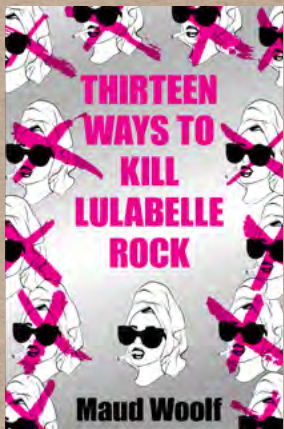


SPRING 2023  
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FICTION CATALOGUE



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## 13 WAYS TO KILL LULABELLE ROCK

by **Maud Woolf**

**Angry Robots, 245 p**

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LATVIAN AND LITHUANIAN  
TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**



## I, LLOYD STOLLMAN

by **Roe Sullivan**

**Black Heron, 185 p**

**ALL TRANSLATION RIGHTS  
AVAILABLE**

'World English sold to Angry Robot at auction during Frankfurt Book Fair. German rights sold to Fischer Tor in preempt!

A creepy, psychological exploration of the boundaries between awareness and conscience. A wonderful adventure and a metaphor of the social identities crisis.'

In a world of glitzy glamour and burgeoning technology, washed up star Lulabelle Rock employs a clone of herself to kill the other twelve versions of herself. Set in a world of the near future, the celebrity elite have access to a technology that allows them to make perfect copies of themselves, known as Portraits. These Portraits exist to fulfil all the various duties that come as the price of fame. Our protagonist is the thirteenth copy made of the actress known as Lulabelle Rock. Her purpose is very simple: to track down and eliminate her predecessors.

While initially easy, her task is made difficult by the labyrinthine confusion of Bubble City and the unfortunate stirrings of a developing conscience. When she makes the mistake of falling in love with one of her targets, the would-be assassin faces the ultimate question; when you don't want to kill yourself, what's the alternative?

**Maud Woolf** is a Scottish speculative writer with a particular focus on horror and science fiction. Her work has appeared in a variety of online magazines, including Metaphorosis Magazine where her short story 'The Stranding' was selected to appear in the Best of Metaphorosis 2020.

*I, Lloyd Stollman* is a crime novel, humorous and sinister at the same time. It deals with the mind of a man who becomes a serial killer against his will. It compares to Robert Louis Stevenson's Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, but has several alternate egos instead of only one, and features humor based on self-deceit rather than horror.

Lloyd Stollman is retired from the Dept. of Motor Vehicles. He lives in almost total social isolation in a bungalow of the edge of South Central Los Angeles. His isolation and his sense of being contained by forces beyond his control are so relentless that one day he outfits himself as a cowboy, and presents himself to the world as a bit player in famous movies. His success in passing himself off as another person is liberating, and encourages him to explore other personas he can inhabit. But there is a downside, which he realizes when one of his characters turns out to be a killer. Rather than Lloyd's portraying a character of his own creation, he is being inhabited by his characters. If he thought he could control them, that they allowed him liberation from social repression, he is ultimately disabused. He is no more in control of them than he was of himself, the anonymous, middle-aged white man known as Lloyd Stollman. The "character" of Lloyd Stollman is often sympathetic, even likable, sometimes funny in his surprise when things go wrong. This is a sinister book, but one also laced with humor,



## RESURRECTION

by **Ivan Mourin**

**Ilarión, 378 p**

**GERMAN, ITALIAN, ROMANIAN  
AND TURKISH TRANSLATION  
RIGHTS AVAILABLE**



## I WILL CALL YOU DEAD

Valle-Inclán in the Devil's  
House

by **José de Cora Paradela**

**Edhasa, 240 p**

**GERMAN, ITALIAN, ROMANIAN  
AND TURKISH TRANSLATION  
RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

What would you surrender to get back the loved one... This is what Moises Ojeda, a writer who has lost his wife in a car crash, wonders. In the Hidden Drawer, a quite peculiar shop in Barcelona's China town where strange esoteric objects pass from hand to another, the shop's owner offers Moises and ominous object, something that Moises should have not accept.

It's a unique piece of ancient art capable of making Diana come back out of her ashes, but not alone; a being as old as time, who has been asleep for centuries, will arise with her, as a parasite, and it will become alive full of hunger.

Ivan Mourin will awake your fears, inviting you to enter into a world of darkness, ghosts and demons... where Diana looks desperately for something that belongs to her; and enclosing atmosphere submerged in nowadays Barcelona.

**Ivan Mourin** graduated from Criminology College with a major in Pathologist Anatomy, Entomologic Forensics and Behavior Psychology. He is a rising star in Spanish horror literature. In 2005 his first novel was published, *Niños perdidos*, a vampirism related story inspired on the one of Peter Pan. In 2009 *Sociedad Tepes* followed. *Resurrección*, the first of the saga *Crónicas del Caído*, is his third novel.

He is also collaborating with the known actor Carlos Lasarte on a film script. As script writer and director of the short film "Intrusos" he obtained Mosaic Award at the III Cinephone International Smartphone Shortfilm Festival and also the Audience Award at the Phonetastic. In 2015 he wins the Enigmas Award thanks to his book, *Haunted Houses Anatomy*.

It's the year 1900. In a house on the Galician coast, two women suffer the attacks of unknown forces, which defy the laws of physics. As the rumble of a hundred storms explodes, objects fly around on their own, and a mysterious silverback gorilla appears.

No one is capable of explaining what's happening in the so called House of the Dead... because its secret is buried eighteen years in the past.

Three peculiar characters meet right in this house, trying to figure out the mystery before the Archbishop of Santiago de Compostela gets there first. The three are the physician and hobby spiritualist Manuel Otero Acevedo; writer Ramón María del Valle-Inclán; and journalist and lawyer Prudencio Landín Tobío. Unbeknownst to them, each represents a different facet of this terrible story. Based on real events, this novel portrays the confrontation between real facts and superstition, science and spiritualism, and the living and the dead.

