

Dalai editore

**RIGHTS BACKLIST
SPRING 2011**

Dalai editore

**Baldini Castoldi Dalai editore
Via De Amicis 43
20123 - Milano
ITALY**

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Giorgio Faletti
Io sono Dio
I Am God

600.000 copies sold

New York is kept on its toes by a serial killer who does not fit into any parameters known to criminologists. His actions do not appear to be hiding behind any morbid sentiments. He doesn't choose his victims one by one, following some elaborate mental plan. He doesn't look them in the eyes while they are dying. He wouldn't have enough eyes to do that. He doesn't kill one person at a time. He strikes en masse, causing large scale carnage. The explosion of a twenty-two storey building, followed by the casual discovery of an old letter, leads the police to face up to a dreadful reality: some of New York's buildings were mined at the time of their construction. But which ones? And how many? Why is this man's fury lashing out only now, so many years later? It is a very delicate situation. Every time the mad killer strikes, the result will inevitably be a massacre, but a general alert would cause chaos with apocalyptic consequences. Instead of leading towards a profile of a possible suspect, the few clues the detectives can work on all end up in blind alleys, as in the disappearance of a ghost. A young woman detective hiding her personal dramas behind a tough appearance, and a former press photographer with a past he'd rather forget, and for which he still seeks forgiveness, are the only hope of stopping this psychopath who does not even claim responsibility for his actions. A man who is taking his terrible revenge against the sorrow which has its roots in the greatest American tragedy of the second half of the XX century. A man who believes himself to be God.

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Author's bio

Giorgio Faletti, after taking a degree in Law, has been a singer-songwriter, TV comedian and actor based in Italy. *I Kill* was his first thriller, published in Italy in 2002, where it topped the bestseller lists for over a year. The novel was translated into 25 languages. In 2004 he published his second novel *Niente di vero tranne gli occhi* and in 2006 he released his third thriller *Fuori da un evidente destino*. In 2008 he published a collection of short stories titled *Pochi inutili nascondigli*. See backlist for titles published by Dalai editore.

PAGES: 525. PUBLICATION DATE: MAY 2009

Giorgio Faletti
Pochi inutili nascondigli
A Few Useless Hiding-Places

400.000 copies sold

“Pavese meets Stephen King... An experimental Faletti, curious and Italian”. *Corriere della Sera*

“Unexpected and fascinating stories, that sparing no irony manage to dispel the dark side of the incomprehensible, meanwhile confirming Faletti’s versatile talent.” *la Repubblica*

Seven short stories following in the path of the mystery tradition of Poe, Lovecraft and King, and making use of elements of the fantastic to reveal a new sense of dismay, an unknown panic. Erasers capable of deleting houses and people, cursed lawns, gentle monsters and animated manikins, calm atmospheres which explode all of a sudden, to reveal that particular form of horror, which only the incomprehensible can stir from within.

SYNOPSIS OF THE FIRST TWO STORIES

Eraser and Pencil

Marco Barison, a famous cartoonist for children’s books who discovers he is being betrayed and robbed by the wife and by the son of his publisher, discovers on a Greek island an eraser and a pencil with disturbing powers, that become the perfect means for his revenge. He quickly spirals into a deep fierceness, hastened by the easiness and “cleanliness” with which he can strike his enemies, who vanish one after the other until Marco, hunted down by a police inspector, is forced to surrender in the face of “evidence of the impossible”, and decides to rub out himself.

The Last Friday of Mrs Kliemann

Carlo Anselmi is an old and purebred inhabitant of the Isle of Elba; he leads his life according to the seasonal rhythms of the island. He is therefore most surprised to discover that the Kliemanns have arrived at their villa much earlier than usual, and without giving any notice; he is mortified, because he is the only and somewhat negligent gardener of the villa. But what is the reason for this unexpected appearance? Why is beautiful Greta Kliemann acting so mysteriously? Why is she preventing everyone from approaching her husband Kurt? The truth of the matter – as Carlo will learn – is that Kurt Kliemann has been dead for the past two months. Who is the woman’s companion in this untimely holiday? Gratifying his curiosity will prove a most disturbing experience for the old man.

PAGES: 380. PUBLICATION DATE: MAY 2008

Translation Rights sold to: GERMANY (Goldmann)

Giorgio Faletti

Io uccido

I Kill

4.500.000 copies sold

I Kill is set in rich, luxurious Montecarlo. One day, Jean Loup Verdier, a radio DJ, while broadcasting, answers a delirious phone call. The person on the other end of the line declares himself a murderer. The phone call is dismissed as a stupid joke, but the next day a Formula One pilot and his girlfriend are found killed and horribly mutilated. This cruel double murder is assigned to Hulot, a detective with a family troubled by the premature death of his young son. Hulot sets out in chase of the killer with his old friend Frank Ottobre, an FBI agent with his own personal tragedy to bear. During the investigation, the killer strikes again: information technology millionaire genius Allen Yoshida, who created an operating system competing with Microsoft, is found bled and horribly mutilated in an underground car park. Other murders follow, each one pre-announced by a phone call and a song, almost as a leitmotiv, the killer's track leading to the next victim. A peculiarity of these killings is that all the bodies are mutilated and their face is removed, as though it were a mask. The two detectives meet many touching characters, such as Pierrot, the young autistic boy, whose computer-like memory and amazing knowledge of music will help Hulot solve the enigma. In the second half of the book, Faletti provides the reader with more clues in order to help him reach the solution. He never reveals the killer's name, but he guides the reader towards a plausible discovery of his identity.

I Kill then changes, its rhythm rises and the style becomes pressing and distressing, mirroring the desperate effort to find the killer before he strikes again. Before the end of the book, the murderer's name is disclosed. This could be regarded as an own goal, in terms of suspense. On the contrary, as Hitchcock teaches us, a very different kind of suspense sets in: the one in which the reader tries to understand and organize all the clues, and follows the way the two detectives close in on the killer. These last pages are indeed the most breathtaking of the whole book.

PAGES: 530. ENGLISH MS AVAILABLE

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Film Rights sold to: Filmauro/Aurelio De Laurentiis

Giorgio Faletti
Niente di vero tranne gli occhi
Nothing True but the Eyes

2.500.000 copies sold

The second breath-taking thriller by Giorgio Faletti confirms his genius for creating a perfect narrative mechanism. A former fascinating police officer and a beautiful detective, a man and a woman trying to discover the truth. A wicked murderer obsessed with comic strips links Rome and New York, which are beautifully portrayed. Jordan Marsalis is a fascinating 37-year-old ex police officer and brother of Christopher, the mayor of New York. Maureen Martini is a beautiful 29-year-old detective working for the police force in Rome, daughter of a renowned international restaurateur, and of one of the most clever criminal lawyers in New York. After the tragic death of her boyfriend, killed by Abner Gallani, whose brother Avenir had been shot by Maureen in self defence, she moves to the Big Apple. Maureen needs to undergo surgery because her eyes were seriously injured when Gallani beat her up violently. Meanwhile a cruel murder has taken place in New York: Gerald Marsalis (known as Jerry Kho), a rebellious and introvert Body Art painter, who incidentally is the son of the mayor of New York and Jordan Marsalis' nephew, is found dead in his studio. The corpse, completely stained in red paint, is arranged in a way that recalls Linus, one of the Peanuts characters by Charles Schulz: with a blanket next to his ear and his thumb stuck in his mouth. Christopher Marsalis asks his brother to investigate this cruel murder together with James Burrioni, a skilled detective. During their investigation, the killer strikes again: Chandelle Stuart, a film producer with strange sexual perversions. Her corpse recalls Lucy's character: leant against a piano, listening to Shroeder playing. Maureen Martini, who has undergone a corneal transplant, starts having distressingly weird visions that seem to have something in common with the ferocious murders that have recently taken place. Here begins the crazy race of Maureen and Jordan towards the truth, a race sometimes interrupted by moments of love, friendship and complicity. But the killer will certainly strike again. Who is Snoopy? Who is Pig Peng? And why does this wicked murderer find pleasure in killing his victims and leaving their corpses in postures that recall some of the most amusing comic-strips in the world? The rhythm rises, the plot becomes thicker, eventful and articulated, populated by the widest variety of characters, all analysed with great sharpness. But in a gloomy New York, where nothing is ever what it appears to be, the truth will be disclosed only at the very end...

