

Sellerio editore

Right List

London Book Fair
2025

Sellerio editore – Rights List
London Book Fair 2025

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Literary Fiction

Chiara Valerio Chi dice e chi tace

The Little I Knew

February 2024
288 pages
La memoria

Translation rights: Sellerio editore – full English translation on request

Sold in: Catalonia, Mes Llibres; Czech Republic, Argo; English language in the UK, Commonwealth (excluding Canada) and Europe, Foundry editions; Germany, Kein & Aber; Poland, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego (WUJ); Portugal, Dom Quixote; Slovakia, Ikar; Spain, Alianza de Novelas; Turkey, Eriken.

Movie/tv rights: Sellerio editore - optioned

«*“Vittoria is dead”, she told me flatly, calmly, informing me, a courtesy call. “I know she liked you, and you liked her”*».

«The writing is snappy and essential. The structure is composed, a death at the beginning that, at the same time, makes one think of Ginzburg and Sciascia. Chiara Valerio recounts what remains of bourgeois life, if we can call it that».

Jhumpa Lahiri

The new novel by Chiara Valerio, one of the most captivating and original writers on the Italian literary scene.

Short listed for the Strega Prize, top ten bestseller list, more than 75.000 copies sold so far.

Scauri, overlooking the Tyrrhenian Sea, is the last town in Lazio, Central Italy, halfway between Rome and Naples. A place neither beautiful nor ugly, with its own disheveled grace. Vittoria moved here in the 1970s, arrived together with Mara, maybe she adopted her, or maybe she kidnapped her, many things are said.

Vittoria, with her laugh that starts low and ends high is an aloof and affable woman, welcoming and evasive; she bought a house in which everyone can come and go, opened a boarding house for animals when in town the veterinarians only care about cows and rabbits. Vittoria has never quarreled with anyone, never changed her haircut. Her generosity is inexhaustible; some of her habits have become common fashion. Scauri does not understand her, yet all residents are attracted to her.

Vittoria is found dead in her bathtub, a stupid accident, an improbable end. The



town accepts her death, because its inhabitant can understand misfortune and keep have witnessed. She wants to figure out how Vittoria died, and who she really was. What emerges of the woman's unsuspected past, pushes Lea Russo along a path on which it is difficult to move forward, and from which it is impossible to turn back. Lea discovers the evanescence of identity, hers and everyone else's. She also discovers, without being able to count them, how many faces violence has.

The Little I Knew is a novel about three loves at least. One that comforts and builds. A second one that troubles and excites. The last, for a place that seems likely to disappear from memory and the world. A noir featuring characters and an investigation in an ordinarily un-newsworthy town, a portrait of ever-changing women. In *Some Talks Some Folks* nothing ever stays still, the passions, the anxieties, the truths and enigmas, the silences of the present and the din of the past: everything always moves, everything can always change.

Chiara Valerio was born in Scauri in 1978 and lives in Rome. She has published essays, novels and short stories, such as *La gioia piccola d'esser quasi salvi* (nottetempo 2009), *Spiaggia libera tutti* (Laterza 2010), *Il cuore non si vede* (Einaudi 2019), *La matematica è politica* (Einaudi 2020), *Nessuna scuola mi consola* (Einaudi 2021), *Così per sempre* (Einaudi 2022), *La tecnologia è religione* (Einaudi 2023). She is the Italian fiction editor at Marsilio and works for Rai Radio3. She is also a contributor to «la Repubblica», «L'Espresso» and «Vanity Fair».

«Chiara Valerio tells us with swift elegance about a town that, pretending to be dead, lives: Scauri. A place full of mysteries and daily bitter sweetesses. The narrative enchants us with the phantasmagorias and small realities of provincial life».

Dacia Maraini

«Some Talks Some Folks is a formidable narrative mechanism that leaves no escape and confronts us with our obsessions».

Antonio Manzini

«Chiara Valerio's sentences are windows filled with bits of mirrors, and the reader finds himself there, trying to distinguish between the rest of the world and himself».

Marco Malvaldi

«Love is not possession but care, Some Talks Some Folks is a great story of love as care».

Massimo Gramellini, In Altre Parole

«Chiara Valerio plays with noir and somewhat transforms it, or reveals its essence: yes, of course, we need to understand how Vittoria died. But perhaps it is more urgent to understand how she lived».

Paolo Di Paolo, La Repubblica

«This novel is a collection of mysteries and revelations in which love takes on different forms while preserving the soul of feelings».

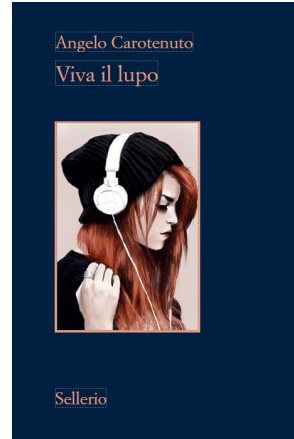
Francesco Mannoni, Il Mattino

Angelo Carotenuto

Viva il lupo

September 2024
256 pages
Il contesto

Translation rights: Sellerio editore
Movie/tv rights: Sellerio editore



A new novel by the author of *Le canaglie*, winner of the 2021 Invictus sports literature prize with over 10,000 copies sold and praised by both critics and readers alike.

A book about the silence and misunderstanding that disrupts intergenerational dialogue set against the backdrop of Italian and international music history.

«Questo romanzo è il racconto di un rimorso attivo, che si muove per sapere, per cacciare i fantasmi frugandosi dentro e indagando fuori. E' una presa di coscienza lucidissima su quanto dare giudizi sia indecente, e su quanto per qualcuno un no possa essere una condanna».

Luciana Littizzetto

One morning in late July, Gabriele Purotti – stage name, Puro – wakes up with no voice. Puro is a rock and TV star thanks to his role as a judge on the hit music talent show *VIL*, *Viva il Lupo*. Now his future is at risk. The doctors don't know why it happened, but he does. He lost his voice the moment he found out about the death of 16-year-old Tete, run over by a train while going through a railroad crossing on an electric kick scooter, music blasting on her headphones. Two days prior, she had demonstrated her tremendous talent at the auditions for the show. But Puro's crucial vote got her thrown out, and the prosecution suspects he may have done it on purpose.

Gabriele sinks into an abyss of remorse and begins to search both inside and outside himself. He wants to know everything about Tete, reconstruct her dreams and that world he feels he ripped apart. Then he starts trying to track down the other kids he rejected over the years to see whether he was leaving behind a wake of pain and despair. As the TV contest soldiers on without him, churning out winners and losers, Puro manages to get in touch with Tete's family and discovers her extraordinary grandmother and her distressed, genius brother. Meeting the two of them gives his search new meaning and changes the direction of all three of their lives.

