

# FICTION - RIGHTS LIST

## SPRING 2024

---



# FICTION - RIGHTS LIST SPRING 2024 CONTENTS

## Bestselling authors

### Francesco Sole

- *The secret of the happiest woman in the world*
- *The love story that will change your life*

### Sveva Casati Modignani

- *Family dinner series*
- Recent novels

### Kira Shell

- *Mocker. Dead Inside*
- *Meet Efrem Krugher series*
- *Kiss me like you love me series*

## Novels

Manuel Bova, *An inch of wonder*

Valentina Sgambato, *Like forgotten tanzakus*

Rubina Rovini, *The secret ingredient of happiness*

Brenda Lodigiani, *Light my fire*

## Erotic

Cristina Cicolari, *The Businessmen*

## Contemporary Novels

Giuseppe Isoni, *The Diver*

Donata Carelli, *I'll never be a mom*

Matteo Gracis, *The world you didn't expect*

Pamela Ferlin, *In this Afghan night*

## Young Narrative

Anastasia Parpiglioni, *The sky in your eyes*

Mattia Ollerongis, *The summer we stopped loving each other*

Masse78, *Like two planets*

Cristian Bragaglio, *I told the moon about you and....*

Dimitri Cocciuti, *Don't miss out*

## Thriller and Crime

Elias Mandreu, *Mantene s'odiu*

Arwin J. Seaman, *Off season murder*

Arwin J. Seaman, *A day of apparent calm*

Elisabetta Cametti, *A good mother*

Aldo Pagano, *Vintage Weed*

Paola Barbato, *The Gift*

Paola Barbato, *The wrong way*

Paola Barbato, *The last guest*

## Fantasy, horror, distopia

Beppe Roncari, *Engaged 1*

Beppe Roncari, *Engaged 2*

Caterina Signorini, *The Ring*

Lucio Besana, Roberto De Feo, *The innocence of darkness*

## Historical

Rita Coruzzi, *The indomitable*

Carla Maria Russo, *The most beloved daughter*

Daniela Musini, *The Enchantresses*

Ciro Auriemma, *The blade and the ink*

## Longsellers

Corrado Debiassi, *The monk who loved cats*

Corrado Debiassi, *The village of timeless monks*

Best selling authors

# Francesco Sole

A bestselling author with over 300.000 copies sold

*"A dreamer for dreamers"*

*"Francesco Sole makes poets tremble and girls sigh"*

**THE SECRET OF THE  
HAPPIEST WOMAN  
IN THE WORLD  
(2023)**

The story of a woman in rebirth,  
able to question all her  
certainties and to start over

**40.000 copies sold**



**THE LOVE STORY THAT  
WILL CHANGE  
YOUR LIFE  
(2022)**

Falling in love is magic, but  
the real fairy tale is not to get  
lost

**80.000 copies sold**

*Sooner or later come the days of awareness, when you have to decide whether to continue saving others, things or situations.... Or leave everything behind, and start saving yourself*

(from: The love story that will change your life)

**Francesco Sole**, was born in Modena, Italy, in 1992. His first book *Stati d'animo su fogli di carta* (2014) was an incredible publishing sensation. With Sperling & Kupfer, he has published *Così è l'amore* (2020), *L'amore ti trova sempre* (2021) and *La storia d'amore che ti cambierà la vita* (2022), *Il segreto della donna più felice del mondo* (2023).

## Francesco Sole

English sample  
available !



208 pages – November 2023

**40.000 COPIES SOLD**

English sample  
available !



256 pages – November 2022

**80.000 COPIES SOLD**

### THE SECRET OF THE HAPPIEST WOMAN IN THE WORLD

The story of a woman in rebirth, able to question all her certainties and to start over

One day Selene Vanni wakes up and realizes that she is an "almost happy" woman. There is nothing seemingly wrong or out of place in her life. She has a partner, Filippo, with whom she has been living for years, and the job she had always dreamed of doing, in the bookstore that had been her father's and before that her grandfather's. Yet, on a morning more complicated than any other, it is that very innocuous word almost that opens up like a chasm before her eyes. Confused and without any more points of reference, Selene begins to question the reason for that unexpected crisis. Of course, there are the economic difficulties related to her business, and then the strange encounter with a man,

Riccardo, who suddenly dropped the line between reality and fantasies. Soon, however, Selene realizes that the reasons for her disorientation are many more, and what seemed to be only a small crack in the fabric of her everyday life soon widens and branches out, until it comes to question her every certainty. Only then, at the moment when she realizes that she has slowly stifled, day after day, year after year, her desires, her passions and, ultimately, her own freedom, does Selene find the courage to "look inside herself without bringing fears from outside" and "remember that, when everything plummets, the first step to regaining control is to breathe again."

### THE LOVE STORY THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE

Falling in love is magic, but the real fairy tale is not to get lost

Adrian is one of those young people who seem more mature than their age: elegant, ambitious, determined, always impeccable. Carla, on the other hand, with her thoughts in the clouds and her bag full of books, finds order in her own chaos, walking nonchalantly to life's appointments, often with her "five minutes late" (which is actually at least ten). She works as an editor in a major publishing house, he is a lawyer in one of Milan's most prestigious law firms. Both spend their days reading, with one not insignificant difference: he reviews dry contracts, she passionate love stories. When a stroke of lightning sweeps over them, Adrian and Carla, without fully understanding why, feel the need to dive into each other's existence and, shortly after, to move in together in a picturesque villa in the heart of Milan.

But even the most beautiful things break. First it is a simple crack, then it is a wound that spreads silently in the fabric of everyday gestures; eventually the pain comes. And the things that break without making a sound are the hardest to fix. A truth Adrian is forced to come to terms with on the day a terrible suspicion leads him to doubt Carla's feelings, to question every certainty, and to do things he will regret, until he is convinced, he must start all over again. Five dates to relive, one after the other, years apart, the moments and places that marked their story: this is the last attempt Adrian decides to make to try to heal the wounds he and Carla have inflicted on themselves. But is it possible to fall back in love with the person who hurt us most of all?

