



AC² Literary Agency

AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

Fall 2026

Adult fiction and nonfiction, YA

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MICHELE RUOL

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

TerraRossa, Spring 2024

SOLD TO US/CANADA, JAPAN, FRANCE, GREECE, SPAIN, SLOVENIA, SERBIA

12000 copies sold

Optioned for film

France: longlisted Prix Médicis Extrançeur

Spain: 2500 copies sold in one week

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

Winner 31st edition Giuseppe Berto Award

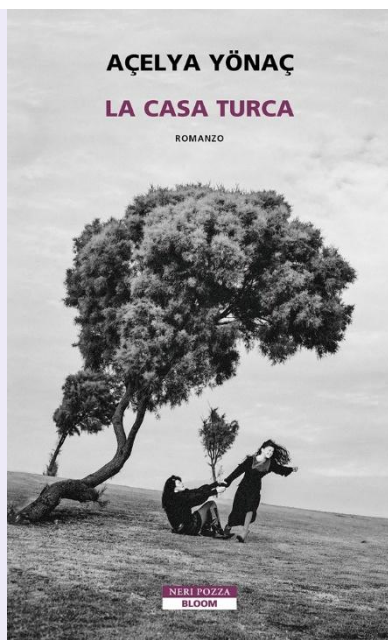
Winner 9th edition Megamark Prize

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 magazines and on anthologies. The play *Betulla*, produced by Piccolo Teatro in Milan for the podcast *Abbecedario per il mondo nuovo*, was published by Il Saggiatore. *List of the things we saved when the forest burned down* marks his debut as fiction writer.



THE TURKISH HOME (La casa turca)

Açelya Yönaç

Neri Pozza, 2026

May arrives in Istanbul, bringing with it an unusual snowfall and a mysterious flock of black cats. Asena, who grew up disconnected from her Turkish roots, is now an acclaimed biographer of extraordinary women from the Ottoman Empire. She returns to the city to accept a literary award and appear on a television interview. Yet beneath the official reason for her visit lies a more personal mission: after many years away, she hopes to uncover the fate of her brother, an investigative journalist who vanished.

A foreigner in her own birthplace, Asena finds herself confronted by journalist Azra Hanım, a woman who proudly wears the veil. Their interview rekindles centuries-old tensions between East and West and reflects the deep social divide between women who defend the religious headscarf and those who vehemently oppose it.

Asena begins to observe the country as both insider and outsider. Struggling with her own identity and unable to reconcile the fragile balance between freedom and constraint that she senses everywhere around her; she notices her reflection gradually fading from mirrors. Following a black cat through the winding alleys behind Taksim, she encounters Demet, an underground poet and transgender performer renowned for their spoken-word poetry. Asena envies the ease with which Demet navigates the streets of Istanbul and inspired by their words, becomes drawn to the city's cemeteries, captivated by the idea of finding an eternal resting place beneath the ancient Byzantine cypress trees.

When she finally uncovers the truth about her brother and discovers that her childhood home has been demolished, the prospect of continuing to live becomes almost unbearable. Yet she is ultimately saved by Demet, by her mother's peach tree, and by the many stories that emerge during her return. As she sends these stories to her publisher, she begins to reconnect her writing with her roots and with the countless women whose lives form pieces of the same larger puzzle. Through their voices, she rediscovers her own.

What Asena believed was a search for death and rest reveals itself instead as a longing for life, belonging, and the courage to embrace the truth.

Açelya Yönaç (Istanbul, 1978) is a spoken word artist and copywriter. She grew up between Istanbul, Milan, and New York, where she studied Creative Writing under poet Lee Upton before earning a Master's degree from NYU. She made her literary debut with short stories published in *Kitap-lık*, the literary magazine of Yapı Kredi Publications in Turkey. Now based in Italy, she was awarded second prize in *La 24sima Ora*, a literary competition organized by the Belleville School in Milan, and received the Giuseppe Pontiggia Scholarship for Belleville's annual writing course. She is also co-founder of the writers' collective *Le Foche Parlanti*.

Her debut novel, *La Casa Turca*, published by Neri Pozza in June 2026, was met with positive critical reception and favorable reviews. She has also been shortlisted for several upcoming literary awards.



UNWANTED AFFECTIONS

Elena Rui

Arkadia 2024 Pages 124

(with the book *Vedove di Camus* shortlisted at Premio Strega 2026)

Selected Premio Settembrini 2025, Premio Rapallo 2024, Premio Chianti 2025, Premio Venetarium 2025

Miriam has agreed to a date with a customer she's just met who has been brazenly flirting with her in the shop. Now she needs to make the evening a success, because she left her keys inside when she left the house and won't know where to sleep until her husband returns. Patrizio is in Nice for a weekend that should help him rediscover his artistic inspiration and reconnect with his partner, Ludovico, but he can't keep his aggression in check, even on vacation. Anna and François's romantic dinner ended in an argument, and for the umpteenth time, he has thrown her past romantic experiences in her face, using obscene and insulting language. Lidia has managed to find the courage to leave her husband, but the discovery that the studio apartment where she's settled is infested with mice puts her resolve to the test. Amina struggles to keep her job as a cleaner at a Parisian hotel, but her husband, Karim, without a stable job, wants nothing more than to see her at home with the children. In all of Elena Rui's stories, love is a fundamental element, even if it is experienced with difficulty, sometimes as if it were a test to be passed, as if we were faced with a distorting mirror held up treacherously by the other. It is impossible to recognize ourselves in the image it reflects. Because it is precisely in the most intimate relationships that all our inadequacy is revealed.

ELENA RUI

Born in Padua in 1980, graduated in Foreign Languages, has lived in France for eighteen years. She has taught Italian in Albi, Toulouse and Paris. She attended the Publishing Master at the emi school in Paris and an internship at the Astier-Pécher literary agency. She has taken editing courses with Stefano Izzo and Giulia Caminito. In 2013 her collection of short stories *Fiale* won the "Premio Malerba" and was published the following year by Mup. In February 2021 Garzanti published her first novel *La famiglia degli altri* which received a good reception from the public and critics.



