LITERATURAGENTUR JULIANE RODERER
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HOTLIST AUTUMN 2022

NEW!

MARK. T. JAMES

La GIOIA DI CORRERE IN SALITA

The Joy of Running Uphill

The secret of happiness?
A dog to run with.
A story of contagious happiness

The secret of happiness? Having a dog, as many people can affirm. Or running - as many persons experience every time they go out jogging or running. Therefore having a dog to run with... well, that's just the best part of life. This is excellently narrated by Mark T. James in his ***La gioia di correre in salita - The Joy of Running Uphill.***
Described by critics as 'a story of contagious happiness that testifies the redeeming power of dogs and running', the book, which winds its way between London and Italy, tells the path of the rebirth of the author, whose life in crisis is overwhelmed by Black, a wonderful Labrador, the black dog that will illuminate everything.

"A brilliant debut ... which is likely to become a classic of the genre."

PUBLICATION AUGUST, 24TH 2022 – 320 PP.

Mark's life , if compared to a picture, is one big sunlit plain. A well-paid broker's job, a nice house in London, a long relationship with Susan and the prospect of a stellar career. A life planned in every moment, protected from the unexpected. Mark doesn't remember a step uphill, not even a walk.
But one day a black veil unexpectedly envelops him and all his confidence shatters like glass. In the grip of a deep crisis, left even by Susan, who no longer understands him, Mark decides to take a break. Invited by his friend Nic, he moves to Italy, to the rural Langhe in Piedmont,where he rediscovers so many things that he did not remember any more: small villages, slow rhythms, good wine, a landscape that invites you to introspection. And the climbs - many slopes that literally take your breath away.
While Mark, ever more bewildered, desperately struggles to find himself again, a new cyclone hits his life: Black, a young black Labrador whom Nic entrusts to his care. Full of energy and a eagerness to explore, Black drags a reluctant Mark on rides through the vineyards and over hills to chase him. Little by little Mark regains his breath, meets new people, and begins to reconnect with his body and nature. To his surprise, he discovers that the fatigue of running uphill is matched by a progressive understanding about his true desires, and a joy he has never felt before. And he discovers that Black, from a necessary commitment, has become the light of his day.
So, one day, he decides to set off with the labrador on a new adventure...

MARK T. JAMES was born in Chelsea, London, in 1981. He left his job in the City and now shares his life with Black between the hills of the Langhe and the UK.

ON TOP TEN IN THE FIRST WEEK AFTER PUBLICATION!

PALMA PELLEGRINI TORRE

PARADISO SICILIANO

Sicilian Paradise

Two volcanoes, a mysterious young woman,
a world-acclaimed director, a famous Hollywood star,
a brilliant Sicilian prince and
the greatest Italian actress ever.

And this is just the beginning of the dramatic story...

It is a rainy day in October 1948,a day that does not do justice to the island's poignant beauty, when at the port of Stromboli a young woman disembarks with a large suitcase from the ferry.
Her name is Ada Vittoria Valeri, and she came from Milan to work as an elementary school teacher. She has a secret that she hides from the island's small community of fishermen and peasants whom the presence of a lone, young and attractive woman creates disturbances: women's rumours, men's glances. But her pupils adore her, and her social role and blameless behaviour shield her from annoyance.
Then, in 1949, with spring arrives great confusion: the life of Stromboli is overwhelmed by the invasion of a peaceful 'army' - which will soon be fighting a 'war' that will attract the attention of the whole world.
Led by Roberto Rossellini, the creator of immortal movies, a film crew has landed on the island to shoot what already announces itself as the genius' new masterpiece: *Stromboli, Terra di Dio*. The set, involving all the inhabitants of the small community, is also the backdrop for the love between the maestro and his leading actress, Hollywood star Ingrid Bergman.
The love between the Italian director and the Swedish actress arouses scandal everywhere, because both of them are still married and because Rossellini has just left for Bergman another much-loved - and volcanic -diva: Anna Magnani. It was her for whom he had at first written the part of the protagonist of the film he is now preparing to shoot.
A double betrayal for the passionate Anna, who is heartbroken and does nothing to hide it. Who is seething with jealousy and rage. Who meditates and prepares her painful revenge.
In just a few weeks, in fact, on the nearby island of Vulcano, filming will begin on the eponymous film produced by Panaria, the new production company of the Sicilian prince Francesco Alliata di Villafranca. The prince, who was able, with a specially created equipment, to realise the first underwater filming ever worldwide, has entrusted his first feature film to the expert director William Dieterle: the movie that is meant to become a colossal with Magnani as protagonist, and that Anna herself wanted at all costs.
It will be "the war of the volcanoes": a race against time for two eagerly awaited films. The paparazzi move en masse to the Aeolian Islands, bouncing from one island to another, from one set to another: in that summer, the torrid Sicilian summer of 1949, the situation on the islands is talking point in Europe and Overseas.

Ada, too, soon finds herself involved in that fiery scenario and in the filmmakers' work: she is cultured, intelligent, can type and speaks some English, which allows her to become Bergman's personal assistant almost immediately.
She has no idea what influence the filming and her friendship with Ingrid Bergmann will have on her own life and future...

Palma Pellegrini Torre *lives and works in Milan. But she continues dreaming in Sicilian.*

PUBLICATION SEPTEMBER, 21ST 2022 – 320 PP.

LUCA CRIPPA and MAURIZIO ONNIS

LA BAMBINA DI KIEV

The Girl from Kyiv

By the authors of the international bestseller THE AUSCHWITZ PHOTOGRAPHER, a new book that already aroused the interest of publishers in various European countries.

"Mom, the teacher cried in class today!" Alisa is ten years old and she's in fifth grade. She lives with her father Semyon and mother Polina in social housing in a Kiev apartment building. The news on television is getting worse every day, but no one wants to believe that the Russians are really about to attack the capital. Nor does Olexsandr, her grandfather. He is old enough to remember the stories the old people told about the Second World War and he cannot conceive just how that tragedy can repeat itself now, in the heart of Europe. All this is discussed on the evening of February 23, 2022, at Alisa's home.

Then, a huge roar breaks the night. Alisa wakes up suddenly, seized by a terror to which she cannot give a name, something she has never experienced, not even listening to the scariest fairy tales. What's going on? Is this, she asks through tears, is this war, then?

This is the beginning of Alisa's story, the narrative nonfiction of a little girl in the nightmare of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. The story of a family, and at the same time of thousands of families. A story about fear. About bombs. About escape. About violence suffered by many people. About horror that spares no one and nothing, not even the hospitals, not even the refugees who pass through humanitarian corridors, not even the animals in the zoo.

A story about resilience, too, and about courage. Aboutold people, about women, and about children traveling alone, for hundreds of kilometers, with a phone number written in their hand by their moms. Alisa's story shakes, indignates, moves, makes us understand, perhaps better than any other story, what a terrible crime war is, always has been. Finally, a story of hope that does not surrender to abuse, death, to the most ferocious violence. Because it wants to believe in mankind, once again, and in peace.