**José de Cora Paradela**, a writer and a journalist, was born in Lugo, in 1951. He works for news agencies, journals, magazines, radio, cinema, television. His sense of humour, reflected in his articles, granted him the award La Codorniz de Plata in the year 2000. Among his published novels: *Secuestro y fonda de Cela en Contamina*, *La verdadera historia del último inquisidor* and *el maravilloso Oráculo de la Vida* and *Pecados Manuais*.



# KOORSORKHI

A story of life and war

by **Aliyeh Ataei**

**Cheshmeh Nashre**, 121 p

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A novel of nine fragments of a story, interconnected. An anonymous narrator, an Afghan girl raised in Iran, tells nine stories, which take place in a location near the Iranian-Afghan border. Intimate stories in which the narrator evokes, in turn, her father, a loved one, a friend, or a love. She interconnects the events in her own life and those of the rest of the characters of her stories. She describes the experiences that shaped them to find the imprints of war and border on their identity.

*Koorsorkhi* is a fascinating, profound narrative of life, love, and war. The narrator tells us what happens to her, her family, and her motherland, starting from 1986 when she was five years old and ending in 2016. As the narrator grows up, she travels to her motherland without being sure if she is more Afghan or Iranian, whether she has to choose to stay in a country she loves or go back to a ruined motherland. At the beginning of the book, the narrator is a little girl witnessing her father's sufferings from epileptic seizures. Her father, physically healthy as he fled to Iran from the war in Afghanistan- decides to participate in the Iran-Iraq war and soon comes back with lifelong epilepsy.

In the next chapters, the historical background is weaved together with the main character's intimate world, she narrates stories of how Communism affected Afghans, Iranians, and the region in general; of how Afghans were responsible for their country's situation during the Soviet invasion; of how she fell in love with her cousin, and of love stories of wartime; of the identity gap of the youth like her and the distance among a generation exiled to different territories, barely comprehending each other's worlds.

She collects her stories about Afghanistan, emigrants, and the border people whose lives have been painfully affected by war, of the need of belonging to a homeland and all the challenges it brings for a girl far from her own country; and finally the story of the flight, of people who run away from Afghanistan with the aid of human smugglers.

What is prominent in this book is the tone of the narrator and her viewpoint. She is a witty observer who is able to point out the subtle conflicts and contradictions in the world today and show them to the reader in a way that is critical of herself and the people around her, yet does not feel miserable. Thus *KOORSORKHI* can be considered an anti-war work, a portrait of humanity in times of deep crisis, that makes us cry and laugh, and above all, helps us deeply understand what it means to live and grow up in the Middle East.

**Aliyeh Ataei** is an Iranian-Afghan novelist. She has been working with several international magazines: her short stories have been translated and published in several English and French magazines, among them Michigan Quarterly Review and Guernica. She rose to prominence in 2014 with her novel *Kafourpoosh*, which won the prestigious Mehrgan Adab Award. Her collection of short stories titled *Eye of the dog* made this young author one of the influential voices of contemporary literature in the Persian language. Some of her short stories have been translated into English and French and published in literary journals. *Koorsorkhi* was published in 2021 and reprinted six times since then.



## FABULOUS CHRONICLE OF MAMA ASYÁ AND HER OFFSPRING

by **Francesc Bellart**

**La Campana**, 256 p

**GERMAN, ITALIAN, POLISH,  
ROMANIAN AND TURKISH  
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## BALVANERA

by **Francisco Narla**

**Edhasa**, 662 p

**GERMAN, ITALIAN, POLISH,  
ROMANIAN AND TURKISH  
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A dark and mysterious curse weighs on Poblenou neighborhood, in Barcelona. One morning a beautiful prostitute is found dead on the sand of the beach, with an expression of horror in her eyes and the mark of a rope around her neck. It's Katia Soloviov, born in unusual circumstances and brought up by the imposing Mama Asya, despotic owner of the neighborhood's brothel. When, days later, her funeral is to be held, the neighbors discover in amazement that the corpse of the young woman does not show the slightest sign of numbness or decomposition. Awestruck, people preach the miracle in the city streets, and Father Ramon sends one of his pupils to ask the Archbishop of Barcelona for advice. Meanwhile, Katia's body is deposited on the altar of Sant Bernat Calbó's church, where she receives daily the believers' visits from all over the country. One winter night, an individual named Serafi Carcosa, a disturbed man who lives in a shack near the beach, creeps in the church and stains the prostitute's incorruptible corpse. Next thing the neighbors discover is that the dead woman has got pregnant..

Thus how this novel begins and -from early nineteenth century to the present day- abridges the story of five generations, mingling satire, tragedy, fantasy, sex, humor, romance, violence. Katia and Serafi's descendants must fight against their own destiny, to finally unveil the crime that set in motion the curse that chases them and untangle the spell.

**Francisc Bellart** is a Philosophy professor and editor. *The Indiscreet Editor*, his first novel, was very well received by both public and critics.

His mother was a whore. His father, English. He had no last name when last name was the only mean to scare away hunger. Even so, a believer. Camacho insisted on earning his bread with the sole purpose of being honest. Everything went to hell, though. The pious whore, a mute Indian, a disbelieving friar and that honest bastard will try to steal the largest cargo in the history of the Spanish Indian fleet. Across the Ocean, in that recent Spanish empire where sun never sets, the Balvanera hauls were being filled with the most valuable merchandise of its time: "palo de tinte", dying wood, most coveted at a time when the royal houses, the nobles, the richest merchants of the old continent dressed in black. The ship will hold an immense fortune. Meanwhile, the grim reaper sought to collect debts...

