



RIGHTS LIST

HIGHLIGHTS



**DANIELE
PASQUINI**

“The result is striking: one of the most original novels of recent years, passing the reader’s ultimate test: you finish a chapter and can’t wait to turn the page.”

‘Panorama’

“Daniele Pasquini’s language is epic, raw, and powerful. It creates a world the reader can fully immerse themselves in.”

Gian Marco Griffi

Daniele Pasquini’s previous novel, ‘Selvaggio Ovest’ (NNE, 2024), **sold nearly 5,000 copies and won the Premio Selezione Bancarella 2024.** It was shortlisted for several other awards, including the Premio Manzoni, the Premio Mastercard, and the Premio Asti d’Appelo.

Daniele Pasquini (1988) lives in Florence and works as a press officer for a publishing house. His most recent novels are ‘Un naufragio’ (SEM, 2022) and ‘Selvaggio Ovest’ (NNE, 2024), winner of the Premio Selezione Bancarella 2024.



DANIELE PASQUINI

La fine della frontiera

NNE

NOVEL

DANIELE PASQUINI

LA FINE DELLA FRONTIERA

THE END OF THE FRONTIER

NNE, MARCH 2026, PP. 496

In 1861, Italy is a newly born nation, while America promises an infinite future. Dante Niccolai, a young Tuscan cart driver left orphaned, leaves his home to accompany the Ferrini family to the port of Genoa and decides to board a ship with them for the New World, chasing the mirage of a better life. Between him and Adele Ferrini a relationship is born, carried on through letters filled with promises and waiting, but the vastness of the continent eventually separates them: Dante wanders for years through the heart of America, while Adele finds a new identity among the Cheyenne. Their lives become entwined with History itself and with the adventures of Carlo Di Rudio, a Mazzinian revolutionary who escaped the guillotine and forced labor, and who chooses the West as his last trench. And as the white offensive culminates in the legendary Battle of Little Bighorn, a symbol of Native resistance, a web of guilt, betrayal, and violence - bearing the name of the ruthless Iron Jack - binds together the fates of Dante, Adele, and Carlo.

‘La fine della frontiera’ is a historical and adventure novel, where the wandering lives of its protagonists stand out against the fading myth of the West. With the clear voice of someone telling stories by a campfire, Daniele Pasquini reminds us that life is a great battle already lost, but when the heart runs like a galloping horse we can only mount the saddle and ride.



CLAUDIO

LAGOMARSINI

“Looking for mysterious adventures rooted in history,
both clever and elegant yet wildly entertaining?

Don’t miss this book.”

‘il Mattino’

“A whirlwind of conspiracies, false leads, and twists
that blend scholarly rigor with brilliant storytelling.”

‘la Lettura’

“If Dan Brown’s comeback during the year of the Louvre theft
made you relive that summer when you couldn’t put
‘The Da Vinci Code’ down, this is the book for you.”

‘il Post’

Claudio Lagomarsini (1985) teaches Romance Philology at the University of Siena. He has edited numerous medieval texts and published essays. He also contributed to the first complete Italian translation of the Arthurian cycle. Lagomarsini is the author of the novel ‘Ai sopravvissuti spareremo ancora’ (Fazi, 2020), the retelling ‘Lancillotto’ (Giunti, 2025), and the nonfiction book ‘Come scoprire il Graal’ (Einaudi, 2025).

Claudio Lagomarsini

Come scoprire il Graal

Storie di cavalieri, occultisti, cercatori



NARRATIVE
ESSAY

CLAUDIO LAGOMARSINI

COME SCOPRIRE IL GRAAL

HOW TO FIND THE GRAAL

EINAUDI, NOVEMBRE 2025, PP. 214

The Grail is not found: it is revealed. And those who stubbornly search for it without having received the call must resign themselves to never finding it. The problem, rather, is that over the course of history there have been far too many calls. And so the alleged Grails have multiplied: some have found themselves holding a silver chalice emerging from the sands of the desert; others an emerald basin taken as war booty in the Holy Land; still others a dish hidden in a stream and revealed by a mysterious heavenly voice.

New York antiquarians, crusader knights, archaeologists, and again occultists of Victorian England, experts in medieval Arabic, officers of the Third Reich.

Claudio Lagomarsini - philologist, specialist in Arthurian literature, and writer - retraces, in a narrative essay, the history of the most significant claims to the discovery of the Grail, from the Middle Ages to the present day. The profiles of the discoverers could not be more varied. Not all of them, however, have succeeded in convincing experts that they found the true Grail. And those who, in a given period, passed the test were later forced to reckon with advances in scientific and historical knowledge, which in some cases have cast doubt on discoveries once considered definitive. Ultimately, what do we know today about the Grails discovered so far? Is there at least one that has successfully withstood every test?



In the early fifth century, in the March of Gaul, Ban, a vassal of King Arthur, sets out with his wife and infant son, Lancelot: his kingdom, Benoïc, is threatened by another king's attempts to conquer it. However, on journey, Ban dies tragically, and Lancelot also disappears into thin air, kidnapped by a mysterious woman, known as the Lady of the Lake... Several years later, that infant is now a man and is determined to become a knight. So he travels to King Arthur's legendary court in Camelot, where he receives his investiture. But being a knight is less simple than it seems: his exploits bring him into confrontations with dragons, fairies, and ladies who try to mislead him; and then there is his love for Queen Guinevere, which shakes his loyalty to his king. But when a prophecy is revealed about the Holy Grail, which can only be found by the best of knights, everything changes for Lancelot...

Claudio Lagomarsini creatively and meticulously reworks the sources to craft a narrative worthy of a gripping historical novel, taking readers into the places and atmospheres of the Arthurian cycle, amid forbidden loves and magnificent tournaments, courtly feasts and knightly duels, spells and prophecies.