Press voices about the authors' previous books:

«An important book, because the world must know». - *Daily Express*

«An extraordinary story, a compelling book». - *The Sidney Herald*

«Readers will be enthralled by this story of survival and compassion». - *Publishers Weekly*

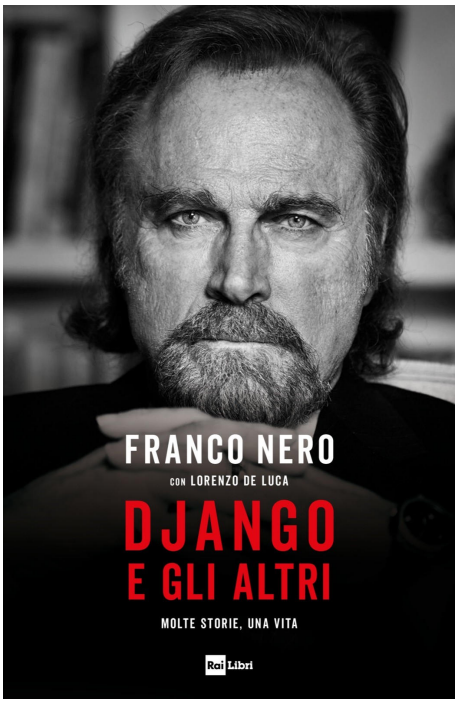
Luca Crippa's and Maurizio Onnis' previous narrative non fiction books were **international bestsellers**: ***THE AUSCHWITZ PHOTOGRAPHER*** and ***THE ARCHIVIST*****,** translated into 12 languages and published in more than 60 countries.

- **TRANSLATION RIGHTS SOLD:**
  FINNISH (LIKE), ***sold previous to publication on May 18th, 2022!***
  PORTUGUESE EXCEPT BRASIL (PRESENÇA)
  FRENCH WORLD (LEDUC)
  POLISH (HARDE)
  SLOVENIAN (SALVE)

FRANCO NERO

DJANGO E GLI ALTRI.
MOLTE STORIE, UNA VITA

Django and the Others. Many Stories, One Life



Franco Nero is an icon of Italian and international cinema.
He has worked in about 250 films in more than 30 countries, playing the most different roles.
Django is the character with whom he is certainly recognized in the world, but Franco Nero is much more than just Django: in his sixty-year career, his face has told an infinite number of stories and psychologies, and in this book, in an ideal dialogue with his most famous character, the great actor retraces his life, full of professional and private events that tell the golden years of cinema and the transition from the end of the twentieth century to the beginning of the third millennium.
Nero played in movies of great international directors such as John Huston, Buñuel, Fassbinder, Chabrol, Zeffirelli, Tarantino in his homage to the character of Django, and with the most famous actors from all over the world, such as Marlon Brando, Paul Newman, Laurence Olivier and - most important - with Vanessa Redgrave, who became his lifelong partner: this is Franco Nero's story of a golden age of cinema in his big and small set stories, his private events, but above all of the determination of a man who has never spared himself in the face of the professional and personal challenges that life has put before him.

IMPORTANT:
For the Italian edition Franco Nero told mainly episodes related to famous Italian personalities, while he left off many anecdotes and encounters with international VIPs from many other countries. Nevertheless he collected also those episodes which so can be inserted according to the respective country in order to create a customized edition!

Franco Nero is an actor, screenwriter, director and film producer.
In the sixty years from his debut in 1963, he has starred in about 250 films, including: *Io la conoscevo bene*, *Django*, *Camelot* (Golden Globe nominee 1968 as Best Debuting Actor), *Il giorno della civetta* (David di Donatello 1968 as Leading Actor), *Keoma*, *Tristana*, *Il delitto Matteotti*, *Zanna Bianca*, *Mussolini ultimo atto*, *Marcia trionfale*, *Querelle de Brest*, *Fratelli e sorelle*, *Django Unchained*.
He has received awards all over the world.
In 1992, President of the Italian Republic, Oscar Luigi Scalfaro awarded him the honour of Commendatore for his artistic merits.
Brunel University in London awarded him an honorary Doctor of Letters degree in 2011.
As a director, he won the Golden Globe - Special Jury Prize in 2006 with *Forever Blues*.

For more than fifty years he has been a supporter the Don Bosco Village in Tivoli (RM).

PUBLISHER: RAI LIBI, ROME (MAY 26TH, 2022) - 352 PP. WITH PRIVATE PHOTOS

POPE FRANCIS

BUONA VITA.
TU SEI UNA MERAVIGLIA

The Good Life. You are Wonderful

This is Pope Francis' message for everyone today: his new manifesto is telling us how to awaken to life, at any age!

It is the starting point of any birth and any rebirth, "the indestructible heart of our hope, the incandescent core that supports existence, at any age".

You are wonderful!

Even when a worry marks your face, or when you feel tired and exhausted, or if you feel you're wrong, remember that you are always a light that shines in the night. It is the greatest gift you have received, and which no one can take away from you.
So dream, never get tired of dreaming. Believe, in the existence of the highest and most beautiful truths. And above all, let yourself be surprised by love. This is the Good Life. And this is the greatest and most beautiful wish we can bid to each other. Always.
With the help of the 15 rules for a good life indicated by Pope Francis, we can savor the miracle that we are and the authentic taste of a truly lived existence. A contagious joy, which makes life good for those who give it and those who receive it.

You are important ▪ You are unique ▪ You are wonderful!
This is Pope Francis' message for everyone today.

His rules make this book go far beyond a merely religious statement: **Buona Vita** gives valuable advices for self esteem, mindfulness, empowerment, motivation:

I. We all are precious
II. The best of life
III. The unique moment is now
IV. What to avoid carefully
V. Chasing tresures
VI. And when there is pain?
VII. Cultivate your wisdom
VIII. Don't just stand on the balcony
IX. Get your handy dirty
X. Never again alone
XI. Countercurrent
XII. You have eyes, so contemplate!
XIII. Don't stop dreaming
XIV. How to unveil the miracle in yourself

PUBLISHER: LIBRERIA PIENOGIORNO - 240. PP.

- **8 REPRINTS/ ABOUT 40.000 COPIES SOLD**
- **TRANSLATON RIGHTS SOLD:**
  CROATIAN (VERBUM)
  FRENCH (PHILIPPE REY)
  GERMAN (HERDER)
  PORTUGUESE EXCEPT BRASIL (FAROL/PRH)

POPE FRANCIS

TI AUGURO IL SORRISO

I Wish You the Smile

The topic of joy is a central reference in Pope Francis' whole magisterium, "even more necessary in these sick times". God is joyful, as the Pontiff testifies in these pages that represent a proclamation of rebirth and a message to every woman and man in the world.
And mercy is nothing but the deepest manifestation of God's joy and the very heart of the Christian announcement. -It was mercy to which the Holy Father dedicated the Jubilee which was the founding act of his Pontificate, and the volume *The name of God is Mercy*, published in 100 countries and in 32 languages -
"The liberating revolution of the Gospel is contained here".
For this reason, the Pope's words are an invitation to embrace authentic beauty, to open up to encounter and sharing, to change personal and social attitudes of exclusion, to unmask the profound dissatisfaction of any closure into oneself, to struggle with confidence and courage, without letting oneself overcome by pessimism.
From *Cambiare e rinascere* (Change and be reborn) to *Ciò che ci libera dalla tristezza* (What frees us from sadness), up to *Per regalare un sorriso* (To give a smile), the eight chapters of the Pontiff's book analyze the theme of joy with profound and very human words, in the awareness that true joy is not an ephemeral or illusory feeling, no antidote for those who ignore suffering: it is born from a concrete hope, which nothing and no one can ever take away.