ON THE HORIZON OF EVENTS (Sull'orizzonte degli eventi)

Cristò

TerraRossa, 2026

Previous book sold to French speaking countries, CHILE and ARGENTINA

An elderly writer who reads his most famous work without recognising it and despising it, a daughter who never wanted to devote her life to a man and finds herself doing so, a literary agent who believes in spells, and a boy who is learning to live, love and write: these are the protagonists of this short novel, overshadowed by Alzheimer's and the genius of John Barth. Once again, Cristò plays with postmodernism so as not to give up the pleasure of telling more than one story.

Cristò works in a bookshop, plays the piano and has published several novels. Among the latest are *Penultime parole* (2025) for Mondadori; as well as two novels for young adults published by Giunti: *L'estate in cui spariscono i cani* (2023) and *L'estate in cui toccammo la luna* (2025). *La carne* (Neo edizioni), and with TerraRossa, *Restiamo così quando ve ne andate* and *La meravigliosa lampada di Paolo Lunare* (translated in France, Belgium, Chile and Argentina). His writing has appeared in *la Repubblica*, *Alfabetà2*, *Artribune* and *minima&moralia*.



THIS RELENTLESS STRUGGLE (Questa lotta senza tregua)

MATTIA CECCHINI

TerraRossa October 2026

Shortlisted for Calvino Prize 2024

The factory where Tommaso works is about to be relocated to Poland, and he has no idea how he will pay off the mortgage he took out to buy a house, nor how he can ensure a decent future for his daughter. Milot, like him, is also driven by an insatiable desire for revenge: she has never got over the trauma of a life marked by senseless and cruel violence. Alessia, who is close to both of them, is not, however, blinded by anger but is willing to do anything to help them. Alternating between their perspectives, with an admirable variety of voices and tones and a relentless narrative structure, Mattia Cecchini explores what happens when a sense of injustice compels us to rebel, and he wonders where to draw the line lies between what is tolerable for a good cause and what is no longer acceptable.

Mattia Cecchini was born in Umbria in 1992 and works in Nuremberg. Some of his short stories have been published in literary magazines and blogs, and he has contributed interviews and reviews to *Yanez*. *Questa lotta senza tregua* is his first novel; it was shortlisted for the Calvino Prize in 2024 and was also a finalist for the Zeno Prize and the Dante Arfelli Prize.



ELECTRONIC NOCTURNE (NOTTURNO ELETTRONICO)
HUGO BERTELLO

TerraRossa, February 2026

Ricardo, a former mathematics researcher, leads an anonymous and regular life in Helsinki, but his encounter with Yana, a mysterious girl with deep spiritual interests, shakes his certainties and brings him closer to a revolutionary group. Together with Roberto, Noona and Hamid, they are the protagonists of this novel with a Nordic atmosphere in which, without ever losing narrative tension, you will also find a brief history of computer piracy, a manifesto for the end of the world, an anarchist pamphlet and some programming codes, along with questions still seeking answers about digital consciousness, the nature of desire and our need for transcendence.

Hugo Bertello has a degree in physics from Turin and one in cosmology from Helsinki, and currently lives in Lisbon. He has written articles and short stories for ctrl Magazine, In allarmata radura, Limina, and Nazione Indiana. His research explores the boundary between technology and magical thinking. *Notturmo elettronico* is his debut novel.



THE HOUSE OF MOTHERS (La casa delle madri)
Daniele Petruccioli

TerraRossa, March 2021

In the 12 books SHORTLIST for Premio Strega 2021
In the shortlist for the 2021 Giuseppe Berto prize
Selected by the jury of literati of Campiello Prize 2021

Among the best books of the year of "La Lettura. Corriere della Sera"

The twins Ernesto and Elia chase each other at a close range, without ever being able to touch, just as if they were parallel lines. Their parents Sarabanda and Speedy, on the other hand, never stop drifting apart from each other, even when they think they are close. Daniele Petruccioli takes us on a trip back and forth through the sequence of generations who dwell in houses where people grow up, live, die, and move away. Houses that are perhaps the only true guardians of the memories we all strive to eradicate, but instead stubbornly remain. *The House of Mothers* explores the delicate balance on which bumpy family relationships are based. It is also the debut of a narrative voice that will charm readers, and ensnare them in a restrained and powerful prose.

Daniele Petruccioli was born in 1970 in Rome, Italy. In the past he has worked as a theatre actor, but more recently he has worked mainly as a literary translator from English, Portuguese and French. He has published two essays on translation; *Falsi d'Autore. Guida pratica per orientarsi nel mondo dei libri tradotti* (Quodlibet, 2014) and *Le pagine nere. Notes on the translation of novels* (La Lepre, 2017). *The House of Mothers* is his first novel. Among authors he has translated and edited are Charles Perrault, Marcel Proust and Julien Green.



CLEARLY IT WAS NOT MEANT TO BE (Si vede che non era destino)
DANIELE PETRUCCIOLI

TerraRossa, March 2023 (2 editions)

Winner of Basilicata 2023 Prize
Selected by the Juries of Campiello, Procida, Padula and Ceglie Prizes
28th in the Indiscreto quality chart
Book of the Day in Fahrenheit Radio 3 RAI

This story sees our main character first as a young girl, then as a grown woman, unable to comprehend first the enigma behind the child she is expecting, then the strangeness of the son she has raised. She's a girl who out of love for her parents gives up her visions, and a woman who out of love for her husband reclaims them. This girl, this woman, is named Mary.

Using a delicately secular first-person perspective, Daniele Petruccioli skillfully crafts a retelling of the Catholic religion's greatest mystery—from the Annunciation to the Nativity, from the temptation in the desert to the wedding at Cana, from the Sermon on the Mount to the crucifixion—an innovative exploration of one of the most momentous events in Western culture, without resorting to facile notions of the irrational.

