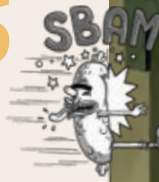


SAGA
ILLUSTRATED
ONE SHOT
NON-FICTION
GRAPHIC NOVEL
SERIES

RIGHTS
LIST

AUTUMN 2024



THE HOUSES OF THE DEAD
HAVE NO STAIRS
ESCAPE FROM PARADISE
OF FIRE & SILK
DETOUR
MY CAT SAW THE KILLER
A FOG OF GHOSTS AND SECRETS
LIDIA POËT
THE FOLIO CLUB
THE MISSING PIECE
WE ARE FIRE
YOU'RE A BUTTERFLY
THE NIGHT I KILLED KURT COBAIN
LIKE CICADAS
BARRIERA
THE FORBIDDEN HOUR

LIKE FOXES AMONG WOLVES
THE FOREST IS BEAUTIFUL
BUT I WOULDN'T LIVE THERE
ZILLA SNAKE FANGS
BEASTS VS HUMANS
THREE FRIENDS, ONE DIARY
THE PERFECT SNOW
SNOT & SPLASH-THE MYSTERY
OF THE MISSING HOLES
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DEDALO & DHARMA
THE NIGHT OF THE STAG BEETLES
CASSANDRA APOLLINAIRE'S
PRODIGIOUS SOUL-CAPTURING
MACHINE
MAYDALA EXPRESS

SUPER BOMB & CAPTAIN FRIZZ
MAUD WEST, LADY DETECTIVE
I'M NOT A GENIUS
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE GREAT CLASSICS
PEEKA & BOO

THE TRUE STORY OF BLACK ITALY
JOURNEY BEYOND THE UNKNOWN
MY LIFE IN CINEMA
THE SUMMER OF THE GREAT BEAR
THE FEAR OF THE LION

DARKMARE
#10DAYCHALLENGE
CALYPSO, THE WI-FI GIRL
LITTLE GATSBY
MY FRIEND LANCELOT
THE CITY OF WITCHES
THE STONE OF LEVERMOIR
THE DESERT FOXES
DRACONIS CHRONICON
SYBERIA
NEVER WALK ALONE
THE LOONIES STRIKE BACK
HOOPDRIVER
THE PHENOMENAL
PT. HELIODORE
THE BOOK REBELS

THE CRIMSON CITY HEIST
THE GREATEST
THE POCKET WATCH GANG
RED STARS
THE LOST FLOWER
OF THE SHAMAN OF K
THE LAST HUNTER
TWENTY-FOUR
A HUNDRED STEPS TO FREEDOM
THE PIKES OF LAKE ROAD
OLGA
BONE MUSIC
CELESTE'S WAR
ALLIGATOR SENSE
TRY NOT TO SLEEP
NOTHING LIKE BEFORE

THE MERCURY MYSTERIES
MONSTER-BIKE GROUP
15 QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

DETECTICAT
THE ANIMALS OF STRANGEMOOD
DETECTIVE LINUS
THE GIGLEGANG
PUZZLE MYSTERIES COLLECTION

116 FILMS
LOVE, SEX AND OTHER SUCH THINGS
BORN IN VIA DELLE CENTO STELLE
15 QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

PEEKA & BOO
THE FOREST

I WROTE YOU A BOOK (JUST NOT THIS ONE!)
MONSIEUR CLAQUETTE'S SUNDAY
TO CATCH A MAGIC FROG
WALKING POLDO
A COLOUR IN THE CROWD

THE ADMIRAL HAS NICKED THE SKY
I AM A LEAF
IT WASN'T ME!
SOME DAYS
ALL FORBIDDEN UNLESS

THERE'S A SMUDGE ON MY DRAWING!
DREAMS
THE KNIGHTS OF GOOD MANNERS
AN ACCIDENTAL CHRISTMAS
OGRE NOSTRIL'S CHRISTMAS

THE ADMIRAL HAS NICKED THE SKY
I AM A LEAF
THE STONE OF LEVERMOIR
THE DESERT FOXES
THE GREATEST
THE LOST FLOWER
OF THE SHAMAN OF K
THE POCKET WATCH GANG

A HUNDRED STEPS TO FREEDOM
THE PIKES OF LAKE ROAD
THE LAST HUNTER
RED STARS
THE MISSING PIECE
#10DAYCHALLENGE
THE NIGHT OF STAG BEETLES
SYBERIA

THE LOONIES STRIKE BACK
BONE MUSIC
OLGA
THE FEAR OF THE LION
15 QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT
MY LIFE IN CINEMA

THE HIDDEN SOCIETY
ARVIS OF THE CLOUDS
THE WIND THIEF - DA MAR, BOOK 1
THE SON OF THE SEA - DA MAR, BOOK 2
THE FOX KING
ULYSSES MOORE - THE WORLDS AT THE END OF THE WORLD

MAGICAL REALISM

THE HOUSES OF THE DEAD HAVE NO STAIRS

AGE 12+



“

HOUSES ALWAYS RESEMBLE THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THEM.



BOOK ON A TREE

ONE SHOT x •

• x T O H S E N O

AGE 12+

THE HOUSES OF THE DEAD HAVE NO STAIRS

Lucia Perrucci

Since the accident in which Dodo's grandmother's house caught fire, things have never been the same. No one wants to talk about what happened or what Dodo saw, and her grandmother is now like a stranger to her. So, when the whole family gets together in that half-burnt house to make an important decision, the house rebels and starts swallowing up her loved ones, making them disappear, one after another...

Only by making peace with the past, and accepting the present, will Dodo know how to protect herself and her loved ones from a worse fate: oblivion.

- ✦ INTENSE AND SURPRISING WRITING, A MOVING FAMILY STORY — ALL FILTERED THROUGH THE EYES OF A YOUNG GIRL.
- ✦ ADVENTURE, THRILLS, MAGICAL REALISM AND UNFORGETTABLE CHARACTERS.
- ✦ *A MONSTER CALLS MEETS CORALINE.*



- FIRST PUBLISHER: MONDADORI (ITALY), 2024

LUCIA PERRUCCI ✦ grew up in the Puglia countryside, among olive groves and cats. She has always been in love with stories, studying literature in Bologna and screenwriting at the Giffoni Film Festival masterclasses. Today she writes and teaches at school. In 2022, she made her debut for Mondadori with *La prodigiosa macchina cattura anime di Cassandra Apollinaire* (Cassandra Apollinaire's *Prodigious Soul-Capturing Machine*).

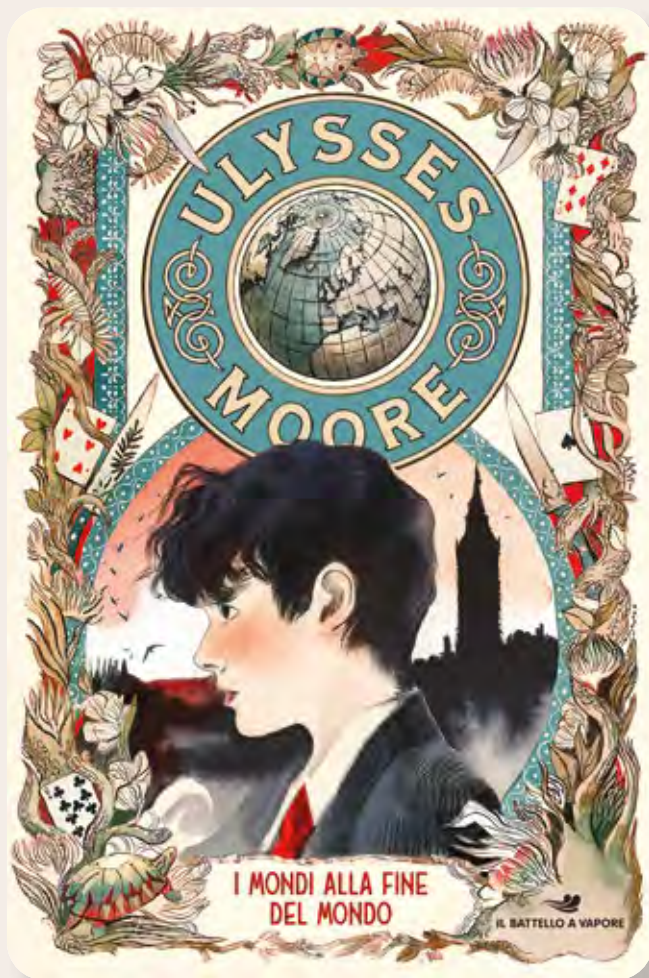


ADVENTURE

ULYSSES MOORE

THE WORLDS AT THE END OF THE WORLD

AGE 10+



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THE LONG-AWAITED PREQUEL TO THE BESTSELLING SAGA.
10 MILLION COPIES SOLD – OVER 30 LANGUAGES.



BOOK ON A TREE

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AGE 10+

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ULYSSES MOORE

THE WORLDS AT THE END OF THE WORLD

Pierdomenico Baccalario

*"You've reached a rite of passage, my boy...
You're at that age when you can pass at any
moment from the world in which things happen
to the one in which you make them happen."*

Ulysses Moore is eleven years old and has no desire to go to Eton, the most prestigious English boarding school. He wants to stay with his friends in the streets of London, exploring ruined buildings, throwing themselves into the Thames on wooden carts, finding the courage to tell his cousin Daffodil how he feels. Instead, he's sent by his grandparents to an enigmatic professor who will tutor him over the coming months. But there's an unexpected twist: not only did the professor tutored his mother when she was alive, but he only knows some secrets about the Moore family, his ancestors and a lost house called Argo Manor, the source of stories that seem to have something to do with the invisible part of the world.

- ◆ **AN ACTION-PACKED SERIES FULL OF MYSTERIES, PUZZLES AND SECRETS WHERE EACH CHAPTER BRINGS NEW TWISTS AND TURNS THAT WILL CHILDREN KIDS ON THE EDGE OF THEIR SEATS!**
- ◆ **AN IRRESISTIBLE ADVENTURE, A TALE OF DISCOVERY THAT WILL TAKE YOU TO PLACES YOU NEVER DREAMED POSSIBLE: "THIS WORLD AND ALL THE POSSIBLE WORLDS".**
- ◆ **THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF *THE DOOR TO TIME (LA PORTA DEL TEMPO)*, THE FIRST BOOK IN THE MILLION-SELLING SAGA WITH 19 BOOKS PUBLISHED TO DATE.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER: PIEMME (ITALY), 2024**

PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO ◆ is a writer and journalist. His books have sold millions of copies worldwide and have been translated into more than 30 languages. He has been writing children's novels since 1997, when he won the Battello a Vapore literary prize for *La strada del guerriero (The Warrior's Path)*, using his neighbour's name. Since then his bestsellers, written under various names (the most famous being Ulysses Moore and Irene Adler), have been translated into over thirty languages and published by some of the most important Italian and international publishers. He has collaborated for over twenty years with the organisation of Lucca Comics & Games, writes for La Repubblica and is a columnist for La Lettura of Corriere della Sera. In 2014, he founded the creative agency Book on a Tree in London. Today he is considered one of the leading Italian children's authors and the most translated abroad.

SUPER BOMB & CAPTAIN FRIZZ VS THE SAUSAGE-MAN

AGE 7+



“

“SUPER BOMB!”

“FOAM FIST!”

THEY ARE READY TO SAVE THE WORLD!”

AGE 7+



BOOK ON A TREE

SUPER BOMB & CAPTAIN FRIZZ
VS THE SAUSAGE-MAN

Guido Sgardoli & Enrico Macchiavello

They're two friends called Guido and Enrichetto.

And in this story, they're superheroes who have to defeat a sausage-man.

Guido and Enrichetto have been friends since they were hanging out in their mums' tummies, because at the hospital their mums shared the same room, and they became instant BFFs. After that, they went to nursery together, then to primary school. And swimming lessons. Neither of them liked swimming though, and the caps made their faces look ridiculous. Real friends like the same stuff, right? Well, they both love TV, chewing gum, video games, pizza with frankfurters, peach iced tea, sneaking peeks at gory surgery pics, and sticking on temporary tattoos. Obviously.

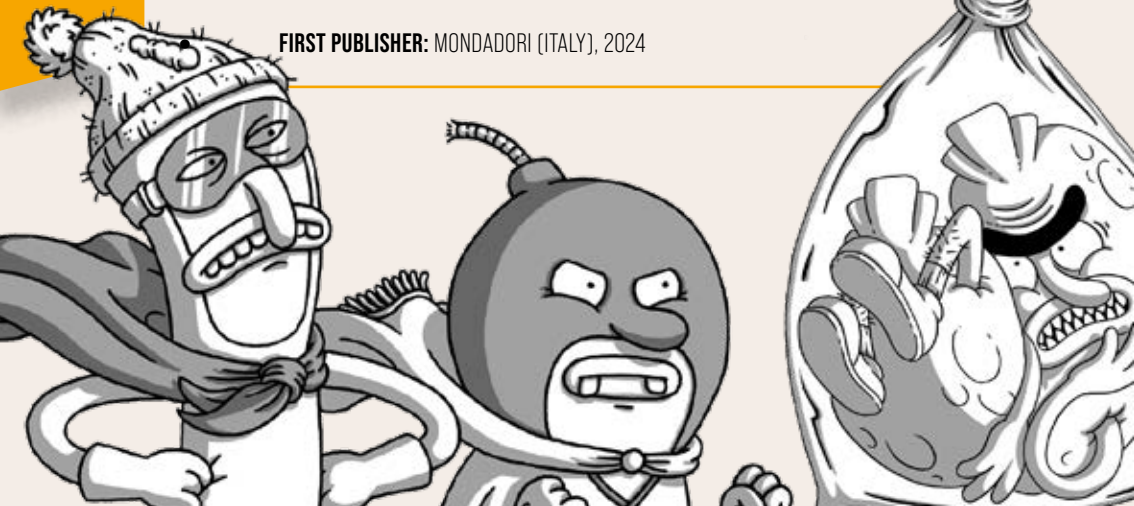
When they grow up, they both want to be superheroes like Superman or Spider-Man and save the world from all the bad guys.

Enrichetto is great at drawing, and Guido is a master at writing, so they invented some stories. Naturally, they're the main characters—except they're superheroes, of course. In the stories, Guido is Super Bomb and Enrichetto is Captain Frizz, and no one knows it's them, because, duh, they both have masks and capes.

≈ EXPLANATION OF THEIR SUPERHERO NAMES:

Guido calls himself Super Bomb because, well, when he faces an enemy, he b-b-b-bombards them with punches! Enrichetto, on the other hand, came up with Captain Frizz because one day Guido said, "Come on, pick a name for your superhero, I'm going with Super Bomb." Enrichetto couldn't think of anything, but then he saw this jar on the table with some white stuff that fizzes in water (it's called Frizzolina, naturally), and boom! Captain Frizz was born!

FIRST PUBLISHER: MONDADORI (ITALY), 2024



I WROTE YOU A BOOK (JUST NOT THIS ONE!)

AGE 4+



66

“YOU CAN READ THIS BOOK AND SEE THAT,
ONCE AND FOR ALL, I REALLY DO LOVE YOU...”



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 4+

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I WROTE YOU A BOOK (JUST NOT THIS ONE!)

Angelo Mozzillo & Silvia Gariglio

Sometimes it takes a whole book to tell a person how much you love her. And if that person is Mum, it will have to be a beautiful book: full of pictures, difficult words, beautiful things to make her smile, music. And everything will have to be super tidy, just as she likes it. It was a book just like that, but it has been lost (maybe the cat took it): this book here remains and maybe Mum will like it anyway!

- * **A TENDER AND WITTY DEDICATION TO MOTHERS, FROM ITALIAN ANDERSEN PRIZE WINNER ANGELO MOZZILLO.**
- * **A BOOK IN WHICH TEXT AND IMAGES DIALOGUE IN A DELIGHTFUL COUNTERPOINT, WITH DELICATE WATERCOLOURS GIVING VISUAL FORM TO CHILDREN'S IMAGINATION.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** CAMELOZAMPA (ITALY), 2024

ANGELO MOZZILLO * is a young and acclaimed author of children's books, published by the most important Italian publishers. For his book *Io sono foglia* (*I Am a Leaf*), illustrated by Marianna Balducci, he was awarded the Andersen Prize for the best picture book and the Super Andersen Prize for the best Italian children's book in 2021.

SILVIA GARIGLIO * is an illustrator from Turin. Her illustrations, done in ink and watercolour on paper, bring figures and landscapes to life with an almost gestural calligraphic painting, letting the colours and brushstrokes define the shapes. Her clients include Eataty, UN Security Management System, RAI Fiction, BIC, and Slow Food. This title marks her debut in picture books.

ROMANCE

ESCAPE FROM PARADISE

AGE 12+

ONE SHOT x •



“

PARADISE IS A TRAP.



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 12+

• x T O H S E N O

ESCAPE FROM PARADISE

Sara De Martino

Genoa, late 1950s. Lilli is the fifth of seven sisters, but she couldn't be more different from them. A tomboy who doesn't like following the rules, she feels suffocated inside the walls of her home.

Everything changes the day Lilli meets Ida, a petty thief in the service of a mysterious woman named Salomè, and her gang of Strays. For the first time in her life, Lilli feels truly accepted by this exciting and adventurous new world, while little by little her friendship with Ida gradually transforms into something stronger and more complex.

But soon Lilli and Ida will realise that they haven't found freedom at all, – on the contrary, they've been caught in a trap.

And they will have to come up with an infallible plan to escape.

-
- ✖ A TRUE STORY SET IN A FASCINATING GENOA, THAT OF DE ANDRÉ'S SONGS.
 - ✖ A COMING-OF-AGE ADVENTURE OF SELF-ACCEPTANCE, THE RIGHT TO LOVE, AND FREEDOM.
 - ✖ A GREAT LOVE PUT TO THE TEST BY A THOUSAND OBSTACLES.
-

- FIRST PUBLISHER: PIEMME (ITALY), 2024
-

SARA DE MARTINO ✖ was born in Genoa in 1989. After graduating from high school she earned a degree in Modern Literature. She completed her studies with a two-year master's degree in *Storytelling, Screenwriting and Directing* at the Holden School in Turin. Since 2015, she has worked as an assistant director in the film and advertising industry. In 2024, she won the sixth edition of the "A Caccia di Storie" ("Do You Have a Story?") competition, a contest to find new writers and great book ideas, organised by Book on a Tree, Lucca Comics and Games, and Mondadori.

OF FIRE & SILK

AGE 12+



“

AN EXHILARATING ADVENTURE AND A TIMELESS LOVE STORY.
A SPELLBINDING NOVEL OF PASSION AND HISTORY.

AGE 12+



BOOK ON A TREE

• x T O H S

E N O

OF FIRE & SILK

Manlio Castagna

Imagine a gripping story with two beginnings and a surprising end.

In the summer of 2024, Lianna arrives in Solferino to visit her mother's grave, where an encounter with Asé, the mysterious cemetery guardian, opens the door to a second beginning.

In the summer of 1858, two siblings, Sante and Altea, and Visio, 'reborn' after a near-fatal encounter, experience love and friendship against the backdrop of the Risorgimento's bloodiest battle. As war looms, they discover the true cost of choices and protecting what they hold dear. Past and present intertwine with unexpected twists in a tale of fire and silk.

✘ **ELEGANT, POWERFUL WRITING WITH SHORT, FAST-PACED CHAPTERS THAT QUICKLY CHANGE THE RHYTHM OF THE STORY. A STORY OF LOVE, FRIENDSHIP AND UNIVERSAL VALUES SET AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF ITALY.**

✘ **AN UNEXPECTED ENDING WITH A TWIST THAT WILL LEAVE YOU BREATHLESS.**

✘ **THEMES OF ADOLESCENT LOVE, CARE AS AN EXPRESSION OF LOVE, COURAGE AND THE QUEST FOR FREEDOM.**

● **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2024

MANLIO CASTAGNA ✘ is a screenwriter, director, author and film critic who has been involved in the artistic direction of the Giffoni Film Festival for over twenty years. He has worked in Hollywood and Doha. He made his debut in children's fiction in 2018 with the bestselling *Petrademone* trilogy, translated into several languages.

He writes about cinema for Cinecittà News and runs writing courses at the Holden School in Turin. In 2022, he wrote and directed the docu-film *Il viaggio degli eroi* with Marco Giallini. It was released in cinemas and gained record audience numbers on Rai 1.

THRILLER

DETOUR

AGE 13+

ONE SHOT x •



“
NO WAY OUT.

AGE 13+



BOOK ON A TREE

• x T O H S E N O

DETOUR

Guido Sgardoli

"Maybe that's what we need to stop doing: looking for an explanation, a reason why. Stop asking why it's happening, ask how, and maybe we'll find a way to escape."

Maya has got lost driving her jeep with her children Clarissa and Mattia on board. Maybe she took the wrong diversion because of the storm, but now her mobile has no signal and there's no trace of the SS48 main road: outside there's nothing but woods and rain. After swerving a fallen boulder in the middle of the road, she reaches a deserted town.

Parked round the little square are a camper, a van and a couple of cyclists. Shortly after, they're joined by another family, five bikers, a man driving a Panda, two boys on their mountain bikes, and a woman.

Everyone seems to have ended up here by chance. They all look around, confused, scanning the sky, already dark at three in the afternoon.

It doesn't take them long to figure it out: they're stuck there, with no escape. It's ridiculous, but there's no road or path they can take to get away from this place which is becoming more threatening by the hour and seems to be swallowing up its visitors, who are vanishing into thin air.

- ✖ A PERFECT BLEND OF THRILLS AND SUSPENSE.
- ✖ ENGAGING WRITING AND BELIEVABLE, SYMPATHETIC, WELL-ROUNDED CHARACTERS.
- ✖ A MYSTERY-PACKED STORYLINE WITH A SLOW BUILD-UP OF ALMOST TANGIBLE TENSION, KEEPING YOU GUESSING AND ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT TILL THE LAST PAGE.
- ✖ *FROM* (TV SERIES) MEETS *OUTER RANGE* (TV SERIES).

- FIRST PUBLISHER: PIEMME (ITALY), 2024

GUIDO SGARDOLI ✖ is one of Italy's best-known children's authors, with over a hundred books to his name. His stories have been translated into many languages, and he has won all the major children's literary prizes, including the Strega Children's Prize, three Italian Andersen Awards, the Cento Prize and the Bancarellino Prize. In 2021, he was included in the Italian IBBY Honour List with *Anomalya* (Giunti) and *I Grigi* (*The Greys*), DeA.

MY CAT SAW THE KILLER

AGE 12+

ONE SHOT x •



“

A PERFECT MURDER.
AN UNLIKELY WITNESS.
AND A MACHINE THAT CAN TAKE YOU PLACES
YOU'VE NEVER WANTED TO GO.

• x T O H S



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 12+

E N O

MY CAT SAW THE KILLER

Davide Morosinotto

In Bologna, someone kills a well-known international criminal in cold blood. The killer leaves no traces, the security cameras capture nothing. But there's a witness: a cat, who happened to be passing by.

The police thus decide to capture the feline and use an experimental machine on him, one that allows the user to access another person's memories.

One problem: the cat is very uncooperative. As well as to the cat, the police also find themselves having to deal with his difficult sixteen-year-old owner. And then there's a killer who's hiding a terrible secret... and is willing to do anything to prevent the truth from getting out.

- ✖ **A WELL-STRUCTURED, ACTION-BASED STORY WRITTEN IN PLAIN LANGUAGE.**
- ✖ **A SWEEPING THRILLER, PERFECT FOR SCI-FI AND THRILLER LOVERS, THAT CAN BE READ IN THE TIME IT TAKES TO WATCH A FILM.**
- ✖ **CAT'S EYE MEETS INCEPTION.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2024

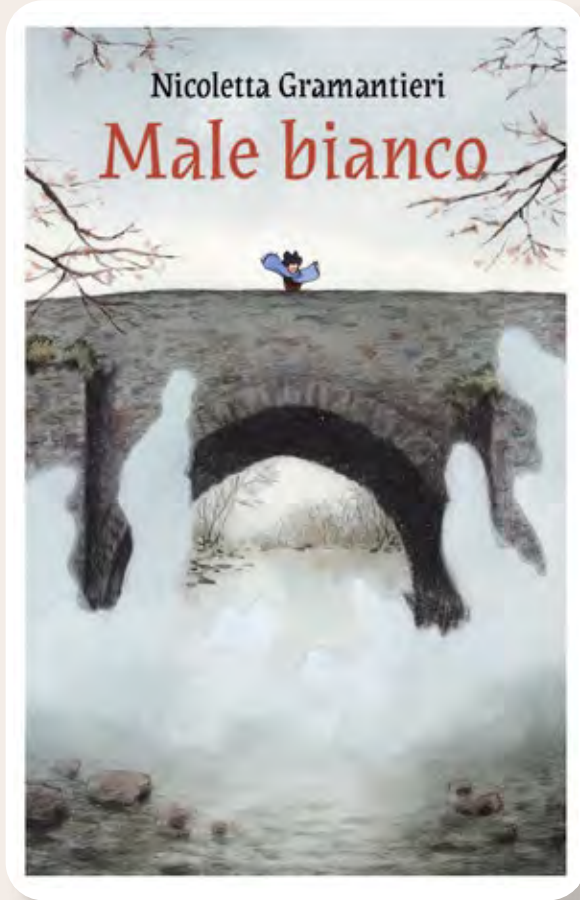
DAVIDE MOROSINOTTO ✖ is a multi-award-winning writer whose works have been translated into 25 languages. He won the Andersen Prize with *Il Rinomato Catalogo Walker & Dawn* (*The Pocket Watch Gang*), Mondadori, 2017, and was a finalist for the prestigious Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis in Germany in 2018. In 2019, he won the Prix des Bouquineurs en Seine in France, the Vlag en Wimpel in the Netherlands, and the Flanders KJV. In 2021, he entered the IBBY Italian Honour List, won the Zilveren Griffel in the Netherlands, the Penzberger Urmel Literature prize in Germany, the Grand Prix des Lectures du Journal de Mickey in France and the Strega Children's Prize in Italy. He was also nominated for the Carnegie Medal 2022 in the UK.

MAGICAL REALISM

A FOG OF GHOSTS AND SECRETS

AGE 12+

ONE SHOT x •



“

A VILLAGE.
A RIVER.
A MYSTERIOUS FOG RISING FROM THE RIVER
AND A GIRL DESTINED FOR SOMETHING MORE.



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 12+

• x T O H S E N O

A FOG OF GHOSTS AND SECRETS

Nicoletta Gramantieri

A village immersed in fog, where ghosts seem to rise from the river, the chimes of the bell tower echoing in the air, and the memory of dead children... Like many fairytales, there's also a godmother and a girl destined for something more. Hidden deep in the past are secrets waiting to be uncovered. An old woman knits grey socks in the shadows, while the weavers secretly craft a luminous tapestry, and a group of fighters who never came down from the hills after the war still haunt the village. And an old mystery still waits to be revealed.

-
- ✗ AN INTRIGUING, ATMOSPHERIC SETTING, FADING TO GREY LIKE THE WINTER FOG.
 - ✗ A BREATHTAKING THRILLER AND BLOODY MYSTERY TO BE REVEALED.
 - ✗ AN UNFORGETTABLE HEROINE LOOKING FOR HERSELF AND HER PLACE IN THE WORLD.
 - ✗ A BALANCE BETWEEN REALITY AND FANTASY.
 - ✗ VIVID CHARACTERS WHO WILL LINGER IN THE READERS' MINDS.
-

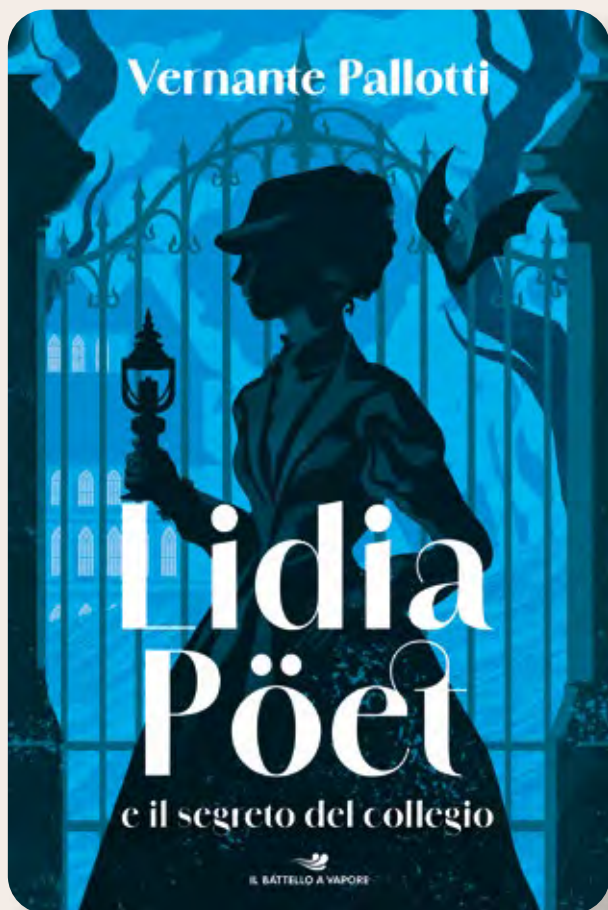
- FIRST PUBLISHER: EMONS (ITALY), 2025
-

NICOLETTA GRAMANTIERI ✗ manages the Salaborsa library in Bologna, one of most important children's libraries in Italy. She is an expert in children's literature, an educator and an author of numerous specialised essays and articles. She is a member of *Nati per leggere*, and the board of IBBY Italia.

MYSTERY

LIDIA POËT AND THE SECRET OF THE BOARDING SCHOOL

AGE 12+



“

IMPOSSIBLE TASKS MAKE ME FEEL CALM.



BOOK ON A TREE

ONE SHOT x •

• x THS EN O

AGE 12+

LIDIA POËT AND THE SECRET OF THE BOARDING SCHOOL

Vernante Pallotti

Lidia Poët was the first female lawyer and rebellious teenager in Italian history. In 1871, when girls could only crochet and make rice pudding, she was already stubborn enough to follow her dreams and defend those who had no rights.

This makes Lidia the perfect travel companion for young readers looking for their place in the world. A fascinating and atypical heroine who, in her own words, is "*just an ordinary girl who sometimes does extraordinary things*".

In this all-female mystery, the real Lidia is put to the test by the dark secret of the boarding school where she was sent to learn good manners. The aspiring lawyer will need all her powers of speech and courage to solve the case, overcoming prejudices and remaining true to herself.

- ✖ **A REVOLUTIONARY MAIN CHARACTER. IN AN ERA DOMINATED BY APPEARANCES, LIDIA MAY SEEM LIKE A "NORMAL" GIRL, BUT SHE IS A POWERFUL SYMBOL OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS: AN ORDINARY GIRL WHO'S NOT AFRAID TO BE HERSELF, AND THAT'S WHAT MAKES HER EXTRAORDINARY. EVERY READER CAN SEE SOMETHING OF THEMSELVES IN HER.**
- ✖ **THE STORY WAS READ AND APPROVED BY POËT'S HEIRS, WHO FOUND THE TRUE ESSENCE OF LIDIA IN THE PAGES OF THE BOOK.**

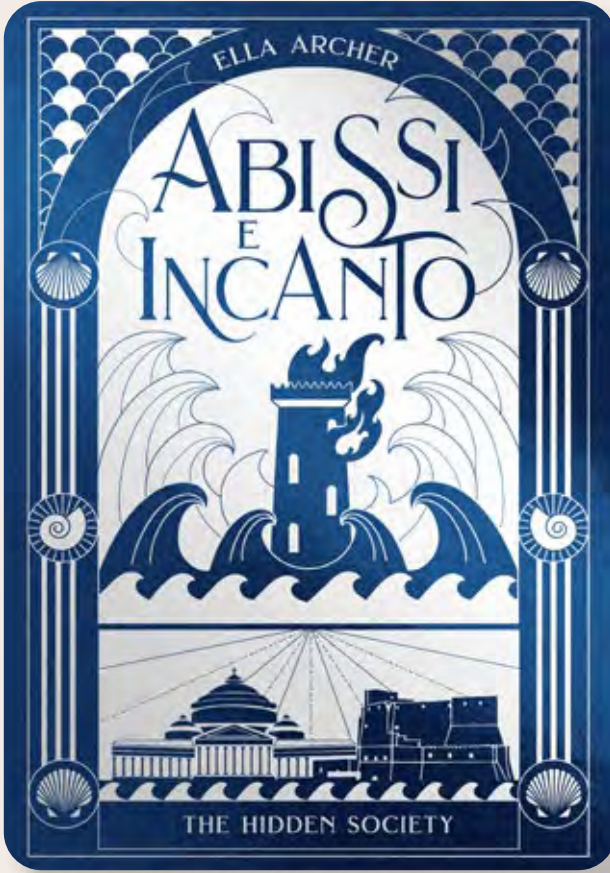
- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2024

VERNANTE PALLOTTI ✖ is a writer, screenwriter and director. Her name means "she who brings spring" and her stories, written for children and teenagers, are inspired by this season. These include the novel *Banshee: gli amori impossibili non muoiono mai* (Piemme), *Scilla Zanne di Serpente (Zilla Snake Fangs)*, Piemme, and "Animal House", a Rai Gulp TV series.

