A well-chosen book
saves you from everything,
even from yourself!

(Daniel Pennac)

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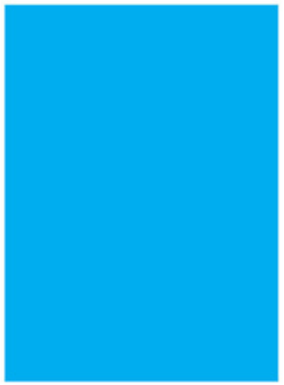
Sebastiano Ardita

Il coraggio del male

At the heart of every human decision lies an ambiguous truth: sometimes, evil demands more courage than good. Stella, the protagonist of this intense and gripping story, embodies the complexity of the human spirit. Driven by contradictory impulses and dark passions, she battles not only against societal and familial expectations but, more crucially, against herself.

Caught between a desire for self-destruction and a thirst for control, Stella draws us into a whirlwind of emotions and decisions that blur the lines between right and wrong. Through powerful dialogue and deep reflections, Sebastiano Ardita explores themes of rebellion, power, and sacrifice. "The Courage of Evil" delves into the darkest aspects of the human soul, questioning the price we are willing to pay to pursue our ideals or to escape the invisible chains that bind us.

This novel challenges our certainties, immersing the reader in an atmosphere of emotional tension, fraught with personal fragility and intense internal conflict. Stella may not be a perfect heroine, but she is genuine, grappling with the inner turmoil that afflicts every human being, driven by a restlessness that pushes her to the edge. "The Courage of Evil" is more than a story; it is a reflection on how far we are willing to go when faced with our deepest fears, when good becomes inadequate and evil seems like the only escape.



pagine: 220 2024

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Autore

Sebastiano Ardita is a prominent Italian author and magistrate, renowned for his efforts in fighting the organized crime. Born in Sicily, he has devoted much of his career to the pursuit of justice, holding important positions within the Italian judiciary. Ardita has authored several non-fiction works centred on legality, justice, and the fight against the mafia, earning accolades for his contributions to the public discourse on these topics. Notable among his literary achievements are books like *Cosa Nostra S.p.A.*, which provides a rigorous and expert analysis of the mafia phenomenon, and *Giustizialisti, where he examines the dynamics of justice in Italy.* His incisive writing and professional dedication have established him as a leading voice in the Italian cultural and legal arenas.

Serena Lo Pilato, Silvia Maira - Prefazione: Salvatore Requirez



pagine 240 2024

tre edizioni in tre mesi

Gli anni d'oro della dinastia Florio

Gli anni d'oro della dinastia Florio traces the key moments in the lives of the prominent members of a family that brought great distinction to Sicily. Originating from Bagnara Calabra, Paolo was the first Florio to settle in Palermo, where he established a successful shop on Via dei Materassai, known for selling spices and quinine, and frequented by Queen Caroline of Bourbon.

The *Leo Bibens*, the emblem of the Florio family, soon gained international fame. Their extraordinary economic growth is evidenced by the Florio fleet, which sailed across the oceans, their highly successful wine production, the tuna industry, the Oretea foundry, their ceramics brand, and much more.

The Florios made an indelible impact not only economically but also culturally. They played a key role in the remarkable cultural flourishing that Palermo experienced during the Belle Époque. In their luxurious and elegant villas, symbols of Liberty and Art Nouveau in Palermo, they hosted distinguished figures from around the world: kings, queens, emperors, and tsars.

The Florio history is one of a bourgeois family that ascended to aristocratic status, rivalling royal families. From the brothers Paolo and Ignazio Florio to Vincenzo Senior, the creative force behind the family's wealth, from Ignazio Florio Senior to Ignazio Florio Junior and his wife Franca Florio, the prominent figures of the Belle Époque in Palermo, to Vincenzo III, creator of the famous Targa Florio, and Raimondo Lanza di Trabia, known as a restless prince, to Giulia Florio, daughter of Ignazio and Franca, who, with her husband Achille Belloso Afan De Rivera Costaguti, opened their home in Piazza Mattei in Rome to Jewish families during the Nazi-Fascist era, saving them from certain death, and finally to Costanza Afan De Rivera, who recently passed away. The history of the Florios shows that wealth does not guarantee happiness. Their story was marked by significant entrepreneurial successes but also by deep sorrows and losses. The Florio economic empire, which thrived for a century, ultimately faced a collapse due to various reasons, becoming legendary alongside the family and their symbol.

"It is an inspiring journey this book, long and captivating, where the authors guide the reader to discover what should not be forgotten, confused, or abandoned. A valuable piece for the preservation of a correct historical memory, benefiting from validated and sincere references."

Salvatore Requirez

Serena Lo Pilato was born in Erice in 2007 and currently resides in Marsala. She attends the Liceo Classico Giovanni XXIII in Marsala, following a Cambridge curriculum. In addition to studying classical literature, she also focuses on English with the help of native-speaking teachers. Her aim is to earn both a diploma in the humanities and language certifications.

Silvia Maira lives in Marsala and has always had a passion for books. She has dedicated her life to writing, describing herself as a "writer by passion." She made her debut in 2015 with the novel Un cuore a metà, and has since published numerous other novels and stories. Her work ranges from contemporary romance and historical fiction to comedy and children's stories, and includes poetry in both Italian and the local dialect.

Vincenzo Asero - Giovanni Nicolosi

Il cammino dei briganti in Sicilia



pagine: 2024

For some time now, various local entities have been reinterpreting the events, places, and figures associated with brigandage and banditry through the lens of heritage tourism. This phenomenon characterizes a certain approach to tourism that focuses on historical knowledge and the rediscovery and enhancement of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage. In this context, tourism contributes to preserving the past and representing a region's identity through the narration and enjoyment of sites deemed historically and culturally significant, including natural ones.

