

Frankfurt Bookfair 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

FICTION



MICHELE RUOL

LIST OF THE THINGS WE SAVED WHEN THE FOREST BURNED DOWN (Inventario di quel che resta dopo che la foresta brucia)

Spring 2024

SOLD TO FRANCE, GREECE, SPAIN, SLOVENIA, SERBIA

12000 copies sold

Optioned for film

Shortlisted for the Strega Prize 2025 (most important Italian prize)

Winner 31st edition Giuseppe Berto Award

Winner 9th edition Megamark Prize

Winner 1st edition Venetarium Labomar Prize

Shortlisted at these Prizes: POP (for debut novels), Mastercard, Asti, Mandrarossa, Giorgione

In the story of Mother and Father, time is shaped by objects, that trigger memories about the people who touched them; and by facts: before and after the car accident in which their children are killed. The births of First Born and Last Born. The accident that involves them all. But also, those marginal events that change the course of their existence, and of ours too: a touch that lingers, a glimpse of someone else's chat. In this luminous and sharp debut, Michele Ruol leads us through his characters' most intimate lives: it is the imprints they left on the objects touched in their own houses that make us question what we think of them - and of ourselves too.

Michele Ruol is an anaesthesiologist. He writes for the theatre and has published shorts stories on literary magazine such as "Inutile" and "Effe - Periodico di Altre Narratività," and on the anthologies *L'amore ai tempi dell'apocalisse* (Galaad) curated by Paolo Zardi, and *Il Veneto del futuro* (Marsilio) curated by Alessandro Zangrando. The play *Betulla*, produced by Piccolo Teatro in Milan for the podcast *Abbecedario per il mondo nuovo*, was published by Il Saggiatore as the namesake book. *List of the things we saved when the forest burned down* marks his debut as fiction writer.



EZIO SINIGAGLIA

FIFTY-FIFTY. SAINT ARAM IN THE REALM OF MARS (Fifty-Fifty. Sant'Aram nel Regno di Marte)

February 2021

RIGHTS SOLD: FRANCE (Emmanuelle Collas)

#4 in the "L'Indiscreto" Best Literary Books Chart

Featured in the best books chart "La Lettura del Corriere Della Sera"

Selected by the jury of literati of the CAMPIELLO PRIZE 2022

Those who met the narrator in the first of the two novels that make up the diptych *Fifty-fifty* will find him here immersed in one of the brightest moments of his past: during military service, when the desire for a body always seemed to find a way to express itself. No longer Fif's denials, but affection and the enthusiastic homoerotic novicehood of the rediscovered Sciofi are the pivot around which memory is rebuilt.

Ezio Sinigaglia thus completes his most ambitious work, in which his creative language reinvents the twentieth-century literary tradition in a key which is both humorous and rigorous. A treatise in narrative form on the wonder and

freedom of love, the pitfalls of jealousy and the foolishness of men when they play war.



EZIO SINIGAGLIA
FIFTY-FIFTY. WARUM AND THE CONEROTIC ADVENTURES (Fifty-Fifty. Warum e le avventure Conerotiche)
 April 2021

RIGHTS SOLD: FRANCE (Emmanuelle Collas)

#7 in the "L'Indiscreto" Best Literary Books Chart
#17 in the annual best books chart "La Lettura del Corriere Della Sera"

Fifi (he who half gives himself and half denies himself), is the name given by the narrator to the young man for whom he has renounced all other relationships. Their union, although exclusive and symbiotic, is a bizarre example of 'unrequited love'. In fact, Fifi prefers different, and above all non-erotic, ways to show his feelings. The variety of love languages thus seemingly becomes the novel's main theme. The narrator relentlessly retraces the three years, six months, twelve days of this singular relationship: a season of enchantment, but also of abstinence and waiting, equal only to that endured

by Stocky, their mutual friend and brilliant composer, who watches over them and the other six unforgettable characters, all guests at his picturesque villa in Versilia.

