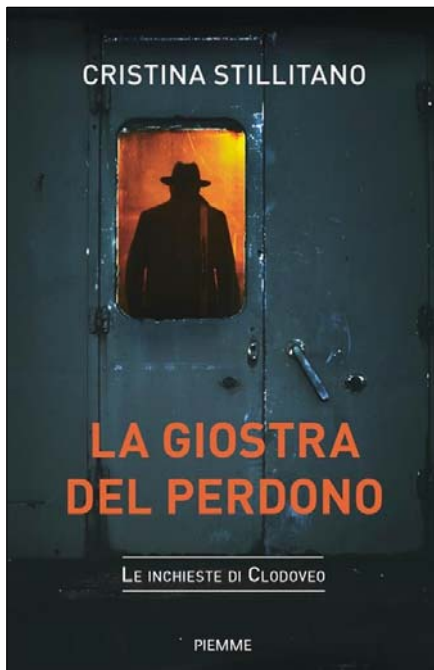
A breathtaking thriller opening our eyes to the very precarious economic and political balances our lives depend on.

**Roberto Putzu** lives in Olbia, is a chartered accountant and financial expert. His debut thriller is entitled *L'algoritmo dell'inganno*. With *Sotto gli occhi*, the first novel published with Sperling & Kupfer, he continues to shed light on the obscure entanglements between politics and international finance.

## Cristina Stillitano

# THE CAROUSEL OF FORGIVENESS

A talented author who has gained widespread fame through self-publishing, winning readers over with her commissioner and her surprising plots that keep you holding your breath until the last page.



416 pages - February 2023

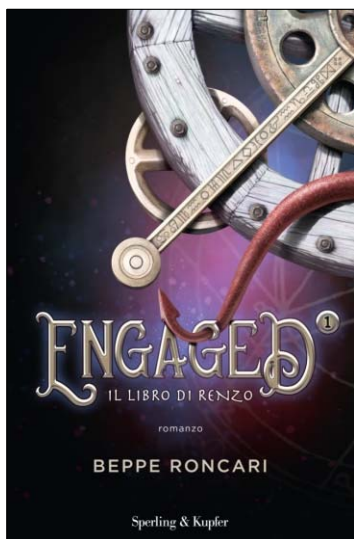
February, 1956. A blanket of snow has descended on Rome, but this does not stop the thieves from doing their job. At Termini station, a man is sitting on a bench waiting for a train when all of a sudden someone behind him grabs the large wheeled trunk he has next to him and runs away. The next day, Questore Passalacqua summons Commissioner Agostino Clodoveo to give him a very delicate task: find Clara Tebaldi, the wife of a rich and important man, Fulco Tebaldi. The woman has disappeared and the alarm was raised by her husband, who has retired to the countryside since going blind. The case becomes complicated when, the next day, a trunk is discovered in the toilet of the Milan-Rome train. Inside is the body of a woman and Clodoveo fears that it belongs to Clara Tebaldi. From here a long and complex investigation unfolds, during the course of which there is another murder and a thief commits suicide in the Regina Coeli prison. As if he had not enough with work, what worries Clodoveo is the illness of little Isabella, the child he has lost custody of and who considers him a father...

- *"Reading Stillitano's novels, it almost seems as if Simenon's spirit has left Paris and moved to the Rome of the 1950s, finding a massive new commissioner to act as his alter ego. Like Maigret, Clodoveo mainly follows his instincts, exudes humanity, and moves between very different environments, dodging lambrettas and beggars, jeeps and cops: from the villas of the nobility to brothels, from dancing on barges on the banks of the Tiber to meetings of the Charity women, from the platforms of Termini Station to the livid light of the morgue, to the silent naves of an ancient church. Always in search of one thing: the truth. Commissioner Agostino Clodoveo is a man who loves caffelatte and quarrels with the ghost of his wife: a gruff-sympathetic man called upon to solve enveloping and complex enigmas."* - Ansa.it Books
- *"The real protagonist of these stories, even more than Commissioner Agostino Clodoveo, is Rome and its people. Not the Romans of today, but those of the 1950s."* - «Il Messaggero»

**Cristina Stillitano** is a professional journalist and writer. She lives and works in Rome. In 2018 she published the first title of the series *Le inchieste di Clodoveo: Cuore di passero ha la morte* was awarded by Amazon readers, placing it first in the bestseller list in the noir category. Two other self-published successes followed the first: *La donna a metà* (*Le inchieste di Clodoveo volume 2*) and the third, winner of the Amazon Storyteller literary prize 2021 *Andrai Tornerai Non Morirai* (*Le inchieste di Clodoveo volume 3*). Each novel advances one year: the first is set in the Rome of 1953, the fourth in the capital of 1956.

Fantasy, horror and Distopia

# Beppe Roncari



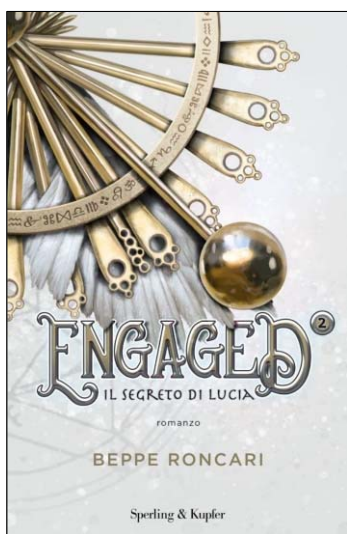
576 pages - May 2023

## ENGAGED 1. The story of Renzo

A daring and innovative rewriting of *I Promessi Sposi*, addressed to a YA crossover audience, in which, further to the original characters, angels and demons fight against each other and interfere in the protagonists' destiny.

Lucia and Renzo, two young lovers, are engaged to be married and close to achieving their long-awaited happiness. Little do they know, however, that they are being watched by the angel Mumiah and the demon Belial, who, bored with eternity, bets that he will be able to let Lucia fall into the arms of Don Rodrigo, a local squire, instead of in those of her soul mate. Will Belial succeed in turning the tide of the story?

Roncari imagines a further and fantastic temporal plane, in which a struggle for the supremacy on earth is fought and that influences the destinies of Renzo, Lucia, Don Rodrigo, the Bravi, establishing their joys, sorrows and dramas.



864 pages - September 2023

## ENGAGED 2. The story of Lucia

The final chapter of *Engaged*, the original retelling of the *Promessi Sposi* [The Betrothed]. Beppe Roncari has taken a story all Italian students learn at school and made it new, with a magical and fantasy twist and an original, unique style.

Renzo and Lucia have been separated. After finding refuge in Bergamo, Renzo is about to land in Venice as a prisoner, while Lucia is at the monastery of the Lady of Monza, a woman of dark appeal and many secrets. In fact, both are pawns in the plots and games of the angel Mumiah and the demon Belial, who have long been battling over the Secret Book of Giordano Bruno, a treasure trove of boundless power which could prove lethally dangerous, were it to fall into the wrong hands or be snatched by sinister figures who shall best remain «Unnamed».

Through adventures, deceptions, and plot twists, will Good prevail over Evil, allowing Renzo and Lucia to reunite and finally make their dreams of love come true?

**Giuseppe Roncari** born in Milan in 1978, is a writer, translator and editor. He has worked in the production of tv series and as translator for important international co-productions of Lux Vide. He has worked in communication for the Scuola Holden in Turin and for the European Space Agency (ESA). He currently works for the Cambridge University Press as editor for the English language courses.

# Caterina Signorini

## THE RING

«You are born to fight, and you die fighting».



336 pages – June 2023

In a world now irreparably hostile to humanity, the human body has evolved to fight for survival, and has developed claws. The top predators in this new host of blades and sharp vertebrae are the Champions, those who step on the Ring and kill the highest number of opponents.

While being Soft, i.e., clawless, is the equivalent of a death sentence. Especially if, like Crys, you are the son of someone like Tarq, a Champion slaughtering dozens of people every day. Crys' diversity makes him vulnerable and a shame for his family, who see him as a failure, a misfit. Fed up with having a Soft for a son, Tarq throws Crys on the Ring, confident that the kid will succumb. Yet things don't quite go as planned...