A novel about our times, portrayed through dreams and defeat, brutal competition

and tender friendship, the disorientation brought by the onset of old age and the longing of a seemingly never-ending adolescence, the malaise of a society of fragile adults who believe that the fragile ones are the young.

Angelo Carotenuto (1966) has been a professional journalist since 1991. He has published the novels: *Dove le strade non hanno nome* (2013) and *La grammatica del bianco* (2014), set during the 1980 Wimbledon final and winner of the Bancarella Sport Selection Prize. With Sellerio he published *Le canaglie* (2020), winner of the 2021 Invictus sports literature prize.

Dario Ferrari
La ricreazione è finita

Break is Over

January 2023
480 pages
La memoria

Translation rights: Sellerio editore – French and Spanish translations available upon request

Sold in: France, Editions du Sous-Sol; **Spain**, Libros del Asteroide; **Czech Republic**, Meridione

Movie/tv rights: Sellerio editore - Optioned

Winner of Flaiano Fiction prize, Satira Prize 2023, Mastercard Prize for Literature 2023 and Book of the Year for Fahrenheit Radio 3; one of the best seller and long seller of our list with more than 85,000 copies sold.

«This is a masterpiece. Between epic noir and gall comedy, Ferrari engages Borges, Pasolini, Plutarch and Foucault (without making him heavy-handed), but, above all, the greatest, Louis-Ferdinand Céline».

Antonio D'Orrico, *La Lettura – Corriere della Sera*

«It is a vivid and modulated novel about the pain of living, compromises, memories - private and social - and the daily - and then often final - contradictions that at the end of the day we call life».

Sergio Pent, *TTL – La Stampa*

A compelling, bitter portrait of an Italian university, packed with the suspense of a crime novel.

An aspiring university researcher, awkward and inconclusive, becomes a symbol for an entire humiliated, hurt generation. A generation without a future that doesn't know what they want, whose vocation is not self-realization, but to chase a ghost.

Marcello's life is unsatisfying: he is 30 and still living with his mother in Viareggio. He finally has a degree in literature after taking too many years off and has no concrete plans for his future. His father loathes the fact that he chose to study something so useless and feigns that he is an intellectual. Then, to get back at him and show he is up to the challenge, Marcello decides to try and get his PhD. Everybody has known who would get a spot in the PhD program for a while, but Marcello decides to take the written test anyway. Thanks to an incredible stroke of luck, he manages



to officially become a doctoral student of the illustrious Professor Sacrosanti, one of the foremost professors of Italian studies. Professor Sacrosanti has very specific ideas about what his new protégé will study: the endeavors of Tito Sella, the «Italian terrorist», who Marcello knows nothing about. Marcello begins a long study to reconstruct Sella's life and the activities of the Red Brigades in Viareggio. Along the way, he begins to identify more and more with this terrorist as he continues to bump up against life's absurdity, the tug-of-war of power and the ways of an unfamiliar world, the world of academia, which both humiliates and constantly challenges him, changing Marcello deeper and deeper.

Break is over is the bitter, sarcastic story of life in an Italian university, of students' and researchers' constant submission and humiliation that drives them to the point of tragic folly. This is also a novel about historical memory and the Red Brigades and '70s Italy. It provides an ironic account of the atmosphere of the era, the dreams of those youth who believed a different future was possible yet were overwhelmed by History. However, it is mainly a novel about one of today's young people and how difficult is it for him to imagine plans and make them happen.

Dario Ferrari was born in Viareggio and studied philosophy in Pisa, where he got his PhD. He debuted as a novelist with *La quarta versione di Giuda* (2020).

Davide Enia

Autoritratto

Self-portrait

March 2025
88 pages
Il divano

Translation rights: Sellerio editore
Movie/tv rights: Alferj Agenzia Letteraria

This new work by multi-award-winning actor and director Davide Enia first debuted in June 2024 at the Festival dei Due Mondi in Spoleto. An unsettling yet moving civil discourse about a Palermo tormented and devastated beneath the yoke of Cosa Nostra seen through the innocent eyes of a child.

«In your hometown, if you find yourself before a pool of blood, the image you see reflected in it is your own».

Davide Enia

«Self-portrait centers on silence as the physical manifestation of violence and power on people's bodies».

Annalista Camilli, *Internazionale*

Davide Enia's book may be short, but it is dense and intense, full of light and shadows and inspiring self-analysis that is both personal and collective.

Enia relives his childhood in 1980s Palermo and what it was like growing up with the "day of water," when he played hide-and-seek amid the rubble left by the war and, at only eight years old, saw his first murdered body lying in the same streets where he played and went to school every day, the same corners where, as an adolescent, he kissed his dream girl for the very first time. Enia describes everything from the rise of the cold and bloodthirsty big boss to the brutal killing of little Di Matteo, Padre Pino Puglisi's legendary resistance and the deaths of Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino. Self-portrait is an epiphany for Enia and for a whole community. Through the untainted eyes of a child and with surprisingly innocent irony, Enia provides an account of the Sicilian Years of Lead, of Cosa Nostra woven into the fabric a society accustomed to petty killings, blood on the sidewalks, helmets worn only by hitmen, of silence and of booms and bombs.

Davide Enia (Palermo, 1974) is a dramaturgist, actor and novelist, and the author of and actor in *Italia-Brasile 3 a 2* (Sellerio 2010), *Scanna, I capitoli dell'infanzia*, *Appunti per un naufragio* (Sellerio 2017, 2018 Anima Letteratura Prize, the 2018 SuperMondello Prize and the Mondello Giovani Prize), which earned him the foremost Italian theater prizes. With Sellerio he also published *May '43* (2013). His first novel, *On Earth as It Is in Heaven* was translated in more than 16 languages.



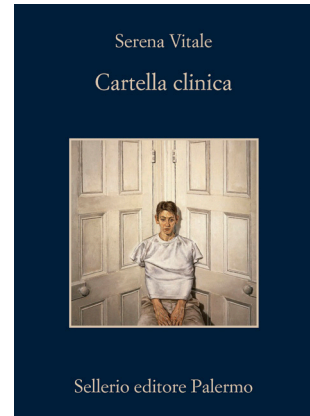
Serena Vitale

Cartella Clinica

Medical Records

May 2025
160 pages
La memoria

Translation rights: Sellerio editore
Movie/tv rights: The Italian Literary Agency



Over the years, we have become accustomed to Serena Vitale's books of rare perfection: gripping pages of sophisticated, fine writing, full of life and rigorous research. We have read her literary essays, her investigative novels, her critically acclaimed stories, sought-after by bookstores and readers alike. But this book leads us into new, seemingly uncharted territory with a personal, family story. Because at the end of the day, isn't literature also and always a private matter? In her new novel, Serena Vitale addresses the mental illness of her sister Rossana: her inexplicable crises, her hospitalizations, the harsh, unspeakable therapies she had to endure: «Each time she came home from the hospital, I saw that she had changed. Her features were the same, only like flattened, and her beautiful eyes, dilated and dark... I heard words I didn't understand, names of medicines, obviously: insulin, resperine, chlorpromazine. Then finally, lobotomy».