A universal yet brilliantly original story that offers a meditation on mystery and the supernatural.

EZIO SINIGAGLIA
(Literary Fiction, LGBTQ+ themes)



FIFTY-FIFTY. SAINT ARAM IN THE REALM OF MARS
(Fifty-Fifty. Sant'Aram nel Regno di Marte)
TerraRossa, February 2021

RIGHTS SOLD: FRANCE (Emmanuelle Collas 2025)

#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 Fifi'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.



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

TerraRossa , April 2021

RIGHTS SOLD: FRANCE (Emmanuelle Collas 2025)

**#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 a cheeky 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



**AGATA GOODBYE
SOFIA BIANCHINI**

Arkadia 2025 Pages 236

Selected Premio Campiello giovani 2026, Premio Comisso 2026 - Reprints 3

Agata Goodbye is a coming-of-age novel that explores the complexities of female friendship. It is told from Caterina's perspective, the protagonist, who after high school moves from Milan to London to follow her best friend, Agata. However, once arrived, Agata seems to have vanished into thin air. She does not answer Caterina's calls and messages and does not show up to their appointments. As she strives to define her new life in England, Caterina continues the search for her friend, learning to determine her own future and facing two betrayals: Agata's and that of the country that she now considers her new home. A story of friendship, manipulation, romance, and

betrayal tempered with the adventures of a new existence in a foreign country. In this book Sofia Bianchini narrates the years that led to the Brexit referendum with the perspective of the generation of Italian youths driven, by choice or necessity, to leave their country in pursuit of new opportunities.

SOFIA BIANCHINI

She was born in 1992, moved to London in 2011 where she studied International Relations at the University of Westminster and, after various experiences in Spain, Hungary and the United States, worked at King's College and University College London, supporting and facilitating the impact of research on society. Currently, she collaborates with the Innovation Area of the University of Bologna. In 2022, she attended the writing course "Writing a Novel" at Faber Academy (led by Nikesh Shukla). *Agata Goodbye* is her debut novel.



THE TIME OF DECEPTIONS

Elena Zucchi

Arkadia 2026 Pages 188

Selected for Premio Katundo Opera seconda, Premio internazionale città di Como, Premio letterario Zeno, Premio Letterario Città Salsomaggiore, Premio Letterario Montefiore, ControPremio Carver - Reprints: 2

Milanese psychotherapist Arianna Radice treats Livio Ferrari, whose swallowing disorder has no physical cause, and discovers he is married to Malena, her estranged best friend. The encounter revives painful memories of her parents' deaths and a teenage trauma, fueling Arianna's obsession and desire for revenge. As past and present collide, buried secrets and unexpected truths force her to confront old grievances.

ELENA ZUCCHI

She holds a degree in Modern Literature and a PhD in Psychology. A certified psychologist, she specializes in innovative managerial training methods and the development of people and organizations and coaching. She is a cofounder and partner of SeStante where she manages and coordinates projects for companies and work teams. She has published for Franco Angeli as coauthor *Beyond the potential* (2007), *The strength to grow* (2014) and curated *The interview. Talking with people in organizations* (2008). She was among the five winners of the Straparola Literary Prize (2020). In July 2022 she published with Arkadia Editore her debut novel, *Le scintille di Alma*.



THE TWO LIVES OF ANDRII ROSLIUK
Olivia Crosio

Arkadia 2026 Pages 144

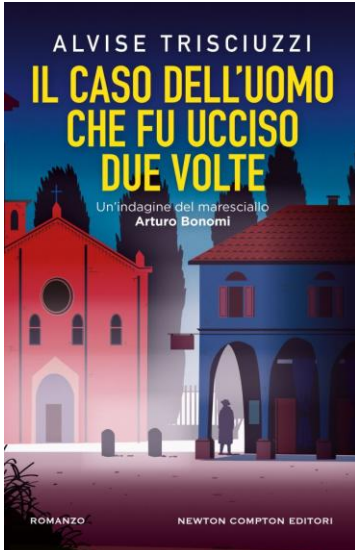
Selected Premio Campiello 2026, Premio Flaiano 2026 - Reprints: 2

Andrii Rosliuk and his mother Nataliia flee war-torn Ukraine for Milan, where he undergoes a bone marrow transplant. Amid illness, quarrels, angelic visions and premonitory dreams, Andrii—an IT specialist who keeps working—wins over everyone around him while staying connected to friends and family back home. As his condition worsens, he asks someone to write his story, convinced that, whatever happens, his life will have been wonderful.

OLIVIA CROSIO

She lives in Milan, where she works as a translator. Among the works she has translated is the international bestseller Bridget Jones's Diary. Among her novels are Solo in città (Fanucci, 2007), Giulio e il colore dei baci (Fanucci, 2009), La felicità non fa rumore (Giunti, 2015), Chained to the Keyboard. Survival Manual for Translators (Editrice Bibliografica, 2017), A Reckless Love (Feltrinelli, 2017), When You Are Beside Me (DeA Planeta, 2018). With Arkadia she published The Sardine Mentality (2022) and Josh on the Run (2024).

ALVISE TRISCIUZZI
(Cosy Crime)



THE MAN WHO WAS KILLED TWICE (Il caso dell'uomo che fu ucciso due volte)

Newton Compton, 2025

AUDIO RIGHTS Italian sold

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 (Il delitto della madonna di fossalto)

Newton Compton, 2024

1500 COPIES

AUDIO RIGHTS Italian sold

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.

Alvise Trisciuzzi: He was born in Padova, Italy, in 1974 and he lives with his family at the foot of the Euganean Hills. He is a lawyer, a blood donor and a great sport buff: cycling, basket and American football, but only in the couch potato version. He loves stories, especially thrillers. He likes watching them, listening to them, reading them and sometimes writing them. [Il delitto della Madonna di Fossalto](#), is his first novel.