# Sveva Casati Modignani

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

One of the best-loved and most-read writers ever



Sveva Casati Modignani

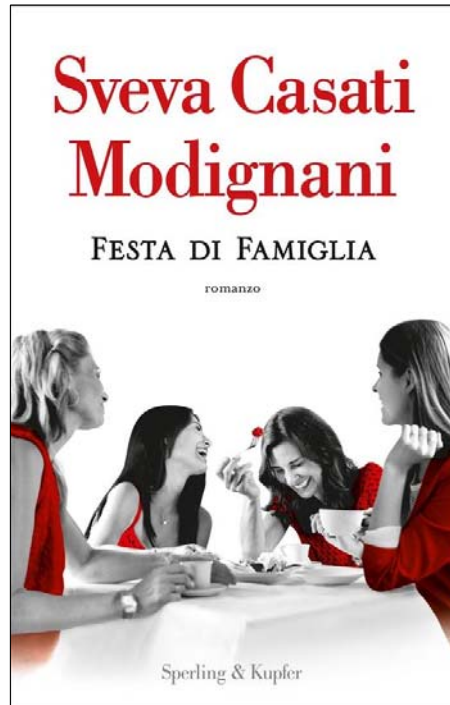
With a literary career that began in 1981 and continues uninterrupted to this day, **37 works** published **over 40 years** and **more than 12 million** copies sold, Sveva Casati Modignani is one of the best-loved and most read writers ever and has created a true literary universe, unique and extraordinarily popular. A universe in which the dream of the romantic fairy tale and the realism of everyday life, melodramatic passions and glamour are seamlessly interwoven to create compelling plots.

Italian best-selling novelist **Sveva Casati Modignani** is the pen-name for one of the most beloved contemporary Italian authors. An acclaimed best-selling author in Women's fiction, she's become the true Italian icon of Sperling & Kupfer, since the huge success of her first novel in 1981. With **28 best-selling novels**, **6 short novels** and **three autobiographical books**., she's considered the queen of popular fiction and has developed a very faithful reading public. . She has always been living in Milan, a town she is deeply affectionate with and which has become the setting of many of her novels.

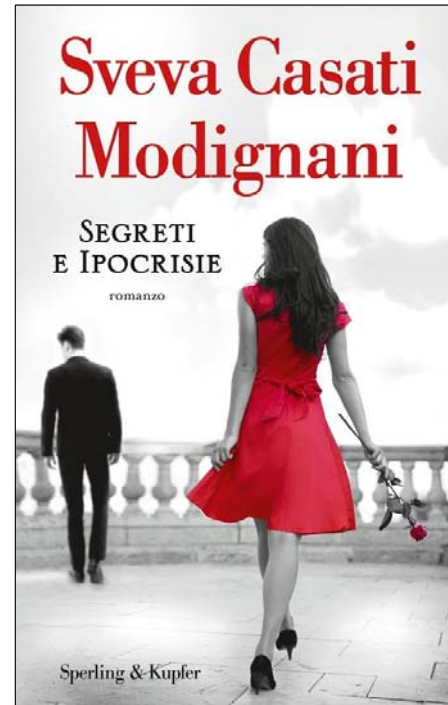
Sveva Casati Modignani  
**FAMILY DINNER SERIES**

Foreign rights sold to: Portugal

**over 500.00 copies sold!**



**168.000 COPIES SOLD**



**134.000 COPIES SOLD**



**124.000 COPIES SOLD**



**105.000 COPIES SOLD**

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



196 pages

**FAMILY DINNER (2017) – Andreina’s story**

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 inseparable 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, and all the four are haunted by problems of the heart. 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? What will she do now? Whatever choice she will make her friends will stand by her, just like a real family.

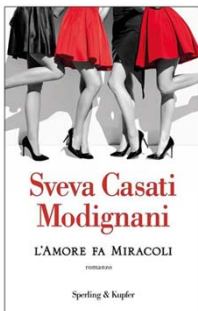


240 pages

**SECRETS AND HYPOCRISIES (2019) – Maria Sole’s story**

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 her three time-proven friends: Carlotta, Andreina and Gloria, ever ready to support each other when things get tough. Each one of the four will start the year with a new challenge.



304 pages

**LOVE CAN WORK MIRACLES (2021) - Gloria’s story**

In her small circle of four friends Gloria has always been the most stable one and in twenty years she has never questioned her comfortable relationship with Sergio. Until she meets Bruno Arconati, the fascinating heart surgeon who has saved her father’s life from a heart attack. 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. 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. Though luckily the will to live will prevail. Andreina is pregnant - though she still hasn’t decided whether to tell the child’s father. After her marriage falls apart, Maria Sole, 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.



320 pages

**STILL, LIFE IS WONDERFUL (2023) – Carlotta’s story**

Andreina, Carlotta, Gloria and Maria Sole have gone together through troubled love stories and family secrets, revelations and unexpected twists of fate. 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.



# Sveva Casati Modignani

## RECENT NOVELS



464 pages  
October 2022

**106.000 COPIES SOLD**

### MERCHANT OF DREAMS

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.

Foreign rights sold to: **Portugal**

### THE HAWK

They had been stored in the hidden compartment of a drawer, but now they have emerged - a cache of letters from a distant past. And a photograph, capturing the love between a boy and a girl. Holding those papers in her hands, a woman opens once more a window to that past. Then, suddenly, she consigns all those memories to the fire. Since that snapshot was taken, forty years ago, Giulietta has lived a full life. Now she is a widow, but her marriage had been happy. Though her husband was not the boy in the picture. That was Rocco di Falco - the “Hawk” - as smug and predatory as his name suggested. Giulietta had done her very best to forget him, but through the years she kept seeing his face on the front pages of papers and the covers of magazines, along with the news of his entrepreneurial successes. And now, however hard she tries to close the book on him, fate seems determined to reopen it once more, making her meet Rocco in the very same place of their first encounter. As if fate wanted to afford Rocco the second chance he had always hoped for. Because Giulietta was his one and only love, and though back then she suddenly vanished from his life, their love story never really ended.