ROMANTASY

THE HIDDEN SOCIETY

AGE: NEW ADULT



“

**A NEW ROMANTASY SAGA
THAT WILL MAKE YOUR HEART BEAT
FASTER AND STRONGER THAN EVER BEFORE.**



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AGE: NEW ADULT

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THE HIDDEN SOCIETY

The Archer Sisters



SPELLS AND BRASS
Jude Archer

★
VENICE
MAGICIANS

Ambra Valmori believes her only concerns are her upcoming Persian Archaeology exam and a fierce rivalry with her despised academic competitor at Venice University, Ismael Sagredo. Fate, however, has a different plan in store. One night, she ends up in the towers and libraries of Seledia Academy of Magic, where she will unravel a mystery that concerns her past and discover that magic is a dangerous part of herself as well.



ABYSS AND CHARM
Ella Archer

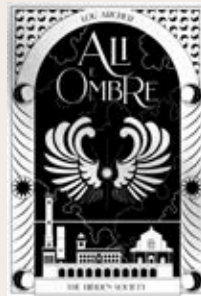
★
NAPLES
MERMAIDS

Safira is the Princess of Mermaids, so she has to seduce and kill a human being to make her magic powerful and complete. Aris is her intended victim: a young sailor, sweet and handsome. But he's also the one who will show Safira the beauty of the human world and that she is different from what she always thought.



DREAMS AND SPARKS
Serena Archer

★
FLORENCE
FAES
(October 2025)



WINGS AND SHADOWS
Lou Archer

★
BOLOGNA
DEMONS
(March 2025)



4 authors
magical worlds
Italian cities
destinies revealed in the tarot cards
incredible love stories

RIVALRY, PASSION and SECRETS:
a mix that will conquer the lovers of this genre.

★
Characters, settings and situations reflect the canons requested by the readers of ERIN DOOM, LEIGH BARDUGO and ROKIA, but with a shade of FRESHNESS and ORIGINALITY.

FIRST PUBLISHER: IL CASTORO (ITALY), 2024 - SERIES
TWO TITLES PUBLISHED, TWO MORE IN 2025.

Rights sold in: France, Belgium and the Netherlands, Russia

Movie rights optioned

THRILLER

THE FOLIO CLUB

AGE 13+

ONE SHOT x •



“

ELEVEN STUDENTS.
 AN EXCLUSIVE CLUB.
 DARK SECRETS AND FATAL OBSESSIONS.

AGE 13+



BOOK ON A TREE

• x T O H S E N O

THE FOLIO CLUB

Guido Sgardoli

An exclusive boarding school in Switzerland, the Trinity. An elite group of students led by a charismatic boy who calls himself Byron. They dress like the cursed poets and meet up, at night, in a boathouse chosen as their refuge, where they drink, smoke opium and gamble. But that's not all. An aura of mystery and perhaps fear hangs around the Folio Club, the name of their little circle. What the members of the club really do, no one knows for sure, but some tragic events seem to be associated with their secret activities. When Niccolò, after being expelled from four schools, arrives at the Trinity Lyceum, he is immediately ensnared by Byron who wants him in the club. When Byron later disappears without a trace, Niccolò starts asking himself some questions. What does the club have to do with Marcello Turrini's suicide the previous year? And why did a mysterious man come looking for Byron at the boarding school just the day before his disappearance?

- ✗ **A MODERN NOVEL BETWEEN A THRILLER AND A ROMANCE.**
- ✗ **STRONG CHARACTERS WHO REMAIN IN THE READERS' IMAGINATIONS.**
- ✗ **PACE AND APPEAL OF A TV SERIES.**
- ✗ **A COMPELLING NARRATIVE, A MIX OF MYSTERY, DRAMA AND CRIME, SET AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF A PRESTIGIOUS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION. SECRET SOCIETIES, PERSONAL DEMONS, AND THE QUEST FOR TRUTH.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** DEAGOSTINI (ITALY), 2024

GUIDO SGARDOLI ✗ is one of the most famous Italian children's authors and has written over one hundred books. His stories have been translated into many languages and have won all the major literary prizes dedicated to writing for children, such as the Italian Andersen in 2009, 2015 and 2018, and the Strega Children's Prize in 2019. In 2021, he entered the Italian IBBY Honour List with *Anomalya* (Giunti) 2020, and *I Grigi* (*The Greys*), DeA, 2020.

MAUD WEST, LADY DETECTIVE

AGE 10+



“

SHE'S A MISTRESS OF DISGUISE WITH THE ACUMEN OF MISS MARPLE, THE RESOURCEFULNESS OF ENOLA HOLMES AND A HELPER WHO ALWAYS GETS INTO TROUBLE. IT'S MAUD WEST, THE FIRST REAL LADY DETECTIVE WHO EVER LIVED.



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 10+

MAUD WEST, LADY DETECTIVE

Max Finch

Illustrations by Iacopo Bruno

GET READY TO MEET THE GREATEST LONDON DETECTIVE OF THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY AND, ABOVE ALL, GET READY FOR SURPRISES: SHE'S A WOMAN, WITH AN UNBEATABLE INSTINCT AND A WEAKNESS FOR RISKY INVESTIGATIONS.

She was running her own private agency for over thirty years in a world completely dominated by men. And there's a lot to say about her, including her very modern choice to advertise with storytelling, i.e., by writing fictionalised versions of her cases, which she then published for a fee in the press.

1 = A MATRYOSHKA OF MYSTERIES. London, October 1920. Maud West and her young assistant Max Finch have just solved an intricate investigation and are preparing to celebrate with a nice lunch when the phone rings. It's a wealthy lady who hires Maud to investigate her husband's suspected cheating. It sounds like easy money, but what starts out as a trivial case of marital infidelity turns out to be something far more intricate and elusive. A series of mysteries, hidden one in the other like a matryoshka, will lead to murder, blackmail and a plot against the Queen to take possession of a military patent. A plot behind which could be hidden the most heinous of all criminal organisations, that of the Hundred Masks...

2 = A CATHEDRAL OF COBWEBS. Liverpool, 1920. With his new cap, Finch invites Maggie to the cinema. But romantic gestures are not her thing... better to dive into Maud West's new assignment. The request comes from Lucy Colburn, the right-hand woman of the Prime Minister, which means: it's hot stuff. Leaving Maggie on guard at Albion House, Maud and Finch must take the overnight train to Liverpool, intercept a passenger who's disembarked from the SS Triton, and recover a mysterious briefcase before someone else does. The only detail is that this someone else is much more dangerous than they are and is willing to do anything, absolutely anything, to succeed.

= MAUD'S STORIES, LIKE THOSE OF ENOLA HOLMES, FOCUS ON A WOMAN'S RESOURCEFULNESS, THE DRIVE FOR EMANCIPATION AND INDEPENDENCE, AND FOLLOWING ONE'S PASSIONS AND DREAMS.

= THRILLING STORIES, FULL OF SUSPENSE AND FUN, WITH A TOUCH OF REFLECTION ON THE SOCIETY AND ALSO WITH A PINCH OF ROMANCE.

• **FIRST PUBLISHER:** GALLUCCI (ITALY), 2023-2024

MAX FINCH = A.K.A. PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO, ALESSANDRO GATTI AND LUCIA STIPARI.

PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO = is a writer and journalist. His books have sold millions of copies worldwide and have been translated into over 30 languages. Today he is considered one of the leading Italian children's authors and the most widely translated abroad.

ALESSANDRO GATTI = studied a lot of philosophy as a young man, but then he thought it was best to start writing novels for children. Along with Pierdomenico Baccalarario and Lucia Vaccarino, he is also the author of the novels in the *Sherlock, Lupin & Io* (*Sherlock, Lupin & Me*) series, Piemme, translated into several languages. For a few years he has also been a comic book writer for Disney.

LUCIA STIPARI = was born in Milan and has been working in the publishing field for many years. She's a partner at Studio Pym, a creative agency that deals with books, graphics and communication, but since she lost herself among the branches of Book on a Tree, she has understood that the thing she likes most is writing.



THE MISSING PIECE

AGE 14+

ONE SHOT x •



“

WE'RE ALL MISSING SOMETHING.
SOMETHING WE CAN NEVER FIND EVEN THOUGH
WE KEEP ON SEARCHING.

• x T O H S E N O

AGE 14+



BOOK ON A TREE

THE MISSING PIECE

Pierdomenico Baccalario

Fourteen-year-old Victor misses his brother Fred, who is unconscious at the hospital after a mysterious accident.

Since he can't make up for this absence any other way, Victor looks for his brother in the traces that he left behind: Fred's four best friends, his incomplete book and comic collections, role-playing games and even a dark matter anomaly detected by their parents (both physicists). But did he ever really know his brother?

In exploring that beloved figure, Victor also learns something about himself.

- ✗ **THRILLS, ACTION, ROLE-PLAYING GAMES BUT ALSO A STORY OF LOSS, RESILIENCE, HOPE, AND, ABOVE ALL, THE POWER OF IMAGINATION.**
- ✗ **A LABYRINTH OF EMOTIONS THROUGH WELL-CHARACTERISED CHARACTERS.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER: IL CASTORO (ITALY), 2023**

PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO ✗ is a writer and journalist. His books have sold millions of copies worldwide and have been translated into over 30 languages. Today he is considered one of the leading Italian children's authors and the most widely translated abroad.

**“The Missing Piece”
by Pierdomenico Baccalario
was nominated by Loredana Lipperini
for the 2024 Strega Prize.**



HERE IS LOREDANA LIPPERINI'S MOTIVATION:

“Literature has always talked about loss: or at least tried to reach loved ones with words, which goes even beyond its apparent aims. Perhaps, indeed, this is what writers are for, finding the words to defeat, if not death, then the loneliness of death and its repudiation, the hesitation and even the repugnance that those who suffer a loss arouse in others.

“The Missing Piece” by Pierdomenico Baccalario does this: it narrates the loss suffered by Vittorio and his pain for his brother Federico, in a coma after an accident. Vittorio tries to be him, and therefore to complete his comic collections, to walk in his footsteps, to exist in his role-playing games. When the writer narrates this, he doesn't just give life to a literary project, but to a project of reconstruction of what we have lost, not just who. It's the ability to share, even pain. “The Missing Piece” is not a book for young adults, but a novel for adults: because perhaps we should say enough to models and barriers and boxes, when stories manage to touch readers whatever their age or presumable taste. And this is why I am nominating this book for the 2024 Strega Prize.”

ROMANCE

WE ARE FIRE

AGE 12+



“

AND YOU, HAVE YOU EVER FALLEN IN LOVE?
THE ADVENTURE OF FIRST LOVE
FROM A MALE POINT OF VIEW.



BOOK ON A TREE

ONE SHOT x •

• x T O H S E N O

AGE 12+

WE ARE FIRE

Marco Magnone

A few years after the success of *La mia estate Indaco* (*My Indigo Summer*) in Italy, Marco Magnone is back to talk about topics that are dear to him, such as summers that change everything, great teenage friendships and first love. But, unlike many other contemporary romances and love stories, he does so from a male point of view.

The story of Nicolas, a light-hearted troublemaker, and his best friend Alex, who only seemingly resembles him. Because in reality he has a hidden side that he only expresses by sending voice messages to himself, in a sort of secret diary. However, the summer they spend together, working on a campsite in Salento, will change everything forever. And if, at the beginning, the real protagonist seems to be Nicolas, willing to do anything to win the heart of Mia whom he fell for right away, page after page another truth will emerge: that first love is an unstoppable force. It can overwhelm the strongest of friendships. As well as bringing out who we really are, even if we've never had the courage to be that person before.

- ✖ **A PLOT FULL OF TWISTS AND TURNS FROM THE FIRST TO THE LAST PAGE. THE STRONG EMOTIONS TYPICAL OF LOVE STORIES WITH THE FAST-PACED RHYTHM OF THE BEST ADVENTURES.**
- ✖ **A HIGHLY TOPICAL STORY – BETWEEN SENTIMENTAL EDUCATION AND TOXIC MASCULINITY – TO BREAK THE GENDER STEREOTYPES ACCORDING TO WHICH THERE ARE STORIES FOR MEN AND STORIES FOR WOMEN.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER: MONDADORI (ITALY), 2024**

MARCO MAGNONE ✖ is one of the most appreciated and requested children's authors by schools, events and reading groups in Italy, thanks to which every year he meets thousands and thousands of young readers all over the country. His books include: *La mia estate indaco* (*My Indigo Summer*), *Fino alle fine del fiato*, *La guerra di Celeste* (*Celeste's War*), and *Barriera*. With Fabio Geda he wrote the two successful sagas *Berlin* and *I segreti di Acquamorta*. He also teaches at Scuola Holden in Turin and the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, and he collaborates on the artistic direction of the Mare di Libri festival in Rimini and the Storie in Cammino festival in Firenze.



THE FOX KING

AGE 12+



“

WHAT IF YOU MET SOMEONE
WHO COULD MAKE YOUR WISHES COME TRUE?



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 12+





THE FOX KING

Fiore Manni

AGE 12+

1 ◆ **THE FOX KING.** Marian, promised in marriage to the despicable Carl Lawrence, meets a talking fox named Macbeth. The fox promises that if she helps him return to the magical realm of Faerie, the Fox King will grant her a wish. Marian accepts, but once she arrives in Faerie, she finds herself in trouble. Aleister, the Fox King, turns out to be nothing like she had imagined and refuses to grant her wish. Together, they face incredible challenges: escaping vengeful fairies, exploring the labyrinth of dwarves and defending themselves against goblins and monsters. Along the way, Marian begins to find her own voice and discover her inner strength.

2 ◆ **THE TIME OF THE FOXES.** Marian's life has changed drastically with Aleister by her side. However, as she prepares to introduce him to her family, Marian is attacked by a dark enemy. A mysterious Shadow Fox King spreads destruction, and Aleister is willing to do anything to save her, even making a deal with his old enemy, the Necromancer. Thus begins a race against time to uncover the secrets of blood magic.

IN THE THIRD BOOK. Marian seems to have disappeared, but Aleister is sure she is still alive. Together with Feardorcha, he fights a new enemy...

-
- ✦ **A CAPTIVATING FANTASY, A STORY OF MAGIC, LOVE AND PERSONAL GROWTH, WHICH TAKES US BACK TO THE ATMOSPHERES OF THE NOVELS OF JANE AUSTEN AND DIANA WYNNE JONES.**
 - ✦ **UNFORGETTABLE CHARACTERS, AN IRRESISTIBLE AND ICONIC FOX KING, A PLOT FULL OF TWISTS.**

-
- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** RIZZOLI (ITALY), 2023-2024

FIORE MANNI ✦ studied as a fashion designer and presented a children's TV show for many years. In her free time she is a content creator and talks about books on her Instagram profile. She has published the *Jack Bennet saga*, *Come le cicale* (*Like Cicadas*) and *Amore, sesso e altre cose così* (*Love, Sex and Other Such Things*), written with Elena Peduzzi, with Rizzoli. She is also the co-author of the graphic novel *Mask'd*, published by Star Comics.



ROMANCE

YOU'RE A BUTTERFLY

AGE 14+

ONE SHOT x •



“

LIFE CAN BE THIS TOO.
SIMPLE LITTLE THINGS THAT ARE UNIQUE AT THE SAME TIME.
UNIQUE LIKE ONLY HE AND I CAN BE, TOGETHER.



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 14+

• x T O H S E N O

YOU'RE A BUTTERFLY

Camilla Mancini

Celeste lives what everyone else sees as the perfect life. Designer clothes, big house, international school, driver, tennis club and... famous dad. It seems like this is all Celeste will ever be, the daughter of Vittorio Lucci, the famous actor who made it in Hollywood. All very fun. And glamorous, as many people say. Lately, though, Celeste has just been on autopilot. She needs to find the pause button. She pretends to be happy, but she feels like everything around her is falling apart: Veronica, her lifelong friend, has decided to stop eating, her father is never around and Romeo, the boy she's trying to build a relationship with, lives in a world too far from hers. But sometimes, however, a pause is enough to understand what really matters. You just need to look up and observe. Sometimes the flutter of a butterfly's wings is all it takes to understand where it's leading you, what your path is.

- ✗ **A CLEAR, DIRECT FIRST-PERSON VOICE OUTSIDE THE USUAL TEENAGE MODEL.**
- ✗ **THE ROSE-TINTED WORLD OF THE RICH, BLUNTLY TOLD FROM BEHIND THE SCENES.**
- ✗ **A TOUCHING TALE OF SELF-DISCOVERY, ADDRESSING UNIVERSAL THEMES LIKE FRIENDSHIP, BETRAYAL, LOVE, FAMILY, DREAMS, DESIRES, AND IDENTITY WITHOUT SENSATIONALISM.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2024

CAMILLA MANCINI ✗ was born in Genoa in 1997 and immediately started travelling around Italy and then Europe due to her father's job: he is the famous football player and coach Roberto Mancini. She is passionate about photography, writing and sport. For her, heaven is the simple things, like going for ice cream, her loved ones' smiles, the smell of coffee, a bunch of red roses, singing her heart out in the car and a rainy Saturday night in the company of a good film and some chips.

REALISTIC FICTION

THE NIGHT I KILLED KURT COBAIN

AGE 13+



66

DEFINING YOURSELF ALSO MEANS LOSING SOMETHING.



BOOK ON A TREE

ONE SHOT x •

AGE 13+

• x T O H S E N O

THE NIGHT I KILLED KURT COBAIN

Azzurra D'Agostino

Italy, 1994. Frances, 17 years old, with short blue hair, holds a flame that she doesn't want to betray: it's her passion for words, music, threshold places and the photographs she takes to tell this story – through what is seen, but above all what you don't see. She is in love with Kurt Cobain, the leader of her favourite band, Nirvana. Or perhaps she is in love with both members of her grunge band: Zippo and Liam. Liam is the one who discovers that in early March their legend will be coming to Italy to spend time with his wife Courtney Love. It's the perfect moment to meet him not in the distance of a stage at crowded concerts, but face to face, able to shake his hand, talk, maybe give him a letter. Liam thus proposes to Frances and Zippo that they leave for Rome. Not really running away from home, more a kind of leave from their provincial lives. The journey will be an adventure: between hitchhiking, dangerous promises, squatted social centres and meetings with epic characters, they will manage to reach The Excelsior Hotel where KC is staying in time. It's the 3rd of March 1994. Frances leaves him two bottles of champagne as a gift. The same ones that will be the cause of the coma in which Cobain ends up that very night, a harbinger of his tragic death, which took place a month later.

- ✗ **THE '90S, THE PASSION FOR A LEGEND, AN IDOL.**
- ✗ **THREE TEENS JOURNEY ON THE TRAIL OF THEIR HERO; TWO BOYS AND A GIRL WITH THEIR BODIES: THE STRENGTH AND AMBIGUITY OF LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP IN ADOLESCENCE.**
- ✗ **THE POWER OF LANGUAGE. AS IN A DIARY OR A PERSONAL ALBUM, EVERY EVENT IS TOLD IN THREE WAYS: THE NARRATION OF THE FACTS, PHOTOGRAPHY WITH WHAT WE DON'T SEE, AND A POEM/SONG WRITTEN BY THE PROTAGONIST.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** IL CASTORO (ITALY), 2024
- **MOVIE RIGHTS OPTIONED**

AZZURRA D'AGOSTINO ✗ was born and still lives in a little town in the Tuscan-Emilian Apennines. She's published various poetry collections (which have earned recognition and awards) and writes for the theatre, both for adults and children. She's published several illustrated comics and novels for children, as well as a pack of oracle cards based on poetry and fortune-telling. As well as writing, she runs poetry workshops for people of all ages. This novel brings together feelings, lives, and emotions linked to adolescence, whatever millennium you experience it in.

ROMANCE

LIKE CICADAS

AGE 12+

ONE SHOT x •



“

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG
WITH WHO YOU ARE



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 12+

• x T O H S E N O

LIKE CICADAS

Fiore Manni

This story is about Teresa, known as Terry, the summer she was twelve, and Agata, her first love. Just like every year, Terry will be spending the summer at her family's house by the sea, and is already imagining the adventures she'll have with her usual group of friends. But when she gets there, she's taken aback to find that all her friends are more "grown up" than her, while she is the same young girl she was last summer.

One day, Terry meets the blonde, pale and slender Agata. They start talking and Terry doesn't understand what is happening to her: Agata is so beautiful that she is dazzled by her. The days go by and Terry is increasingly confused: she'd like to spend as much time as possible with Agata, and her friend feels the same way.

-
- ✗ **THE JOY, SUFFERING, AND PROBLEMS OF FIRST LOVE.**
 - ✗ **A "CALL ME BY YOUR NAME" FOR KIDS.**
 - ✗ **A NOVEL ABOUT DIVERSITY, AND SEARCHING FOR AND FINDING ONESELF.**
-

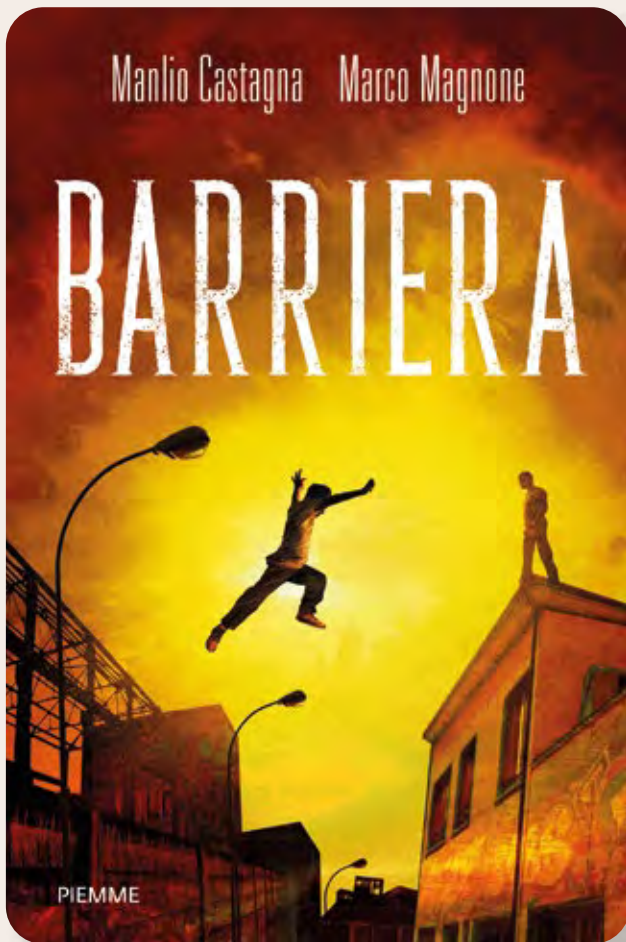
- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** RIZZOLI (ITALY), 2021
 - **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** FRANCE (SEUIL)
 - **AUDIO RIGHTS SOLD IN:** ENGLISH, SPANISH AND POLISH (SAGA EGMONT)
-

FIORE MANNI ✗ has published three children's novels with Rizzoli: *Jack Bennet e la Chiave di Tutte le Cose* (*Jack Bennet and the Key of All Things*) (Asti d'Appello Junior Prize, finalist for the Castello di Sanguinetto prize), *Jack Bennet e il Viaggiatore dai mille volti* (*Jack Bennet and the Traveller with a Thousand Faces*) and *Amore, sesso e altre cose così* (*Love, Sex and Such Other Things*) with Elena Peduzzi. She is the co-author of the graphic novel *Mask'd*, published by Star Comics.

REALISTIC FICTION

BARRIERA

AGE 14+



“

HERE, IN BARRIERA EVERYONE'S FATE IS WRITTEN IN THEIR BLOOD.
AND YOU CAN'T CHANGE THAT.



BOOK ON A TREE

ONE SHOT x •

AGE 14+

• x T O H S E N O

BARRIERA

Manlio Castagna & Marco Magnone

On the outskirts of Turin, a city in the midst of an identity crisis, stands the Barriera di Milano district, a blend of colours and cultures, poverty and violence, anger for the present and fear for the future. And if you're a half-Maghrebi, half-Italian boy, it's hard not to feel like you're in a cage.

This is the story of 16-year-old Yasin, caught between first love and wanting to belong: to a family, a society, a group of friends.

But it's also the story of Malik, his older brother, who has already been to prison and made choices he can't easily go back on. Between them is a special girl Aria, a fiery character and a tragic fate that screams out for revenge. Or justice.

- ✗ **UNIVERSAL THEMES ADDRESSED: THE CRISIS OF PARENTAL EXPECTATIONS, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BROTHERS, LOVE AND SEXUAL IDENTITY, JUVENILE DELINQUENCY.**
- ✗ **A LANGUAGE THAT EXPRESSES THE ALTERNATING VOICES OF THE TWO UNFORGETTABLE MAIN CHARACTERS, IN A BALANCE BETWEEN COMING OF AGE, ROMANCE AND NOIR.**
- ✗ **A CROSS-SECTION OF OUR SOCIETY, WHERE THE NEW GENERATIONS GROW UP WITHOUT IDENTITY LABELS, CAUGHT BETWEEN WORLDS THAT ONLY APPEAR POLES APART TO ADULTS.**
- ✗ **A GRIPPING STORY, FROM THE FIRST TO THE LAST PAGE, WITH A COMPLEX INTERWEAVING OF UNPREDICTABLE AND SURPRISING ENDINGS.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER: PIEMME (ITALY), 2023**

MANLIO CASTAGNA ✗ is a screenwriter, director and film critic. He has been involved in the Giffoni festival for over twenty years and was the deputy artistic director from 2007-2018. He made his narrative debut with the bestselling trilogy *Petrademone*, published by Mondadori and translated into various languages. He continues to churn out books and was shortlisted for the Strega Children's Prize in 2021 with *La notte delle Malombre* (*The Night of the Malombre*), Mondadori, and he also got a special mention at the Cento Prize 2021.

MARCO MAGNONE ✗ was born in Asti in 1981 and lives in Turin. He is the author of several novels published in Italy by Mondadori and other leading publishers, some of them written together with his friend Fabio Geda. He teaches at Scuola Holden in Turin, is a partner of the Mare di Libri festival - Rimini and collaborates with schools, bookshops, libraries and events dedicated to reading education.

ROMANCE

THE FORBIDDEN HOUR

AGE 11+

ONE SHOT x •



“

IS THIS HOW LOVE HAPPENS?
WITH NO WARNING, LIKE A SUDDEN CHANGE IN THE WEATHER?

• x T O H S E N O



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 11+

THE FORBIDDEN HOUR

Lucia Stipari

Philomena, 13 years old, returns to the seaside house that used to belong to her grandmother. She has trouble accepting her grandmother's death and the only way she can make all her anger go away is by wandering outside in the early afternoon hours. It's the so-called "forbidden hour", when the sun shines at its peak and you'd better stay inside and rest, because strange things might happen...

That's when Philo meets Damien: who is this boy who stirs up so many feelings in her?

Why doesn't he have a shadow, like a demigod? While Damien's mystery slowly unfolds, Philomena learns to let go and enjoy every second.

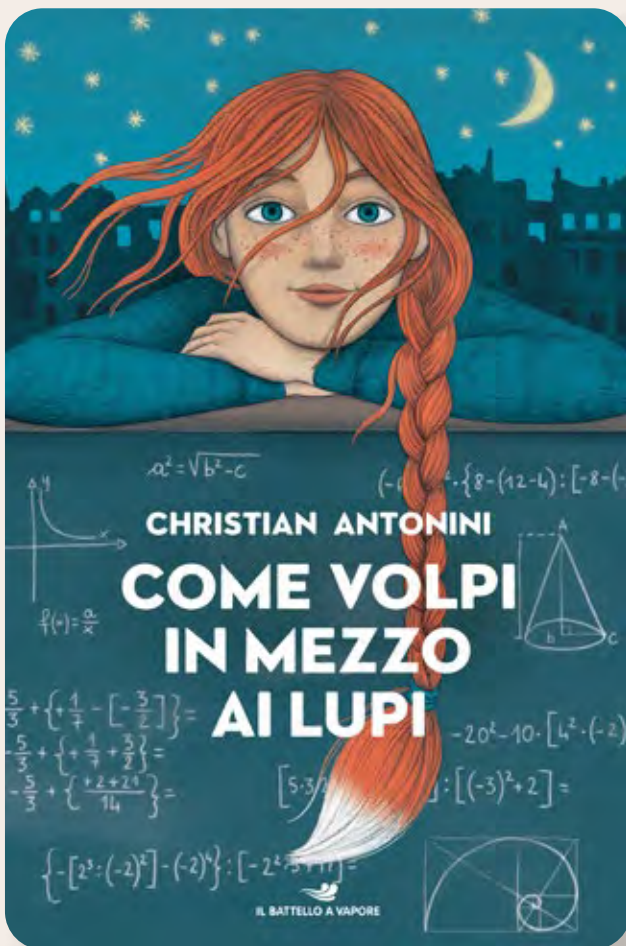
-
- ✦ **A NOVEL THAT TASTES OF SUMMER, MYTHOLOGY AND FIRST KISSES.**
 - ✦ **A DELICATE, AUTHENTIC AND ENGAGING LOVE STORY, THE SORT THAT MAKES YOU DREAM AND LOSE YOURSELF IN IT.**
 - ✦ **A STORY ON TEENAGE THEMES: THE MEANING OF LOVE AND WHY IT'S THE OPPOSITE OF POSSESSION; THE FEAR OF GROWING UP AND CHANGING; THE NEED TO LET YOURSELF GO; RELATIONSHIPS WITH PARENTS AND FRIENDS.**
 - ✦ **A STORY ABOUT THE POWER OF STORIES, SINCE MYTHOLOGICAL TIMES.**
-

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** IL CASTORO (ITALY), 2023
 - **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** RUSSIA
-

LUCIA STIPARI ✦ was born in Milan, where she has worked in the publishing field for many years and where she co-founded Studio Pym, a creative agency that focuses on books, graphics and communication. Together with Pierdomenico Baccalario, she wrote *Il manuale delle 50 avventure da vivere prima dei 13 anni in vacanza* (Il Castoro, 2021). *Il ragazzo senza ombra* is her first novel.

LIKE FOXES AMONG WOLVES

AGE 12+



“

ELIZA KNOWS THAT IT'S NOT GOOD SPEECHES
THAT CHANGE THE WORLD.
IT'S INTELLIGENCE.
ALONG WITH IMAGINATION.



BOOK ON A TREE

LIKE FOXES AMONG WOLVES

Christian Antonini

Amid the devastation of war, a game offers hope and connection.

When the Nazis invade Warsaw in 1939, Eliza is taken in by Professor Borsuk, a former maths professor. In their small house, as the city crumbles around them, the professor invents a board game that helps Eliza understand how everything in the world is interconnected. The game not only helps her overcome a traumatic block in solving maths problems but also becomes a tool for survival.

As the game gains popularity, Eliza begins to see its principles in the world around her, wondering if the same rules could be applied to winning the war. Working with the Resistance, she uses the game's logic to manage supplies and assist unarmed units. Her efforts come at a great personal cost, but she remains determined to fight for freedom, playing her role until the end.

- ✕ **EVEN AFTER HER TRAGIC DEATH, THE GAME LIVES ON. TODAY, IT'S KNOWN AS "SUPER FARMER," A TESTAMENT TO ELIZA'S LEGACY AND THE POWER OF CONNECTION IN THE FACE OF WAR.**
- ✕ **VIBRANT AND ADRENALINE-FUELLED ACTION, THE EMOTIONS OF ADOLESCENCE, THE POWER OF IMAGINATION.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2024

CHRISTIAN ANTONINI ✕ was born in Milan in 1971 and he is an author of books for children and adults, with a passion for history, adventure and fantasy. He has worked as an editor for periodicals and publishing houses and has worked professionally with board games, simulation games and role-playing games. In 2016, he made his debut in the world of children's fiction with the novel *Fuorigioco a Berlino* (*The Berlin Offside*), which won the 2017 Bancarellino Selection Prize and the Il Gigante delle Langhe National Prize.

THE FOREST IS BEAUTIFUL BUT I WOULDN'T LIVE THERE

AGE 10+



66

THE FORMIDABLE FEAT
OF TWO UNLIKELY HIKERS.



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 10+

•
x
T
O
H
S
E
N
O

THE FOREST IS BEAUTIFUL BUT I WOULDN'T LIVE THERE

Angelo Mozzillo & Davide Panizza

Angelo Mozzillo and Davide Panizza, respectively an author and illustrator of children's books, aren't exactly athletic types. The furthest they ever go on foot, usually, is the route from home to the ice cream shop (and even that's, only if there's a public transport strike).

But, thanks to a cruel twist of fate (and an even crueller colleague, the writer Davide Morosinotto), the two find themselves walking the Via degli Dei (Path of the Gods) – the walking route that leads from the centre of Bologna to the centre of Florence through the Tuscan-Emilian Apennines – in six days. The pair have no training. No equipment. No hope. Will they make it?

✗ A TRUE STORY THAT WILL MAKE YOU LAUGH.

✗ A NOVEL THAT CAN BE READ AS A TRAVEL GUIDE.