SKIPPING FATHERS

Stefano Zangrando

Arkadia 2025 Pages 196

Selected Premio Magis 2026, Premio Isola D'Elba 2026 - Reprints: 2

How much do we carry inside us of those who came before us? Diego Verun leads a quiet life with wife and daughter in a town in Trentino. One day he is contacted via social media by a certain Magra Sorte: the stage name of Eritreo Scheinwindl, former DJ and musician whom Diego had met in Berlin years before, now living on a sailboat in the port of Cagliari.

Scheinwindl asks Verun to write for him an autobiography to leave to who-knows- who, because his body, he says, is dissolving. Diego agrees, but the work, to be done in online sessions, is harder than expected. It soon becomes an obsession, accompanied by disturbing episodes, ambiguous clues of settling scores with the shadowy sides of both. Thus a literary thriller with a dual storyline comes to life, gradually revealing itself as a confrontation with History, or

that enormous collective gear in which we do not feel at home even when we stay at its margins.

STEFANO ZANGRANDO

Born in Bolzano in 1973, he studied and lived in Trento and Berlin. He practices literature via translations, reviews, essays, and local projects. With the novel *Fratello minore. Sorte, amori e pagine di Peter B.* (Arkadia, 2018), also published in German translation, he was a finalist for the European Union Literary Prize. He lives and works between Rovereto and South Tyrol.



THE INCONVENIENT POET

Paolo Sessa

Arkadia 2025 Pages 300

Historical fiction

Selected Premio Dessì 2026, Premio Acqui Storia 2026

Born in Bilbilis, in the deep Roman province of Hispania, Marcus Valerius Martial was a great poet and a man of his time, a satirical and at times dramatic chronicler of a Rome that was beautiful and cruel at the same time. In this novelized biography, absolutely faithful to historical truth, we recount his personal vicissitudes, artistic maturation throughout his entire life, from childhood and youth in Bilbilis to the experience of the years in the City, and then tell of his return to his homeland and the last years of life. Martial shows us the vices and virtues of his time, the encounters and clashes with great men, senators, emperors, powerful freedmen, each with their characteristic traits. He takes us into a world that no longer exists, among literary “salons” and circus games, among sumptuous dinners and the perpetual search for a “place in the sun.” Martial tells, in the first person, a dream that was Rome, the greatest power of all time, describing its height and lowlands, with incredible mastery and vigor.

PAOLO SESSA

Born in Avola in 1950. He studied Foreign Languages and Literatures in Italy, France, England and lives in Milo, on Etna, for over 40 years. For years he taught Languages and literature in high schools, ran courses and seminars on reading texts, directed specialized journals in the territory and folklore. Among many works of nonfiction, prose and poetry, he published *The Collector of Images* (Maimone, Catania, 2012), *Schegge di sciara. Canto d'amore per la Sicilia* (Maimone, Catania 2014), *Sounds and Voices in Dante's Comedy* (Dante Alighieri Publishing Society, Rome 2015), *The Reading, the Body, the Voice. Linguistic and neural foundations of reading aloud* (Fioriti, Rome 2018), *Marco Valerio Martial. Epigrams chosen translated into Sicilian* (A&B, Acireale-Rome 2019), *Journey through Dante's Comedy* (Bonanno, Acireale 2022). *Mystery at the Mill and other milesian tales* (Algra Editore, Viagrande 2024).



THE THIRD NIGHT WITH THE CAT
Elisabetta Spanu

Arkadia 2025 Pages 148

Selected Premio Laura Grasso LGBTQ+ 2026 -
Reprints: 4

Flavia is forced to return to Sardinia for work after living in Spain for many years with her family. The events that unfold lead her to reflect, in the first person, on existential themes such as love and polyamory, death, monogamy, and sex, as well as more distinctively feminine issues like menopause and motherhood. For every event or reflection that arises -whether comic or tragic- the protagonist feels a constant need to connect with the women of her matrilineal line: her mother, her grandmother, and especially her daughter. Each of them has always played a specific role in her life as a historically restless woman in perpetual contradiction. Flavia recounts what the continuous, inevitable passage of time means for a generation of women shaped by the 1970s, a life in constant transition, and the doubts on how to face it. A second voice briefly comments on the protagonist's adventures from its own perspective and the feelings they evoke, and only at the very end will its identity be revealed.

ELISABETTA SPANU

Born in Cagliari, where she graduated with a degree in Philosophy, she went on to specialise in Psychology in Madrid, the city where she now lives. She has taught Philosophy and Social Sciences.

2009 – She won the ‘Aquí empieza tu libro’ competition (organised by *El País* in collaboration with the Madrid Book Fair), marking the start of her career as a fiction writer.

She has published numerous short stories with various publishing houses, many of which have won prizes in literary competitions.

2013 – Under the pseudonym Lisa Elisa, she made her debut as a novelist with *Twelve Grapes of the Vine* (Happy Hour Editions).

2021 – Won the Alfredo Rampi Prize with *Insedimenti amorosi*; published the collection of very short stories *Amores (des)plegados* (Meninas Cartoneras Cultural Association, Madrid), in Italian and Spanish. 2025 – Published, with the same publisher, the collection *Amori di scuola*.



TEETH THIEVES

Djarah Kan

People Press, 128 pages

It is not easy to find the right words to describe the relationship between Italians and foreigners. Nor is it simple to establish the true meaning of the word "foreigner", when this lives within boundaries that the adoptive laws and culture never totally regard as their own. "Racism" is a misused, overused, rejected word. It arouses imaginations that are hard to contemplate in Italian society. Denial is just around the corner, and the solution eludes us. Nowadays, if it is possible to talk about this issue, the Italian prevailing trend is to speak on behalf of those who daily and quietly go through this

political and existential experience, without too much poetry.

Ladri di Denti (Teeth Tieves) is a collection retracing stories of theft of lives and names.

It is an attempt to put into words the black people's experience of existential dispossession in all its guises.