PUBLISHER: LIBRERIA PIENOGIORNO - 224 PP.

- **POPE FRANCIS' MOST SUCCESSFUL BOOK IN 2021 IN ITALY**
- **3RD BEST SOLD OF ALL HIS BOOKS PUBLISHED DURING HIS PONTIFICATE (PAST 8 YEARS)**
- **TWICE AS MUCH COPIES SOLD IN ITALY AS RITORNIAMO A SOGNARE / DARE TO DREAM**
- **10 REPRINTS WITH ABOUT 40,000 COPIES (PLUS SPECIAL MAGAZINE SUPPLEMENTS)**

- **TRANSLATION RIGHTS SOLD:**
  CZECH (ALBATROS)
  CROATIAN (VERBUM)
  WORLD ENGLISH (HODDER & STOUGHTON)
  WORLD FRENCH (MICHEL LAFON)
  GERMAN (KOESEL)
  PORTUGUESE EXCPT BRASIL (PORTO EDITORA)
  SLOVAK (FORTUNA)
  WORLD SPANISH (PLAZA Y JANES)

NON FICTION

PINO APRILE

NUOVO ELOGIO DELL'IMBECILLE

New Praise of the Imbecil

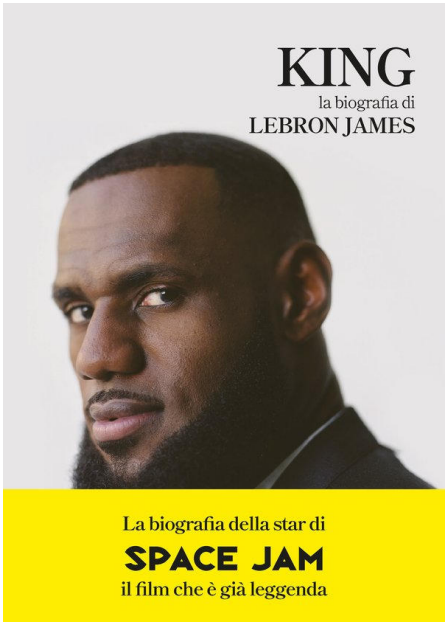
In the beginning was "The Imbecile": on the fateful threshold of 2000, Pino Aprile's debut book was a lucky publishing case not only in Italy, but in many other countries (in Spain, to say, it reached No. 1 and dominated the charts for months). Inspiring, scientifically sound, sociologically impeccable and at the same time brimming with humour - in short: irresistible - the pamphlet was even adopted by university and management courses. Twenty years later, a "New Praise of the Imbecile" witnesses a perspicacious intuition that over time has increasingly become tangible evidence, an incontrovertible reality: the intelligent people have made the world, but it is the stupid who live in it enjoying it. Why are there so many idiots in the world? And why do they prosper and dominate - never as much as in this moment, as it might seem -, managing to reach successful positions, first of all in politics, but also in companies, in society, in communication, in short: in all spheres of life? Not to mention the limelight of social media

After having first laboriously and then brilliantly transcended his ape lineage, why does man now swagger backwards to these ancestors?

Pino Aprile substantiates - with "Darwinian" and incontrovertible reasons - the unstoppable rise of human stupidity... by giving new life to an indispensable pamphlet for the understanding our simpleminded donkey epoch.

PUBLISHER LIBRERIA PIENOGIORNO - 192 PP.

- **SPANISH TRANSLATION (TEMAS DE HOY) OF THE *PREVIOUS* EDITION WAS A NO. 1 BESTSELLER**



DAVIDE CHINELLATO

KING.
LA BIOGRAFIA DI LEBRON JAMES

King. The LeBron James Biography

Even though LeBron James would never say it about himself, former NBA star Isaiah Thomas has no doubts: "King" James is the GOAT, the greatest of all times. *"Because we've never had a player like LeBron who is able to combine dominance on the court with all the rest. For the sports aspect there are the statistics, and the numbers never lie: no one has had his performance and his consistency in each aspect of the game. And in the same way no one has done what he did for the communities in need."*
For all these reasons LeBron James is unique. As a child, abandoned by his father and raised by a teenage mother, he spent his difficult childhood ("I saw everything: drugs, murders; it was insane") living in poorest conditions, until the coach of the neighborhood football team took him into foster care. This child has not only become the best in the world in his sport, basketball, an unrivalled player, the "Chosen One", but also a man who has committed his celebrity image to fight social injustice, giving these projects his face.
Chinellato, renowned expert for US basketball, tells in his biography about LeBron's life, his successes and his social and political commitment.

PUBLISHER: LIBRERIA PIENOGIORNO - 333 PP-

- **BESTSELLER IN SPORTS BIOGRAPHY (GFK)**
- **REVIEWS COMPARE IT TO MICHAEL JORDAN'S *AIR* AND KOBE BRYANT'S *THE MAMABA MENTALITY***
- **IN OCTOBER 2021 IT WAS CHOSEN BEST BIOGRAPHICAL BOOK - NOT ONLY IN SPORTS CATEGORY!**
- **2ND, UPDATED EDITION - 16.000 COPIES SOLD**
- **TRANSLATION RIGHTS SOLD: SPAIN (ROCA EDITORIAL)**

VALERIO MASSIMO MANFREDI

SEI LEZIONI DI STORIA

Six Lessons in History

From the marvellous wanderings of Ulysses to Alexander the Great's superhuman imperial dream, to the greatness of Julius Ceasar's thoughts and actions.
From the impressive technological inventions of antiquity, the events that saw the birth of the Roman Empire, the perilous navigations of the Carthaginians to the edge of the world, the medieval mysteries of the Templars.
Valerio Massimo Manfredi, in this precious volume, offers us six brand-new history lessons, and an additional special lesson on the figure of Ulysses.
Lessons in which the author of many bestselling historical novels manages to combine skilfully his deep historical knowledge with the fascination of a captivating narration. Exciting portraits and reconstructions that are able to reveal us all the timeless topicality and the eternity of the great historical and mythological characters.

PUBLISHER: COMPAGNIA EDITORIALE ALIBERTI - 171 PP.

- **TRANSLATION RIGHTS SOLD: SPANISH WORLD (EDHASA)**

VALERIO MASSIMO MANFREDI

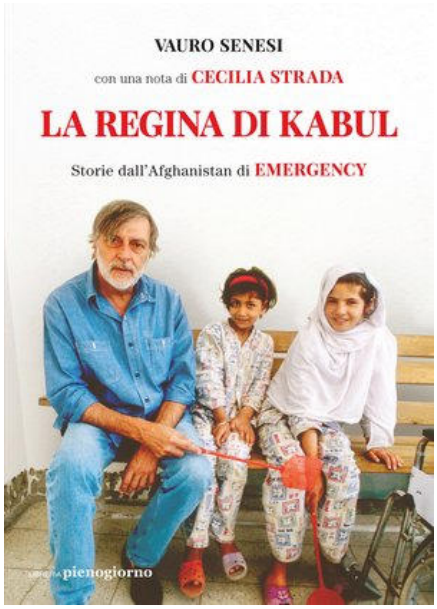
COME ROMA INSEGNA
As Rome Teaches

History is a complex motion that can give way to chaos. Yet the epic history of Rome is able to sum up in a magnificent way a constant in the behavior of the human species: the claim of a better world.