Part coming-of-age, part memoir, *Fifty-Fifty* is an irreverent comedy; its creative language takes us back to the exuberant world of the 1980s, through a carousel of figures and situations that amuse, surprise, and move.

"Desire as acrobatics, physical and mental, flows continuously through the pages. ...] The prose is elaborate and rhythmic, the cut paradoxical [...] Fifty Fifty adds another title to a journey that is convincing for its coherence of themes and variety of expression." Alessandro Beretta, *Il Corriere della sera*

"Ezio Sinigaglia is a writer of rare finesse and sensitivity, with passion and taste in linguistic research and exploration of styles." Edgardo Franzosini

"Sinigaglia's writing, bold, very unique, never lacking philosophical innuendos and capable of endless variations, is the most interesting (re)discovery in recent years." Vanni Santoni



NICOLA BRAMI
A SAFFRON DRESS FOR MELINOE (Melinoe vestita di zafferano)

BLU ATLANTIDE, Winter 2024

Book of The Month (April 2024) for Radio 3, the main Italian cultural radio station.

Enea is a young math teacher whose existence revolves around his job, his tired love for Lorna, the tennis matches with his friends and the detached relationship with the older brother Nicola, a successful writer. His life changes when, one morning, calling home from school, he finds himself speaking on the phone with someone who appears to have the same voice as him and claims to be him. That's when an impossible thought arises for the first time in Enea's mind: is it possible that, out there, there's a double trying to steal his identity? Someone who looks like him, lives in his house, teaches at his school and takes his place on the tennis field. While Nicola informs Enea that he's suffering from a deadly disease, the

latter discovers the existence of esoteric rituals that took place 20 years before and that are related both to his brother and the existence of the double. They were led by Melinoe, a girl who seems to possess knowledge that goes beyond the ordinary and the human realm. Nicola Brami writes a hypnotic novel, at the same time vivid and sensual. A dark dream that, instead of vanishing with the morning light, becomes more and more real and compels the reader to give an answer to the most terrifying of questions: who am I?

"The plot, well-orchestrated and fast-paced... produces a compelling narrative until the very end." Orazio Labbate, *Il Corriere della Sera*

"Are we in the folk-horror canon, or within an ambitious pastiche...? It's up to reader to provide an answer to the riddle... as long as the plot and the internal structure are as solid." Giancarlo de Cataldo, *La Stampa*

Nicola Brami Nicola Brami grew up in Ghedi, in the province of Brescia. After spending eight years in Ireland, he returned to Italy and now works in translation and communication for an international company. In 2020, he published the novel *Tutti se ne vanno* with La Torre dei Venti. *Melinoe vestita di zafferano* marks his debut with Atlantide..

ALVISE TRISCIUZZI

THE MAN WHO WAS KILLED TWICE (Newton Compton, 2025)



Fabio Mazza broke hearts and destroyed marriages, and now his body lies lifeless in the town square. He was struck twice by two different hands, but which one inflicted the fatal wound? It's up to Marshal Arturo Bonomi to find out. A mysterious murder has taken place in a small village in the Bassa region, shrouded in fog. The victim is Fabio Mazza, the local heartthrob. There are many suspects: indifferent as he was to whether his conquests were married or not, the deceased had made many enemies, and the condition of the body found in the middle of the square certainly does not help. Fabio Mazza has two fatal wounds, as if he had been killed twice: with a gunshot and by having his throat cut. Marshal Arturo Bonomi, aided by the ineffable Dr. Peruzzi, Boris the innkeeper, and the rest of his group of friends, is forced to delve into the secrets and vices of his fellow villagers, discovering a world of burning jealousy and hidden passions, loves that begin and loves that end, femmes fatales, and dissatisfied wives... But which one of them is the real murderer?