Foreign rights sold to: **Portugal, Serbia**

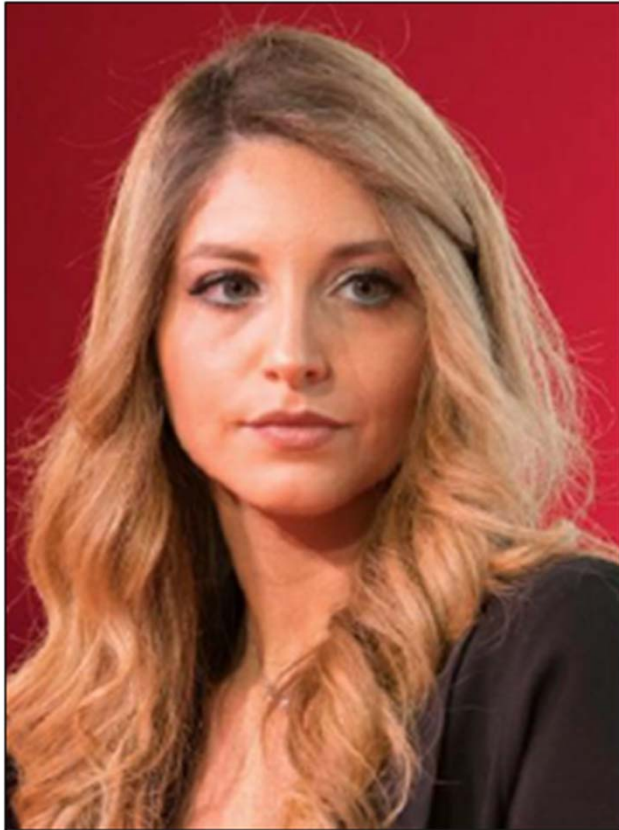


512 pages  
October 2020

**140.000 COPIES SOLD**

# Kira Shell

## A literary phenomenon



Kira Shell is a young Italian author who writes under a pseudonym. In the past she chose to keep her identity private to keep her profession separate from her role as a writer, until she decided to reveal herself to her huge audience in 2023.

Author of **Dark romance**, she recalls the American dark genre, adding a peculiar lightness and more psychological nuances. The two sagas *Kiss me like you love me* and *Meet Efreem Krugher* have sold **over 600,000 copies** and conquered the charts, readers and social media.

*Kiss me like you love me*, which originated in 2017 on Wattpad, has achieved **6 million views** and after being self-published on Amazon arrived in bookshops at the end of 2019, published by Sperling & Kupfer. *Meet Efreem Krugher*, the second saga written by Shell, decreed her success.

June 2024 sees the arrival of the first volume of the author's highly anticipated new series: *Mocker. Dead inside*.

- **A best-selling author with over 600.000 copies sold**
- **194.000.000 Instagram views for #KissMeLikeYouLoveMe**
- **63.000.000 Instagram views for #KiraShell**
- **40.000 followers and 670.000 likes for Kira Shell Tiktok profile**

From the point of view of literary phenomena, Kira Shell is unique.

**Foreign rights sold to:** Spain (World Spanish Rights), U.S.A. (World English Rights)

Kira Shell  
**MOCKER. DEAD INSIDE**

The first volume of Kira Shell's highly anticipated new series

**MOCKER.  
Dead Inside**

by Kira Shell

Arleen is a prisoner of her past. Her eyes hide impenetrable secrets. Her inability to communicate with the world has doomed her to a painful solitude, haunted by the mysteries at the root of her isolation. Xavier is unruly and rebellious, an untamed spirit. Their destinies will become entwined in an unexpected and dangerous series of events, a twisted game that will put both of their lives at risk, devised by a ruthless enemy.

624 pages - June 2024

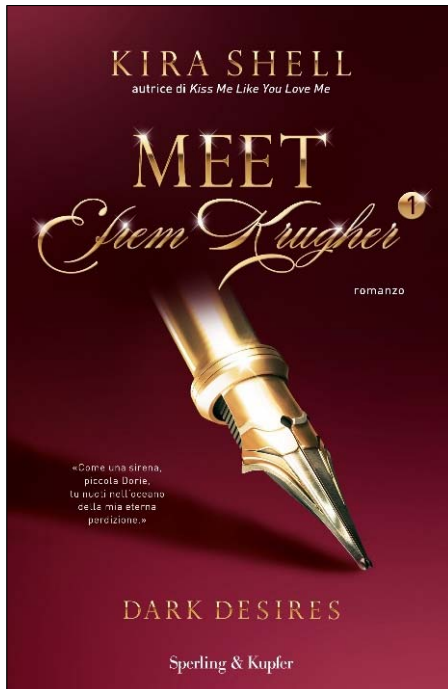
**Kira Shell** is the nom de plume of a young Italian author. She graduated in the Law but her truly calling was writing, a passion she discovered when she was ten. She started writing her *Kiss Me Like You Love Me* saga in 2017, on Wattpad, where her debut was welcomed by millions of visualizations. In March 2019 she decided to self-publish her saga, and immediately shot to the top of Amazon best-selling lists. Sperling & Kupfer took note and, beginning in October 2019, established her success in bookstores as well. Published by Sperling & Kupfer, the series *Kiss Me Like You Love Me* and *Meet Efram Krugher* have sold 600,000 copies.

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 80.000  
COPIES SOLD**

Kira Shell

## KISS ME LIKE YOU LOVE ME

Foreign rights sold to: Spain, U.S.A.

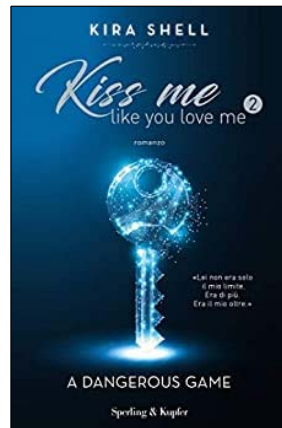
After taking Wattpad and Amazon by storm with over 6 millions views, *Kiss me like you love me* is the most beloved Italian series of dark romance with over **520,000 copies sold**.

The series reached the TOP20 for Italian fiction, becoming a huge publishing success and one of the biggest TikTok Sensation. **To be published in the States in 2025.**

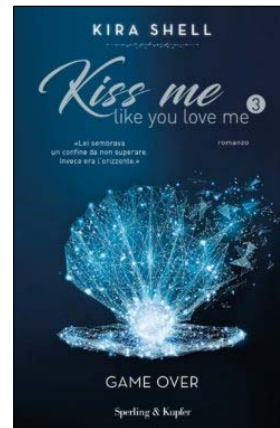
He lived in chaos. She sought order. Together they were passion and enchantment, reality and dream. Kira Shell tells the passionate and riveting love-story of two lost souls who could not survive apart.