All empires were founded on blood. And all empires are doomed to fall. In these aspects Rome makes no difference. What makes the difference, however, is what remains.
Many empires disappear having left behind extermination camps, ruins, massacres and ... nothing else.
Rome, however, has left a civilization: we still live in its laws, we take advantage of its communication system, of the powerful and ingenious construction techniques, we speak its language, in many and different parts of the world.
Some of the peoples who were affected by the Roman domination had no mercy when in the following times, in turn, they found themselves in the role of the invaders. They destroyed, killed, plundered: in this, sadly, the history of mankind is what it is. The "others" were no better. Once again the difference is in what remains afterwards. Or in what doesn't remain at all. Historiography is not subject to any illusory moral rankings, but certainly there is reason to be proud of the civilization that ancient Rome left us, proud of its heritage.
From the hard lesson of pandemics to racism, from the virus of corruption to the eagerness of innovation: the fascinating epic history of Rome - if you know how to read it - can chase away the darkness that often engulfs us, illuminate our present, build our future.

PUBLISHER: COMPAGNIA EDITORIALE ALIBERTI - 171 PP.

- **THREE EDITIONS FOR A TOTAL OF 18,000 COPIES**
- **FROM PUBLICATION SEVERAL WEEKS IN THE ITALIAN TOP 20 NON FICTION BESTSELLER LIST**
- **NO. 1 BESTSELLER IN VARIOUS AMAZON CATEGORIES; NO. 1 BESTSELLER IN IBS**
- **TRANSLATION RIGHTS SOLD: SPANISH WORLD (EDHASA)**



VAURO SENESI with CECILIA STRADA

LA REGINA DI KABUL. STORIE DALL'AFGHANISTAN DI EMERGENCY
The Queen of Kabul.
Stories from Emergency's Afghanistan

EMERGENCY is a humanitarian NGO with the aim of giving medical relief to the civil victims of poverty and war. It was founded in 1994 by the Italian war surgeon Gino Strada.
This book looks back on twenty years of Afghanistan and the association's commitment in that beloved and tormented land, telling small, unforgettable stories, often from the point of view of the children and the ordinary people, because most of the time it is the weak ones, the civilians who pay the price of wars decided on the table of the powerful ones, the governments.
Written by Vauro Senesi, famous cartoonist and caricaturist, founder of the satirical magazine Il male, and from 2006 to 2009 spokesman for the NGO, with a note by Cecilia Strada, who chaired until 2017 the association founded by her father Gino.

PUBLISHER: LIBRERIA PIENOGIORNO - 176 PP.

MARINA VISENTIN

RAFFASOFIA
Raffaella's Philosophy)

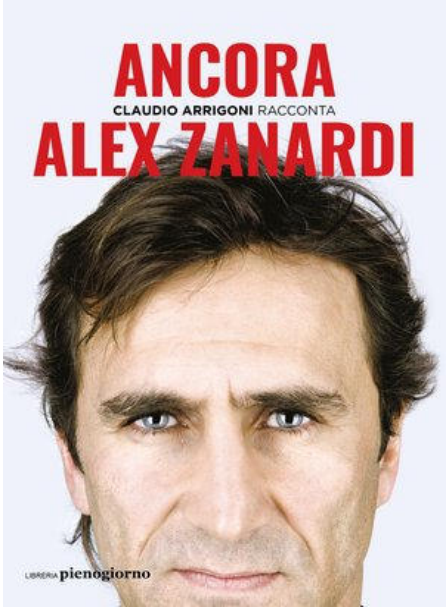
If the philosophers who over the centuries have struggled over the issue, would have had TV, they would have found in Raffaella Carrà the missing link between human beings and happiness.

"Raffaella Carrà is a lifestyle." - PEDRO ALMODOVAR

So spontaneously free from judgments and prejudices and open to inclusiveness that it has lit rainbows on screens that in those times were still all in black and white. So cleverly in balance between recklessness and virtue - as Tanti auguri proves - that she perfectly represented the value of the average which is one of the fundamentals of happiness according to the "most competent people".
Together with sharing and participating, because as she sings in Chi l'ha detto: "Il segreto è che la luce sono quelli intorno (The secret is that the light is the people around)", and here even Aristotle would applaud.
Long before Fifty Shades tickled women's secret desires, Raffa threw false modesty to the winds, because "è bello far l'amore da Trieste in giù (it's nice to make love from Trieste downwards)".
The truth is that in each of us sleeps a Carrà: a sphere of joy and hunger for freedom, of enormous potential and an ability to relate to others, self-esteem and respect for the differences in the world. In short, precisely topics and questions of the philosophers. And it is a pop philosopher who reveals the formula to make the Raffa in us shine and find the path to happiness (ta-tà) to the rhythm of her songs.

PUBLISHER: LIBRERIA PIENOGIORNO - 192 PP.

➢ **TRANSLATON RIGHTS SOLD: SPANISH WORLD (PLANETA)**



ALEX ZANARDI
told by *CLAUDIO ARRIGONI*

ANCORA
Once More

In everybody's existence there are breaks. Even if, as Alex says, "it's always me, with or without legs", it is true that life is changing and we must learn to deal with it in other ways. Alex' breaks are engraved in the collective memory.
The first one, at the Lausitzring circuit, in September 2001, "with my car breaking in two, and me with it", is only the dramatic prelude to what he would have been able to transform "into the greatest opportunity of my life".
The second turning point, in June 2020, is even more alive in everyone's heart, like a shiver that goes up the back: on the roads of Val d'Orcia, at a bend, his handbike collides with a truck.
It is the beginning of a new tiring marathon, the most demanding and difficult ever. But those who know him, understand that if there is anyone who can face this challenge against the limit once more, is Alessandro Zanardi from Castel Maggiore. He can make it. ***Ancora - Once more***.

PUBLISHER: LIBRERIA PIENOGIORNO - 160 PP.

FICTION

ROSANNA CATALANO

CUORI DI SICILIA

Hearts of Sicily

A saga in which Rosanna Catalano tells the extraordinary story of Rosario Catalano in 1920s America, of his family and of his quartet, which inspired North American dance music.
From Sicily to New York and back - a story of love, ambition, wealth, jealousy and music: a story of stormy hearts.

Sicily in the early 1900s gives nothing to those who have nothing, and Rosario knows well that guys like him have to work hard to earn their place in the world. He can't even afford love, because the girl he loves, Rosa, is destined for a good match, not for him. But Rosario is ambitious, and thirsty for redemption. On his side he has hunger, youth, and an unshakable confidence in himself - and the certainty that America is there to be conquered by him.
And so it happens. New York is not paved with gold as the agents of the shipping companies made him believe, and for Americans, Italians are "third-class slime", but from the moment he sets foot on Ellis Island in 1908, Rosario doesn't waste time. Soon, with Rosa at his side, and the children brought to them by their passion, his dream will have no limits. He turns his hobby, music, into a business. His quartet, *I Quattro Siciliani*, makes its breakthrough first in Brooklyn, then throughout America. Contracts with the record companies start coming in, and a time of recording discs begins for Rosario, a time of evening performances, of the beautiful house, of fame, of wealth. The Catalano family conquers the position it deserves. Rosario is a skilled entrepreneur, buying without scruple score sheets for a few dollars and earning thousands from them, and withstanding fearless the Black Hand, the Italian-American mafia which claims protection money from businessmen.
But in the end he is not able to erase Sicily from his heart, and so Rosario and Rosa make their return to Marsala when, surrounded by threats and by treacherous friends, they need to go back to their roots. And it is from then on that Rosa, courageous and proud as Sicilian women are, will take over the reins of the Catalano family.

