

ITALIAN AUTHORS

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PAOLA CEREDA



Born and bred in Brianza, in Northern Italy, she graduated in Psychology at the University of Turin, with a dissertation about Jewish humour. She specialized in international cooperation, especially through artistic and theatre projects in social work. She has travelled and worked in many countries, such as Colombia, Argentina, Egypt and Romania. She now lives in Turin and collaborates with ASAI (Intercultural Animation Association) in artistic projects for Italian and foreign children and teenagers.

As Novelist, she was a finalist in Premio Calvino in 2001 and in 2009. Works published: *Della vita di Alfredo*, her first novel (2009). Then: *Se chiedi al vento di restare* (Piemme, 2014, shortlisted Premio Rieti), *Le tre notti dell'abbondanza* (Piemme 2015, Premio Pavoncella 2016 per la Creatività Femminile, sez. Letteratura, new edition Perrone 2020), *Confessioni Audaci di un ballerino di liscio* (Baldini+Castoldi, 2017) shortlisted at Premio Rapallo Carige and Premio Asti d'Appello. A special Mention for the literary Critic by the Jury in Premio Vigevano 2017. In 2019 the novel *Quella metà di noi* (Giulio Perrone Editore) was shortlisted in the 12 titles of Premio Strega, wond Premio Brianza and Premio Segafredo Zanetti "Un libro, un film" (One book, one film).

La Figlia del Ferro

literary novel



Iole is from Elba, an island of mines and iron. The bombing of 1943 forced her to face the German occupation alone and the long months before the liberation. Laundress and daughter of an anarchist who taught her the importance of not having masters, she is not afraid to live her body and indulge its appetites, whether with a soldier leaving for the front or with Mario, the young neighbor full of promise. The year 1944 arrives and with it the landing of the allies. Among them is also Ibrah, Senegalese rifleman of the French colonial troops. The population celebrates but immediately realizes that the following hours will be the most dramatic to endure and the most difficult to tell.

There are bodies to tie the threads of this story together: Iole's body and Ibrah's body, the bodies of the women and those of the soldiers. And there are questions that have the unusual task of remaining what

they are: just questions.

Paola Cereda is inspired by an episode of our recent past, forgotten by most people and yet emblematic, to tell the story of flesh and iron, fragility and acts of courage that move History.

Italy: Giulio Perrone Editore

French version available

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AMANDA COLOMBO. ITALY , 1973



After graduating in Philosophy with a focus on Social Communications, in 1999 she married her bookseller and still manages the family bookstore with him in Legnano. Books are her home.

'*Meno male che ci siete voi*' is her first novel.

Meno male che ci siete voi (Thank goodness you're here)



1. When a customer enters, always greet them first.
2. Never ask the customer what they want, but how you can help them.
3. Listen to the customer carefully.
4. Never judge.
5. Smile. Always smile.
6. Let those who enter explore every nook of the bookstore.
7. When a child enters, get down to their eye level.
8. Dare when you can. Take risks. Take the customer away from their usual tastes.
9. Read a lot, a whole lot.
10. Be patient. Choosing a book is like finding a friend: some dive right in, others approach with caution.

At the dawn of thirty-five, Bianca leaves the Dolomites behind to escape a painful memory and moves to the village where she spent her childhood, just outside Milan. She decides to return to her grandmother's apartment, where she was truly happy. Because, downstairs, there is "Virginia's Room," Mr. Marco's bookstore, which always welcomed her with a smile and good advice. She grew up among those dusty shelves, wrapping books behind the counter and consulting texts for school research. When the old bookseller announces that he is about to close, Bianca can't believe it, and although saddened, she accepts the proposal to help him in the remaining months. Day after day, she learns from Mr. Marco the tricks of the trade: how to lend an ear without being intrusive or how to interpret the gestures of customers looking for a book. Bianca's new life is also filled with her best friends, the unstoppable Mavi and the patient Dele, each with their own problems but ready to support each other. Yet, to move forward, Bianca knows she must settle accounts with the past. And perhaps the bookstore can be a starting point, both for her and her friends.