The «schizophrenia syndrome» made its debut in their lives in May 1958, when Rossana had just turned seventeen and Serena was only thirteen. Then on September 24, 1961 Rossana was found dead in her bed at the Santa Maria della Pietà psychiatric hospital in Rome. Vitale lucidly and boldly reconstructs those years, propelled by her dogged drive to research, exploring medical records, seemingly paradoxical and contradictory anamneses, and comparing them to her often muddled, sometimes clear adolescent memories and the stories of the few remaining witnesses: her sister's ripped sweater, photographs on the wall with pins in the eyes, blinded dolls. The final portrait painted through the alternation of medical records and memories is unexpected, as if the facts had been carefully doled out, pushed back, dodged, and finally relegated to the written page. And this is how her story becomes a novel, a family story, with unforgettable protagonists and bit players (like their grandfather and his loves, their cat Nerina, their uncle the «fag», their violinist father and his idiosyncrasies), as one question – Serena's doubt, her sister's torment – hovers over everything: «Where *was* I?»

In *Medical Records*, Serena Vitale conducts a family investigation that is both the story of an illness and a heart-wrenching effort at reckoning: a letter of boundless love for her sister.

Serena Vitale (Brindisi, 1945) is a writer, Slavic-language specialist and translator. Her books include: *Il bottone di Puškin* (1995), *La casa di ghiaccio* (2000) and *Il defunto odiava i pettegolezzi* (2015), which have earned her important accolades, such as the Chiara Prize, the Grinzane Cavour Prize, the Bagutta Prize and the Brancati Prize.

Alessandro Barbero
Romanzo Russo. Fiutando i futuri
supplizi.

The Anonymous Novel: Sensing the Future Torments

November 2024
656 pages
La memoria

Translation rights: Sellerio editore

Sold in: English Language, **Vagabond Voices**; France, **Gallimard**.

Movie/tv rights: Sellerio editore

«*The Anonymous Novel: Sensing the Future Torments* ... is a vivid novel about Russians coping with the transition from communism to capitalism and combines echoes of Bulgakov with elements of a thriller. Strangely it has been written by a successful medieval historian».

Eric Hobsbawm, *The Observer*

A middle-aged judge driven by curiosity and the intellectual challenge of his work, a nervous and neurotic young historian willing to run all manner of risks to uncover the state crimes of the forties, a nerdy, well-educated and good-natured young journalist motivated principally by the desire to enjoy life and not dwell on the miseries of the past, a KGB general once responsible for some of the purges and now an Islamist radical, an inept, capricious and delightfully self-aware Jewish actor, and an Islamic cleric loyal to the Soviet Union, whose murder has so many repercussions, all these carefully constructed characters could be found in any society but Alessandro Barbero has brought them to life in one of the most elusive, unstable and neglected historical realities: Gorbachev's Russia. And this proves to be fertile ground for Barbero, one that generates endless themes and the opportunity to express his love for Russian literature and culture. Barbero used his skills as a historian to study the reality of that society through its newspapers and journals, and his skills as a novelist to weave a complex plot – a tale of two cities: Moscow and Baku. And throughout, the narrative voice – perhaps the greatest protagonist of them all – represents not the author's views but those of the Russian public as they emerged from one dismal reality and hurtled unknowingly towards another.

First there is the picture of a society on the cusp of unnerving change, one in which it has become possible to say what previously could scarcely even be thought. Then there is the richness of the detail. ... Here rooms, journeys, weather, clothes, meals, landscape, tastes, smells, trains, the Moscow underground, the mustiness of archives are all vividly presented. The reader inhabits the world the author has conjured up. Finally, and best of all, there is the talk. Russians are great talkers and the novel floats on a sea of wonderfully varied, expressive and tremendous speech. The characters reveal themselves in their words, spoken or merely thought. (For in a good novel thought is a form of speech when presented dramatically, as it is here).



Alessandro Barbero, born in Turin in 1959, is a tenured professor at the Università del Piemonte Orientale in Vercelli. He has written several historical novels, including: *Bella vita e guerre altrui di Mr. Pyle, gentiluomo* (winner of the 1996 Strega prize). With Sellerio he has published *Federico il Grande, Il divano di Istanbul, Alabama, Poeta al comando and Brick for Stone*.

What people say about *The Anonymous Novel*:

«The first surprise is that this novel was written by an Italian, since it deals so deftly with Russian history from the inside. ... He even writes in a bright and breezy satirical style, brilliantly conveyed by Allan Cameron in his translation, that leads the reader to believe that some Russian Master had been leaning over his shoulder, guiding his hand».

The Herald

«This is an astonishing novel... [Barbero's] book is first a quite remarkable piece of impersonation. He is Italian, his novel Russian, set during the Gorbachev years when Soviet certainties were crumbling and change and anxiety were in the air. ... the plot, which the reader follows through a dense and intricately designed maze ... is as circuitous and often puzzling as any in a Le Carré novel. (And Le Carré addicts will love this one too.) Yet, what is a plot for, as Scott remarked, "but to bring in fine things?"», and there are fine things in spades».

The Scotsman

«This is a literary miracle – unique, witty and gripping. It reads like Bulgakov's prose somewhat modernised or even a careful and sensitive translation of one of the great Russian classics. It is stunningly authentic, and I cannot believe that the author and translator are NOT Russian... A book to savour and consume slowly... ».

Vitali Vitaliev

«It is a deeply rewarding pleasure to be lost in this novel».

The Sunday Herald

«Barbero uses the diabolic skills of an erudite and professional narrator to seek out massacres of the distant and recent past. *The Anonymous Novel* concerns the past-that-never-passes (whether Tsarist or Stalinist) and the future that in 1988 was impending and has now arrived».

Il Giornale

«As in a vast Russian river, thousands of rivulets and currents intersect with each other in Barbero's novel, which provides us with an amazing snapshot of the reality of yesterday and today with all the endless nuances, and holds our attention with the events of a police investigation».

L'Indice

Bernardo Zannoni

25

September 2023

180 pages

Il contesto

Translation rights: Sellerio editore

Sold in: France La Table Ronde; Netherlands De Harmonie

Option publishers: North America The New York Review of Books; Germany Rowohlt; Poland Wydawnictwo Literackie; Portugal Dom Quixote; Brazil Editora Ayné; Spain and Latin America Gatopardo Ediciones; Catalunya Club Editor; Galicia RodolfoePriscila; Greece Patakis; Slovakia Grada; Turkey, Timas; Imperativ, Serbia.