PUBLISHER: LIBRERIA PIENOGIORNO - 335 PP.

- **RIGHT FROM ITS PUBLICATION ON FIRST POSITIONS OF AMAZON ITALY'S BESTSELLER LISTS IN VARIOUS CATEGORIES, JUST BEHIND STEFANIA AUCI'S SUCCESSFUL NOVELS**
- **7,000 COPIES SOLD IN 5 WEEKS - SECOND PRINT RUN AFTER JUST 1 MONTH**

RICCARDO LANDINI

LA STRANA MORTE DI ALESSANDRO CELLINI

Alessandro Cellini's Strange Death

Fourth and latest noir of the series with Astore Rossi, ex prisoner, antiques restorer and unwilling detective

Astore Rossi, the restorer from Via San Giorgio, is a loner- He is an unusual character, reserved and not very social, who every now and then is against his will implicated in various crimes.

Every time he feels in some way obliged to enquire: because he is attached to the victim , because he must help a friend in difficulties pr he himself is the main suspect. And so in the end he is forced to investigate and solve the case.

All this despite being a person who tries at all costs to keep his life quiet, absolutely uniform, rather secluded, and despite having a profound aversion against the contacts with the police: Years before, some presumed friends had involved him, as an innocent, in a criminal affair, succeeding in letting seem Astore the only guilty person. He was condemned to several years of prison, and it was just in prison where he learned the trade of restorer. His experiences have made him cautious, mistrusting and shy: he wants to be left alone and does not mind other peolple's matters.

After his release from prison, Astore set up a small restoration workshop in Via San Giorgio, where he also lives - a quiet, deserted street which is precisely the environment where Rossi feels at ease.

When Astore Rossi comes home from the funeral of his best friend Oscar, he finds a disturbing inscription on the wall in front of his workshop: "I know what you did" - a message made even more threatening by the red colour. And this is only the first of a whole series of warnings that gradually reach him. Astore has no idea who these threats are coming from, nor what they refer to. One night, when a window is smashed with a stone, Astore sees a figure running away in the darkness and cannot believe his eyes: it is someone who reminds him of terrible events in which he was involved years ago. Is it possible that one of the Spada sisters is still alive? That someone knows what happened? Astore is desperate, but there is no end to the nightmare he seems to have fallen into: Alessandro Cellini, a long-time friend, is gruesomely murdered a few days later. Is there a connection between Cellini's death and the threats Astore constantly receives? Can the past he wanted to forget actually come back to haunt him?

PUBLISHER: NEWTON COMPTON - 224 PP.

- **LANDINI RECEIVED MANY LITERARY CRIME FICTION AWARDS, AS THE PREMIO GIALLO STRESA, AND WAS ON THE SHORTLIST OF IMPORTANT AWARDS AS *PREMIO CARABINIERI IN GIALLO* AND *PREMIO GARFAGNANA***

PAOLO PIETRANGELI

TREMAGI E IL RASOIO DI OCCAM
Tremagi and Occam's Razor

Pasquale O'Pescatore, the boss of the entire business in the Salerno fish market, especially of the dirty ones, shoots coffee roaster and bar owner Dr Mordicchio, who refuses to smuggle Pasquele's cocaine in his coffee packages. His daughter Crocefissa, who is in danger, too, disappears and shortly afterwards reappears in Rome, where she settles in the neighbourhood of Giorgio Tremagi's bookshop. To make ends meet, Tremagi (anagram of Maigret), bookseller in crisis, is forced to open a "polpetteria" (meatball snackbar) among his books. His bookstore on Piazza Epiro in Rome, is surrounded by the quarter's original historic market and by strange and eccentric characters like the communist general, the police *commissario* Jannaccone, Tremagi's sister-in-law Fiorella (creator of the magnificent meatballs), the dog Gideon and the unforgettable "Ma li mortè". Due to Crocefissa's presence Giorgio now will have to deal with murders, thefts, disappearances and investigations.
Tremagi, a fifty-year-old man tied to the past who looks at today with the curiosity of a tourist. He is an anti-fascist in a neighborhood full of fascists, he is a fan of Rome, he is a loser full of dignity.

PUBLISHER: TODARO EDITORE - 289 PP.

EVA POLANSKI

IL GATTO CHE MI DICEVA TI AMO
The Cat Who Told Me I Love You

Eva had never seen a cat like that, and she has been living with cats her whole life. A magical cat, it seems, that she alone can see in that old "casa di ringhiera" in Milan's quarter Navigli. A beautiful and fascinating cat that appears and disappears when you less expect it, and rarely accepts caresses. Maybe a ghost cat, maybe a feline divinity. But it's thanks to him that Eva manages not to fall apart, when, just arrived in town for opening a wine bar, she falls prisoner there, separated from her family on the Tuscan hills.
Eva is alone in this apartment in an unknown city, and she is forced to stay one week after another till they become months, for the pandemic lockdown.
It is Cat - that's the name she gives him for his seeming the essence of felinity - who guides her through the maze of balconies, up near the roofs and almost touching the stars, who makes her know the microcosm of the people living in that building.
It is Cat who teaches her to appreciate and enjoy again the little things, to be grateful for the love she receives and to look at difficulties through wise feline eyes. And when she is about to loose herself in solitude, he whispers healing words to her, in the language that only cat lovers know.

PUBLISHER: LIBRERIA PIENOGIORNO - 272 PP.

- **FOUR REPRINTS**
- **16,000 COPIES SOLD**
- **BEST SOLD BOOK OF ITS GENRE IN ITALY IN 2021/22**
- **PREVIOUS CAT BOOKS BY THE AUTHOR PUBLISHED IN FRANCE (CITY EDITIONS)**
- **TRANSLATON RIGHTS SOLD: SPANISH WORLD (ESFERA DE LOS LIBROS)**

MATTEO SEVERGNINI

LA REGOLA DEL RISCHIO

The Rules of the Risk

Private detective Marco Tobia is suffering from Tourette's syndrome which he obviously tries to suppress. To avoid having to deal too much with human company (and confront others with his Tourette), he lives on the small, almost uninhabited island of San Giulio in Lago d'Orta.
His girlfriend Clara is a luxury escort, a fact that does not necessarily make their relationship easy.
Marco is hired by the desperate Sebastiano Pangallo to prove the innocence of his wife Giulia, who was arrested at the Italian-Swiss border for drug smuggling. Marco's ears prick up when he learns that Giulia had given someone a lift in her car that morning. She had been approached by a well-dressed woman who asked her a ride claiming that her car had broken down and that she had an urgent meeting in Switzerland. Before reaching the border, however, the passenger spontaneously changed her mind and got out of the car.
Few days later, the body of insurance broker Patrizia Moretti, very well connected in the local high society, is found murdered in her car in an isolated place - and it turns out that she was the woman who had asked Giulia for a lift.
Tobia discovers drug deals and other hanky-panky in the higher circles around the Lago d'Orta, some of them having also to do with his girlfriend Clara's clients.
The detective is helped by old Anselmo - boatman and collector of unusual words - and little Alice, and by his old friend Antonio Scuderi, ex-policeman like himself. Marco feels heavy guilt towards his former partner who is now sitting in a wheelchair: during a police operation Tobia had an unforeseen and uncontrollable Tourette seizure and shot him, injuring him badly.