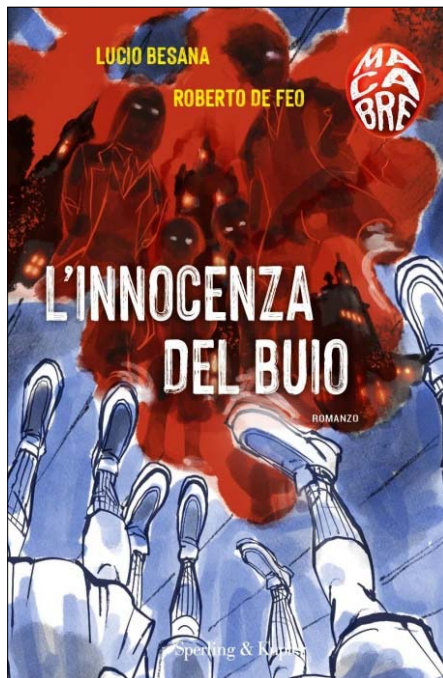
From the dark genius of a twenty-year-old first-time novelist, a relentless dystopic story, depicting a cruel society in which the different are ruthlessly mocked and persecuted – until, driven to fight back, they will utterly upend the establishment.

**Caterina Signorini** defines herself as a cosmic nerd and a child of Orwell. With a passion for electronic music, civil rights, genetic engineering, and AI, she loves making her friends laugh – though you could never tell from what she writes. Her secret dream is to open a Fight Club.

## Lucio Besana, Roberto De Feo

# THE INNOCENCE OF DARKNESS

From two young talents of Italian cinema, an horror fiction that will trouble and surprise the readers.



416 pages - April 2023

Cristian Basili is a child psychiatrist, a controversial character who studies children who seem to have memories of a previous life. After years of research, he has found the subjects that could support his theories: four children who share the same memories of a past life, even though they do not know each other, faded happy memories of years spent in a castle on the French border. The castle once belonged to Mr and Mrs Poitier, a wealthy Italian-French couple who died in 1920. The psychiatrist obtains funds to bring the children to the castle, wishing to prove the scientific nature of his theories. Matteo, Miriam, Kevin and Erica move into the castle together with Cristian and his assistant Carla. Although not immediately, the experiment is a success: the four children slowly remember more and more episodes of their previous existences.

When the memories surface, however, the kids and the psychiatrists realise that the positive memories were a deception and that a dark force lives in the castle, an evil entity that wants to return and harm again.

Lucio Besana and Roberto De Feo know and love the horror genre, which they are experimenting in both writing and film. They are an acclaimed duo, having worked together on two successful movies: *The Nest* (2019) sold in 14 countries, and *A Classic Horror Story*, a Netflix Original Movie, awarded with the Best Director Prize at the Taormina Film Festival in 2021, nominated for the David of Donatello award in 2022, listed by The New York Times among the 5 best horror movies to watch on streaming. The Authors, together with an important Producer, are developing the project of a TV series to be proposed to the major broadcasters.

**Lucio Besana** was born in Merate in 1982 and grew up in the countryside around Milan. After graduating in Psychology, in 2009 he graduated in film and television directing at the Civica Scuola di Cinema Luchino Visconti in Milan. Between 2013 and 2020 he worked on the screenplays of the successful horror movies *The Nest* and *A Classic Horror Story*. In 2020 he won the Hypnos Prize with the short story *Subotica*. He teaches screenwriting at the Scuola Holden, at the Civica Scuola di Cinema Luchino Visconti and at the animation and game design academy e-artsup in Strasbourg. He lives in Strasbourg with his partner.

**Roberto De Feo** was born in Bari in 1981. He was selected as Italy's representative director at the 2016 edition of Biennale Cinema College, he made his debut with his first feature film, *The Nest*. In 2020, he codirected his second feature, *A Classic Horror Story*.

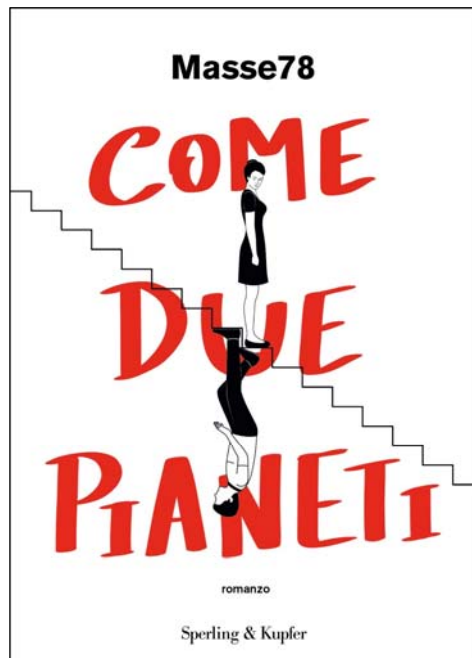
Young Narrative

# Masse78

## LIKE TWO PLANETS

What if a single event upended the order of the universe and forced planets to change their orbits?

The story of a thirty-year-old stuck in a life he cannot recognize as his own.



224 pages - September 2023

Ever since childhood, Marco has always known he was not made for the little Southern town where he was born. So, right after graduation, with the help of his Italian teacher and the blessing of his parents, he leaves everything behind and moves to Milan. His life changes radically. Marco goes to university, makes new friends, launches on a career, and finally meets Francesca, who turns his world around and becomes his girlfriend. It's a different dimension, rich in dreams and hopes, but leaving Marco with the sense of something unaccomplished, of suspended expectations. In his eyes everything appears hazy, undefined, drab. Until something unexpected upends his life once more. Marco receives notice he is the sole heir of the teacher that had been his mentor in high school. And he finds himself on a train that will take him right back to the town he had escaped all those years ago.

With Francesca by his side, of course. What they will find waiting for them is not the future they had envisioned, but the past: old doubts and feelings left unresolved, and that this time will be lived to the full. A story of seeking and new beginnings, a meditation on how hard it is to find your place in the world. Because sometimes to find your way you need to lose yourself and those you love, and rediscover both all over again.

*«Perhaps that was the mistake. Believing that being or rather staying close, was natural. That relationships can just follow their course through sheer inertia. But sometimes bodies become distant. They gravitate elsewhere, like planets. They come and go. Still, we are people, not planets. We can decide not to grow apart. It's all a matter of choice».*

**Masse78** is the pseudonym of the sharpest tongue on the web. With over 500.000 followers, Masse78 delights his readers every day with his brilliant insights, his cynical and ironic take on the world we live in. This is his surprising debut novel.



## Cristian Bragaglio

# I TOLD THE MOON ABOUT YOU AND SHE GAVE ME THE STARS

Cristian Bragaglio gives us an ironic and light debut novel, a journey to discover the feelings of the human soul and the most important relationships: those that make us discover who we really are



240 pages - October 2023

Cristian is a boy with chronic shyness: at thirteen he struggles to find friends, sports are not for him and he has few interests. But he knows that the reason that blocks him in every aspect of life lies in the "three personalities" that animate him.

One day, however, spurred on by his father, he decides to try playing basketball. Despite poor performance, practice allows him to meet boys and girls and with them his first teenage disappointments.

From that moment, a new phase begins for Cristian: first enrollment in the technical institute of graphic design and the professional course, which makes him "blossom" and helps him overcome starvation, and then skateboarding, which will become increasingly important in his life and in his relationships.

But it will only be a great intuition he had on an ordinary day, and a virtual acquaintance that will become more and more encumbered, that will make him what Cristian is today.

**Cristian Bragaglio** was born in Brescia in 1996. After studying advertising graphics and communication, he decided to open a TikTok page that quickly went viral. Today Cristian is one a poet and a motivator with more than 230,000 followers. This is his first novel.

# Adessoscrivo

## YOU HAVE THE SEA INSIDE

The new novel by a bestselling author, among the first and most celebrated writers born on the web.