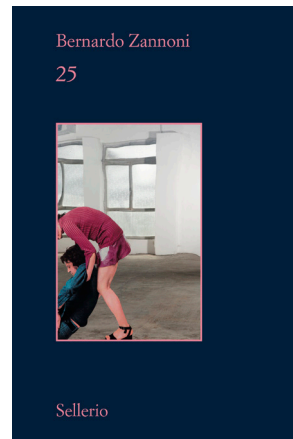
Movie/tv rights: Sellerio editore

25 is the new novel by Bernardo Zannoni, author of *I miei stupidi intenti* (My Stupid Intentions), winner of the 2022 Campiello prize and the literary sensation of the year, a smashing success among readers and in bookstores that sold over 110,000 copies.

«You know, Gerolamo, you don't have a smell».

This sentence was etched in his brain. He couldn't rid himself of it. At first, he asked himself what smell she was talking about. Then he figured out that she wasn't talking about any specific smell. He simply didn't have a smell. And if he didn't have a smell, it was as if he didn't exist. For her, he could have just been a chair or a table. It took him a while to accept it. He cried, withdrew into his shell. Then he told himself it wasn't his fault. He certainly couldn't beat himself up over the fact that he didn't have a smell. Life went on even without smells, even for someone invisible. All he had to do was find a girl without a nose, and the world opened up before his very eyes. This is what love does to mortals: it breaks them down then builds them back up.

Gerolamo is weird. Just 25 years old and living in a city by the sea. He lives alone and often eats at his aunt's. He has a few friends and not much work. He is waiting, but he doesn't really know what for. Yet in his immobility, in his indecision, caught between lack of skill and lack of experience, characteristics that are all typical for a boy of his age, Gerolamo is overwhelmed by the intensity of his life's vicissitudes. He has a friend who isn't doing well at all, another who has finally fallen in love, a parrot to take care of for a few days, a neighbor about to give birth. He smokes a lot and willingly indulges in drink. However, mainly Gerolamo hopes that the time



will come when things will change, when he and everyone around him will come to a «breaking point». An inevitable moment of clarity, when you see yourself for what you really are and the world for what it really is. Gerolamo knows that, when this time comes, he will begin to have hope, hope that «everything will be all right.» In his second book, Bernardo Zannoni recounts the world of man with the same imagination and depth of emotion as he did the animal world. He looks with curiosity and concern, amusement and dismay at those bizarre beings that make up the human race.

Bernardo Zannoni (1995) lives in Sarzana. His first novel *I miei stupidi intenti* has been published by Sellerio 2021, winner of the Bagutta Prize for Best Debut Novel 2022; Campiello Prize 2022, Salerno Letteratura Prize 2022, Premio Severino Cesari 2022, Premio Moncalieri 2022.

Bernardo Zannoni and Lorenzo Mattotti

I miei stupidi intenti ed. Illustrata

My Stupid Intentions – Illustrated edition

November 2023
312 pages
Fuori Collana



Translation rights of the non-illustrated edition: Sellerio editore
Sold in: **France** La Table Ronde; **Netherlands** De Harmonie, **North America** The New York Review of Books; **Germany** Rowohlt; **Poland** Wydawnictwo Literackie; **Portugal** Dom Quixote; **Brazil** Editora Ayné; **Spain and Latin America** Gatopardo Ediciones; **Catalunya** Club Editor; **Galicia** RodolfoePriscila; **Greece** Patakis; **Slovakia** Grada; **Turkey**, Timas; **Imperativ**, Serbia.
Movie/tv rights: Sellerio editore – optioned

The story of a marten called Archy who discovers the world in its beauty and cruelty. Like a character ripped from Camus, accompanied by Lorenzo Mattotti's illustrations.

This special edition of *My Stupid Intentions*, Campiello Prize 2022, is illustrated by Lorenzo Mattotti, one of the best renowned and loved international illustrators and comic artists. His 66 drawings create something unique, an enhanced reading experience of a novel that is destined to be a future classic.

Who has never tried to imagine the woods, the grassy hills, the countryside enslaved by man, the burrows and ravines in which the marten Archy wanders, discovering the world, the meaning of time and the art of surviving? An extraordinary «character» that seems to have come out of Camus' world, here accompanied by Lorenzo Mattotti's images that happily follow the narrative thread of Archy's long life and complete the flavour of the reading with the enchanting power of his drawings that take the reader into the fantastic world of the animals that are the protagonists of this story.

Archy and his brotens are born on a winter night: their mother is a marten whose mate was killed, and she finds herself having to raise them alone. The animals in this book know how to talk, they use dishes for food, they light fires, but their world remains a struggle for survival, harsh and ruthless, as nature is. They are driven by necessity and instinct, the strongest dominates and the loser has to make do. It is precisely by sensing his weakness that his mother trades Archy for a hen and a half. His new master is an old fox full of secrets, who lives on top of a hill. These new circumstances will unveil unmentionable mysteries between the fox's paws, amid

terror and wonder, as stolen loves, the cruelty of the world, time present and time past reveal themselves to Archy's eyes with incredible force.

What people say about *I miei stupidi intenti*:

«Zannoni's writing, in Alex Andriese's elegant translation, has the constitutional bitterness of J.P. Donleavy or Louis-Ferdinand Céline».

Lydia Millet, *The New York Times*

«My Stupid Intentions is a beautiful beech marten of a novel: cunning, sleek, warm-blooded, and feral. Bernardo Zannoni executes a daring premise with heart and humor. A thrilling debut».

Nathaniel Rich

«In this exciting modern twist on *The Wind in the Willows*, Zannoni knows when to leave his existential Eden behind and go for the jugular».

Publishers Weekly

«The character of Archy, in all his awkward, vulnerable marten-ness, emerges as courageously as any classical hero. This darkly beguiling novel casts its enchantments with an eye trained on the human heart, with its false chambers and rough, bestial inclinations. A remarkable education in the grief of staying alive».

Kirkus Reviews

«All this cruelty mixed with tenderness is charged with literary power, like in life. A true writer is born. That such a young person could be so lucid and solid instills me with trust in the future, and not only in the future of literature».

Daria Bignardi, *Vanity Fair*

«I found it very comforting to read a book where the protagonists are all animals that act naturally, like animals: they behave according to the spirit of survival, they are merciless and fierce, vulnerable to the law of the survival of the fittest and resistant to what we call the 'voice of the conscience'».

Concita De Gregorio, *D – la Repubblica*

«The common thread in this debut novel is the riveting power of the written word. When, like here, it becomes dense, intense yet loose».

Ermanno Paccagnini, *La Lettura - Corriere della Sera*

«My Stupid Intentions is an unforgettable novel, and one of the most 'theological' books one could imagine. The story of a marten that seems ripped right out of Camus, and out of a Pixar film as well».