THE FOSSALTO MURDER MYSTERY (Newton Compton, 2024)

1500 COPIES



A small town in the Lower Po Valley is the setting of a string of misdemeanors: Lambrusco, the village drunk and ex-partisan, ends up with his head smashed; his old friend Arturo Bonomi (mustachioed and bittersweet marshal of the Carabinieri) and Alessandro Peruzzi (perfectionist coroner) are investigating the case, helped by a hotchpotch of officers and passerbys, some hopelessly clumsy, others more smart. The story, set in the 1960s, unfolds between memories of World War II and the memory of a vanished peasant world all under the gaze of a small statue of the Madonna near which Lambrusco's lifeless body was found. Reconstructing the story of his life and of their friendship, Bonomi recalls invading troops and alleged allies going treasure hunting during the War. Was Lambrusco killed for that phantom treasure? Or is there some other secret in his life that no one knows about? The solution will come only by listening to the stories of the inhabitants of that small town, made up of thugs and informers which (according to their beliefs) swear against God or become newborn Catholics; former fascists and communists, con men, fickle former partisans prisoners of war, bullies, busybodies and teachers. As it has always been, all over the world.

YOUNG ADULT, MIDDLE GRADE

GIORGIO FIGUS

THIRD PRAETORIAN GUARD 1 AND 2 (GIUNTI, 2025)



The first two chapters of a new series of adventures set in the ancient Rome of Trajan, Rome, 113 AD. Sisto Corio and Cleo Zagaros are two agents of a proto-secret service that was actually established by Emperor Trajan. In each volume of the series, the two protagonists are called upon to solve mysterious cases in various parts of the empire.

THE DEADLY HISS

In Dalmatia, near the town of Solona, aggressive and deadly creatures suddenly and mysteriously appear. It seems that this has something to do with a mysterious object that fell from the sky (perhaps an asteroid—or something else—from space). Upon arriving on the scene to investigate, the two agents make another alarming discovery: after more than 250 years, the city of Carthage has been re-established in a secret location, waiting to return to being a great power and to counter the dominance of Rome. It also has a highly efficient secret weapon, the Moloch Bat, which will give the agents of the Third Praetorian Guard a run for their money!



THE AWAKENING OF THE BEAST

In Iberia, in a remote mountain village at the foot of the Pyrenees, a terrible Beast spreads terror among the legionaries of Rome's garrisons. No one can capture or kill it, and the Roman army's aura of invincibility begins to suffer. Sisto Corio and Cleo Zagaròs discover that behind the origins of the Beast lies the mysterious Atlantis, a highly advanced civilization that disappeared in ancient times.

MASSIMO CANUTI

THREE FINGERS (UOVONERO, 2025)

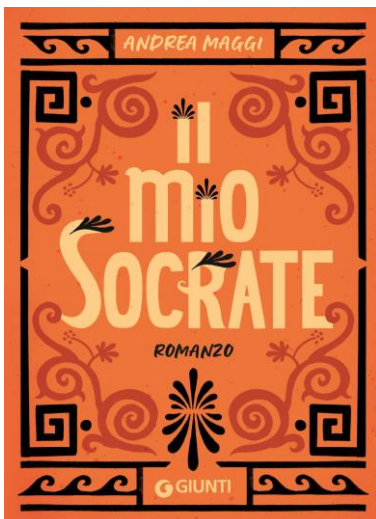


Nado is eleven years old, has three fingers, and talks to God. Or rather, he tries to, because God doesn't seem to want to listen to him. In Bettolle—the small village in the middle of Tuscany where he lives—and in the rest of Italy, there is war: it is 1943, and the Germans have just arrived in the village. Since their arrival, little Nado's life has changed. School has been closed, his days have become boring, and worst of all, his best friend Civetta seems to have stopped paying attention to him. But suddenly, a mysterious word echoes in the air: resistance. Who should he resist? Nado wonders. The Germans are his friends: one of them even saved his life by taking him to the hospital when a bomb exploded, taking away his left hand and most of his right. Nado doesn't really know what this resistance is, but it could turn out to be an interesting game, since the war has stolen the most fun ones from him. However, he will soon realize that this new word is anything but a game...