Italy: Garzanti 2023 (256pp), **Germany:** Thiele Verlag

For years, Amanda Colombo has worked as a bookseller and has learned to guide customers in choosing a book, discovering that often they are not just looking for a good read. From her experience came "Thank Goodness You're Here," a debut that is not just an ode to bookstores but above all a story of friendship and growth, which passes through pain and flourishes thanks to printed paper. Because there is no right age to discover and pursue a passion.

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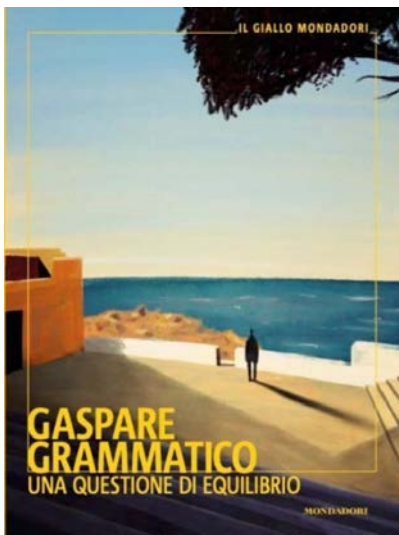
GASPARE GRAMMATICO



Gaspare Grammatico (Erice, Italy, 1970), is a television writer. *A matter of balance. The investigations of Commissioner Nenè Indelicato* is his first novel already sold (before be published) to a producer for a serie TV.

Una questione di equilibrio

crime



On a serene Friday morning in April, in Trapani, within the cellar of his villa, the lifeless body of a man was discovered, bearing the marks of brutal torture. The victim in question was none other than the renowned oenologist Platimiro Greco, a familiar face on the small screen due to his frequent and tempestuous appearances on an exclusive program. Tasked with the investigation is Commissioner Antonio Indelicato, affectionately known as Nenè. He is an unassuming individual, devoid of any extraordinary abilities, save for the fact that he has single-handedly raised his daughter Sara, who, at fourteen years old, possesses a wisdom beyond her years, owing to her mother's decision to abandon them upon her birth. Assisted by his brilliant team, consisting of Salvina Russo and a meticulous coroner, Nenè swiftly discerns that the victim had amassed more adversaries

than allies, each with a compelling motive for seeking revenge. To untangle the web of this case, Nenè must navigate the delicate threshold where a wounded individual transforms into a ruthless murderer.

This novel brims with unexpected twists, occasionally infused with irony, and populated by unforgettable characters. Trapani, the city itself, becomes an integral part of the narrative, with its culinary delights, Sicilian flavors, and an indelible old town. Nenè, slightly absent-minded and occasionally melancholic, is an avid reader, perpetually juggling the delicate balance between work and his personal life, much like the rest of us.

Italy: Mondadori 260 PAGES; Film rights sold

"A new Camilleri is born". Comment from many readers on Instagram, Amazon and Audible.

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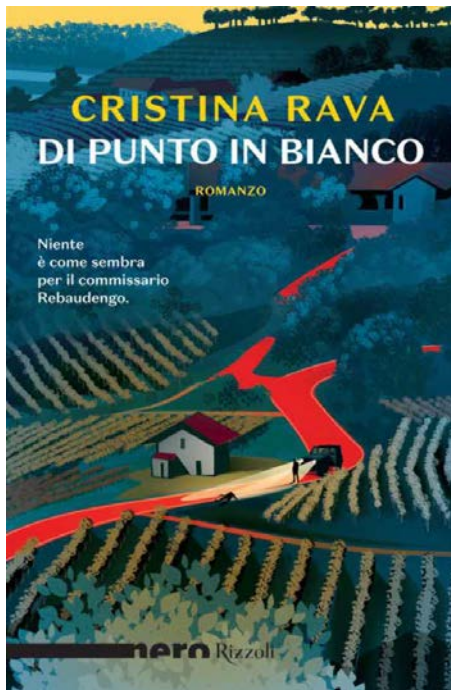
CRISTINA RAVA



Cristina Rava was born in 1958 and lives in her hometown in western Liguria. Since 2007, she has embarked on the path of noir with five detective novels featuring Commissioner Bartolomeo Rebaudengo, all published by Frilli. With Garzanti, she has started a new series dedicated to forensic pathologist Ardelia Spinola: *Un mare di silenzio* (2012). Following *Dopo il nero della notte* (2014), *Quando finiscono le ombre* (2016), and *L'Ultima sonata* (2017), which concludes the cycle. With *Di punto in bianco* (Nero Rizzoli, 2019), Cristina Rava inaugurates a new series with the return of the beloved Commissioner Bartolomeo Rebaudengo.