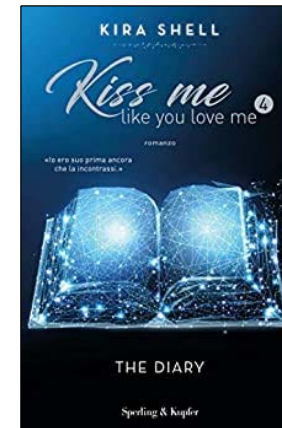
624 pages - September 2019



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.

Novels

# Manuel Bova

## AN INCH OF WONDER

A riveting novel on love and obsession

A bittersweet story, stemming from a femicide.



400 pages - April 2024

Three characters come to life in this new novel by Manuel Bova.

Nina is a young woman like any other. She lives in Genoa in the same block of flats as a writer, she has a boyfriend and works as entertainer at children's parties.

Then there's the man of the lampposts - an old insomniac who spends his nights looking for burnt-out lampposts so he can notify the Town Council. And finally, there's a man. A dark figure with a sinister backstory, casting evil shadows on the city of Genoa.

A book to keep you on the edge of your seat from the first to the last page, when the three characters will come together, tied by a most uncanny and ominous twist in the red thread of destiny.

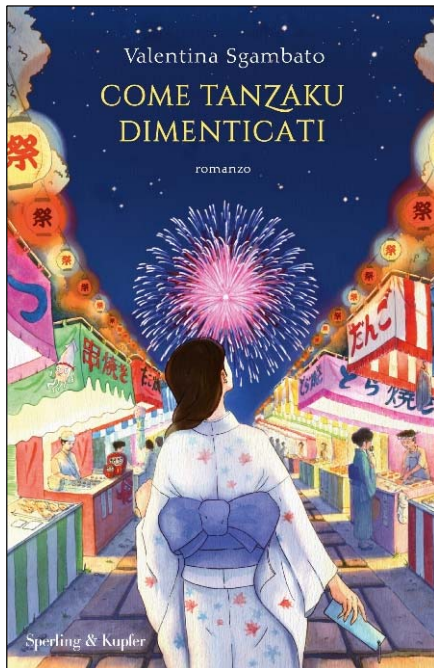
*But love was never in question. "Love does not divide, it multiplies and amplifies." I never felt I was competing with Mum for Dad's heart, the love he felt for her I always thought of as rare and precious. It was stuff that if someone feels it for you, you know you can count on it. It's not little. It's not even an end point, but it's a foundation on which to build something that could last forever. Then what do you know where life takes you, maybe you make dreams, plans, projects, and at a certain point that daily routine of small gestures always the same changes and you don't realise it and after three months you are working in a Taiwanese bar. Or an illness razes your brain to the ground and you remain like a footprint left by someone who is no longer there but whom others continue to look for in you.*

**Manuel Bova** was born in 1983. An engineer by training and a gym manager by trade, Bova lives in Genoa, devoting his free time to his favorite hobby - writing - and organizing murder mystery dinner parties.

# 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.



# 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 nomad's 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.

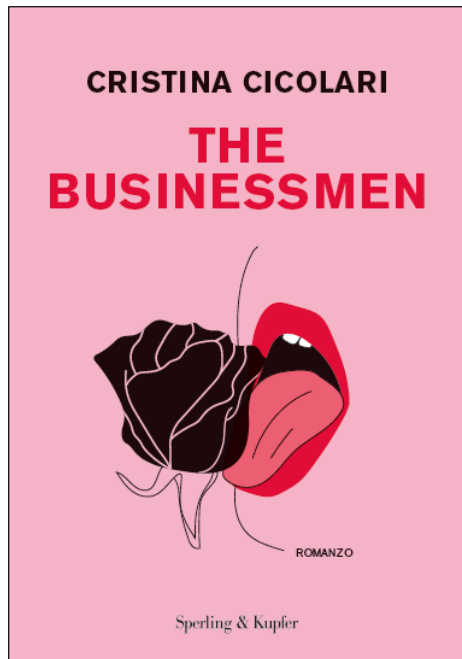
Erotic

# Cristina Cicolari

## THE BUSINESSMEN

Exciting, riveting, racy.

Cristina Cicolari regales us with a love-story, an erotic novel, a riveting page-turner.



240 pages - April 2024

A flat tire under the pouring rain - definitely, Kate's evening out is off to a bad start. When she shows up at the club where her friends are waiting Kate is exasperated, cold, and drenched in rain. She's still trying to make herself presentable when she meets Alex - handsome, charming, sexy. He is the club manager, but his real passion is his work as DJ. The spark between them is instantaneous and all-consuming. Experience has long taught Kate to steer clear of men who won't commit, but Alex is the answer to all her fantasies, reawakening her senses and bringing her to ecstasy. So she allows herself to fall, hard. Until, abruptly, it all comes to an end. Alex is offered a job abroad and once more Kate finds herself alone, picking up the pieces of her broken heart.

Hurt as she is, she realizes she needs to start over, and think of herself, for once. So one night she decides to accompany a friend to a party. And sees Fabrizio. He is refined, alluring, seductive, and Kate feels immediately drawn to him. Fabrizio is a businessman, works in fashion, is often away on business trips, and - as Kate will soon discover - his sexual proclivities are intriguing, exhilarating, extreme. Beyond her wildest imagination... Based on a true story, a sizzling erotic novel, gripping the reader from start to finish with the progressive unveiling of what it really means to give in to passion, and dare to dare.

**Cristina Cicolari**, born in 1993, works for a communications agency and devotes her free time to her online media channels. She defines herself as a “discontent creator”, likes going against the grain and entertain her followers with irresistible stories. She has created a format on the “basket cases” she meets in real life. *The Businessmen* is her first novel, based on a true story.

Contemporary Novels

# Giuseppe Isoni

## THE DIVER

Sport is passion and love. It should not be a curse



Marta and Shaila are fifteen, best friends and mates in a synchronized swimming team. They are training hard for the Olympics when Shaila gets her first period. For her, born in Rome from a Bangladeshi family, that can only mean one thing - giving up her home, her friend, her dream, to return to Bangladesh for the arranged marriage to a man she's never met. Which is why she does all within her power to hide from her father the fact that she has «become a woman», until finally she'll have to face a seemingly inescapable fate.