PUBLISHER: TODARO EDITORE - 310 PP.

PAOLA SIRONI

I GIORNI DELL'ILLUSIONE

The Days of Illusion

Third and latest crime novel of the series with the Milan police team "Desbrüjà rugne" (problem solvers)
The squad led by Elia Mastrosimone and nicknamed "Desbrüja rugne" (problem solvers) is Inspector Annalisa Consolati with her two collegues, whimsical Caterina Cederna and Vilnev Rosaspina, a gentle character and reckless car driver. Annalisa, who has to divide her time and attention between work and the care of her father Patrizio, suffering from senile paraphenia, lives with him and her partner Minerva.

A story about guilt, about the returning of the past, about the illusion that everything can work out for the best. In order to impress Caterina Cederna, a handsome police inspector with a marked taste for the macabre, Dr. De Rovere organises a gallant rendezvous in a crypt full of 17th-century skeletons. During the evening, however, they discover a 'fresher' corpse. The investigation, conducted by the *"Desbrujà rugne"* squad, takes place in the summer of 2020, during the third phase of the Covid pandemic, characterised by a widespread illusion of a return to normality, the same illusion the killer has of "getting away with it".

PUBLISHER: TODARO EDITORE - 200 PP.

BEST OF BACKLIST

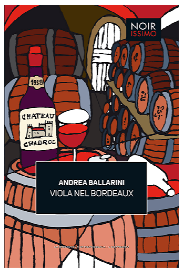
ANDREA BALLARINI

The crime - screwball comedy series with Viola Anhalt, a Venetian of German descent. Though she sas a degree in history and is specialized in Casanova and his era, she turned to writing historical novels after having found out that she earns her living more easily as an author than as a scientist. Although being easily fascinated by attractive men, she lives as a single woman in a flat in Venice where she has hoarded a considerable collection of cinematic masterpieces. Her love of good films is a passion she shares with her resolute South American maid Maria Arguedas, who spends more time in front of the video player than with cleaning utensils in her hand. Maria does not hold back with well-intentioned but often forthright comments on Viola's private life.
Viola's cinephilia goes so far that situations in which she finds herself oftens evoke spontaneous associations with scenes, dialogues or bon mots *from film classics.*
Viola is also surrounded by numerous interesting and strange characters, the most normal of which is her publisher Stefano delle Carte, with whom she has an on-off relationship.
Viola, who is a headstrong, curious and impulsive person, keeps stumbling into criminal cases and won't let go until the case is solved. As a result, she gets herself into dicey, comically turbulent situations and regularly slips into flirtations with attractive men she meets during her investigations.

- **Giallo Viola** ***(Viola's Crime)*** *- crime, (screwball) comedy - 186 pp.* **-LA REPUBBLICA/PASSIONE NOIR-**

Venice: Viola Anhalt, a young historian and expert on Casanova and his era, gave up her academic career and is living as a well-paid writer of historical romances. She herself hasn't yet found Mr. Right but continuously declines the insistent advances of her publisher Stefano Delle Carte. When she gets a phone call from Paris from her former professor (and ex lover) Altiero Roversi who needs her advise as a Casanova expert, Viola takes the next flight to join him. At her arrival, however, she finds out that a few hours before Altiero has been killed. Viola is immediately convinced that the reason for his death is a manuscript discovered by him and apparently to be contributed to Casanova, and which now has disappeared. She leaves for Castle Dux in Bohemia in search of the manuscript and Altiero's murderer, but her investigation will lead her all over Europe to Marrakech (where she will make acquaintance of several fascinating men in various cities) and back to Venice where she will confront the murderer in a dramatic showdown.

- **Viola nel Bordeaux** ***(Viola in the Bordeaux)*** *- 298 pp.* **-LA REPUBBLICA/NOIRISSIMO-**



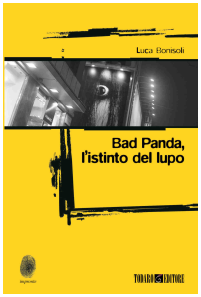
Viola and her publisher Stefano Delle Carte are getting mixed up with the murder of a famous wine-grower. Viola, considered by the local police commissaire as one of the suspects, finds out that the circle of top-quality wine passionates and traders is a snake pit; however, other motives could be based on tragic events caused by greed and betrayal in the past, during the German occupation in World War II.

Viola and Stefano Delle Carte spend a weekend at the Château Chabrol, whose owner Etienne Dumas is one of the most famous winemakers. In the last years Dumas has bought many land properties and wine cellars in the surrounding area, sometimes using dubious methods. So, despite his fame he also has several bitter adversaries who, among other things, accuse him of having commercialized the region's wine too much by sacrificing its characteristic features. His worst enemy Charles Morin is also among the guests of the gourmet weekend, an event which will be crowned by the auction, set for the next day, of the few last bottles of the famous Château Chabrol 1924 which is considered the best wine of the century. The bottles had been found during renovations, behind a wall where the owner had hidden them from Nazi occupation troops. During the reception evening Dumas courts Viola, and Stefano Delle Carte is the object of explicit approaches by Dumas' attractive secretary Mademoiselle Verveine. Due to an equivocal event Delle Carte, who has so far has resisted, leaves with Verveine. The next morning not only the precious wine has disappeared, but Dumas's body is also found in one of the fermentation tanks. For a series of unfortunate circumstances, Viola is considered the main suspect by the local Commissaire. And soon after this Mademoiselle Verveine dies by murder, too. In this alarming situation, a man named Rascasse, who passes himself off t be Morin's confident, offers to help her to prove her innocence. In reality, Rascasse, a man of ambiguous charm, is a petty delinquent, but Viola, despite some doubts, accepts his help.

In the course of their investigation they discover that the crimes seem to have their origin in the period of Word War II when the German troops occupied the château ...

LUCA BONISOLI

Bad Panda *- crime fiction - 181 pp.* **-TODARO EDITORE-**



Agatino Morelli - a sixty-year-old, overweight Ispettore, born in Sicily, but living for many years in Milan - is disgusted by the criminals he has to deal with. He seems bored with his work and practices very unorthodox methods: in his interrogations, he relies less on sophisticated psychological tactics, but on intimidation and, if necessary, physical violence. Such infringements of rules are covered by his young colleague Pasquale, who has let himself be infected with his superior's (and paternal friend's) passion for rugby.
While Agatino by now seems to embody indifference and lazyness, the only remnant from his time as an active and successful rugby player is the jersey with his fight name - Bad Panda.
When a woman's body is found in a container in a desolate industrial area in the Milan sweltering summer, Agatino and Pasquale at first find only unsuspecting witnesses. But Agatino is stubborn, and thanks to his particular interrogation methods, they discover a trail leading them to a extremely ruthless kind of slave trafficking ring. In order to get in touch with the leading figures in the Darknet, Agatino calls in his young friend Carlo who is now a computer specialist, but was formerly a petty criminal. Agatino had arrested him time ago, but after Carlo's release from prison, he helped him get a regular job and a normal life.
But Carlo's research in this case put him in mortal danger: the criminals who want to prevent by any means being tracked down, attack him and almost beat him to death.
Suspended because of this incident, Agatino, overwhelmed by rage, starts a campaign of revenge against the gangsters - and it turns out that he is anything but a run-down cop just before retirement ...