Piergiorgio Paterlini, *Robinson - la Repubblica*

«A magnificent book: read it, read this novel in a state of grace».

Marco Missiroli

«The dazzling debut of 25-year-old Bernardo Zannoni from Sarzana is along the same lines as Richard Adams' masterpiece Watership Down».

Benedetta Marietti, *il Venerdì di Repubblica*

«Zannoni's novel is a "sign of life" on the horizon of Italian literature. A savage journey, charged with deep feeling, the kind of novel we only rarely see».

Federica Manzon, *Il Piccolo*

Tommaso Pincio

Panorama

November 2024
256 pages
La memoria

Translation rights: Sellerio editore
Movie/tv rights: Sellerio editore



Sellerio is republishing *Panorama* by Tommaso Pincio, winner of the 2015 Sinbad prize, a disturbing, heart wrenching novel deeply loved by readers.

«For about four years I had an unusual epistolary relationship with a girl. A voracious reader but with no particular literary ambition, she was full of idiosyncrasies and suffering, but also very charming [...] *Panorama* began to evolve when she suddenly and without warning deactivated her profile. [...] From one day to the next, she disappeared from my life, and I felt a void, an unexpected sense of anguish. After a few weeks, I thought that a good way to process this unusual grief would be to write a story about her that I did not appear in».

Tommaso Pincio

They met on *Panorama*, a social network. They messaged each other for four years, but Ottavio Tondi never met Ligeia Tissot, he only saw her picture and spent endless hours gazing at her unmade bed. Before those messages, Ottavio Tondi had never written a word, never taken a note. He dedicated his work and life to reading. But he wasn't just any reader. He was the perfect reader, determining the fate of novels in bookstores, a prop at literary festivals and events, sitting on the stage reading in silence, adored by paying audiences. But all of this was before, before the Ponte Sisto incident, before the world stopped reading books, before Ligeia Tissot entered Ottavio Tondi's life.

Panorama is a sophisticated mix of reality and fiction, a declaration of love for books and reading. We see the world in its pages, present and future, without rhetoric. In its characters, we discover fear and fragility, hope and disillusionment, accompanied by the refined, melancholy voice of Tommaso Pincio, an ironic, visionary author, one of the most original voices in contemporary Italian literature.

Tommaso Pincio, writer critic, translator and painter, lives and works in Rome. He has published *M.* (1999), *Lo spazio finito* (2000; 2010), *Un amore dell'altro mondo* (2002), *La ragazza che non era lei* (2005), *Cinacittà* (2008), *Hotel a zero stelle* (2011), *Pulp Roma* (2012), *Scrissi d'arte* (2015), *Il dono di saper vivere* (2018), *Diario di un'estate marziana* (a 2022, 2023 Campiello prize finalist). He has translated authors like Jack Kerouac, John Cheever, Philip K. Dick, Francis Scott Fitzgerald, George Orwell, Lauren Groff and Scott Spencer.

Literary Crime

Luca Mercadante La fame del Cigno

The Hunger of the Swan

January 2025
384 pages
La memoria

Translation rights: Sellerio editore - **English sample available**

Sold in: France, Rivages

Movie/tv rights: Sellerio editore



A protagonist unlike any other: bruised, intelligent, awkward, clumsy and scatterbrained. An atmosphere that harkens back to Joe Lansdale's terrifying swamps and his exhilarating humor. The portrait of a world where nobody can really claim to be honest.

A new author is joining the ranks of our publishing house with a literary character who has everything it takes to penetrate readers' hearts, like Petra Delicado, Salvo Montalbano, Rocco Schiavone, and the other detectives featured by Sellerio.

Domenico Cigno, an obese 50-year-old sports editor for the south Italian edition of an important newspaper, lives by stuffing his face, has a cut-and-paste work ethic and makes occasional guest appearances on sports programs of little importance, which invite him on as the token, fat Naples fan. With neither wife nor children, a past as an aspiring Olympic boxer and a very respectable start to his career, Cigno has already left the best of his life behind. Now he lives in a small, sagging villa with a yard on the Domitio coast, a thin ribbon of Campania coastline stretching from Naples to the Lazio border, partially retracing the route of the ancient Via Domiziana: roughly 50 low, sandy kilometers squeezed between an icy, uncrowded sea and swampy countryside. Some consider it the Louisiana of southern Italy, with its silty canals, the legacy of 18th century land reclamation projects. Today it is a place rife with illegal immigration, disorganized Camorra bands and systematic ruin. Just a few days before Christmas, the body of a girl turns up in one of the canals. She may be a university student from Turin, an influencer and activist with hundreds of thousands of followers who came to this desolate province to investigate the conditions of Nigerian women. She has been missing for a few days and the whole country is looking for her. Cigno just happens to be the first on the scene and this just might be his chance for redemption. He decides to investigate, like a dinosaur determined not to go extinct, and attacks the story giving it everything he's got. Which isn't much.

Narrated with a voice that is both funny and bitter, this novel blends cynical survivalism and the human solidarity of people with nothing more to lose. A fierce critique of the old and new journalism, on a deeper level, this book also uncovers the discrepancy between what we would have liked to be and what we have become.

Luca Mercadante published, along with Luca Trapanese, *Nata per te. Storia di Alba raccontata tra noi*, (Einaudi Stile Libero 2018). In 2019 her novel *Presunzione* (minimum fax) was released, receiving the jury's honorable mention in the 30th edition of the Italo Calvino Prize.

Antonio Manzini

Il passato è un morto senza cadavere

The Past is a Dead Man Without a Body

October 2024

460 pages

La memoria

THE ROCCO SCHIAVONE bestselling novels have sold in Italy so far 3.0 million copies.

The Rocco Schiavone series began with *Pista nera* (2013), *La costola di Adamo* (2014), *Non è stagione* (2014), *Era di Maggio* (2015), *Cinque indagini romane per Rocco Schiavone* (2016), *7-7-2007* (2016), *Pulvis et umbra* (2017), *L'anello mancante. Cinque indagini di Rocco Schiavone* (2018), *Fate il vostro gioco* (2018), *Rien ne va plus* (2019), *Ah l'amore l'amore* (2020), *Vecchie conoscenze* (2021) and *Le ossa parlano* (2022), *ELP* (2023), *Riusciranno i nostri eroi a ritrovare l'amico misteriosamente scomparso in Sud America?* (2023)

Antonio Manzini's success is increasing abroad where the series is published in **Denmark**/Arvids; **Estonia**/ Toledo Kirjastus; **France**/Denoe and Folio Policier-Gallimard; **Germany**/Rowohlt Verlag; **Greece**/Patakis; **Japan**/Tokyo-Sogen-Sha, **Poland**/Muza Publishers; **Portuguese rights for Brazil only** L&PM Editores; **World Spanish and Catalan Rights**/Salamandra/PRH.