**Francisco Narla's** first novel, *Laín* was a huge hit both in Spain and Latin America. Five more followed, all very welcome by the readers and appraised by the critics, which have made out of him one of the most known and considered Spanish novelists, awarded with the prestigious Premio Edhasa Narrativas Históricas.

**Also, by the same author:**





## THE LOST WORD

by **Lorenzo de Medici**

**Espasa** 416 p

**GERMAN, ITALIAN, POLISH, ROMANIAN AND TURKISH TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

The plot of this historical adventure revolves around a priceless stone dating back to the year 1330 BC. In the ancient kingdom of Ugarit, today the scene of the Syrian conflict, the young Yagurum carves his mother's sphinx and a text that remembers her on an agate stone, together with a secret, powerful recipe that makes the stone invaluable and starts a search that is going to last centuries.

Back to our days, Ann Carrington, an American professor of history and specialist in ancient civilizations, is hired by a Swiss colleague, who in turn works for a multinational pharmaceutical company, to try to make sense of a text that is missing a word. It is a reproduction of the text of the ancient stone, from which a piece has been broken, its secrets still undiscovered.

However, Ann's work will be much more than an archaeological investigation, which will eventually endanger her own life... as she ignores there's more than just the pharmaceutical company in search of the precious artifact.

**Lorenzo de Medici** is a direct descendant of the Medici family, one of the most important in history, whose patronage fostered the creation of the greatest works of the Renaissance, was born in Milan (Italy) and spent his childhood in Switzerland. He is the author of several historical novels. Among these: *The plot of the Queen*, *The secret of Sofonisba*, *The Spanish Lover* and *The stolen cards*.

Also, by the same author:



## THE PLOT OF THE QUEEN

**Martínez Roca**, 374 p.

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## THE STOLEN CARDS

**Espasa**, 352 p.

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## THE SECRET OF SOFONISBA

**Ediciones B**, 368 p.

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## THE ENGLISH BLADE

by **José de Cora Paradela**

**Tropo Editores, 532 p**

**GERMAN, ITALIAN, ROMANIAN  
AND TURKISH TRANSLATION  
RIGHTS AVAILABLE**



## HANNIBAL'S LIONS

by **Javier Pellicer**

**Edhasa, 384 p**

**GERMAN, ITALIAN, ROMANIAN  
AND TURKISH TRANSLATION  
RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

"I won't look at the Cibeles sculpture with the same eyes" - Xosé Antonio López Silva, Critic and specialist on XVIII<sup>th</sup> century

Madrid prepares one of the most symbolic public works concluded along the reign of Carlos the Third (the Prado ballroom and its fountains) when a savage murder makes the city tremble; a young lad of fifteen appears castrated and his attributes tossed in the surroundings of one of the most significant monuments along the avenue next to the Prado, the sculpture known as Cibeles.

The intendant commissioner in charge of the investigation believes that the murder is, precisely, related with the arrival of the representation of the sculpture, which represents a frigid goddess whose priests used to offer her their masculinity. Rumors even involved the Asturian Princess, María Luisa de Parma, and because of that the King wants her to be spied. But the murders go on; gossips and fears flood the city.

**José de Cora Paradela** is a writer and journalist; His sense of humour, reflected on his articles, granted him the award La Codorniz de Plata in the year 2000. Since 1976 he has written a multitude of essays of historical background, as *Ideologías para un rey* o *Manual del Perfecto Político*. Among his novels: *Secuestro y fonda de Cela en Contamina*, *La verdadera historia del último inquisidor* y *el maravilloso Oráculo de la Vida* and *Pecados Manuais*.

It's the III Century B.C. Hannibal Barca has become the new Carthage leader – not only due to his inheritance, but also thanks to his character, his strength and his wit. His fearsome Chartaginian army is composed not only of his people, but of many Iberian tribes, who have joined him on his way to Rome.

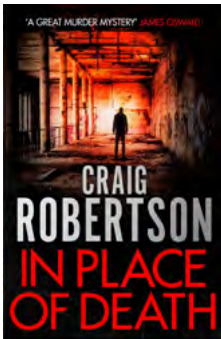
Mighty Rome controls the whole known world, and Hannibal seeks to conquer the very heart of the Empire, the Eternal City itself. After crossing the Alps, Hannibal has to face Scipio's legions. He earns his first victory in the war, pulling off the most legendary deed of war

Hannibal's Lions is the epic story of an astonishing adventure and also a novel about identity, sharing and friendship. About an army of many diverse people, from different cultural heritages, who join in the fight against their powerful oppressor. All of them following a single man, not a nation.

**Javier Pellicer** started his literary career writing short stories, which granted him awards as the first Premio Cryptshow Festival de Relato Fantástico 2008. Many of his short stories have been published in anthologies as: *Fantasmagoria*, *Ilusionaria 2* and *Crónicas de la Marca del Este*. His first novel, *El espíritu del lince. Iberia contra Cartago* was well received by the public and took him to the final selection of the award IV Premios de Literatura Histórica Hislibris.

# THE TONY WINTER MYSTERIES SERIES

A BESTSELLING SERIES BY CRAIG ROBERTSON, NOW IN IT'S SIXTH EPISODE. A BRILLIANT, BREATH TAKING CRIME FICTION SERIES GAINING MORE AND MORE FAME AMONG MYSTERY FANS.



## IN PLACE OF DEATH

6th Book of the series

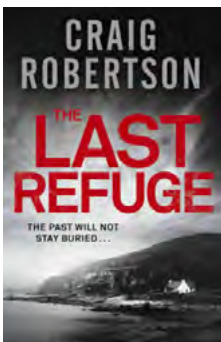
Simon & Schuster

448p.