256 pages - February 2023

Sole is twenty-four years old, with a broken heart, eyes the color of the ocean, and a perpetual feeling of living in a storm. Perhaps that is why her mother gave her that name: to remind her that one can shine even in the pouring rain.

Sole now misses her mother a lot, while her father has closed himself in stubborn silence because after all, everybody deals with pain in their own way. During the year, Sole is a university student; In the summertime she returns back to Puglia where she works as a waitress in a restaurant and she clings to her few certainties in her life: her friends and an infinite love for the sea, for that “huge body of water that can turn into fury at any moment“.

Stefano is from Palermo and has a disastrous family situation. He is thirty-three and he has learned that people who leave do not always come back, but despite everything he still believes that eternal love exists. Perhaps that is why he has always struggled to say "I love you" to anyone, even to Marianna, with whom he had two children when both were too young to understand what they were doing.

Now, as his life seems to be falling apart, Stefano has realized that sometimes "to find happiness we need to let things go“. And perhaps because of this, he is persuaded by friends to go on a vacation to Puglia, where his destiny crash with the one of Sole: an encounter through which the two will lay themselves bare as they had never been able to do. Through an ever more intense relationship they will find the courage to try to fix their lives.

**Adessoscrivo** is the alias of an Italian author who in just a few years has won over an amazing community of readers. Every novel written by Adessoscrivo has been hugely successful, beloved by thousands who every day quote the Author's words on social media.



# Mattia Ollerongis

## HOW MUCH WE LOVED EACH OTHER

With his modern stories of young love and relationships, Ollerongis tells about the fears and frights of the new generations.



Are you able to let go?

For Nora and Marco, the mysterious world of adults is made up of a lot of sadness and stories truncated in the middle, before time, before any ending. What unites their lives is a fate with similar features, two black holes struggling each other to absorb as much light as possible.

When life seems to have brought them to the brink, to the conclusion of their respective stories, however, their meeting makes possible the writing of new pages, unhopd-for and beautiful, strangely fortunate, free of jolts, of old habits, of bad pasts.

208 pages - November 2023

**Mattia Ollerongis** was born in 1995 in Trieste where he lives to this day. In 2015 he made his debut on social media, sharing thoughts and poems that immediately went viral. With Sperling & Kupfer he has published *Tante stelle, qualche nuvola*, *Ti stavo pensando*, *Mancherai all'infinito*, *Sempre con te*, *Essere temporale*, *Donne che ci credono ancora*, *Uomini che tornano*, *Ti penso (ancora)*



Historical

# Daniela Musini

## THE ENCHANTRESSES

### 33 women who seduced the world

An acknowledged wordsmith with a scintillating talent for depictions, Daniela Musini enchants us just like her Enchantresses, bringing to life, as if on a stage, characters and dialogues, settings and atmospheres, and taking the reader by the hand through the secret maze of the passionate, haunted, and refulgent souls of these unforgettable women.



448 pages – October 2023

Whether saints, libertines, artists, spies, or philosophers, dazzling icons of erotic seduction and intellectual fascination or weavers of dark plots, they all had something in common: immeasurable talent, a fiery life and rebel loves.

The Enchantresses is a mosaic of women of unrestrained life, irresistible appeal, and incandescent talents, but it's also a time capsule. Here you'll encounter **Circe**, the sorceress with the topaz eyes; **Hildegard of Bingen**, the mystic feminist of the Middle Ages; **Madame de Pompadour**, witty and wildly ambitious; **Nina Otero**, who cast her spell on the Belle Époque; the redoubtable **Colette**, with her bold pen and daring life; and **Lola Montez** and **Wallis Simpson**, who cost two kings their throne. You will also meet **Lou von Salomé** and **Alma Mahler**, haughty incendiaries and sublime intellectuals who made the greatest artists of their time fall madly in love.

And the diabolical **countess Tarnowska**, a literal femme fatal, leaving a trail of aristocratic corpses in her wake. But also, **Camille Claudel**, **Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald**, and **Billie Holiday**, with their haunted souls and obscured minds, or fascinating figures such as **Agatha Christie**, **Mata Hari**, **Marlene Dietrich**, **Eva Kant**, who made their fortune with mystery, and were doomed by it. Still on these pages, you will see materialized the voluptuous, statuesque paintings by **Tamara de Lempicka** and the exciting and transgressive atmospheres of turn-of-the-century lesbo-chic Paris, counterbalanced by the soft, dreaming world of **Liala**, counterpointed by the sparking and dissipated lives of **Rita Hayworth**, **Ava Gardner** e **Liz Taylor**.

A multifaceted artist, **Daniela Musini** is a writer, pianist, theatre actor and author, renowned as an acclaimed performer of the works of Gabriele d'Annunzio. She has toured Italy, Russia, Japan, France, Belarus, Germany, Poland, Turkey, the United States and Cuba with her monologues on Eleonora Duse and Maria Callas.

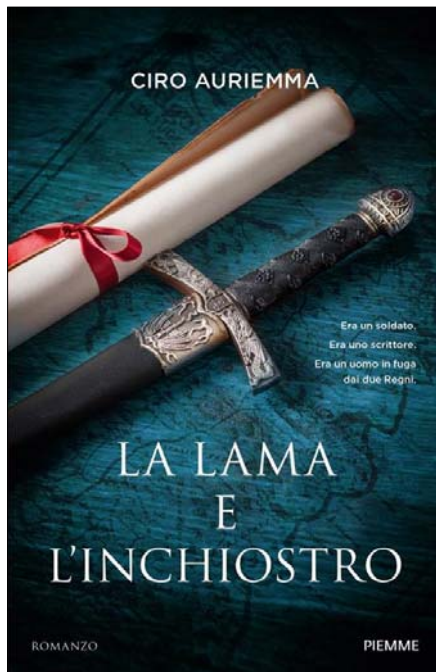
She is the author of fifteen theatre scripts as well as essays and biographies, and with Piemme she has published to remarkable success *Le magnifiche* [The Magnificents. 33 lives of women who made Italian history] and *Le Indomabili* [The Indomitable. 33 women who stunned the world]. Her artistic versatility and accomplishments have earned her 38 national and international literary awards and 19 life accomplishment awards.



# Ciro Auriemma

## THE BLADE AND THE INK

A novel of mystery and adventure in Baroque Cagliari.  
The true and unpublished story of Miguel de Cervantes.



304 pages - October 2023

Cagliari, 1573. It's almost dark when Miguel de Cervantes, arrived in Sardinia to serve under the Viceroy, hears a violent knocking at the door. It's Pablo, the young man he has taken under his wing. «They are looking for you!» cries the young man. «You must run!». Felipe Dulces, a Castilian aristocrat, has just been found dead, killed with a Moresque dagger belonging to Cervantes. It could be a crime of passion, given Cervantes was the lover of the nobleman's wife. So, there's a motive but no opportunity: the two lovers were together in that same room while the man was being murdered. Still, Miguel won't compromise a woman to save himself, so he runs. Out of chivalry, but also because he knows the case against him will be hard to dispute: a fake document, found in the room of the victim, seems to imply that Cervantes would have profited certain privileges if he had killed Dulces.

Thus begins the furious and life-and-death investigation by Cervantes and his loyal helper, Pablo, to uncover the truth – through daring escapes, corrupted officials, powerplays and secret cults, that will make Miguel's stay in Cagliari unforgettable and that will be made immortal by some of his most beautiful pages. *Ciro Auriemma*, like the storytellers of the past, completely immerses us in this distant and yet contemporary story, making us caress for a moment the greatness of an anti-hero of profound value.