Manzini's new novel featuring Rocco Schiavone – the cantankerous, unconventional deputy police chief who has won the hearts of a growing number of readers – is a perfect blend of suspense, reflection on the present and ordinary disputes disrupted by past secrets.

«Manzini writes with the levity of the great storytellers and the naturalness of someone who knows where to look for a good story that portrays real people's fears and anxieties amid social change, like a true human comedy of increasing intensity».

Sergio Pent, TTL – La Stampa

November in Aosta. It's drizzly and dreary, the sky shifting from grey to fog white. A cyclist gets hit on the road to Valsavarenche, then poof! the perpetrator vanishes. A hit and run. It won't take more than a few hours of Rocco Schiavone's time to do all the tiresome paperwork, then it's back to the drudgery of the daily grind. However, Michela Gambino mixes up the cards when she sits in for forensics and realizes they actually have a serious problem on their hands, turning an ordinary road accident into a total pain in the backside.



Thus begins our new story, where Rocco is forced to undertake yet another challenging investigation into a murder with no clear motive. The victim is Paolo Sanna and he doesn't appear to have any friends, though he moved to Aosta two years ago. He is survived only by his brother and sister-in-law who own a clinic in Ancona. He lived in Rome, Milan, Barcelona and Venice. He had no job and was financially set. His house is modern and tastefully decorated, but with no personal touches, like a sort of luxury hotel. Who wanted him dead and why? From the looks of things, Paolo Sanna was the most harmless, untarnished man on the earth. Or was he...

The investigation isn't Schiavone's only cross to bear, however. There is also Sandra Buccellato, the journalist he meets with a guy Rocco calls "The Toad". Who is this guy? What does he want from Sandra? She says he is an informant she uses for her investigative pieces, but Rocco isn't convinced. If he is just an informant, why does he live in an apartment of the Castorp, a coffee roasting company owned by Sandra's mother? What's the connection? Is there something deeper going on?

Then there is Schiavone's team, which we have come to know better and better, including D'Intino, Schiavone's favorite target, who has decided to start writing bad poetry in dialect to seek his soulmate.

«Baby, when you look at me I feel like a king! 'Round you there's beauty in everything! And when I wake in dawn's early light, everything 'round me's a delight».

Marco Malvaldi and Samantha Bruzzone

La regina dei sentieri

The Queen of Pathways

July 2024
352 pages
La memoria

Translation rights: Sellerio editore
Sold in: Denmark, Arvids.
Movie/tv rights: Sellerio editore – optioned

Serena Martini and Corinna Stelea, new protagonists of the Italian crime born from the fusion of the male and female points of view of the literary couple composed by Marco Malvaldi and Samantha Bruzzone, also a couple in life. This time they duet in an investigation among the vineyards and red grapes of the Tuscan Maremma.

The motorcycle cart of Marquis Crisante Olivieri Frangipane has been rediscovered, he was the patriarch of an ancient family of wine producers and he disappeared years ago under mysterious circumstances. One October evening back in 2013, the count drove away in his Ape coupé and never returned. The discovery of the vehicle while draining a reservoir on the Tegolaia estate triggers immediately new investigations and rekindle old sparks between the two estates. The Tegolaia estate, passed from the Colantoni family to a Dutch multinational, had become the target of old Crisante's biting jokes in perfect Tuscan style. At turn, through the Italian manager, Walter Gori, the Dutch were launching into constant threats of legal action or, even worse, physical action against the person. When the body of the count also resurfaces inside the estate, it becomes clear to the two investigators that the resolution of the riddle must lie within these skirmishes. And in the memory of Andrea Pace, now the new owner of the Tegolaia estate and in 2013 the winemaker for the Olivieri Frangipane family.

The humor, colors, scents and flavors of the Tuscan countryside, in an intrigue in which the female sensibility of the two protagonists emerges powerfully.

Marco Malvaldi (Pisa, 1974), a chemist by trade, has published a crime fiction series for Sellerio featuring the old timers who hang out at the local BarLume cafe (*La briscola in cinque*, 2007; *Il gioco delle tre carte*, 2008; *Il re dei giochi*, 2010; *La carta più alta*, 2012; *Il telefono senza fili*, 2014; *La battaglia navale*, 2016; *Sei casi al BarLume*, 2016; *A bocce ferme*, 2018; *Bolle di sapone*, 2021), all highly appreciated by readers. He has also published *Odore di chiuso* (2011 and 2021 Castiglioncello Prize and the 2011 Isola d'Elba-Raffaello Brignetti Prize), *Il borghese Pellegrino* (2020), a historical crime novel



featuring Pellegrino Artusi, and *Milioni di milioni* (2012), *Argento vivo* (2013), *Buchi nella sabbia* (2015), *Negli occhi di chi guarda* (2017), with Glay Ghammouri *Vento in scatola* (2019) and with his wife Samantha Bruzzone *Chi si ferma è perduto* (2022).

Samantha Bruzzone (Genova 1974) a chemist by trade and a crime fiction buff, has published two books for young readers with her husband Marco Malvaldi: *Leonardo e la marea* (Laterza 2012) and *Chiusi fuori* (Mondadori 2022) and with Sellerio, *Chi si ferma è perduto* (2022).

Non Fiction

Fabio Stassi

Bebelplatz. La notte dei libri bruciati

Bebelplatz. The Night of the Burning Books

With an introduction by Alberto Manguel

October 2024

240 pages

La memoria

Translation rights: Sellerio editore

Previous non fiction book sold in: **Germany**, Converso;
Spain, Acantilado.

Movie/tv rights: Sellerio editore



A book about books that celebrates the power of the written word and imagination. An ode to literature, which endures all forms of power.

«Not everything has been said, not everything has been thought. Fabio Stassi's perspective on Nazi ignominy is new and illuminating».

Alicia Giménez-Bartlett

«Bebelplatz, despite its topicality, is a book paradoxically of hope».

Björn Larsson

«No journey is more adventurous and deserving of exploration than those of the books we have read».

Fabio Stassi

At the stroke of midnight on May 10, 1933 in Germany, thousands of books were tossed into the flames. In Berlin before 40,000 spectators, including soldiers, civilians, students and Nazi militants, Joseph Goebbels announced, «The German man of the future will no longer be made of books, he will be made of character». The year is 2022. Russia has just invaded Ukraine and in a few months a new conflict will ravage the Gaza Strip. Fabio Stassi explores the squares of the *Bücherverbrennungen*, the Nazi book burnings, during a tour of Italian cultural institutes in Germany, and develops this utterly contemporary reflection, despite its being a historical investigation, on the blindness of war, the sacking of bookstores and libraries and the instinct to oppress that is ready to rear its ugly head today more brutally than ever before.