SPANISH, BULGARIAN AND ROMANIAN TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE

A young man enters the culverted remains of an ancient Glasgow stream, looking for thrills. Deep below the city, it is decaying and claustrophobic and gets more so with every step. As the ceiling lowers to no more than a couple of feet above the ground, the man finds his path blocked by another person. Someone with his throat cut.

As DS Rachel Narey leads the official investigation, photographer Tony Winter follows a lead of his own, through the shadowy world of urbexers, people who pursue a dangerous and illegal hobby, a world that Winter knows more about than he lets on. And it soon becomes clear that the murderer has killed before, and has no qualms about doing so again.



## LAST REFUGE

5th Book of the series

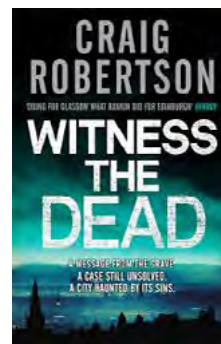
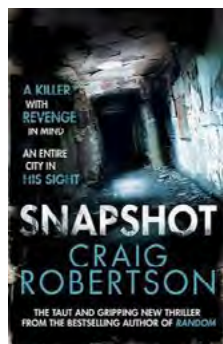
Simon & Schuster

388 p.

SPANISH, BULGARIAN AND ROMANIAN TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE

You can run from your past but you can never hide from yourself.. When John Callum arrives on the wild and desolate Faroe Islands, he vows to sever all ties with his previous life. He desperately wants to make a new start, and is surprised by how quickly he is welcomed into the close-knit community. But still, the terrifying, debilitating nightmares just won't stop. Then the solitude is shattered by an almost unheard of crime on the islands: murder. A specialist team of detectives arrives from Denmark to help the local police. But as tensions rise, and the community closes rank to protect its own, John has to watch his back. But far more disquieting than that, John's nightmares have taken an even more disturbing turn, and he can't be certain about the one thing he needs to know above all else. Whether he is the killer.

Also, in the same series:



During his 20-year career with a Scottish Sunday newspaper, **Craig Robertson** interviewed three recent Prime Ministers, attended major stories including 9/11, Dunblane, the Omagh bombing and the disappearance of Madeleine McCann. His debut novel, *Random*, was shortlisted for the CWA New Blood Dagger and was a Sunday Times bestseller.





## THE STRANGER NEXT DOOR

by **Adam Southward**

**Headline, 416 p**

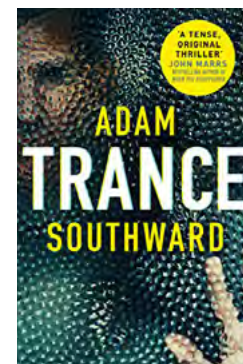
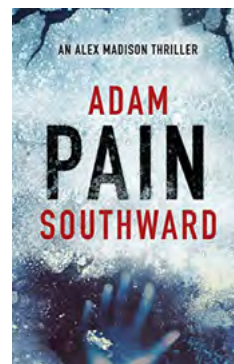
**GERMAN, FRENCH, SPANISH, ESTONIAN, LATVIAN AND LITHUANIAN TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

She was the perfect neighbour. Until she made a terrible accusation...

When Matt and Imogen move out of the city, they're hoping for a much-needed fresh start. Matt throws himself into his new job, but Imogen struggles to adjust to life in the suburbs. She's grateful for the kind welcome from new neighbour Nancy, and they soon become close friends. So when Nancy makes a shocking accusation, Imogen doesn't know who to trust. This isn't the first time Matt has found himself on the wrong end of a false accusation... but is Nancy hiding secrets of her own?

As simmering tensions threaten to boil over, Imogen is in more danger than she realises. Can she uncover the truth before she loses everything? An utterly gripping thriller with a jaw-dropping twist, perfect for anyone who loved *The Family Upstairs*, *Here to Stay* or *An Unwanted Guest*.

See also, by the same author, the Alex Madison mystery series published by Thomas & Mercer:

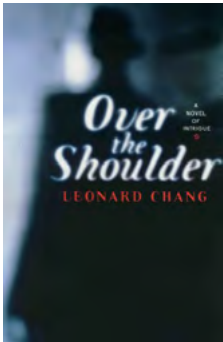


**Adam Southward** is a philosophy graduate with a professional background in IT, working both in publishing and the public sector. He lives on the south coast of England with his young family. His Alex Madison series is published by Thomas & Mercer (Amazon Publishing).

"Dark, menacing and deliciously suspenseful. Another edge-of-your-seat read from Adam Southward."  
Victoria Selman

# LEONARD CHANG

Leonard Chang is a Korean American writer of short stories and novels, as well as a screenwriter and television writer who is currently a writer/producer for FX's *Snowfall*. His novel *Dispatches from the Cold* won a San Francisco Bay Guardian Goldie Award for Literature.



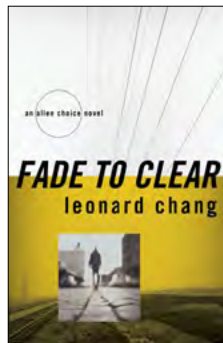
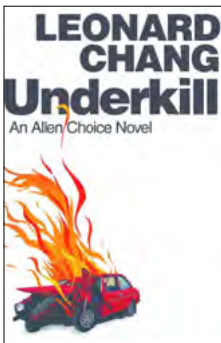
## OVER THE SHOULDERS

1st book of the trilogy  
Ecco, Harper Collins  
388 p.