CLAUDIO LAGOMARSINI

LANCILLOTTO

LANCELOT

GIUNTI, JUNE 2025, PP.320

RETELLING
YOUNG ADULT



ALESSANDRO
CARLINI

After writing historical nonfiction and noir fiction, Alessandro Carlini takes on his most challenging task yet: **telling his own story.**

Carlini's two previous books, focused on the Resistance heroine Paola Dal Din and to her brother Renato, **sparked wide debate in Italy.** Foreign rights for both titles are available.

“Carlini confirms himself as a protagonist of the Italian historical novel.”

‘Ansa’

Alessandro Carlini (1976) is a journalist and writer. He published the historical novel ‘Partigiano in camicia nera’ (Chiarelettere, 2017, winner of the Premio Carver), as well as the noir novels ‘Gli sciacalli’ (Newton Compton, 2021) and ‘Il nome del male’ (Newton Compton, 2022). His two most recent nonfiction books are: ‘Nome in codice Renata’ (Utet, 2023) and ‘Se il fuoco ci desidera’ (Utet, 2024).



ALESSANDRO CARLINI

I BATTITI DELLA MONTAGNA

THE MOUNTAIN'S HEARTBEATS

CAI EDIZIONI, APRIL 2026, PP. 176

After a long illness and a rare double heart and kidney transplant, the author fulfills a dream that had always been denied to him: an uphill journey to ever higher altitudes, through the Apennines, the Langhe hills, and the Alps, weaving his own voice with the many stories he has read, until reaching peaks that once seemed impossible: the more than 3,500 meters of the Matterhorn and Mont Blanc.

Walking in the mountains is a return to life for those who have spent most of it constrained by the impossibility of climbing them. Alessandro, the protagonist and narrator of this true story, after a long illness and a rare heart and kidney transplant, decides to follow the interrupted paths once denied to him by shortness of breath, or imagined during the many days spent in hospital. His voice intertwines with memories of the books he read during those years of waiting and with the testimonies of men and women from the two World Wars, who accompany him along the trail through the Apennines, the Langhe hills, and the Alps.

A dialogue takes shape with them and with the person who, by donating life, made it possible for him to look ahead to his next climb, in search of new places and sensations. And so the kilometers are covered, in a gradual crescendo that begins with the first steps taken in the hills around Bologna, always under medical supervision, and pushes onward to the glaciers, reaching record-breaking altitudes for someone who has undergone such a complex operation.



**NICOLA H.
COSENTINO**

Nicola H. Cosentino is **one of the main authors of the most important Italian literary review ‘la Lettura’** and of the cultural pages of ‘Corriere della Sera’. He is also editor of ‘Lucy’, the magazine edited by Nicola Lagioia, 2015 Strega Prize winner and former director of the Turin Book Fair.

His debut novel, ‘Vita e morte delle aragoste’ (Voland 2017), winner of the Brancati Giovani 2018 Prize, **was translated in France** by Grenelle **and in Germany** by Non Solo Verlag.

“Nothing is missing in this novel.”

Piergiorgio Paterlini

Nicola H. Cosentino was born in Calabria and lives and works in Milan. He has published ‘Vita e morte delle aragoste’ (Voland 2017, winner of the Brancati Giovani 2018 Prize, translated into French and German) and ‘Le tracce fantasma’ (minimum Fax 2022). He collaborates with ‘la Lettura’ and ‘il Corriere della Sera’. He is editor of ‘Lucy’.



Winner of Ennio Flaiano Under 35 Award

An Italian male, thirty-two years old, 186 cm by 70 kg, superficial and very deep, individualistic and very generous, comfortable with the definition of “man of his time”, especially if by “his” he means “someone else’s”.

He is H, the protagonist of this story. A man who is fed up with the pessimism that surrounds him, and not even his own: arrived in Milan from the Calabrian province, he has dedicated the last few years to writing an essay on the end of the world, but History - between wars, pandemics and various disasters - has offered him too much material, so much so that his work has become outdated. He then decided to change course, and concentrate on something else entirely: desires. Ambitious, shy, common, impossible, unmentionable... Armed with a notebook and tape recorder, H asks friends, family, the partner he would like to marry and everyone he meets a seemingly simple question: “What does your heart desire most?”. He is curious to map the world's hopes, of course, but also to better understand himself; to find out if, among the dreams of others, lurks his own.

‘C’è molta speranza (ma nessuna per noi)’ is a novel that oscillates between personal essay, investigation and pamphlet, and is about all of us, what we want and how our desires are the only thing really capable of revealing who we are and the society we live in. At the centre is a young man who aspires not so much to realise his goals (finding a stable job, a bigger house, writing a good book...) as to be able to afford them. But the real protagonist, perhaps, is literature, because the only way to re-learn how to desire is to imagine.

NICOLA H. COSENTINO

C'È MOLTA SPERANZA

(MA NESSUNA PER NOI)

THERE IS A LOT OF HOPE (BUT NONE FOR US)

GUANDA, MARCH 2025, PP. 240



CRISTÒ

Marrying a lunar imagery to a very concrete staging, Cristò has become a **reference author in the Italian indie scene**, with cult novels such as ‘La carne’ (NEO 2020) and ‘La meravigliosa lampada di Paolo Lunare’ (Terrarossa 2019).

‘La meravigliosa lampada di Paolo Lunare’ **was translated in Chile and Argentina** by Edicola Ediciones **and in France, Belgium and Switzerland** by Editions Le Soupirail.

“Every word is a seed that is destined to become a fruit tree, this novel is a garden of literature, mystery and precision.”