Di punto in bianco

crime

"He's back: Bartolomeo Rebaudengo!"

In autumn, the hills of Piedmont are a state of the soul: a bluish mist encircling the ridges, a subtle melancholy invading the hearts. Commissioner Bartolomeo Rebaudengo knows this well and he has decided to retire to the Langhe so as to get a break from murders, crime scenes, profiling techniques. However, for people like him, there is no retirement that holds. And so, the policeman finds himself investigating the death of young Dario, who disappeared after a party with alcohol and drugs only to be found dead several days later. This crime is also an opportunity to reunite with Ardelia Spinola, the forensic doctor with an infallible intuition who has a habit of getting into trouble and hides her fragility behind sharp irony. The passion of the past between the two has given way to the game of skirmishes and the sting of regrets, although the two – as different as day and night – continue to spark.

Meanwhile, there's trouble in the hills and even the devil adds his tail, dictating an impressive sequence of tragic coincidences and guilty omissions, inextricable misunderstandings and ruinous gestures. The hunt will push Ardelia and Bartolomeo into the shadows of a still wild land and into the darkness of a mind obsessed with revenge.

Cristina Rava confirms herself as one of the sharpest voices in female noir, composing with thoughtful lightness and impeccable humor a very dark comedy about the miseries of those struggling in adversity, along with the sincere confession of what women don't say.

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ELISA RUOTOLO

SANTA MARIA VICO (CAMPANIA) (ITALY), 1975



With the publisher notttempo she published her debut book, the short story collection *Ho rubato la pioggia*, in 2010 and her first novel *Ovunque, proteggici* in 2014. Her first children's book entitled *Una grazia di cui disfarsi* was published in 2018. *Antonia Pozzi, il dono della vita alle parole* (edizioni RueBallu), followed in 2019 by the editing of the volume *Mia vita cara. Cento poesie d'amore e silenzio di Antonia Pozzi* (Edizioni Interno Poesia), and the poetry publications *Corpo di pane* (edizioni notttempo, 2019) and *Alveare* (Crocetti, 2023). Her latest novel is *Quel luogo a me proibito* (Feltrinelli, 2021). *The Long Winter of Ugo Singer* was selected in the triplet of the prestigious

Campielo Junior Prize 2023 (category 11+).

Quel luogo a me proibito (Una donna Bonsai)

literary



In a Southern Italy that is still partly archaic, a girl tries to grow up despite a suffocating family environment, where every gesture and every word are ruthlessly measured by social judgment; where joy, desire, self-knowledge, and knowledge of one's own body are forbidden territories. The protective nest becomes a knot difficult to untie. "Family was this: a sharing of the private, a defect of autonomy, a continuous call to the other, a support that became a burden." The only exception is the maternal grandmother, unconventional and extremely vital, from whom the granddaughter feels she has inherited the "wild blood", an underlying urge to break bonds and disobey. For her, this attraction is embodied, in childhood but especially in adolescence, in Nicla, her schoolmate, a free and instinctive girl who is not afraid to hang out with boys. The education that restrains the body, the fear of desire, and the shame of inadequacy, on the other hand, hold back the protagonist, who only unleashes herself in her fantasies or in books. So much so that

we find her at forty-two still inexperienced in herself and in men, still a virgin. Her smallness is akin to that of a bonsai tree stunted by too many cuts and ligatures. She has a job and has left behind the dialect from which she comes, when she meets a man who lays his hand on the tightest knot. "I had always thought that everything for me could be resolved in the confines of a room or in the affections I was born into, but Andrea now showed me that there was also something else." It's about trusting, but how much courage does it take to take responsibility for one's own pleasure?