**ALL TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

**A USA Today Summer Reading Pick and a finalist for the Shamus Award**, *Over The Shoulder* offers a unique view of the American protagonist and reluctant investigator, shaken from the doldrums of his insulated life. Choice and his partner, Paul Baumgartner, are security specialists for Silicon Valley executives. When Paul gets killed on the job, Choice and an inexperienced reporter, Linda Maldonado, begin looking into the puzzling circumstances of the murder. As they work together to unravel the intricate threads of lies and half-truths, they discover that his death might be linked to the mysterious death of Allen's father some twenty years earlier.

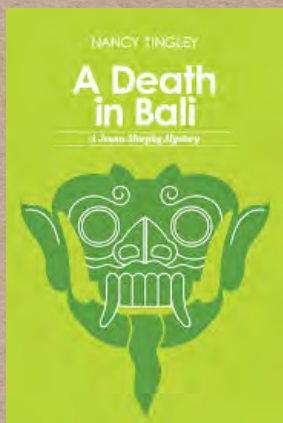
The other two titles of the series:



With his self-described “philosophy of removal” as his frame of reference, Choice searches for the hidden, long-buried answers, only to be outmaneuvered at every juncture. Against this backdrop of violence and deception, Choice soon discovers secrets that alter his understanding of his family.

“That I am a nobody doesn't bother me as it might some people. I prefer anonymity, unobstructed movement through a crowd with neither a first nor a second glance in my direction.” Anonymity is both existential goal and survival skill for Allen Choice, who may call himself a Korean-American but who isn't particularly comfortable with the label. A Silicon Valley security specialist, Choice drifts through life the way he drifts through crowds: detached, isolated, neither particularly fulfilled nor particularly unhappy. He notes wryly, “I used to think I was in inertial rest, a body at rest remaining so. Once an outside force applied itself to me, I would be in motion. I liked this idea. It freed me, relieving me of the responsibility. I just had to wait for an outside force. But I soon realized this was an illusion... I decided to call it the inertial deception. I can't succumb to it.”

**Leonard Chang's** first novel, entitled *The Fruit 'N Food*, was published in 1996 and won the Black Heron Press Award for Social Fiction that year, and is now taught at universities around the world. His second novel, *Dispatches from the Cold*, won a San Francisco Bay Guardian Goldie Award for Literature. *Crossings*, his sixth, was published in 2009, and *Triplines*, was released in 2014. His latest novel, *The Lockpicker* was released in 2017. All these titles are available for translation.



## A DEATH IN BALI

A Jenna Murphy Mystery

by **Nancy Tingley**

**Ohio U.P.**, 344 p

**ITALIAN, FRENCH, DUTCH,  
FINNISH, BULGARIAN, SWEDISH,  
NORWEGIAN AND ROMANIAN  
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## THE POLAR BEAR AND THE HOPE FOR TOMORROW

by **John Ironmonger**

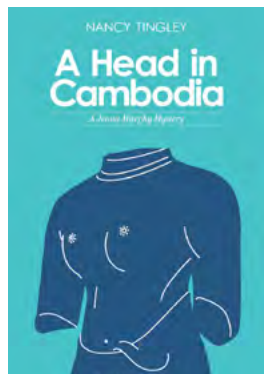
**Fischer Verlag**, 331 p

**FRENCH, SPANISH, ESTONIAN,  
LATVIAN AND LITHUANIAN  
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Intrepid young curator-turned-private eye Jenna Murphy—whom readers first met in *A Head in Cambodia*—goes to the tourist town of Ubud to study early twentieth century Balinese painting. But her first discovery when she arrives in Indonesia is the speared body of expat artist Flip Hendricks. She soon is working with an old friend, a detective for the Ubud police force, to seek the killer. Jenna suspects the motive for the killing has to do with Flip's paintings. Detective Wayan Tyo is not so sure. Is Jenna right, or are there other forces at work in this paradise overrun with tourists? The threats to Jenna's safety pile up, until she can no longer deny that her life is in danger. Her entanglement with various men only clouds her judgment and complicates the situation. As she did in the first Jenna Murphy book, in *A Death in Bali*, Nancy Tingley draws on her extensive experience as a scholar of Asian art to bring the armchair traveler an immersive, inside view of the art world.

**Nancy Tingley** is an independent art historian and consultant with a specialty in Asian art.

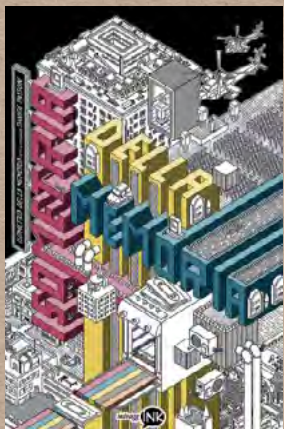
Also, in the same series:



The village of St Piran, on the very toe of Cornwall, is a sleepy little place. Not much happens there. Until one evening, an angry young man and an arrogant politician have a very public disagreement in a harbourside inn. The consequences of their argument, and the deadly wager they strike, will cascade down the decades.

Tom Horsmith is an idealist. Young, driven, and smart, his bar-room humiliation of Monty Causley could have destroyed the career of a lesser politician. But every effort either man makes to put the past behind them draws them deeper into a web of circumstances neither can escape, leading them both a long way from St Piran, onto a colossal iceberg drifting south away from Greenland, where their only companion is a very hungry bear. A heart-stopping tale of ambition, friendship, love, and disaster. And a bear.

Previous titles by **John Ironmonger** have been published in Italy (Bollati Boringhieri Editore), the Netherlands (Uitgeverij Signatuur), Poland (Jagiellonian University Press), Portugal (Bertrand), Russia (AST) and Slovakia (Albatros). John's third novel, *The Whale at the End of the World*, was a huge bestseller in Germany, selling over 400,000 copies (and over 40,000 in the UK). John was shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award and the Not the Booker for his debut *The Notable Brain of Maximilian Ponder*. *The Coincidence Authority*, published in France as *Le Genie des Coïncidences*, won the prestigious Prix de Lecteurs at Littératures Européennes 2015 and the Prix Bouchon de Cultures.