PAGES: 514. ENGLISH EXCERPTS AVAILABLE

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Culture)

*rights newly available

Film Rights optioned by: Filmauro/Aurelio De Laurentiis* - *rights newly available

Giorgio Faletti
Fuori da un evidente destino
Out of a Manifest Destiny

2.500.000 copies sold

There is no harder journey than a trip into the past. Jim Mackenzie, a helicopter pilot of Native American origin, learns this at his own expense when he returns to Flagstaff, a quiet town in Arizona on the outskirts of the Navajo reserve where he was born, and from which he has forcibly uprooted himself. He returns to scatter to the wind the ashes of his Native American grandfather – the Great Chief of the Navajo Nation, who brought him up – and finds himself caught up in a vortex of unsettled issues and never-told truths (a betrayed friend, a son he never knew he had). He finds the past he left behind – loves, friendships, revenge and forgiveness – and, above all, the traditions and ancestral ties with his homeland. In the midst of this vortex, a series of terrible murders take place, all with the same killing method in common. The bones of all the corpses are so shattered that the bodies would almost appear to be boneless, with no evident signs of violence. Groping in the dark, inspector Robert Beaudysin ends up involving Jim in the inquest, because he is always on hand when a crime occurs. A thriller dotted with mysterious and unnatural deaths that will in the end reveal itself as a horror story, for the reaper of the victims is a Shadow-killer generated by Mother Earth, the giver and taker of life in the Navajo tradition. The Shadow-that-kills had been called upon in 1862 by the brujo Eldero, a Navajo chief with magic powers, to revenge the massacre of his people and the white family of his son-in law, carried out by four unscrupulous men who wanted to take possession of their lands. However, Eldero had been killed before he could complete the curse, and the Shadow remained “dormant” until such time as the Vessel of Earth used for the ritual was found in a cave and the powder it contained accidentally spilt. The circle is hence completed, and the Shadow is created – and will not find peace until it has killed all the people that Eldero had pointed out as targets. However, given that over a century has passed, it will kill the descendants of those who carried out the original massacres. Among them, the girlfriend Jim has rediscovered, along with her son and his best friend. A race against the clock begins to save as many lives as possible from a shapeless entity that is able to strike only when the designed victims rest on bare ground, where it can reach them from the entrails of the Earth, leaving horrifying upside-down prints. But how can it be stopped?

PAGES: 512. ENGLISH EXCERPTS AVAILABLE

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Film Rights optioned by: Filmauro/Aurelio De Laurentiis - *rights newly available

Enrico Brizzi
La nostra guerra
Our War

Our War by Enrico Brizzi, is the second episode in the saga of Lorenzo Pellegrini set in Fascist Italy, the prequel of *The Unexpected Turn of Events*.

Through a flashback to the 1940s, the Bolognese author presents us a *Bildungsroman* with no fitting comparison in Italian fiction: the war the title refers to represents at two levels both the illusionary war where a Fascist Italy together with the allied forces opposes the Third Reich, and the conflict between father and mother that tears apart the main character's family.

Lorenzo will pass from the reassuring bourgeois life of grammar school studies and summer holidays in Riccione on the Adriatic coast, to the harsh and shocking experience of being an evacuee.

The teenager will witness the progressive distance between his parents; he will participate, first as a member of the *balilla* (Italian Fascist Youth Movement), then as an *avanguardista* (Fascist Adolescent Group), in the life of a nation at war, fighting the battles that oppose boys of rival villages and towns: surviving the bombings, and the initiation experiences of adolescence will represent Lorenzo's greatest victory.

The alternate history setting is constructed with impressive realism. Between a laugh and a sigh, a niggling question creeps its way into the reader's mind: isn't the crazy Italy portrayed by Brizzi a bit too uncomfortably similar to the Italy of our time?

Author's bio

Enrico Brizzi (born in Bologna in 1974) is one of the few Italian writers under 40 who doesn't need a special introduction. His debut novel *Jack Frusciante Has Left the Band* (Baldini&Castoldi, 1994) projected a twenty year old writer to the top of the bestseller list, and made Brizzi one of the most appreciated Italian writers, together with his following novels: *Bastogne* (Baldini&Castoldi, 1996) and *Tre ragazzi immaginari* (Baldini&Castoldi, 1998). In 2008 Brizzi published *The Unexpected Turn of Events* with Dalai editore, the first episode of non too fictional Italy. See backlist for titles published by B.C.Dalai editore.

PAGES: 656. PUBLICATION DATE: NOVEMBER 2009

BY THE SAME AUTHOR:

L'inattesa piega degli eventi
The Unexpected Turn of Events

30.000 copies sold

«*This novel by Enrico Brizzi marks the literary maturity of this author...
The result is a crackling and likely story.*» **Corriere della Sera**

Fascist Italy has just broken up the alliance with Hitler and has in fact opposed Nazi ambitions, suffering hardship and invasion by Germany and Vichy France, but has finally gained a place at the winners' table in 1945. Fascism is triumphant in exiting a conflict that is destined to enter the memory of Italians as "our war"; even the House of Savoy is eliminated from the national scenario.

In 1960, fifteen years after the armistice, Benito Mussolini is a 77 year old man, approaching his end, while his dictatorship carries on wearily, corrupted and torn by the internal strife amongst aspiring successors, particularly between the designated candidate to the succession, Pavolini, and the leader of the moderates, the Senate's president, Italo Balbo. The Italian role amongst the great powers is proving a mirage in a world kept under check by the two nuclear arsenals of the US and the USSR. With the imminent Olympic Games of Rome, awaited by the government as a great opportunity for international propaganda, Italy's future hovers in the balance like never before... It is against this sort of surreal backdrop that the voyage in Africa by 30 year old talented sports reporter Lorenzo Pellegrini takes place; Lorenzo has recently come to odds with Margherita, daughter of the owner of his newspaper. Her father, furious at learning of Lorenzo's love affair with Margherita, cancels his name from the list of the journalists registered for coverage of the Olympic Games in Rome, and sends him to Asmara and Addis Abeba, to follow the last fixtures of the African Series, the league collecting all the very best of Eritrean, Ethiopian and Somalian football. What is meant as an exile becomes an opportunity to discover a fascinating and all but appeased Country, where the contrast between the rhetorical of pompous neo-colonialist buildings and the everyday life of the majority of the black population could not be more striking. Football in this particular social context represents much more than in Italy, giving vent to never soothed tensions. Lorenzo soon grows fond of Saint George of Addis Abeba, the main interracial club in the Horn of Africa, dear to anti-fascists and idolized by the Ethiopian people as a symbol of national redemption...