Stassi follows the history of book burnings and censorship from the past to the present day, and what he finds is surprising. He studies maps and reports. He tracks down and reconstructs lists of books and writers that the Nazi party considered subversive. He discovers that there are also five Italians: Pietro Aretino,

Renaissance bard of male desire; Antonio Borgese, a citizen of the world and opposed to the war; Emilio Salgari, an anti-imperialist who projected his ideals outside Italy; Ignazio Silone, a radical anti-fascist who wrote powerful anti-fascist novels that did more damage than a lost battle; Maria Volpi, aka Mura, the only Italian woman on the list and an uninhibited author of romance novels and poems about pleasure and women's independence.

Stassi reconstructs a historical and literary atlas, leading readers through the real spaces of history and the imaginary spaces of thought and literature: from Ovid and Sebald, Ariosto and Cervantes, Arendt, Canetti, Morante, Hemingway, Wilde, Pirandello, Camilleri, Bernhard and many others. A journey full of parallels, juxtapositions and new interpretations, an invitation to start your own, personal rebellion through the written page.

Fabio Stassi (Rome, 1962) has published with Sellerio: *L'ultimo ballo di Charlot* (2012), *Come un respiro interrotto* (2014), *Fumisteria* (2015), *Angelica e le comete* (2017), *Mastro Geppetto* (2021) and his «talk» on the therapeutic power of Dante in *È d'ogni male mi guarisce un bel verso* (2023); in addition to his novels featuring the book therapist Vince Corso.

Paolo Pecere
Il senso della natura.
Sette sentieri per la terra

The Meaning of Nature: Seven paths for the Earth

March 2024
480 pages
Il Contesto



Translation rights: Sellerio editore – **English sample available**
Sold in: Spain, Anagrama
Movie/tv rights: Sellerio editore

«Pecere's journey is narrated with the pen of a novelist and the awareness and study of an essayist».

Luca Romano, *Huffington Post*

Of the many, important books on the relationship between man and nature and on the concept of ecology, there is no other book/world quite like this one in terms of its critical synthesis of the issues, the fieldwork carried out and the writing style adopted to share his journey with readers.

This is a voyage into the history of thought, into the past and future of the Earth, into territories where man comes face to face with the non-human and prepares to dialog, seeking the sense and sentiment of nature. A journey through the planet, from New York to the Galápagos, from Borneo to Rwanda to Tibet. A journey to understand, to ponder, to analyze.

Paolo Pecere starts with an obvious premise: although the devastating impact of human civilization on nature is known and evident in climate disaster, animal species' extinction, deforestation and disappearing landscapes, none of this affects any deep change in the lifestyles of industrial societies. At the same time, people feel a widespread sense of nostalgia for uncontaminated nature. But this isn't enough. Starting from this split and considering that scientific knowledge doesn't seem sufficient to impact people's conscience, Pecere explores, as a scholar and traveller, different ways to build a new relationship with nature through his descriptions of exemplary places and the people who live there today.

He starts from cities and their seeming isolation from the environment and dependence on natural resources, then moves to other settings, examining the origins of our knowledge of nature: from the idea of a cosmic order to our relationship to water, animals, plants, landscapes. Therefore, what is the true meaning of nature today? The meaning that must be re-discovered or re-imagined.

Could it be «loving what is not like us»? Or being silent and trying to see through eyes that aren't our own? Or maybe learning to look at the world without always, obsessively scrutinizing ourselves.

Paolo Pecere (Rome, 1975) is an associate professor of the history of philosophy at Roma Tre University. His essays include *La filosofia della natura in Kant* (2009) and *Dalla parte di Alice. La coscienza e l'immaginario* (2015). His short stories have appeared in *Nazione Indiana* and *Nuovi Argomenti*. He has published two novels, *La vita lontana* (2018) and *Risorgere* (2019), and a school textbook *Filosofia. La ricerca della conoscenza* (2018, with Riccardo Chiaradonna). His last book is *Il dio che danza. Viaggi, trance e trasformazioni* (2021).

Daria Galateria

Viaggi eccellenti

Amazing Journeys

April 2025
160 pagine
La memoria

Translation rights: Sellerio editore

Movie/tv rights: Sellerio editore



«As already found in her tireless exploration of French history and literature, Galateria combines an uncommon mastery of her subject with the joy of expression, accompanying her readers on a journey through an extraordinary tradition without burdening them with the weight of her knowledge».

Whimsical and extravagant, the amazing journeys described in this book will surprise and delight. The protagonists are writers, politicians, poets, painters, musicians, spies, actors, who all use their ingenuity during their travels to carry on with their activities as best they can. Gauguin, for example, was told by his patrons to stay in Polynesia because the collectors had a penchant for the exotic and wanted him to be a distant legend. Writer Somerset Maugham was sent by British Secret Intelligence (aka M16) to Russia as a spy to prevent the revolution. Speaking of spies, Kim Philby left in the middle of the night on January 23, 1963 from Beirut, where he was a correspondent for the *Observer*, on board the Russian cargo ship Dolmatova only to find a grey Moscow and a modest apartment. All the protagonists are tireless globetrotters, but not the kind who stop to admire the landscape, the works of art, the wonders of nature; they recount the facts: stories, gossip, encounters. And their endeavors remain in memory. Agatha Christie conceived her famous *Murder on the Orient Express* on the train of the same name. Simenon left for a whole year on a cruise, not for pleasure but to flee a life of crime—living the crime novel of his very own life. One of the most mindboggling journeys is that of Orson Welles, who went to Rome to shoot the Hollywood film *Cagliostro*. It was 1947 and the Quirinale palace in Rome had just been designated the official residence of the President of the Republic of Italy; however, the president had yet to be elected. The decision about the president's residence was made as the American film was being produced, so a room for Madame du Barry was set up at the Quirinale.

Daria Galateria naturally and competently moves from one story to another with the brilliant style we are accustomed to.

Daria Galateria has edited many book for Sellerio and published: *Parigi 1789* (1989), *Il tè a Port-Royal* (1995), *Fughe dal Re Sole. Memorie di cortigiani riluttanti* (1996), *Entre nous* (2002), *Mestieri di scrittori* (2007), *Scritti galeotti. Narratori in catene dal Settecento a oggi* (2012) and *L'etichetta alla corte di Versailles. Dizionario dei privilegi nell'età del Re Sole* (2016), *Il bestiario di Proust* (2022).

Andrea Camilleri (1925 – 2019)

A year with Andrea Camilleri

Translation rights: Alferj Agenzia Letteraria / Sellerio editore / World
Movie/tv rights: Heirs of Andrea Camilleri

2025 marks the Centenary of the birth of Andrea Camilleri, one of the greatest Italian writers and certainly the most loved. For this special occasion, Sellerio, together with the Andrea Camilleri Fund, has planned numerous initiatives and events that will cross the entire country.