Italy: Feltrinelli 160 PAGES; French Cambourakis

"What a unique, wonderful novel Elisa Ruotolo has written, despite having seen little of the world, showing us that talent, perspective, even experience are categories of the soul, born and raised in a corner of the garden." - **Teresa Ciabatti, la Lettura**

French version available

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ELISA RUOTOLO

Il lungo inverno di Ugo Singer

Literary/inspirational



Sometimes friends look for each other, sometimes they find us. Sam is a baby mouse, and he finds Ugo – when he's not yet Ugo – in a damp basement. Together with his boisterous siblings, the mouse is suspicious of the arrival of Esther, a turtle alone in the world, were it not for a small egg that he protects with infinite love and care. But suspicion gives way first to curiosity and then to thoughtfulness. And it is there, among the mice, in the dark, sheltered by an old sewing machine, that Ugo Singer comes into the world. Sam becomes his brother in soul as much as he is not in body and motions: a mouse and a turtle have different times, and Sam knows this, we know it. Ugo, no. Sam will help his friend fulfill his greatest wish: to get out of the basement, see the world and savor winter, despite the snow, despite Esther's fears, despite hibernation. In spite of everything. In the tradition of the fairy tale, but without moralizing or emphatic messages, with the force of evidence, Elisa Ruotolo shapes her poetic word into a story for everyone, which goes to the heart of important things and does

not explain them, she simply shows them.

Italy, Bompiani 2023 (96pp) – age: 8-88 (and more), **Germany**: Goldmann

German and English sample available

A literary jewel - For readers of all ages and lovers of “The little Prince”

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GIUSY SCIACCA



Giusy Sciacca, born in Lentini (SR), lives today between Rome and Syracuse. After graduating in Foreign Languages and Literature in Catania, she became an author of fiction and theatrical texts. In 2021 she published *Virità, feminine singular-plural* (Edizioni Kalòs), giving voice to twenty Sicilian women of Mediterranean mythology and history. She also writes about books and culture for various journalistic publications. This is her first novel.

D'AMORE E DI RABBIA



Sicily, July 1922. In Lentini, an agricultural center in the province of Syracuse under the breath of Mount Etna, a bloody event occurs, later buried by dust. Among the protagonists is Maria Giudice, a fervent trade unionist of Lombard origin and the mother of the writer Goliarda Sapienza. On the eve of the overpowering rise of fascism, a heated class struggle takes place in the town between the declining land-owning nobility, entrenched in the Baronial Palace of the Beneventano della Corte, and the laborers. On the verge of these two worlds lives Amelia Di Stefano, a woman who is "out of place".

A Sicilian proverb states that a caged bird does not sing out of love but out of anger: Amelia is a trapped woman. She was born in Catania and has noble origins, but she had to pay dearly for a mistake made in her youth. Now, after being betrayed by the family and friends of Catania's salons, she finds herself in exile in Lentini, where she oscillates between the clandestine relationship with Francesco, the eldest son of the powerful Baron Beneventano della Corte, and the charismatic idealism of Mariano Fortunato, a prominent figure in local unionism. A world of common people and places revolves around her: Santina's small shop, the damp huts, the colors and voices of the market, the barefoot races of devotees, narrow alleys, the Grotto of the Saints and its miracles. To comfort her are the affection of Enza, a strong-willed country leader, the imperfect smile of Tanino, the artisan friend, and the presence of Ciccio "lo sciancato" ("the lame"), the last among the outcast who is always there for her. The two universes coexist and intertwine and Amelia is always in the middle, on the edge, until she is presented with an inevitable choice. After that, nothing will ever be as it was.

In this novel, Giusy Sciacca gives us back an archaic and sanguine Sicily that tears itself apart under the pressures of a scandalous, impatient, and rebellious modernity that screams its anxiety for change.

Italy: Neri Pozza (224 pp.) **Book finalist for the 2023 BPER Banca Rapallo Prize – Fiction**

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