PAGES: 518. PUBLICATION DATE: MAY 2008

Jack Frusciante è uscito dal gruppo (Jack Frusciante Has Left the Band)

2.500.000 copies sold / PAGES: 192. ENGLISH MS AVAILABLE

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Film Rights sold to: Medusa Film (1996), RAI (2007)

Raul Montanari
Strane cose domani
Strange Tomorrows

Can you be a murderer and innocent at the same time?

Danio is a psychologist, he is separated from his wife and has a twenty year old son, Tommaso, restless as many people of his age are. Danio has a girlfriend, Chiara, and among his women patients, all madly in love with him, is a secret lover, the unrestrained and voluptuous Cristina.

But, more importantly, Danio hides a terrible secret. He is a murderer. He has killed two men, at different times in his life, but in both cases he was forced to kill due to very odd circumstances.

No one knows this, except his ex-wife, the mysterious and magic Eliana.

One day he finds a young woman's diary, randomly left on the bench of a public park, and this event will crush the delicate and unstable rhythm of his days; he will become progressively involved in the spirals of a hateful family drama. Urged by his conscience and followed everywhere by a weird and memorable private detective, Danio will have to defend himself and his loved ones from an unexpected threat. This triggers a chain reaction of unexpected pressing events that will compel the main character to take stock and come to terms with the real meaning of his life. After the success of *The First Night*, Raul Montanari continues the development of his poetics, where the suspense, far from the *topoi* of the noir, turns more and more into a means of presenting in an enthralling way some deep existential questions, and to express an indomitable love of life.

Author's bio

Raul Montanari was born in Bergamo in 1959. He lives and works in Milan, where he teaches creative writing and works for theatre, radio, cinema and the web. He is one of the writers who freed Italian noir fiction from the underrating "genre" label, winning for it a place of all respect in the European map of fiction.

See backlist for further titles published by Baldini Castoldi Dalai *editore*.

PAGES: 280. PUBLICATION DATE: SEPTEMBER 2009

Film rights sold!!!

BY THE SAME AUTHOR:

La prima notte
The First Night

20.000 copies sold

Milan, March 2008: a girl and a guy pass their first night together. They make love, they eat, they drink, they whisper sweet nothings to each other. And they talk. It is mostly Irene who does the talking: she tells her lover the extraordinary story of her life, often marked by dramatic events, that she relates nonetheless with a smiling and irresistible levity. Springing from a mysterious and ancient blood feud, her story ends up depicting a four-sided affair where Irene has to confront an ambiguous husband, a jealous lover, and an enigmatic prosecutor deeply in love with her. Tension rises to then finally drop into an unexpected conclusion, where all pending issues from the past are settled, but where the future remains to be invented. Only the last chapter shall unveil the identity of the man who has so passionately passed these first hours with Irene. An unexpected, out of the ordinary novel, *The First Night* does not abandon the suspense that represents the distinctive mark of its author's style. More than to evoke shadows and threats (that are not missing in the novel), the author skilfully applies the technique of suspense to investigate the ever topical relation between man and woman.

PAGES: 288. PUBLICATION DATE: MAY 2008

FIRST CHAPTER ON REQUEST AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH AND GERMAN TRANSLATION

L'esistenza di Dio
The Existence of God
PAGES: 320

La verità bugiarda
The Lying Truth
PAGES: 322

Che cosa hai fatto
What Have You Done
PAGES: 276

Translation Rights sold to: GERMANY (Ullstein)

Chiudi gli occhi
Close Your Eyes
PAGES: 120

Translation Rights sold to: GERMANY (Ullstein)

Il buio divora la strada
Darkness Devours the Road
PAGES: 214

Luciano Marrocu
Il caso del croato morto ucciso
The Case of the Murdered Croatian

A new adventure of the detectives Carruezzo and Serra, set in Italy or, more precisely, in the Europe of the 30's.

1934. Two policemen working in the General and Confidential Affairs Division of the Home Office, Eupremio Carruezzo and Luciano Serra, are investigating into the murder of a Croatian ustaša, who has been found dead at his house in Rome near Piazza della Chiesa Nuova. Findings lead to the discovery of a terrorist plan to murder Yugoslavia's King Alexander, whom the Croatian nationalists consider to be the main impediment to the independence of Croatia.

Police Chief Arturo Bocchino assigns the investigation to the two policemen, who begin investigating into the planned terrorist attack, the rough outline of which was revealed to Bocchini by an undercover informer of the political police, who is constantly in the public eye, passing as one of the top representatives of the Italian Antifascist movement in Paris.

In a grim and mysterious French capital, populated by International spies, sentimental policemen nostalgic for Italy, and dubious antifascists, Carruezzo and Serra manage to meet the informer who, after an intense interrogation, provides further information on the identity of the possible terrorist attacker.

Following this trail, Carruezzo and Serra end up in Barcelona, where the state of ferment suggests that the civil war is about to break out, the revelations of a bewitching night club singer will lead them to Marseille, where the case will come to a head. The finale will stage our heroes in Rome and star a Mussolini as never seen before.

Author's bio

Luciano Marrocu has taught at La Sapienza Rome University and currently teaches Contemporary History at the University of Cagliari where he lives. His non-fiction historical works include: *Il modello laburista* (1985); *Il salotto della signora Webb* (1992); the essay "ventennio fascista" included in the volume on Sardinia of Einaudi's *Storia d'Italia* (1998); *Theodor Mommsen nell'isola dei falsari* (2009), *Orwell. La solitudine di uno scrittore* (2010). He is the author of three (serial) novels: *Fàulas* (2000), *Debrà Libanos* (2002), *Scarperosse, tacchi a spillo* (2004), translated into Danish and French.

Translation rights:

DENMARK (Ries Forlag) SERBIA (StylosArt)

PAGES: 176. PUBLICATION DATE: JULY 2010

Gavino Ledda
Padre padrone. L'educazione di un pastore
My Father, My Master. The Education of a Shepherd

«He's mine. I need him on the land». With these words, sounding much like a life sentence, Abramo snatches his son from school, forcing him to tend his flock of sheep on the mountains. From that day onwards the only teachers in the life of Gavino will be solitude, hard work and the wild and harsh nature of the Sardinian landscape. Nothing is able to bend the will of this bright and sensitive child, who waits for the right moment to rebel against his father, win his independence and break free from the «master». This is the story of the shepherd-intellectual who emancipates himself from his land, passing through the stages of illiterate child, Sardinian mute and frightened soldier amongst "continental" peers during military service, and finally the stage of university graduate. Gavino attains his degree thanks to an unshakeable determination, and well conscious of the fact that his fate should have been a very different one, but never disowning his love for nature, his lifelong trustworthy friend.

Author's bio

Gavino Ledda was born in Siligo (Sassari) in 1938. Forced from his family to work as a shepherd, he does not attend school until the age of twenty. It is only embracing his military service that he was able to get a secondary education school-leaving certificate. After his discharge from the army he continued his studies and in 1969 he graduated in Linguistics at Rome University La Sapienza. He writes *Padre Padrone. The education of a shepherd* which is published by Feltrinelli in 1975 and wins the debut novel award from the Viareggio Literary Prize. The book has an extraordinary success in Italy and abroad, and the Taviani brothers will adapt the novel into a widely appreciated film which won at the Cannes festival in 1977. After his fantastic debut, Ledda continued to enrich his life through works of fiction such as novels, poetry, movies and, more recently, with paintings.