LUCA BONZANO

Come bestie ferite ***(Like the hurt beasts)*** *- noir - 262 pp.* **-TODARO EDITORE-**

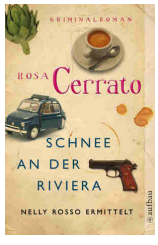
It all starts on a fatal night: why does a 5-year-old boy end up on the road at 3 am, chasing a ball? What is he doing there, in the middle of the night? And why does't the driver of the car stop when he's aware of having run over the child? It seems an absurd death, a case in which a depressed inspector - waiting for his transfer after his wife left him - must find the hit-and-run-driver. At his side, Superintendent Marietti who does not hide his racist attitudes.
What does a young woman have to do with this affair, who is spending nights in the taverns playing poker and drinking heavily?
And Sironi, the father of the killed child, an impenetrable businessman who just returned from Mexico: why is he determined to meddle in the investigation, almost taking it over? Maybe it's because he suspects who is the person emerging from his past to take revenge on him? Who is the mysterious man named Cyrus who seems to follow him?
In this story nobody is without fault, without guilt, and at the same time each of them is the victim of his anxieties and obsessions or his own past. Like in a Greek tragedy no one escapes his destiny.
Several compelling and enigmatic threads that overlap and intertwine, twists and turns, surprising connections that gradually come together like the pieces of a mosaic that reveals itself completely only in the final scenes.

ROSA CERRATO

Nelly Rosso: the determined redhaired female police* Ispettore *in Genoa *- crime fiction* **- F.LLI FRILLI-**

IN GERMANY PUBLISHED BY AUFBAU VERLAG

- **Delitto al Paul Klee** ***(Murder at Paul Klee Highschool)*** *- 336 pp.*



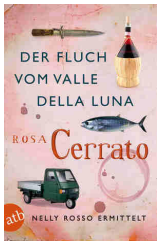
At the Paul Klee Highschool there is a riot during a drug raid, shots are fired and young Francesco falls from the roof. A tragic case that gets Nelly Rosso into trouble - and plunges her into a personal conflict: the dead boy was her son Maurizio's best friend, and he himself seems to be hiding something from her. Soon after, another of her son's school friend is fished dead out of the sea. Nelly suspects that one of the boys' classmates, Monica, must be involved - but her father, an influential businessman, tries to obstruct Nelly's investigation. The

more she finds out, the more certain she is that her seemingly far-fetched theory is dangerously close to the truth: her movements are being followed across the city, and Maurizio seems to be in danger, too...

- **La Maman di Via del Campo** ***(The Madam from Via del Campo)*** *- 408 pp.*

Ispettore Nelly Rosso risks her neck - In her second case, Nelly Rosso hunts a prostitute murderer and has to deal with charming colleagues, shady profilers and a dedicated madam...
Nothing knocks Nelly Rosso down that easily, but the monkey heat of this summer goes to her head. Just like the advances of her charming colleague Tano. But then a serial killer appears who is beheading women - and takes their heads with him. To make matters worse, Nelly gets uninvited reinforcement from a slick profiler. She prefers to follow the bloody trail of the killer on her own: through the shimmering alleys of Genoa's old town, along the Riviera and into the lion's den.

- **Le uova del cuculo** ***(The Cuckoo's Eggs)*** *- 276 pp.*



There seems to be a curse on the Pisu family in Genoa: one death after the other, none of them "natural", and on the grave there is always a wreath with the initials O.M. - *ogu malu*, the evil eye. None of the alleged accidents is reported to the police, but with her infallible sense for trouble, Nelly Rosso lets herself involve and begins to enquire for her friend Anna who is related to the Pisus. She finds out that the roots of the the deaths in the present reach deep into the Sardinian past of the Pisu family...

➢ **FURTHER EPISODES AVAILABLE**

ELISABETTA CIANCIA

Un' infanzia ***(A Childhood)*** *- postwar story - 134 pp.* **-CAIRO-**

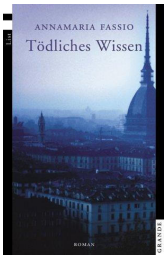
Six-year-old Inge, daughter of an Italian father and an Austrian mother, is growing up in postwar Italy. Her father died a long time ago and she remembers him only vaguely, her mother is working as a translator for the local office of the German Wehrmacht in a small town in Veneto county. At the end of the war she has to flee with her mother who is considered a collaborator, and the two of them have to move around half of Italy.
Though Inge doesn't understand the meaning of the circumstances and incidents around her, her mother obliges her to hide the facts of their past to everyone: that one of her brothers, fighting with the fascist troops, was executed by the partisans, the other one died of consumption (as an "illness of the poor" a shame at that time). And moreover Inge's mother - completely unexpected and inexplicable to the girl - gives birth to a sibling. For Inge, who feels insecure, anxious and unloved by her mother, growing up is a further burden. A bitter story of personal development, yet told without any mawkishness.

ANNAMARIA FASSIO *- crime fiction* **- GIALLI MONDADORI-**

Police squad with Erica Franzoni and Antonio Maffina in Turin and Genoa

IN GERMANY PUBLISHED BY ULLSTEIN/LIST VERLAG

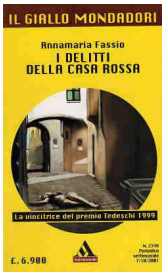
- **Tesi di laurea** ***(The Diploma Thesis)*** *- 233 pp.*

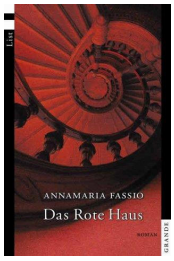


Student Erica Franzoni is working on her diploma thesis about a serial killing that shocked whole Northern Italy: back in the seventies four young women were brutally murdered, until the killer was caught and put to mental asylum.
Erica's professor brings her in contact with her fiancé, *commissario* of the police Antonio Maffina, who grants her access to all the documents and introduces her to some retired collegues who were involved in the case.
The deeper Erica digs into the case and its circumstances the more obscure it seems to her, until in the end she discovers a terrible secret …

plus sequels:

- **I delitti della casa rossa** ***(Murder in the Red House)*** *- 199 pp.*





Commissario Maffina is clueless. Too many women are dying in the "Red House", the headquarter of wealthy Francesca Salvo's charitable organization just outside Genoa: after a party the shy young girl Adriana is found in the dust bin, and shortly before the self-confident founder Francesca had apparently committed suicide. During his investigation Maffina gets to know fascinating women, among them Alice, Francesca's friend, who cannot believe in a suicide. But who is the murderer in the "Red House"? With the help of Erica Franzoni - with whom in the meantime he is involved not only professionally - the Commissario is on the trace of a terrible truth.