Mario Desiati - Winner of Premio Strega 2022

Cristò, a writer and musician, lives in Apulia. He is the author of several novels, including the popular ‘La meravigliosa lampada di Paolo Lunare’ (Terrarossa, 2019). He has also written the children’s books ‘L’estate in cui sparirono i cani’ (Giunti, 2023) and L’estate in cui toccammo la luna (Giunti, 2025). Foreign rights for both children’s books are available.

cristò

penultime parole

romanzo



CRISTÒ

PENULTIME PAROLE

PENULTIMATE WORDS

MONDADORI, APRIL 2025, PP. 108

Rights sold to Russia

There used to be a house on the hillside on the edge of a small inland village, a family of five sharing the three rooms, the six chairs, the two mirrors and the many books neatly arranged on the shelves. But now, for the two old sisters left alone to inhabit it, that time is a repertoire of blurred, distant images. Even the present seems to be rarefied and, with it, social relationships. Having lost all contact with the inhabitants of the village at the bottom of the valley, they soon renounce even words, which they gradually begin to eliminate, going so far as to bury the hundreds of books to “make room for the silence” that occupies the house. Even memories seem to belong to a past that is hard to believe in. While death, as if by forgetfulness, spares the house, Teresa, almost a hundred years old, inaugurates a symbiotic life with the plants she cultivates, transforming them into confidantes, companions. The lights in the village at the bottom of the valley are getting fewer and fewer, the howling of the wolves from the surrounding woods closer and closer, until one day, Teresa makes an impossible decision.

Between Ágota Kristóf and Tommaso Landolfi, Cristò returns with a metaphorical but very concretely novel about the correspondence between human being and nature, the power of language and the illusion of freedom.

A novel unparalleled in contemporary Italian fiction, a dense tale of metaphorical and powerful fantasy.



COSTANZA GHEZZI

A powerful and elegant debut novel.

The difficult relationship between a daughter who thought she was an orphan and a mother too focused on herself and on expedients to satisfy her needs.

“Flaminia is certain of one thing: not all mothers know how to love, and not all daughters know how to hate.”

‘Liberò’

“Through impeccable, delicate, and moving prose, Costanza Ghezzi contrasts two generations, two lives, two personalities locked in constant opposition and conflict.”

‘ThrillerNord’

Costanza Ghezzi (1963) lives in Tuscany. She works in publishing and is vice-president of the Equal Opportunities Commission of the municipality of Orbetello. She has published short stories in magazines and anthologies and the short story ‘Il segno di Nora’ (Bibibook 2021).

COSTANZA GHEZZI

IL MESTIERE DI MIA MADRE



«Lucetta dice che gli uomini sono come gelati con lo stecco:
il piacere dura poco, e quando è finito il resto si butta nel pattume,
che se lo lasci sul tavolo lo arranzano le vespe.»

PIEMME

COSTANZA GHEZZI

IL MESTIERE DI MIA MADRE

MY MOTHER'S JOB

PIEMME, SEPTEMBER 2025

In Vittoria, Sicily, Lucetta is born under a cloud of misfortune. Her life has been marked by a chain of disappointing men: a dreamy father killed in battle, a violent stepfather, an ignorant husband. So when Gregorio Palermo's car stops in front of her house, she knows it is time to pack her bags. Fortune must be forged, and Gregorio can take her to Rome—a vast, free city. She leaves everything behind and departs without a penny. Flaminia has never known love. At the convent school there is no space for it. Once a month, her mother Lucetta appears—independent, dazzling, taking her to taste the best carbonara in Trastevere. Then she vanishes again, pursued by yet another man. The nuns whisper: that woman sells her body, that she is bound for hell.

Flaminia has never known hate either. Gentle and thoughtful, she has never understood what feelings to devote to a mother both intermittent and overwhelming, splendid and terrible.

A mother and a daughter. A story of women, of emancipation, of defiance against the world's injustices. From rural Sicily to the heart of Rome, in the wake of the Second World War, unfolds an adventure both intimate and epic.

With an enchanting voice, Costanza Ghezzi sweeps the reader along, urging them to keep pace with Lucetta and Flaminia, two luminous protagonists who blaze with unforgettable intensity.



**SILVIA
PELIZZARI**

Alternating between memories - real or presumed - and stories read in books and seen on film, Silvia Pelizzari, following the lesson of **Joan Didion** and **Annie Ernaux**, constructs a refined, lucid, fierce **memoir**.

“What causes us to become ourselves? So much literature lately answers: trauma. Silvia Pelizzari’s gorgeous and sensitive novel gives a different answer. It speaks of normal pain.”

Vincenzo Latronico

Shortlisted for the International Booker Price 2025

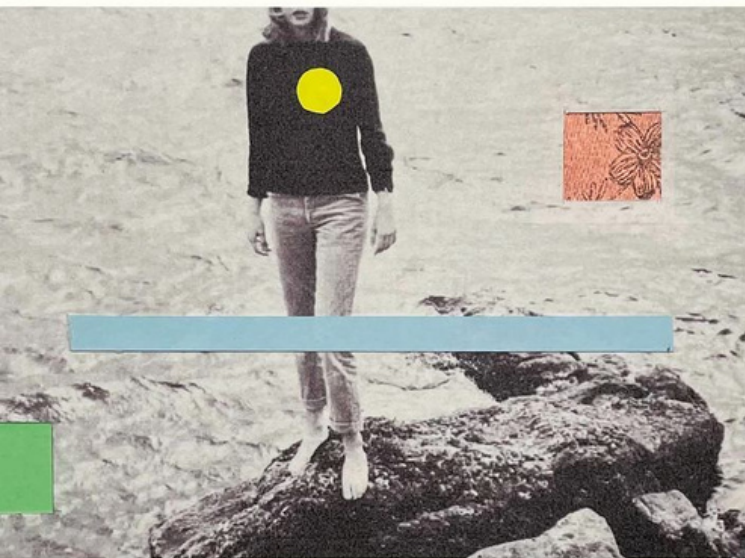
It is the first true contemporary novel set in the Italian provinces that goes beyond a literary exploration of space, aiming - and succeeding - to shape the character of those who live there.’