PAGES: 214

Translation rights*

FRANCE (Gallimard) GERMANY (Fischer/Artemis & Winkler) HUNGARY (Kozmosz Könyvek)
JAPAN (Heibonsha) THE NETHERLANDS (Nederlandse Boeken) PORTUGAL (Editora Nova Fronteira)
SERBIA (Žaloš) SPAIN (Grijalbo) SWEDEN (Carlsson Forlag) SWITZERLAND (Benziger)
US (Urizen Books / Viking)

***rights currently available**

Giovanni Arpino
Il buio e il miele
Scent of a woman

From the adaptation of this wonderful story, two brilliant movies have been produced: *Profumo di donna* in 1974, directed by Dino Risi and starring Vittorio Gassman, and its famous American remake *Scent of a Woman* in 1992, directed by Martin Brest and starring Oscar winner Al Pacino. Captain Fausto, the main character of the novel, is an officer who, for an accident in times of peace, has lost his sight and a hand. He is like an Achab with no White Whale to fight, prisoner in a dark world, a Ulysses without Iliad, who can only rely on a brief Odyssey (a week, also known as five plus two in military lingo) between Genoa and Rome, with final stop in Naples, the city of the sun, where death is waiting for him. A novel which does not seem to accept the common fate awaiting all books, that of being labelled and eventually buried under a definition, and of being commemorated at the most by some casual and absentminded readers.

Author's bio

Giovanni Arpino was born in Pola in 1927. He moved to Piedmont in his youth and spent his life in Turin. He graduated presenting a thesis on Esenin in 1951 and the following year saw his debut as a novelist. He worked also as a journalist for daily newspapers (*La Stampa*, *Il Giornale*) as a reviewer and sports reporter. As a sports reporter he wrote about football and sport in general with passion and irony, raising to a higher cultural level a genre regarded by most as vulgar rubbish. He won the Strega Prize in 1964 with *L'ombra delle colline* (The Shadow of the Hills), the Campiello Prize in 1972 with *Randagio è l'eroe* (The Stray Hero) and the SuperCampiello Prize in 1980 with *Il fratello italiano* (The Italian Brother). He died in Turin in 1987.

PAGES: 148. ENGLISH MS AVAILABLE

Translation Rights sold to:

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UK (Penguin Modern Classics)

Theatre rights sold to:

Dreamers Productions

BY THE SAME AUTHOR, RIGHTS ACQUIRED ON THE FOLLOWING BACKLIST TITLES:

L'ombra delle colline (The Shadow of the Hills) – **WINNER OF THE STREGA PRIZE IN 1964**

La suora giovane (The Young Nun)

Delitto d'onore (Honour Killing)

Alberto Custerlina
Mano nera
Black Hand

«Swift writing and complex geopolitical plots matched by an impressive visionary and acid exoticism. Alberto Custerlina is the winning bet of Italian noir.» Giuseppe Genna

Under the leaden sky of a Sarajevo anxiously waiting for a spring late to wake, Sanja and Nadira Karahasan, daughter and nephew of a Bosniak minister, get kidnapped. Meanwhile, the Sarajevo Haggadah, an ancient Sephardic manuscript kept at the National Museum, gets stolen. The illuminated manuscript, considered as the symbol of a multicultural society which now seems difficult to rebuild in a region still heavily scarred by civil war, is one of Bosnia's treasures.

With such sensational stunts, that prompt the population to protest in the streets, the revived Black Hand tries to spark off another Balkan rebellion.

Ljudmila Horvat, a Croatian and extremist Catholic killer, will try her best to avoid the worst case scenario in a battle against time where organized crime, foreign countries and ruthless adventurers are involved. Working alongside Ljudmila are Kostas the Greek and Darko Kavajan, two dubious characters conspiring in the shadows to bring to justice a war criminal and cash in on the generous reward. But not all is what it seems. Obscure memories emerge from the past and the enigmatical chess player Kirill Todorovski, a Russian with a Serb mother, is making his moves on a chess board where not all the pieces are visible. Through a complex plot rich in action and the total absence of a clear distinction between Good and Evil, Alberto Custerlina takes the reader in the world of Bosniak crime, in a land still torn by ethnic and religious divisions, and prey to ravenous and ruthless wolves who struggle for the control of politics and illegal business.

Author's bio

Alberto Custerlina, 44, was born and lives in Trieste. In 2008 *Balkan Bang!* won him the appreciation of both critics and readers.

PAGES 160. PUBLICATION DATE: JULY 2010

Caterina Cavina
La Merla
The Female Blackbird

A story with elements of the fantastic, the horror, the realistic, and the comic. A work of great originality which you will read in a sitting.

At Nuovariva, a port with few houses and many taverns in the Emilian lowland, the murder of women seems to have always been a local habit. The corpses finish at the bottom of the marsh's dark green waters, and never resurface again. But one day, the corpse of a girl, murdered on the banks of the river during the "days of the female blackbird" (i.e. the last three days of January, the coldest and shortest of the year), does not sink immediately and remains on the frozen surface of the water until spring. No one dares to collect it. For everyone the girl becomes known as "the female blackbird". Sixty years later, she emerges again and, protected by the strange nun Leonida and by the nice *carabiniere*, marshal Fringolani, she becomes a kind of avenger, who kills all the "two footed pigs". For all the rest, her life restarts from the point where it was interrupted. After a troubled adolescence, the young woman starts working as a crime news reporter for the local newspaper. But she has an advantage on all her colleagues: corpses tell her their stories.

With a skilful mix of registers, Caterina Cavina has written a novel of incredible richness: gothic, realistic and picaresque at the same time. Amongst extraordinary characters, like Becca, Boccadirosa and Doris, all regular customers of the Eel Bar, and horror tinted episodes, *The Female Blackbird* makes us laugh, cry and think, keeping us glued to the story until the last page.

Author's bio

Caterina Cavina was born in 1972 at Castel San Pietro Terme, in the province of Bologna. After a short city experience (having studied in Turin until her degree in Communication Sciences) she went back to the Emilian lowland, where she works as a crime news journalist. For Dalai editore she published in 2008 *Le ciccione lo fanno meglio (Fat Chicks Do it Better)*, which enjoyed a great commercial success.

PAGES: 144. PUBLICATION DATE: OCTOBER 2010

BY THE SAME AUTHOR:

Le ciccione lo fanno meglio **Fat Chicks Do it Better**

Alice is not your typical unattractive, slightly overweight girl to whom literature has accustomed the public: a person who at the end of the story has a respectable job and marries the (even handsome) man who has always loved her in the shadows. Alice is an ugly, but seriously ugly woman, who in the end will find an unpredictable way to redeem herself.

«I have broad shoulders and a bull-like neck, with fat secured on a big hunch.» She is 6 foot in height, 22 stones in weight, she lives in a small rural village in the lowland of Emilia, Guazza del Re (literally «King's Dew»). Alice is horrible outside, and she does not shine on the inside either. She was born, one unlucky Christmas day, within a peculiar family setting.