## MEMORY ISOMETRY

by **Davide Passoni**

**Miraggi Edizioni, 120 p**

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## A STRANGE AND BRILLIANT LIGHT

by **Eli Lee**

**Hachette, 336 p**

**GERMAN, FRENCH, SPANISH,  
ESTONIAN, LATVIAN AND  
LITHUANIAN TRANSLATION  
RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

An illustrated experimental novel.

We have always been taught that there are three dimensions to define space, that is the reality in which we live. A fourth dimension, defines the time that passes. It exists for an additional, little-explored dimension capable of making us travel through space and time. This is the dimension of memories.

Through poems, documents and drawings made in isometric axonometry, this book provides the basic instructions for travelling into space-time.

Born in 1985, **Davide Passoni** is a poet, illustrator and musician. Graduated in Fashion Design, social animator expert in Music Therapy, former lifeguard, he has been attending the Poetry Slam stages since 2005. He wins the Dubito Award in 2014 and the Team Poetry Slam championship in 2018. In 2019 he becomes author and co-host of the Poetry Slam! on ZeligTv together with Paolo Agrati and Ciccio Rigoli.

**WINNER OF THE WRITERS' GUILD  
BEST FIRST NOVEL AWARD 2021**

A riveting, thought-provoking speculative literary novel exploring the impact of the AI revolution through the eyes of three very different young women.

Lal, Janetta and Rose are living in a time of flux. Technological advance has brought huge financial rewards to those with power, but large swathes of the population are losing their jobs to artificial intelligence, or auts, as they're called. Unemployment is high, discontent is rife and rumours are swirling. Many feel robbed – not just of their livelihoods, but of their hopes for the future. Lal is languishing in her role at a coffee shop and feeling overshadowed by her quietly brilliant sister, Janetta, whose Ph.D. is focused on making auts empathetic. Even Rose, Lal's best friend, has found a sense of purpose in charismatic up-and-coming politician Alek. When vigilantes break in to the coffee shop and destroy their new coffee-making aut, it sets in motion a chain of events that will pull the three young women in very different directions. Change is coming – change that will launch humankind into a new era. If Rose, Lal and Janetta can find a way to combine their burgeoning talents, they might just end up setting the course of history.

**Eli Lee** is fiction editor and writes essays and reviews for magazines and newspapers. Among her works, *Today* was longlisted for The White Review Short Story Prize in 2016 and performed at *Unsung Stories Live*.



## MOTHS

by **Andrej Longo**

**Marotta & Cafiero**, 50 p

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## THE SNOW OF MARIUPOL

by **Monica Perosino**

**Paesi**, 183 p

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It rains in Naples as the last ferry leaves from Porta di Massa to reach Ischia. Right there, in the port, Enzù and Tonino are meant to meet – an encounter that will change their lives forever. That moment seems to approach with the calm of night and the slowness of waiting.

As they wait, they talk about their city, about Pasquale Lumetta and Prévert. They wait and in the meantime their world breaks down and reassembles itself into small fragments of life. They wait and dream of Paris, which, like the moon for moths, is a bright spot that guides their movements, that pushes them to move forward.

**Andrej Longo** was born in Ischia in 1959. He has always written, but he held a plethora of jobs before being finally published. Among his books we remember the award-winning *Dieci*, winner of the Bagutta Award and finalist at the Bancarella Award, and *L'Altra Madre*, recently released by Adelphi. He also writes for the theater, cinema and radio.

And the snow kept falling in time with the bombs...

Based on real events, 'THE SNOW OF MARIUPOL' tells the story of the Russian invasion of Ukraine through the eyes of a woman. She bears the conflict on her shoulders, absorbs it through the dirt smeared on her skin, inhales it, consumes it. It is a war of sweat, toil, fear, mud, flight, it has the smell of petrol in cans and watermelon cigarettes, dirty laundry and trenches dug in the fertile earth now soaked in blood. Yet somehow, the world around the main character is predominantly feminine: volunteers, refugees, photographers, babushkas, peasant women who offer refuge and refreshment, and intellectuals who experience the laceration of the culture in which they grew up – all while the bombs come down with the snow.

And while the men are at the front, writing letters home that could have been composed in a trench in 1914 or 1941, it is the women who take over the reins of the country, as it has always been in wars since the dawn of time.

**Monica Perosino** was born in 1972 in Turin. With a degree in Philosophy, she has been a journalist for major newspaper La Stampa since 2001. Since 2013 she has mainly covered central and eastern Europe and the Nordic countries. As a correspondent she covered the events related to human and civil rights especially in Poland, Hungary and the Balkans and, more recently, the war in Ukraine, which inspired this book.



## ALEK POPOV

**Alek Popov** was born in Sofia, Bulgaria, in 1966. He studied in the elite classical gymnasium in Sofia, graduated from St. Constantine Cyril the Philosopher College for Ancient Languages and Cultures in Sofia and later received his master's degree in Bulgarian language and literature from the Sofia University. In 1997, he attended the English Language Institute at Wayne State University.

His first novel, *Mission London*, was published in 2001. It has been widely acclaimed as "the funniest contemporary Bulgarian book" for its sarcastic projection of the diplomatic elite. So far, it has been translated and published into 12 languages. A film based on the novel was released in 2010.