‘il Tascabile’

Silvia Pelizzari is the creator and author of ‘Tiresia’, a podcast about queer literature (Emons Record 2022). She has written about books in various Italian magazines and published short stories in anthologies and magazines. ‘L’ultima volta che sono stata lei’ is her debut novel.

Silvia Pelizzari
L'ULTIMA VOLTA
CHE SONO STATA LEI

Romanzo



FANDANGO LIBRI



SILVIA PELIZZARI
L'ULTIMA VOLTA
CHE SONO STATA LEI

THE LAST TIME I WAS HER
FANDANGO, SEPTEMBER 2025

Silvia, beautiful and fragile, is a girl bursting with life, longing only to be loved. One day, after a stolen kiss and a rooftop party, she discovers an insult aimed at her in the school bathroom.

That single word, that Event, leaves an indelible mark, seeping into the folds of her still-developing personality and shaping her emotional life forever. Twenty years later, the wound reopens with the familiar invitation to a class reunion.

Shame resurfaces, paralyzing her. Should she avoid it, or confront the lingering cruelty of classmates that still burns within her?

Her invisible teachers guide her, taking her by the hand. The voices of Joan Didion, Annie Ernaux, James Baldwin, and many others lead her through the labyrinth of memory, helping her untangle its mysterious workings. How much can our memories be distorted by resentment and loneliness? And why do we love, and then stop? A tender and fierce journey from childhood to adulthood, this is a diary of self-discovery, memory, and the enduring quest to understand the heart.

‘L’ultima volta che sono stata lei’ is the debut novel by Silvia Pelizzari, a leading figure in the Italian queer community.

CRIME FICTION



FULVIO

LUNA ROMERO

“With his dry, sharp, and surgical style, Fulvio Luna Romero has perfectly crafted the anatomy of a north-eastern Italian criminal. Once you’ve turned the final page, it will be impossible to see Veneto the same way.”

Piergiorgio Pulixi

“Welcome to Jesolo, the Gomorra you never expected.”

Gianluca Ferraris

Fulvio Luna Romero **won the Nebbia Gialla Prize** for Unpublished Works with ‘Prosecco connection’ (Laurana 2018) then **translated into Bulgaria** by Lemur Books.

Fulvio Luna Romero (1977) lives near Venice. In 2017 he won the NebbiaGialla Prize for Unpublished Works with ‘Prosecco connection’, published by Laurana in 2018, a finalist in the La Provincia Giallo Prize, and translated in Bulgaria. For Marsilio, he published the crime fiction biology ‘Le regole degli infami’ (2021) and ‘Le regole della vendetta’ (2024), followed by ‘La ghenga degli storti’ (2025).

Fulvio Luna Romero

La ghenga degli storti



FULVIO LUNA ROMERO

LA GHENGA DEGLI STORTI

GANG OF THE CROOKED

MARSILIO, JUNE 2025, PP. 512

In 2024 Andrea Rasic lives in Gorizia. On the surface, he is a man like many others: he lives in an anonymous block of flats not far from the Slovenian border, drives a small car, and spends his time between a position as a distribution coordinator at a supermarket and managing incoming and outgoing parcels for a forwarding agent's warehouse. However, it is his third job, as a handyman assistant to an old antiquarian, that opens up a glimpse into a dark past that no one, seeing him today, would be able to match. A past that emerges in all its overbearingness when Rasic, returning by car alongside Susanna, the woman he lives with, is ambushed by a couple of thugs armed with Glockes: leaving his girlfriend stunned, Rasic manages to foil the attack, however, shooting them both with unsuspected skill and then retreating. So his desperate escape brings back another story, the one about his life 'before', when, in the late 1980s and early 2000s, his name was Husky and his days revolved around Lele, Weekend, the Gypsy and Milady. All together, in Valle dei Mulini - a forgotten village in the middle of nowhere on the Venetian plain - they formed the Gang of the Crooked.

Through the story of a gang dedicated to easy money and fuelled by a thirst for power and redemption, Fulvio Luna Romero has given shape to his most ambitious novel to date, succeeding in weaving the counter-song of forty years of Italian history, but above all rendering in a vivid and unforgettable manner a Northeast made up of warehouses, weapons and cocaine, dedication to work, wealth, hard work and oppression.



A noir fiction biology that digs deep into the turbulent soil of north-eastern Italy, recounting from within the criminal infiltrations which infest it. Drawing inspiration from recent events, Fulvio Luna Romero has crafted a ruthless and passionate novel driven by **adrenaline**, **suspense**, and **continuous plot twists**.

“A ruthless work of noir fiction with foul yet seductive characters. A story in which no one is who they claim to be, and where everyone has something to hide.”

Paolo Roversi

“You only have to read the first twenty pages of ‘Le regole della vendetta’ to realise that you have a new classic of the genre on your hands.”

‘Milano Nera’

CRIMINI NEL NORDEST

CRIMES IN THE NORTH-EAST

‘Le regole degli infami’ / Crimini nel Nordest 1
Marsilio 2021, Universale Economica Feltrinelli 2024

‘La regole della vendetta’ / Crimini nel Nordest 2
Marsilio 2024, Universale Economica Feltrinelli 2025

CHILDREN'S BOOKS



CRISTÒ

L'ESTATE IN CUI SPARIRONO I CANI

THE SUMMER THE DOGS DISAPPEARED

GIUNTI, JUNE 2023, PP.144

Winner of

City of San Sisto Prize - Children's Literature Section
Ceglie Messapica Literary Prize - Children's Literature Section
Giovanni Arpino Prize 2024 - Category 6-9 years

4,000 copies sold in the first six months of release.