Alfio, the father, runs away soon after her birth, mother Attilia is addicted to antidepressants, and sister Giorgia, astonishingly beautiful, is the living image of how Alice's existence would be, if her body were «normal». In the background, there is the life of a remote countryside village of the Emilian landscape, where absurd lovers-suitors make their appearance one after the other: doctor Chiatta, the pervert-dietologist; Brus, example of a philanthropic «penisfactor»; Vanis, the cousin-Satyr. Standing out from all the others, we have Spartaco Benelli, an alcoholic fisherman who is a generational stopping place for all the women in the little village. *Fat Chicks Do it Better* is a story of formation amid ditches and fields.

PAGES: 224. PUBLICATION DATE: APRIL 2008.

Film Rights sold to: Italian Dreams Factory (Maria Grazia Cucinotta)

Maria Tronca
Rosanero
Pink Black

A novel with a little pink and a little black; about mafia, love, magic and Palermo. The bare reality of a city full of problems intertwined with a magic story, in which everything can happen. And it does.

Calogero Mancuso, a young and handsome mafia man, is killed in the historical city centre of Palermo in a settling of scores between rival clans. At the same moment Rosellina Restivo, a 9 year old girl, falls from a swing and loses her senses. They are both taken to the same hospital. When Rosellina wakes up she acts strange, she is violent and swears but insists it is not her fault. The truth is that Calogero's soul has entered her body. Calogero now sees and hears through Rosellina's eyes and ears. And if she lets him, he can also talk, with a disquieting voice, and use the girl's body as if it was his own. Day after day, the mafia man discovers what it means to live on the other side, to live the extortion's nightmare. He comes to terms with a secret from the shadows of his past. He experiences the anguish of betrayal. Through Rosellina's life he can feel the value of loyalty, disdain, and fondness. Together with his young ally, he can somehow let justice prevail. Then he abandons her body and scatters in the streets of Palermo. Where will he go?

Author's bio

Maria Tronca was born in Palermo in 1962 and she has collaborated for women magazines such as *Marie Claire* and *Vanity Fair*, managing online and phone related editorial products of great success. For ten years she has been editor-in-chief of a series of erotic literature publications with over 150.000 copies sold and she is now editorial director of www.codavispa.it, a portal wholly dedicated to animals, domestic and wild. She is also co-founder of Coda Vispa Social Club, the first real social network for animals: dogs, cats, fish, birds and also felt cuddlies.

PAGES: 120. PUBLICATION DATE: SEPTEMBER 2010

Film Rights sold to: 11 Marzo Film

NON-FICTION

Giorgio Celli

Le piante non sono angeli. Astuzie, sesso e inganni del mondo vegetale
Plants are no angels. Artifices, sex and deceit of the vegetable kingdom

Do plants have a sex? Theophrastus, the successor of Aristotle in the Peripatetic school, had already had some doubts on this matter, observing palms and figs. His doubts however remained such for the whole of the Middle Ages... So the sex of plants was something producing a smell of Sulphur. All up to the Renaissance, when the famous scientist Andrea Cesalpino, botanist and anatomist, and personal physician to Pope Clement the VIII, started a thorough study on flowers, reaching the conviction that those splendid creatures, with their rainbow colours and fragrant perfumes, were nothing else but seductive sexual organs! It took the personal physician of a Pope to reach such a blasphemy conclusion. From then on, we know that when a man brings to a woman a bouquet of flowers, what he is really making is a very shameless sexual proposition! It is quite common to think of botany as boring science. Plants and flowers may often appear as a matter for gardening freaks. Not to mention all the Latin involved in the cataloguing of the species. God forbid! Instead, the animal world is so much closer to the human one, for the variety of the behaviours and for its "morality". We are more ready to ascribe intentions to a little fish fighting a love contender than we are to do for a plant. Plants do not move, they don't think, come on, they... vegetate! But what if that was not so? Giorgio Celli, ethologist and entomologist, manages with his typical humour to soften the scientific rigor leading us, in a journey full of surprises and curiosities, to the discovery of the winning behaviours in the millenary battle for survival of the plants. Potatoes putting aphids to flight by chemically pointing out the presence of a ladybird, their most feared predator; orchids disguising themselves in the sense of smell and touch as a female hymenopter, so the males, copulating from flower to flower, carry the pollen with them... Many amusing examples described like a comedy of tricks and deceits. And Celli dares more: revising and developing the ideas of the great naturalists of the past (Darwin, Haeckel and Fechner), he suggests intriguing hypotheses on the "intelligence" of plants. How else to explain the mimosa sensitive, which draws back in defence if touched, but adapts to this stimulation if it's repeated? How do climber plants manage to follow the support they grow on if this gets moved? What drives them? Can the discovery of an electric activity similar to that of the human nerves bring us to conclude plants have some kind of a nervous system? What is certain is that if plants deceive their predators, they also communicate between themselves and adapt to the pressures of the environment, this suggests that Nature's intelligence is a much more flexible concept than the one we think we comprehend.

Author's bio

Giorgio Celli is one of the most renowned Italian popularisers of science. He has taught entomology at Bologna University, where he is an emeritus professor. Member of the neo-avantgarde movement "Gruppo 63", he is a regular contributor to many publications, among which daily newspaper «La Stampa». His most recent books are *Etologia della vita quotidiana/Everyday Life Ethology*, *Darwin delle scimmie/The Darwin of the Apes*, *Vita segreta degli animali/The Secret Life of Animals*. Author and TV host of RAI 3 program *Nel regno degli animali /In the reign of animals*, from 1999 to 2004 he has been European parliamentary.

PAGES: 240. PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 2010

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INTERNATIONAL PRESS ON “*MAFIA EXPORT*”

“*From Italy: New book puts Mafia on the map*” / **Adnkronos International**, 4th of December 2009
Forgione's book crisscrosses the globe and publishes for the first time various maps showing how individual mafia clans have divided their business in countries as diverse as Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, Colombia, Brazil, Venezuela and Australia.

“*Book sheds light on organised crime by putting Mafia on the map*” by Lee Adendorff
brisbanetimes.com.au, 4th of December 2009
In a book Francesco Forgione, the president of the Italian Anti-Mafia Parliamentary Commission from 2006-2008, has used thousands of pages of court documents and judicial acts to create a map of global Mafia hot spots, or what has been dubbed the Italian atlas of organised crime. And Australia gets rather a large mention. Mr Forgione said Australia was "colonised" by the 'Ndrangheta, who used the proceeds of kidnapping in southern Italy to fund their legitimate and illegitimate business interests in Australia.

“*The British connection: Italian mafia finds UK good for doing business*”, by Tom Kington
The Observer, 27th of December 2009
The tentacles of the mafia are spreading to the UK according to Italy's leading expert in organised crime, Francesco Forgione. [...] Forgione has drawn up a list of suspected mob investments in London in which Italy's three main organised crime groups – Sicily's mafia, Calabria's 'Ndrangheta and the Neapolitan Camorra – are all represented. Forgione has the name of a London-based financial consultant who he says is linked to the 'Ndrangheta's Fazzari clan, a major force in drug smuggling. “They are not killing in London yet, just investing”, (Forgione added). In his new book, *Mafia Export*, Forgione includes maps showing where investigators believe Italian clans have operated overseas.