Popov's second novel, *The Black Box*, was published in 2007. It came out in German under the title *Die Hunde fliegen tief* (*Dogs Are Flying Low*) and in English. In January 2014, *The Black Box* won the 2013 U.K. contemporary Bulgarian novel contest of the Elizabeth Kostova Foundation, organized in cooperation with Peter Owen Publishers. The book has also been translated in Serbian, Turkish, Polish and Italian.

Popov's third novel, *Sister to the way of the new world* (2013), headed the Top 10 list of best-selling titles in Bulgaria, and won the 2013 Helicon Prize for new Bulgarian literary prose.

Over the years, Alek Popov has published 6 collections of short stories. These collections were published by the German publisher Deutsche Taschenbuch Verlag under the title *For Advanced*. They have been translated into German, Hungarian, Polish, Serbian, Czech, French, Danish, English and Turkish.

Alek Popov has won several literary awards including:

- the National Radio's Pavel Veshinov Award for the best criminal short story;
- the Graviton Award for best science fiction;
- the Raško Sugarev Award for best short story;
- the prize Helicon for best prose book of the year, 2002 and 2013;
- the annual prize of Clouds magazine for the English translation of *Mission London*, 2004;
- the National Prize for Drama Ivan Radoev;
- Elias Canetti Prize for his novel *The Black Box*, 2007;
- The Flower of Helicon Award;
- the United Bulgarian Banks Award for book of the year 2007.

In October 2012, Alek Popov was elected a corresponding member of the Bulgarian Academy of Science in the field of Arts. He serves in the board of the Bulgarian PEN Center and is part of the editorial body of the prestigious literary magazine *Granta Bulgaria*.



## MISSION: TOURAN

by **Alek Popov**

**Ciela**, 412 p

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## THE BLACK BOX

by **Alek Popov**

**English edition:**

**Peter Owen**, 416 p

**DANISH, GERMAN, ENGLISH,  
ITALIAN, SERBIAN, SPANISH,  
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The new satirical novel by Alek Popov: a modern story that explores society by means of irony, in which everyone gets what they deserve.

An elderly man dies in a remote Bulgarian village. He is 92 years old, he is the last person living in the village and no one would have noticed his death, were it not that, due to it, the country's population fatally falls below 7 million people, leading the demographic decline in the EU and triggering waves of panic in national politics. People are starting to wonder: are we going to disappear? Will there still be any Bulgarians in the next hundred years? Is it the fault of democracy or the EU?

The country's president - a staunch nationalist facing re-election - is determined to do something. Of course he could open the doors of the country to thousands of migrants, but he cannot do it, because he was elected promising that Bulgaria would be open to Bulgarians only. But where to find them, when those who have emigrated do not want to return? So the president sends an anthropological expedition to find Bulgarians around the world for him to take home. After a short time, anthropologists proudly report that in a remote region of Central Asia they have found a population resembling the Proto-Bulgarians who left some 70 generations ago. The president is thrilled. Firstly, if these people get Bulgarian passports, it means that the country will have 7.5 million people again; and secondly, he could make a deal for them to vote for him in the next presidential election...

Original Language: Bulgarian

From dog walker to millionaire, from millionaire to dropout: two brothers from Bulgaria seek their fortune in America and, in the end, find their father's ashes.

A small black box full of ashes is all that Ned and Ango, two very different brothers from Bulgaria, have left of their father. It has been 15 years since their father, a mathematician hovering between genius and madness, died under mysterious circumstances in America as a visiting professor. Their father has long been nothing more than a ghost to them until the paths of the two brothers cross again, far from their homeland, in New York. Ned, the good-for-nothing, has made it to the top on Wall Street while Ango, the smart one, walks dogs for snobs in Central Park. But then the tide turns and the ghost of their father suddenly comes to life again.

Alek Popov does away with old fairytales. His new novel was at number one for weeks in the bestseller lists in Bulgaria. It is a satire of gold diggers in the West and the East, of the yearning for happiness shared by successful people and underdogs, and of the wrong impressions we immediately form of each other when a world divides us. East or West, top or bottom, dead or alive: let us be brothers! Racy, witty and damned bite-eager.

Original Language: Bulgarian



## PALAVEEV SISTERS 1&2: IN THE STORM OF HISTORY/ON THE WAY TO THE NEW WORLD

by Alek Popov

German Edition: Residenz Verlag, 328 p

HELIKON AWARD for best fiction of 2013. THE FLOWER OF HELIKON Prize for best selling book of 2013. SHORTLISTED FOR Elias Canetti Prize 2014. SHORTLISTED FOR THE ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER MEDAL

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### A two episodes story.

Although the second novel can be read on its own as a separate piece, **the two parts together form a kind of a saga** encompassing the period between 1943 and 1953 and an ironic gaze on one of the most dramatic episodes in European history: Partisan movement and the communist propaganda.

In *Palaveev sisters: In the storm of history*, the eponymous twin teenage sisters from middle class backgrounds, Kara and Ira, are on the run from the authorities. They have joined a Partisan group based in the Balkan mountains. The Partisans are a mixed bunch of young and old communists and Peasant party members, all dedicated fighters against the Bulgarian monarchist regime and their German allies. Many have adopted colourful nicknames and Commander Medvev, who is a former refugee, speaks Bulgarian with a heavy Russian accent.

From the start, the pretty twins seed confusion in the hearts of the fighters. Only a few hours into their adventure, the rebels are attacked by government forces, led by the fearsome captain Night. The few survivors find safety in the Forbidden Wood. Lost in the mountains on the border between Bulgaria and Serbia, the twin sisters Kara and Ira are left to the mercy of the elements and separated.

The Cold War finds the Twins on the opposing sides of the Iron Curtain..

Original language of both novels: Bulgarian

*Palaveev Sisters: On The Way To The New World* is a new chapter of the story.