In this framework, brigandage has become part of the discussion on the nature and role of cultural heritage in shaping the historical memory of a place and its community, often highlighting events and figures that have been mythologized in popular narratives. This trend has led to the creation of trails and routes that offer tourists the opportunity to explore areas once affected by brigandage, providing insights into the region's history and cultural dimensions.

The volume edited by Vincenzo Asero, a professor of Applied Economics at the University of Catania and tourism expert, and Giovanni Nicolosi, a naturalist guide who has been working on a project to develop a Sicilian brigands' tourist trail, presents a structured itinerary in the form of a tourist guide. This guide covers the Madonie and Nebrodi Parks, focusing on the Sicilian areas most affected by brigandage.

Produced as part of the national research project Il brigantaggio rivisitato: Narrazioni, pratiche e usi politici nella storia dell'Italia moderna e contemporanea, the volume aims to introduce and explore places, episodes, and figures connected to the Maurina band. It follows a historical and memorial path from the early years after Italian unification to the siege of Gangi by Prefect Cesare Mori in 1926.

From the Madonie Park to the Nebrodi Park: A Historical and Naturalistic Itinerary narrated by Vincenzo Asero and Giovanni Nicolosi

Vincenzo Asero is a researcher in Applied Economics and a professor in the Department of Political and Social Sciences at the University of Catania. He has numerous publications on these topics, including journal articles, book contributions, and monographs for both national and international publishers. He serves as a representative for several international scientific journals specializing in tourism.
Giovanni Nicolosi graduated from the University of Bologna with a degree in DAMS (Disciplines of Arts, Music, and Entertainment) and semiotics. He is a naturalist guide and an expert in experiential tourism, having worked in the Madonie territory for over 15 years. Among his professional activities, he focuses on the promotion of the Tiberio Gorges, a UNESCO geosite in the Madonie Park, and he is also interested in the phenomenon of brigandage in the Madonie.

Sonia Fasino

Il Patriarca Giuseppe Alessi



pagine 176 2024

Giuseppe Alessi was born on October 29, 1905, in San Cataldo. In 1947, he became the first president of the Sicilian Region and was re-elected for three more terms. From 1973 to 1992, he served as the president of the Istituto dell'Enciclopedia Italiana Treccani. Raised in a family of artisans under the strong guidance of his mother, who raised eight children—later becoming professors, doctors, priests, and nuns—Alessi was initially destined for the priesthood. However, his entrepreneurial talents led his brother Modesto to suggest a different career path.

Alessi graduated in law at the age of twenty and engaged with Catholic circles in Caltanissetta and other Sicilian cities, meeting influential figures such as Bernardo Mattarella and Honorable Aldisio. During World War II, Pompeo Colajanni and he were among the few not affiliated with the Fascist Party, earning comparisons to Don Camillo and Peppone. Leonardo Sciascia referred to him as "the lawyer-priest."

The book about Giuseppe Alessi arises from an unfinished promise: in 1978, he asked his niece Sonia what she would like as a gift, and she requested a biography of him. This request led to a correspondence that was later interrupted. Alessi explained that his family had humble origins and that there was not much memory of the past. Using stories from her grandfather Leone and the correspondence with her niece, the author reconstructs the history of her maternal and paternal ancestors, spanning three generations.

The narrative explores themes of "betrayed traitors" and the intersection of the Alessi and Fasino families, both active in the Christian Democracy party. Domitilla, the eldest daughter, marries Aurelio Fasino, whose brother Mario later becomes president of the Sicilian Region. The family story is complicated by the parents' separation and a court case for marriage annulment, leading to years of suffering for Domitilla and her daughters due to the paternal family.

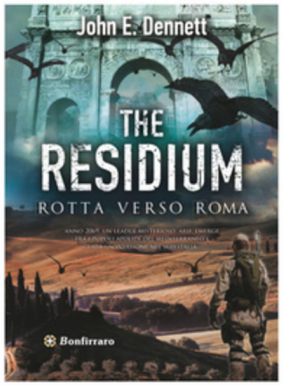
With determination, Domitilla founded the Novecento publishing house and bookstore in Palermo, successfully transforming her life and that of her daughters.

This book represents a fundamental work for anyone who wishes to understand the life and contribution of Giuseppe Alessi to the history of Sicily and Italy.

Sonia Fasino was born in Palermo in 1964. She is the daughter of Aurelio Fasino and Domitilla Alessi, and the eldest granddaughter of President Giuseppe Alessi. After graduating from a classical high school, she embarked on a career in publishing. In 1982, she began working at the Novecento bookstore in Palermo, which was established by Domitilla Alessi, Franco Maria Ricci, and Umberto Di Cristina.
Since 1986, Sonia has held various positions at the Novecento publishing house, including roles in the press office, as sales director, and as promoter of the Novecento International Prize "La Rosa d'Oro." This role has allowed her to meet notable figures such as Jorge Luis Borges, Italo Calvino, Giulio Einaudi, Henri Cartier-Bresson, architect Ieoh Ming Pei, Yves Saint Laurent, and David Hockney. In her spare time, Sonia plays and composes music on the piano, enjoys trekking, and practices Reiki.

Jhon E. Denneth

The Residium - Road to Rome



"We did not spark this fire, but are immersed in its flames. We are the raging heat. We are the blinding light. Today is fire, but tomorrow is ashes. When the crescent of fire rises in the sky, we will be at the beginning of the end." The year is 2068. A mysterious leader, Arif arises amongst the stateless peoples of the Mediterranean and leads a stealth invasion of Southern Italy. U.S. Ranger Staff Sgt. Jeb Montalto and his unit are sent to Calabria to assist WorldAlliance247 forces in turning back the powerful group of invaders who number in the millions. What starts out as a routine mission for Jeb and his Rangers turns to frustration and ultimately a world of unimaginable nightmare, as Arif's army - seemingly under supernatural influence- advances north as an unstoppable force. The Residium - Road to Rome is a dystopian action adventure remarkably close to the bone as the world faces the massive dual challenge of retaining our distinctive cultures and humanity in the face of unprecedented economic, political and religious upheaval.