- **Povera Butterfly** ***(Poor Butterfly)*** *- 222 pp.*
- **Maria Morgana** *- 227 pp.*
- **Una vita in prestito** ***(A Borrowed Life)*** *- 249 pp.*

➢ **FURTHER EPISODES AVAILABLE**

FILIPPO FORNARI

Omicidio all'Isola ***(The murders in the Isola district)*** *- 268 pp.* **-TODARO EDITORE-**

Curzio Malanotte, a wealthy family man, cannot stand it any more: after the death of his youngest daughter his marriage broke up and he is allowed to see his other children only rarely. He wants to kill himself, and to punish his family that completely ignores his suffering. To punish them even more for their absolute indifference to his pain, he even plans a public suicide.

But exactly in the Milanese quarter of Isola, where he plans to stage his "suicide performance", there is a murderer spreading fear: a serial killer who lures colored prostitutes and kills them, every time with the same cruel and morbid ritual. Are these atrocities committed by a psychopath, or are they the brutal punitive action of a red-light gang headed by a cold-blooded pimp?

Anyway the tracks left by the serial killer cross often - too often, and in an enigmatic way! - Curzio's paths in the Isola where he is preparing his suicidal spectacle.

So he is forced to postpone his suicide because he in some way he still gives importance to his reputation and does not want to be labelled as a serial killer. He manages in persuading the Ispettore to release him for the time being. Curzio is determined to investigate on his own in order to proof his innocence, supported by two strange helpers: the former railroad employee and communist Umberto, who considers himself a kind of Bruce Willis, and Enzino, a pious and shy young man who is a master of martial arts. Will this strange and unlikely trio, with their preposterous and sometimes amusing dilettante initiatives, be able to discover the truth and stop the killer before he strikes again?

MARZIA MUSNECI

Grosso guaio a Roma Sud ***(Big Trouble in Southern Rome)*** *- crime novel - 312 pp.* **-TODARO EDITORE-**

The Siamese twins Zek and Sam are muddling through as small-time crooks in the outskirts in the south of Rome. The boss of the district, Chick Lanzetta, hires them for "teaching an old watchmaker a lesson". It's just a pity that shortly after her visit the watchmaker is found dead. Somebody seems to want to frame the twins for this murder. And as they try to prove their innocence, Zek and Sam are being pursued, threatened and attacked. But the two have a few unlikely helpers on their side as they begin to investigate in their own case: *Vice-Ispettore* Nick Castillo, who is convinced that this time they are only the scapegoats; crime reporter Bob Carezza; their boxing coach Minny Morelli, Abbe and "magical" Luz…

A STORY IN THE PRECARIOUS SUBURB OF SOUTHERN ROME, POPULATED BY FIGURES FROM THE UNDERWORLD AND HALF-WORLD AND BY UNFORGETTABLE, ORIGINAL AND ODD CHARACTERS.

ALESSANDRO SCHWED

Lo zio coso ***(Uncle Thingamabob)*** *- bitter, grotesque jewish satirical fiction - 268 pp.* **-PONTE ALLE GRAZIE-**

Melik, descendant of a family of Hungarian Jews of which only few members survived the Holocaust (precisely his father who later emigrated to Italy and his uncle who remained in Hungary), is on his way to visit the uncle. During his journey by train he gets to know an inveterate anti-Semite. This fellow-passenger, Doktor Oskar, tries to convince him, with most abstruse arguments and explanations, that Word War II - including Holocaust - did never take place. He claims instead that it was only a cunning propaganda campaign, lavishly organized by the Allies who e.g. stage-managed the "alleged" London bombardments by engaging a huge number of actors and using lots of special effects.

After having received a blow with a stick by Dr. Oskar, Melik collapses uncnscious and when he awakes he notices that suddenly he has serious problems now to express himself: again and again he can't find the right words … **A TRAGICOMIC, MOVING, GROTESQUE AND BITTER FARCE WITH PLENTY OF JEWISH HUMOUR. SCHWED'S WRITINGS HAS SIMILARITIES TO THAT OF HOWARD JACOBSON.**

EUGENIO TORNAGHI

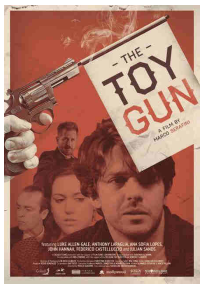
Una spiegazione logica ***(A logical explanation)*** *- black comedy - 156 pp.* **-TODARO EDITORE-**

"A story where Fargo meets the Big Lebowski"

In the Milan summer heat, the destinies of half a dozen completely different people cross within a few days:

Ruggero Levati, an unemployed accountant recently abandoned by his ambitious wife Giulia, decides to "prove his love for her" by robbing a bank - the very branch where he has his account. He definitely expects to be caught and, when he is arrested, to have the opportunity to make a public confession of love to her in front of the television cameras present... But thanks to a chain of amazing coincidences, the robbery goes smoothly and Ruggero suddenly finds himself in possession of a plastic bag full of money.

For this, Elio Sironi, the bank director, gets in trouble with the head office - and even more trouble with a syndicate of unscrupulous usurers, represented by Sante Casoria, for whom he handles opaque financial transactions.



Ruggero is so brazen as to pay Sironi himself the very next day for the long overdue loan with money from the loot, and - again due to various coincidences - is not unmasked.

However, when looking at the credit file, Sironi notices that Ruggero is the estranged husband of his beloved Giulia, is suspicious of his sudden liquidity, suspects complicity between the spouses and sends a gorilla from his "business partner" to Giulia.

The investigation is headed by the grumpy Maresciallo Jonta, who senses a lot of rubbish in the bank director's statements, but is constantly being misled by the contradictory statements and indications.

Meanwhile, Ruggero makes an uncomfortable first acquaintance with his neighbor Tano Lolli, a former Syndicate member who went into hiding under the Leniency Protection Program. Once Tano is convinced that Ruggero's gun is a toy and that Ruggero himself is a harmless git and not a killer assigned by his ex-cronies, he takes him under his wing. A breathtaking series of misunderstandings and mix-ups begins, which ends with two corpses - and with two men who start a new life

- **BASED ON THIS CRIME NOVEL THE MOVIE "THE TOY GUN" (WITH JULIAN SANDS, JOHN HANNAH, ANTHONY LAPAGLIA)**

LUIGI VERGALLO

Omicidio alla Statale ***(Murder at the "Statale"-University)*** *- crime fiction - 157 pp.* **-TODARO EDITORE-**

Professor Eleonora Mais is being murdered in her office at the *"Statale"* University of Milan. The reader knows immediately who is the assassin, but he does not know his motive. The reader will find an answer to this question by reading the first-person narration of El Tiburon (The Shark), the protagonist of this metropolitan noir set mainly in Milan.

El Tiburón, is a very special young man: born and raised in Barcelona, he spends his childhood surrounded by the affection of his two adoptive mothers and his fatherly friend Primo, a mysterious Italian, an anarchist who came to Spain in the last years of Francoism. Primo teaches him the Italian language and culture, but above all teaches him how to steal, hide, use weapons and martial arts.

On his 18th birthday, the boy discovers some of the truths and secrets about his past that had been kept from him until then. He also discovers that Primo has enrolled him in university, and more precisely in a history degree course at Milan's Statale University in Italy.

From that moment on, the boy's life is turned upside down. In Milan, he makes contact with some of Primo's old friends and finds an (illegal) job in the heart of the Ticinese quarter- his mentor's old neighbourhood - where he begins to piece together and solve the old mysteries linked to his parents. However, due to his new job and to attending university, he will get into one dangerous situation after the other.

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