**«What is your name?»**

**«Pablo Sanchez, master».**

**«I am not your master, nor anyone else's.»**

**«But then how should I call you, sir?»**

**«Miguel» he said. «Miguel de Cervantes».**

***I wish I could say that was the start of our friendship, but it would be a lie. It was the events of the following days that forced us into an alliance.***

***Terrible events.***

***Deadly.***

**Ciro Auriemma** lives in Cagliari with his life partner, three kids, two cats and a dog. His novels have been published by e/o, Rizzoli, DeAPianeta and Piemme, including the fortunate and provocative *Perdas de fogu*, written with Massimo Carlotto. He is also an author of short stories for newspapers and magazines, a reader and editor for publishing houses, and teaches narrative techniques at the Baskerville School of Creative Writing.

# Valentina Cambi

## THE YOUNGEST OF KINGS

### The secret of Hatti's reign

The never-before-told story of a mysterious people of incredibly fascinating warriors: the Hittites.



336 pages - June 2023

*As he walked to his meeting with Arnuwanda, this was the first thought that flashed through the mind of the Gal Mešedi: how one single choice could change the fate not just of an individual but of an entire people. Luckily, Mursili would never be faced with such difficult decisions. He knew he could never be King.*

Mursili, the fifth son of the great king Suppiluliuma, knows he is not destined to the throne, and is relieved the burden has fallen on the shoulders of his brother, the king's first born, much older and a braver warrior than he is. This was the reason why Mursili, young as he is, was allowed to marry the girl he loved and devote his time to the worship of the gods and his studies. Not that he's ever shrunk from battle – he is the Gal Mesedi, after all, the head of the royal guards – but he has always treasured his freedom. Much more than power.

But the day he is summoned by the king, his brother Arnuwanda, to a meeting in the great hall of the palace reserved for the most formal and ceremonial royal audiences, he feels a change coming.

And in just a few instants his life is upended forever. The king is dying of the plague that has been decimating his people and has chosen Mursili as his rightful heir. Mursili is to be entrusted with the glorious reign of Hatti, bravely built by his ancestors. It will be up to him to defend it against its enemies, keeping the Assyrians and the Egyptians well away from its territory.

Mursili is only nineteen and feels utterly unprepared for the task. But no-one can disobey an order from the king, for he is the link between the gods and men. So Mursili accepts his fate. Many will dispute his valor, conspiring to overthrow him. And many others will surround him with flattery, in the hope of sharing his glory. The way ahead will be treacherous and hard, filled with betrayals and seductions, plagues cast by the gods and ancient prophecies. But still Mursili will be the youngest of kings.

After a university degree in classical studies, **Valentina Cambi** earned a Ph.D. in Linguistics at Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa, with a specialization in the Hittite language. She is the author of several papers in her area of expertise, as well as of the monograph *Tempo e aspetto in ittito [Tense and Aspect in Hittite]*. She has also earned a master's degree in tv and cinema screenwriting and production (MISP) from the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan, where she is currently a teacher.

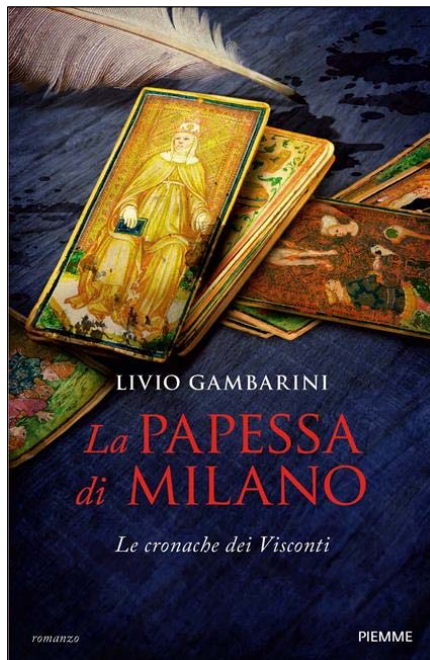
She has been working as an author and scriptwriter (both in Italian and English) in the publishing and television field, as art director, editor, graphic-editorial coordinator, and translator. She has collaborated in the production of several books, comics and magazines for major Italian and international publishing houses.

# Livio Gambarini

## THE HIGH PRIESTESS OF MILAN

### The Visconti saga

A topical, perfectly documented and intense historical novel. An increasingly appreciated author.



688 pages - May 2023

The Visconti family returns to Milan after the dramatic war against the della Torre family. But Milan is not the same place they left ten years earlier.

There is a sect, a new Church that venerates a female Christ. It is a heresy that must be stopped in every possible way. Even with fire.

January 22, Anno Domini 1277, Milan. The horseback procession that departed from Desio after the last and final battle against Napo della Torre, emerges in the snowy square of Sant'Ambrogio. At the head of the procession is Ottone Visconti, gleaming in his bishop's mitre, followed by the family and nobles who fought by his side.

But the welcome is not the one Ottone nor Matteo, his favorite nephew, would have expected. Milan is ruined by the tributes collected by the della Torre family for the ten-year war against the Visconti, and now people do not want another tyrant.

But that is not the only problem the Viscontis have to face. Within the walls of Milan a new sect has arisen, originated by the followers of a woman of the people, Saint Guglielma, who professes a new vision of God and of the relationship between man and woman and who is hailed as the new Messiah. When the Saint dies and

the sect elects a high priestess, a wise and widely beloved noblewoman who years earlier had left her aristocratic privileges to put herself at the service of Christ, those who hold the power can no longer ignore it. That heresy must be stopped, not least because the favor and support of the Church of Rome are too important to the Visconti, and even a lukewarm support to that abomination could be fatal.

Thus begins one of the most dramatic trials Milan can remember.

Tough choices will have to be made, between what is right and what is convenient, between whom one loves and whom one can sacrifice.

*"This year of the Lord 1300 is a holy year. At this time, in the Eternal City, Boniface VIII has called for a Jubilee. But while Rome celebrates forgiveness and indulgence, Milan will have to endure a very serious ordeal. There is a complex affair that needs to be shed light on. An issue..."* Friar Lanfranco's voice faltered. He tightened his lips. He hated each of the words he was uttering, but he had to go on. *"An issue as deplorable as it is painful ... of which I believe some of you are already aware."*

**Livio Gambarini** born in Bergamo 1986, is a writer and popularizer of the Italian Middle Ages. For years he has been teaching narratology and writing techniques in courses, seminars and mentorship sessions; founder of "Rotte Narrative", for aspiring writers, he is a lecturer at the Advanced Training Course "Il piacere della scrittura" at the Università Cattolica in Milan. Already known for *Eternal War*, his fantasy-historical saga about Dante and Guido Cavalcanti, his other interests include RPG storytelling and video games. His first novel, *Ottone. Il primo dei Visconti*, co-written with Alex Calvi, was a great success among readers.

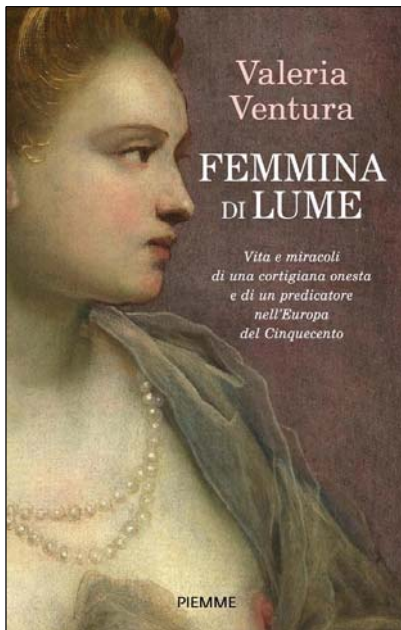


# Valeria Ventura

## FEMALE OF THE LUME

### Life and miracles of an honest courtesan and a preacher in Sixteenth-Century Europe.

A never-before-seen fresco of the Italian Renaissance as seen through the eyes of a splendid courtesan, a woman who was indomitable, extraordinary, and very modern.



256 pages - February 2023

Travels, adventures, historical battles, and the daily lives of the humble and the powerful come to life in a narrative that captivates and captivates.