Die „saubere Mafia“ tötet nicht mehr, sie kauft (The “Clean Mafia” no longer kills, it buys)
by Henning Klüver **Süddeutsche Zeitung**, 16th of January 2010
Mafia in Germany – only a bad dream? Francesco Forgione knows what he is talking about... Proof of this are the impressive maps in his book *Mafia Export*, recently released in Italy by Baldini Castoldi Dalai editore: a geography of organized crime.»

“*Don of a New Irish Era*” by Mark Hilliard **SundayTribune**, 24th of January 2010
Francesco Forgione, who has been under armed guard for the past 15 years, has traced the mob's spread across the world as Italian lawmakers clamped down on domestic activities.

“*España debería saber que cuando llegan capitales mafiosos después aparece la mafia*” (Spain should know that when the mafia capitals arrive, soon after the mafia shows up)
by Irene H. Velasco **El Mundo**, 6th of February 2010
Francesco Forgione is so used to his armed guard, he barely attaches any importance to it. “Who the hell is that man? Nothing to worry about, he's just a friend who never abandons me come rain or shine,” he replies amused, when asked about one of the armed officers of his guard, who has been following him for the last 15 years wherever he wishes to go. Included when, like now, he goes to a simple interview. At the end of the day, this 49 years old Calabrian – who started in 1994 denouncing the power of the mafia through his books and the institutional offices he has been in – has turned into one of the most troublesome enemies of Cosa Nostra, Camorra and 'Ndrangheta, three criminal organizations that, in Italy alone, have a turnover of 150.000 million euro, and have become globalized enterprises with branches all over the world.

Rita Levi-Montalcini
Elogio dell'imperfezione
In Praise of Imperfection

«I have asked myself many times, how we managed to dedicate ourselves with such enthusiasm to the analysis of this tiny problem of neuroembryology, while the German army was spreading all over Europe, sowing death and destruction in its wake, and threatening the actual survival of Western civilization. The answer lies in the desperate and partly unconscious will of ignoring what is happening, when the full awareness would deprive us of the chance to carry on living.»

In Praise of Imperfection is an autobiography, which takes stock of the fascinating life and achievements of Rita Levi-Montalcini, in which much attention is given to the discovery of the NGF and to the research work which led to her receiving the Noble Prize for Medicine.

«Imperfection», says Montalcini, «has always allowed the continuous changes undergone by that marvellous mechanism which is the human brain. I consider imperfection to be more in line with human nature than perfection.» Imperfection, is therefore, a crucial element of evolution. From the amphibians to Homo Sapiens, the brain of vertebrates has always been suitable for improvement, for change, while in the invertebrates it was born so perfect as to not be involved in the dynamics of mutation, so much so that trilobites living hundreds of millions of years ago are not essentially different from the insects and arthropods of today. That is why imperfection «deserves praise».

Author's bio

Rita Levi-Montalcini was born in Turin on the 22nd of April 1909. She graduated in Medicine at the Turin Institute of Human Anatomy and, starting from her first years as an undergraduate, she devoted her studies to the nervous system. In 1938 the enactment of racial laws did not allow her to continue her research on the differentiation processes in the nervous system; she carried on with such studies in Belgium and again in Turin from 1940 onwards. In 1947 she was invited to continue her research at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, and in 1952 she joined a team of researchers at the Biophysics Institute of Rio de Janeiro University, Brazil, to carry out experiments of in vitro cell cultures. In the December of that same year, such research opened up the possibility of identifying the growth factor of the nerve cells (Nerve Growth Factor, a.k.a.s. NGF), a discovery that earned her the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1986. Rita Levi-Montalcini has held and still holds some of the highest academic offices, and she is a lifelong member of the Italian Senate. She has received awards worldwide and particularly noteworthy is also her commitment in social work and noble causes, such as defending science's liberty and supporting literacy and education of young African women, help she provides through grants issued by her Foundation, established in 1992. She is president of the European Brain Research Institute (EBRI), an institution conceived in 2001 by herself, and active in Rome since 2003.

Translation Rights sold to:
SPAIN (Tusquets Editores)

PAGES: 288. PUBLICATION DATE: APRIL 2010. ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

BY THE SAME AUTHOR:

Cronologia di una scoperta
Chronology of a Discovery

In this title Rita Levi-Montalcini tells the story of the discovery thanks to which she received the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1986. It is a story not only and not so much about the results of an incredible work of research, but about a long scientific adventure, the successes of which keep cropping up. The initial flashback takes us to 1948, when it all began: the eminent scientist back then was carrying out research on chicken embryos in which a malignant tumour from a mouse had been implanted. The complex research process leading to the identification of the protein that stimulates the growth of nerve fibres, the Nerve Growth Factor (NGF), is revisited in depth. The author also explains the research saga following the discovery of NGF, her crucial role in describing the integrated activities of the nervous, the endocrine and the immune system, as well as in gaining a full understanding of degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer. The long voyage through the brain and the nervous system, undertaken by Rita Levi-Montalcini 60 years ago, continues to fascinate both scientists, for the unimaginable scenarios uncovered, and the laymen, for her upright behaviour and consistency that make her a unique person and scientist.

Rita Levi-Montalcini with Giuseppina Tripodi
La clessidra della vita di Rita Levi-Montalcini
The Sand-Glass of the Life of Rita Levi-Montalcini

Rita Levi-Montalcini was born in Turin in 1909, where she graduated in Medicine; the first steps of her career are guided by the famous histologist Giuseppe Levi. In 1938, forced to leave the university because of the racial discrimination laws in Italy mirroring the Nazi Nuremberg Laws, she fled to Belgium and started her research on the Central Nervous System in a makeshift laboratory in her house. At the end of WWII she accepted an appointment at Washington University in St. Louis, where she remained for 30 years. In 1951-1952 she discovered a protein able to stimulate the growth of nerve fibres (Nerve Growth Factor, a.k.a.s. NGF), which plays an important role in the growth and differentiation of sympathetic and sensory nerve cells. This achievement won her the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1986. The motivation of the jury stated: "The discovery of NGF in the early 50s is a fascinating example of how a sharp observer may extract valid hypotheses from apparent chaos. Neurobiologists before this discovery had not a clue on which were the processes involved in the correct innervation of the various organs and tissues of the organism." Rita Levi-Montalcini has held the highest academic offices, has received awards worldwide and particularly noteworthy has also been her commitment to social work and noble causes, such as defending science's liberty and supporting literacy and education of young African women, help she carries out through grants issued by her association. In 2001 she was nominated life-long member of the Italian Senate, an appointment she has been known to honour with her usual reliability, time after time amazing everyone for her upright tenacity and lucidity. This title hands down to posterity all the fruits of the wisdom that the scientist and the woman reaped in a troubled and fascinating turn of events.

PAGES: 256. PUBLICATION DATE: NOVEMBER 2008. ENGLISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

ALSO BY RITA LEVI-MONTALCINI

L'asso nella manica a brandelli
The Tattered Ace Up the Sleeve

This essay seeks to set out some guidelines on how to cope confidently with the problems of old age. The author has declared many times that she made her most important discoveries after receiving the Nobel Prize, when she was already in her late seventies. The researcher's arguments are not based on ethical, sociological or psychological considerations, but rather drawn from scientific factors; she explains that, in the process of ageing, the human brain loses some prerogatives which it then substitutes with others that partly compensate for and exceed the losses. If a child's brain may for instance be compared to a forest with many trunks and few branches, the brain of an old person will resemble a forest with fewer trunks, but many ramifications. Rita Levi-Montalcini illustrates her point with a series of examples of famous people who were active in their old age, such as Michelangelo, Galileo Galilei, Bertrand Russell and Pablo Picasso.