A coming-of-age novel set during World War II. The narrative, imbued with irony and melancholy, follows the story of the boy's family and his young friends in an Italy occupied by the Germans. The accident becomes a symbol of his struggle to grow up and find meaning in a world ravaged by war.

ANDREA MAGGI (teacher and writer, TV personality)

MY OWN SOCRATES (GIUNTI editore, 2024, YA fiction)



Veronica, fourteen years old, is a real rebel. She hates school, can't stand her classmates and teachers. She hates constraints, rules and prohibitions. She buys what she wants thanks to the bitcoins that a mysterious employer deposits in her Wallet as compensation for a secret and illegal activity.

Every day for Veronica is a battle against the world. Life has subjected her to very hard tests, ever since her father abandoned the family when she was very young. Her mother has struggled to make it in her work, but has neither the time nor the strength to look after such a turbulent daughter, who unbeknownst to her is suspended for the future of her maths teacher's mobile phone and spied on by a mysterious stalker. In this critical phase of her life, Veronica runs into a strange old man who says his name is Socrates. Just like the Athenian philosopher of antiquity, this strange old man demolishes every certainty of his interlocutor through dialectics, helping her to find the true meaning of important words such as good, justice, freedom and truth. With him Veronica loses herself in long discussions, during which the old man, through Socratic 'maieutics', helps her to find the courage to look inside herself, to find an answer to the question of questions: who am I? The solution to all her problems lies at the bottom of that

difficult answer..

YOU CAN COUNT ON YOUR HEART

(GIUNTI editore, 2021, YA fiction) 6000 copies sold

RIGHTS SOLD IN TURKEY AND RUSSIA

In a small high school in Italy, professor Elpidi's class is composed mostly of presumptuous, disillusioned student. Among them there is Valentina, who is eager to become a famous beauty vlogger; Renzo, a street dancer; Paola, who feels trapped in a life programmed by her parents. One thing all these teenagers have in common: they don't know who they are, so they don't have the slightest idea about what to do in the future.

Professor Roberto Elpidi tries to explain Socrates' exhortation, "Get to know yourself", in a completely original way: he organizes a retreat in a remote mountain refuge, where they will all live together for a whole month in close contact with nature. They will have to learn to settle their differences and live in community without counting on wi-fi, cell phones or any other modern convenience.

A book both entertaining and thought-provoking, that speaks to young people in their language about their fragility.



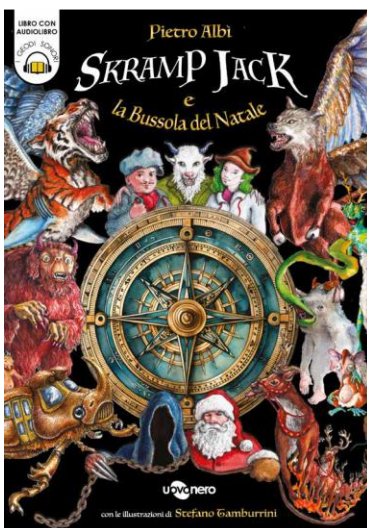
STORY OF LOVE AND ANGER

(Giunti Arya, 2022)

Ibra Diawara, seventeen years old, was born in Italy to Senegalese parents. He lives in a run down neighborhood of a small town in north-east of Italy, where a gang of young drug dealers of Macedonian origin, who have their headquarters in the infamous "Albanian park", is the boss. Ibra had a difficult childhood: he lost his mother as a little child and his father Omar forced him to attend a primary school in Senegal to rediscover his true origins. But there too, just as in Italy, his new classmates made him feel different because he was born and lived in Italy, just as in Italy he was discriminated because he was born of Senegalese parents.