This is not my normal genre but having found this book I discovered it to be exceptionally well written with a narrative that grabs you and keeps you reading to the last page. Close enough to reality to touch several nerves and challenging enough to prompt serious thought. I will keep an eye out for more from this author.

Amazon

pagine 320 2024

The year is 2068. A mysterious leader, Arif, is among the stateless peoples of the Mediterranean and leads stealthy invasion of southern Italy. The US ranger Jeb Montalto and his unit are sent to Calabria to assist WorldAlliance247 forces and push back the impressive group of invaders who number in the millions.

John E. Dennett. Born in New Zealand, he now lives in Kirkcaldy, Scotland. After more than ten years working as a lawyer in New Zealand, Scotland, and the Middle East, he is now pursuing his childhood dream of becoming a full-time writer.He has a deep passion for Italy, particularly the South, where he has a home in Corigliano d'Otranto, Puglia, and spends time whenever he can. He is enthusiastic about science fiction, rock and roll, blues music, and archaeology.

Paolo De Chiara

Una vita contro la camorra



The dramatic events you are about to read occurred in Italy, in the country of the mafia. In this corrupt land, the "true" witnesses of justice are overlooked, ignored by everyone. The indignations are just a facade, empty and meaningless words. They are just wasted words, a pure appearance, an illusion. Tedious proclamations.
This is the true story of a witness of justice.
"As an executive, I discovered many highway structures on the verge of collapse." Through his words, a detailed picture is painted of a dangerous path, full of threats, which involved not only the Camorra, but also the corrupt leaders of the State and unscrupulous company executives, interested only in criminal affairs. An entire life dedicated to the fight against the Camorra, to eradicate evil. The protagonist of this touching story denounced the construction work of the Cinisello Balsamo footbridge, the collapse of the Cherasco toll booth, the Ferentino toll booth, the bridges and toll booths of Rosignano, Senigallia and Settebagni, as well as those of Florence; he denounced the collapsed portal at Santa Maria Capua Vetere, the works on the A1, the A11, the public tender in Locate Triulzi, the contracts in Trento and at the Larino prison.
Serious structural deficiencies that constituted a threat to Italian citizens, unaware of a system that had caused numerous victims in past years. In the country of the "day after," there are cries of scandal during funerals, but then everything passes into general indifference.
The protagonist of this book has lived through a real hell. He denounced a corrupt system, an intertwining of the Camorra, politics and entrepreneurship which also profits from public procurement. He turned to the Italian prosecutors to unmask the anomalies, the illicit profits and the links with prominent figures in the corporate and institutional world.
Paolo De Chiara author of the book *Una fimmina calabrise*

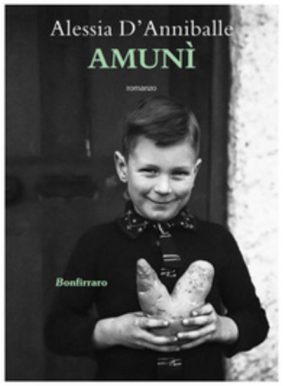
pagine 320 2023

The true story of a justice witness who challenged the 'System'

Paolo De Chiara. Journalist, writer, screenwriter. He was born in Isernia in 1979. In Molise he worked with most of the media (print media and television), directing periodic magazines on information, culture and politics. He is passionately dedicated, at a national level, to the diffusion of the Culture of Legality.
In January 2020 he founded and directs the online newspaper WordNews.it.
In September 2022 he founded and chairs Dioghenes APS, Anti-Mafia and Anti-Usury Association.

Alessia D'anniballe

Amunì



pagine 224 2023

Amunì is a novel set in post-war Palermo. Totò Giuffrè, now elderly, before memory begins to play tricks on him, decides to tell his childhood in those dark years full of sacrifices of his parents, of humble origins, dialect speakers and natives of a small district of the city.
Giuseppe Giuffrè, Totò's father, has recently lost his job and his wife Carmela tries to scrape together some money by embroidering for the noblewomen of the neighbourhood. Unfortunately, all this is not enough and, while they are looking for a solution to feed their three children, Totò makes the encounter that will change his life forever: a few steps from home, in a sumptuous building, lives Donna Luisa who will make him discover the love of books.
He is passionate about reading, although hindered by his father who disapproves of any activity that does not have as its goal hard work from which to earn money. Thus, while his parents and his sisters Rosa and Concetta open and run a modest tavern, Totò manages to graduate in Literature and it is during his university years that he meets Sonia, who will become his life partner.
Despite their social differences, the two manage to create a family of their own, treasuring an ancient Palermitan exhortation: Amunì. As if to say let's get busy, but also an invitation not to lose heart, to go forward always and in any case.
Totò, together with Sonia, will be able to unite two worlds that seem so distant from each other, but which in reality can walk hand in hand.
This novel wants to give a very specific message: to make the reader understand that you have to believe in yourself, in your own abilities, regardless of who is rowing against you. Getting up after falling is a sign of great courage and an inner strength that exists in each of us.