It is 1505 when young Ruth, almost still a child, is kidnapped by one of the lansquenets who have destroyed her village in the Carinthian countryside and exterminated her family. Ruth barely survives, forced to follow the Lansquenets as a sex slave, but her vicissitudes are only just beginning. Having arrived to Italy, rescued by a "benefactor," she settles in Perugia, where she becomes an honest courtesan, that is, no longer a mere "female of the lume" – as common courtesans were called at the time, but a high-class prostitute. The protagonist's life journey, year by year and chapter by chapter, is counterpointed by the spiritual and existential journey of a young preacher: Martin Luther.

Two parallel existences, then, framed in totally different dimensions of life, that will, however, come together in Germany, in the years of the German peasant uprisings.

Among the various fictional characters, some historically existent ones also find space in the novel. In addition to Martin Luther, we meet Giampaolo Baglioni, the painter Domenico Alfani, Julius II, Ippolito d'Este, Don Giulio d'Este, Thomas Müntzer, and Ludovico Ariosto.

*"The intention, as in my previous novel The Innocents, was to narrate what is called the "Bad Renaissance," a century of splendors yes, but also of many horrors. I wanted to tell the contrast between the very hard life of the common people and the wealth and arrogance of the ruling classes, while an epochal revolution in Christendom was being prepared through the speculation and anguish of a simple Augustinian monk."*

- Valeria Ventura

**Valeria Ventura** was born in Bologna and now lives in Perugia, she has taught at the University for foreigners as a lecturer of Italian language to foreigners, dealing mainly with phonetics and phonology of Italian. With the novel *Femmina di lume*, she ranked in the top 5 of the second edition of the Clara Sereni National Literary Competition, in the unpublished section. With the historical novel *Le innocenti* (2018), she won three literary prizes: the "Editori a chilometro zero" (Umbria Libri, Perugia, 2018); the "Storie di uomini e paesi" award (Livorno Ferraris, Vercelli, 2019) and the "Fulgineamente" prize (Foligno, 2019).

# BASTARD DAUGHTERS OF FRANCE



688 pages  
May 2021

## THE CARDINAL'S DAUGHTER

**At the time of Louis XIII and Cardinal Richelieu, two young women of illegitimate birth aspire to the same freedom, and find themselves pawns in a game played by the powers that be.**

Meaux 1630. The arrival of the two musketeers sent to escort Madeleine Pidoux to the Parisian residence of her uncle, Cardinal Richelieu, is the clear sign that her previous life, wild and free and far away from the worldly rituals she despises, has come to an end.

The year before, her uncle had forced Madeleine to participate in the balls celebrating the peace treaty between France and the Savoy, and on that occasion the duke Vittorio Amedeo I had fallen in love with her. To escape his courtship, she had run off the countryside, where only his letters could reach her, but now her peace is over.

Madeleine is not like the aristocratic young ladies of her time. Cultured, refined, and educated at the *salon* of Madame Rambouillet, she is not interested in becoming somebody's courtesan - yet that is the life the Duke has in store for her, as stipulated by a clause he has foisted on the treaty. Which is why, when faced with the insistence of one of the two musketeers, Hauteville, a stony-faced soldier unmoved by feminine charms, Madeleine decides to stand up for herself. She will not follow her escorts to Paris nor anywhere else. She is a free agent and determined to choose her own destiny. But when the Duke sends a posse of armed men to kidnap her, Madeleine has no choice but to escape once more, this time with the help of Hauteville himself. During her flight she realizes she has one more card to play: scandal. She alone knows all the Cardinal's secrets, and can use them as leverage. It's at this juncture that she meets another young woman, Cecile, imprisoned as punishment for her disobedience to the family of the French monarch, king Louis XIII.

The destinies of two brave and indomitable women become entwined in this riveting *feuilleton*, taking us back to a time when only through outright rebellion could a woman let her voice be heard. Before she was silenced again.

## THE ANGEL AND THE VIRGIN

**Secrets and lies, passionate and impossible loves, unsuspected spies, double agents and deadly poisons. A *feuilleton* of great charm and intensity, set between the incomparable splendour of the French court and the austere regality of the princes of Turin.**

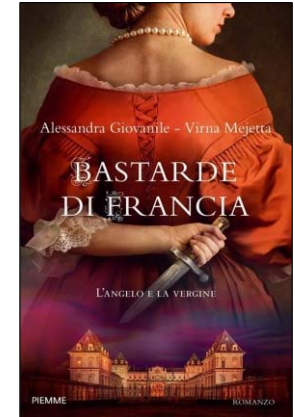
To each one is given the opportunity to choose between letting himself be carried away by the current or to resist it, at the risk of being destroyed.

Paris, 1631. Cécile de La Baume, freed from the terrible captivity that saw her imprisoned in a fort for more than three years, tries to rebuild her afflicted soul. But returning home does not put an end to her torments: in fact, the king, her guardian after the death of her father, accuses her and her parents of treason because of their huge fortune of unknown origin.

A love that could restore her serenity is not strong enough to face life's conflicts; Cécile's mind is turned to another solitary goal: the revenge against the one who organised her imprisonment.

On the other side of the Alps, Madeleine Pidoux has come to Turin to become the favourite of Duke Victor Amadeus I with the idea of remaining true to herself and the love she left behind in France. However, Victor Amadeus does not look like the man who had attacked her two years earlier: he is intent on conquering her. The obstacles in Savoy come from the Duchess Christine, who, afraid of losing her power which is to her more important than her husband, puts the young woman in a bad light in front of the court.

Cécile is considered an angel with muddy wings, Madeleine the virgin to be sacrificed to a powerful man, but what appears is not always the mirror of truth.

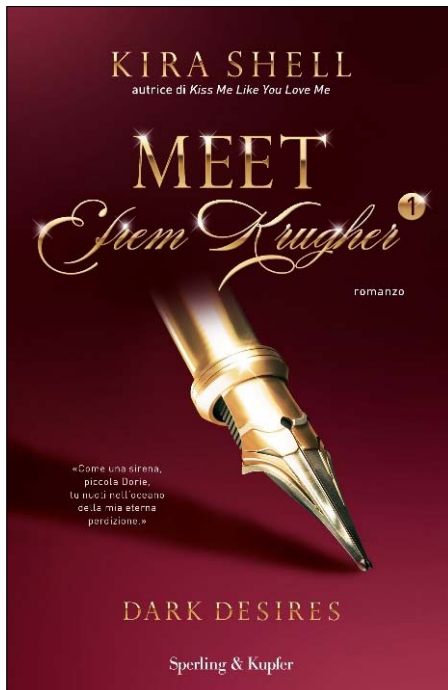


788 pages  
March 2023

Dark Romance and New Adult

Kira Shell  
**MEET EFREM KRUGHER**  
 Dark desires Vol. 1 – Dark Secrets Vol. 2

In the wake of the huge success of *Kiss Me Like You Love Me*, a new bestselling dark romance saga!



640 pages - October 2021

Thea is twenty-years old, and she is lead guitar of the Bright Demons, a talented band on the verge of making it big. But then her mother dies, and Thea loses herself, putting in jeopardy her entire career. Worried for her future, her grandmother and her manager convince her to go into therapy with Efrem Krugher, a holistic psychiatrist at the head of Asklepios, an unconventional and exclusive rehabilitation center catering to the needs of celebrities wishing to keep under wraps their condition. Krugher, 36, is handsome, magnetic, and hides a dark secret in his past. In a whirlwind of torment and passion, Thea allows herself to be swept off her feet by her new and forbidden love interest, embarking in an exciting and erotic inner journey to the discovery of her deepest and darkest desires. But with the passing of time, she realizes there are terrible threats and awful secrets lurking behind every corner at Asklepios.

Who is really Efrem Krugher, the doctor to whom Thea has entrusted her life? Is he the melancholic and understanding man, who reads her soul and manages to arouse emotions she thought forgotten, or the cunning and calculating one, who demonstrates extreme eroticism and ignites her senses? Impossible to say, just as it is impossible for Thea to resist Efrem's hypnotic and dangerous charm and especially to stifle the feelings she begins to have for him, despite the age difference and all the obstacles to their relationship. For his part, Efrem is a dark prince who gives no certainties, who seduces and deludes, without allowing the girl to see what lies beneath his armor. Yet, as time passes, something between Efrem and Thea changes, in the fire of passion the flames of love blaze. Despite a thousand adversities, will fate be merciful and allow the two lovers to live with each other forever?