Ibra's resentment for the world has grown out of all proportion, to the point of convincing him that love and friendship are deceptive feelings. But someone will try to challenge his disillusionment, a good-natured and generous classmate named Ana, the twin sister of Valon, the fearsome leader of the Albanian gang. Soon Ibra and Ana will find themselves in a very complicated situation: Alessandro, the son of Tiziana Rossi, Ibra and Ana's Italian teacher, owns Valon a lot of money, and Ibra's cousin Souleymane forms his own gang to oppose Valon... Will Ana and Ibra be able to free themselves from the burdens that oppress them and achieve the longed-for happiness?

A sort of West Side story that investigates the nature of the "bad boys" of today's Italy, where every identity boundary is blurred and where evil has deep origins, but never innate to the human soul.



PIETRO ALBI (rights of his previous novel sold to USA)

SKRAMP JACK AND THE CHRISTMAS COMPASS

(Uovonero, 2024)

17 x 22 cm

320 pages with bw illustration

age 8+

What if Christmas was not what you have always been told? And if Santa Clause's Elves (the ones who deliver gifts to good kids) weren't in fact all that good? And if the Skramp (the ones who deliver nightmares to bad kids) weren't as bad as the stories say? Jack is tired of delivering nightmares and has a plan to change that. But he'll have to deal with Santa Claus himself. It doesn't matter if you feel more like an Elf or a Skramp, as long as you let yourself be swept away on the journey to search for the true meaning of Christmas.

Pietro Albi, He usually writes for theatre, film and television and teaches creative writing to students. In 2018 he published his first novel, Farfariel, with uovonero (rights sold in USA).

NON-FICTION

ANDREA MAGGI (teacher and writer, TV personality, see separate infosheet)



EVERYBODY PASSES!

(Feltrinelli editore, 2021)

All the secrets, tips and anti-panic remedies to enjoy school to the fullest.

What is school for? Why do you need to study? Why waste time on so many "useless" subjects? What are the verbs that every student should know how to decline to perfection? "To study" and "to learn"? Maybe even before that, "to start", "to fail" and "to improve". That's right; if in life you never stop learning, in school you never stop starting! But every beginning also brings with it several doubts and fears, especially when you have to deal with teachers, classmates and new subjects. In this book you will find hints, tips and secrets to help you get by in every situation, from essays to oral tests, from home study to exam preparation. You will learn how to tame Foscolo's poems with true rock star spirit and how to surf D'Annunzio's poems. Together, we will discuss how best to deal with mishaps such as bad marks and difficulties with classmates, so that you can gain self-confidence and achieve the most important goal of all: to handle and/or prevent school anxiety step by step, right up to promotion!.



THE INDOCILE HEART. HOW TO LOVE ALESSANDRO MANZONI IN THE TIME OF THE TRAP (Piemme, 2021)

A sui generis introduction to one of the most studied and 'hated' writers of the Italian school: Alessandro Manzoni, author of the famous classic The Betrothed-

Before being an author, Alessandro Manzoni was a man of flesh and blood, just like us. Throughout his existence, he rejoiced and suffered, laughed and cried, became angry, fell in love, despondent and consoled. He lived long enough to meditate with great insight on this strange thing we call life, and his thoughts flowed into his works. Alessandro Manzoni was not always just a portrait printed in a school book with four facts to learn for a question. On the contrary, he is alive and resembles us more than we can imagine. Shy and angry like many rappers, creative, destructive and brilliant like a rock star, Alessandro Manzoni is definitely one of us.

PIERO RUZZANTE, and ANTONIO MARTINI (historians and writers)

YET THE WIND STILL BLOWS. THE LAST DAYS OF ENRICO BERLINGUER

(UTET, 2020)

The book reconstructs the last days of Enrico Berlinguer - one of the most popular and beloved Italian politicians of the 21st century - up to his tragic death, after his last rally in Piazza dei Frutti in Padua and his funeral in Piazza San Giovanni in Rome. It was the most attended funeral in the history of Italy.

In 2021 the book was judged the best text in the biographies category by the literary circles of Repubblica's Robinson magazine.

As soon as it came out, it jumped straight to the top of the list of best-selling political texts, and is still among the best-selling books in this category on the major online platforms.