***Amunì* is an exhortation in Palermo dialect which translates into "let's go", "let's make a move", aimed at young people to invite them to take back their destinies and their lives, get back on track and know how to look at the road traveled to give themselves new goals.**

Alessia D'Anniballe was born in Palermo on July 13, 1988. She earned her degree in Literature in 2011 and in Romance Philology and Italian Studies in 2013, graduating with top honours. Her debut novel, *La Monaca di Monza. Il diario segreto di suor Virginia Maria de Leyva*, was published in 2015. This work earned her the Microeditoria di Qualità award in Brescia and the "Tessera preziosa del Mosaico di Palermo" recognition. She divides her time between Palermo and Trapani, where she focuses on writing and working with SIAE.

Francesco Luca Ballarò e Francesco Daniele Miceli

La Pasqua in Sicilia



pagine 400 2023

The pain of the Virgin, the Passion of Christ, the somber notes of the processions, the scenic theatricality, the rituals, the simulacra, the confraternities, the prayers, the scents of flowers. Holy Week in Sicily is staged amid faith, myth, devotion and folklore. A moving collective Way of the Cross that winds its way through the island's cities through historical, iconographic and religious itineraries in 173 unicipalities across the island.
La Repubblica

"Sicily, during the days of Holy Week, becomes a truly exciting open-air stage: everything is in motion between processions, rites, celebrations, representations with living characters and statues. The authors wanted to collect hundreds of Sicilian "Holy Weeks" in a single text, in an itinerary that would show how in a few hours, the same land presents a hundred different characteristics, a hundred rites, a thousand gestures and a thousand simulacra that make Sicily a island to live and always see with new eyes.
Maria Addolorata, pierced by a dagger, becomes the undisputed female symbol of these days. From the historic brotherhoods of Enna to the great Vare of Caltanissetta, from the mysteries of Trapani and Erice to the Varette of Messina and Barcellona Pozzo di Gotto, from the masks of the devils of Prizzi, from the colorful costumes of the Jews of San Fratello to the hooded Babbaluci (or babbaluti) of many other municipalities. Living representations that go by the name of Vasacra, Scinnenza, Casazza... but which still do not change the story told in the Calvary of each town, which many municipalities have in the form of a terrace, square or churchyard.
The book therefore recounts Holy Week in Sicily from many and varied points of view, trying to analyze it province by province, starting from the religious aspect, up to the ethno-anthropological one, passing through the popular songs (Lamenti, Lamentanze) of many Good Fridays of the 'Isola, but also desserts and typical dishes (Easter lamb, eggs, cassata, spina santa, taganu). Musical bands, funeral marches, mourners, bearers, troccole, bells, mourning, viola and black. But also the joy of Easter, in the Encounter (or clash) between the Mother and the Son or in the parade of giant papier-mâché "Santoni". Crucifixes hoisted on poles and then all the characters who come to life every year: Mary, Magdalene, John, Judas, Peter.
The work, thanks to the photographic contributions, becomes a single document to be "passed" on to the new generations and to satisfy the thirst for beauty of Sicilians and those who are not Sicilians.

Francesco Daniele Miceli: from Caltanissetta, an elementary school teacher and theater director, has been involved in ethnohistorical research over the years. He publishes several titles of theater, music for children and youth with Pauline Editions.
Francesco Luca Ballarò: A native of Enna and a graduate with honors in History and Culture of Mediterranean Countries from the University of Catania with an anthropological thesis on the social character of Enna and Sicilian religious festivals, he teaches literary, historical and philosophical subjects at I and II grade secondary schools.

Paolo De Chiara

Una fimmina calabrese



This is the story of Lea Garofalo, the courageous woman who defied the mafia "'ndrangheta" and severed her ties with organized crime. Born into a mafia family, she witnessed the deaths of her father, brother, cousins, relatives, friends, and acquaintances—a true extermination carried out by heartless men, obsessed with power and deluded by the false respect of criminal might.
Lea experienced the 'ndrangheta up close: like many women, she suffered the brutal violence of the Calabrian mafia. She reported what she saw and heard: a long list of murders, drug trafficking, usury, threats, and various forms of violence. She exposed the 'ndrangheta that kills, that does business, that is abhorrent! She was murdered because she opposed the mafia culture, which cannot forgive betrayal—especially from a woman. At 36, she was abducted in Milan by order of her former partner, following a previous kidnapping attempt in Campobasso, Molise.
Her "crime"? Wanting to change her life for herself and her daughter, Denise. For her daughter, she stood up against her partner, her relatives, and her brother Floriano.
In this "country without memory," the state should be ashamed of how it has treated and continues to treat the honest citizens who have simply fulfilled their duty. These examples should not be neglected; they must bloom like pure roses, to inspire us with their passion, strength, and immense courage. The families of the victims should not be forgotten either; they must not be left alone.
To date, the mafias have killed over 150 women. It is through these women that we can imagine a different future for our country—a future free from the oppressive stench of these criminal organizations, which wield immense economic and military power and have long-standing ties with politics and institutions.
With Lea and Denise, they could do nothing.

pagine: 2017

Rediscover Lea Garofalo, the "Calabrian girl" who challenged alone the 'Ndrangheta

Paolo De Chiara. Journalist, writer, screenwriter. He was born in Isernia in 1979. In Molise he worked with most of the media (print media and television), directing periodic magazines on information, culture and politics. He is passionately dedicated, at a national level, to the diffusion of the Culture of Legality.
In January 2020 he founded and directs the online newspaper WordNews.it.
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Maria Lionti