A hymn to adventure set in the places of **Dino Buzzati**, transformed into magical and mysterious spaces.

Tonia spends the summer in the countryside, in the village of Martondo, not far from a magical and frightening forest that everyone calls the Old Woods. However, this is not a summer like any other: all the dogs have disappeared, starting with her beloved Napoleon the Third. Thus begins the adventure of Tonia and her friend Dino, who decide to go in search of the missing dogs. Aided by a magpie who can imitate the voices of animals and men, and a wind named Matteo, they will have to cross the Old Woods, and discover the mystery of the missing dogs.

Cristò is also an author for adults. His latest literary novel is 'Penultima Parole' (Mondadori 2025). 'L'estate in cui sparirono i cani' (Giunti 2023) is his first novel for children, following by 'L'estate in cui toccammo la luna' (Giunti 2025).



CRISTÒ

L'ESTATE IN CUI TOCCAMMO LA LUNA

THE SUMMER WE TOUCHED THE MOON.

GIUNTI, OCTOBER 2025, PP.144

The second adventure of Tonia and Dino is a story of sea and pirates, giant crabs and mysterious treasures.

A fantastic fictional universe inspired by the novels of **Tommaso Landolfi**.

Tonia and Dino, already the protagonists of the children's book 'L'estate in cui sparirono i cani' (Giunti, 2023), are overjoyed: for a few days, a faithful reproduction of the galleon of the Pirate Landolfi, heroine of their favourite adventure books, called Crab Queen will be docked at the port of the town where they live. As they board the ship to visit her, they cannot know that their great excitement is small compared to what they will feel when the galleon suddenly sets sail. Governed by a young girl who calls herself Landolfi, like the heroine of the books, and a giant crab, the two boys will experience a true pirate adventure among islands with strange names and even more bizarre inhabitants, a black cat called Gattabuia, a talking magpie and a mysterious treasure to be reached before the wind drops.

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BACKLIST

Alessandro Carlini

Nome in codice: **RENATA**

*Storia di Paola Del Din, combattente
della Resistenza e agente segreto*

UTET

NARRATIVE
NONFICTION

ALESSANDRO CARLINI

NOME IN CODICE: RENATA

CODENAME: RENATA

UTET, APRIL 2023, PP. 240

The incredible story of Paola Del Din, partisan, paratrooper and agent for British intelligence. Del Din, now over 100 years old, was recently remembered and praised by King Charles, Giorgia Meloni, and many other members of Italian and British institutions.

Until 8 September 1943, Paola Del Din was only a student of Literature. Raised in a military family, she loved reading and fencing. But after the armistice between Italy and the Allies, history demands a choice of camp: either with the king, or with Mussolini. Her father Prospero was already far away, a prisoner of war, so it was up to her son Renato to take up arms with the Osoppo brigade and resist the Nazi-Fascists in the treacherous lands of Friuli, in the north-east of the country. Paola collaborates, acts as a relay girl, helps as much as she can. But everything is about to change again. On the night between 24 and 25 April 1944, exactly one year before the Liberation of Italy, Renato is killed during an assault on a republican barracks. At that point, Paola has no choice: she must pick up Renato's legacy and fight on the front line. But she will do it in her own way. She accepts a high-risk mission for British Intelligence: to cross Italy to deliver a top-secret package to Allied commanders. In the midst of the documents he carries hidden among his clothes, precious, is a request for a medal of valour for Renato. And it is in honour of her brother that she chooses her official code name: Renata. Hers is a descent into the underworld of a devastated country, immersed in the dark night of the Nazi-Fascist occupation, illuminated only by the cruel flashes of mortars and gunfire. In the end, Paola Del Din, a fighter and patriot of the Osoppo-Friuli brigade, agent pro tempore of the British Special Operations Executive (SOE), will earn a gold medal for military valour from the Italian Republic, arriving to parachute, after a training period of just a few days, into the war-torn Northeast.

Dandy secret agents, courageous priests, daring sorties and fierce reprisals, but also the bitter partisan clashes that led to the Porzûs massacre: Alessandro Carlini reconstructs the complete story of Paola Del Din for the first time, alternating between the voice of the woman, now in her hundredth year, and the many documents consulted, including confidential files of the British Secret Service.

Alessandro Carlini (1976) is a journalist. He has published the novel 'Partigiano in camicia nera' (Chiarelettere 2017, winner of the City of Como Opera Prima Prize and the Carver Prize), the noir 'Gli sciacalli' (NewtonCompton 2021, shortlisted for the Strega Prize) and the sequel 'Il nome del male' (NewtonCompton 2022, finalist in Garfagnano in Giallo Prize).

ALESSANDRO
CARLINI

SE IL FUOCO CI DESIDERA

BREVE VITA DI RENATO DEL DIN,
CHE L'8 SETTEMBRE 1943
SCELSE LA LIBERTÀ

NARRATIVE
NONFICTION

ALESSANDRO CARLINI

SE IL FUOCO CI DESIDERA

IF FIRE DESIRES US

UTET, APRIL 2024, PP. 192

“Paola’s story and, in a filigree, Renato’s, explain that without these women and men, simply waiting, a new, truly free Italy would never have been born.”

‘il Messaggero Veneto’

‘He feels the mountain,’ the commander says of him. In the summer of 1943, Renato Del Din stands out for his preparation and instinct as a climber, and he finds a special charm up there in the Dolomites, where the terrible echoes of war do not reach. But as soon as he is assigned as second lieutenant of the alpini to a battalion of the Julia division, he is faced with the most important choice of his life: once the armistice between Italy and the Allies has been signed, and the army has been disbanded, it is a question of deciding whether to follow Mussolini among the ‘republican forces’ or to rebel against the Nazi-Fascists.