✗ AN ADVENTURE NOVEL THAT IS ALSO AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL TRAVEL DIARY.

• FIRST PUBLISHER: PIEMME (ITALY), 2024

ANGELO MOZZILLO ✗ is the author of bestselling children's novels such as the *Detective Linus* series and picture books such as *Ho scritto un libro per te (ma non è questo) (I Wrote You a Book, Just Not This One!)*, Camelozampa 2024, and *Io sono foglia (I Am a Leaf)*, illustrated by Marianna Balducci, with which he won the Andersen Prize and Super Prize in 2021. Due to an unfortunate accident, in 2019 he met Davide Morosinotto.

DAVIDE PANIZZA ✗ was born in Trento on a lucky Friday the 17th in 1992. He was an illustrator and board game creator. He worked with Mozzillo, illustrating the picture book *La Domenica di Monsieur Claquette (Monsieur Claquette's Sunday)* and the *Detective Linus* novel series. If you want to honour his memory, don't bring him flowers but buy lots of copies of this book. Due to an unforeseeable misfortune, in 2021 he met Davide Morosinotto.

LI È ANGELO
CHE SA METTERE LE PAROLE
UNA DIETRO L'ALTRA E CREARE
MAGICAMENTE DEI LIBRI



QUESTO SONO IO CHE FACCIO
I DISEGNETTI IN MODO CHE NON
TI ANNDERAI A LEGGERE
TUTTE QUELLE PAROLE



✗

LOHS

EN

0

ADVENTURE

ZILLA SNAKE FANGS

AGE 9+



“

FASTEN YOUR SEATBELTS: ANIMAL RESCUE UNDERWAY!



BOOK ON A TREE

ONE SHOT x •

AGE 9+

• x T O H S E N O

ZILLA SNAKE FANGS

Vernante Pallotti & Daniele Zen

AGE 9+

Zilla is thirteen, with a complicated life and untamed emotions. When social workers force her to move in with her father and his new partner at the Snake Fangs exotic animal rescue centre, she feels like a caged animal. At least until she meets Rubbish, known as Ruby, an irritable python found in a bin. The two non-friends will set in motion a crazy plan to punish Reptile Paradise, the shop responsible for abandoning exotic animals in the city.



× **ICONIC, REBELLIOUS, IRRESISTIBLE FEMALE PROTAGONISTS.**

× **DIFFICULT COMIC THEMES, POSITIVE VIBES AND FANTASY.**

× **THE ADVENTURE THAT EVERY TEENAGER WOULD LIKE TO LIVE, FULL OF ACTION AND EMOTIONS.**

× **TEAR-JERKING ENDING GUARANTEED!**

• **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2024

VERNANTE & DANIELE ✖ are an artistic duo scattered among the land of books, the sea of cartoons and the mountain of cinema. The equipment for their adventurous works? Magic, love, amusement, folklore and the charm of nature. Their stories are aimed at children and teenagers. And at adults who still know how to dream!

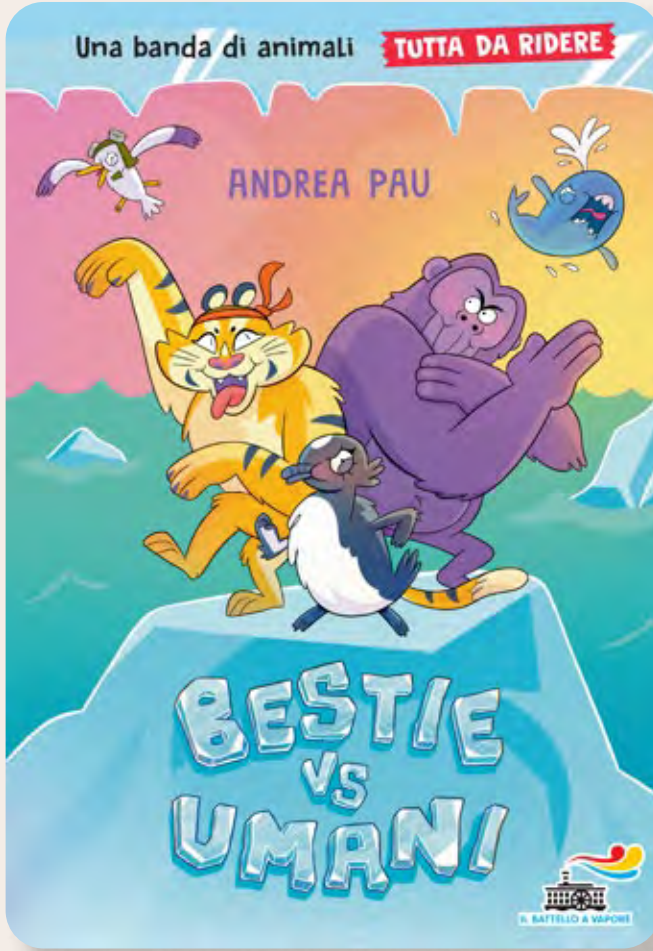


• ✖ **LOHS ENO**



BEASTS VS HUMANS

AGE 8+



66

A BEASTLY VENGEANCE IS COMING,
SERVED UP BY A GROUP OF SPECIAL AGENTS
AND LOTS OF SUPER FUN!

AGE 8+



BEASTS VS HUMANS

Andrea Pau

Animals, attack!

Auk and Two are the last of their species, the great auk. Auk was saved from extinction, almost a century ago, because she was frozen inside a block of ice; Two, on the other hand, was de-extincted, cloned from her sister's DNA. Since they escaped from the laboratory that was studying them, they have been plotting revenge along with Tiger, Whale, Panda, Turtle and other animals in danger of extinction: is it possible that the adult *Homo sapiens sapiens* continue to celebrate while they might not make it to next Tuesday? Humans really make our stomachs turn, as Cow would say!

It's time to go on the counterattack! Too bad, though, that Two is starting to sympathise with the humans!

- ✗ **“THE SAPIENS SAPIENS’ HOURS ARE NUMBERED.”**
FROM THE MANIFESTO OF THE SOCIETY OF (ALMOST) EXTINCT BEASTS
- ✗ **“GIVE THIS BOOK TO AS MANY HUMANS AS YOU CAN.
YOU’LL MAKE THEM DIE... LAUGHING!”** *THE CUTTLEFISH COURIER*
- ✗ **“A WORK FROM WHICH THE HUMAN RACE... COMES OUT IN PIECES!”**
AUK, THE PROTAGONIST OF THIS BOOK
- ✗ **ABSURD, WILD-EYED HUMOUR MIXED WITH FUNNY,
CUTE ILLUSTRATIONS... A LETHAL MIX.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2024

ANDREA PAU ✗ has been on the verge of extinction since 1981.

A wonderful example of the non-native species *scriptor sardiniensis*, after the larval phase, to the great surprise of his peers, he gained a degree in political science. He then scrupulously avoided putting it to good use and survived in his habitat – barely – by writing anything suggested to him, at least during the rainy season. His summers are spent at the seaside. Very skilled at camouflage, he easily slipped into the shoes of an author of novels, picture books, comics and cartoons aimed at children in particular, the only human beings he trusts.

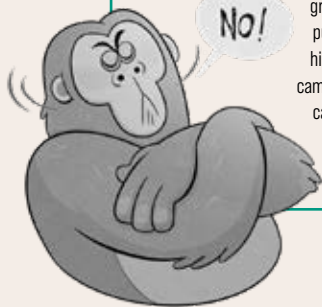
He prefers to eat beautiful books and caper and anchovy pizza, primary goods of which he accepts generous donations.

No!

✗

T
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H
SE
N

O



THREE FRIENDS, ONE DIARY

AGE 8+



“

IF YOU CAN'T USE YOUR PHONE,
HOW DO YOU SURVIVE AT SCHOOL?
WITH A DIARY FOR YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS!



BOOK ON A TREE

ONE SHOT x •

• x T O H S E N O

AGE 8+

THREE FRIENDS, ONE DIARY

Gisella Laterza & Giada Pavesi

There's a new rule at Locatelli middle school: students won't be able to use their mobile phones for a whole school year, neither in class nor at home. How will Zoe, Isi and Lola cope with life at school without texting each other?

They decide to talk about their days in a shared notebook, pretending to take notes.

The diary passes from hand to hand and is enriched with chats, drawings stories. There's Zoe's cosplay and skateboarding sunsets and Isi's inscriptions, which she loves to draw. And there's Lola, who has fun writing about exhausted teachers and weird classmates. And then, of course, there are the unbearable David, Jacopo, Cecilia and that strange guy Filis, who Lola can't understand.

"THIS IS THE DIARY OF LOLA, ISI AND ZOE

Friends' Diary Rules:

1. The Diary is secret, it belongs to the Friends and to them alone. No one else can read it.
2. Each Friend can write in it. The first person to write must remember to put the place and date, and then her name, at the top of the page, so we know who wrote it, when and where.
3. The Diary can be used during lessons, being careful not to get caught (especially by Filisetti: I can see him craning his neck when you write, Zoe!).
4. Each Friend can take the Diary home if she has a lot of things to write in it, but not for too many days in a row."

- ✳ FRIENDSHIP, SCHOOL, FIRST LOVES, MANGA AND MUCH MORE!
- ✳ THREE ADORABLE HEROINES, THREE GIRLS ON THE THRESHOLD OF ADOLESCENCE WHO GROW UP AND DISCOVER A LITTLE PIECE OF LIFE TOGETHER.

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2023
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** SPAIN (PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE)

GISELLA LATERZA & GIADA PAVESI ✳ were roommates at the "A Caccia di Storie" writing competition and since then they've never stopped writing stories together. **GISELLA** is a writer and teacher. She lives in Bergamo, where she teaches Italian and Latin at the high school and runs creative writing courses for boys and girls aged 6 to 99. **GIADA** is a writer from Cremona, where she lives with her snobbish cat and a few too many plants, but whenever she can, she gets out her yellow suitcase and travels. Together they have written *Doctor Jackie e Miss Haide* (*Doctor Jackie and Miss Hydie*), while their latest creation is the book you're holding in your hands.



PROF
SCOTTI ↓



FANTASY

THE PERFECT SNOW

AGE 7+

ONE SHOT x •



“

WHAT IF SEASONS WERE KINGDOMS?
WHAT IF SNOW WAS PERFECT?



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 7+

• x T O H S E N O

THE PERFECT SNOW

Lorenzo Molino

AGE 7+

The World of Seasons is made up of four kingdoms: Winter, Autumn, Spring and Summer.

Albedo lives in Winter and is a former Snow Architect who is proud and selfish, which is why he now works in the factory as a Flake Maker. Determined to prove that he still deserves his old job, he designs the ultimate snowflake, christened “the Perfect Snow”. With the help of his friend Frost, in great secrecy, he manages to create it, but the result turns out to be a disaster! The Perfect Snow is too perfect and doesn’t melt, so the survival of the kingdom is in serious danger!

To remedy the damage, the two friends will have to break the law that forbids crossing the borders between the kingdoms, and flee to Summer in search of both a heating solution and desperate reinforcements.

- ✖ A RICH, IMAGINATIVE WORLD WITH ENDLESS STORYTELLING POTENTIAL.
- ✖ A MIX OF HUMOUR AND DEEPER THEMES, SUCH AS ALBEDO’S PERSONAL STRUGGLE WITH FAILURE AND REDEMPTION.

- FIRST PUBLISHER: PIEMME (ITALY), 2024

LORENZO MOLINO ✖ attended the Belleville School of Writing after a degree in screenwriting at the Luchino Visconti Civic School of Cinema. The author of podcasts, interviews, school projects and books for children and young adults, he also teaches fiction. With Piemme he has published *Sei semplici favori* and *Il fantasma della puzetta*.

ADVENTURE

SNOT & SPLASH

THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING HOLES

AGE 8+

ONE SHOT x •



“

WHAT IF ONE DAY ALL THE HOLES DISAPPEARED FROM THE WORLD?
 WOULD DOUGHNUTS STILL BE DOUGHNUTS?
 HOW WOULD DOORS OPEN WITHOUT A KEYHOLE?



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 8+

• x T O H S E N O

SNOT & SPLASH

THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING HOLES

Manlio Castagna

"How can a hole disappear, Grandma?"

"I don't know. There aren't as many holes as there used to be," answered Grandma, with a despondent sigh. "They aren't made to last anymore. Once upon a time, if you made a hole, you knew it would be there forever. Holes used to be reliable," she sighed.

The residents of Elsewhere have a big problem: a mysterious thief is stealing all the city's holes. Keyholes, doughnuts, birdboxes... Nothing is safe anymore. And what's more, there's some very strange weather making rubbish fall from the sky, so Elsewhere isn't exactly an ideal place for a holiday.

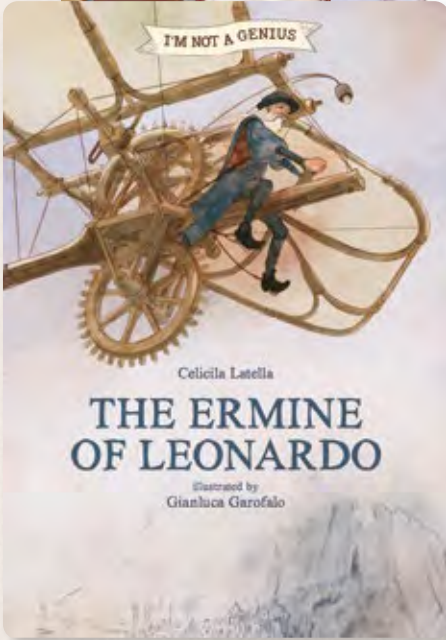
Unfortunately, no one's thought to warn Snot and Splash, and what should have been a simple stay at Grandma's house soon turns into a race against time. Not only to solve the mystery of the missing holes, but to save Elsewhere, nearby Hushitup, and the whole world! Because I'll let you in on a secret: even a massive hole was once a tiny pinprick... Order and chaos – which will win?

- ✦ **A WILD AND IRREVERENT ADVENTURE, AN ODE TO THE CHAOS THAT MAKES US HUMAN.**
- ✦ **AN UNPREDICTABLE, OFFBEAT STORY IN WHICH EVEN THE WORST VILLAINS CAN BE GOOD, AND THE WORD 'END' IS NEVER REALLY WHERE THE STORY FINISHES.**
- ✦ **THE BOOK IS LOOSELY BASED ON THE FILM *SNOT AND SPLASH* BY TEEMU NIKKI, WHICH IS INSPIRED BY THE NOVELS OF JUICE LESKINEN.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** SALANI (ITALY), 2024

MANLIO CASTAGNA ✦ is a screenwriter, director, author and film critic who has been involved in the artistic direction of the Giffoni Film Festival for over twenty years. He has worked in Hollywood and Doha. He made his debut in children's fiction in 2018 with the bestselling *Petrademone* trilogy, translated into several languages. He writes about cinema for Cinecittà News and runs writing courses at the Holden School in Turin. In 2022, he wrote and directed the docu-film *Il viaggio degli eroi* with Marco Giallini. It was released in cinemas and gained record audience numbers on Rai 1.

I'M NOT A GENIUS



“

STORIES OF THE RENAISSANCE.

I'M NOT A GENIUS

Cecilia Latella & Gianluca Garofalo

LEONARDO = When her grandfather suggests going to an exhibition, Cristina isn't too sure: she's afraid she'll be in for a boring afternoon. But once she gets there and stands in front of the first painting, *Lady with an Ermine*, that's when the magic happens. The painting comes alive, and so does the ermine, which runs away. Cristina follows it and bumps into an elderly man wearing a floppy velvet cap on his head and a tunic with wide puffed sleeves. It's none other than Leonardo da Vinci in person!

MICHELANGELO = Cristina is at school, in the art room: she has to complete a canvas for the set design of the end of year show. But she doesn't know where to start!

Impatiently, she kicks the paintbrushes, which start rolling away. Following them, Cristina slips behind a velvet curtain and – oops! – she's standing on a wooden scaffolding with the ceiling looming just above her head. Below her she sees a short man with curly brown hair and beard who accuses her of spying on him... She's in the presence of none other than Michelangelo Buonarroti, in the Sistine Chapel in Rome!

RAPHAEL = Cristina is on a school field trip to the town of Urbino, a splendid example of a Medieval village. But there is so much to see and too little time. And when she sees a sign to "Raphael Sanzio's birthplace" she walks right in. In a beautiful garden, she meets a young man with delicate features and shoulder-length hair, sitting in front of an easel. It's Raphael!

≈ THE STORIES COMBINE LEARNING ABOUT HISTORY WITH FANTASY ELEMENTS, ENABLING YOUNG READERS TO INTERACT WITH GREAT FIGURES FROM THE RENAISSANCE IN AN ENGAGING WAY.

≈ EACH ENCOUNTER HELPS THE MAIN CHARACTER, OVERCOME PERSONAL CHALLENGES, LIKE THE FEAR OF A BLANK CANVAS, ENCOURAGING YOUNG READERS TO EXPLORE THEIR OWN CREATIVITY, INSPIRED BY THE ADVICE OF THE GREAT RENAISSANCE MASTERS.

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** CCPPG (CHINA), 2024

CECILIA LATELLA = loves stories. After a degree in Modern Literature and a PhD in Comparative Literature, she started working as an illustrator, cartoonist and storyboarder. She has written and illustrated the stories "*Come tornano le foglie sugli alberi?*", "*La camelia di Carolina*", "*La Villa Comunale di Napoli salvata dai bambini*", "*The stories of 17 extraordinary Italian women*".

GIANLUCA GAROFALO = became a professional illustrator at a very young age and created his own studio: C.atWork (Creatives at Work). In 2000, he was selected to take part in the Illustrators Exhibition at Bologna Children's Book fair and was assigned the catalogue cover. During his career, Garofalo has worked with many publishers.



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE GREAT CLASSICS

AGE 10+



“

NEW STORIES BY CONTEMPORARY WRITERS,
INSPIRED BY EVENTS – REAL OR IMAGINED –
THAT SHAPED CLASSIC WRITERS.

AGE 10+



BOOK ON A TREE

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE GREAT CLASSICS

CURATED BY GUIDO SGARDOLI

Fabrizio Silei, Annalisa Strada,
Cristina Brambilla, Guido Sgardoli

A new series dedicated to readers aged 10 to 14, created by the partnership between Erickson and Book on a Tree. The authors: **Guido Sgardoli**, **Annalisa Strada**, **Fabrizio Silei** and **Cristina Brambilla**.

Not the original classics, but new stories by contemporary writers, inspired by events – real or imagined – that happened to classic writers.

“WE SUPPOSED THAT THEIR EXPERIENCES – LIVED OR PERHAPS JUST IMAGINED – HAD A DECISIVE INFLUENCE ON THE CREATION OF THEIR FUTURE WORKS. BECAUSE EVERY WRITER, WHETHER THEY WANT TO OR NOT, TRANSFERS THEIR PERSONAL EXPERIENCES, DREAMS, HOPES AND AMBITIONS ONTO THE PAGES OF THE WORKS THEY WRITE.” Guido Sgardoli

1 ≈ FABRIZIO SILEI ≈ THE CURSED ISLAND

The young Robert Louis Stevenson takes on adventure

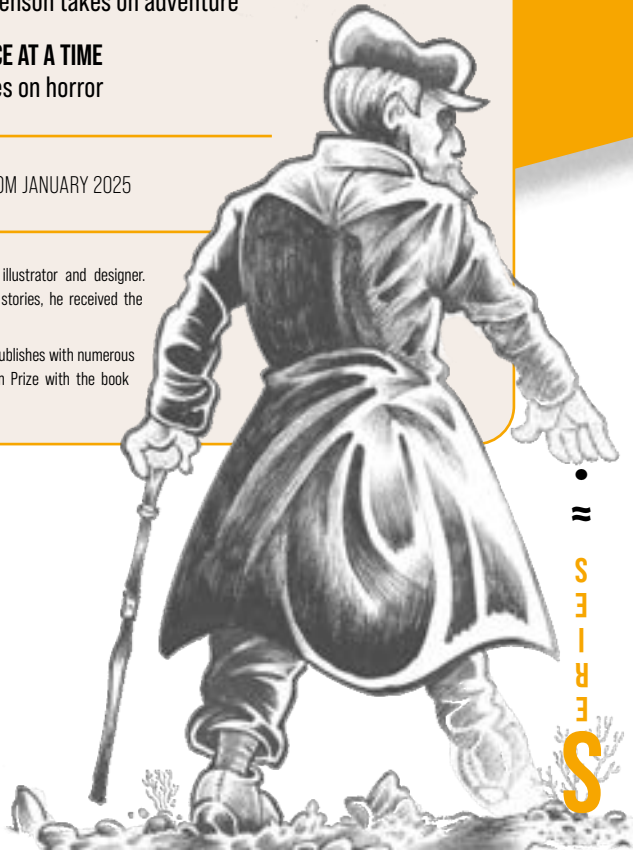
2 ≈ ANNALISA STRADA ≈ ONE PIECE AT A TIME

The young Mary Shelley takes on horror

• **UPCOMING RELEASES:** AVAILABLE FROM JANUARY 2025

FABRIZIO SILEI ≈ is a writer, artist, sculptor, illustrator and designer. An author of picture books, novels and detective stories, he received the Andersen Prize for best author in 2014.

ANNALISA STRADA ≈ is a children's author who publishes with numerous publishing houses. In 2014, she won the Andersen Prize with the book *“Una sottile linea rosa”*.



PEEKA & BOO

AGE 8+

SERIES



“

LEARN ENGLISH THROUGH COMICS!

AGE 8+



SERIES

PEEKA & BOO

CURATED BY GUD

Valentina Venegoni & Serena Ferrero

Learn English through comics with two exceptional sleuths! Peeka and Boo are the protagonists of two funny stories in A1 level English designed to guide children who are just getting started in discovering the English language.

1 ≈ PEEKA & BOO AND THE FIRST MISSION

2 ≈ PEEKA & BOO AND THE SECRET SPY

CONTENT INCLUDED:

- ≈ GREETINGS
- ≈ PARTS OF THE HOUSE
- ≈ SIMPLE PRESENT
- ≈ NEGATIVE AND INTERROGATIVE FORMS
- ≈ SPORTS
- ≈ MEANS OF TRANSPORT
- ≈ AND MUCH MORE!

- ≈ A1 LEVEL ENGLISH.
- ≈ SIMPLE, ADVENTUROUS STORIES.
- ≈ MORE CLARITY ON COMPLEX EXPRESSIONS.
- ≈ CROSSWORDS AND GAMES TO TEST YOURSELF.

- ≈ UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE ELICOM RESEARCH GROUP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PARMA.
- ≈ IN THE FINAL PAGES YOU'LL FIND SOME *TIPS AND TRICKS* TO BECOME A COMIC BOOK WRITER YOURSELF!

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** ERICKSON (ITALY), 2024

GUD (DANIEL BONOMO) ≈ is the top Italian author of graphic novels for elementary school boys and girls. A teacher since 2001, he is an illustrator of bestselling children's books translated all over the world. He is one of the creators of ARFI, the Cartoon Festival in Rome, and the Art Director for Book on a Tree.



DETECTICAT

AGE 6+



“

NO CLUE IS SO WELL HIDDEN
IF DETECTICAT IS THE ONE INVESTIGATING!



DETECTICAT

Pierdomenico Baccalario

Illustrations by Alessandro Parodi

Detecticat is a famous private detective, called to solve all kinds of foul deeds. He has an office, an assistant, Miss Bug, and a passion for complex pastimes, which inevitably go pear-shaped. His first idea regarding the culprit is always wrong, then a doubt arises, his whiskers tremble, he says his typical phrase – “There’s something fishy going on here,” – he goes to consult with his mother, Mysticat, and finally realises that he’s done something wrong. So, he puts the clues in the right order and goes to catch the culprit.

1 = DETECTICAT AND THE BULLGLAR

2 = DETECTICAT: CRIME AND FISHERMENT

3 = DETECTICAT: THE MASTIFF ALWAYS PLAYS TWICE

4 = DETECTICAT: THE WINDOW OVERLOOKING THE PIGSTY

5 = DETECTICAT: ARSENIC AND OLD WOLVES

6 = DETECTICAT: BIG OCTOPUS IN LITTLE CHINA

7 = DETECTICAT: THE CATERPILLAR BEYOND THE HEDGE

8 = DETECTICAT: THE SUNDAY WEASE

= LAUGH-OUT-LOUD STORIES!

= SMALL CASES TO SOLVE WITH CLUES THAT ARE ALWAYS EVIDENT TO THE READERS, BUT NOT INITIALLY TO THE PROTAGONIST.

= NEW FORMAT FOR EARLY READERS: SHORT LINES OF TEXT TO MOVE THE NARRATIVE FORWARDS, SPEECH BUBBLES FOR THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE CHARACTERS.

• **FIRST PUBLISHER:** HARPER COLLINS (ITALY), 2022-2023-2024• **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** SPAIN (EDEBE), GREECE (DIOPTRA)

PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO = is a writer and journalist. His books have sold millions of copies worldwide and have been translated into over 30 languages. Today he is considered one of the leading Italian children’s authors and the most widely translated abroad.



THE ANIMALS OF STRANGWOOD

AGE 7+



“

IN STRANGWOOD,
EVERYTHING IS THE OPPOSITE
OF EVERYTHING AND
WEIRDNESS IS THE NORM



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 7+

THE ANIMALS OF STRANGWOOD

Giuseppe Festa

Illustrations by Martina Motzo

A squirrel suffering with vertigo, a short-sighted falcon, a claustrophobic mole and many other strange animals fight against those who threaten Strangewood. They will manage to overcome adversity by making their limitations a source of strength, often unintentionally, thanks to teamwork and the friendship that binds them.

1 ≈ DUNG STRIKE.

4 ≈ A NAPPY FOR STINKY.

2 ≈ THE SOURCE OF THE RUT.

5 ≈ A WARM-BLOODED SNAKE.

3 ≈ DISHEVELLED BRISTLE.

6 ≈ THE FORGETFUL ELEPHANT.

≈ LOTS OF LAUGHS (ALL WHILE LEARNING A LOT ABOUT NATURE).

≈ DIVERSITY AS A SOURCE OF STRENGTH, THANKS TO TEAMWORK AND FRIENDSHIP.

≈ AT THE END OF EACH STORY, EITHER DIZZY THE SQUIRREL OR RAY THE OWL DESCRIBES THE REAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ANIMALS OUTSIDE STRANGWOOD.

≈ SHORTLISTED FOR THE STREGA CHILDREN'S PRIZE 2022.

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2021-23
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** FRANCE (AUZOU)

GIUSEPPE FESTA ≈ works in the environmental education. He has also written a number of nature reports for Italian broadcaster RAI and starred in the award-winning documentary *Oltre la Frontiera*. His novels are widely translated. *Cento passi per volare* (*A Hundred Steps to Freedom*), Salani, received the Kadaitosho in Japan in 2020 and was chosen by the Japanese Ministry of Education as summer reading. *I Lucci della via Lago* (*The Pikes of Lake Road*), Salani, won the Rodari and Bancarellino prizes in 2021.

DETECTIVE LINUS

AGE 8+



“

THE MOST FAMOUS YOUNG DETECTIVE AROUND.
AT LEAST, ACCORDING TO HIM.



BOOK ON A TREE

SERIES

AGE 8+

SERIES

DETECTIVE LINUS

Angelo Mozzillo

Illustrations by Davide Panizza

Linus likes to work in the shadows, but he's a detective so famous that he's destined for glory! He claims to have a personal secretary, whom he refers to as Mum for convenience's sake, and an assistant, Bagarre, a little dog whose potential Mum doesn't seem to have understood yet. He is an eccentric and awkward version of the famous film noir investigators.

- 1 = **DETECTIVE LINUS AND THE TURQUOISE FALCON.** One summer morning, Linus receives a postcard from his friend Giangi. Apparently there's a new threat in town. It seems like a case for Linus, the most famous young detective around! Of course, he should be doing his holiday homework, but how can he concentrate on that when his town is teeming with crimes and mysteries?
- 2 = **DETECTIVE LINUS INCREDIBLY SOLVES ANOTHER CASE.** It's September, and Linus goes back to school to encounter new fame and old friends. The new headmaster, obsessed with punctuality, has had the ancient clock on the building's facade restored, and doesn't want any investigations at the school. What is he afraid of?
- 3 = **HIS ENEMIES HATE HIM, HIS FRIENDS PUT UP WITH HIM.** Mum has to go out of town for the whole weekend, and Linus has to stay with his hated neighbour: police inspector Oreste De Marinis. A school short film is being made in Contessa Tuminsegna's villa. But things take a serious turn when the Contessa's priceless rubies disappear. Filming breaks off and Linus finds himself solving the case alongside De Marinis. Will they manage to find the thief?
- 4 = **AND THE DISHONOURABLE CASE OF THE MISSING HONOURABLE.** It's a quiet Sunday in late October when Linus's father, his idol, returns. Linus is so happy that he neglects the Halloween festivities for him. Meanwhile, Mrs Putacaso arrives at the young detective's house to entrust him with an investigation: someone has kidnapped her husband. Will Linus manage to find him and reconnect with his father?
- 5 = **AN EXPLOSIVE CASE FOR A CRACKLING HERO.** Linus finds out that a riddler named H.R. has hidden a bomb in the city and kidnapped his beloved Laura. To save her and find the bomb, he must solve a series of cryptic riddles. Laura is held in the same dark room as the explosive. As the city's renowned young detective, Linus must race against time to rescue Laura and find the bomb. Will he succeed?

≈ **A STORY INSPIRED BY CLASSICS THAT BORROWS ALL THE TYPICAL FEATURES OF THE NOIR GENRE: THE DETECTIVE, THE SECRETARY, THE COP, THE SIDEKICK, THE FEMME FATALE, THE SECRET INFORMANT, THE VILLAINS, EVEN JAZZ MUSIC (AND SOME TRAP TOO).**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2022-2023
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** GREECE (DESYLLAS)

ANGELO MOZZILLO ≈ is a young and acclaimed author of children's books, published by the most important Italian publishers. For his book *Io sono foglia [I Am a Leaf]*, illustrated by Marianna Balducci, he was awarded the Andersen Prize for the best picture book and the Super Andersen Prize for the best Italian children's book in 2021.



THE GIGGLE GANG



66

THE SCHOOL YOU ALWAYS DREAMED OF!

THE GIGGLEGANG

Illustrations by Laura Re

A class of quick-witted, quirky kids
and a headmaster who will give you the heebie-jeebies.

1. DEXTER DIDDLY AND HIS FANTASTIC BUT NAMELESS SOLUTION • LORENZO RULFO
2. BETTY BATTLES AND THE TOP OF THE CLASS • LUCIA VACCARINO
3. ALEXIA ALECK AND THE THEORY OF DREAMS • ALESSANDRO GATTI
4. SIMON SPOTLESS AND THE ELECTRONIC BRAIN • DANIELE NICASTRO
5. MATT MINIMUM AND THE WORLD'S MOST USELESS SUPERPOWER • PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO
6. PARIS PEACOCK VERSUS THE QUEEN • SARAH ROSSI
7. PETER PITBULL AND THE UNSPEAKABLE SECRET • DAVIDE CALÌ
8. SUSAN SAUCEPAN AND THE COOKING COMPETITION • LINDA ALTOMONTE
9. SAMANTHA SPHINX AND THE SECRET OF THE PHARAOH • TOMMASO PERCIVALE
10. CHARLOTTE CHLORINE AND THE ULTRALICE INVASION • GUIDO SGARDOLI
11. PAULINE PIROUETTE AND THE STAR OF THE THEATRE • GLORIA DANILI
12. A SURPRISE TRIP • PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO
13. TIM TOUGHCOOKIE AND THE MYSTERY OF THE COURTYARD • JASMINE MOTTOLA
14. ELLIOT ELECTRON AND THE ALIEN INVASION • DANIELE NICASTRO
15. THOMAS THIMBLE AND THE COMICS FAIR • DAVIDE CALÌ
16. DAISY DRAMA AND THE LOST PRINCIPAL • ELISA PURICELLI GUERRA
17. LUCY LONGFANGS AND THE SAVAGES TO THE RESCUE • SARAH ROSSI
18. NICK NIAGARA AND THE TRAGIC END OF SCHOOL • DAVIDE MOROSINOTTO
19. ISOBEL ILLUSION AND THE MIRACULOUS MAGIC • ELEONORA BABBO & VINCENZO GALLI
20. PERCY PRAISED AND THE COUNTDOWN • ANDREA PAU
21. FELICITY FOUR-LEAF-CLOVER VERSUS BAD LUCK • SONIA ELISABETTA CORVAGLIA
22. THE BIG CHRISTMAS SHOW • LORENZO RULFO
23. HOLLY HURRICANE AND THE PERFECT STORM • IGOR DE AMICIS & PAOLA LUCIANI
24. THE CONTEST OF CONTESTS • ELENA PEDUZZI
25. JENNY JUNIPER AND THE UNWANTED GARDEN • TEA ORSI
26. HOLLY HURRAY AND THE CUSTOMISED COUNTRY • ANGELO MOZZILLO
27. CHAOS AT SUMMER CAMP • ANDREA TULLIO CANOBBIO
28. KORA & KIKKO KNOCKOUT • MANLIO CASTAGNA & MARCO MAGNONE

≡ EVERY BOOK IS THE INDIVIDUAL FAST-PACED ADVENTURE OF ONE OF THE SCHOOLMATES, LINKED WITH THE OTHER TITLES BY THE NARRATIVE FRAMEWORK, AS WELL AS THE TARGET, STYLE AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

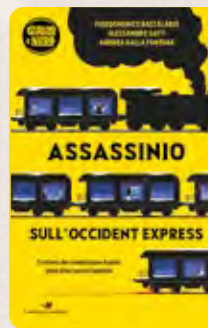
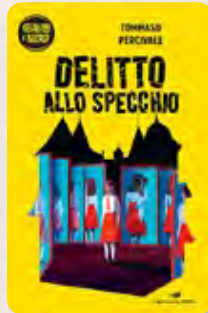
≡ THE LEADING CHARACTERS HAVE A STRONG AND DECISIVE VOICE, PACKED WITH PERSONALITY. THEY KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING (EVEN WHEN THEY'RE DOING THE MOST UNLIKELY THINGS) AND, ABOVE ALL, THEY KNOW WHAT THEY WANT!