Il Grand Tour dell'Etna



Mount Etna is not only the highest active volcano in Europe but also a towering force that has profoundly shaped the land and character of its people. In this journey, we will explore its mysteries and trails, venturing beyond the boundaries of reality to uncover myths and popular tales. We will delve into historical accounts, descriptive writings, and scientific research from the early Grand Tour travellers who arrived in Sicily from the late 18th century.
As we travel back in time, we will encounter both renowned and lesser-known figures drawn to Sicily by its volcanic allure, each motivated by history, literature, art, or science.
Our ascent begins in Catania, a city repeatedly rebuilt from volcanic devastation, and takes us through fertile fields and towns at Etna's base. As we approach the desolate lava fields, we make a pre-dawn stop to embark on a late-night journey across the stark landscape to reach the summit crater before sunrise.
Here, the sulphurous smell, the wind, and an air of profound mystery envelop the traveller in awe. From this vantage point, the view is a dramatic panorama of fire, earth, sea, and sky, stretching out to expansive horizons.
A rich collection of historical illustrations and contemporary images will aid our understanding of this extraordinary volcano. The fascination with Etna transcends time and space; its enduring power and allure continue to captivate travellers past and present. The volcano imposes its grandeur, giving the illusion of having been conquered, when in fact; it is we who are subdued by the Mountain of Mountains: Etna.
Living on and studying Etna is more than a journey through time; it's like encountering a series of different volcanoes—today one of the "Hawaiian" type, tomorrow a volatile giant reminiscent of Indonesia, and the day after, serene and snow-capped like Japan's Mount Fuji.
A life with Etna is an endless Grand Tour.

pagine 192 2022

From the mid-18th century and for about a century, many people made the journey which was later called the Grand Tour: William Hamilton, Patrick Brydone, Jean Claude Richard Saint Non, Jean-Pierre Louis Laurent Houël, Déodat de Dolomieu, J. W. von Goethe and many others

Maria Lionti (Catania, 1967) is a teacher who lives in Novara. With a background in European languages and literatures and a deep connection to the Etna region, she has extensively studied the travel literature of the Grand Tour, focusing on Sicily and Mount Etna as essential stops on the Grand Tour of Italy.

Alessandro Pugi

Le parole del cuore



272agine: 2022

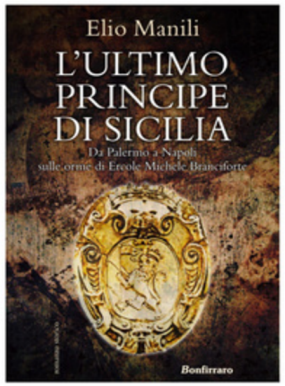
Becoming a father means becoming a man, taking the sweet responsibility for raising a child. Matteo Celi is aware of it, but he never would have imagined that fate would change his life so drastically.
Sara, the young wife, dies giving birth to little Lorenzo. A dramatic news that associates death with life, joy with pain. That raw and real news will lead him, for an instant, to hate that little blond bundle, which moves tenderly in the cradle.
It is said that time heals wounds; there is no more wrong proverb. And this Matthew knows.
For ten long years, he follows, through ups and downs, the progress of little Lorenzo, extricating himself from the difficulties of managing a pub in crisis, the friendship of Andrea and Jack, the puppy dog that Matteo saved from certain death the same evening of Lorenzo's birth. Matteo often wonders if there may be a connection between Sara's death and the discovery of Jack, an extraordinary animal who takes care of Lorenzo's growth as much as possible.
Every day he takes care of waking up Lorenzo, takes him to school; it seems that their harmony comes from the depths of the soul, from that place to the most unknown. But Sara's ghost is always vivid in Matteo's memory and when everything appears channeled towards happiness, fate comes back to shuffle the cards in his life. And it does so by granting him joy and pain. Gioia, for meeting Eleanore, a wonderful and famous American actress visiting Bologna; pain, for the accident that occurred to Lorenzo, a triviality that will force him into a coma for a long time.
The existential symbiosis that unites Matteo and Jack emerges overwhelmingly. The two, each in their own way, express that blind pain that has invaded their soul...

Perhaps there is no tomorrow, or perhaps there are ten, a hundred, a thousand, but the thought that the essence can fade in an instant often escapes our reasoning due to the conviction of being masters of a destiny that in reality plays incorrectly and only in his favor.

Alessandro Pugi was born on April 14, 1972, in Portoferraio, Elba Island, where he still resides with his wife Cinzia and their son Deniel Nicolas. He studied commercial expertise and had a career in the police force, serving as a chief inspector. In 2017, due to a health issue, he was retired from the force and now enjoys life immersed in literature and nature.

Elio Manili

L'ultimo principe di Sicilia



pagine 288 2022

This historical novel focuses on Ercole Michele Branciforte (1750–1814), Prince of Butera, the last member of the influential Branciforte family of Sicily. Their heraldic emblem features a lion with severed paws, inspired by the myth of Obizzo, Charlemagne's standard-bearer, who, surrounded by enemies trying to seize the sacred banner, chose to have his arms cut off but still managed to hold the flag aloft.
Ercole Branciforte is a complex figure: generous to the poor and haughty towards those who oppress, including members of his own social class. He is revered by the people as a true king and feared by the powerful and viceroys alike. His life is a blend of grandeur and disgrace—he experiences the height of courtly honour and the depths of imprisonment. The most famous episode of his life is his public demonstration of the hot air balloon.
Set in Palermo during its peak as the second city in Italy and one of the richest in Europe, the novel covers the period from the mid-18th century to the early 19th century, detailing the life of Sicily's last prince.
This era is marked by significant turmoil, beginning with the 1773 riots and the removal of Viceroy Fogliani; the arrival of Enlightenment viceroy Domenico Caracciolo, who aimed to dismantle the entrenched feudal and aristocratic stronghold of Sicily; the poisoning of Prince Caramanico due to court intrigues; the beheading of lawyer Francesco Paolo Di Blasi, a proponent of a new political and social order; the French Revolution, which brought King Ferdinand and Queen Maria Carolina of Austria to Palermo; and culminates in the dissolution of the ancient Sicilian Parliament and the abolition of feudalism in Sicily in 1812.
"It is a tumultuous historical period starting in 1773 with the eruption of riots and the removal of Viceroy Fogliani. This is followed by the arrival of the Enlightenment viceroy Domenico Caracciolo, a staunch opponent of the entrenched feudal and aristocratic stronghold of Sicily."