Renato thought of his father Prospero, a prisoner in India, who had never wanted to swear an oath to the Duce; he thought of his mother Ines and his sister Paola in Udine, while the Germans occupied it using an iron fist; he thought of the Risorgimento ideals, which still inflamed him, and wrote a poem on a sheet of paper, which began: ‘If fire desires us, let fire take us’. Renato chose freedom that 8 September, becoming one of the first animators of the Osoppo brigades, the heart of the Resistance in north-eastern Italy. In seven furious months of sorties, actions and sabotage, his formation became a thorn in the side for the Nazi-Fascists, until the terrible night when Renato himself led a heroic attack on a militia barracks, finding death. It was 25 April 1944, exactly one year before the Liberation. Renato was twenty-one years old.

On the 80th anniversary, Alessandro Carlini reconstructs the very short life of this ‘perfect’ officer and partisan, thanks to Renato’s unpublished writings and letters, and the memories of his sister Paola Del Din, who carried on his name and battle after her brother’s death.

Alessandro Carlini (1976) is a journalist. He has published the novel ‘Partigiano in camicia nera’ (Chiarelettere 2017, winner of the City of Como Opera Prima Prize and the Carver Prize), the noir ‘Gli sciacalli’ (NewtonCompton 2021, shortlisted for the Strega Prize) and the sequel ‘Il nome del male’ (NewtonCompton 2022, finalist in Garfagnano in Giallo Prize). His last two books are dedicated to the Del Din family, heroes of the Resistance: ‘Nome in codice: Renata’ (UTET 2023) e ‘Se il fuoco ci desidera’ (UTET 2024).



ALESSANDRO DE ROMA

GRANDE TERRA SOMMERSA

LARGE SUNKEN LAND

FANDANGO, JANUARY 2023, PP. 496

“A broad narrative fresco that weaves life and passion, fury and sentiment, in the exact centre of the painful formative experience of a very young protagonist.”

‘Tuttolibri’ - ‘La Stampa’

Eleven-year-old Pietro Stefano Mele is an ordinary boy, who still does not know how one foot in the wrong can change an entire life. When his mother slips (also his responsibility, he believes) and hits her head on a rock, he begins a long battle with his own guilt. His father, Seb, a religious fanatic with an exasperated egocentricity, lays the blame for the incident on Pietro and abandons him in the small Sardinian village of San Leonardo de Siete Fuentes, at his grandmother Sircana's - his mother - who until then had been only a stranger to his grandson. The old woman lives in a house on the edge of the forest and seems to have no intention of opening up her world to Pietro.

However, day after day, a deep understanding is born between the two. Pietro learns to love that wild life of adventures among trees and streams, with few rules to follow. Above all, he is fascinated by his neighbours, the Campus, a family that in his eyes represents the unity he has lost forever. Why, then, does his grandmother seem to want to warn him about them? Why do they disappear for weeks at a time and then reappear as if nothing had happened? While Pietro's attraction to that family, and in particular to his peers Luca and Laura, continues to grow, an increasingly disturbing shadow begins to envelop the neighbours. However, the unexpected return of his father will abruptly distance the protagonist from the small universe he now feels is his own. If the great underwater lands are the ones in which we project our imagination, the people we love are its inhabitants until the moment when, as adults, we do not accept its weaknesses.

The novel of a great literary voice, the story of the formation to life of the wild boy in each of us.

Alessandro De Roma (1970) was born and lives in Sardinia, where he teaches history and philosophy. He published the novels: ‘Vita e morte di Ludovico Lauter’ (Il Maestrale 2007), ‘La fine dei giorni’ (Il Maestrale 2008), ‘Il primo passo nel bosco’ (Il Maestrale 2010), ‘Quando tutto tace’ (Bompiani 2011), ‘La mia maledizione’ (Einaudi 2014), ‘Nessuno resta solo’ (Einaudi 2021) and ‘Grande terra sommersa’ (Fandango 2023). He is among the authors of the anthology ‘Sei per la Sardegna’ (Einaudi 2014, with Francesco Abate, Marcello Fois, Michela Murgia and Paola Soriga).

Many of his books have been translated in France by Gallimard.

FRANCESCA MARZIA ESPOSITO
CORPI DI BALLO

MONDADORI

FRANCESCA MARZIA ESPOSITO

CORPI DI BALLO

BODY OF ART

MONDADORI, OCTOBER 2019, PP. 216

“The writing is incredible. I don’t know that I’ve ever encountered a more precise writing style. There are some lines which bleed with beauty.”

Stefano Sgambati

“Anita and Miriam are described by their most basic functions: they eat, they sleep, they’re cold, they have cramps and pains, and they might die. They are creatures; the more destiny allows them to vanish, the more concrete and real the novel renders them.”

‘la Lettura’ - ‘il Corriere della Sera’

Anita is one of the two top dancers at the prestigious Karen Holmes Dance Academy. The other is Miriam: coordinated, expressive, toned and charismatic. In Anita’s eyes, she is perfect. The two girls share not only their apartment, but also the hours spent within the white, sterile walls of the Academy. Under constant scrutiny, each girl has adopted her own methods to restrain herself from eating; for them, dancing comes first. Everything else is secondary. The rest of Anita’s life is made up of her mother, her older brother Toni – a man in his forties with an obsessive disorder and a newfound passion for iguanas – and her childhood best friend, Nina. Summer has just begun, and with it, the rehearsals for Holmes’ latest production: Ondine. The Academy’s director distorts and experiments with the show, her approach even more cryptic than usual; as always, Anita follows her instructions without question. But everything is about to change. On a day like any other, Miriam collapses, never to regain consciousness. Anita’s life grinds to a halt, incapable of facing the event that has brought her perfectly-organised world crashing down around her. It is thanks to the oddities of her brother, a nameless young girl, Bruno (the mysterious nighttime visitor), and, mainly, to a strength she never knew she possessed, that Anita is able to start again; but it throws into question everything she has ever known.