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** EDIZIONI LAPIS (ITALY), 2016-2024
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** GREECE (DIOPTRA), TURKEY (KITAPCHI)
- **SERIES:** 28 TITLES PUBLISHED / FULL COLOUR ILLUSTRATIONS



PUZZLE MYSTERIES COLLECTION

AGE 10+



66

FAST-PACED "CLASSIC CRIME" CHARACTERS AND ATMOSPHERE, WITH UNEXPECTED PLOT TWISTS.



BOOK ON A TREE

SERIES



SERIES

AGE 10+

PUZZLE MYSTERIES COLLECTION

Seven mysteries to solve using logic, skill and the power of deduction.

Puzzle-within-a-puzzle stories.

Intense and intricately plotted novels.

- 1 = MYSTERY HOTEL = ALESSANDRO GATTI & LUCIA VACCARINO
- 2 = MURDER IN THE MIRROR = TOMMASO PERCIVALE
- 3 = THE MYSTERY OF GORSE MANOR = TOMMASO PERCIVALE
- 4 = TEN LITTLE TENANTES = PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO, ALESSANDRO GATTI & ANDREA DALLA FONTANA
- 5 = MURDER IN THE BAND = CHRISTIAN HILL
- 6 = THIS BOOK CONTAINS A CRIME = PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO
- 7 = THE MYSTERY OF THE NAMELESS LETTERS = IGOR DE AMICIS & PAOLA LUCIANI
- 8 = THE MYSTERY OF VILLA POLYPHEMUS = MARIA ELISA ALOISI
- 9 = MURDER ON THE OCCIDENT EXPRESS = PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO, ALESSANDRO GATTI & ANDREA DALLA FONTANA

≈ A METAFICTIONAL NARRATIVE OR THEMED PREMISE THAT CAN BE ENTERTAINING FOR SEASONED MYSTERY FANS AS WELL AS NEWCOMERS TO THE GENRE, WHO WILL ENJOY HONING THEIR ARMCHAIR SLEUTHING SKILLS WITH EACH BOOK.

≈ WRITTEN WITH HUMOUR, SUSPENSE AND ENTHUSIASM BY THE MASTERS OF ADVENTURE, COMEDY AND CRIME GENRES AT BOOK ON A TREE.

- FIRST PUBLISHER: PIEMME (ITALY), 2021-2024



THE MERCURY MYSTERIES

AGE 10+



66

EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEYS
THROUGH THE SECRETS OF ART.

AGE 10+



THE MERCURY MYSTERIES

An old man who lives in the top of a tower in the heart of Florence challenges three friends to a dangerous mission: to discover and solve the hidden mysteries of the art world!

- 1 = **GIORGIONE: THE TEMPEST** = **PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO**, *Illustrations by Kalina Muhova*
= A fun and exciting novel set around one of the most mysterious works of the Italian Renaissance.
- 2 = **MICHELANGELO: THE PRISONER OF STONE** = **DANIELE NICASTRO**, *Illustrations by Kalina Muhova*
= An adventure highlighting the troubled creation of a sculpture that transformed the history of art.
- 3 = **CARAVAGGIO: LOVE WINS ALL** = **MANLIO CASTAGNA**, *Illustrations by Kalina Muhova*
= A journey of discovery through the mysterious final hours of the maestro of light and shade.
- 4 = **GIOTTO: RISE UP TO THE STARS** = **DAVIDE MOROSINOTTO**, *Illustrations by Kalina Muhova*
= An exciting adventure, discovering the most revolutionary characters of the 14th century.
- 5 = **ARTEMISIA GENTILESCHI: THE LIGHT OF THE MUSES** = **GIADA PAVESI**, *Illustrations by Kalina Muhova*
= The yellow light of the future shines on Rome.
- 6 = **LEONARDO DA VINCI: THE RIVER OF TIME** = **FIORE MANNI & MICHELE MONTELEONE**,
Illustrations by Andrea Oberosler = A whirlwind adventure in the territory of the Renaissance genius.
- 7 = **TITIAN AND THE WOOD OF SHADOWS** = **GUIDO SGARDOLI**, *Illustrations by Andrea Oberosler*
= Titian's adolescence and a mysterious legend.
- 8 = **PALLADIO AND THE SECRET OF THE FACE** = **ELENA PEDUZZI**, *Illustrations by Andrea Oberosler*
= He invented a style copied all over the world but there's something that no one knows.
- 9 = **RAPHAEL AND THE MILL GANG** = **STEFANO GARZARO**, *Illustrations by Andrea Oberosler*
= His natural sense of rhythm and colour influenced the artistic language of the centuries to come.

= THE THREE PROTAGONISTS WILL TRAVEL BACK IN TIME TO MEET THE GREATEST PAINTERS AND SCULPTORS OF ALL TIME, AND WILL HAVE TO SOLVE DARK MYSTERIES BEFORE THEY CAN RETURN HOME.

= INTRIGUE, HIDDEN DANGERS AND PLOT TWISTS AND, OF COURSE, A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR.

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** EMONS RAGA (ITALY), 2020-2024

NIGHT OF THE BIPLANES

AGE 13+

ONE SHOT x •



“

SHE WAS A CREATURE WITH FUEL IN HER VEINS
AND PISTONS FOR A HEART. AND NOW SHE HAD MET
SOMEONE JUST LIKE HER. A KINDRED SPIRIT. A KINDRED SOUL.
TOO BAD HE WAS AN ENEMY.

• x T O H S E N O

AGE 13+



BOOK ON A TREE

NIGHT OF THE BIPLANES

Davide Morosinotto

AGE 13+

December 1915, armies fight each other in the First World War. The story, however, is different from how we know it: computing is ahead of its time and aeroplanes, submarines and tanks are driven through complex electronic computators called BOTs, which interface directly with the pilot's brain. While the troops face each other in the mud of the trenches, the BOT aviators are decimated by a mysterious disease... Against this background, the stories of three very different friends intertwine: Arthur Maddox, heir to a rich family, Mary Tucker, a maid who dreams of becoming a pilot, and finally John, who works in the tin mines and is convinced of his ideals of peace. Their lives go by uneventfully in the Cornish countryside until one day Sir Richard, Arthur's uncle, disappears, leaving behind an enigmatic Contraption. It's the start of a great adventure, which will lead the three children to meet their destinies.

- ✖ **ADVENTURE, LOVE AND ROBOTS.**
- ✖ **A FASCINATING ALTERNATIVE STORY, A WORLD FULL OF SURPRISES.**
- ✖ **INCREDIBLE COMIC PANELS!**
- ✖ **CANDY CANDY MEETS SUPER DIMENSION FORTRESS MACROSS. WITH A BIT OF THE MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** IL CASTORO (ITALY), 2024

DAVIDE MOROSINOTTO ✖ is a multi-award-winning writer of children's books, translated into 25 languages. He is the author of, among others, *Il Rinomato catalogo Walker & Dawn (The Pocket Watch Gang)*, Mondadori, 2017, winner of the Andersen Prize 2017, and *La più Grande (The Greatest)*, Rizzoli, 2020, winner of the Strega Children's Prize 2021.

SHOT

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AGE 13+

● ✖

I O H S

E N O

ADVENTURE

DEDALO & DHARMA

AGE 11+



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***“IT’S LOVE THAT MAKES THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE,”
AND NOW THEY’RE CONNECTED... AND IN TROUBLE!***



BOOK ON A TREE

ONE SHOT x •

AGE 11+

• x T O H S E N O

DEDALO & DHARMA

Manlio Castagna

Illustrations by Kalina Muhova

It's a summer evening when, without even realising it, Dharma comes out of the cinema screen to escape certain death and meet that very spectator, Dedalo, who comes to the Kazan Cinema every single day to see her.

Dedalo is thirteen and has an unbridled passion for films and Dharma, who's the same age, is a character who escaped a destiny which, like that of all the characters, always repeats itself in "The Rindwalker": the most anticipated Hollywood film of the season.

What seems like the beginning of a surreal and romantic idyll is in fact only the premise of a bigger, daring story, full of dangers. Because Dharma is "only" a character and absolutely has to return to the film. To do so, both will have to abandon reality and dive into the *cinemaverse*: a parallel and complex universe where all cinematic stories are connected to each other.

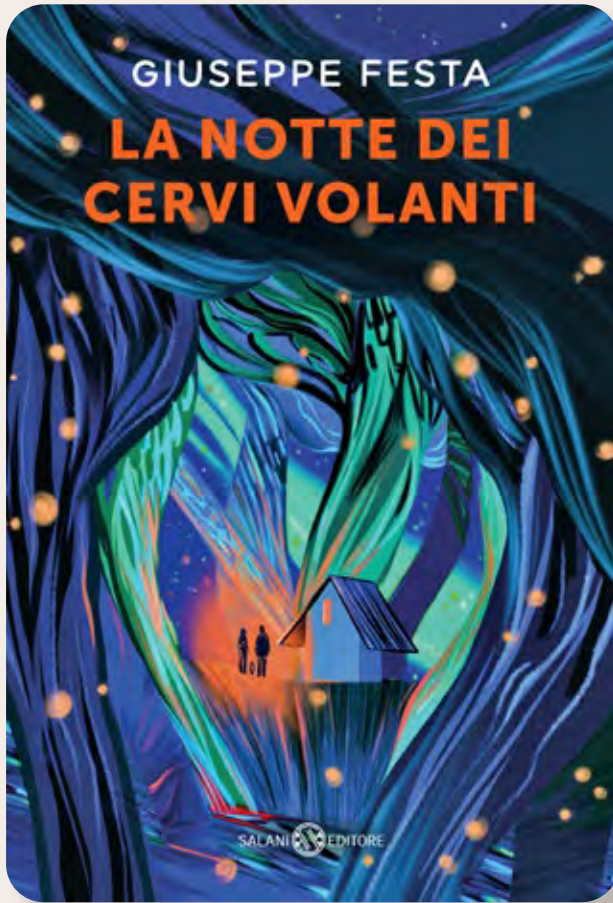
- ✖ **AN IRONIC, FUNNY WRITING STYLE WITH SHORT CHAPTERS AND INTENSE ACTION CHARACTERS YOU CAN EMPATHISE WITH. TEENAGE LOVE, THE POWER OF FRIENDSHIP AND ABOVE ALL THE LOVE OF CINEMA AND STORIES.**
- ✖ **BEAUTIFUL ILLUSTRATIONS REPRODUCING THE POSTERS OF THE FILMS THE PROTAGONISTS TRAVEL THROUGH.**
- ✖ **THE FIRST NOVEL EVER SET IN THE CINEMATIC MULTIVERSE.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER: MONDADORI (ITALY), 2023**

MANLIO CASTAGNA ✖ is a screenwriter, director, author, film critic and has been involved in the artistic direction of the Giffoni Film Festival for over twenty years. He has worked in Hollywood and Doha. He made his debut in children's fiction in 2018 with the bestselling trilogy *Petrademone*, translated into various languages. He continues to churn out books as well as writing about cinema for *Cinecittà News* and running writing courses at Scuola Holden in Turin. In 2022, he wrote and directed the docu-film *Il viaggio degli eroi* with Marco Giallini, which was released in the cinema and achieved record ratings on Rai 1.

THE NIGHT OF THE STAG BEETLES

AGE 11+



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A GROUP OF CHILDREN'S RETURN TO NATURE
WHEN THE WORLD POWERS DOWN.



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 11+

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THE NIGHT OF THE STAG BEETLES

Giuseppe Festa

Somewhere in time, Alba looks out of her bedroom window. Dark. The war has shut down the city. The last bar of her smartphone battery has disappeared and with it *@alba_sunny* has also vanished, and perhaps all her light-heartedness. Energy, water, food, family: there's nothing left in the city for Alba and her sister Yulia, their only chance is to go to their grandparents' village in the mountains. But the journey there is difficult, the countryside they cross is no longer the familiar, domesticated landscape they once watched from the car windows. Thanks to a group of mountain children, Ginepro and the Flock of the Twisted Beech, Alba and Yulia will learn new ways of living and will have to protect the village from a band of marauders determined to do anything to take possession of the valley's precious natural resources. Disconnected from the world, the two sisters will finally reconnect with those around them and with themselves...

- ✖ **A JOURNEY TO FREEDOM THROUGH A NATURE THAT'S TAKING BACK ITS SPACES.**
- ✖ **THE DELICATE BALANCE BETWEEN MAN AND NATURE, WHICH REQUIRES COMPROMISES AND SACRIFICE, BUT WHICH BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER AND GUARANTEES A FUTURE FOR THE INDIVIDUAL AS WELL AS FOR THE COMMUNITY.**
- ✖ **THE WAR IN THE BACKGROUND IS NOTHING MORE THAN A POWERFUL NEED FOR PEACE.**
- ✖ **WINNER OF TERRE DEL MAGNIFICO AWARD 2024.**

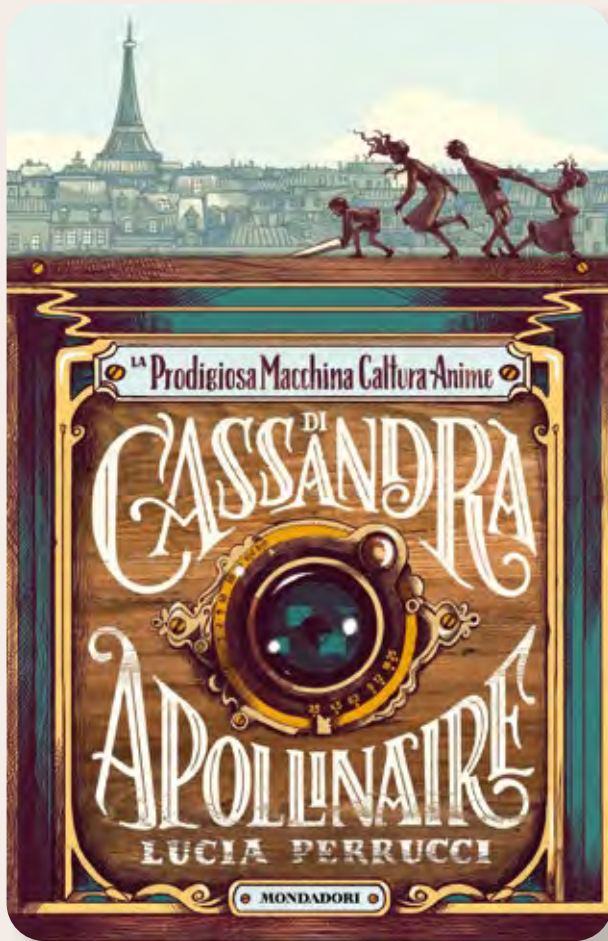
- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** SALANI (ITALY), 2023

GIUSEPPE FESTA ✖ works in environmental education. He has also written a number of nature reports for Italian broadcaster RAI and starred in the award-winning documentary *Oltre la Frontiera*. His novels are widely translated. *Cento passi per volare* (*A Hundred Steps to Freedom*), Salani, received the Kadaitosho in Japan in 2020 and was chosen by the Japanese Ministry of Education as summer reading. *I Lucci della via Lago* (*The Pikes of Lake Road*), Salani, won the Rodari and Bancarellino prizes in 2021.

ADVENTURE

CASSANDRA APOLLINAIRE'S PRODIGIOUS SOUL-CAPTURING MACHINE

AGE 10+



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WHATEVER HAPPENS,
NEVER LOOK INTO THE LENS



BOOK ON A TREE

ONE SHOT x •

AGE 10+

• x T O H S E N O

CASSANDRA APOLLINAIRE'S PRODIGIOUS SOUL-CAPTURING MACHINE

Lucia Perrucci

Three siblings, a race against time among the streets of Paris, coded messages, ancient daguerreotypes, centuries-old secret circles and a disturbing mystery: can photographic film preserve a soul?

France, 1971. It's the 13th of October when a postman rings the Sélavy family's door, causing all hell to break loose: the delivery is for Louis, René's twin, who died in an accident two years earlier. Since then, no one has been able to say his name. But when the package reveals the missing piece of the creepy darkroom locked away in the garage and their parents suddenly disappear, siblings Yves, André and René find themselves with many questions: who is the mysterious Cassandra Apollinaire who sent the parcel? What has happened to their parents? But above all: is it really possible to bring the dead back to life? Because Louis is back. And in René's body.

- ✗ **A BREATHTAKING ADVENTURE, MEMORABLE CHARACTERS AND A SUSPENSEFUL SETTING RICH IN HISTORICAL DETAILS: PARIS AND ITS SURROUNDINGS. OLD HOUSES, WOODS, UNDERGROUND PASSAGES, ANCIENT RAILWAY STATIONS, MONUMENTAL CEMETERIES, ACADEMIES AND SECRET LABORATORIES.**
- ✗ **A STORY WHERE FAMILY, OVERCOMING BEREAVEMENT, METAMORPHOSIS AND GROWTH ARE INDISSOLUBLY LINKED TO THE AMBIVALENT REALITY OF PHOTOGRAPHIC FILM AND THE IMPORTANCE OF HOLDING ON TO THOSE THINGS THAT REMAIN.**
- ✗ **THE HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY, THE INFLUENCE OF IMAGES ON THE PERCEPTION OF OTHERS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF REMEMBERING.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2022
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** FRANCE (L'ECOLE DES LOISIRS)

LUCIA PERRUCCI ✗ grew up in Puglia, among olive groves, cats and rolls of film. She has always been in love with stories, studying literature in Bologna and scriptwriting at the Giffoni Film Festival masterclass. Today she writes and teaches at school, where she madly adores her students, from whom she steals perhaps her most interesting ideas. *Cassandra Apollinaire's Prodigious Soul-Capturing Machine* is her first children's novel.

ADVENTURE

MAYDALA EXPRESS

AGE 11+



“

AN UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEY
TOWARDS THE LAST, UNKNOWN DESTINATION



BOOK ON A TREE

ONE SHOT x •

AGE 11+

• x T O H S E N O

MAYDALA EXPRESS

Pierdomenico Baccalario & Davide Morosinotto

Finally, ten years old and red-haired, lives in Grey City's immense railway station and works for a company that controls all the trains around the world, obeying wicked Mr Mortimer's orders. Every day she dreams of escaping...

One day she finds a piece of crumpled paper in her pocket, with strange lettering on it. It is a ticket to board the Maydala Express, which departs from the mysterious platform 1001. Finally doesn't hesitate: she leaps at the chance to escape and discover the world outside the Grey Station. With her new friend Lem, the most famous young thief of White City, she will cross the mysterious, constantly foggy Steam Metropolis, the City of Light, where people move around in old-fashioned carriages, and many more places, in an adventurous and reckless trip that will bring the two children towards the Farthest Station in the World... But you must be a special traveller to reach the end of the line; in fact, you must be "the greatest traveller of all time".

- ✖ **A GRIPPING NARRATIVE, A STORY FULL OF TWISTS, THAT TAKES PLACE IN UNFORGETTABLE SETTINGS WHERE THE PAST AND FUTURE MIX IN A THRILLING STEAMPUNK ATMOSPHERE.**
- ✖ **THE TRAIN, THE PEOPLE, AND THE CLEANERS ARE ALL A SLICE OF REAL LIFE, WHILE PLATFORM 1001, THE OBLIDESTINATION MACHINE, THE DRIVERLESS TRAIN, THE FOG, AND THE GHOSTS THAT PROTECT WHOKNOWSWHERE ARE ITS MAGICAL COUNTERPARTS, REMINISCENT OF THE BEST OF MODERN FANTASY, FROM HARRY POTTER TO NEIL GAIMAN'S BOOKS. READERS WILL HAVE FUN GUESSING THE GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS BEHIND GREY CITY AND THE CITY OF LIGHTS OR MALASTREGA...**
- ✖ **MOST ENGAGING OF ALL IS THE THEME OF TRAVELLING, THE TIRELESS AND AGELESS DESIRE THAT LEADS PEOPLE TO TRAVEL ENDLESSLY, MORE FOR THE FUN OF THE JOURNEY THAN THE PLEASURE OF GETTING SOMEWHERE. AND THIS IS ACTUALLY THE SPIRIT OF THE MAGIC TRAIN: ONLY THE GREATEST TRAVELLERS OF ALL TIME CAN REACH THE FURTHEST STATION IN THE WORLD... HAVE YOU PACKED YOUR BAG?**

- **RIGHTS OWNER:** BOOK ON A TREE
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** FRANCE (L'ECOLE DES LOISIRS)

PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO ✖ is a writer and journalist. His books have sold millions of copies worldwide and have been translated into over 30 languages. Today he is considered one of the leading Italian children's authors and the most widely translated abroad.

DAVIDE MOROSINOTTO ✖ is a multi-award-winning writer of children's books, translated into 25 languages. He is the author of, among others, *Il Rinomato catalogo Walker & Dawn (The Pocket Watch Gang)*, Mondadori, 2017, winner of the Andersen Prize 2017, and *La più Grande (The Greatest)*, Rizzoli, 2020, winner of the Strega Children's Prize 2021.

ADVENTURE

DARKMARE

AGE 10+



“

“HOW CAN YOU GIVE A DREAM BACK
TO SOMEONE WHO HAS LOST IT?
... THIS IS CINEMA, THE DREAM FACTORY, ISN'T IT?”



BOOK ON A TREE

ONE SHOT x •

AGE 10+

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DARKMARE

Manlio Castagna

Guido Anselmo is a twelve-year-old film lover who's hungry for adventure. One day, he comes across the biography of Klaus Voynik, an enigmatic, cursed film director. However, the final pages, detailing his tragic death, are missing from the book. Intrigued by the story, he visits the place where Voynik filmed his last film: an amusement park that was once a film studio.

The night that unfolds before his eyes is one he'll never forget. It is Walpurgis Night, the night on which, according to legend, spirits are allowed to return to Earth. Guido only has the few hours before sunrise to solve the mystery.

The park comes to life; the fantastical attractions become "real", and characters from films step out of the big screen to interact (and clash) with Guido.

Amidst threatening gangsters, submarines under attack, Wild West gunfighters, horror film sets, and martial arts experts, our protagonist will meet a beautiful fellow adventurer and, most importantly, learn a fundamental lesson: without dreams, life is a nightmare.

- ✗ **A MODERN, FAST-PACED, FIRST-PERSON STORY WITH NODS TO VARIOUS FILM GENRES AND CLASSICS LIKE *NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM*, *JUMANJI* AND *THE PURPLE ROSE OF CAIRO* BLENDING ELEMENTS FROM SURREAL WORKS, ROMANTIC, AND DREAMLIKE CINEMA.**
- ✗ **TEENAGE LOVE, FRIENDSHIP AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** GALLUCCI (ITALY), 2024

MANLIO CASTAGNA ✗ is a screenwriter, director, author and film critic and has been involved in the artistic direction of the Giffoni Film Festival for over twenty years. He has worked in Hollywood and Doha. He made his debut in children's fiction in 2018 with the bestselling trilogy *Petrademone*, translated into various languages. He continues to churn out books as well as writing about cinema for *Cinecittà News* and running writing courses at Scuola Holden in Turin. In 2022, he wrote and directed the docu-film *Il viaggio degli eroi* with Marco Giallini, which was released in the cinema and achieved record ratings on Rai 1.

REALISTIC FICTION

#10DAYCHALLENGE

AGE 12+

ONE SHOT x •



“

THE REAL CHALLENGE IS STAYIN'ALIVE
THE REAL CHALLENGE IS LIFE

• x T O H S E N O

AGE 12+



BOOK ON A TREE

#10DAYCHALLENGE

Daniele Nicastro

When school starts again, fifteen-year-old Michelangelo isn't the same: the summer has taken away the grandfather he was so close to, forcing him to deal with death for the first time. All that remains now of the afternoons they spent together, observing the plants, their hands in the soil, are faded photos and that unfillable emptiness inside him. One afternoon, his best friend Sabatino proposes driving away his sadness with a #10dayschallenge, so Miki lets himself be talked into it, setting in motion a growing whirlwind of tests that are fun at first but become increasingly dangerous and senseless, leading him to take huge risks in order to exorcise his fear. The only one who doesn't fall under the spell of his challenges is Erica, a girl at art school who is committed to protecting the environment: chatting with her motivates Michelangelo to reflect and grow, and experience emotions that surpass any danger...

- ✗ A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY THROUGH TEENAGE ANGST.
- ✗ A STORY ABOUT THE GRIEF PROCESS, THE PAIN THAT EXPLODES AND LEAVES US SHATTERED, THE ATTRACTION OF THRILL-SEEKING DUE TO AN INNER VOID, AND THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT SAVE US.
- ✗ WINNER OF THE BANCARELLINO SELECTION PRIZE 2024.

- FIRST PUBLISHER: LAPIS EDIZIONI (ITALY), 2023

DANIELE NICASTRO ✗ was born in 1978. He currently lives in a little town in the province of Cuneo where he writes all kinds of things: novels, postcards, messages in bottles, and phrases on walls. He started telling stories as a boy, to his mother, every time he came home late without letting her know. Over time he has made a profession of it. He made his debut with the novel *Grande*, winner of the Legenda Junior Prize and selected for the Bancarellino Prize in 2018. He has consolidated experience in a variety of genres from adventure novels to funny stories, but always focusing on themes linked to growing up.



ADVENTURE

MONSTER BIKE GROUP

AGE 10+



66

A SPECIAL PLACE WHERE DREAMS ARE "BUILT"...
BOLT BY BOLT.



BOOK ON A TREE

SERIES

AGE 10+

SERIES

MONSTER BIKE GROUP

Sonia Elisabetta Corvaglia

Where do you go when you don't know where to go? When school, friends, even the neighbourhood where you live no longer seem the same? Just venture into an anonymous and somewhat secluded street, and here's the right place: a Bike Shop that has the power to attract those who are looking for an escape route. From an oppressive family, from school bullies, from everyday problems...

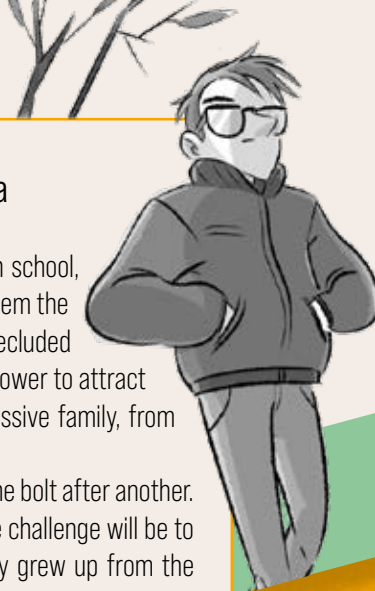
A place where you can *build* dreams with your own hands, one bolt after another. For Gio, Franci, Maryam and the others of the Bike Shop, the challenge will be to fight prejudices and defend the neighbourhood where they grew up from the ruthless logic of adults.

≈ A PLACE WHERE CREATIVITY MEETS COMMUNITY, A UNIQUE BICYCLE REPAIR AND RESTORATION WORKSHOP. IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT FIXING BIKES — IT'S A VIBRANT HUB FOR SOCIALISING AND FOSTERING INCLUSION. IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES, IT AIMS TO BRIDGE GAPS AND NURTURE THE SPIRITS OF OUR COMMUNITY'S MOST SENSITIVE YOUTHS.

≈ THE STORY AND CHARACTERS TOUCH A WIDE RANGE OF EMOTIONS AND FEELINGS RELATED TO THE WORLD OF CHILDREN AND THE THEMES OF DIVERSITY, BULLYING, RESPECT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ONE'S ROOTS.

• FIRST PUBLISHER: GIUNTI (ITALY), 2024

SONIA ELISABETTA CORVAGLIA ≈ was born in the province of Lecce in 1978 and lives in Milan. She teaches literature at a high school and collaborates with local libraries to promote reading in schools. She is involved in inclusion and initiatives against bullying and cyberbullying.



CALYPSO, THE WI-FI GIRL

AGE 7+



“

SHE'S A VIRTUAL ASSISTANT. A BIT LIKE A BUTLER,
BUT WITHOUT A TIE AND WHITE GLOVES...
SHE DOESN'T HAVE A BODY AND PERHAPS NOT EVEN
THE SAME DESIRE AS A BUTLER TO FOLLOW ORDERS.



BOOK ON A TREE

CALYPSO, THE WI-FI GIRL

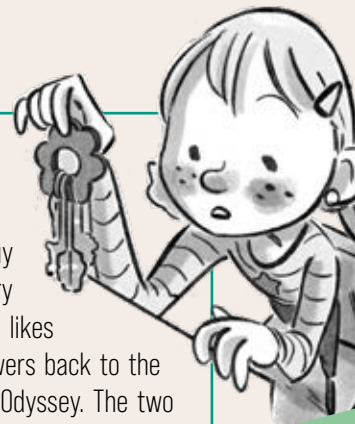
Francesco Morgando

Illustrations by Agnese Innocente

Ada is nine and an only child. One day, her parents decide to buy a virtual assistant and soon the girl realises that hers is very different to those of her friends. Her name is Calypso, she likes playing pranks, she helps her with her homework, she answers back to the adults in the house, and she loves playing and reading the *Odyssey*. The two become more than friends, until, one afternoon, when Ada comes home from school... Calypso is gone. The wi-fi that allows Calypso to connect stops working and Ada is left without her companion for a few hours.

The two understand that in this situation, their friendship is in danger and they never want to be separated again. So they have a bizarre idea. If a virtual assistant always has to be plugged into a socket, maybe something big is needed to transform it, like a very strong electric shock.

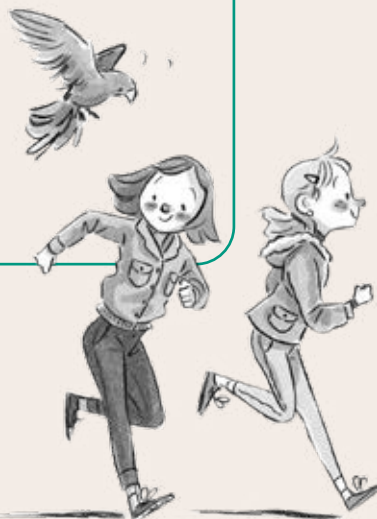
The opportunity comes one rainy night when a lightning storm lights up the sky...



- ✗ **IF PINOCCHIO WAS WRITTEN TODAY, MAYBE IT WOULD HAVE CALYPSO AS ITS PROTAGONIST!**
- ✗ **THE IRONIC AND TENDER ADVENTURE OF A SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN A GIRL AND A VIRTUAL ASSISTANT.**

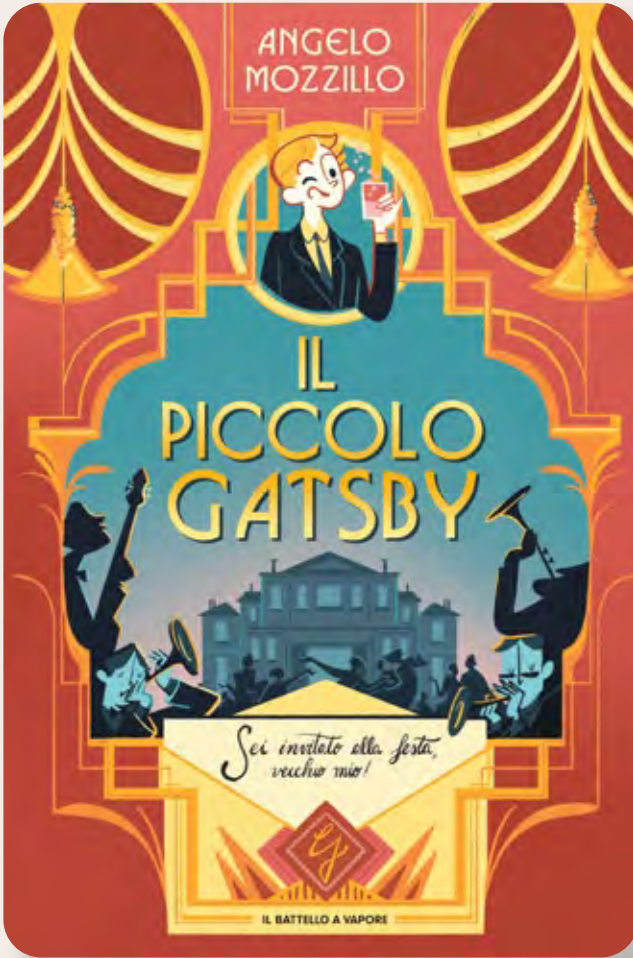
- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** FELTRINELLI (ITALY), 2023

FRANCESCO MORGANDO ✗ was born in Turin. For years he worked on the book fair programme aimed at schools and children, and he's now the project manager of Book Pride - the national independent publishing fair. He's very good at *names, things and cities*, but his favourite game is taking words, taking them apart and seeing if there are funny things inside them. *Calypso, The Wi-Fi Girl* is his first novel.