It is a tumultuous historical period starting in 1773 with the eruption of riots and the removal of Viceroy Fogliani. This is followed by the arrival of the Enlightenment viceroy Domenico Caracciolo, a staunch opponent of the entrenched feudal and aristocratic stronghold of Sicily

Elio Manili was born in Palermo on March 12, 1965. He has two great passions: thrillers and a deep interest in history. His goal is to uncover an alternative historical truth, distinct from the so-called "official" version. As Gustave Flaubert remarked, "When you look at the truth only from the side or at a three-quarter angle, you always see it poorly. Only a few know how to face it directly." Manili focuses on the human and psychological dimensions of his characters, exploring their deepest and most concealed emotions.

Bruna K. Midleton

Lucrezia Borgia Giulia Farnese



pagine 160 2017

"Lucrezia Borgia and Giulia Farnese were the women most desired and loved of Renaissance. Their friendship was very very strong.
Using a pink shade, writer Middleton gives to the readers two women figures, equally tormented who lived in dissolute popes' Rome, a period of pomp hyperbolic and unbridled licentiousness, which it was called the bacchanal of the time.
Followed by a crowd of worshipers, Lucrezia and Giulia aroused and continues to arouse, delirious admiration among the people, enchanted vision of their mesmerizing beauty. In fact, they were able to overwhelm men inaccessible to the torments of passion. But here the palace intrigues, arranged marriages, illegitimate children, the games of power and intrigues are only the backdrop to the two protagonists, cloaked in a superb beauty.
Angelic and evil, treacherous, yet keep in their unravel a spiderweb all declined in the masculine, the two also differed in their psychological profile. If the first one is, in fact, more exuberant, bewitching and extrovert, the second is shy, reserved and diplomatic and this diversity will make them complementary and the comparison will cement their friendship, making both mature.

**The strong friendship between Lucrezia Borgia and Giulia Farnese in an unmissable historical novel.
An original story told by inglese Bruna K. Midleton writer came to the publisher**

"Two woman's voice from Renaissance. Two flatter and blamed female figures, the protagonists of numerous gossip and anecdotes".

Switch Magazine

Bruna K. Midleton is a writer of English origin, and Italian by adoption. She lives in Bergamo and loves the beautiful land. It is already the author of *Love in* and *Poison Butterfly*. The chronicle, but above all the history, inspired every day and this is where fiction finds ideas for women that involve emotionally. His sense of being a writer is all in portraying the dramas and the tragedies of existence, being a witness to the discomfort of restless generations, poor real myths, but still looking for lost values and truth too often hidden, without reticence or artifice.

Roberta D'Ancona

Storie e sapori di Sicilia



pagine 386 2021

The author has chosen to rely on the narrative voice of Gaetano Basile, a distinguished expert on Sicilian culinary history. Basile, a journalist and writer, is renowned for his in-depth knowledge of traditional Italian foods.
The book explores the unique aspects of Sicilian cuisine across the island's nine provinces, revealing both the differences and the commonalities among them. It divides the island's culinary traditions into Western, Central, and Eastern regions, detailing the defining characteristics of each. The text also includes sections on festive foods, historical dishes, and intriguing details about traditional ingredients.
The author delves into the essential ingredients that have contributed to the excellence of Sicilian cuisine, such as bread, pasta, rice, fish, meat, vegetables, aromatic herbs, citrus fruits, and sweets.
The book concludes with "At the Table with the Chefs," showcasing the innovation in modern Sicilian cuisine. Nineteen chefs, including some with Michelin stars, share their interpretations of contemporary Sicilian cooking. Each chef contributes three recipes, complete with photographs of their dishes.
The chefs who have graciously shared their culinary insights are:
Piergiorgio Alecci, Gaetano Basiricò, Giuseppe Biuso, Nunzio Campisi, Vincenzo Candiano, Giuseppe Costa, Pietro D'Agostino, Massimo D'Anna, Patrizia Di Benedetto, Paolo Di Domenico, Anna Fichera, Giuseppe Geraci, Alessandro Ingiulla, Tony Lo Coco, Gaetano Nanì, Giovanni Santoro, Angelo Treno, Marcello Valentino, and Alfio Visalli.

The book aims to explore contemporary Sicilian cuisine by tracing its origins from prehistory to the present day.

Roberta D'Ancona was born in Palermo on August 28th, 1973. She has been a publicist journalist since 2000, writing for leading food and wine publications such as Cucina & Vini, La Madia Travel Food, Corriere Vinicolo, Gelato Artigianale, Imprese Agricole, and many more.
Since 2004, she has lived and worked in Rome. In 2005, she obtained her First-Level Chef qualification from the prestigious Roman school "A Tavola con lo Chef," while simultaneously authoring several editorial works. Her notable publications include *La cucina romana di mare* (Newton & Compton), *Yogurt: Antiche origini e moderne ricette tra piacere e benessere* (Intra Moenia), *La cucina romana* (Hoepli), and *Cucina italiana 2.0* (Giunti). In 2018, she founded the "Cibarti Factory" Association, which is dedicated to promoting local and gastronomic culture.