Djarah Kan (1993) is an Italian-Ghanaian writer. She grew up in the province of Caserta, and since her childhood, she has been interested in writing as a means of expression and resistance, in a rough area deeply marked by racial tensions between Italian residents and African communities. It is precisely in this climate of segregation that she creates, with her best friend and photographer, the blog "Kasava Call", which allows her to write constantly about Castel Volturno, a seaside town with a troubled past. Since then, she has written for numerous magazines, and participated in the Women's Creative Mentorship Project, which led her to attend the **International Writing Programme** run by the **University of Iowa**.

**ESPÉRANCE
HAKUZWIMANA RIPANTI
E POI BASTA**

MANIFESTO DI UNA DONNA
NERA ITALIANA



**AND THEN THAT'S IT
MANIFESTO OF AN ITALIAN BLACK WOMAN**
Espérance H. Ripanti

People press, 240 pages

After a lifetime spent answering questions and satisfying the curiosity of others about her origins, her skin colour and her opinions, Espérance Hakuzwimana Ripanti uses writing as a tool to reclaim her space and expose herself, revealing herself - in her own way, on her own terms, on her own conditions.

'E poi basta' (And then that's it) is the story of how I left my room and made everything I found in books and over the years a reality.

A call from the hero to which I responded in my own way, without ever forgetting my story, which began in Rwanda, and the limitations I encountered on the streets of Italy.

The story of me, which I only wanted to read, and of a summer that changed my life.

But it is also the story of her travelling companions, of the experiences that most marked her, of the protagonists who shared the front line with her.

An essay, a biography, a ballad, a manifesto: the story of her struggle against prejudice and, finally, the search for solutions, between darkness and sunlight.

Espérance H. Ripanti - Born in Rwanda in 1991, she grew up in the province of Brescia and studied at the University of Trento. In 2015, she moved to Turin, where she attended the Scuola Holden and began collaborating with various cultural organisations and associations in the capital.

A cultural activist, she has always written and read. She is a member of the 'Razzismo brutta storia' (Racism: a nasty business) committee and has been working for Radio RBE for a year, where she has her own programme in which she talks about books and current affairs.

You can also follow her on Instagram by searching for @unavita distendhal.

In 2019, she published a short story in *Future. Il domani narrato dalle voci di oggi* (*The future narrated by the voices of today*), published by Effequ.

YOUNG ADULT

ANDREA MAGGI (teacher and writer, TV personality)

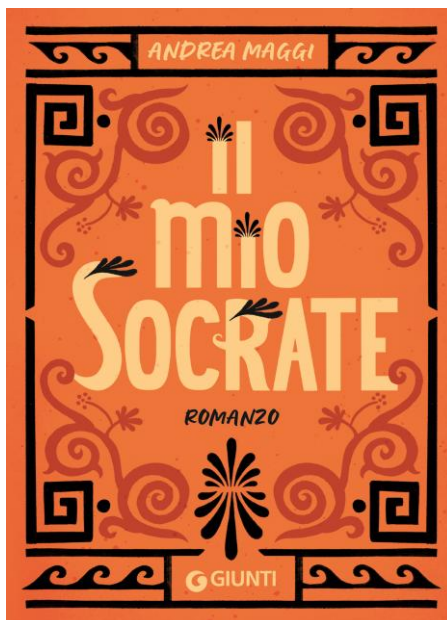


MY NAME IS NOBODY

GIUNTI editore, 2026, YA fiction

INSPIRED BY THE ODYSSEY

Andrea is 13 years old; he is sensitive and a loner, and has just moved to a big city with his mother after leaving the small seaside village where he grew up. He has no memory of his father, who died when he was still a baby. Whilst moving house, he secretly opens a drawer from his mother's desk and discovers inside an unpublished manuscript written by his father: a novel based on the Odyssey. Andrea immediately relates to those pages, because his new school is a battlefield, the bullies are targeting him and loneliness seems to be swallowing him up. Until he has a very special encounter that changes everything...



MY OWN SOCRATES

GIUNTI editore, 2024, YA fiction

inspired by Socrates, ancient Greek philosopher

Veronica is 14 and 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 a mysterious employer deposits in her Wallet as compensation for a secret and illegal activity. Every day for Veronica is a battle. Life has subjected her to very hard tests, ever since her father left the family when she was small. Her mother is very focused on her work, but lacks the time and strength to look after such a daughter, who unbeknownst to her is suspended for stealing her maths teacher's cellphone and is spied on by a stalker. In this critical stage of her life, Veronica runs into a strange old man who claims to be Socrates. Just like the Greek philosopher, this strange old man demolishes every certainty of his converser through dialectics, helping her to find the true meaning of important words such as good, justice, freedom and truth. With him Veronica is caught in long discussions, during which he, 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

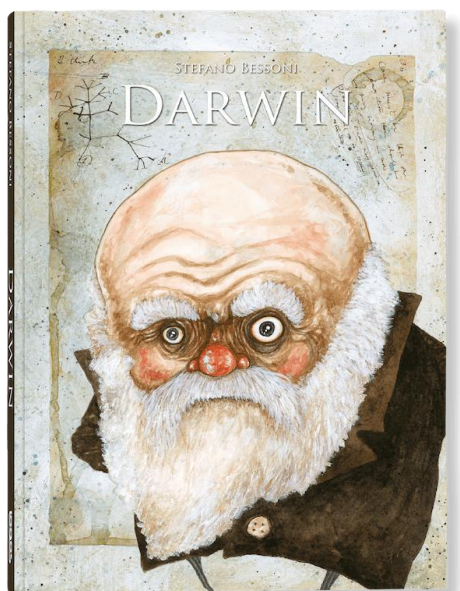
RIGHTS SOLD IN TURKEY AND RUSSIA

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.