LITTLE GATSBY

AGE 10+



“

A HUMOROUS NEW TAKE ON
FRANCIS SCOTT FITZGERALD'S MASTERPIECE



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 10+

• x T O H S E N O

LITTLE GATSBY

Angelo Mozzillo

As a birthday present, Arthur Pivell is forced by his family to move west. There, he not only has to get used to a new town devoid of any kind of interest, but also a new house – which is more like a shack, a new school and new classmates who are obsessed with their smartphones. Precisely thanks to these, he soon realises that he lives in a strategic place: in the giant white villa that stands next to his garden lives a boy who everyone calls “Little Gatsby” for his habit of organising big parties every Saturday afternoon. Everyone goes to them, even if no one has ever seen the host... he seems to be super mysterious, and there are various legends about him and his fortune. Having just arrived, Arthur seems for everyone to be the loser of the moment. But the situation is reversed when at school Arthur receives Gatsby’s official invitation to attend one of his parties...

At that party, he meets young Junior – this is his neighbour’s real name. He immediately understands that his mystery is built on a misunderstanding: if nobody knows anything about Little Gatsby, it’s simply because he’s so mediocre that nobody notices him...

At the beginning, Arthur never wants to have anything to do with Little Gatsby, but then he’ll help him conquer the girl of his dreams.

✘ **A MODERN STORY THAT MIXES ELEMENTS OF THE CLASSIC COMING-OF-AGE TALE, THE HUMOROUS NOVEL AND STORIES ABOUT FIRST LOVES, CONSTANTLY GIVING A NOD TO FRANCIS SCOTT FITZGERALD’S MASTERPIECE AND THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE ’20S/’30S.**

✘ **A LOT OF LAUGHS!**

● **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2023

ANGELO MOZZILLO ✘ was born in Naples, but moved to Milan to attend film school. He stayed in Milan, but instead of working on film sets he focused on writing. He is a story collector: he likes discovering new stories and, when he can’t find any, he makes them up.

He mixes and reinvents words like shuffling a pack of cards: creating stories, scripts, reportages and rhymes. Among his latest works are the picture books *Io sono foglia (I am a Leaf)*, Bacchilega Junior, 2020, illustrated by Marianna Balducci, winner of the Andersen and Super Andersen prizes in 2021, and the humorous bestselling series *Detective Linus* (Piemme).

MY FRIEND LANCELOT

AGE 7+



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THE MAGIC OF THE SNOWY WOODS,
THE ADVENTURE OF A CHILD WHO GETS LOST AT NIGHT,
THE THRILL OF FINDING A BEAR FOR A FRIEND...



BOOK ON A TREE

MY FRIEND LANCELOT

AGE 7+

Christian Antonini

To escape a snowball ambush from the usual bullies, Tommi flees into the woods, but the snowfall surprises him and he loses his way home. He meets a large solitary bear with a strange collar around its neck, which moves silently and purposefully among the snow-covered trees. The two walk together as friends, sleep under a tree like brothers and look for food as if they were on holiday. When Tommi uncovers the mystery of the collar, he finds the way home for his bear friend, whom he's renamed Lancelot. And there he will also meet his family.

- ✦ **INSPIRED BY THE TRUE STORY OF THE ADVENTURE OF A LOST BOY AND THE BEAR WHO SAVED HIM.**
- ✦ **A CHILD, A DOCILE BEAR, THE SNOWY WOODS AND WONDER AND AMAZEMENT.**
- ✦ **BULLYING, ADVENTURE, ALTRUISM AND RESPECT FOR ANIMALS.**
- ✦ **FEELINGS, COURAGE AND FRIENDSHIP.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** GIUNTI (ITALY), 2024

CHRISTIAN ANTONINI ✦ is an author of books for children and adults, with a passion for history, adventure and fantasy. He grew up among books, comics and games. His novel *Fuorigioco a Berlino* (*The Berlin Offside*), Giunti, won the 2017 Bancarellino Prize and the Il Gigante delle Langhe national prize. In 2023, he entered the Italian IBBY Honour List with *La Musica nelle Ossa* (*Bone Music*), Mondadori.

MYSTERY

THE CITY OF WITCHES

AGE 10+



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A MYSTERIOUS VILLA HAUNTED BY SPIRITS,
A GANG OF CHILDREN READY FOR ANYTHING,
AND THE SAVING POWER OF FRIENDSHIP



BOOK ON A TREE

ONE SHOT x •

AGE 10+

• x T O H S E N O

THE CITY OF WITCHES

Marco Ponti

Frederic has moved with his parents from Los Angeles to Turin. But the villa he lives in is as sumptuous as it is... haunted! In its sinister corridors wanders the ghost of a girl. And immediately after her appearance, Tommy, one of Frederic's friends, disappears under unclear circumstances. It's hard to believe that it's just a coincidence. Frederic involves Liz, his friend with the fascinating purple eyes, and the loyal Ben, who as always manages to be at his side at exactly the right moment, in the search. During the daring adventures that unfold in bringing their friend to safety, it immediately becomes clear that Tommy is just a decoy and the real prey is Frederic himself... But why? The answer is hidden in the villa's basement. And it's Frederic who finds it, among the forgotten pages of an old diary dating back to the Second World War. A local sisterhood of witches and the spirit of a teenage girl evoked by mistake during a seance will lead the children towards a real descent into the underground kingdom of ghosts. A thrilling, adventurous tale, where only the light of friendship can illuminate the past.

- ✖ **A CHILLING (FEAR & DEATH) AND HEART-POUNGING (FRIENDSHIP & LOVE) STORY.**
- ✖ **THE ETERNAL STRUGGLE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL IN A THRILLING, ADVENTUROUS TALE WHOSE STRENGTH IS THE SAVING POWER OF FRIENDSHIP.**
- ✖ **A MAGICAL TURIN WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** SALANI (ITALY), 2023

MARCO PONTI ✖ is a writer, director and screenwriter. His films include the cult movie *Santa Maradona* (winner of two David di Donatello prizes), the great successes with audiences *Io che amo solo te* and *La cena di Natale* based on the novels by Luca Bianchini, and *La Bella Stagione* (winner of a Nastro d'Argento), created with Gianluca Vialli, Roberto Mancini and the Sampdoria players who achieved the epic feat of winning the football championship in 1991 and remained lifelong friends. He has also published the novels *Alice resta a casa* (*Alice Stays at Home*) with Manlio Castagna, winner of the Watty 2020 for the best Young Adult story on Wattpad Italy, and *R - Ribelli, rivoluzione e rock 'n' roll* (*R - Rebels, Revolution and Rock 'n' Roll*) with Christian Hill.

MYSTERY

THE STONES OF LEVERMOIR

AGE 12+

ONE SHOT x •



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**THERE'S SOMETHING HAPPENING
ON THIS ISLAND... SOMETHING AWFUL**



BOOK ON A TREE

• x T O H S E N O

AGE 12+

THE STONES OF LEVERMOIR

Guido Scgardoli

A circle of stones with dark powers, a wind-battered island and a boy looking for answers. It's been a tough year for thirteen-year-old Liam. His mother died after falling on a pair of shears in the garden and Liam found her. His father, a fisherman of few words, now shuts out his son completely, preferring drink to spending time with him.

One morning, skipping school, Liam finds the body of Corry, the lighthouse keeper, dangling from the lighthouse. It looks like suicide, but the inspector who investigated his mother's death thinks it's murder. Who could have killed this peaceful man?

Liam investigates and, right where Corry's body was dangling, he finds a strange stone, very similar to one he found near his mother's body.

The two stones fit together perfectly and snap together like magnets, creating a single piece, impossible to separate.

Liam and his old friends Midrius and Dotti decide to find out what's going on.

A series of gruesome episodes start to occur on the island. Deaths, accidents, missing people, and every time... a single stone that seems to have dark powers. What is the secret of the stones? Can Liam defy destiny?

- ✦ **A SMALL VILLAGE WITH A GLOOMY AND MYSTERIOUS BACKGROUND, OLD GRUDGES AND A FEELING OF CONSTANT DANGER WORTHY OF DAVID LYNCH. BUT ALSO A TALE OF ADVENTURE AND FRIENDSHIP.**
- ✦ **A HIGH-OCTANE ESCALATION OF EVENTS IN A COMPELLING TALE THAT WILL GRAB THE READER FROM THE FIRST PAGE. A MUST FOR STEPHEN KING FANS.**
- ✦ **2019 STREGA CHILDREN'S PRIZE WINNER.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2017
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** POLAND (AKAPIT), CZECH REPUBLIC (BOOKMEDIA)
- **TV RIGHTS OPTIONED**

GUIDO SGARDOLI ✦ is one of the most famous Italian children's authors and has written over one hundred books. His stories have been translated into many languages and have won all the major literary prizes dedicated to writing for children, such as the Italian Andersen in 2009, 2015 and 2018, and the Strega Children's Prize in 2019. In 2021, he entered the Italian IBBY Honour List with *Anomalya* (Giunti) 2020, and *I Grigi* (The Greys), DeA, 2020.



ADVENTURE

THE DESERT FOXES

AGE 11+

ONE SHOT x •



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**THE BEST-HIDDEN,
MOST CUNNING PLAN IN HISTORY**



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 11+

• x L O H S E N O

THE DESERT FOXES

Pierdomenico Baccalario

An ancient secret and a forty-year-long treasure hunt...

It's 1986 and Morice and his family have just moved to an unusually secretive town on the coast of Corsica, having just bought its only hotel: The Napoleon.

Wandering on the beach, Morice meets Audrey, the mayor's daughter, and joins her in her secret investigation to find a local fisherman who she doesn't think is dead like everyone says. Their investigations lead them into the town's many mysteries, reopening cases which have lain buried for years, descending into the hotel's cellars, exploring the numerous ravines along the cliff, and spying on the Tshcarr brothers who've turned up at the hotel even though it's still closed for renovation.

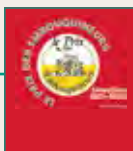
Bit by bit – with the help of a blind man and a secret code hidden in the first edition of *The Little Prince* – the pair piece together a story which has been jealously guarded by the town's inhabitants since the Great War, when two rivals, two desert foxes, Saint-Exupéry and Erwin Rommel, signed a pact.

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- ✦ **SAINT-EXUPERY AND ROALD DAHL, ROMMEL AND A HIDDEN SUBMARINE, SECRET PASSAGES AND SHADY CHARACTERS ALL COME TOGETHER IN A PLOT FULL OF SURPRISES.**
 - ✦ **A STORY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COURAGE, WITH A SENSE OF ADVENTURE WORTHY OF THE GOONIES.**
 - ✦ **FINALIST FOR THE STREGA CHILDREN'S PRIZE 2019 AND THE GIGANTE DELLE LANGHE 2019 AND SHORTLISTED IN FRANCE FOR LES PRIX DES EMBOUQUINEURS 2021.**

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- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2018
 - **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** SPAIN (EDEBE), ALBANIA (ALBAS), FRANCE (THIERRY MAGNIER), CHINA (TB PUBLISHING LIMITED)

PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO ✦ is a writer and journalist.

His books have sold millions of copies worldwide and have been translated into over 30 languages. Today he is considered one of the leading Italian children's authors and the most widely translated abroad.



ARVIS OF THE CLOUDS

AGE 12+



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THE EPIC ADVENTURE OF A FEARLESS AND REBELLIOUS GIRL
WHO DOESN'T NEED SAVING



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 12+

ARVIS OF THE CLOUDS

Christian Antonini

1 ♦ HEART OF FLAME. In a world covered with toxic clouds, the survivors have built kingdoms on the mountain peaks and travel by wooden vessels telekinetically raised by Lifters. To the south is a group of small warlike kingdoms where the draal – flying reptiles that blow fire – live, free from the Order's control.

Arvis, the young and rebellious princess of one such Peak, despite being expected to marry a formidable warrior, embarks on a quest to find her missing father and the secret he uncovered – a secret that could save their entire world.

2 ♦ THE BOUNDS OF THE SKY. After crossing the gap in the Crest Mountains, Arvis discovers that east of the mountains the Covering doesn't exist. Instead, the Finite Sea extends under the Elside Protectorate, where the Elected governs. Arvis and the Elected's daughter, Lairathi, will discover a deep and romantic bond. In the meantime, to the west, the war between old and new enemies resumes. The princess of the Aivalghir will have to find a way to save herself and stop the upcoming terrible war.

If in the first book Arvis found a balance between her warlike nature and her desire for freedom, in the second book she deepens her knowledge of herself as an individual who loves. Her bond with Lairathi becomes a new love, something that calls into question what Arvis thought she felt for Debril. When the young lifter meets the draalen and Lairathi, Arvis finds herself at the top of a difficult love triangle, in search of her own happiness, but without hurting the people she loves.

- ♦ A FANTASY STORY WITH ADVENTURE, ACTION, WAR, DISCOVERIES AND A STRONG FEMALE LEAD CHARACTER
- ♦ SOLID, WELL THOUGHT-OUT WORLDBUILDING WITH SPECIFIC LANGUAGE CHOICES
- ♦ AIR BATTLES, WOODEN FLYING SHIPS, DRAGONS AND WARRIORS HANGING UNDER GIANT BIRDS AS IF THEY WERE HANG GLIDERS
- ♦ AMAZING ILLUSTRATIONS BY PAOLO BARBIERI

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** GIUNTI (ITALY), 2023

CHRISTIAN ANTONINI ♦ is an author of books for children and adults, with a passion for history, adventure and fantasy. He grew up among books, comics and games. His novel *Fuorigioco a Berlino* (*The Berlin Offside*), Giunti, won the 2017 Bancarellino Prize and the Il Gigante delle Langhe national prize. In 2023, he entered the Italian IBBY Honour List with *La Musica nelle Ossa* (*Bone Music*), Mondadori.



FANTASY

DRACONIS CHRONICON

AGE 11+

ONE SHOT x •



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FIVE CHILDREN ON A JOURNEY. A LEGENDARY DRAGON.
AN EPIC ADVENTURE IN A MAGICAL MIDDLE AGES.



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 11+

• x T O H S E N O

DRACONIS CHRONICON

Manlio Castagna

Salerno, 1066. A preacher wanders the streets announcing the end of the world: "The Beast is stirring again! Fear the dragon, because the day of the eclipse is near!" The young Barliario doesn't pay attention to those words of doom, but that same evening his father, Rainardo, an alchemist, is surprised by a fire in his laboratory. When they bring him out, he is still alive but disfigured by the fire. And while Barliario watches over his bedside, a mysterious and hooded figure, Ahriman, appears and reveals to him: "As it is written in the Draconis Chronicon, bring me the fire of the dragon and Rainardo will be saved." Barliario doesn't need to think twice: he has to go. He is accompanied by his friend Shabbatai, who dreams of becoming a warrior, Trotula, a young medical student with a disarming intelligence, Mercuriade, with mysterious powers, and the very young Ligea, who can talk to the dead. Among brigands, werewolves and witches capable of unleashing storms, an epic adventure in which science and magic mix: in search of the dragon's fire and self-discovery.

- ✖ **THE GOONIES MEETS LADYHAWKE IN A BREATHTAKING JOURNEY.**
- ✖ **IN-DEPTH CHARACTERISATION OF THE CHARACTERS WITH A COMIC (SHABBATAI), A ROMANCE (JUST HINTED AT BETWEEN TROTULA AND BARLIARIO) AND AN IDENTITY PLOT LINE (MERCURIADE).**
- ✖ **STRONG CONFLICTS (MAGIC VS SCIENCE, MALE VS FEMALE, GOOD VS EVIL, DESIRE VS FEAR) AND SHORT CHAPTERS WITH CLIFF-HANGERS TO DRIVE PAGE-TURNING AND A FRENZIED PACE.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2022

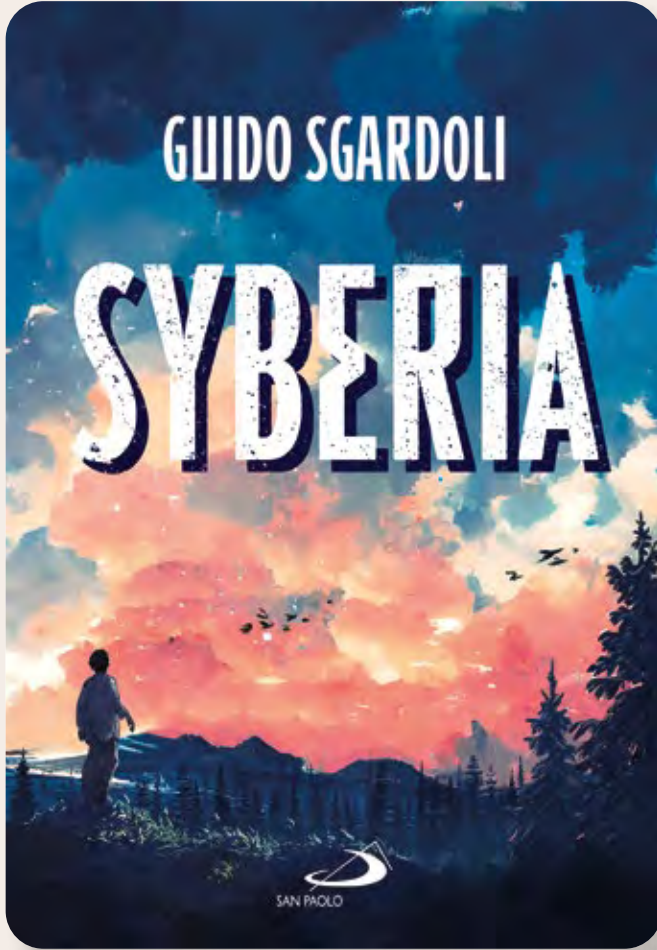
MANLIO CASTAGNA ✖ is a screenwriter, director and film critic. He wrote and directed his first short film before he had graduated. He then began to collaborate with the Giffoni festival and was its deputy artistic director for a decade, until 2018 when he made his debut as a novelist with the bestselling *Petrademone saga* (Mondadori). He continues to churn out books and was shortlisted for the Strega Children's Prize in 2021 with *La notte delle Malombre* (*The Night of the Malombre*), Mondadori.

ADVENTURE

SYBERIA

AGE 13+

ONE SHOT x •



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**A SCENIC AND ENVELOPING STORY.
AN EPIC JOURNEY OF SELF-DISCOVERY
WITH A STUNNING PLOT TWIST.**

• x T O H S E N O

AGE 13+



BOOK ON A TREE

SYBERIA

Guido Sgardoli

The wild nature of Jack London is back, in a novel with strong introspective aspects. This is the incredible adventure of Janis, a young Polish dissident who escapes from a katorga, one of the terrible tsarist prison camps isolated in the Siberian taiga. One morning, an event as mysterious as it is powerful shakes the camp, enabling Janis to escape. A blinding flash crosses the sky of the Russian taiga, followed by a roar and a violent blast of air. It is probably a meteorite.

Thus Janis begins his long journey through the unexpected, a hostile terrain marked by a continuous struggle against nature and into himself, as he tries to understand who he really is and the burden he carries inside. A terrible truth will be revealed to Janis at the end, after an encounter with a shaman, and arriving at the huge crater generated by the explosion. A truth that concerns his past and which will overturn his view of the world. Is it a dream? Is it reality? Is it a second chance offered by destiny?

✱ **“A NOVEL THAT DIGS DEEP INTO THE SOUL OF BOTH ITS MAIN CHARACTER AND THE READER.”** FABIO GEDA

✱ **A REALISTIC ADVENTURE INTO THE WILDEST, MOST HOSTILE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.**

● **FIRST PUBLISHER:** SAN PAOLO (ITALY), 2023

GUIDO SGARDOLI ✱ is one of the leading Italian authors in contemporary children's literature. A passionate traveller, he has published over one hundred books. His stories have been translated into many languages and have won all the major literary prizes dedicated to writing for children, such as the Bancarellino in 2009, the Italian Andersen in 2009, 2015 and 2018, and the Strega Children's Prize in 2019. In 2021, he entered the Italian IBBY Honour List with *Anomalya* (Giunti), 2020, and *I Grigi* (*The Greys*), DeA, 2020.

NEVER WALK ALONE

AGE 10+

MARCO CATTANEO
**NEVER
 WALK ALONE**

IL CALCIO È
 UN GRANDE VIAGGIO
 DA FARE
 IN COMPAGNIA



Rizzoli

66

FOOTBALL IS A GREAT JOURNEY TO TAKE IN COMPANY



BOOK ON A TREE

NEVER WALK ALONE

Marco Cattaneo

Jadel is all football and sport; Skip is crazy about history and is top in the class. They couldn't be more different, yet uniting them is an indestructible friendship and an overwhelming passion: that for Liverpool, their favourite team. So when, in 2019, the Reds really seem one step away from the Champions League final, they have no doubts: to return victorious from the stadium in Madrid, they must bring with them Rupert Gallagher, a mysterious old man who in the past was an extraordinary good luck charm for the team, or so they say. In a moment, what seemed like an away game like any other turns into a road trip adventure as improbable as it is thrilling: aboard a battered little car, obviously driven by Rupert, Jadel and Skip – together with Alex, Jadel's father, and Irina, Rupert's splendid carer – will cross a piece of Europe. And they will discover that, beyond the victories and defeats, the magic of football also plays out off the pitch and creates new, unthinkable friendships.

- ✗ **FOOTBALL, HUMOUR AND ABOVE ALL FRIENDSHIP.**
- ✗ **AN EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY THE MAGIC OF FOOTBALL IN A ROAD TRIP STORY.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** RIZZOLI (ITALY), 2023
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** FRANCE (POULPE FICTIONS & SLALOM)

MARCO CATTANEO ✗ is a sports journalist, TV presenter and children's author. His latest books include *Sfidare il cielo. Le 24 partite che hanno fatto la storia* (*Challenge the Sky: The 24 Matches that Made History*), Rizzoli, 2020, and *Manualex. Tutto il bello del calcio* (Rizzoli, 2021), written together with Alessandro Del Piero.

THE LOONIES STRIKE BACK

AGE 10+



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AN UNLIKELY TEAM, AN EPIC MATCH,
A NO-HOLDS-BARRED CLASH: 11 LOONIES AGAINST 11 NURSES!



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 10+

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THE LOONIES STRIKE BACK

Pierdomenico Baccalario

During the 1982 football World Cup, a legendary match is organised and played in Trieste. Arturo Praz, a former patient of the asylum, wants a rematch of the last game between the “loonies” and the nurses, won in 1978 by the nurses (in which Arturo didn’t play due to a highly suspicious accident). With his niece, “Steno”, he rides his Vespa through the streets of Trieste and the Karst plateau, visiting all his old teammates to persuade them to play in the rematch now that they are free. It’s not easy to find and persuade them all: they will make a fruitless expedition to the Venice cemetery, to the grave of Dr Basaglia, who closed down the asylum; go up the Alpine valleys with a dog called Trotzky and a guide who can’t laugh (or he falls into cataplexy); and take a ride on a sailing boat to a sinister Yugoslavian prison, disguised as Carabinieri, to trade an old friend for sixty kilos of coffee. The rematch, obviously, has to be played on the 11th of July 1982, while the Italy-Germany Final is being played in Madrid. And there’s good reason to believe, like their friend Bearzot, that this time they just might win.

- ✖ **A STORY OF FRIENDSHIP, SPORT, REVENGE, AFFECTION, AND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE FREE. A MEMORABLE PORTRAYAL OF THE WORLD OF MISFITS AND THOSE WHO ARE OVERLOOKED, WHO LIVE ON THE MARGINS OF SOCIETY, WAITING FOR THEIR REMATCH, AND WHO FINALLY TAKE ON THE ROLE OF GIANTS AND MYTHICAL HEROES, BUILDING DREAMS THAT HAVE NEVER EVEN CROSSED OTHERS’ MINDS.**
- ✖ **TOUCHES ON THE SUBJECT OF PSYCHIATRY AND COGNITIVE PROBLEMS WITH SCIENTIFIC AND HISTORICAL PRECISION, BUT ALSO IN A COMIC TONE.**
- ✖ **DRAWNS ON ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MOMENTS IN THE HISTORY OF MODERN PSYCHIATRY: THE CLOSURE OF THE TRIESTE ASYLUM IN 1978.**
- ✖ **ITALIAN IBBY HONOUR LIST 2023**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER: MONDADORI (ITALY), 2022**

PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO ✖ was born in Acqui Terme in 1974, started writing at an early age and won the Il Battello a Vapore Prize in 1998. Since then he has written many adventure stories, series, and fantasy novels for children, translated into 30 languages and published by top Italian and foreign publishers. For over 20 years he has worked with the Lucca Comics & Games organisation, as well as with *La Repubblica* and *Corriere della Sera's La Lettura*. In 2013, he created the creative agency Book on a Tree, in London.

ADVENTURE

HOOPDRIVER

AGE 10+



“

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, BILLY?
I'M GOING SOUTH.
AND WHY, BILLY-WHO'S-GOING-SOUTH?
BECAUSE I MADE A PROMISE.



BOOK ON A TREE

ONE SHOT x •

AGE 10+

• x T O H S

E N

0

HOOPDRIVER

Pierdomenico Baccalario

Billy decides to run away from his home in Liverpool without telling his father. He travels the 200 miles separating him from the little seaside town of Kewstoke on Azzurra (the mountain bike he has painstakingly assembled piece by piece) with the sole aim of reaching his grandfather's care home as soon as possible, because he made a promise: if anything happens, kid, come straight here, OK? It's the story of:

- ✘ **BILLY'S JOURNEY ON HIS BICYCLE, THE ROUTE HE CHOOSES ALONG THE COUNTRY PATHS OF ENGLAND AND WALES. THE HISTORIC AND BEAUTIFUL LOCATIONS HE SEES.**
- ✘ **THE PEOPLE HE MEETS ALONG THE WAY: JOE, THE DELIVEROO GUY WHO DREAMS OF STUDYING ENGINEERING; ANNABELLE, WHOSE HAIR HE CUTS BY NIGHT, AND HER BROTHER EMMETT, WHO LAUGHS AT SWEAR WORDS; SHACKLETON, THE DOG, WHO WILL FOLLOW HIM FOR THE REST OF HIS JOURNEY; MR RICHMAL, WHO REPAIRS AZZURRA AND HELPS HIM DISCOVER THE WORLD OF NOCTURNAL MOTHS; THE THREE SISTERS OF THE WATERFALL, WHO LIVE ALONE IN A COUNTRY HOUSE, WAITING FOR THEIR MOTHER.**
- ✘ **BUT ABOVE ALL, IT'S THE STORY OF HIS THOUGHTS, MEMORIES OF HIS GRANDFATHER'S STORIES, ALL LINKED TO MUSIC PERSONALITIES OF THE SEVENTIES, WHOM HE CLAIMS TO HAVE MET AND KNOW WELL: FROM DAVID BOWIE TO KEITH RICHARDS, ROGER WATERS OF PINK FLOYD AND ROBERT WYATT OF SOFT MACHINE.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2021 – ON WATTPAD IN APRIL / JUNE 2020
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** CHINA (BEIJING PUBLISHING)

PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO ✘ is a writer and journalist. His books have sold millions of copies worldwide and have been translated into over 30 languages. Today he is considered one of the leading Italian children's authors and the most widely translated abroad.

THE PHENOMENAL P.T. HELIODORE

AGE 10+



“

WELCOME TO THE WORLD'S GREATEST SHOW,
THE TOTALLY TREMENDOUS THEATRE OF WONDERS!



BOOK ON A TREE

THE PHENOMENAL P.T. HELIODORE

Guido Sgardoli

P.T. Heliodore is ten years old the first time he hears an animal speak. After that, he hears many other animal voices – owls, a beetle, a water snake, a blue cow he is taking to New York, and a dog called Pinky. P.T. Heliodore has a huge imagination, as vast as the whole state of Connecticut, which convinces him he can hear animals speak – but also that his father, Mylus Heliodore, is a king and Nickel Island is his kingdom. It also leads him to believe that Alice Pettygoofer has green hair and can fly. When P.T. finally goes to Nickel Island, which he has inherited from his father, he discovers a variety of outcasts living there. His unusual ability for storytelling alleviates the daily troubles of everyone who's lucky enough to listen to him. Imagination provides the type of nourishment the human mind needs. He starts to think about a fantastical theatre, where he could bring dreams to life on stage along with his unusual Nickel Island friends and their peculiar abilities. A “nickel” dream theatre: it would have to be open to everyone, including the poor – because everyone should be able to afford to dream.

- ✖ **A BOOK ABOUT DIVERSITY, FRIENDSHIP, ADVENTURE AND DREAMS.**
- ✖ **A MAGICAL MIX OF POETIC, SURREAL AND DREAMLIKE ELEMENTS THAT MAKES YOU DREAM AND TRUST IN YOUR DREAMS.**
- ✖ **THE COMBINATION OF IMAGINATION AND THE PARADOXICAL PRODUCES A COMPELLING READ THAT WILL BE IRRESISTIBLE TO EVERYONE**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER: PIEMME (ITALY), 2019**
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN: RUSSIA (SAMOKAT), FRANCE (BAYARD)**

GUIDO SGARDOLI ✖ is one of the leading Italian authors in contemporary children's literature. A passionate traveller, he has published over one hundred books. His stories have been translated into many languages and have won all the major literary prizes dedicated to writing for children, such as the Bancarellino in 2009, the Italian Andersen in 2009, 2015 and 2018, and the Strega Children's Prize in 2019. In 2021, he entered the Italian IBBY Honour List with *Anomaly* (Giunti) 2020, and *I Grigi* (*The Greys*), DeA, 2020.

ADVENTURE

THE BOOK REBELS

AGE 9+



P. D. BACCALARIO LUIGI SPAGNOL

Book Rebels

La spiaggia dei lettori clandestini

66

WELCOME TO PLAINTON,
THE BEACH OF CLANDESTINE READERS



BOOK ON A TREE

ONE SHOT x •

AGE 9+

• x T O H S E N O

THE BOOK REBELS

P. D. Baccalario & Luigi Spagnol

Peter's parents are in a strangely good mood because they've just decided to go to Plainton for their next holiday: it's not too far away but not too close either; enjoyable but not unforgettable; and with a beach, but not a particularly beautiful one.

So why go there then? Peter can't understand it, and what's more, he's bored there. Really bored. And so are his new friends: the silly identical twins Edward and Edwin, and brave, green-eyed Madeleine. Until the day they discover something weird about Plainton: children are ABSOLUTELY BANNED FROM READING BOOKS.

At first it doesn't seem like a big deal, but the four are soon involved in top secret missions, hangouts in secret forts, escapes, chases, stealing books (in fragments!), and even prophecies. Because reading, of course, is one of the most exciting activities of all.

- ✖ **A NOVEL, CHILD'S PLAY, CREATED FROM THE IMAGINATION OF TWO GREAT FRIENDS IN WORK AND IN LIFE, UNITED BY THEIR LOVE OF BOOKS – BECAUSE READING IS THE KEY TO FREEDOM AND HAPPINESS.**
- ✖ **“READING A GOOD BOOK, OR RATHER A BOOK WE ENJOY, MAKES US HAPPY. AND CHILDREN HAVE THE SAME RIGHT AS ANYONE ELSE OF ANY AGE TO BE HAPPY, HERE AND NOW.” – LUIGI SPAGNOL**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** SALANI (ITALY), 2022
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** SPAIN (DUOMO)

PIER DOMENICO BACCALARIO ✖ was born in Acqui Terme in 1974, started writing at an early age and won the Il Battello a Vapore Prize in 1998. Since then he has written many adventure stories, series, and fantasy novels for children, translated into 30 languages and published by top Italian and foreign publishers. For over 20 years he has worked with the Lucca Comics & Games organisation, as well as with *La Repubblica* and *Corriere della Sera's La Lettura*. In 2013, he created the creative agency Book on a Tree, in London.