256 pages - July 2024

**Giuseppe Isoni** is a film director and screenwriter with a diploma from the International Academy of visual arts and new media in Milan. His films have been screened at the most prestigious international and national film festivals, such as David di Donatello, Nastri d'Argento and Palm Springs Shortfest, and won awards at the Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia and the Aspen Shortfest.

# Donata Carelli

## I'LL NEVER BE A MOM

An absorbing novel, with something for every woman to relate to, and something for every man to learn



352 pages - February 2024

Born in Sabaudia in the early Seventies, even as a child Donata felt different from other little girls, who spent their time collecting accessories and dolls, imitating an adult world she firmly rejected, to the point of begging her mother to help her to never grow up. And as time passed, and the time neared when a woman was supposed take a certain path, Donata felt the need to leave the trodden path, to escape the expectations of her family, her friends, society were imposing on her. Seemingly suspended in an unending «pause», Donata has one certainty, and defends it with all her might - she will not become a mother. She loves her students and kids in general, but wants no children of her own, refusing to let herself be defined by a role set by others. And, most of all, she is sick and tired of having to justify her choice in the eyes of the world.

This novel is her gentle outcry, to reclaim the right to make a different choice, for herself and whoever else may want to.

*I struggled with a feeling of inadequacy that hurt me in an unexplored depth of myself, because I lacked the words and arguments, because the ways of the world made me doubt myself. For how could I be sure I had taken the right path if everyone around me was pointing the opposite direction? Still, who decides which is the way for a woman to find her happiness?*

**Donata Carelli** was born and raised in Sabaudia, a seaside town south of Rome, at the foot of the Circeo mountain, a land suspended between history and myth. She holds a university degree in Classical Studies and an international Ph.D. in humanistic studies for Italy and Greece and is secondary school literature teacher. A journalist and author, she studied screenwriting and has always worked in the field of creative and film writing, lecturing at universities in Italy, Greece, and the United States. She is the author of theatrical works, essays, films and documentaries, and the recipient of several awards. *Io madre mai* is her first novel.

# Matteo Gracis

## THE WORLD YOU DIDN'T EXPECT

### For those who rebel against losing hope

An amazing adventure to the discovery of a hidden and wonderful humanity - beyond social networks - to reclaim our faith in the world.



224 pages - May 2024

Wars, pandemics, natural disasters, crime, pollution - it's one emergency after the other. One could be forgiven for thinking the end is nigh. And Sara is sure of it. So she has given up all hope and dreams. She feels defeated, adrift. Until she starts on a journey with no destination and discovers a world she never knew existed. A world where, for many people and for several different reasons, life was never as good as it is today. Behind the ominous veil of bad news bombarding us every day, we discover - for instance - that in the last twenty years 2 billion people have finally had access to drinking water, that infant mortality has been cut by half, and life expectancy has doubled as compared to just one century ago. Or that 4 out of 5 children worldwide go to school and that education was never as accessible as it is today.

We discover major and effective projects to clean up the most polluted rivers on the planet, and that countries all around the world are extending their natural reserves. And Sara will also meet people restoring her - and the reader's - joy of living here and now, providing sound reasons to look at the future with renewed confidence and enthusiasm.

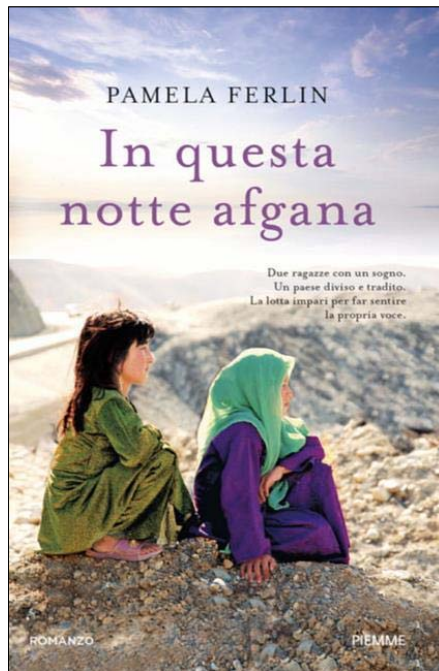
**Matteo Gracis** (b. 1983) is a journalist, free-thinker, and best-selling author. He is editor-in-chief of the magazine *Dolce Vita* and the founder of the online daily *L'Indipendente*. He is the former communication consultant of an Italian member of Parliament. With over 600,000 followers on social media, Matteo Gracis is a major figure in independent communication.



# 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

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.

*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.*

Young Narrative

# Anastasia Parpaglioni

## THE SKY IN YOUR EYES

The author's phobia for the color blue inspired and shaped her debut novel

Draft cover



288 pages - May 2024

A clear blue sky makes everyone smile, except for Australia Greene. For her, that color stands for pain, confusion, anxiety. The doctors who've been treating her for the last two years call it cyanophobia, and say it was caused by the trauma that upended Australia's life. So, at sixteen, she was prescribed tinted glasses that turn her vision to black and white and protect her from memories. With her mom and her sister, Australia has just moved to a small border town, between California and Nevada. In her new home, where the sun scorches the earth and the night sky is a tapestry of stars, Australia will do her best to learn to love and to discover the secret behind the color blue. She wishes she were someone else, but at some point, she will have to decide - choose between escaping her past or embracing her own vulnerability.

**Anastasia Parpaglioni** was born and raised in Rome by an Italian dad and a Russian mom, Anastasia has always been passionate about the arts. She studied foreign languages in secondary school and then moved on to drama courses. Ever since childhood she has loved making up stories and losing herself in the world of literature and the cinema. In social media, with her half a million followers and over 75 million visualizations on TikTok, she found a way to share all that fascinates and excites her.

# Mattia Ollerongis

## THE SUMMER WE STOPPED LOVING EACH OTHER

The new love story by the poet and novelist Mattia Ollerongis

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



240 pages - June 2024

When girl - a fascinating eighteen-year-old, full of dreams and art - meets boy - twenty, handsome, and a poet - the spark is bound to ignite. He was her first love; she was his umpteenth. They lived their love among books and painting, colors and words, doubts, new encounters, numberless illusions and just one certainty: the time to say goodbye. Since that day they've never stopped looking for one another, until, in their thirties, at the vernissage of her latest exhibition, they find themselves side by side, both gazing at a painting of the two of them together, after a night of love. And they decide that will be the last summer they deprive themselves of the other's

warmth. The last summer of forced yearning. They've been avoiding each other for so long, and still nothing was resolved. They might as well take up once more, without clearing the air, facing their problems, sorting out what was wrong. For a while he seems changed, a different man, someone to build a future with. But then, just like before, things start to fall apart. And she realizes that if you learn love the wrong way, you carry with you a whole baggage of biases that will lead you right back to same mistakes, making you fall for the same pair of eyes, regardless of your scars. Until the last summer, when she will decide to start over with someone who was truly meant for her.