With a writing style capable of capturing even the most minute nuances, and filling the silences surrounding them, Francesca Marzia Esposito’s novel is an emotional and challenging insight into the world of dance. Her story reveals not only the intricacies of its darker sides, but also the obsession in its search for perfection: a perfection which almost never leads to happiness.

Francesca Marzia Esposito lives in Milan, where she works as a dance instructor. She published ‘La forma minima della felicità’ (Baldini & Castoldi 2015), ‘Corpi di ballo’ (Mondadori 2019) and the narrative non-fiction ‘Ultracorpi’ (minimum fax 2024). Her latest novel is ‘Materiali resistenti’ (HarperCollins 2025).



GRAZIANO GALA

POPOFF

MINIMUM FAX, SEPTEMBER 2024, PP. 160

“Popoff mixes fairy tale, fable and theatre.”

‘Internazionale’

“The balance between voice and story brings together both those who seek a plot and those who, instead, prefer to be transported where the writer wants to be.”

‘la Repubblica’

It is a dark night, perhaps not stormy, but freezing, when, in a town in an unnamed South, at the door of Cimino, an odd but well-respected old man, knocks a child of whom nobody knows anything, and who seems almost to materialise before our eyes. His face is protected by a scarf, he is covered in snow, stuffed with a layer of overlapping jackets, and exudes a strange serenity. The child has only one question: “Excuse me, sir, do you happen to know my father?” This is how Graziano Gala’s second novel begins, and on every page he re-proposes that mixture of comic and tragic, realism and fairy tale, literary language and dialect, that has made his ‘Sangue di Giuda’ one of the most appreciated debut novels of recent years. We will see the protagonist - whom someone in the village has named Popoff - struggling to fit into a world in which hunger and violence dictate the law; falling in love with freshly baked loaves of bread and votive candles; violating the sanctum of a large supermarket, which introduces a jarring modernity into a natural and human landscape that is centuries old; helplessly witnessing the terrible spectacle of death, mockery and contempt. And never tiring of repeating the same, desperate question: ‘Do you happen to know my father?’

A son in search of his lost father. A legacy of violence that has infiltrated the folds of every human relationship. A cruel fairy tale, which seems to be told in front of a hearth.

Graziano Gala (1990) was born in Apulia and lives near Milan. He has published the short story ‘Ciabatteria Maffei’ (Tetra 2023) and the novels ‘Sangue di Giuda’ (Minimum Fax 2022) and ‘Popoff’ (Minimum Fax 2024). He is the editor of ‘Controdizionario della lingua italiana’ (Baldini&Castoldi 2022).



ELENA GHIRETTI

SAPONI

SOAP

FANDANGO, FEBRUARY 2021, PP. 192

“It was the explosive writing style that captured me with this novel; a gushing river of intelligence and wisdom which continually references contemporary culture, from TV series and cinema to novels and literature. The whole novel sparkles and fizzes.”

Luciana Littizzetto

“I’m convinced, and have been for years, that Elena Ghiretti is an author who absolutely must be read by all.”

Matteo B. Bianchi

Lucia has made it to her forties convinced that she has reached some sort of lifetime achievement: she has a job she loves in a marketing agency, she has a stable relationship, and she has paid a deposit on her dream house. But, one rainy day, everything starts to unravel. A chain of unfortunate events brings her perfect life crashing down. She begins to question her career, her love life, and her own identity, with an insistent thought niggling at her mind: the thirty-year-olds have taken over. And she hadn’t even realised. Because of her age, she is out of the game.

She is Soap, a losing concept: a naïve new line of men’s cosmetics which the client ditches in favour of a tantalising proposal from a millennial of indeterminate gender. Reinventing herself now is impossible: it’s too late. Those in their thirties work in different ways, and have begun to shape their own alien universe. From that moment, Lucia’s certainty disappears, her life derailing.

From networking events with glossy influencers and surreal evenings spent in escape rooms, to obscure spiritual practices and erotic and geographical digressions, Lucia attempts to find a new direction for her life. Instead, she discovers that, deep down, millennials may not be quite as enigmatic as they seem.

The war between thirty-year-olds and those in their forties has just begun: a novel of irresistible irony, with a quick-witted, cynical style of writing that will invite you to look at the world with greater suspicion but, at the same time, far less fear.

Elena Ghiretti is an architect who specialises in socio-cultural trends and future scenarios. She published ‘L’intelligenza della specie’ (Baldini & Castoldi 2015), ‘Saponi’ (Fandango 2021) and the narrative non-fiction ‘Hostaggio’ (Accento 2023).



GIUSEPPE IMBROGNO

QUELLO CHE ABBIAMO VISSUTO

WHAT WE EXPERIENCED

READER FOR BLIND, OCTOBER 2022, PP. 524

Alberto Lapis and Cristina Rotondi are married, live in the province and lead a quiet existence. A small house in the suburbs, the company Audi, dinner at a restaurant at the weekend, sports every evening. Years earlier, they wanted to become parents, but now, after several attempts, they have opted to put it away. This is how they say, in their dialect, the final setting aside of a desire or an obsession. Cristina throws herself into work and in the arms of a colleague, Alberto questions a profession of which he feels all the contradictions. After all, for him, who took part in the Genoa 2001 G8 riots, dealing with company restructuring - in jargon, being a 'cutter' - has always been a fallback that, over time, he has sewn himself into.