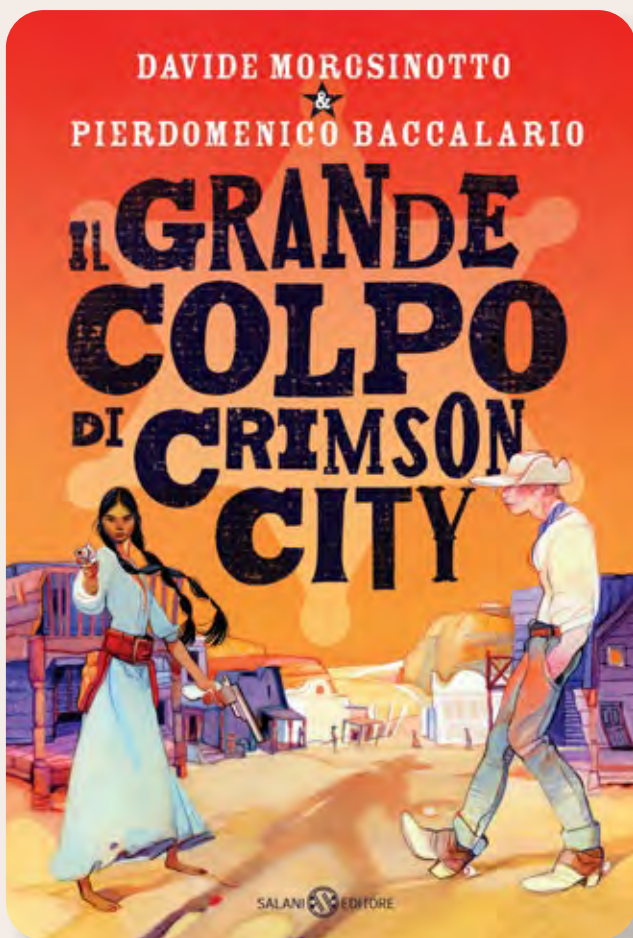
LUIGI SPAGNOL ✖ changed the face of children's publishing, bringing great international successes to Italy – like *Harry Potter* and *The Story of a Seagull and the Cat Who Taught Her to Fly* – and great authors, like Pullman and Almond, before they became global phenomena. More than an editor, he is a man who has made a mission of his passion – children's literature – with the unshakeable certainty that reading leads to happiness.

His bequest is one of the most significant and respected children's catalogues in the world, which has sparked the imagination of hundreds of thousands of young readers in the past, present and future.

ADVENTURE

THE CRIMSON CITY HEIST

AGE 10+



“

**DON'T TRUST ANYONE.
DON'T BELIEVE ANYTHING.
NOT EVEN THE SENTENCE YOU'VE JUST READ!**



ONE SHOT x .

AGE 10+

• x T O H S E N O

THE CRIMSON CITY HEIST

Pierdomenico Baccalario and Davide Morosinotto

A federal sheriff and a strange, impetuous Indian girl who claims to be his sister arrive one day in Crimson City, a place forgotten by everyone, even those who live there.

Their arrival throws the life of the quiet and very isolated city into disarray, and above all, the life of Roy Wilson, the stationmaster's adopted son.

The two strangers want to know everything about the inhabitants, and also about the gold seekers at Vulture Peak.

According to Sheriff Brown, they want to know too much. Those two bring trouble. And Roy can't wait to get into trouble... but he doesn't know what sort of trouble yet. He only knows that that girl, Piper, hides many secrets behind her dark, wild eyes. And his fiancée Mary doesn't like the way those eyes look at Roy at all...

Weapons hidden by the night, secrets buried in the dust, duels announced in the sunshine: adventure runs wild on the train tracks that pass through Crimson City.

- ✖ CAN A WESTERN ALSO BE A GREAT LOVE STORY?
- ✖ AND MAKE YOU LAUGH?
- ✖ WHO KNOWS... IN ANY CASE, HERE THERE ARE SHERIFFS, BANK ROBBERIES, JAILBREAKS, SALOON BRAWLS... PLOTTING, DOUBLE AND TRIPLE CROSSING... AND A MACHINE GUN THAT WILL NEVER SHOOT. SORRY, CHEKHOV.
- ✖ FROM TWO GREAT PENS OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE, A NOVEL TO BE READ UNTIL THE LAST... SHOT!

- FIRST PUBLISHER: SALANI (ITALY), 2023

DAVIDE MOROSINOTTO ✖ is a multi-award-winning writer of children's books, translated into 25 languages. He is the author of, among others, *Il Rinomato catalogo Walker & Dawn (The Pocket Watch Gang)*, Mondadori, winner of the Andersen Prize 2017, and *La più Grande (The Greatest)*, Rizzoli, winner of the Strega Children's Prize 2021.

PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO ✖ is a writer and journalist. His books have sold millions of copies worldwide and have been translated into over 30 languages. Today he is considered one of the leading Italian children's authors and the most widely translated abroad.

ADVENTURE

THE WIND THIEF

AGE 10+



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FOR MANY YEARS, NOTHING IMPORTANT HAPPENED IN THE HOUSE.
THEN ANGELA FISHED A BODY OUT OF THE CANAL.



BOOK ON A TREE

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AGE 10+



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THE WIND THIEF

Davide Morosinotto

Venice, Early Middle Ages. The daughter of a rich merchant who's fallen into disgrace decides to disguise herself as a boy and board a ship bound for Alexandria in Egypt to stop her father's enemies and rehabilitate her family name. She will find love, or rather two, and will end up involved in one of the first "secret operations" in history: the translation of Saint Mark, that is, the theft of the saint's relics from Alexandria and their transport to Venice. Between spies, monks and... hams, young Angela will have to face incredible difficulties and the distrust of a closed and backward world. Luckily, she's not alone: accompanying her on her journey is, in fact, a truly exceptional helper. But we're not telling you who it is yet.

◆ AN ADVENTURE STORY THAT DESCRIBES AN UNKNOWN TIME AND PLACE. DA MAR, BOOK 2.

◆ EACH CHAPTER OPENS WITH AN ILLUSTRATED DROP CAP AND AN EXTRAORDINARY EARLY MIDDLE AGES-STYLE XYLOGRAPH, WHICH REVEALS CLUES ABOUT THE STORY'S PLOT, HEIGHTENS THE SUSPENSE AND CREATES A UNIQUE LINK BETWEEN TEXT AND IMAGES.

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2023
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** GERMANY (THIENEMANN), BELGIUM & NETHERALANDS (PELCKMANS)

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ADVENTURE

THE SON OF THE SEA

AGE 10+



“

FOR MANY YEARS,
NOTHING IMPORTANT HAPPENED IN THE HOUSE.
THEN, THE BARBARIANS ARRIVED.



BOOK ON A TREE

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AGE 10+

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THE SON OF THE SEA

Davide Morosinotto

A fourteen-year-old pig keeper finds himself enlisted in the legionaries of Rome to face the most terrible enemy of all time: Attila's barbarians.

Pietro will make a friend, Tito, and meet a great love, Giustina. He will have to disguise himself, be taken hostage, fight and even be fatally wounded by an enemy spatha.

And, in the end, he will contribute to founding a city destined to shine through the centuries and become famous throughout the world. The queen of the lagoon. Venice.

◆ A STORY OF ADVENTURE THAT DESCRIBES AN UNKNOWN TIME AND PLACE.

◆ EACH CHAPTER OPENS WITH AN EXTRAORDINARY TAPESTRY ILLUSTRATED IN LATE ROMANESQUE STYLE THAT NARRATES A PIECE OF HISTORY ALMOST IN "COMIC-BOOK STYLE", CREATING A UNIQUE LINK BETWEEN TEXT AND IMAGES.

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2022
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** GERMANY (THIENEMANN), BELGIUM & NETHERLANDS (PELCKMANS)

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ADVENTURE

THE GREATEST

AGE 12+

ONE SHOT x •



La sciabola
è una tigre feroce.
La spada, una fenice
in volo.

Rizzoli

“

SHE IS JUST A GIRL NOW BUT SHE WILL BECOME
A MARTIAL ARTIST, THE QUEEN OF THE CHINA SEA,
THE GREATEST PIRATE WHO EVER LIVED



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 12+

• x T O H S E N O

THE GREATEST

Daive Morosinotto

Cover by Rebecca Dautremer

Canton, 1770. Shi Yu is a six-year-old orphan who works for the quick-tempered innkeeper Bai Bai. At the inn, Yu meets Li Wei, a boy who is already a martial arts expert. Yu persuades him to teach her to fight, and her talent is immediately obvious. This skill will save her life a few years later when she is kidnapped by the dreaded Golden Dragon's pirates: instead of killing her, Golden Dragon enrolls her in the crew.

This is the beginning of her ascent in the piracy world.

After many raids in the Pearl River, Macau and Hong Kong, nineteen-year-old Yu becomes the commander of an entire fleet, which will soon number more than a hundred ships. Her very name terrorises the China Sea, and she seems to be an unstoppable force... But Yu's fame has unwittingly made her an enemy as powerful as he is mysterious, who will stop at nothing to destroy Air and Water wushu: the legendary martial arts style of which Yu has become the latest master..

-
- ✦ **A BREATHTAKING ADVENTURE AND AN EXTRAORDINARY COMING-OF-AGE STORY INSPIRED BY THE TRUE STORY OF CHING SHIH, COMMANDER OF THE LARGEST PIRATE FLEET OF ALL TIME.**
 - ✦ **AMAZING COVER ILLUSTRATIONS BY EUROPE'S MOST FAMOUS ILLUSTRATOR.**
 - ✦ **2021 STREGA CHILDREN'S PRIZE WINNER.**

-
- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** RIZZOLI (ITALY), 2020
 - **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** GERMANY (THIENEMANN), NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM (PELCKMANS), FRANCE (L'ECOLE DES LOISIRS)
 - **TV RIGHTS OPTIONED**

DAIVE MOROSINOTTO ✦ is a multi-award-winning writer whose works have been translated into 25 languages. He won the Andersen Prize with *Il Rinomato Catalogo Walker & Dawn (The Pocket Watch Gang)*, Mondadori, 2017, and was a finalist for the prestigious Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis in Germany in 2018. In 2019, he won the Prix des Bouquineurs en Seine in France, the Vlag en Wimpel in the Netherlands, and the Flanders KJV. In 2021, he entered the IBBY Italian Honour List, won the Zilveren Griffel in the Netherlands, the Penzberger Urmel Literature prize in Germany, the Grand Prix des Lectures du Journal de Mickey in France and the Strega Children's Prize in Italy. He has also been nominated for the Carnegie Medal 2022 in the UK.

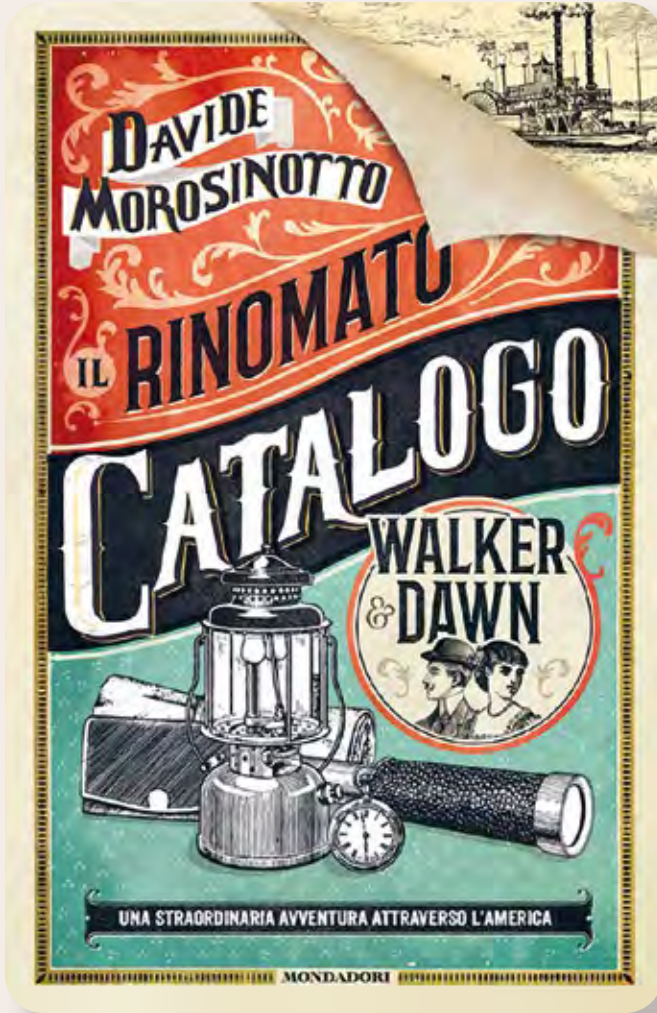


ADVENTURE

THE POCKET WATCH GANG

AGE 11+

ONE SHOT x •



“

A DARING ADVENTURE CAN
CHANGE YOUR LIFE FOREVER



AGE 11+

• x T O H S E N O

THE POCKET WATCH GANG

Davide Morosinotto

Four friends with two things in common: three dollars and a burning desire to see the world. For four friends who live on one of the endless Louisiana bayous in early 1900s America, the 1,000-page Walker & Dawn Catalogue is the gateway to a world of hopes. So, when they find three silver dollars, they order an automatic revolver. But when the package arrives, it contains only a broken pocket watch.

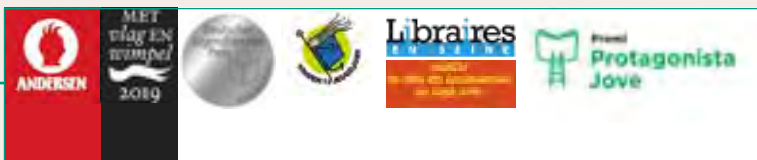
When a stranger shows up to get the watch back and chases the kids, they decide to run away to Chicago, where the Walker & Dawn headquarters is, to return the watch and get a reward. However, they soon become entangled in a mysterious cold case: Miss Dawn, the catalogue's inventor, was murdered by her lover on New Year's Eve 1899. Just before she died, she hid all her wealth, and it's never been found.

The pocket watch turns out to be the missing link to finding the treasure. It's the key to opening a locker at Chicago's Grand Central Station. A locker that's been waiting for years to reveal its secrets.

- ✦ **“A TALE OF ADVENTURE, TRAVEL AND ESCAPE. A COMING-OF-AGE STORY THAT RATTLES THROUGH A HIGHLY ENTERTAINING SERIES OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND MYSTERIES WHICH ARE CLEVERLY UNRAVELLED IN A TALENTED PIECE OF STORYTELLING.”**
- ✦ **WINNER OF THE ITALIAN ANDERSEN PRIZE 2017. FINALIST AT DEUTSCHER JUGENDLITERATURPREIS IN GERMANY IN 2018. WINNER OF THE PRIX DES BOUQUINEURS EN SEINE IN FRANCE AND THE VLAG AND WIMPEL IN THE NETHERLANDS IN 2019. WINNER OF THE 2022 LITERATURA PROTAGONISTA JOVE PRIZE IN CATALONIA.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2016
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** GERMANY (THIENEMANN), SPAIN (PLANETA), FRANCE (L'ECOLE DES LOISIRS), DENMARK (JENSEN&DALGAARD), POLAND (DWIE SIOSTRY), RUSSIA (SAMOKAT), NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM (PELCKMANS), CZECH REPUBLIC (DOBROVSKY), GALICIA (RINOCERONTE EDICIONES), JAPAN (IWASAKI SHOTEN), CATALONIA (VIENA EDICIONS), UKRAINE (NEBO BOOKS)

DAVIDE MOROSINOTTO ✦ is a multi-award-winning author of works translated into 25 languages. In 2021 alone, he won the Zilveren Griffel in the Netherlands, the Penzberger Urmel in Germany, the Grand Prix des Lectures du Journal de Mickey in France and the Strega Children's Prize in Italy. He has also been nominated for the 2022 Carnegie Medal in the UK.



ADVENTURE

RED STARS

AGE 11+



LA SFOLGORANTE LUCE DI DUE STELLE ROSSE

IL CASO DEI QUADERNI DI VIKTOR E NADYA

un romanzo di

DAVIDE MOROSINOTTO

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WHATEVER HAPPENS,
STAY TOGETHER



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 11+

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RED STARS

Davide Morosinotto

A heart-stopping story of danger, courage and bravery that emphasises the power of truth and what it means to be a hero.

THE COUNTRY IS UNDER ATTACK. Twins Viktor and Nadya are twelve years old when Hitler's Germany declares war on the Soviet Union. As the Nazi army crushes the defending forces and enemy planes appear overhead, they are hurriedly evacuated from their home.

'WHATEVER HAPPENS, STAY TOGETHER.' Their parents told them to look after each other, no matter what. But amid the chaos of the evacuation, disaster strikes – the twins are separated, stranded many miles apart with no way of communicating.

A DESPERATE RACE ACROSS SNOW AND ICE. Despite the war raging all around, Viktor and Nadya are determined to find each other and get back home. Can they pick a path through the danger and destruction, with only their courage and love to keep them going?

- ✗ **AN EPIC MYSTERY ADVENTURE, TOLD IN A UNIQUE FORMAT INCLUDING DIARY ENTRIES, MAPS AND PHOTOS, TAKES READERS ALONG ON THE HARROWING JOURNEYS OF TWO TWELVE-YEAR-OLD SIBLINGS, SEPARATED JUST BEFORE THE NAZI SIEGE OF THEIR CITY AND EACH DESPERATE TO REUNITE WITH ONE ANOTHER.**
- ✗ **THE EMOTIONS JUMP OUT AT THE READER FROM THE PAGES OF THE PROTAGONISTS' DIARY.**
- ✗ **WINNER OF THE IN OTHER WORDS BOOKTRUST'S BOOK IN TRANSLATION AWARD IN LONDON. SHORTLISTED FOR THE KORNEY CHUKOVSKY AWARD IN RUSSIA. WINNER OF THE PENZBERGER URMEL PRIZE IN GERMANY AND WINNER OF THE ZILVEREN GRIFFEL IN THE NETHERLANDS IN 2021. NOMINATED FOR THE CARNEGIE MEDAL 2022 IN THE UK.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2017
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** GERMANY (THIENEMANN), FRANCE (L'ECOLE DES LOISIRS), UK (PUSHKIN), USA (PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE), RUSSIA (PESHKOMBOOKS), NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM (PELCKMANS), GALICIA (RINOCERONTE), SPAIN (SM)

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ADVENTURE

THE LOST FLOWER OF THE SHAMAN OF K

AN EPIC JOURNEY FROM THE ANDES TO THE AMAZON

AGE 11+



“

“SHE TOOK HIM INTO THE WORLD,
AND HE KEPT HER SAFE IN IT”



BOOK ON A TREE

ONE SHOT x •

AGE 11+

• x T O H S E N O

THE LOST FLOWER OF THE SHAMAN OF K

AN EPIC JOURNEY FROM THE ANDES TO THE AMAZON

Davide Morosinotto

Peru, 1986.

The daughter of a Finnish diplomat in the neurological clinic of a hospital in Lima, paediatric ward to be precise, is not something you see every day, especially when it's the terrain of El Rato, the cheekiest scamp of a boy Laila has ever met.

They make friends and, to pass the time, they wander the hospital. One day, they stumble upon a strange diary, written in 1941 by one Dr Robert Clark. The drawing of a rare flower catches their eye and they are fascinated to learn it is used by shamans of the K tribe.

But the day comes when Laila's illness is finally given a name and she learns it's terminal. All hope is lost for her. Or maybe not. There is still one thing the two friends can do together and that's recover the Lost Flower of K in the hope it can heal her. And change both their fates.

A long and eventful journey follows that sees them travel from the Andes through the Amazon forest and face many battles with the wild and unyielding landscapes.

- ✗ **THE DISCOVERY OF LIFE THROUGH THE EYES OF TWO TWELVE-YEAR-OLDS WHO FACE A SAVAGE WORLD HAND IN HAND.**
- ✗ **AN ORIGINAL AND FRESH STYLE THAT MAKES THE READERS FEEL LIKE PROTAGONISTS IN THE STORY THROUGH VOICES, COLOURS AND SOUNDS.**
- ✗ **SHORTLISTED FOR THE ZILVEREN GRIFFEL IN THE NETHERLANDS IN 2021 AND WINNER OF THE GRAND PRIX DES LECTURES DU JOURNAL DE MICKEY IN FRANCE.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2019
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** GERMANY (THIENEMANN), NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM (BAECKENS BOOKS - PELCKMANS), FRANCE (L'ECOLE DES LOISIRS), SPAIN AND CATALONIA (EDITORIAL BAMBÙ)

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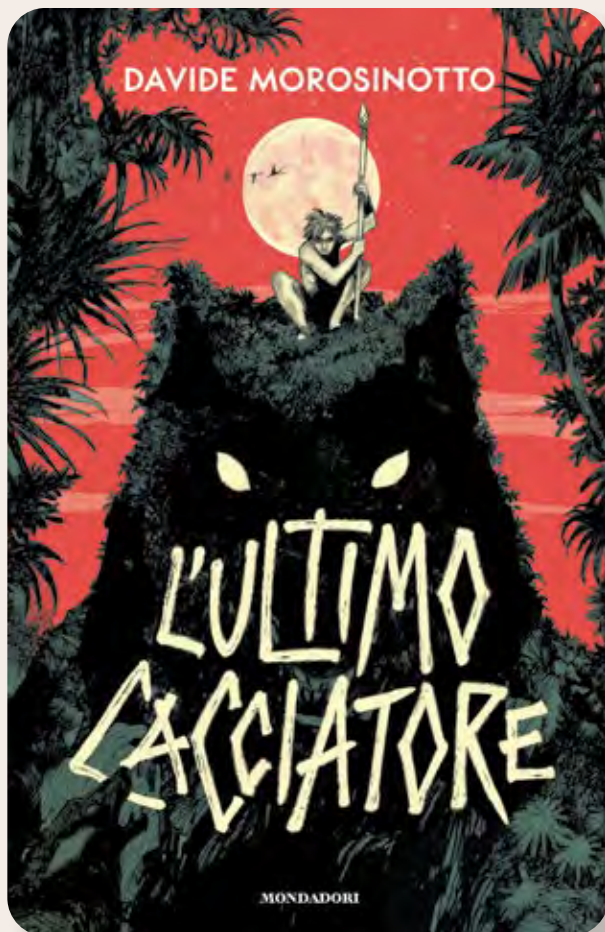


ADVENTURE

THE LAST HUNTER

AGE 12+

ONE SHOT x •



“

I AM THE LAST HUNTER
AND YOU ARE THE LAST OF YOUR KIND.
THE NOISE OF OUR FIGHT
WILL MAKE THE STARS FALL FROM THE SKY.



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 12+

• x T O H S E N O

THE LAST HUNTER

Davide Morosinotto

Florida, 10,000 years ago. When a terrible fire destroys the tribe's camp, only six children survive.

Six children who will decide, alone, to carry out the great hunt, in search of the last mastodons, creatures that are very precious for their survival.

The journey through a wild America full of huge and unknown animals will be an opportunity for them to discover their own talents: Ama has the Talent of Stories, Ocho that of Ropes, Cato of Stone, Beri of Fire. And Roqi?

If he doesn't even have the courage to throw a stone at a leaf-eater, will he ever be able to become a hunter? And above all: will the children be able to survive in the most hostile environment that has ever existed?

- ✘ **A GREAT SURVIVAL STORY, ABLE TO DRAW THE READERS IN AND KEEP THEM READING.**
- ✘ **THE COURAGE TO GROW UP, SELF-DISCOVERY AND A JOURNEY OF INITIATION INTO ADULTHOOD.**
- ✘ **FINALIST FOR THE ANDERSEN PRIZE 2022.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2021
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** GERMANY (THIENEMANN), BELGIUM AND NETHERLANDS (PELCKMANS)

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TWENTY-FOUR

AGE 13+



“

ONE STORY, TWO BOOKS: TWO WAYS OF READING IT

AGE 13+



BOOK ON A TREE

TWENTY-FOUR

Davide Morosinotto

On Friday the 19th of May, at 11.56 a.m. in a secondary school in Bologna, a bomb goes off. It's the worst terrorist attack in Italy's history, inflicting an incurable wound on the heart of the city. The consequences are tragic. But... the attack never happened and this story actually begins on Thursday the 18th of May at 11.56 a.m., when there are still 24 hours to stop the tragedy from taking place. The Time Shifters are about to face their most difficult challenge yet.

-
- ✕ **A SCI-FI NOVEL THAT CAN BE READ IN TWO WAYS: IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER (TIMELINE – GREEN COVER) LIKE A CRIME NOVEL; OR, YOU CAN SKIP BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT DATES AND TIMES, READING IT OUT OF ITS NATURAL TIME SEQUENCE (TIME LOOP – RED COVER), LIKE A THRILLER.**
 - ✕ **THE PACE OF A THRILLER, WITH SECRET BASES AND TIME MACHINES... BUT ALSO STORIES OF TROUBLED FAMILIES AND FRIENDSHIP. A HAND HELD OUT TO HELP SAVE THE WORLD.**

-
- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** CAMELOZAMPA (ITALY), 2022
 - **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** GERMANY (THIENEMANN), BELGIUM AND NETHERLANDS (PELCKMANS)
 - **TV RIGHTS OPTIONED**

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A HUNDRED STEPS TO FREEDOM

AGE 9+



“

THE BREATH OF THE MOUNTAIN,
THE COURAGE TO SPREAD YOUR WINGS



BOOK ON A TREE

A HUNDRED STEPS TO FREEDOM

Giuseppe Festa

Lucio has always experienced the mountains with his eyes shut, and he sees things no-one else notices.

It is in the mountains that Lucio, who lost his sight as a young child, crosses paths with a baby eagle kidnapped by poachers.

All seems lost. But the mountain hides many clues, which can reveal the truth to someone who knows how to listen for them – someone like Lucio.

- ✦ **A STORY ABOUT DIVERSITY AND THE COURAGE TO ACCEPT IT.**
- ✦ **SHORTLISTED FOR THE STREGA CHILDREN'S PRIZE 2019.**
- ✦ **WINNER OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATION MINISTRY SELECTION: CHILDREN'S SUMMER READING 2020 (KADAITOSHO).**



- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** SALANI (ITALY), 2018
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** SPAIN (DUOMO EDICIONES), JAPAN (IWASAKI), KOREA (INORI), CHINA (GUANGXI NORMAL UNIVERSITY PRESS GROUP), TAIWAN (GLOBAL KIDS)

GIUSEPPE FESTA ✦ has a degree in Natural Sciences and works in the environmental education field. Founder and singer of the Lingalad folk music group, he has also written a number of nature reports for Italian broadcaster RAI and starred in the award-winning documentary *Oltre la Frontiera*. His novels have been widely translated. He was shortlisted for the Strega Children's Prize 2019 with *Cento passi per volare* (*A Hundred Steps to Freedom*), Salani, 2018. The same novel received the Kadaitosho in Japan in 2020 and was chosen by the Japanese Ministry of Education as summer reading for all school children in the target age group.



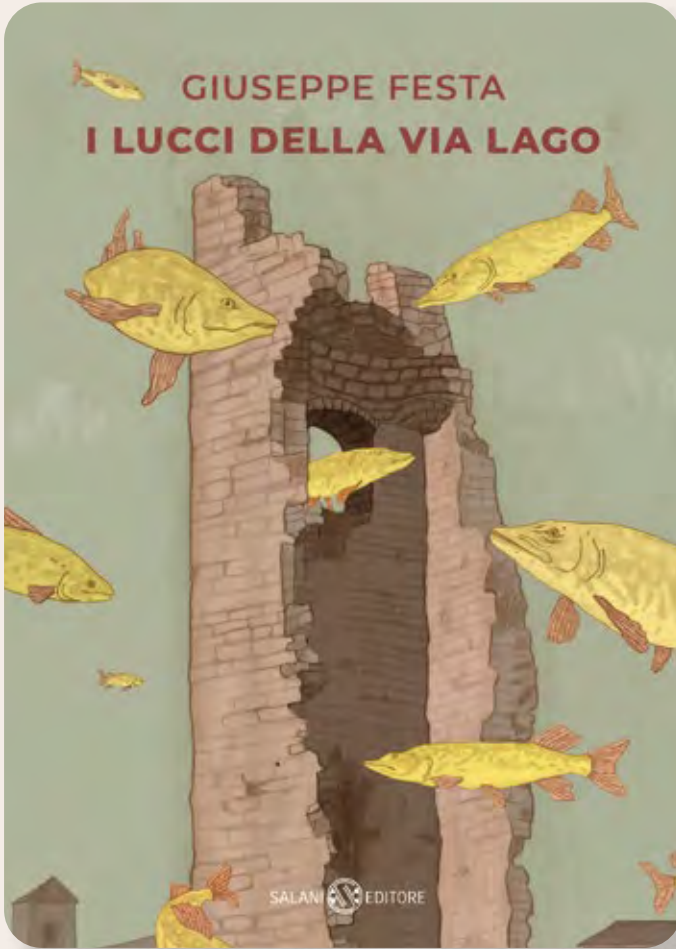
読んで世界を広げる、書いて世界をつくる。
青少年読書感想文全国コンクール

主催：文部科学省 事務局：読書感想文全国コンクール実行委員会 協賛：文部科学省 編集：文部科学省 印刷：文部科学省印刷局

THE PIKES OF LAKE ROAD

AGE 10+

ONE SHOT x •



66

**AN UNFORGETTABLE SUMMER.
THIRTY-THREE DAYS - NOT ONE MORE, NOT ONE LESS -
WHEN EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE.**

AGE 10+



BOOK ON A TREE

• x T O H S E N O

THE PIKES OF LAKE ROAD

Giuseppe Festa

With all the spontaneity of his thirteen years, Mauri retraces the thirty-three days that have made him grow up, starting on that 14th of June when his best friend, Brando, dives into the lake and never resurfaces.

But incredulous grief soon gives way to doubt: mysterious notes written in Brando's writing cast a shadow of suspicion over Lake Road, threatening solid friendships and blossoming love. There are whispers about a road on the bottom of the lake, children with weed for hair, and other, even darker things.

But Mauri doesn't believe it, and he decides to investigate, along with other members of the Pikes gang: Fabi, Nando, Trapola and, above all, her, Aura, his secret love.

- ✦ **A UNIQUE AND ENGAGING ADVENTURE, A CRAZY SUMMER BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL AND THE PASSAGE FROM CHILDHOOD TO ADOLESCENCE.**
- ✦ **"I WROTE THIS BOOK DURING THE FIRST LOCKDOWN. IN THE STILLNESS OF THAT PRESENT, I REVISITED A PAGE FROM MY PAST: A SUMMER IN THE SHADOW OF THE HALF TOWER, AT MY GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE, THE CUSTODIANS OF AN OLD MANOR ON THE SHORES OF LAKE ISEO. ADVENTURES, FIRST LOVES, LIFE, DEATH, MYSTERY. EVERYTHING CAME BACK TO LIFE AS IT WAS THEN, WHISPERING TO ME THE STORY OF THE PIKES OF LAKE ROAD." – GIUSEPPE FESTA**
- ✦ **FINALIST FOR GIGANTE DELLE LANGHE 2021 AND WINNER OF THE GIANNI RODARI CHILDREN'S PRIZE 2021.**
- ✦ **WINNER OF THE BANCARELLINO CHILDREN'S PRIZE 2022.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** SALANI (ITALY), 2021

GIUSEPPE FESTA ✦ has a degree in Natural Sciences and works in the environmental education field. Founder and singer of the Lingalad folk music group, he has also written a number of nature reports for Italian broadcaster RAI and starred in the award-winning documentary *Oltre la Frontiera*. His novels have been widely translated. He was shortlisted for the Strega Children's Prize 2019 with *Cento passi per volare* (*A Hundred Steps to Freedom*), Salani, 2018. The same novel received the Kadaitosho in Japan in 2020 and was chosen by the Japanese Ministry of Education as summer reading for all school children in the target age group.



ADVENTURE

OLGA

AGE 12+



66

**A STORY OF PEACE IN WARTIME.
TWO VERY YOUNG LIVES FIGHTING TO STAY HUMAN.**



BOOK ON A TREE

ONE SHOT x •

AGE 12+

• x T O H S E N O

OLGA

Christian Hill

1943. Olga Boldireva is a 13-year-old Russian girl captured and taken to Germany to work as a nanny for a family. Hans Kemp is a 13-year-old German boy, the eldest son of that family. When she arrives, she is a bundle of anger and resentment, while he is a cheerful boy trying to understand what is happening in the world. Olga is welcomed as a daughter and treated with respect, even though the neighbourhood continues to despise her. Hans, on the other hand, ends up in the war machine and, at the age of 14, is forced to go and fight at the front. While Olga will find serenity and love with another prisoner and realise that the Kemps are now her family, Hans will face battle, the death of his friend and the destruction of his unit. He deserts and walks home, now a profoundly changed person. And when the war ends, he will have to come to terms with the wounds he has left behind.