**AN AUTHOR WITH OVER 150.000 COPIES SOLD**

**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 ten books and sold over 150.000 copie

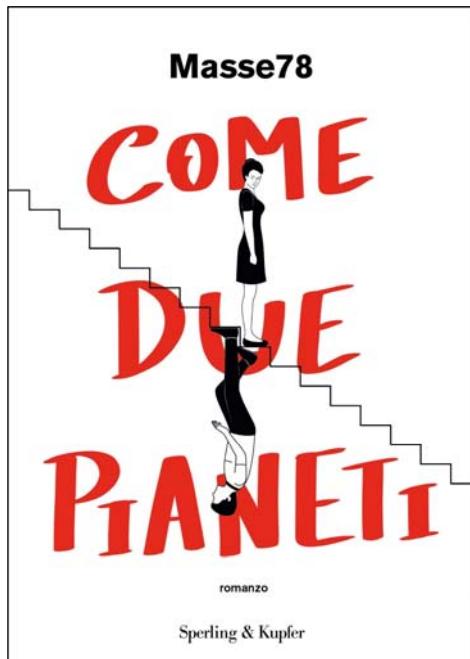


# Masse78

## 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.

# Cocciuti Dimitri

## DON'T MISS OUT

The gay world told with levity and humor, in a novel about love, friendship, and toxic relationships



Sacha is almost forty and can't seem to find the right man. With a brilliant career and a loyal circle of friends, all that's missing from his life is love. His friendship with Alessandro, as dark and handsome as they come, might well become something more, but Sacha still hesitates to make his move. Luckily, Chiara, Mattia, and Marco are always there to pick him up when he's down. Though they too are not in the best of places.

Chiara has just found out her ex-husband is expecting a child from his lover. Marco, an inveterate playboy, is chasing the one girl that eludes him. And then there's Mattia, a brilliantly talented drag queen who still hasn't come out to his parents. Sacha and his three friends share woes and support in their endless brunches on a Roman terrace, set against the sweltering backdrop of the Eternal City.

224 pages - June 2024

Born in 1984, **Dimitri Cocciuti** started out as television writer to become the manager of one of the most prestigious tv production companies in the country. Debuting in 2006, when he was just 22, he has collaborated with Italian tv personalities such as Fiorello and Raffaella Carrà. It was his idea to bring to Italian screens the Emmy award-winning "RuPaul's Drag Race" - and in 2021 launched "Drag Race Italia", becoming the show's artistic director. He is also the author of two successful self-published novels.

Thrillers and Crime



Elias Mandreu  
**MANTENE S'ODIU**  
 Remember to hate

A new antihero flaunting the rules from a deep-seated sense of justice

A new Sardinian thriller



336 pages - June 2024

Inspector Stankovich of the Carabinieri has just been assigned to the precinct of Santa Lucia, in Barbagia, Sardinia. And once again, the transfer is punitive. Because Stankovich is a maverick. He flaunts the rules, detests sycophants, and truly hates having superiors and politicians breathing down his neck. But he's great at his job. Which is why, despite the many skeletons in his closet, he still hasn't been dismissed. Stankovich takes his cases personally - too personally, for a state official - and seeks justice with "unusual" methods. And then there are women, his true weakness. So, from the Northern province of Veneto he has been sent to the most remote and isolated little town in Sardinia. The first time he steps into his new office - a concrete box with prim blue window-shutters and a ridiculous green porch, looking to all the world like a pizzeria - he realizes the life of

action he loves so much may well have come to an end. But is proven wrong by the body of a young woman found in a cave in the cliffs, half-submerged in water and almost inaccessible from land. She was the daughter of a prominent local entrepreneur, the owner of the trendiest club on Costa Smeralda - a man long suspected of strong ties to organized crime but somehow never indicted. Common thinking dictates the young woman's murder must be linked to her father's shady business, but Stankovich never cared much for common thinking, and follows his own line of investigation. A kidnapping from four decades ago and a ransom disappeared in thin air will provide the key to the most unfathomable of solutions.

**Elias Mandreu** is the name of a collective of writers - Andrea and Mauro Puscetdu and Eugenio Annichiarico. The collective has already published two novels, *Nero riflesso* and *Dopotutto*, and contributed to the murder mystery anthologies edited by Francesco Abate, *Giallo Sardo* [Sardinian Thrillers] and *Un'altra estate* [Another summer. Sardinian Thrillers 2], both published by Piemme.

# Arwin J. Seaman

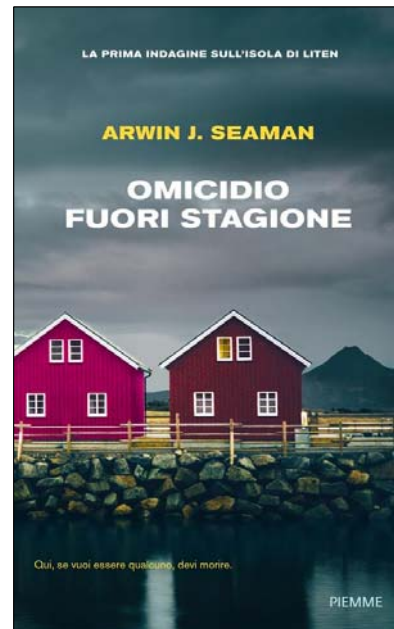
## THE LITEN SERIES

The incredibly intriguing detective stories on the community in Liten, a tiny imaginary island in the body of water between Sweden and Denmark.