Then comes the news they no longer wait for: they are going to have a baby, Giulio. If Cristina is assailed by the anxiety of not being a good mother and, perhaps, of not even wanting him, Alberto perceives his role as father as a mission. In a family life punctuated by Giulio's small, great progress - his first words, first steps, birthdays -, Cristina claims her freedom, venting her frustrations in a successful blog, while Alberto devotes himself to his son with self-denial. It is he who comes into contact with the controversial Dr Dapunt and the group of parents who gravitate around her, which also includes Mario, an old friend from the no-global movement.

Between experimental kindergartens, alternative learning methods and isolated camps in the woods, Alberto sees in them, for the first time since Genoa, a community in which he can recognise himself and reflect himself, an ideal to fight for. Completely unaware of their danger. Anxious to excel over each other and locked in their respective silences, Alberto and Cristina find themselves alone when they should be together. To chase a wind that blows towards an announced tragedy.

Giuseppe Imbrogno tells the story of a strong-willed and imperfect woman and man - and for this very reason profoundly human - in search of their place in a world that, having erased the ideals of yesteryear, has woken up fearful, insecure. Ready to believe.

Giuseppe Imbrogno (1976) lives in Milan. His debut novel 'Il perturbante' (Autori Riuniti 2017) was a finalist at the 2016 Calvino Prize, where it received a special mention from the jury, and at the 2018 Carver Prize. 'Quello che abbiamo vissuto' (Reader for Blind 2022) is his latest novel.

Francesco Mila PIPERITA

Romanzo



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FRANCESCO MILA

PIPERITA

PIPPERMINT

FANDANGO, JANUARY 2021, PP. 256

“Yet we feel as if we are standing before something new, something that no one has ever recounted to us before – not in this way.”

‘Robinson’

Winner of Premio Procida - Elsa Morante 2021.

Maybe, at some point, Lapo and Emma’s parents were happy together. But if that time ever existed, Lapo was too young to remember it, and Emma had not yet been born. It was a time when Lucrezia, their mother, who was obsessed with Hollywood actors, wouldn’t continuously disappear from their lives; a time when their father Gioacchino, a doctor, didn’t lock himself away in his silence. Between Rome, Calabria, and their house on the lake; between cheating and abandonment, accompanied by reading “Peanuts” and inventing faraway worlds in which to barricade themselves, the Callipo siblings grow up, their lives teetering on the edge of destruction. They create fantasy worlds in which Emma is free simply to be Piperita, bride to Prince Arturo: an adventurous girl surrounded by friends, with an ironic sense of humour. The passing years do not make home life any easier, and in addition to the usual teenage problems and Emma’s lack of appetite, she is forced to grow up. When he is sixteen years old, thanks to his friend Amedeo – who is more laidback and experienced than him – Lapo meets Greta. With her, he discovers sex and love. Even Emma (who had long shed any trace of Piperita) grows close to Greta. But neither of the siblings have the courage to talk about their pain, although Greta seems – in her own way – part of their ‘brotherhood of abandonment’. So when Lucrezia leaves the family home once again, as if she had been held captive, the situation worsens. It is their sibling bond which once again saves Lapo and Emma: only together will they be able to understand that the blame and responsibility or their lack of affection is much harder to attribute than they had first imagined.

With an innate yet unexpected understanding of the written word for someone so young, Francesco Mila (1996) tells a story of affection and protection. It is the story of a family reminiscent of ‘Aracoeli’ by Elsa Morante, and perfectly expresses the desire for love and the fear of embarrassment experienced by every teenager.

Francesco Mila (1996) lives in Rome. His stories have been published in magazines such as ‘Verde’, ‘Colla’ and ‘Yawp’. His debut novel ‘Piperita’ won the Procida-Isola di Arturo-Elsa Morante Prize.

Roberto Rossi La regola del tre



CRIME FICTION

ROBERTO ROSSI

LA REGOLA DEL TRE

RULE OF THREE

MARSILIO, SEPTEMBER 2024, PP. 432

“Roberto Rossi makes his debut with a high-impact book that immediately captures the reader’s interest, played out amidst mysteries, suspense and heinous murders.”

‘Salotto Giallo’

A red sign on the main door of the church in Montone, a picturesque village at the foot of the Umbrian Apennines, heralds the heinous murder of Don Lucio Bessa, the community’s parish priest. A few days later, also in Montone, Santo Bianconi, a journalist from the ‘Gazzetta dell’Umbria’, is thrown off the road while investigating the priest’s death. Perugia Mobile Police Inspector Domenico Montemurro does not believe it is a coincidence and cannot shirk from investigating because Santo, who has ended up in a coma, is almost a brother to him. He thus undertakes an investigation from which he has much to lose and little to gain. Starting from the journalist’s research - an audio message and his paper agenda -, Montemurro sets out on the trail of the murderer, aided by agent Nicola Russo. But what at first seems to be an investigation into a nurse who condemns terminally ill people to death, soon becomes a massacre. The new murders are spectacular, almost divine punishments, and in Montone they bring to mind a curse: the rule of three, according to which in the village one never dies alone, but three at a time. Meanwhile, the inspector’s private life sinks. Unable to converse with his ex wife, Tina, who would like a confrontation with him, torn between the terror of Santo’s death and the fear of having to face life after his awakening, Montemurro throws himself into the investigation with a frenzy that verges on obsession. And the story he slowly reconstructs is a spiral of rage, in which Montemurro finds a mirror of the aggressiveness he would so much like to let go of.

A tension-filled and powerful debut thriller that recalls the dark and disturbing atmospheres of ‘True Detective’ and accurately sketches an Italian province where superstition is intertwined with distrust and greed.

Roberto Rossi (1971) is a journalist. He published the investigative non fiction book ‘Bidone nucleare’ (Rizzoli 2011). ‘La regola del tre’ (Marsilio 2024) is his debut novel.

PASTRENGO

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