672 pages - November 2022

**OVER 60.000  
 COPIES SOLD**

Kira Shell

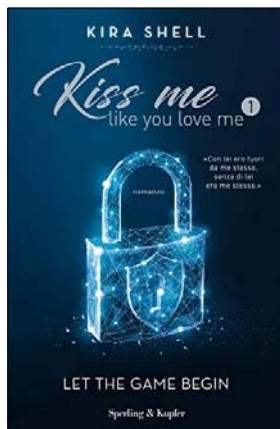
## KISS ME LIKE YOU LOVE ME

Foreign rights sold to: Spain

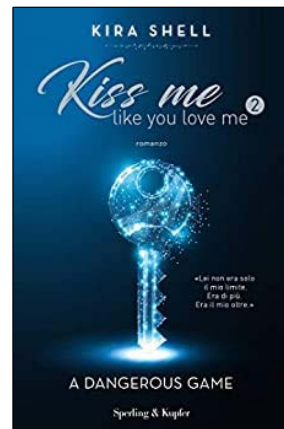
After taking Wattpad and Amazon by storm was with over 6 millions of views, Kiss me like you love me is the beloved Italian series of dark romance with over **450,000 copies sold**.

The series that has reached the TOP20 for Italian fiction, becoming a huge publishing success and one of the biggest TikTok Sensation

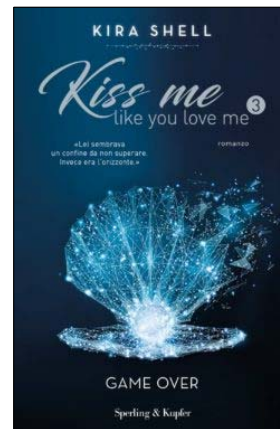
He lived in chaos. She sought order. Together they were passion and enchantment, reality and dream. The passionate and riveting love-story of two lost souls who could not survive apart.



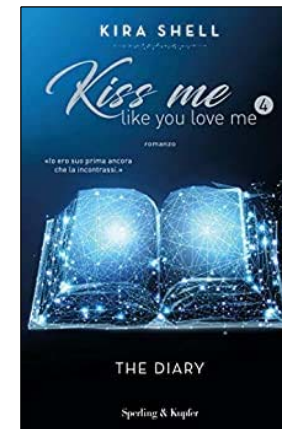
624 pages - September 2019



524 pages - September 2019



512 pages - September 2019



416 pages - June 2020



192 pages - November 2020

*«We were something. Something you could not see but feel, something that existed beyond all qualifiers and definitions. There was no explanation for two such as us.»*

*«We often lost our way. We were good at screwing up, unrivalled at getting hurt. And yet we were the most beautiful imperfect thing in the world.»*

**Kira Shell** is the nom de plume of an Italian author. She has a Law degree but her real loves are the piano, reading and writing. She started writing when she was just ten and hasn't stopped since. It took her a while, but ever since she made the decision to publish her saga – first on Wattpad, then on Amazon – Kiss Me Like You Love Me has won the hearts of women readers of all ages.

# Maria Filocomo

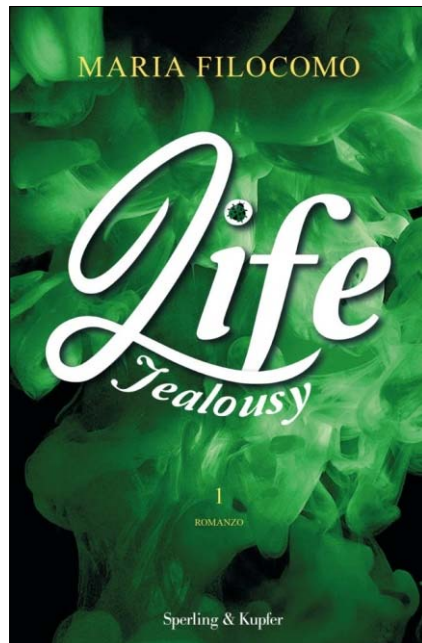
## LIFE - Trilogy

Two unquiet hearts. A troubled love story. An unmissable novel about an overwhelming passion.

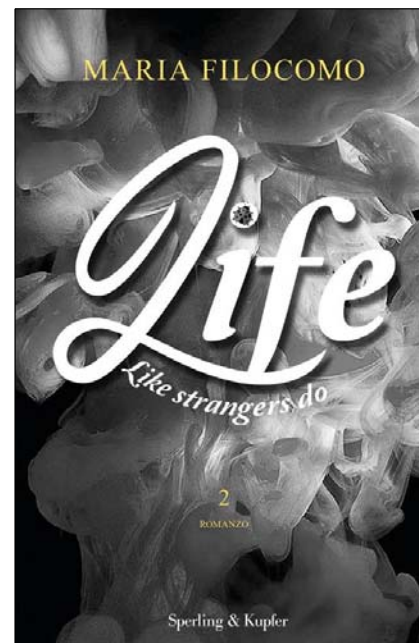
After taking by storm bookstagram and booktok in its self-published edition, *Life*, the romance trilogy by Maria Filocomo, finally arrives in bookstores.

Their visceral and star-crossed love-story has have already made Shawty and Aaron a beloved couple in the world of romance, with a special place in the heart of women readers.

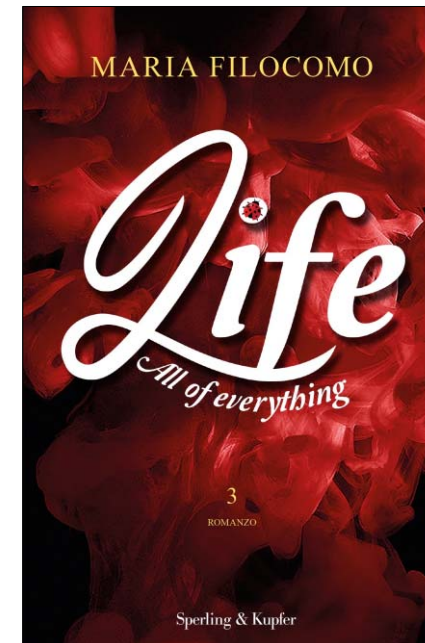
«Ours is not a love. It is something more».



432 pages - July 2022



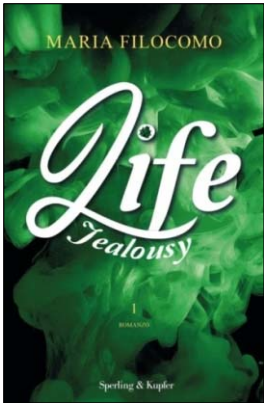
448 pages - September 2022



416 pages - October 2022

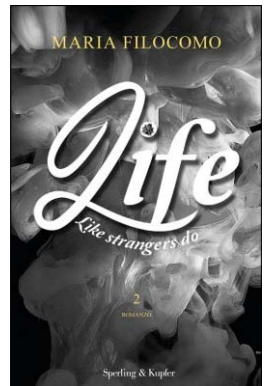
# Maria Filocomo

## LIFE - Trilogy



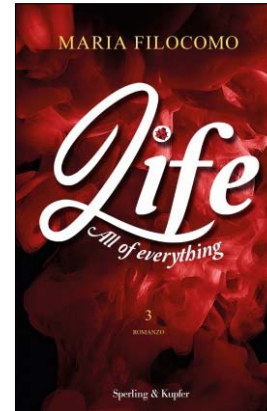
### LIFE – JEALOUSY

Shawty Thompson is a twenty-year-old with a passion for writing and life, and about to start her university studies at Oxford. And on her very first day of class Shawty notices Aaron Richards, a surly, seemingly aloof American classmate. For both it's love at first sight, though Aaron's bad boy act continually tries Shawty's patience. But that's not the only obstacle. Though their passion is mutual and undeniable, they are also fiercely jealous – and jealousy is a constant threat to their love. Beset with secrets, misunderstandings, and hidden truths, will they finally be able to clear the air and find a way to be together?