NON FICTION



DARWIN

Stefano Bessoni

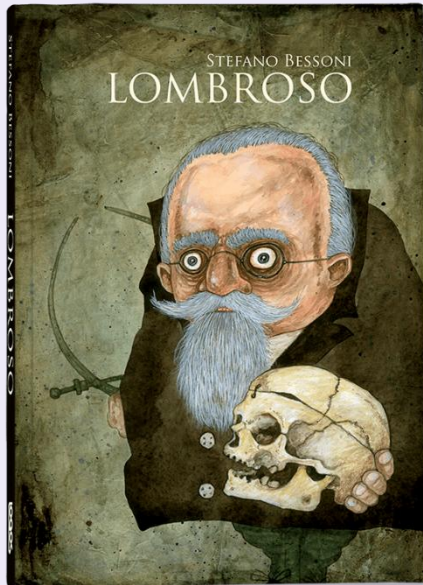
Logos 2020, 120 p.

A thoroughly personal, affectionate and sincere portrait of the father of evolutionary theory, whom he regarded as his favourite hero even as a child. He chooses to tell the story of the famous English naturalist, beginning with his childhood, before taking us on a journey with him to explore fascinating distant lands, where we encounter marvellous animals and characters who seem to have sprung from the finest pages of adventure literature. Through a lively and gripping narrative and the unmistakably quirky and colourful illustrations, the author reveals not only his admiration for the subject but also the passions he shares with him, such as travel, zoology and entomology.

Stefano Bessoni is an illustrator, film director and stop-motion animator who graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome. He has created numerous experimental films, video installations, performances and documentaries, earning critical acclaim and awards at national and international festivals. He has taught film directing at NUCT and the Griffith School in Rome, where he led a specialisation course in visionary and fantasy cinema. He currently coordinates and teaches the three-year Illustration and Animation course at IED Rome, and lectures at IED Milan, Ars in Fabula and the Holden School in Turin. He also regularly leads workshops at specialist schools and festivals.

He has written and directed many movies and published many illustrated books. With Logos Edizioni, he has published *Homunculus*, *Wunderkammer*, *Canti della forza*, *Pinocchio*, *Stop-motion*. *La fabbrica delle*

meraviglie, Mr Punch, the two-volume Stop-motion Workshop, Oz, Rachel, Rebecca, Jonah, Theo, Lombroso, Darwin, Alice Underground, Struwwelpeter: The True Story of Pierino Porcospino, Maria Adriana Prolo: The Cinema Lady and The Tribulations of Tommy Tiptop.



LOMBROSO

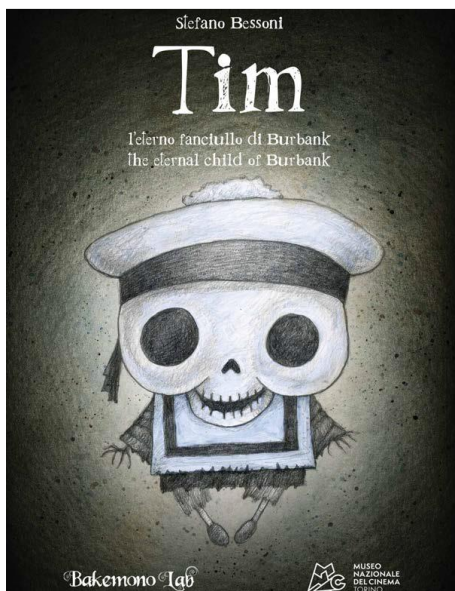
Stefano Bessoni

Logos 2019, 96 p.

The Life of Cesare Lombroso, a dark tale set against the backdrop of the unification of Italy, featuring brigands, madmen, idiots, criminals, terrible diseases, healers, pathologists, mediums and spiritualists. Lombroso's story is the macabre tale of a man devoted to science, who collected the skulls of the insane and criminals and dissected corpses, in a desperate search for those primitive traits that would prove the inevitability of being a criminal - a subject to which he devoted himself tirelessly, teetering on the fine line between genius and madness. His is a story that could have sprung from the pen of Mary Shelley or Edgar Allan.

Cesare Lombroso's life was devoted to scientific progress, lulled by the mirage of positivism, which led him to believe that everything could be measured, catalogued and controlled. Whilst his theories have now been refuted, they nevertheless provide a basis for study and offer important food for thought on the ethics of science and research methodology.

Taking as his fantastical starting point the confused memories surfacing in Cesare Lombroso's brain—preserved in formalin—Stefano Bessoni constructs a personal portrait of the father of modern criminology, a highly controversial figure who still sparks fierce debates today. Through the narrative and illustrations, the author reveals his fascination with the figure whilst criticising his bigoted, racist and intransigent views, which over time have become fertile ground for so much discrimination, offering food for thought on an astonishing and little-known story set in an Italy not all that distant from our own times.



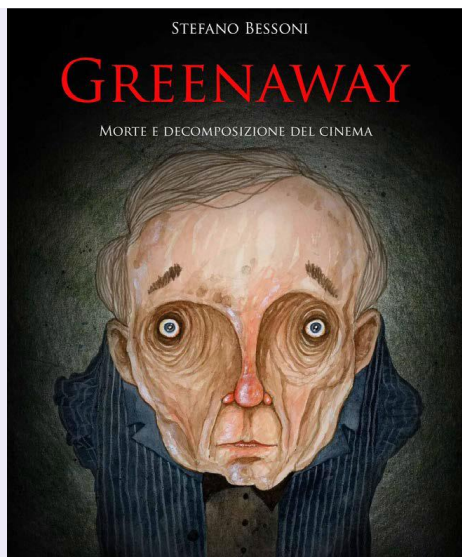
TIM THE ETERNAL CHILD OF BURBANK

Stefano Bessoni

Bakemono

1200 copies sold, Italian language,

"A notebook of notes and doodles dedicated to Tim Burton. A very personal way to take a journey into the macabre and romantic universe of one of the most important artists on the contemporary scene and to fix concepts and images in your mind. Of course, it's weird to draw the his characters in my own way, but it is a cathartic process and these pages are my small heartfelt homage to his enchanted world." (Stefano Bessoni)