Firstly, we thought the best way to honour and reinforce the wonderful relationship the great writer had with Italian readers was to present a selection of his extraordinary work in a new dedicated series. twelve books, chosen by flanking the best-loved with some lesser-known but equally surprising ones. Each volume will be introduced by the prestigious reading of some of the most extraordinary writers on the national and international scene. Some of them have been his lifelong readers. Others, on the other hand, have only recently been dazzled by his characters and novels. We have asked them, not a learned literary essay, something that any of them would know how to write excellently, but rather to tell us about their experience as readers of Camilleri.

The first titles will be:

La forma dell'acqua (*The Shape of Water*),
La rivoluzione della luna (*The Revolution of the Moon*),
La concessione del telefono (*The Telephone Concessione*),
La bolla di componenda (*The Bull for a Compromise*),
La strage dimenticata (*The Forgotten Massacre*),
La relazione (*The relationship*)
Morte in mare aperto (*Death at Sea*)
Trilogia delle metamorfosi (*Trilogy of the Metamorphosis*)
Il cane di terracotta (*The Terracotta Dog*)
Il nipote del Negus (*The Grandson of the Negus*)
Il re di Girgenti (*The King of Girgenti*)
Inseguendo un'ombra (*Chasing a Shadow*)
Il birraio di Preston (*The Brewer of Preston*)

The twelve volumes will have a new graphic design and the cover illustrations will be created ad hoc by Maestro Lorenzo Mattotti.



Andrea Camilleri

La forma dell'acqua

The Shape of Water

With a note by Antonio Manzini
Cover illustration by Lorenzo Mattotti

212 pages
Cento anni di Andrea Camilleri



«In my opinion this book was a revolution, and you had accomplished it by using the more classical narrative, using the genre that the Linnean squeamish considered the B series of literature. The high and the low blurring, somersaulting like your book, Andrea, that makes you laugh, and makes you think, and that you want to keep reading until you lose your breath and your teeth».

Antonio Manzini

The Shape of Water is the first in Andrea Camilleri's wry, brilliantly compelling Sicilian crime series, featuring Inspector Montalbano.

When the body of respected and prominent engineer is discovered in the Pasture, a rubbish-strewn site brimming with drug dealers and prostitutes, the coroner's verdict is death from natural causes – refreshingly unusual for Sicily.

But Inspector Salvo Montalbano of the Vigàta police force, as honest as he is streetwise and as scathing to fools and villains as he is compassionate to their victims, is not ready to close the case, despite pressure from Vigàta's police chief, judge, and bishop.

Picking his way through a labyrinth of high-comedy corruption, carefully planted false clues, trigger-happy Mafia members, and delicious Sicilian fare, Montalbano can be relied on, whatever the cost, to get to the heart of the matter.

Translation rights sold to: Brasil (Editora Record, Publilbook Livros e Papéis); Denmark (Fremad, Arvids); Finland (Wsoy); France (Fleuve Noir); Germany (Verlagsgruppe Bastei Lübbe); Greece (Patakis); Israel (Keter Publishing house); Lithuania (Baltos Lankos); Netherlands (Serena Libri); Poland (Les Editions Noir sur Blanc); Spain Spanish (Emecè Editores, Quarteto, Publicaciones y Ediciones Salamandra, Penguin Random House Grupo Editorial), Catalan (Edicions 62), Euskera (Igela); Portugal (Difel Difusão Editorial, Edições bestboslo); Sweden (Fischer & Co. Bokforlaget, Modernista); USA (Viking Books, Penguin Books); UK (Picador); Norway (Gyldendal Norks Forlag); Czech Republic (Paseka); Russia (Inostranka Publishers); Korea (Saemulgyul Publishing House); Hungary (Magus Kiado); Slovenia (Mladinska Knjiga); Estonia (Olion Ou, Varrak Publishers); Serbia (Alnari); Romania (Albatros, Nemira); Croatia (Profil Knjiga); Bulgaria (Knigopis); China (Xinhua); Japan (Ebisukosho); Georgia (Publishing House Palitra); Malta (Merlin Publishers); Turkey (Mylos Kitap); Lebanon (Dar Al saqi).

Andrea Camilleri
La rivoluzione della luna

The Revolution of the Moon

With a note by Chiara Valerio
Cover illustration by Lorenzo Mattotti

212 pages
Cento anni di Andrea Camilleri



«Do not make the mistake of speaking, says donna Eleonora, Marquise of Castel di Roderigo and Viceroy of Sicily, after the sudden death of the previous Viceroy, Don Angel, her husband. She says this to Don Serafino, the Palace's physician and her only friend, who is in love with her. Do not make the mistake of speaking, says Donna Eleonora, who has eyes as black as dark flames and whose beauty no one can resist. Especially those who read this novel. Donna Eleonora, I have finally understood, embodies Camilleri's narrative that never makes the mistake of speaking, in fact she does not declares neither love nor anything, but tells, stands, smells, spits, breathes, repeats sentences, extends his hands, kisses, makes love, sings in a low voice, or shouts, arranges chairs, measures metres of fabric».

Chiara Valerio

The remarkable account of an exceptional woman who rises to power in 17th century Sicily and brings about sweeping changes that threaten the iron-fisted patriarchy, before being cast out in a coup after only 27 days.

Sicily, April 16 1677. From his deathbed, Charles III's viceroy, Aniello de Guzmán y Carafa, marquis of Castle Rodrigo, names his wife, Doña Eleonora, as his successor. Eleonora de Moura is a highly intelligent and capable woman who immediately applies her political acumen to heal the scarred soul of Palermo, a city afflicted by poverty, misery, and the frequent uprisings they entail.

The Marquise implements measures that include lowering the price of bread, reducing taxes for large families, re-opening women's care facilities, and establishing stipends for young couples wishing to marry – all measures that were considered seditious by the conservative city fathers and by the Church. The machinations of powerful men soon result in Doña Eleonora, whom the Church sees as a dangerous revolutionary, being recalled to Spain. Her rule lasted 27 days – one cycle of the moon.

Based on a true story, Camilleri's gripping and richly imagined novel tells the story of a woman whose courage and political vision is tested at every step by misogyny and reactionary conservatism.

Translation rights sold to: Germany (Nigel&Kimche); France (Fayard); Spain (Destino); Brazil (Bertrand); USA (Europa Editions); Greece (Patakis); Poland (Les editions Noir sur Blanc).

Sellerio editore

Via Enzo ed Elvira Sellerio 50 int. 1 90141 Palermo tel. 091 6254194 fax 091 6255737

e-mail: rights@sellerio.it www.sellerio.it