- ✘ **A CONDEMNATION OF WAR POINTING A FINGER ABOVE ALL AT THE EFFECT OF WAR ON PEOPLE'S HUMANITY, REGARDLESS OF WHO THEY SIDE WITH.**
- ✘ **THE STRUGGLE OF 'NORMAL LIFE', THE FAMILY LIFE FULL OF SMALL THINGS, TO WITHSTAND GREAT EVENTS THAT COME FROM ABOVE TO OVERTURN LIVES.**
- ✘ **ITALIAN IBBY HONOUR LIST 2023.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER: RIZZOLI (ITALY), 2022**

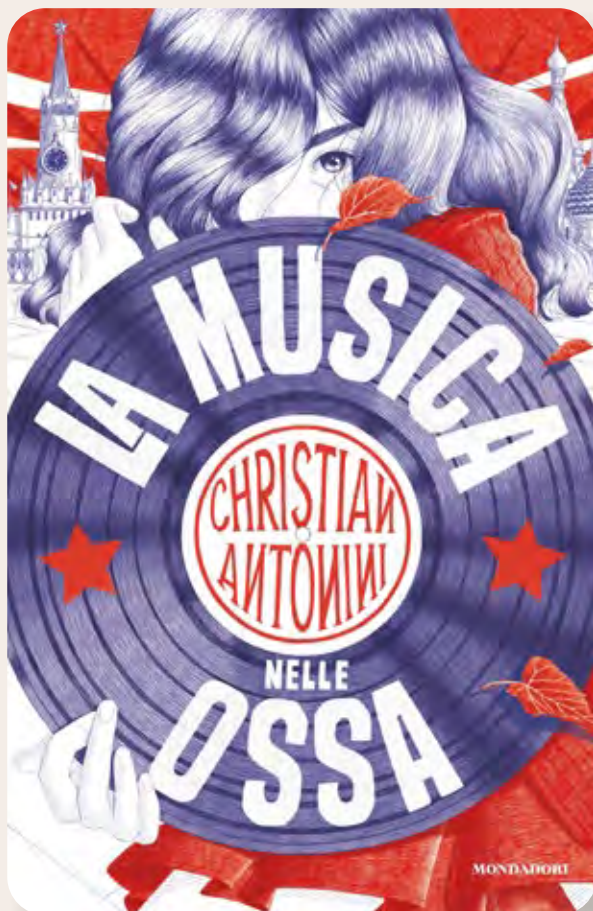
CHRISTIAN HILL ✘ was born in Milan to an Italian mother and a German father. He studied aeronautical engineering and has been involved in role-playing games, journalism and photography.

He has published successful books for several Italian publishers and won the Cento Prize with *Il Ladro dei cieli* (*The Sky Thief*), Rizzoli. With Rizzoli, he has also published *Io Sono Jai* (*I Am Jai*) where mystery spills over from the virtual world into real life. He is also involved in cinema and television, writing screenplays both for films (*La Luna e i Falò*, in pre-production) and animated series for children (*Topo Gigio*, on air on Rai YoYo from October 2020).

ADVENTURE

BONE MUSIC

AGE 12+



66

MUSIC BITES, IT LIGHTS A FIRE INSIDE YOU,
IT'S NOT ONLY ABOUT WANTING TO DANCE,
IT'S ABOUT TAKING YOUR FREEDOM BACK



BOOK ON A TREE

ONE SHOT x •

AGE 12+

• x T O H S E N O

BONE MUSIC

Christian Antonini

Russia, 1960. In the exclusive Red Star school, Anna joins the prestigious Cosmo Club, an association of the best students, along with a new boy, irreverent and rebellious Marko. He brings poetry, art and music to the Club's secret parties – Western music, rock, which is severely prohibited. He does so with bootleg records, pressed on X-rays. Western rock is freedom and life, something to blow the school's strict rules off their hinges. The girls and boys open up to life, love, and art. They put together a clandestine magazine and compete with other schools in Moscow – until Marko's secret is discovered by a boy with a crush on Anna, a chess champion who uses the school's athletes as his henchmen. A conflict begins, full of chases, mysteries and emotions, leading Anna to confront her own father: a teacher at her school, and a secret agent of the Ministry of the Interior.

-
- ✘ **A COMING-OF-AGE NOVEL WHERE THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE CHARACTERS EVOLVE AND CHANGE.**
 - ✘ **CHASES, SECRET PLANS, FORBIDDEN PARTIES, CLANDESTINE ART AND PROHIBITED MUSIC. A SUSPENSEFUL ADVENTURE YOU WON'T WANT TO PUT DOWN.**
 - ✘ **RECORDS PRESSED ON X-RAYS REALLY EXISTED, AND THEY MADE IT POSSIBLE TO SIDESTEP THE STATE MONOPOLY ON VINYL: FLEXIBLE, EASY TO HIDE AND COSTING JUST A FEW ROUBLES, THEY ENABLED THOUSANDS OF SOVIETS TO LISTEN TO ROCK AND ROLL AND WESTERN MUSIC.**
 - ✘ **ITALIAN IBBY HONOUR LIST 2023.**

-
- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2022

CHRISTIAN ANTONINI ✘ is an author of books for children and adults, with a passion for history, adventure and fantasy. He grew up among books, comics and games. His novel *Fuorigioco a Berlino* (*The Berlin Offside*), Giunti, won the 2017 Bancarellino Prize and the Il Gigante delle Langhe national prize. In 2023, he entered the Italian IBBY Honour List with *La Musica nelle Ossa* (*Bone Music*), Mondadori.

ADVENTURE

CELESTE'S WAR

AGE 10+

ONE SHOT x •



“

THE ADVENTURE OF TWO SIBLINGS
IN SEARCH OF JUSTICE
IN THE MIDST OF THE RESISTANCE



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 10+

• x T O H S E N O

CELESTE'S WAR

Marco Magnone

Autumn 1944. In the woods of the Langhe, twelve-year-old Celeste and his little sister Flora, five, are playing Training, a survival game to prepare for the arrival of the enemy – and the enemy, they have always been taught, are the rebels who have gone up into the hills: the partisans. But nothing can prepare them for what they find that day when they return home: the house burnt down, and their mother, like a fallen angel, lying in the yard. The old world is gone, and Celeste is left with only two things: protecting his little sister and avenging their mother's death.

Thus begins the two siblings' journey in search of her killers who, Celeste is certain, are among the partisans. But the reality he comes face to face with is not the one his mother had always told him about. And the war that tears Italy apart – and which sees men and women fighting for opposing ideas of world, country and freedom – will undermine all his certainties.

- ✘ **A MOVING STORY ABOUT THE LOVE BETWEEN SIBLINGS, WITH TWO STRONG, MULTIFACETED CHARACTERS WHO – DESPITE THEIR AGE DIFFERENCE – END UP LOOKING AFTER EACH OTHER.**
- ✘ **A UNIVERSAL STORY OF COMING OF AGE AND GROWING UP, ABOUT CHILDREN'S DIFFICULTIES IN QUESTIONING THE CERTAINTIES OF CHILDHOOD IN ORDER TO BUILD THEIR OWN, WHEN QUESTIONING THOSE CERTAINTIES ALSO MEANS QUESTIONING THEIR PARENTS.**
- ✘ **A CONSISTENTLY FAST-PACED ADVENTURE STORY FULL OF SURPRISES AND PLOT TWISTS.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2022

MARCO MAGNONE ✘ was born in Asti in 1981 and lives in Turin. He is the author of several novels published in Italy by Mondadori and other leading publishers, some of them written together with his friend Fabio Geda. He teaches at Scuola Holden in Turin, is a partner of the Mare di Libri festival - Rimini and collaborates with schools, bookshops, libraries and events dedicated to reading education.

THE TRUE STORY OF BLACK ITALY

AGE 10+



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THE AFRO-DESCENDANTS
WHO HAVE SHAPED THE HISTORY OF ITALY,
FROM THE ROMAN EMPIRE TO THE PRESENT.



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 10+

THE TRUE STORY
OF BLACK ITALY

Marilena Umuhoza Delli

Why do we see so few black people in roles of public importance in Italy? In politics, television broadcasts, journalism and teaching. Yet, people of African descent have shaped Italian history.

This is precisely where we start from – from this void.

“Black people have rhythm in their blood”, “black people are slackers”.

At school, as in everyday life, newspapers, books and songs, black people are still described using generalisations based on hearsay and often racist considerations. The truth is that numerous Afro-descendant men and women have contributed to Italy’s growth since ancient times. From the Roman-Libyan emperor Caracalla to the Roman-Algerian philosopher Augustine of Hippo and the Italian-Ethiopian former slave Benedict the Moor, patron saint of Palermo; not to mention the heroes who gave their lives for the unification of Italy, such as the Italian-Somali partisan Giorgio Marincola, or the many determined and intelligent women, like Elvira Banotti, a courageous and controversial Italian-Eritrean journalist.

THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT WHO HAVE LEFT AN INDELIBLE MARK ON THE HISTORY OF ITALY, AND THIS BOOK HELPS US TO REMEMBER THEM, WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

• FIRST PUBLISHER: PIEMME (ITALY), 2024

MARILENA UMUHOZA DELLI # is an Italian-Rwandan photographer, author and director, whose work has been published all over the world, from the New York Times to Al Jazeera. She has written four books about her experience as an Afro-descendant woman in Italy, hosts a national programme dedicated to outstanding Afro-descendants on Radio Radicale and writes for Vanity Fair. In 2020, she was included in D-Repubblica’s fifty women of the year and in 2023 she was named Community Leader of Change at the Black Carpet Awards, organised by Vogue and AFW.

www.marilenadelli.com

JOURNEY BEYOND THE UNKNOWN

AGE 11+



Prendi una **MENTE UMANA**  e un'**INTELLIGENZA ARTIFICIALE** . Fornisci le stesse indicazioni e regole. Chiedi di costruire una storia. Questo è un

VIAGGIO OLTRE L'IGNOTO



una sfida narrativa con **DUE RACCONTI** scritti da **VALENTINA FEDERICI** e da un'**INTELLIGENZA ARTIFICIALE**.

Amore, avventura, emozioni. Un **ESPERIMENTO** a cura di **P. BACCALARIO, M. MAGNONE**

e **D. MOROSINOTTO**, per provare  a comprendere le sfide del futuro. 

“

A CHALLENGE BETWEEN A GREAT DEBUT AUTHOR...
AND A MACHINE



BOOK ON A TREE

JOURNEY BEYOND THE UNKNOWN

Pierdomenico Baccalario, Valentina Federici,
AI, Marco Magnone, Davide Morosinotto

Take a human mind and artificial intelligence. Provide the same directions and rules. Ask them to build a story. This is a journey beyond the unknown, a narrative challenge. Love, adventure, emotions. An experiment to try to understand the challenges of the future.

These artificial intelligence programmes! They say that they can now do absolutely anything... Even write a story? In the sense of a real novel, from beginning to end? And even if they were capable of actually doing it, what would this novel be like? Better than a “human” one? Worse? The same? We’ve been wondering this for a long time, so we decided to set up a challenge. We took a story idea, or rather the seed of a story. And we entrusted it to the hands of a very good debut author. And a machine. Two completely different novels came out of it, which deserve to be read both alone and together. In the end, we thought we’d also add an essay to tell you about the experiment. Because the future is coming. And we’re really curious to see what will happen.

INCIPIT 1 ✖ The sea rose as a small boat emerged from the fog, its sails torn and mast broken. Maia’s heart caught in her throat as she saw the boat lurch among the waves, on the verge of sinking.

INCIPIT 2 ✖ His destiny is about to be fulfilled. Eco knows it. He keeps his eyes glued to the lynx vortex. It’s shining, it’s a fire, it’s a flash. Looking at it stationary, it seems little more than a game, a circle of golden metal framing the image of a bird. But when Pythia, the oracle, spins it, it becomes the voice of the god.

(One of these incipits was written by a machine. Can you figure out which one?)

- ✖ **A STORY OF LOVE AND ADVENTURE WRITTEN BY A HUMAN AUTHOR.**
- ✖ **AND ANOTHER STORY OF LOVE AND ADVENTURE WRITTEN BY A MACHINE.**
- ✖ **HOW IS IT POSSIBLE? WELL, THERE’S AN ESSAY SPECIFICALLY TO TELL YOU.**
- ✖ **SUPERINTELLIGENCE BY NICK MOSTROM MEETS HUNGER GAMES.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** IL CASTORO (ITALY), 2024

THE AUTHORS ✖ Be patient, but this is a book made by nine pairs of hands, if computers had hands... You should know that one novel was written by **Valentina Federici**, a debut author who lives in Geneva, Switzerland, and is a lawyer dedicated to stories and mythology. Another novel was written by a combination of several artificial intelligence programmes, including the infamous Chat GPT. And finally there’s an essay by **Pierdomenico Baccalario**, **Marco Magnone** and **Davide Morosinotto**, three children’s authors who together have written over two hundred novels translated into thirty languages.

MY LIFE IN CINEMA

AGE 10+



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CINEMA IS MAGIC, PASSION AND MORE...
A JOURNEY, A BLEND OF EMOTION
WITH AN UNEXPECTED END.



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 10+

MY LIFE IN CINEMA

Giovanna Mezzogiorno

In a personal journey, Giovanna Mezzogiorno tells us how films are made, from writing the screenplay to editing the film, sharing not only her memories from the sets, but also the challenges and emotions experienced behind the scenes.



- # AN ENGAGING TALE OF THE MAGICAL WORLD OF CINEMA IN ITS MANY FORMS, THROUGH THE VOICE OF AN INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED ITALIAN ACTRESS.
- # REAL-LIFE ANECDOTES AND STORIES PLUS THE PERSPECTIVE OF SOMEONE WHO HAS LIVED AND BREATHED SETS AND FILMS SINCE SHE WAS A CHILD.
- # INSIGHTS INTO THE HISTORY OF CINEMA, ROLES AND MECHANISMS TAILORED TO THE TARGET AUDIENCE, WITH ACTIVITIES PROPOSED TO STIMULATE THE INSPIRATION AND CREATIVITY OF YOUNG READERS, AS WELL AS FASCINATING VIEWING TIPS.
- # WINNER OF THE FLAIANO INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR CINEMA.

- FIRST PUBLISHER: MONDADORI (ITALY), 2024

GIOVANNA MEZZOGIORNO # is an award-winning actress. She is the daughter of the actor Vittorio Mezzogiorno and the actress Cecilia Sacchi and the mother of twins, Leone and Zeno. She trained in Paris at Peter Brook's theatre workshop, with which she made her theatre debut. She made her film debut in Sergio Rubini's film *The Bride's Journey*. Since then she has worked with various film and theatre directors, including: Michele Placido, Gabriele Muccino, Ferzan Özpetek, Piero Maccarinelli, Valerio Binasco, Mike Newell, Wim Wenders, Francesca Archibugi, Marco Bellocchio, Cristina Comencini, Gianni Amelio and Daniele Luchetti. In 2010, she won the National Society of Film Critics Award in the US for best leading actress for her role in the film *Vincere* by Marco Bellocchio. She recently made her debut as a screenwriter and director on the short film *Unfitting*. *My Life in Cinema* is her first book.



PREMI FLAIANO

HOLLYWOOD

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THE SUMMER OF THE GREAT BEAR

FOR ALL AGES

GIUSEPPE FESTA L'ESTATE DELL'ORSA MAGGIORE

STORIA VERA DI UN RITORNO
ALLA VITA SELVAGGIA



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THE STORY OF A WOMAN AND THE BEAR WHO SAVED HER



BOOK ON A TREE

FOR ALL AGES

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THE SUMMER OF THE GREAT BEAR

Giuseppe Festa

Writer and naturalist Giuseppe Festa is the witness to a unique animal and human story. In the green heart of the Apennines, a female bear cub is in trouble. Motherless and hungry, she is rescued by the staff of the Abruzzo National Park. The cub, named Morena, is four months old, weighs just three kilos, and is not yet weaned: in this condition, she seems destined for a life in captivity. But perhaps all is not lost. Morena is given into the care of a researcher, Roberta, who is experiencing a complicated period in her own life. "If I can make it, so can you." This is the pact Roberta makes with the little bear.

A journey though the last, precious remaining Marsican bears and the people who fight to save them from extinction. A never-before-seen project based on rescue and release into the wild.

And just when the moment approaches for Morena to return to life in the wild, a new challenge presents itself: another cub is in danger, and needs immediate help before it's too late.

MORENA'S STORY THROUGH THE MEMORIES AND ACCOUNTS OF THOSE WHO LOOKED AFTER HER AND WERE THEMSELVES SAVED IN THE PROCESS BY LEARNING TO VIEW THE WORLD WITH A NEW SENSE OF WONDER.

ALONG A JOURNEY THROUGH PAST AND PRESENT, RICH IN SUSPENSE AND PLOT TWISTS, GIUSEPPE FESTA REVEALS THE TRUE ESSENCE OF THE MARSICAN BEAR: AN INTELLIGENT, MAJESTIC ANIMAL IN GRAVE DANGER OF EXTINCTION, WHICH EMBODIES THE EXTRAORDINARY WEALTH OF OUR NATURAL HERITAGE AND THE URGENT NEED TO PROTECT IT.

• **FIRST PUBLISHER:** GARZANTI (ITALY), 2023

GIUSEPPE FESTA # has a degree in Natural Sciences and works in the environmental education field. Founder and singer of the Lingalad folk music group, he has also written a number of nature reports for Italian broadcaster RAI and starred in the award-winning documentary *Oltre la Frontiera*. His novels have been widely translated. He was shortlisted for the Strega Children's Prize 2019 with *Cento passi per volare (A Hundred Steps to Freedom)*, Salani, 2018. The same novel received the Kadaitosho in Japan in 2020 and was chosen by the Japanese Ministry of Education as summer reading for all school children in the target age group. In 2021 he won the Gianni Rodari Prize and in 2022 the Bancarellino with *I lucci della via lago (The Pikes of Lake Road)*, Salani. He has written articles and stories for National Geographic, Corriere della Sera and La Repubblica.

116 FILMS

TO WATCH BEFORE YOU'RE 16

AGE 12+



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A BOOK TO HELP YOU FIND THE RIGHT FILM
AT THE RIGHT TIME. THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO INDISPENSABLE
FILMS FOR YOUNGSTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES!



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 12+

116 FILMS

TO WATCH BEFORE YOU'RE 16

AGE 12+

Manlio Castagna

What does growing up mean? There is no specific moment, but a collection of experiences and opportunities that accompany us through this delicate and exciting transition. Growing up means going to school, and perhaps meeting a great life teacher, following your dreams but also facing countless problems. It means exploring love and discovering that our imagination never leaves us, we just have to keep nurturing it.

For each of these moments, there is at least one film ready to lend a hand and tell its story, help us reflect and somehow build our own story.

From *Harry Potter* to *Moonrise Kingdom*, via *Elephant* or *Pan's Labyrinth*. 116 films skilfully told, accompanied by iconic illustrations, enriched with countless fun facts and contributions by actors and directors.

IT STRIKES A PERFECT BALANCE BETWEEN BLOCKBUSTERS, MAINSTREAM FILMS, INDIE GEMS, HIGH- AND POP- CULTURE FILMS.

BEAUTIFUL ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALESSANDRO VENTRELLA.

OPINIONS AND ANECDOTES FROM FILM-MAKERS INTERVIEWED FOR THE OCCASION. DIVIDED BY THEMES, AGE GROUPS, HASHTAGS, TO HELP FIND THE RIGHT FILM.

- FIRST PUBLISHER: MONDADORI (ITALY), 2021
 - RIGHTS SOLD IN: KOREA (BOOK'S HILL PUBLISHING)
-

MANLIO CASTAGNA # wrote and directed his first short film before he had graduated. He then began to collaborate with the Giffoni festival and was its deputy artistic director for a decade, until 2018 when he made his debut as a novelist with the bestselling *Petrademone saga* (Mondadori). He continues to churn out books and was shortlisted for the Strega Children's Prize in 2021 with *La notte delle Malombre* (*The Night of the Malombre*), Mondadori.

AGE 12+

THE FEAR OF THE LION

AGE 10+



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**NO ONE IS FREE FROM FEAR,
NOT EVEN THE FEROCIOUS MOUNTAIN LION!**



AGE 10+

THE FEAR OF THE LION

Chiara Morosinotto & Davide Morosinotto

In fairy tales, everyone cheers for the three little pigs... But in reality, every ecosystem also needs its "big bad" wolf to survive. Predators are fundamental for the natural world where everything pivots between those that run to feed themselves and those that run away to save their own lives.

Fear connects all creatures, transforms territories, forces living beings to change and adapt.

In this book, each chapter starts with an animal and explains a different aspect of the "phenomenon of fear" and how, on the whole, it transforms the lives of all animals.

Because no one is free from fear.

Not even the ferocious and majestic mountain lion.

-
- # REAL ADVENTURES EXPERIENCED FIRST-HAND BY THE AUTHOR ARE MIXED IN WITH THE MOST UP-TO-DATE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.
 - # A BOOK ON PREDATORS WRITTEN BY A BIOLOGIST WHO HAS BEEN STUDYING PREDATORS FOR YEARS AND HER BROTHER, AN INTERNATIONALLY AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR.
 - # DEALS WITH ECOSYSTEMS AND INTERACTIONS BETWEEN ANIMALS BUT ALSO WITH CLIMATE CHANGE, POLLUTION AND INVASIVE SPECIES...
 - # BIOLOGY HAS NEVER BEEN SO FUN.
 - # ITALIAN IBBY HONOUR LIST 2023.

-
- FIRST PUBLISHER: RIZZOLI (ITALY), 2022
 - RIGHTS SOLD IN: FRANCE (L'ECOLE DES LOISIRS)

CHIARA MOROSINOTTO # graduated in evolutionary biology in Padua and immediately left for Finland. There, she obtained a PhD and has worked for 15 years as a researcher for the University of Turku and the NOVIA University of Applied Science, specialising in anti-predator behaviour and stress responses in the animal world.

DAVIDE MOROSINOTTO # is Chiara's brother and he studied in Bologna, where he lives. A multi-award-winning writer of children's books, translated into 25 languages, he is the author of, among others, *Il Rinomato catalogo Walker & Dawn (The Pocket Watch Gang)*, Mondadori, 2017, winner of the Andersen Prize 2017, and *La più Grande (The Greatest)*, Rizzoli, 2020, winner of the Strega Children's Prize 2021.

LOVE, SEX AND OTHER SUCH THINGS

AGE 10+



“

ALL THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS
YOU'VE NEVER DARED TO ASK ABOUT LOVE,
SEX AND OTHER SUCH THINGS



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 10+

LOVE, SEX AND OTHER SUCH THINGS

Elena Peduzzi & Fiore Manni

Illustrations by Giada Carboni

Love, sex and other things of the sort are the topics that everyone starts wondering about when they hit puberty. In this book, you can find the answers and many curiosities. They are collected and presented in a fictional story whose protagonists are four teenagers who, in order to talk about these topics, create a clandestine magazine full of illustrated images. It is from them, but always with the advice of three professionals from different fields (a urologist, a gynaecologist and a psychologist), that all the information readers would never have the courage to ask their parents and teachers comes. How do you manage your first crush? Why does the body change, and how should you take care of it? What is the LGBTQ+ movement? Why is it important to know how to say no? This and much more is the content of their magazine and of this book, which the two authors have written partly as a novel and partly as an indispensable manual for surviving that hurricane of emotions and questions that sooner or later overwhelms everyone.



- # AN ESSENTIAL BOOK FOR THE TOPICS DEALT WITH, VERY DELICATE AND SENSITIVE FOR THE TARGET.
- # A FRESH, NEW, ENGAGING APPROACH TO ALL THE TOPICS, WITH THE HELP OF THE FICTIONAL STORY, WHICH BRINGS READERS CLOSER TO THE DISSEMINATION THEMES.
- # AUTHORITATIVE AND UPDATED CONTENTS THANKS TO THE ADVICE OF THREE YOUNG AND VERY COMPETENT EXPERTS.
- # ATTRACTIVE GRAPHICS, WITH LOTS OF ILLUSTRATIONS AND CARTOONS.

- FIRST PUBLISHER: RIZZOLI (ITALY), 2022

FIORE MANNI # has published three children's novels with Rizzoli: *Jack Bennet e la Chiave di Tutte le Cose* (*Jack Bennet and the Key of All Things*) Asti d'Appello Junior Prize, finalist for the Castello di Sanguinetto prize, *Jack Bennet e il Viaggiatore dai mille volti* (*Jack Bennet and the Traveller with a Thousand Faces*) and *Come le Cicale* (*Like Cicadas*). She is the co-author of the graphic novel *Mask'ed*, published by Star Comics.

ELENA PEDUZZI # graduated with a degree in Classics with an archaeological specialisation. She is a ghost writer and author of novels published by the most important Italian publishing houses and translated into numerous languages. Her latest book is *Uomini d'amore* (*Men of Love*), published by Solferino.



15 QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

AGE 8+



“

HOW CAN WE HELP YOUNG PEOPLE UNDERSTAND
THE WORLD AROUND THEM, FIND THEIR OWN PATHS
AND EVEN CHANGE THINGS FOR THE BETTER?



BOOK ON A TREE

15 QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

15 Questions is a non-fiction series the likes of which you've never seen before, one that's ideal for just such an audience. It includes 15 volumes, each of which features 15 questions to help familiarise pre-teens with some of today's most important subjects. The use of straightforward yet entertaining text interspersed with graphics, cartoons, numbers and more lets children have fun as they take in key concepts.

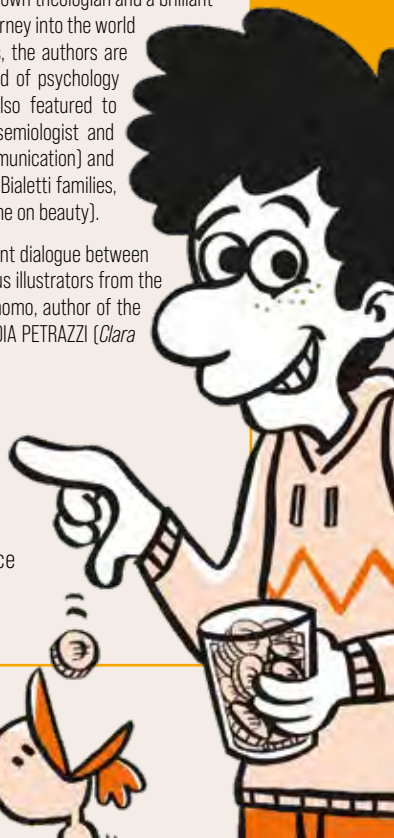
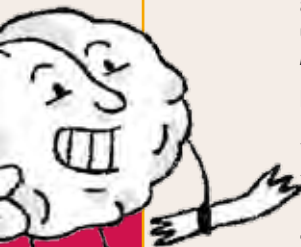
THE AUTHORS = PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO = An author and journalist, Pierdomenico Baccalario's books have been translated into more than twenty languages and sold over two million copies worldwide. They include novels, game books, stories, role-play games, educational and humanitarian projects and specialised articles; there's no literary genre that scares him off! Among his publications with Il Castoro are highly successful titles such as *The 50 [...] Handbooks*, a series that has achieved great popularity both in Italy and abroad.

FEDERICO TADDIA = Federico Taddia isn't just a journalist, author and TV writer; he's also Italy's best-known educational author for children. Using their language and experiences, Taddia applies his wonderful flair for communication to convey human knowledge to kids through radio, on TV and on paper. His publications with Il Castoro include *To Post or Not To Post* (co-authored with Carlotta Cubeddu), about non-hostile communication, and *The 50 Little Revolutions Handbook (To Change the World)*, co-authored with Pierdomenico Baccalario.

THE EXPERTS = In crafting the fifteen books in the series, Taddia and Baccalario consulted leading experts on the various subject matters. VITO MANCUSO, Italy's best-known theologian and a brilliant raconteur of world religions accompanies the two on their journey into the world of the sacred. In their exploration of the world of emotions, the authors are joined by MARIARITA PARSİ, a veritable institution in the field of psychology as well as an excellent narrator. Numerous others are also featured to guide young readers, including STEFANO BARTEZZAGHI (a semiologist and prominent puzzle writer who worked on the volume on communication) and CHIARA ALESSI (a descendant of Italy's celebrated Alessi and Bialetti families, and design scholar and expert, who collaborated on the volume on beauty).

THE ILLUSTRATORS = Another distinctive feature of *15 Questions* is its constant dialogue between text and images, thanks to the choice of four marvellous illustrators from the world of comics: GUD (otherwise known as Daniele Bonomo, author of the Timothy Top series for Tunué), MIRELLA MARIANI, CLAUDIA PETRAZZI (*Clara and the Shadows*, Il Castoro) and ELENA TRIOLO.

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** IL CASTORO (ITALY), 2021-2023
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** ALBANIA, UKRAINE, SLOVENIA, TURKEY, JAPAN, CHINA, POLAND AND SPAIN
- The series won the 2021 Giancarlo Dosi National Prize for Science Communication (the popular science for kids section), hosted by the National Research Council (CNR).



BORN IN VIA DELLE CENTO STELLE

AGE 9+



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ALL ANSWERS ARE JUST THE STARTING POINT
FOR ANOTHER QUESTION



AGE 9+

BORN IN VIA DELLE CENTO STELLE

Federico Taddia

Illustrations by Marianna Balducci

Born in Via delle Cento Stelle (The street of 100 stars) in Florence on the 12th of June 1922, what else could Margherita Hack become but a world-famous astrophysicist? But she never believed in destiny: instead, she believed in merit, in making your dreams come true. And she had lots of dreams: from athletics – she hoped to win an Olympic medal – to bicycles, love at first sight, and the stars, discovered in school by chance and which lit her path all the way to becoming the first female director of an observatory in Italy, at the Astronomical Observatory of Trieste. Margherita didn't hide who she was, she expressed her opinions and fought for a better society, defending the rights of the weakest. She lived an extraordinarily simple life guided by truth and humour, always with an eye on the future.



AN INTIMATE AND RICHLY DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE LIFE OF ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS ASTRONOMERS IN THE WORLD, BY SOMEONE WHO REALLY KNEW HER. FEDERICO RETRACES MARGHERITA'S LIFE IN A STORY FULL OF INTERESTING FACTS, ANECDOTES AND DETAILS, IN A BOOK DIVIDED INTO 12 CHAPTERS, EACH NAMED AFTER A STAR CHOSEN FROM AMONG THE BILLIONS DOTTED ACROSS THE UNIVERSE, BECAUSE THEY ARE AS UNUSUAL AS MARGHERITA.

RARE AND UNPUBLISHED PHOTOS BROUGHT TO LIFE BY THE EXTRAORDINARY CREATIVITY OF MARIANNA BALDUCCI.

AN EXAMPLE OF A STRONG AND CONFIDENT WOMAN WHO STOOD AGAINST THE STEREOTYPES AND PRECONCEPTIONS OF GENDER CULTURE TO ESTABLISH HERSELF AND HER PASSIONS.

• **FIRST PUBLISHER: MONDADORI (ITALY), 2022**

FEDERICO TADDIA # is a writer, presenter and populariser who has worked with "Topolino", "Radio24" and the daily newspaper, "La Stampa". He has always had a mania for finding the right words to tell youngsters everything scientists study, look for and discover. He won the Andersen Prize for the best science popularisation series for girls and boys with *Teste Taste*.



THE FOREST

AGE 10+



“

A TALE OF TWO YOUNG STRANGERS
WHO FORM A BOND AS DEEP AS SISTERS



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 10+

Harriet Webster & Riccardo Pieruccini

It's the 19th of April 1943 in Warsaw, the capital city of Nazi-occupied Poland. For the feisty and street-smart Zuzanna, 16, it seems like just another day fighting to stay alive in the Warsaw Ghetto, where hundreds of thousands of Jewish people are living in cramped and squalid conditions, with little to no means of survival. That is until Zuzanna is given an unexpected chance to escape, on the condition that she takes the meek and little Hanna, 11, with her.

The story of two girls who form an unlikely friendship as deep as sisters while hiding in a cold, mysterious forest as a courageous battle unfolds nearby: the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Together, Zuzanna and Hanna must find new ways to carry on. Can they contain their fears, resolve their differences, and learn to trust and rely on each other fully in such dark and confusing times?

📌 **A COMING-OF-AGE STORY FOR YOUNG READERS WITH A PASSION FOR HISTORY AND ADVENTURE.**

📌 **THIS EDUCATIONAL TALE DESCRIBES THE POWER OF RESILIENCE, VALOUR AND SISTERHOOD OVER FEAR, ADVERSITY AND THE UNKNOWN.**

• **FIRST PUBLISHER:** ELECTACOMICS (ITALY), 2022

HARRIET WEBSTER 📌 is a British writer. She has always loved history and stories about brave girls and women from all over the world. Harriet began by writing and illustrating her own comic stories, contributing to the fervent indie comic scene in London, before moving on to comics for kids, YA and television screenplays. She currently lives in New York with her husband and her cat. *The Forest* is her first graphic novel.

RICCARDO PIERUCCINI 📌 - known professionally as Ruggine - has always been passionate about comics and animation. In 2001, at the age of 20, he won the Pierlambicchi competition for budding comic artists and received the prize from John Buscema himself. Since then, he has published for Starcomics, Shockdom, Marvel and Mondadori; he also has forays into the world of cinema and animation under his belt. Riccardo has twenty years of experience as a drawing teacher and, since 2006, as a collaborator of the Lucca Comics and Games convention.

MONSIEUR CLAQUETTE'S SUNDAY

AGE 7+



“

**A TENDER STORY
ABOUT THAT TENDER AND FUNNY FEELING
THAT MAKES YOUR HEART BEAT AT ANY AGE.**



BOOK ON A TREE

MONSIEUR CLAQUETTE'S SUNDAY

Angelo Mozzillo & Davide Panizza

Tomorrow is an important day for Monsieur Claquette: it's Sunday. Like every Sunday, he will go to his dance lesson. And, like every Sunday, he will be very agitated. Like every Sunday, he will put a lot of effort into calculating every possible unexpected event: he wants to arrive at a very precise time. Not a minute before, not a minute after. Why? Because at that exact time, his beloved Madame Pochette will also arrive at the dance school!