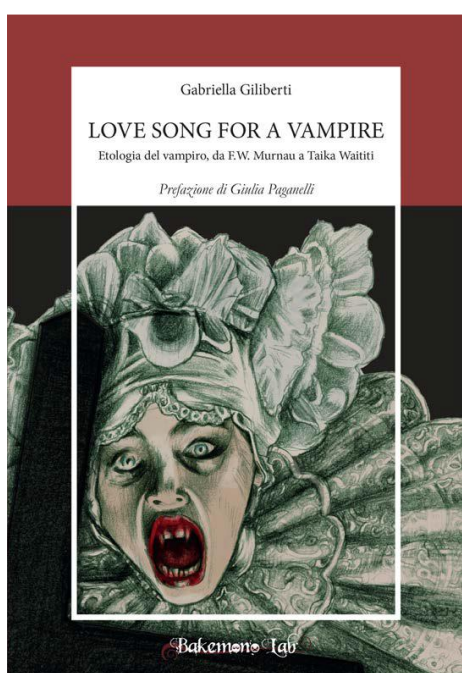


PETER GREENAWAY - THE DEATH AND DECOMPOSITION OF CINEMA

Stefano Bessoni

Bakemono

A notebook of illustrations and reflections on Peter Greenaway, the one who taught me that a film is nothing more than a limitless container for concepts, theories and obsessions. He is one of the most important voices in contemporary cinema, an artist who nourishes himself on painting, writing, music, theatre, dance and every imaginable expressive form. His complex, encyclopaedic and artificialcinema is an infinite creative game that tips its hat to Lewis Carroll, Jorge Luis Borges and Italo Calvino, a fairy-tale-like, often cruel and disconcerting world to lose oneself in in order to explore the most unexpected facets of the human soul, the intellect and the body.

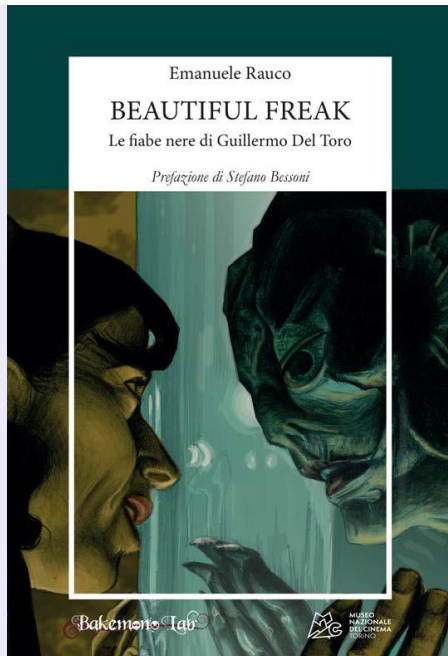


GABRIELLA GILIBERTI

Love Song For a Vampire

Bakemono 2023 I

Monsters are doors to a world that escapes the dictatorship of normality. They are a fascinating elsewhere, a distant call, a hand that grabs our throat, and if at first we think that they are strangling us in reality they force us to breathe in another way, simply our own. And among all the monsters, the Vampire is the one that eternally renews itself with greatest fury in the collective imagination, which from era to era keeps alive our ability to marvel and disturb us through its indissoluble bond with immortality, blood and 'Love.



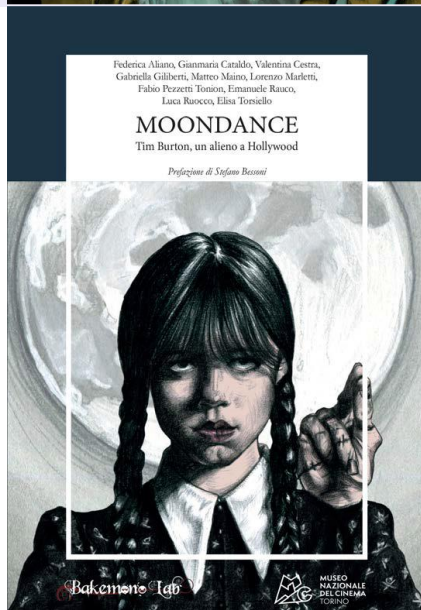
EMANUELE RAUCO

Beautiful Freak: Guillermo Del Toro's dark tales

Bakemono

Under the patronage of the National Cinema Museum in Turin.

Now in its second edition, this book traces and analyses the marvellous, daring adventure of a unique author on the modern literary scene, born in Guadalajara half a century ago, who made his way to Hollywood during a thirty-year quest for artistic expression and is now the undisputed master of the fantastic. Guillermo del Toro describes himself as 'a child who loves monsters', and that child manages to give us dark fairy tales - metaphors for a cruel and ruthless world, populated by sensitive creatures and noble souls hidden beneath the façade of otherness.