Eleonora E. Spezzano

Hans Mayer e la bambina



pagine: 400 2021

Warsaw, 1941
Hans Mayer, a reserved and solitary Wehrmacht officer, walks the same path to and from the barracks each day, trying to ignore the contemptuous glances that surround him. He is haunted by a dark and turbulent past from which he has been trying, unsuccessfully, to escape for years. Trapped in a vicious cycle of uncertainty, he questions his role and his place in the world. In the dreary, war-torn city that Warsaw has become, nothing suggests that change is possible.
One autumn evening, fate intervenes, presenting him with a perilous challenge—one that seems impossible at first but gradually becomes his only reason for living. His home becomes his sole refuge amidst the vast battlefield the world has turned into, a place where he hides everything that must remain unseen by the bottle-green-uniformed men around him.
As the cruel frost of the Holocaust seeps deeper into the hearts of men, Hans stands ready to defy the system. He reaches a crossroads, forced to decide whether to risk everything or surrender. Innocent Marie is his unspeakable secret, his quiet rebellion against the regime, his hymn to freedom—a desperate reach toward the light.
Where, then, does moral duty end, and where does conscience take over?
In the horror of a single image, in a twisted labyrinth of objects, people, and unspoken words, in whispered conversations stolen out of fear, in the nightmarish visions that come to life, Hans is locked in a constant, frantic fight for survival.
Spezzano's writing, at once agile and deeply moving, touches both the wounds of the soul and the scars of history. With a delicate yet unflinching hand, she skilfully narrates an inevitable flight toward existential warmth, free of pity but full of humanity.

Hans Mayer e la bambina ebrea is an intense and dramatic portrayal of the darkest chapter of the twentieth century, showcasing the powerful strength of a pure, unconditional, and rebellious love.

Prizes
Premio Città di Cattolica 2020, Premio Rhegium Julii 2020, Premio Milano International 2021, Premio Speciale Mario La Cava 2022, 1° Premio XI International Literary Award "Città di Sarzana" (Sezione Giovani Scrittori) 2021, Premio Dianora 2022 per Letteratura e Poesia (Miglior Talento Calabrese Giovane).

Eleonora E. Spezzano lives in Reggio Calabria. From an early age, she developed a deep passion for poetry, channelling her thoughts into writing. As she grew, so did her love for books, which began with the magical *Chronicles of Narnia* series, a story she devoured in just four or five days. From the grey streets of London with the unfortunate Oliver Twist, to Miss Peregrine's home where she encountered the "peculiar children," her literary journey has been rich and varied.

Salvatore Arena

40 cunti di Palermo



pagine 396 2021

The heart of Palermo beats within Salvatore Arena's "40 Cunti". This narrative journey unveils the secrets and mysteries of the Sicilian capital, allowing us to savour the rich artistic, historical, and cultural traditions of Palermo

Palermo, seen through the eyes of a native, comes to life through its monuments, where people become characters, and the corners and streets, along with their markets, take on a vivid energy. In this city rich with history, you can feel the colours and scents, as the people become an integral part of a chaotic yet harmonious whole.
All of this is narrated in the Sicilian language, enriched by influences and blends of Greek, Latin, Arabic, French, Provençal, German, Catalan, Castilian, and Italian—a language that allows us to express an entire world with a single word.
40 Cunti di Palermo presents, in verse, the most important places of this marvellous city; it is an unconventional, unique, and original historical-touristic guide that introduces us to the true Palermo, a land once conquered by the Sicani, Cretans, Elymians, Greeks, Phoenicians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, Swabians, Angevins, Aragonese, Spaniards, and Austrians. These peoples have left behind an extraordinary wealth of monuments.
With his 40 cunti in the Sicilian language, the author aims to bring these extraordinary places to life for tourists and beyond. Naturally, the book includes an Italian translation for a greater understanding and an exciting journey through the history of one of Europe's most beautiful cities.

Salvatore Arena Born in 1966 in Palermo, where he lives and works. He writes out of passion and describes himself as "a collector of moments." He published a collection of short stories titled *Coppola in bella vista* (2007) and collaborated on the creation of *Ragazzi di latta* by B. Caminiti (Limina, 2003). In 2014, he curated the exhibition "Il biglietto racconta – sfumature rosanero in 100 anni di azzurri" at the Super Flash Store of Intesa San Paolo in Palermo.

Massimiliano Scudeletti

L' ultimo rais di Favignana. Aiace alla spiaggia



pagine: 176 2019

Some lives are challenging to capture, such as that of Gioacchino Cataldo, the Rais of the tuna fishery in Favignana. Search for the man, and you encounter the myth: the sea shaman, the tuna fisherman known by many names—Neptune, Il Lungo—and ultimately by the most revered title in the Mediterranean: Rais, both on land and at sea. Embrace the myth, and you discover a young boy who escapes the fate of working in the tufa quarries to join the Florio establishment at fourteen, processing tuna. The boy who, after serving in the military up North, flees the oppressive environment of Favignana to emigrate to Germany. And then the man who returns to become what he always aspired to be: a tonnaroto.

The narratives intertwine: the dream is fulfilled, he becomes the Rais, the keeper of an ancient tradition, just as tuna fisheries across Italy are shutting down. He transforms into a media ambassador for this ritual and battles tirelessly to keep the tonnara in operation and the tradition alive.

In 2006, he was registered in the UNESCO Intangible Heritage Registry as a "Living Human Treasure," but the following year, despite his recognition, he loses his battle: the tuna fishery closes. Thus, this is not merely a biography but a story of the author's quest to capture the essence of the protagonist, culminating in a scene of lights and shadows on a Sicilian beach where a modern Ajax wanders.

A book that immerses you as if you were on that small island, listening to the old Rais, whom the author has chosen to rename Ajax, the tallest of the Achaean warriors

Prizes
Finalista
Premio Letterario
Zeno 2020.

Massimiliano Scudeletti. After his studies, he worked in the production of documentaries and television commercials, initially as a screenwriter and later as a director. Upon turning fifty, he decided to leave the insurance industry to fully immerse himself in traditional Chinese culture and adult education for immigrants. In February 2018, he published his first novel, Little China Girl, featuring protagonist Alessandro Onofri. The book was a finalist for the Tramate con noi award on Rai Radio1.