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NETHERLANDS (Contact)* SPAIN (Editorial Critica)*

*rights newly available

PAGES: 150

La galassia mente
The Galaxy of the Mind

A hundred billion, or maybe more, are the galaxies in the universe. And a hundred billion, or maybe more, are the nerve cells populating our brain. However, between the cosmic and the cerebral universe, to which the title of this book clearly refers to, there is more than a numeric coincidence. The concept of infinity relates to cosmic space in the case of the universe, and to boundless elaboration in the case of the brain. This faculty has enabled man across the millennia, to gradually reach the highest levels of cultural progress and offers the possibility of investigating the most private secrets of the mind. Where does thought originate from? From which cell and circuits? Rita Levi-Montalcini, famous for her fundamental discoveries in the development of neurobiology, tries to reconstruct, step by step, the evolution of the nervous system, in order to understand how, starting from the appearance of the first cells on Earth, we arrived to that extraordinary structure represented by the brain of the Homo Sapiens.

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PAGES: 266

Walter Bonatti
Un mondo perduto
A Lost World

Always climbing the peak of Italian bestsellers lists. Over 60.000 copies sold

«Alpinist, reporter, and husband: almost 80 years old, the king of the mountains tells the story of his life. [...] This is also a coming-of-age novel, because education doesn't stop at the end of youth, but lasts a lifetime.» Andrea Casalegno in *Il Sole 24 Ore*

Walter Bonatti through the years has managed to acquire a rare privilege for himself: the opportunity of living two separate lives. After the season of the famous climbing expeditions that made him one of the leading characters in the history of mountaineering, he decided to set new horizons for himself, and started visiting the furthest and most fascinating sites of the planet.

From these extraordinary and often solitary adventures, the idea of a book in which the endless landscapes become the backdrop of an intense interior experience in search of the Self and of the ancestral harmony with the Earth. Along the timeline of memory looms an existential path in which the passion for exploration comes to terms with the human limits in confronting a primeval nature.

The travelogue therefore turns into the biography of a man who's been able to fulfil his dream of liberty, and uncovers the authentic meaning of the word "adventure", sharing with the reader the astonishment in the face of what now appears to be a lost world.

Author's bio

Walter Bonatti was born in 1930. From very early in his youth he participated in the most extreme climbing ventures of his time. The dramatic expedition of the first conquest of the peak of K2 dates back to 1954. He terminated his career as a climber in 1965 on the Matterhorn, the peak of which he reached climbing directly the north face, in a solitary expedition in mid-winter. He is author of several books of great success; B.C.Dalai editore published *Montagne di una vita, In terre lontane, Una vita così, K2 la verità 1954-2004, I miei ricordi*. In 2000 Jacques Chirac awarded Bonatti the title of Officer of the Légion d'honneur. In 2009 he received the Piolets d'Or to his career (the most important recognition in the world of alpinism). See backlist for titles published by B.C.Dalai editore.

PAGES: 464. PUBLICATION DATE: OCTOBER 2009

BY THE SAME AUTHOR:

Montagne di una vita
The Mountains of My Life

This fascinating, biographical account of an Alpine mountain climber will inspire a deep respect for the mountains. Bonatti writes about his experiences of mountain climbing in the Alps, from a humble beginning on La Grigna (the mountains which dominate Brianza) in 1951, to the north face of Lavaredo, in the Dolomites, and the fight against Mont Blanc. The descriptions of climbing these terrifying natural barriers, sometimes minute by minute, are packed with facts, feelings and curiosities about mountains and this dangerous sport. Yet, *The Mountains of My Life* transcends both a sport chronicle and an autobiography; it is an ode to nature and the mountains, where the narrator experiences an inspiring sense of communion with himself.

PAGES: 330. PRICE: EURO 14. ENGLISH MS AVAILABLE

Translation Rights sold to: CATALUNIA (Enciclopedia Catalana)* CZECH REPUBLIC (Altituda)
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TURKEY (Kelime Yayinlari) USA (Random House)* UK (Penguin Classics) *rights newly available

In terre lontane
In Distant Lands

In the mid Sixties, at the peak of his success, gained for the mythical expeditions that made him a legend of alpinism, Walter Bonatti begins a new phase of his life: he dedicates himself to a series of adventurous explorations that take him to some of the most desolate areas of the globe, in direct contact with a majestic and primeval nature. As a result, we have these memorable accounts, that place themselves well beyond the traditional boundary of travel literature. What Bonatti manages to reveal in this precious book is a very practical experience of the remotest instincts, the recovery of a long lost harmony between man and every pulse of life present on our ancient planet Earth.

PAGES: 448

Translation Rights sold to:
FRANCE (Flammarion) GERMANY (Piper)

K2: La verità 1954-2005
K2: The Truth 1954-2005

PAGES: 290

Translation Rights sold to:
FRANCE (Guerin)
SPAIN (Desnivel)

Silvana Giacobini
Sophia Loren. Una vita da romanzo
Sophia Loren. A Biography

“I’ve won every prize except for the Nobel,” comments Sophia jokingly, her youthful soul is reflected in her appearance, which has remained practically unaltered by the years.

Everyone knows Sophia Loren, but few know her life in real depth, a life much more troubled and very different from the star spangled legend that has surrounded the most famous Italian actress in history. Sophia spent her childhood in poverty living with her grandparents, forced by hunger to steal bread and even to eat apricot stones. “For years, the sensation of hunger never left me”, Sophia recounts looking back on those times that, despite the hardships endured, would prove far happier than those which she experienced after meeting her father, who greatly offended her, and even accused her and her mother Romilda of prostitution from which they had to defend themselves. Nowadays, the success that led her to win two Oscars tends to be taken for granted, the first, for best actress in *La Ciociara* and the other a tribute to her career; two out of her countless prestigious awards. Yet Sophia Loren is the only female Oscar winner acting in a foreign language. Behind her love story with Carlo Ponti, on which so much ink has already been spilt, few people know how many lost battles lie; how many disappointments, how much pain and endurance. An interview reveals that Carlo isn’t the only man Sophia loved – there was also the fascinating Cary Grant, her dream as a young girl, whom she met when she was 23 – and few people now remember how many suitors she had (both famous and non) who completely lost their heads over her, and the price she had to pay to shake them off. Sophia now lives in Geneva, with frequent trips to her dreamlike Californian ranch. It is important though not to forget the dignity and the extraordinary strength of will with which she faced legal proceedings brought against her, and the prison detention she had to suffer. The secrets and mysteries, the pain and injustice she had to sustain are set in a cross-section of the 50s and 60s, so illiberal compared to the present day. Sophia has starred in over a hundred movies, she has not forgotten how to speak her own dialect, but now acts in four different languages. An Oscar winner for *La Ciociara*, where she was dressed in tatters, a current modern superstar, wearing Dior and Armani clothes, Sophia is a shy, reserved woman, who reveals only that part of her intimacy she is prepared to share; in striking contrast to her planetary fame, her reserve has given to her whole life a certain majesty.