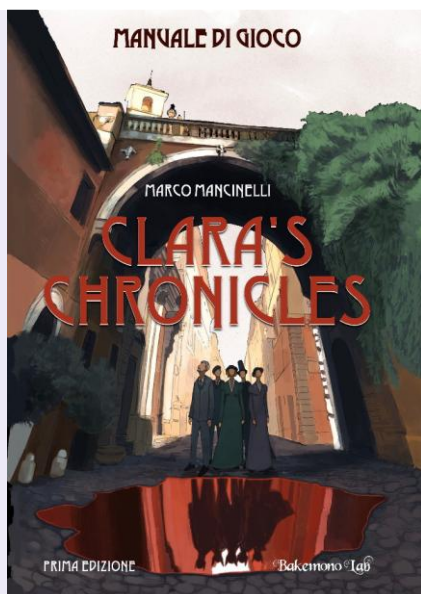


COLLETTIVO DI AUTORI EIGA

Moondance, Tim Burton un alieno a Hollywood

Bakemono

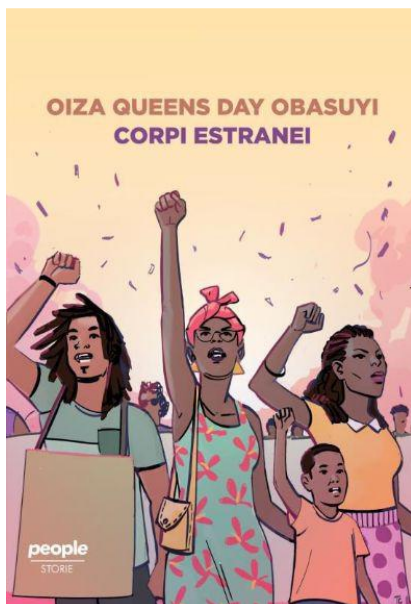
The essay, written by Federica Aliano, Stefano Bessoni, Gianmaria Cataldo, Valentina Cestra, Gabriella Giliberti, Matteo Maino, Lorenzo Marletti, Fabio Pezzetti Tonion, Emanuele Rauco, Luca Ruocco, Elisa Torsello, pays tribute to the poetics of Tim Burton's films and was produced to coincide with the exhibition 'The World of Tim Burton', scheduled to run at the Turin Cinema Museum from 10 October. The artists of the Eiga collective delve into the depths of Burton's imagination, exploring its most iconic and recognisable aspects. They chart an ideal map of his filmography: from his visionary debut *Pee-wee's Big Adventure* right through to his most celebrated masterpieces and his most recent creations.



Clara's Chronicles - Manual for a Role Playing Game
MARCO MANCINELLI

Bakemono

Inspired by *The Trilogy of the Immortals* by Marco Mancinelli, Clara's Chronicles is an OSR investigative role-playing game set in 1920s Italy. The Order of the Verbena operates in the shadows—a secret society that investigates creatures emerging from the darkness: malevolent entities that act when the sun gives way to night.



FOREIGN BODIES

Oiza Queens Day Obasuyi

People Press, 160 pages

Trivialising Italy's colonial past, minimising racism as a form of ignorance, thinking it is normal to undertake life-threatening journeys trying to make it to Europe, downgrading caporalato (The practice of 'illegally' recruiting and coercing workers, especially immigrants, forced to work under inhumane conditions by labour providers, known as 'caporali' (corporals). to a marginal issue confined to the fringe of society.

Retracing Italian political and cultural history, Oiza Queens Day Obasuyi wrote this essay in order to dismantle the system of exclusion and discrimination we live in, as a way to denounce Italy's cultural backwardness in its relationship with ethnic minorities and immigration.

Indeed, *Foreign Bodies* is the experience of an Afro-descendant woman able to unmask the mechanisms and shortcomings of the Italian ruling class.

How to do it? By shifting the perspective, choosing the point of view of women and men, girls and boys of different origins filling the streets to protest against injustice; by listening to the voices of people who, for too long, have been brought into it without being asked to speak, just like foreign bodies.

Oiza Queens Day Obasuyi, 25, was born and raised in Ancona. She earned a BA in Foreign Languages, Cultures, and Literatures at the University of Macerata, where she is currently pursuing her MA in Global Politics and International Relations. She is a scholar of human rights, migration, and international relations. She contributes to The Vision and Internazionale.



THE EXTRAORDINARY DARKNESS THE BIRTH OF HOMOSEXUAL IDENTITY IN 20TH-CENTURY NOVELS

Angelo Molica Franco

People press, 328 pages

The Extraordinary Darkness is a literary investigation into the birth of homosexual identity in the twentieth century. Where does that awareness come from, in fact, which we appropriate when we say 'I am homosexual'?

Molica Franco intuits that in the transition from the rural world to the new world, as villages become cities and the train triggers modernity, man stops replicating the models of the past but stumbles into a fatal crisis of creation.

And it is at that precise moment that homosexuals broaden the horizon of their landscape, realising that they are not alone and deserve a place in the new era.

From Forster's *Maurice* to Proust's *Sodom and Gomorrah* to Tondelli's *Altri libertini*, the author searches for and interprets the memories and feelings of generations of homosexuals in the short century in the classics of *gay literature*.

With this passionate and cultured, intimate and pop narrative essay, the author throws himself into the

race they have undertaken to live in the light of day and abandon the guilt of darkness.

Angelo Molica Franco is a journalist, writer and translator.

He writes for the pages of *il Venerdì di Repubblica* and *il Fatto Quotidiano*.

He is the author of *A Parigi con Colette* (Perrone 2018), a literary reportage on the birth of modern culture in the City of Light at the turn of the 20th century.

Throughout 2018, the book was on the IBS and Amazon travel literature bestseller lists.

His short stories and essays have appeared in magazines, newspapers and collections.



ROMA AND SINTI. TEN THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW *Gennaro Spinelli*

People Press 192 pages

There are various, almost always stereotypical, views of Romani culture.

On the one hand, there is the romantic view of the free traveller without rules, who lives day to day without plans; on the other, there is the immigrant, nomad and criminal, who steals and invades the outskirts of society.

But what is the truth? Who are the Roma and Sinti? How do they really live and what are their cultural, social and historical reflections?

This book stems from the desire to spread some basic knowledge about Romani culture, history and society, starting from common stereotypes and moving on to the most frequently asked questions and curiosities about this united but also very diverse people.

A whole cultural heritage in a few pages, easy and quick to read, for everyone.

A guide to Romani culture written by a Romani person.

Gennaro Spinelli - Italian violinist of Romani ethnicity, born in 1992 in Atessa, Abruzzo.

Since the age of six, he has been performing on stages around the world, spreading Romani music.

He has played for two popes and countless wellknown personalities, with over 1,500 concerts in more than thirty countries. He is the youngest official member of the International Romani Union, which in 2018 appointed him ambassador for Romani art and culture in the world.

In 2021, he founded the *Accademia Nazionale Romani* (National Romani Academy).

He is currently the national president of the Union of Romani Communities in Italy and a member of the National Forum of Roma and Sinti within UNAR (National Office Against Racial Discrimination).

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