* THE HECTIC PACE OF EVERYDAY LIFE IN A PICTURE BOOK.

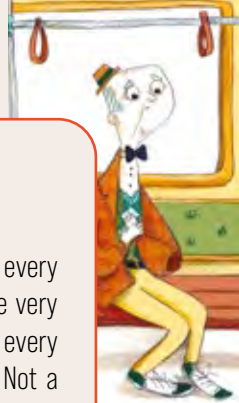
* A FUNNY AND TENDER LOVE STORY.

* AN ACTION BOOK WHERE THE ONLY DANGER IS THAT OF ARRIVING TOO LATE FOR A ROMANTIC DATE.

• FIRST PUBLISHER: RIZZOLI (ITALY), 2024

ANGELO MOZZILLO * is a young and acclaimed author of children's books, published by the most important Italian publishers. For his book *Io sono foglia (I Am a Leaf)*, illustrated by Marianna Balducci, he was awarded the Andersen Prize for the best picture book and the Super Andersen Prize for the best Italian children's book in 2021.

DAVIDE PANIZZA * studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Urbino and at MiMaster in Milan, where he discovered the world of children's illustration. Today, he lives and works in Bologna, drawing adventures or creating board games for children. He is the illustrator of the *Detective Linus* series (Piemme), with texts by his friend Angelo Mozzillo, and of *Captain Bitorzolo* written by Andrea Visibelli.



TO CATCH A MAGIC FROG

AGE 5+



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“YOU NEED A GOOD PAIR OF SHOES,
AND A PURPLE HAT.
[EVERYONE KNOWS MAGIC FROGS
LIKE PURPLE HATS]”



BOOK ON A TREE

TO CATCH A MAGIC FROG

Pierdomenico Baccalario & Daniela Demurtas

To catch a magic frog, you need someone to tell you how.

You must hurry. You need a good pair of shoes, and a purple hat. (Everyone knows magic frogs like purple hats).

To catch a magic frog, it's a good idea to ask a friend for help...

- * **A TOUCHING PICTURE BOOK, THE STORY OF A SEARCH, AN ADVENTURE BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE WILD NATURE, BETWEEN DREAM AND REALITY, FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NO DOUBT THAT MAGIC IS REAL AND THAT WISHES CAN COME TRUE.**
- * **BY ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS ITALIAN CHILDREN'S AUTHORS AND MAGICALLY ILLUSTRATED.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** CAMELOZAMPA (ITALY), 2023

- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** FRANCE AND RUSSIA

PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO * is a writer and journalist. His books have sold millions of copies worldwide and have been translated into over 30 languages. Today he is considered one of the leading Italian children's authors and the most widely translated abroad.

DANIELA DEMURTAS * developed her interest in illustration through the experimentation of styles and techniques and the creation of an illustrated brand. She studied illustration at the Cagliari Academy of Art. In 2020 she was awarded the Livio Sossi Editoria Illustration Award at the Lucca Junior Competition.

WALKING POLDO

AGE 4+

Walter Leoni

Isabella Tiveron

A spasso con

Poldo



“

WHO SAYS LITTLE KIDS CAN'T DO BIG PEOPLE STUFF?



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 4+

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WALKING POLDO

Walter Leoni
& Isabella Tiveron

Poldo is veeery big. Lily is small.
But who says little kids can't do big people stuff?
Taking the dog for a walk will be a breeze. Right?

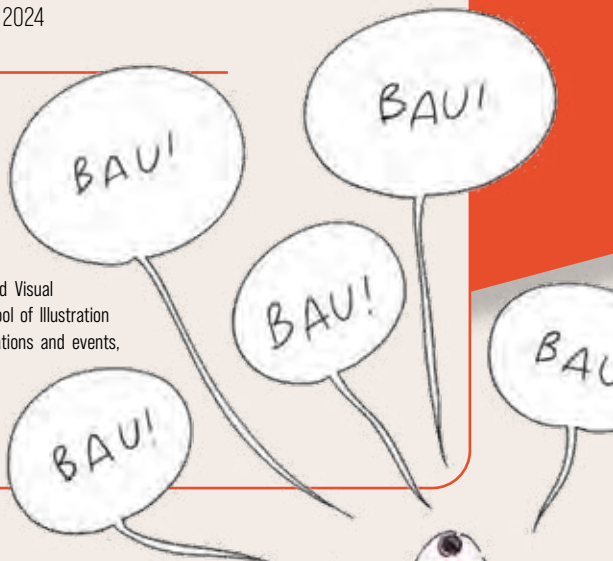


* **AN IRRESISTIBLY FUN PICTURE BOOK THAT HELPS FOSTER CHILD AUTONOMY.**

• **FIRST PUBLISHER:** IL CASTORO (ITALY), 2024

WALTER LEONI * invents stories and sometimes them. He creates cartoons, illustrations, comics, and an autobiographical comic strip called Totally Unnecessary Comics. Whether he works from home or lives in the office... it's hard to say.

ISABELLA TIVERON * was born in Treviso in 1997 and is an illustrator and comic artist. She studied Visual Arts in Venice and attended the International School of Illustration in Sarmede. She has worked with notable publications and events, illustrated for books, and her works have been recognised in exhibitions and competitions, notably featuring at the Biennale Arte exhibition 2022, "The Milk of Dreams".



A COLOUR IN THE CROWD

AGE 6+



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WHAT CAN I BECOME? WHO WILL I BE?
WHATEVER I WANT. WHOEVER I PLEASE.



AGE 6+

• * DETARISULL

A COLOUR IN THE CROWD

Angelo Mozzillo & Anna Ippolito

A child reflects on his identity in rhyme, starting from the fact that he is something different depending on the context. A tenant in the building; a pupil at school; on the street, for some, he is an unwelcome dash of colour.

A colour can become anything it wants when it's set free. A delicate rhyming tale that's full of meaning.

* **RACISM**

* **IDENTITY**

* **DIVERSITY**

* **CHILDHOOD**

• **FIRST PUBLISHER:** ERREKAPPA EDIZIONI (ITALY), 2023

ANGELO MOZZILLO * was born in Naples, but moved to Milan to attend film school. He stayed in Milan, but instead of working on film sets he focused on writing. He is a story collector: he likes discovering new stories and when he can't find any, he makes them up. He mixes and reinvents words like shuffling a pack of cards: creating stories, scripts, reportages and rhymes. Among his latest works are the picture books *Io sono foglia (I Am a Leaf)*, Bacchilega Junior, 2020, illustrated by Marianna Balducci, winner of the Andersen and Super Andersen prizes in 2021 and the humorous bestselling and series *Detective Linus (Piemme)*.

ANNA IPPOLITO * was born in Turin. She studied at the IED and the Academy of Art in Turin, as well as at the Mimaster in Milan. Her attitude leads her to explore various creative fields. Her work involves creating pieces of art, illustration, graphic design and sound design. She collaborates with art galleries and museums. Recently, she has also begun collaborating with magazines and publishers.

THE ADMIRAL HAS NICKED THE SKY



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THE SKY BELONGS TO EVERYONE

GIANNI RODARI



BOOK ON A TREE

THE ADMIRAL HAS NICKED THE SKY!

Marianna Balducci

Driven by blind greed, a stern admiral gets it into his head to steal the impossible: the sky!

And so he begins: he folds up the clouds, sews up the lightning bolts with cross-stitch, turns off the sunsets with a switch. In a moment, it's done: the sky is his, only emptiness remains, and everyone misses the sunsets, the clouds and even the storms...

But then, a boy notices a little tear in the large white sheet. And so he pulls and pulls, with everyone's help, until the tear widens and the sky overflows once more among the pages, going back to being what it has always been and always will be: a gift for everyone. Truly everyone: a little piece is left even for the admiral.

- * **THE IMAGES ARE A MIXTURE OF PHOTOGRAPHY AND DRAWING. THE SKY, REPRESENTED WITH DIFFERENT PHOTOS EVERY TIME, IS ALWAYS A CREASED, FOLDED OR SCRUNCED-UP PIECE OF PAPER ACCORDING TO THE ADMIRAL'S GREEDY FURY.**
- * **A BOOK DEDICATED TO GIANNI RODARI AND ALL DREAMERS, WHERE FANTASY AND INNOCENCE OVERCOME PEOPLE'S INDIFFERENCE AND INJUSTICE.**
- * **ITALIAN IBBY HONOUR LIST 2023.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** EDIZIONI CLICHY (ITALY), 2022
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** TAIWAN (TAIWAN MAC EDUCATION), KOREA (GILBUT)

MARIANNA BALDUCCI * graduated in fashion and works in advertising and publishing. Drawing is her favourite tool for communicating and exploring the world. Marianna likes experimenting with combinations of drawing and photography. In 2021, she won the Andersen and Super Andersen Prizes with *Io sono Foglia (I Am a Leaf)* written by Angelo Mozzillo (Bacchilega Junior, 2020).

IBBY
ITALIA

I AM A LEAF



Angelo Mozzillo

IO SONO FOGLIA

Marianna Balducci



Bacchilego JUNIOR

“

ONE DAY I AM BLOWING,
ONE DAY I CAN'T GET GOING.
ONE DAY BLAZING SUN,
ONE DAY THERE IS NONE



I AM A LEAF

Angelo Mozzillo & Marianna Balducci

- * DAY AFTER DAY, DIFFERENT MOODS, IN SEARCH OF THE RIGHT MOMENT, OF STABILITY.
- * WINNER OF THE ANDERSEN AND SUPER ANDERSEN PRIZES IN 2021.

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** BACCHILEGA JUNIOR (ITALY), 2020
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** KOREA (HYEONAMSA), CHINA (SHANGHAI JUVENILE & CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING HOUSE), ARGENTINA (ABRAZANDO CUENTOS), TAIWAN (TAIWAN EDUCATIONAL), TURKEY (DOGAN), FRANCE (A2MIMO)

ANGELO MOZZILLO * was born in Naples in 1988, but moved to Milan to attend film school. He stayed in Milan, but instead of working on film sets he focused on writing. He is a story collector: he likes discovering new stories and when he can't find any, he makes them up. He mixes and reinvents words like shuffling a pack of cards: creating stories, scripts, reportages and rhymes.

Among his latest works are the picture books *lo sono foglia (I am a Leaf)* Bacchilega Junior 2020, illustrated by Marianna Balducci and winner of the Andersen and Super Andersen prizes in 2021, and *Natale per sbaglio (An Accidental Christmas)*, Clichy Edizioni 2021, illustrated by Martina Tonello.

MARIANNA BALDUCCI * graduated in fashion and works in advertising and publishing. Drawing is her favourite tool for communicating and exploring the world. Marianna likes experimenting with combinations of drawing and photography. In 2021, she won the Andersen and Super Andersen Prizes with *lo sono foglia (I am a Leaf)* written by Angelo Mozzillo (Bacchilega Junior, 2020).

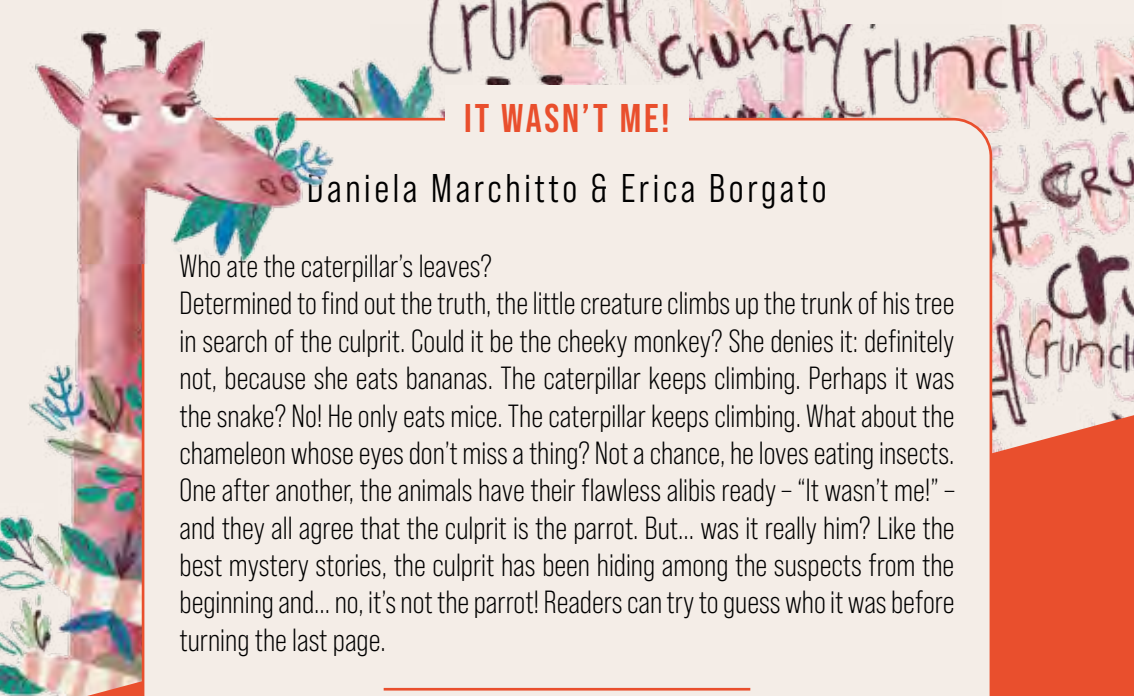


IT WASN'T ME!



“

A FUN INVESTIGATION AMONG
THE TANGLED BRANCHES OF THE JUNGLE!



IT WASN'T ME!

Daniela Marchitto & Erica Borgato

Who ate the caterpillar's leaves?

Determined to find out the truth, the little creature climbs up the trunk of his tree in search of the culprit. Could it be the cheeky monkey? She denies it: definitely not, because she eats bananas. The caterpillar keeps climbing. Perhaps it was the snake? No! He only eats mice. The caterpillar keeps climbing. What about the chameleon whose eyes don't miss a thing? Not a chance, he loves eating insects. One after another, the animals have their flawless alibis ready – "It wasn't me!" – and they all agree that the culprit is the parrot. But... was it really him? Like the best mystery stories, the culprit has been hiding among the suspects from the beginning and... no, it's not the parrot! Readers can try to guess who it was before turning the last page.

- * A SIMPLE FUNNY STORY ABOUT THE MEANING OF RESPONSIBILITY.
- * A BOOK FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY TO READ AND ENJOY TOGETHER.

• **FIRST PUBLISHER:** LAPIS EDIZIONI (ITALY), 2022

DANIELA MARCHITTO * was born in Buenos Aires, and she discovered that saying this makes her sound cool. She studied Philosophy in Bologna and discovered that she couldn't have done otherwise. She enjoys untangling balls of wool and at one point discovered that she could also do this with words. Since then, she has been cutting and sewing them, never ceasing to have fun.

ERICA BORGATO * was born and raised in Padua. After art school, she studied illustration and graphic design. Her parents taught her to knead bread, but since she was a child, she has always preferred kneading the colours and shapes of her imaginary worlds. Now that she's grown up, she works as an illustrator full time.



SOME DAYS

AGE 4+



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SOME DAYS SOMETHING CAN TAKE YOU BY SURPRISE...

SOME DAYS

Andrea Farotto & Lucia de Marco

AGE 4+

Some days, people are so busy that they don't have time to look around and notice something beautiful, not even for a second. What if we spent a moment of our time looking around us and discovering the wonders that surround us?

* A BOOK MADE TO LOOK AT, WITH A SURPRISE AT THE END.

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** CAISSA (ITALY), 2022
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** KOREA (NAMUMALMI)

ANDREA FAROTTO * is a petroleum engineer, currently living in London. He was born in Chirundu, in Zambia, in 1983, to Italian parents. He loves travelling the world, discovering new places and embracing different cultures. Fatherhood has rekindled his desire to fulfil his childhood dreams. When he isn't busy with his main job, he spends his time inventing new ways to improve children's creativity through games and literacy. His three children are his source of inspiration.

LUCIA DE MARCO * is an Italian illustrator. She grew up among books and paints, and has always been interested in art and literature. After a degree in Art History, she trained in traditional painting and then decided to study editorial illustration at Mimaster in Milan. She specialises in watercolour techniques and works as a freelancer for private brands and publishers.



ALL FORBIDDEN UNLESS

AGE 5+



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WHAT IF EVERYTHING WERE FORBIDDEN?



BOOK ON A TREE

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ALL FORBIDDEN UNLESS

Gabriella Ballin & Matteo Spadoni

Unless is a city where everything is forbidden.

But don't worry, often the fines aren't steep at all, on the contrary, they might turn out to be very sweet.

If you pass by here on the 14th of the month without wearing a hat, for example, you could get a cake in the face!

Come and step into the city: there are very many oddities, but much fun to be had.

* **HUMOUR, FUN AND MANY DIFFERENT LEVELS OF READING OF THE TEXT AND THE VARIOUS IMAGES FOR THE DELIGHT OF BOTH YOUNG AND OLD.**

• **FIRST PUBLISHER:** EREKAPPA EDIZIONI (ITALY), 2022

GABRIELLA BALLIN * was born in Friuli and graduated with a degree in Foreign Languages and Literature. She began her career in TV as a writer-producer and, while working for Disney channels, graduated from the Castello Sforzesco School of Comics in Milan. She drew and scribbled on any surface until one day she realised that she liked writing. She now works in creative writing and video production as a freelancer. Her first picture book *Quand tu dors* was published in France in 2019.

MATTEO SPADONI * was born in Rome (Italy), in 1990. He started drawing when he was four and from that moment on he never stopped. When he was thirteen, he decided that he would be a "drawer of things." This is his first book.



THERE'S A SMUDGE ON MY DRAWING!



“

SOMETIMES A SMUDGE IS ALL IT TAKES
TO MAKE BIG DREAMS COME TRUE!

THERE'S A SMUDGE ON MY DRAWING!

Marianna Balducci

Max dreams of being a great artist one day, but something seems to threaten his plans... a smudge, then a hole, and even a poo and a terrible alien are about to change the fate of his drawing!

- * A FUNNY STORY THAT STARTS WITH A SHEET OF PAPER AND, GAG AFTER GAG, REVEALS TO US A NEW ADVENTURE INTO ART.
- * EVEN MISTAKES CAN TURN INTO THE BEGINNING OF SOMETHING SURPRISING, YOU JUST NEED COLOURS AND IMAGINATION!

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** EDIZIONI CLICHY (ITALY), 2022

MARIANNA BALDUCCI * graduated in fashion and works in advertising and publishing. Drawing is her favourite tool for communicating and exploring the world. Marianna likes experimenting with combinations of drawing and photography. In 2021, she won the Andersen and Super Andersen Prizes with *Io sono Foglia (I Am a Leaf)* written by Angelo Mozzillo (Bacchilega Junior, 2020).

AGE 4+

AGE 4+

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DETARISUCL



DREAMS

AGE 4+



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A PICTURE BOOK TO ESCAPE
FROM REALITY THROUGH THE IMAGINARY



BOOK ON A TREE

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DREAMS

Maddalena Schiavo & Silvia Pertile

There are different types of dreams: those while you sleep, magical and imaginative, but also daydreams that represent your present wishes, dream projects and broken dreams. It isn't easy to catch dreams, because they flit away like butterflies as soon as you brush against them. Yet we experience them, day and night, as in an adventure: the adventure of dreaming.

-
- * **A BOOK CAPABLE OF COMBINING DREAMS AND REALITY, DEDICATED TO ALL THE DREAMS IN THE WORLD AND TO ALL THE DREAMERS.**
 - * **A POETIC AND VERY DELICATE TEXT, TO ENJOY IN A MOMENT OF PERSONAL ESCAPE.**

-
- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** BACCHILEGA JUNIOR (ITALY), 2021
 - **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** LEBANON (AL HADA EK GROUP)

MADDALENA SCHIAVO * lives in the province of Vicenza. An author of children's texts, she has been publishing various picture books and children's books in Italy since 2014. In addition to writing, she also delivers animated readings and workshops for children in schools, libraries, associations and bookshops. For some years she has been organising a literary festival dedicated to children in the province of Vicenza.

SILVIA PERTILE * is an avid reader and tireless dreamer who found in illustration the meeting point of her passions for drawing and the written word. She has participated in various competitions and received awards for her illustrations. She collaborates with various Italian publishers as an illustrator of children's books and magazines.

THE KNIGHTS OF GOOD MANNERS

AGE 6+



“

WITH GOOD MANNERS, YOU GET EVERYTHING



BOOK ON A TREE

THE KNIGHTS OF GOOD MANNERS

Pierdomenico Baccalario & Emanuele Benetti

In a town far, far away, there lived a group of people whose children were very ill-mannered. They didn't wash, never cleared the table, and ate only sweets, just to give you an idea. Desperate times call for desperate measures, their parents told themselves.

So, they decided to call the Knights of Good Manners to re-educate their children in the most effective way possible. However, they hadn't considered the possibility of also having to be brought back in line themselves.

- * A WITTY AND IRONIC PICTURE BOOK THAT MAKES US SMILE AND REMINDS US THAT PERHAPS, ALL IN ALL, NONE OF US ARE PERFECT.
- * WITH THIS PROJECT, EMANUELE BENETTI WON THE 2020/2021 EDITION OF THE LUCCA JUNIOR CONTEST – “LIVIO SOSSI” EDITORIAL ILLUSTRATION AWARD.

- FIRST PUBLISHER: KITE EDIZIONI (ITALY), 2021

PIER DOMENICO BACCALARIO * is a writer and journalist. His books have sold millions of copies worldwide and have been translated into over 30 languages. Today he is considered one of the leading Italian children's authors and the most widely translated abroad.

EMANUELE BENETTI * was born in 1983 in Trentino and is an educator with a passion for drawing and illustration. The real fun begins when his trusty pencil glides over the paper and lets him escape from the daily grind.



AN ACCIDENTAL CHRISTMAS

AGE 4+

ILLUSTRATED * ●



“

IN THE OLD NORTH FOREST,
CHRISTMAS IS CELEBRATED BY MISTAKE.
EVEN SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR...
EVERY TIME THERE'S A DARK NIGHT TO LIGHT UP!

● * D E T A R T S U L L

AGE 4+

AN ACCIDENTAL CHRISTMAS

Angelo Mozzillo & Martina Tonello

During the night of an eclipse, a raccoon lights a beacon to illuminate the wood. The blackbirds, observing the light, mistakenly believe that Christmas has arrived, and they hurry to turn on all the lights hidden among the trees for the occasion, waking up rabbits, badgers and foxes who, rubbing their eyes, look around and shout: "It's Christmas! We need to prepare the dinner!"

And so, from a little misunderstanding, one after the other, all the animals of the wood prepare for an out-of-season Christmas, bringing light, warmth and a lot of wonder to the Old North Forest.

Only the wolf is missing, sad and disconsolate on his own. However, at the end he is integrated into the group and becomes the birthday boy of the evening.

*** THE HAPPINESS THAT IS FOUND IN BEING TOGETHER.
IN BEING PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** CLICHY EDIZIONI (ITALY), 2021
 - **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** FRANCE (PALOMITA)
-

ANGELO MOZZILLO * is a collector of stories and always likes to discover new ones. He shuffles and rearranges words like a deck of cards, giving us stories, scripts, articles and nursery rhymes. He won the Andersen and Super Andersen prizes with *Io sono foglia (I Am a Leaf)*, Bacchilega Junior, 2021.

MARTINA TONELLO * is an illustrator and aspiring carpenter. She likes to explore new places, like a desk drawer, a path in the forest or a new city street. She spends her time inventing stories and creating workshops for children. Her work has been published by Electa Kids, Piemme and Editoriale Scienza.

OGRE NOSTRIL'S CHRISTMAS

AGE 3+

ILLUSTRATED * •



“

WHOSE HOUSE WILL BE THE UGLIEST?

• * DETARISULL

AGE 3+



BOOK ON A TREE

OGRE NOSTRIL'S CHRISTMAS

Angelo Mozzillo & Alice Piaggio

What happens at Christmas in the land of ogres, where every year the ugliest house wins a prize?

Some flood theirs with water, some pull up all the flowers, but the more Ogre Nostril tries to make his own ugly, the prettier it gets.

Who will win the longed-for prize this year?

-
- * A FUN “BACKWARDS” CHRISTMAS STORY.
 - * SOMETIMES BEING DIFFERENT ISN'T SO BAD! A FUNNY STORY ABOUT BELIEVING IN YOURSELF.
-

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** GALLUCCI (ITALY), 2022
 - **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** KOREA (BOOK & SOLUTION)
-

ANGELO MOZZILLO * was born in Naples in 1988 and moved to Milan to attend film school. He stayed there, but instead of working on film sets he focused on writing. He likes discovering new stories and making up his own, mixing and reinventing words like shuffling a pack of cards. He is the winner of the 2021 Andersen and SuperAndersen prizes with the picture book *Io sono foglia (I Am a Leaf)*, Bacchilega Junior, 2020, illustrated by Marianna Balducci.

ALICE PIAGGIO * was born in Genoa and studied graphic design and illustration at the ISIA institute in a town with a large palace on top of a hill: Urbino. She now lives in Switzerland, surrounded by snowy mountains, green fields and chestnut woods. She works for PELO magazine and collaborates with Italian and foreign magazines and publishers. She was also a winner of Premio Illustri 2019.

AGE 3+

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PSYCHO THRILLER

ALLIGATOR SENSE

TARGET: ADULT



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IT WASN'T LIKE SEEING AN ALLIGATOR
EATING A BURGER AT JEFF BUNDY'S BARBECUE.
THIS WAS DIFFERENT.
VERY DIFFERENT.



BOOK ON A TREE

ONE SHOT x •

TARGET: ADULT

• x T O H S E N O

ALLIGATOR SENSE

Guido Sgardoli

2000, Wytago, Vermont.

Larry Nowak tries to look in the mirror as little as possible: his reflection, in fact, is but a pale memory of who he was. Six and a half years spent in a hospital bed in a sort of limbo of which he remembers little or nothing. And the only solution he found to escape from what awaited him upon awakening was to flee. Wytago, Vermont is small enough and far enough away that he thinks he can leave his painful past behind. Here, Larry tries to rebuild his daily life, to set up a new veterinary clinic, to make new friends, to no longer be just “The new kid in town” for everyone. But in a small town, everyone knows everything about everyone. And so it’s easy to discover his addiction to drugs, his drinking to excess, his terrible mood swings. And also to discover that there’s something in his past that he wants to keep hidden in every way. Then, when a boy is found lifeless, attention is immediately focused on him. Even before a real investigation begins, Larry has already become the perfect culprit, the scapegoat on which to lay the blame of a small town that considers itself immaculate and which hides its shadows behind the houses’ repainted doors.

- ✘ **BETWEEN KING, CARRISI AND KENT HARUF, A STORY SO REALISTIC AS TO TAKE US BACK TO FEARING ONE OF THE FEARS WE’VE BEEN CARRYING WITH US SINCE CHILDHOOD, THAT OF THE STRANGER WHO GRABS US AND CARRIES US AWAY.**
- ✘ **A TENSE, RAW, BUT ALSO VERY HUMAN THRILLER, A KALEIDOSCOPE OF UNIQUE AND PERFECTLY DESCRIBED CHARACTERS THAT GUIDE US THROUGH A LABYRINTH OF HATE, RESENTMENT, ENVY AND GENEROSITY.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2023

GUIDO SGARDOLI ✘ is one of Italy’s most famous and prolific award-winning children’s authors, and writes for newspapers, cinema and television. A graduate in veterinary medicine, he has always been passionate about drawing, writing and animation. He is the author of over 100 books and his stories have been translated into twenty languages, winning all the leading literary prizes for Young Adult literature – including the Andersen Prize (three times), and the Strega Children’s Prize in 2019 for his novel *The Stone*.

PSYCHO THRILLER

TRY NOT TO SLEEP

TARGET: ADULT



“

STRANGE THINGS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING
IN THE VILLAGE: PEOPLE SUDDENLY FALL ASLEEP,
WITHOUT REASON...

THE CHARM OF THE ETRUSCAN WORLD AND
THE HALLUCINATIONS OF COTARD'S SYNDROME
IN A TERRIFYING PSYCHO-THRILLER



BOOK ON A TREE

ONE SHOT x •

TARGET: ADULT

• x T O H S E N O

TRY NOT TO SLEEP

Manlio Castagna

Baladine Bustamante, not yet thirty years old, writes and hosts a highly popular podcast called "*De profundis*." In each episode, she invites her listeners to descend with her into the darkness where the human mind and nature plunge. It is in this abyss that the most terrifying and obscure (true) stories are born. After nearly three years of continuous work, she experiences a creative block. It is at this point that her brother, Nicolas, comes to her with a story told to him by Christian, a guy he met one night at a disco. It's a story that he asks her not to share with anyone, under any circumstances. The story revolves around Christian's hometown, Vulcri, located in the Calanchi Valley, perched on a hill and connected to the mainland by a suspended bridge over a chasm. In this town, its inhabitants suddenly fall asleep. That's enough for Baladine to sense the presence of darkness and decide to go there. This marks the beginning of a journey that will take our protagonists — Baladine, her brother Nicolas, and their mysterious friend Virginia — much further, toward an ever-expanding crack, revealing a horror of shocking proportions.

- ✘ **THE INTRIGUING DARKNESS OF THE ETRUSCAN AFTERLIFE WORLD, WITH ITS RITUALS, SYMBOLS, AND ESOTERIC CULTURE, INTERTWINES WITH THE HALLUCINATORY TERRAIN OF COTARD'S SYNDROME - A PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER CHARACTERISED BY THE BELIEF OF BEING DEAD OR HAVING LOST ALL VITAL ORGANS TO THE EXTENT THAT THOSE WHO SUFFER FROM IT COMPLETELY DENY THEIR EXISTENCE.**
- ✘ **A PLOT RICH IN TERRIFYING HALLUCINATIONS AND INCREASINGLY SINISTER CHARACTERS.**
- ✘ **CONSTANTLY OSCILLATING BETWEEN FICTION AND REALITY, SPANNING DIFFERENT TEMPORAL DIMENSIONS, IT'S A PSYCHO-THRILLER THAT DISORIENTS AND PROFOUNDLY CHALLENGES THE SENSE OF "CERTAINTY".**
- ✘ **SET IN ITALY, WITH TIES TO THE WORLD OF POPULAR CRIME PODCASTS, WRITTEN BY AN AUTHOR WHO, LIKE FEW OTHERS, EXCELS AT PLAYING WITH GENRES AND ENGAGING A DIVERSE READERSHIP.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** SPERLING & KUPFER (ITALY), 2023

MANLIO CASTAGNA ✘ is a screenwriter, director and film critic. He has been involved in the Giffoni festival for over twenty years and was the deputy artistic director from 2007-2018. He made his narrative debut with the bestselling trilogy *Petrademone*, published by Mondadori and translated into various languages. He continues to churn out books and was shortlisted for the Strega Children's Prize in 2021 with *La notte delle Malombre* (*The Night of the Malombre*), Mondadori, and he also got a special mention at the Cento Prize 2021.

REALISTIC FICTION

NOTHING LIKE BEFORE

AGE 16+

ONE SHOT x •



“

*“IT’S A STRANGE TIME TO BE YOUNG,
DON’T LET LONELINESS MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE A FAILURE.”*



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 16+

• x T O H S E N O

NOTHING LIKE BEFORE

Mangiasogni

Edoardo is 25, was born and raised in a small provincial town, and after graduating moved to a big city to work in a prestigious company. However, every Friday night, without exception, he takes the train and returns to his hometown for the weekend, where he always visits the same people: the butcher, his secondary school teacher, his parents. On one of these weekends, he runs into Rebecca, his childhood friend who is losing her mother to cancer, and together they will face a path that will force them to accept that the future can't be avoided, and that however frightening it may be, it must be lived. Something unimaginable, however, disrupts their lives, filling them with a creeping dread. Their darkest and most painful thoughts will take the form of a sinister and provocative being, that will try to drag them to a place dominated by disillusionment.

- ✗ **A NOVEL THAT DEALS WITH LONELINESS, DISILLUSIONMENT, GENERATIONAL CONFLICT, DISTRUST TOWARDS AN INCREASINGLY OPAQUE AND UNSETTLING FUTURE, AT A TIME WHEN THESE THEMES BECOME INCREASINGLY PRESENT AMONG YOUNG AND VERY YOUNG PEOPLE.**
- ✗ **A CONTEMPORARY STORY THAT PHOTOGRAPHS OUR TIME WITH REFERENCES TO POP CULTURE, MUSIC AND THE WORLD OF COMICS. TIM BURTON'S SENSE OF INADEQUACY AND THE WEIGHT OF BERSERK'S DESTINY INTERTWINE IN EDOARDO AND REBECCA'S STORIES.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI ELECTA (ITALY), 2023

MANGIASOGNI ✗ illustrates stories about growing up, challenges and dreams turning into regrets, and shares them with a broad and strong social media community. In his offline life, he is Valerio Amilcare, 29 years old, and has been living and working in Trieste since 2018. The name Mangiasogni comes from Pokémon, his childhood passion. *Nothing Like Before* is his first novel.

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