Arwin J. Seaman is the pseudonym of a major Italian author writing incognito

*«Here, if you want to  
be someone,  
you have to die»*

**OFF SEASON MURDER**  
**(2023)**  
**13.000 COPIES SOLD**



**A DAY OF APPARENT CALM**  
**(2024)**

«Liten - I can just picture it. Its colorful little houses, no more than two stories high, its dark volcanic rocks, its green slopes almost plunging into the sea. A black, freezing, bottomless sea». LA STAMPA

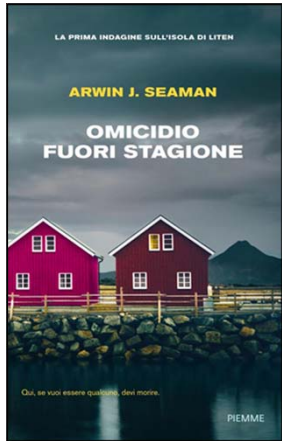
«Seaman's writing style is truly cinematic. With just a few well-chosen words he brings to life scenes and settings in all their details, unfolding them before our very eyes». THRILLERCAFÉ.IT

THRILLER

PIEMME  
EDIZIONI

# Arwin J. Seaman

## THE LITEN SERIES



384 pages  
March 2023

**13.000 COPIES SOLD**

### OFF SEASON MURDER

*"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 his naïf assistant Kay Bak, 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.

### A DAY OF APPARENT CALM

Suddenly, Liten has found itself besieged by tourists. The case of the three girls found murdered in the volcanic lake has drawn crowds of people to the remote island and its dark charms. The life of the islanders, not used to the spotlight, is disrupted. Malin Dahlberg, the daughter of the chief of police, has turned into an Internet sensation. Her reports on the triple homicide and her morbid challenges have become viral, with followers now in the thousands. Until she is blamed with the death of a school mate, Åke, fallen from a cliff while taking an extreme video in what appears as an attempt to emulate her. Malin is certain Åke's death was no accident. It was murder. Yet she herself becomes the target of the investigation. Because Malin had a motive - she hated Åke with a vengeance. So now she must try and exonerate herself. But her behavior - unpredictable, contradictory - makes it harder and harder for people to believe her, and as friends and family turn their backs, the case against her appears more and more compelling. Many on the island already resented her, and quite a few are beginning to think she may have craved attention to the point of killing...



336 pages  
March 2024

# 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.

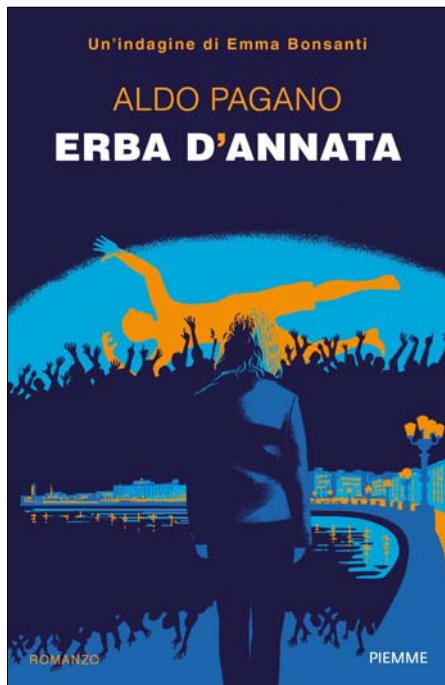
**Elisabetta Cametti** Born in 1970, with a degree in business and management at Bocconi University, Elisabetta Cametti has worked for twenty years in publishing, alternating between Milan and London. The press calls her "the Italian lady of thrillers". In 2013 she published the first novel of the K 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.

# Aldo Pagano

## VINTAGE WEED

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



# 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*, a 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 too 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?

Fantasy and Distopia

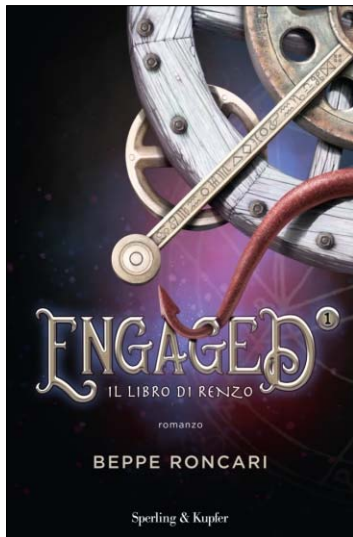


## Beppe Roncari

Beppe Roncari has turned for inspiration to one of the XIX century Italian classic and has made it new, with a magical and fantasy twist and an original, unique style.

Angels and demons will fight against each other and interfere in the protagonists' destiny: through adventures, deceptions, and plot twists, will Good prevail over Evil?

A daring and innovative rewriting of *I Promessi Sposi*



576 pages - May 2023

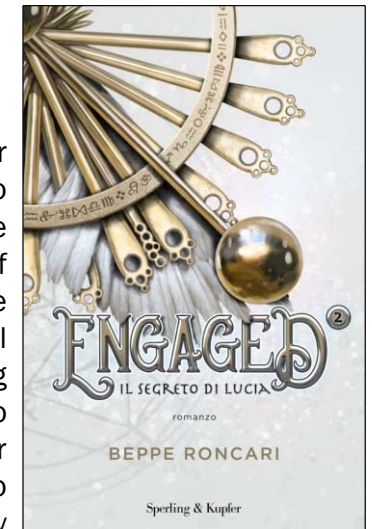
### ENGAGED 1. The story of Renzo

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.

### ENGAGED 2. The secret of Lucia

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?



864 pages - September 2023

**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...

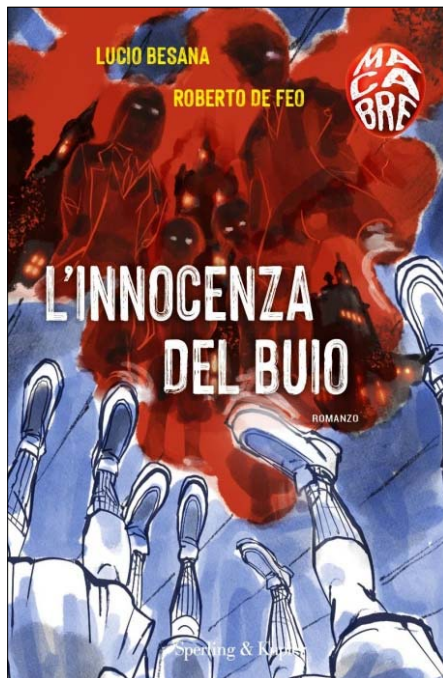
From the dark genius of a twenty-year-old first-time novelist, a relentless dystopic story, depicting a cruel society in which the different are ruthlessly mocked and persecuted – until, driven to fight back, they will utterly upend the establishment.