### LIFE – LIKE STRANGERS DO

Shawty and Aaron have had a terrible car accident, and everything between them has changed. Shawty has lost all memory of the love they had shared, and Aaron, tormented by guilt, seems set on a path of self-destruction. When he discovers that one of the few people Shawty stills remembers is Hayden, a colleague she recently met, Aaron's trademark jealousy flares up again, driving him to put at risk the woman he loves and her fragile emotional balance in his frantic search for a way back into her life. And even when she recovers her memory, Shawty will still be riddled with doubts and uncertainties, and her relationship with Aaron remains hanging by a thread. Will their love prove strong enough to overcome the trials fate still has in store?



### LIFE – ALL OF EVERYTHING

On his return home Aaron finds the front door left open and Shawty's cellphone abandoned on the floor in the hall. The woman he loves has vanished. Thinking of the threatening letter he had received at his office and fearing that Shawty may be in grave danger, Aaron suspects she's been kidnapped. Meanwhile, traumatized by the mortal danger she is in, and though still desperately in love with him, Shawty has come to hate everything Aaron had meant for her, resenting him for all the suffering he has caused her. So that when with the help of the

police Aaron finally rescues her, Shawty decides to break up with him – though he begs her not to and she herself is deeply conflicted about her decision. She goes to live with Hayden, who does his best to comfort her – though he knows full well she is in love with someone else. Shawty slowly realizes that despite all that has happened, Aaron is still her all. Their relationship is still fraught with misunderstandings and fights, until one night, right in the middle of an argument, Shawty suddenly feels sick, and is overcome by panic. They both think she might be pregnant, and when the test confirm it, while Shawty is flooded with relief Aaron realizes also something else – having a child with Shawty might be the lifeline he needs to finally leave behind the inner pain that's been eating him up all his life. But this realization will only come about when he understands that no matter what happened in the past, the future can really be different, with Shawty by his side.

Recent backlist highlights



## Corrado Debiasi



240 pages - June 2022

### THE VILLAGE OF TIMELESS MONKS

*What is the most precious treasure of all?*

It's been a few years since Kripala first traveled to India and experienced his life-altering initiation. Now he needs to go back there - to carry to the Ganges the mortal remains of his beloved, who has recently passed, and to look for his teacher, Tatanji. For in finding his teacher Kripala hopes to also find his lost peace of mind. But at the ashram he is met by chaos and desolation. The old monk has vanished, leaving behind only a blue-eyed grey kitten, Shakti, and a worn notebook. Kripala will take both on a new journey, seeking for a place he has seen in his dreams - a mythical destination no-one really knows the way to but many hope to reach: «the village of timeless monks».

The village where Tatanji was born and the home of keepers of secret teachings passed on for millennia. Kripala's journey will be fraught with pitfalls, but also rich in encounters with special souls who will help him take his awareness to the next level. Because it is only through a new awareness and a different perception of reality that the village can be found. The very few who can see it are those who have come to understand that all living creatures are connected and thus have opened themselves to the love that embraces all things. Kripala's journey will be a journey to the discovery of the Self, to the true meaning of life and of its boundless beauty



208 pages - October 2020

### THE MONK WHO LOVED CATS

Foreign rights sold to: **Bulgaria, Czech Rep., France, Holland, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey**  
**15 REPRINTS, OVER 70.000 COPIES SOLD**

**An inspirational journey, touching on the deepest values and themes of life with poetry and simplicity..  
 A story that will speak to the heart and soul of every reader.**

*Things always only happen when we are ready to receive them.*  
 When Kripala, the protagonist of this story, sets out on his journey, he has not idea what the future holds in store, but knows what he wants to leave behind - a job he has lost, a love that has ended. His destination is India, where Kripala means to practice yoga and hopes to regain some balance and peace of mind. As soon as he gets there, he gets lost in the narrow alleys of Varanasi. And that is when he begins to find himself.

In the vital and sacred heart of the ancient town Kripala will make simple yet extraordinary encounters, meeting people of humble condition but of fathomless wisdom. A martial arts master, a painter, an older woman caring for the poor, a garden curator... And above them all, threading their destinies together like a masterful tapestry, there is Tatanji, an elderly monk who has retired in an ashram to live with his cats. He will brush the dust from Kripala's eyes, showing him that the happiness he was seeking was already inside him - he just needed to see it.

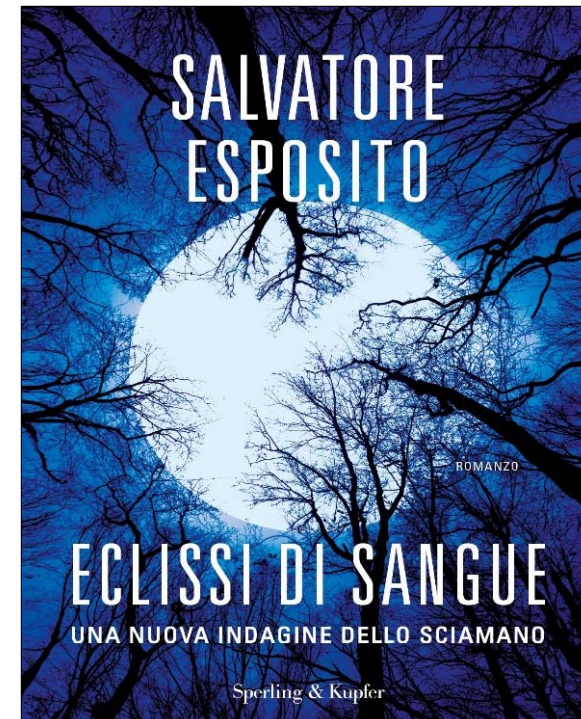
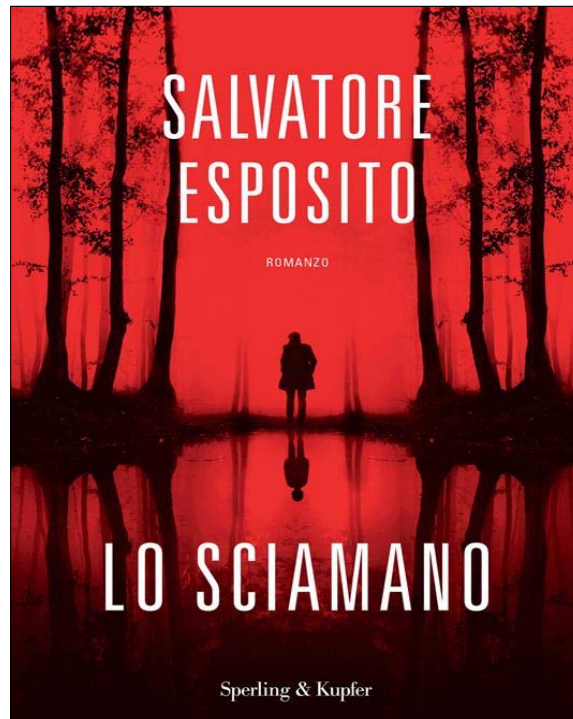
**Corrado Debiasi** lives in Trentino. He is a compulsive reader and a scholar of Eastern cultures and yogic philosophy. He has been practicing meditation ever since he was a boy. He loves animals and long walks in nature.

# Salvatore Esposito

An actor of international renown.

Star of the hit television series **Gomorra** and **Fargo**.

His debuts on the literary scene with a breathtaking thriller series.



**Salvatore Esposito** was born in Mugnano di Napoli in 1986. After moving to Rome, he was offered his first acting job in 2013, in the television series *Il clan dei camorristi* (The Camorra clan). The following year he gained prominence in the role of Gennaro Savastano in the series *Gomorra*. In 2015 he appeared in the films *Lo chiamavano Jeeg Robot*, directed by Gabriele Mainetti, and *Zeta - Una storia hip-hop*, directed by Cosimo Alemà. In 2018 he starred in the movie *Puoi baciare lo sposo*. In 2019 he was Gaetano Fadda in the fourth and fifth season of *Fargo*.