Daniela Scimeca

Il mistero della tomba di Federico II



pagine 276

Catherine lives in Palermo, where he teaches at the university. The father, dean of the university, died suddenly of a heart attack and she remains lost, disoriented. When he returns to work receive an invitation by the Archbishop, who invites her to pursue historical research that his father was carrying out. The research is about the mysterious woman buried next to Emperor Frederick II, in the amazing red porphyry tomb in the Cathedral of Palermo.

Catherine took the job and the Archbishop adds two colleagues Peter Marchett and Father Carmelo. They begin a back journey on the last events before the death of Federico II and its burial. Soon they realize that the story is very complicated. Soon they realize that the story is very complex. In fact, the grave was opened several times over the centuries; there are obvious tampering and the authorities have never thorough investigations with modern scientific instruments.

So, Father Carmelo remain in the city to carry out research into the library texts, while Peter and Catherine leave for Germany to track down a lost and a Cistercian monaco that seems to provide a good track.

They will meet unexpected and ancient texts littered with encrypted codes, linguistic and mathematical riddles that will lead them to Alexandria in Egypt, where, thanks to the wit and reasoning, they will be able to solve the first puzzle.

Then, come back in Palermo, they will face the second: someone tried to kill father Carmelo, and the other two seem to be in danger. But the difficulties don't stop our three heroes, who discover the truth and reveal the reason for the death of Catherine's father.

A journey through history in search of the truth.

La Repubblica

Daniela Scimeca was born in 1975 and lives in Palermo, she graduated in Literature and Teaches at the high school. In 1996 she won the First Youth Journalism Award "Dario Arrigo". She collaborated with the Giornale di Sicilia.

In 2010 she published his first novel The long march toward home receiving the Critics Award at the National Competition Val di Magra - Roberto Micheloni 2011, and is among the finalists of the literary Trophy Penna d'Autore competition. His latest novel, The Mystery of Frederick II's tomb was a regional finalist in the RAI Prix La Giara 2012 and has received many appreciations by the jury.

Serge Ferrand

Parla il numero uno di cosa nostra



pagine 300

Mafia and his Wolf. The boss of bosses. The true one.
Ferrand is a French journalist, author of best sellers at home, never satisfied of his success, he landed in Sicily to make the scoop of the century.
He finds him, irritating and arrogant, and he secretly reveals himself. From that moment begins a dia - logo, urgent and insistent, which it becomes almost altercation, where emerges the monstrosity of the powerful organization, which need to admit the negation of itself, able to cancel its being to command.
His presence is heavy, meandering and silent: from here emerges the profile of an octopus is widespread in every corner of the world, following exact logic in its internal dynamic, irrepressibly thirst of power, helped by endless external collusion. No escape.
In the interview to the number Mafia's One, described as a solitary and peaceful octogenarian, whose identity remains secret and inviolable, the author traces all the major milestones that have marked the last few decades with the blood of Italian history: the years of lead, the murder of general Dalla Chiesa, the attack on Falcone and Borsellino, the corruption that is rampant collusion, bringing back everything on a single, terrible, unacceptable logic. There are distributed some clues. Highlight is the task of the player and of the experts.

La Mafia and his boss told by those who lived near us
www.lavocedinewyork.com

Serge Ferrand is born in Bona, Algery, in 1946. He began to study philosophy, but in 1968 he devote himself to music. From this passion was born *The Busker*, his first book published in France and his first 45 laps, which accounts simultaneously. As journalist, wrote 4 books also and contributed with Le Figaro Magazine.
He lives in Sicily from almost thirty years.
Mafia's Number One is his first inquiry into Italian language

Salvatore Cosentino

Il giallo della benzina Solida



pagine 224

The Cursed History of Solid Gasoline and the Sicilian Fuardo Who Invented It

This is the story of a non-flammable fuel and its inventor, Ing. Gaetano Fuardo from Piazza Armerina (EN), who died in poverty. Although his heirs were later able to secure several billion francs from the French government, dark forces and major international interests prevented the widespread dissemination of this extraordinary discovery and its manufacturing formula, which is now finally known.

This innovative fuel floats on water like cork, thus avoiding marine pollution. It prevents fires in airplanes and other vehicles that use fuels. Additionally, it renders oil tankers and roadside gas stations obsolete by being marketed in solid form, similar to detergent packaging. Moreover, it cuts the cost of petroleum products by at least 50%.

Salvatore Cosentino. from Mirabella Imbaccari in the province of Catania, is a professor of Public Relations He has written over 25 books on various subjects. In the 1960s, he served as a director for Sicily and Calabria and later worked as a consultant for "Advertising Strategy and Public Relations" at the ICAR-LEO pharmaceutical chemical industry in Rome. From 1976 to 1979, he directed the School of Social Sciences at the Institute of Sociology in Caltagirone. In 1979, he established the first chair of "Public Relations" in Italy at the same institute, following the American pragmatic approach, and published two textbooks on the subject. In 1986, he conducted seminars on "Sociology of Emigration" at the Institute of Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology at the University of Frankfurt, Germany.

Our historyIs the future toward which we are heading....

Proudly independent since 1986, the Bonfirraro publishing house has immediately distinguished itself for the production of quality fiction, to which is added a focus on historical truths that have never been revealed and a successful line of essays and investigations on issues of strong social impact. The orientation toward a type of "committed" literature determines courageous publications with the character of denunciation of any form of injustice, with the aim of contributing to the struggle for the affirmation of freedom, a value considered inalienable.With seriousness, spirit of sacrifice and in line with the maxim Our history is the future towards which we are heading, Bonfirraro likes to look far, to observe the elsewhere, "beyond the border," to give himself and win challenges that seem only apparently impossible.

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