**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*.

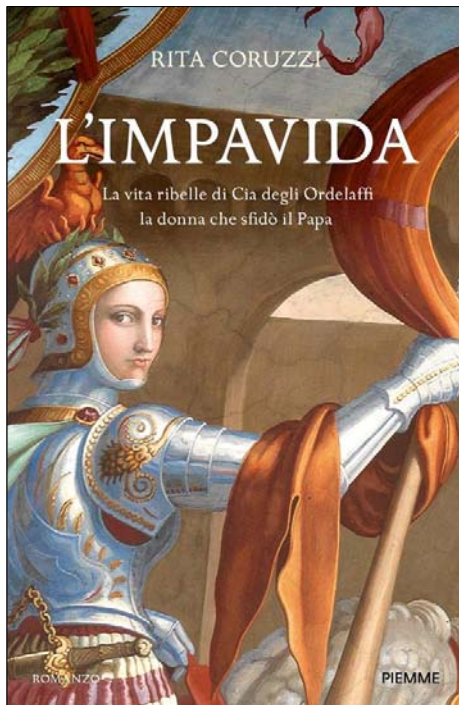
Historical

# Rita Coruzzi

## THE INDOMITABLE

The rebellious life of Cia degli Ordelaffi, the woman who defied the Pope

**A girl born to fight. A warrior who would do anything to defend her home.  
A woman who made her voice heard at a time when women were silenced**



352 pages - January 2024

It is the year 1334 when the young and beautiful Marzia degli Ubaldini, known as Cia, marries Francesco degli Ordelaffi, lord of Forlì and Cesena. Cia had always been a skillful rider, a lover of war games more than embroidery and watercolors, but for a sixteen-year-old, horses and weapons had so far been just for fun, no more than a past-time. Now, side by side with her husband, Cia will have to go into battle and face the harshest of challenges, including plots, betrayals, and defeats. But she will never surrender. It is the time of the violent clash between the Guelphs, supporting the Pope, and the Ghibellins, loyal to the emperor; and when Pope Innocent VI, from his seat in Avignon, decides to reinstate the Papal States by annexing the lands of Emilia and Marca, Cia and Francesco do not give way. Those lands are their home, and if the pope wants them, he will have to do so with weapons in hand. To fight back the armies sent from Rome, Cia and Francesco are forced to separate, defending each a different city.

Francesco stays in Forlì, the more prestigious fief, while Cia, alone with her children and a small troop of soldiers, makes a stand in Cesena, waiting for battle. The siege will be horrific, and just as painful the betrayal of the population which, prostrated, will finally give in to the enticements of the Guelphs and rebel against her to side with the pope. But Cia will never leave the front lines, standing with her soldiers and keeping up the fight, even when her life will be in danger.

Rita Coruzzi brings back to life an exceptional and fearless woman, an amazingly modern historical female figure well-worth being rediscovered

*«All your life you have been Cia the bold, Cia the resolute, a fighter in arms, the young warrior. But is there a woman behind the armor?»*

**Rita Coruzzi** was born 1986 in Reggio Emilia. A quadriplegic for a surgery gone awry, she has been in a wheelchair since the age of ten. A secondary-school diploma in the humanities and a degree in literature with a major in journalism, she has turned her life into a constant battle to show one must never surrender, and that within we can always find the strength to face any challenge. With Piemme, she has already narrated the lives of exceptional female figures, such as Matilda of Tuscany, Joan of Arc, and Eleonor of Arborea, in a series of acclaimed historical novels, recipients of International Awards.

# 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.

# 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.

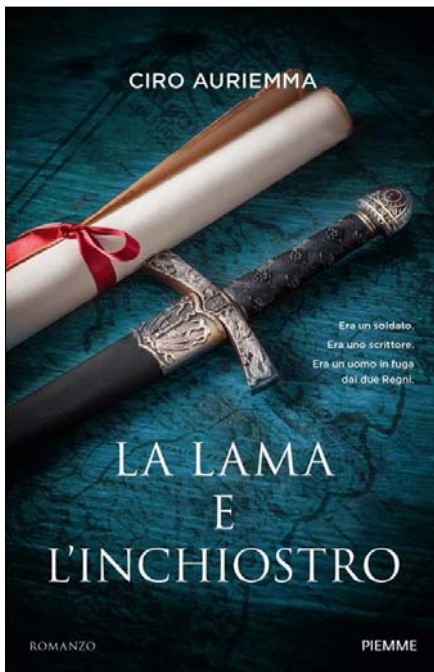
She is the author of fifteen theatre scripts as well as essays and biographies, and with Piemme she has published to remarkable success *Le magnifiche* [The Magnificents. 33 lives of women who made Italian history] and *Le Indomabili* [The Indomitable. 33 women who stunned the world]. Her artistic versatility 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.***

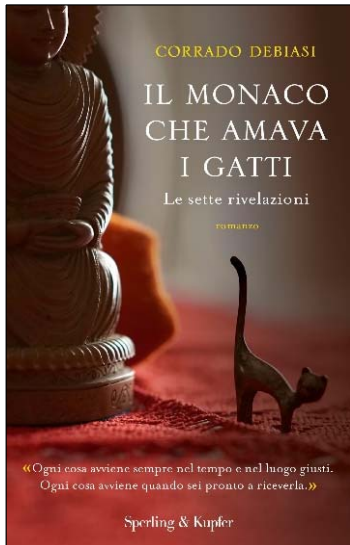
***Deadly.***

**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.



Longsellers

## Corrado Debiasi



208 pages - October 2020

26 REPRINTS

OVER 80.000  
COPIES SOLD**THE MONK WHO LOVED CATS**

The seven revelations

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.

**Foreign rights sold to:** Bulgaria, Czech Rep., France, Holland, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey

**THE VILLAGE OF TIMELESS MONKS**

The five awarenences

In search of 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

**Foreign rights sold to:** Czech Rep, Holland



240 pages - June 2022

5 REPRINTS

30.000  
COPIES SOLD

**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.



---

**Masha Vincenti**

Foreign and Movie Rights  
masha.vincenti@mondadori.it  
Tel +39 340.411.4679

**Francesca Villa**

Foreign and Movie Rights  
francesca.villa@mondadori.it  
Tel +39 345.058.4349