# Salvatore Esposito



366 pages – June 2021

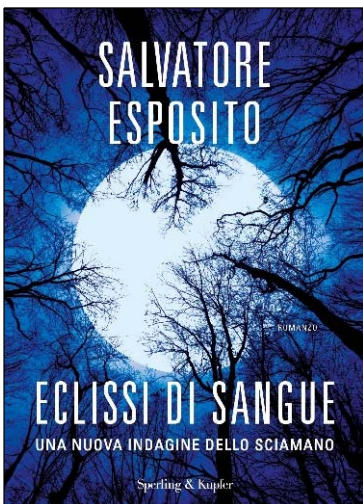
## THE SHAMAN

Foreign rights sold to: France

Christian S. is a profiler with a special expertise on ritual killings. The Interpol, the FBI, Scotland Yard - there's not a police department or major crime squad where the "Shaman" hasn't been called upon at least once. He has become known as the Shaman because of his unorthodox methods on scenes of the crime and the astounding success rate of his investigations. An infallibility so unique that even his superiors are willing to tolerate his short temper and his questionable past. Until the day the burnt corpse of a woman is found crucified on the hills near the town of Benevento.

In his search for the truth Christian S. will have to delve deep into the shadowy world of centuries-old witchcraft rituals that are seemingly still going on in the woods surrounding the city. The investigation will lead him on a journey to the center of the occult and of an unsolved mystery lurking in his personal past.

With a professional background in the creative environment that has reshaped the very code of television crime stories, Salvatore Esposito has crafted a charismatic and ambivalent hero - a contemporary mind-hunter promising to star in a long series of publications



366 pages – October 2022

## ECLIPSE OF BLOOD

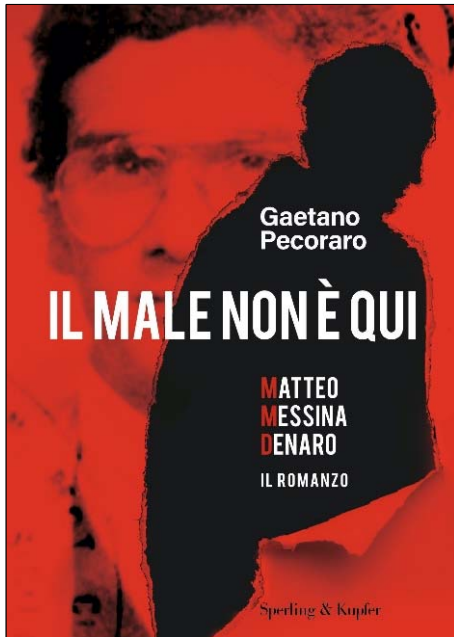
Stepping out of the airport, Christian Costa finds a black sedan waiting for him – it's what always happens, whenever a Police station or a Major Crime division finds itself at its wits' end and asks for the help of the «Shaman». This time the police department in question is the Policía Judicial de A Coruña. A new victim has just been added to the thick file of the investigation: «Telma Queiroz Duarte, 24, second daughter of Amália Gama Queiroz and Ricardo Amaral Duarte», a prominent Portuguese art dealer. Telma's body has been found by some fishermen near the port of Freixo, a tiny village in Galicia, on one of the fjords of the Rías Baixas. Her throat has been cut, but before her death the killer had butchered her, inflicting a series of savage stab wounds. Now, as the body lies on a cold metal slab at the morgue, the worst of the cuts, the stab that disemboweled her, has been hastily sewn up.

Telma was six months pregnant at the time of her death, but the fetus has been removed and taken God only knows where, leaving a gaping absence as wide and awful as the enigma facing Christian Costa and Inspector Francisco Cruzado. Cruzado is an old acquaintance of the Shaman from the time they were both young detectives at the Interpol branch in Manchester.

Now, almost a decade later, the Galicia case has brought them back together. So, while in Italy Inspector Bianca Romano finds that the Satanic lobby of Sophia is stirring up once more, raising all those unanswered questions about the past and the life of Christian Costa, the Shaman and Inspector Cruzado join forces to solve the case of the killing spree taking place along the coast of Galicia. Their investigation will put them on the trail of a serial killer, or possibly a cult, and face to face with a vicious truth and an unpredictable, dramatic epilogue.

Gaetano Pecoraro  
**EVIL IS NOT HERE**  
 Matteo Messina Denaro. The novel

The first ever novel based on the life-story of the mafia boss, Matteo Messina Denaro



240 pages - June 2022

The fugitive at the center of this story is none other than Matteo Messina Denaro, a criminal at the top of most wanted list for the last three decades. He has been flying under the radars since 1993. Since then, there have been no sightings, no clues as to where might be hiding or even what he looks like - his last known photo was taken at the time he went underground. Ruthless and all-powerful, the instigator of bombings and murders, he is believed to be the top boss of Cosa Nostra. Gaetano Pecoraro, a reporter specialized in the Mafia, has collected a vast documentation of accounts and eye-witness reports, retracing the blood trail of one of the most callous mobsters ever. And he has turned the real life-story of Messina Denaro into a work of fiction, though always revolving around actual events, such as the attacks on the judges and prosecuting magistrates Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino

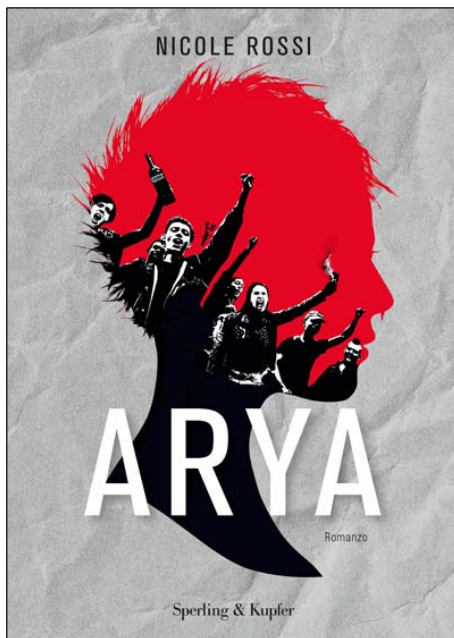
and the bombings gone down in Italian history as the «Mafia Terror». A feat of reporting and creative imagination; a unique and courageous novel..

**Gaetano Pecoraro** is a professional journalist and reporter. Most recently he has become a correspondent for Le Iene, one of most popular and provocative news shows on Italian television. In the past he worked for La7 and for several major newspapers in Sicily.

Nicole Rossi

**ARYA**

"We are really equal in evil, not in good."



224 pages - November 2022

In order to face with an unstoppable economic crisis – which is the result of a pandemic that has plagued the world and brought entire nations to the brink – the country decides to take a course of action by adopting drastic measures: in the upcoming elections, two groups, the Party of Order and the Party in Motion, will face each other. The winner will instantly assume control; there will be no opposition, Parliament will be dismissed, and the elected leader will have full power.

This is the dramatic scenario to which the entire population is destined. Arya is a young political activist, she fights every day to assert her rights and spread her ideas. At any cost, by any means, in real life and on social networks. She is ready to do anything to prevent the Party of Order from winning the next election, even to cross the line between good and evil, to lose her friends and to turn into the

monster she is convinced she is fighting day after day.

But what can one do in the name of an ideal? How far can one go to assert one's ideas? Where does our freedom end and where does the freedom of others begin? These are questions that Arya no longer seems interested in answering. And as the whole country prepares to experience the last days of democracy before the polls, she will slip ever more rapidly into madness, until she makes a gesture that is as extreme as it is dramatic.

**Nicole Rossi** lives in Rome, where she was born in 2001. She is an actress and an influencer. She is one of the protagonist of *Skam Italia 5*, the Netflix cult series.



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