Author’s bio

Silvana Giacobini was born in Rome but has worked and lived in Milan for many years. She was editor-in-chief of magazines *Eva Express* and *Gioia*, and planned and managed the magazine *Chi* (Mondadori). She is currently the Editor-in-Chief of *Diva e Donna*. She freelanced for many daily newspapers and hosted several TV shows for Rai and Mediaset. She published two novels *La signora della città* and *Un bacio nel buio* (Mondadori, 1994, 1999) from which TV adaptations were realized. She also published *Celebrità* (Mondadori 2010) with the portraits of the VIPs she met and interviewed. Her latest novel *Chiudi gli occhi* was published in 2007.

PAGES: 256. PUBLICATION DATE: MAY 2010

Translation rights sold to: SPAIN (Ediciones B)

FASHION SERIES

Dizionario della Moda 2010 The Fashion Dictionary Edited by Guido Vergani

Five years after the one and only update of the renowned *Fashion Dictionary* edited by Guido Vergani, B.C. Dalai *editore* releases its renovated edition. This work, although maintaining the original structure wanted by the editor and written by some of the most prestigious Italian journalists, presents some significant developments.

The entries have been increased to give the work a more International flair. An enlarged inclusion of worldwide brands and stylists, with explanations and a thorough analysis, provides a valid help for all those professionals of the fashion industry who need to monitor the new relevant realities and to understand the trends and the inspirational motives powering the various collections.

The updates of the existing entries attempt to inform in depth on the distinctive features of the various stylists and, delving in depth into the universe of fashion, to offer a better understanding of the communication strategies and of the collateral artistic & social ventures that build the specific product philosophy of the big names and the budding innovators alike.

The Fashion Dictionary is an exploration of the various layers that generations of styles, looks and fashions have accumulated; many of those layers are buried in the past, forgotten in time. An attention not only to the bright lights on the runways, but also to the minor players. A journalistic tone, with none of the cold rigidity of an encyclopaedia, tells the stories of the people behind, and the events of the fashion world. There are roughly one hundred contributors to this dictionary: fashion historians, writers, great names of lifestyle journalism and trade reporting. This wide account zooms in on the present, explores the land of memory, and unearths territories that have been forgotten and overlooked, excavating in an archaeological manner into the past because, in fashion, even the recent past is ancient history. The result is like a still picture image, from the turn of the 20th century to the new millennium.

Author's bio:

Guido Vergani (1935-2005) was a very popular journalist in the city of Milan, where he wrote for the major daily newspapers *la Repubblica* and *Corriere della Sera*.

PAGES: 1600. PUBLICATION DATE: NOVEMBER 2009

Translation Rights sold to:

UK&USA (Baldini Castoldi Dalai *editore* Inc.)

UPDATE OF THE ENGLISH VERSION SCHEDULED FOR AUTUMN 2010

Gian Luigi Paracchini
Vita Prada
The Prada Life. A Biography

"I don't think I'm as big a bitch as you think, but I had fun reading it." Miuccia Prada on *Vita Prada*

Milan, late 1970s. A one-to-one meeting, promising very little, except perhaps some not too friendly sparks, takes place. On one side is the rough&tough Tuscan Patrizio Bertelli, born into a family of lawyers, entrepreneur in the leather goods industry, a volcanic and somewhat Dantesque character, arrogant and charismatic; on the other Miuccia Prada, a sophisticated Milanese woman with a history as a feminist and a 1968 protest movement activist: always in high heels and never dressed casually at a demonstrators' protest march, Miuccia is the heiress of a shop selling handbags and suitcases, well known to the most distinct and fashionable upper middle class of Milan.

In accordance to the law of the attraction of opposites, an unpredictable alchemy sparks both at the emotional level (the two will marry) and the professional one. The foundations of the Prada phenomenon were laid in that first animated encounter. Why define it a phenomenon? Because Prada is no longer considered merely a company and a brand at the top of the fashion industry ladder, but the symbol of a conceptual style that has brought under scrutiny aesthetic standards, and created new trends, that have become a new lifestyle. A phenomenon that due to a powerful creative mix and an established public image amplifies itself in the project of a feasible design of the future, in the sailing experience of Luna Rossa at the American Cup and in the provocative and controversial avant-gardist art of the homonymous foundation.

This book examines the most important stages of the Prada phenomenon, from its first steps to its gradual expansion, culminating in the acquisition of the brands that, before the brusque slowdown, should have composed the first real luxury pole of Made in Italy.

Author's bio

Gian Luigi Paracchini, born in Milan in 1947, graduated in Political Sciences. He started as an on-the-road reporter for the *Corriere d'Informazione*. In 1978 he moved to the *Corriere della Sera*, where he writes mainly about schools and university. He has worked for fifteen years as a correspondent of current affairs, sport and with an outsider's curious eye, the world of fashion. At the end of the 1980s he collected in a book (titled *People*) a series of short stories and travelogues.

PAGES: 240. PUBLICATION DATE: DECEMBER 2009

Translation Rights:

BRAZIL: (Editora Pensamento-Cultrix)

CHINA: (Simplified Chinese Rights - China Economic Publishing House)

JAPAN - ongoing negotiation

KOREA: (Myung Jin Publications)

Renata Molho
Essere Armani—Una biografia
Being Armani—A Biography

**Few designers make lasting marks on fashion. Fewer still change how the world dresses.
Giorgio Armani, in his long and astonishing career, has done both.**

What makes the Armani story so irresistible is the sheer improbability of it all. A shy young man from a bourgeois family in the Italian provinces leaves medical school to find his way. Armed with photographs of his pretty sister, he talks his way into a job as a window dresser for a major Italian department store. He designs lines for other fashion houses till the age of forty. Then he decides to go into business for himself. Two years later the entire fashion-forward male population was sporting unstructured jackets over sophisticated shirts with a subtle pattern worked into the weave, and was dressing in shades of grey, beige, and taupe. Before you could say Armani Uomo, everyone from New York to L.A.—and the country between them—knew all about good taste.

Good taste was Giorgio Armani. And a good life was a life with plenty of Giorgio Armani in the closet. This is the fascinating authorized story of Giorgio Armani's rich and influential life, told by an experienced fashion journalist, an insider who witnessed much of that story herself.

Author's bio

Renata Molho, born in 1951, is a journalist and essayist and also works as a fashion critic for the daily newspaper *Il Sole 24 Ore*. She contributes to many magazines (*Vogue*, *GQ*).

Translation Rights sold to:

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*rights newly available

Film Rights sold to: Albatross

PAGES: 256. ENGLISH MS AVAILABLE.

Minnie Gastel
Il mito Versace
The Versace Legend

This is the first biography of Gianni Versace, the great Italian fashion designer who dressed the most beautiful women in the world, from top models to Princess Diana. His is the fascinating story of a youth who left Reggio Calabria in the provinces to become one of the biggest names ever in the entire history of fashion. The book describes his extraordinary talent, his appetite for culture, his nostalgia for the past and his ability to anticipate the future; his work and business; Avedon and beauty; the theatre and rock stars; his family, his love life and his friends, all the way to his tragic appointment with fate in Miami, which did not end the game, but rather turned Versace into a legend.

Author's bio

Minnie Gastel was born in Milan, holds a degree in Philosophy from the University of Milan and works as a professional journalist. She has written for *la Repubblica* and worked as managing editor for the monthly *Donna*. She currently works as a reporter for the weekly *Donna Moderna* and is a contributor to *Affari&Finanza*, the economic insert of *la Repubblica*.

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