The plot unfolds following the audacious lives of both sisters. As their life gets more complicated, the sisters grow and evolve from teenagers into young women. Their characters deepen, as do their sexual experiences. The spell of ideology dwindles to give way to a strife for individual freedom – the mark of the imminent 1960's. Kara returns to Sofia hoping to reconcile with her parents and just to witness a bomb hitting the house before her eyes and killing her parents. During a raid, Kara is turned in to the police but with the help of a senior party activist she manages to escape. "Uncle" Angel will however prove himself unworthy of trust. Ira has lost her memory and the partisans give her the nickname Snejana (Snow). After a passionate but brief love affair with a Yugoslav partisan commander, Ira is rescued by a downed British airman, Ralph, who leads her to London with him and where they get married. Kara's fate, too, is linked to London, where she joins a KGB officer to his new assignment.

The year is 1953, only a few weeks after Stalin's death. During mass at the Brompton Oratory, a mysterious young lady (Ira) approaches the altar of St. Valfre and takes out a small container from under the statue. It contains an encrypted message. A few hours later, she enters the "King's Coffin," a bar in Soho, where her sister is waiting... the most unexpected of double agents. Overcoming old grievances, Popov writes with a healthy sense of humor (pitch-black at times!) and profound irony, going way beyond the picking of sides in an effort to grasp the internal paradox of human nature.





## WHITE RED

by **Mehdi Yazdani Khoram**

**Nashre Cheshmeh**, 266 p

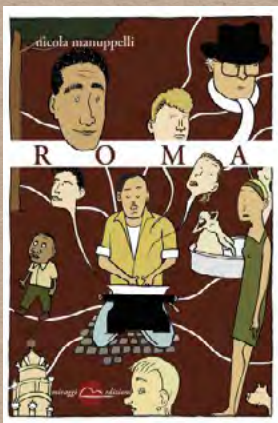
**DANISH, FINNISH, GERMAN, ITALIAN, NORWEGIAN, PORTUGUESE AND SWEDISH  
TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

One of the most important novels of the intellectual wave in Iranian literature.

*White Red* is a narrative of people whose destinies become intertwined in January 1980 in the chaotic post-revolutionary Tehran. The main character of the novel, who's the juncture of all incidents, is a thirty-three-year-old Kyokushin practitioner who should fight fifteen battles for the black belt: an average clerk of the statistics office with his ordinary life, Kyokushin has put all his effort into the fight for earning the black belt which is all he's got now. His story opens the gate to bizarre events taking place in the context of actual historical events, each one of them opens the door to the lives of people each disclosing a mysterious history: The secret life of Guita, an ambitious superstar in the pre-revolution cinema of Iran where her bold roles resulted in the anger of the extremists after the revolution; the fears and hardships of a Greek priest who's in charge of returning the nuns to Europe after the revolution; an old Jew who intends to purify his blood even by going into a pool full of leeches; the internal battle of a religious old woman for adopting the bastard sons of two dead members of the Mujahedin; a poor balloon seller whose wishes are realized overnight due to people's superstitious beliefs; and the last Iranian ambassador in Dublin who's forced to hide the first Pahlavi king's bones so that the revolutionaries won't be able to lay a hand on them.

It's a breath-taking and fascinating novel about the accidental yet interconnected encounters of people who have come together in one historical era.

**Mehdi Yazdani Khoram** has been writing in popular reformist papers as a literary critic for years and is also the editor-in-chief of Tajrobeh magazine. He has won many awards for his novels and has been nominated for many others, including 7 Eghlim Literary Award, Bushehr Literary Award, Forty Literary Awards, Mehregan Literary Award, Vav literary award, and etc... *White Red* has been reprinted eight times in four years and won Forty Literary Awards. His previous novel, *I love Manchester United*, has been reprinted ten times in eight years and translated into Turkish and Italian. His style is similar to that of Louis-Ferdinand Céline. A Turkish critic, Omar Ilhan, has compared him to John Dos Passos.



## ROME

A Cinecittà Love Story

by **Nicola Manuppelli**

Miraggi edizioni, 144 p

PREMIO  
**STREGA**

Longlisted Premio Strega

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## THE PELLICANIS

by **Sergio La Chiusa**

Miraggi Edizioni, 192 p

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A portrait of Rome and its leading personalities in the roaring 70's.

Cinecittà, the seafront of Ostia the neighborhood of Pigneto during a late *dolce vita*: cinema, Fellini, foolish actors and tender Roman summer nights vividly pictured through the eyes full of wonder of young Tommaso, who has just arrived in the Capital to pursue a career in journalism.

Rome in all its glory welcomes him to his scandals and gossips, the glittering lights shining on its starlets and famous actors, each one of them after their own dream of success. In this dreamy scenario Tommaso meets Judy, an English girl trying to become an actress, with whom he shares the hazy space between being spectators of one's own life and getting to be protagonist.

**Nicola Manuppelli** is a writer, translator and curator. Among the authors who were translated and published in Italy thanks to his scouting: Andre Dubus, Charles Baxter, Jane Urquhart, Roger Rosenblatt and Don Robertson. His articles appeared on the Chicago Quarterly, Numéro, D di Repubblica. He has published two novels, a collection of poems and several short stories published in anthologies both in Italy and US.

Shortlisted for Premio Bergamo 2021, Special mention for 32nd Premio Calvino and Finalist of the Premio Fondazione Megamark, *The Pellicanis* is a rare novel of great narrative richness.

Young Pellicani is a chatterbox. He shows up one evening late in his father's home, the home he had left twenty years earlier after stealing savings from a drawer. The building - a six or seven-storey condominium - is almost in ruins. But the name "Pellicani" on the top floor door bell is still there, the door barely ajar. Young Pellicani - in a slightly torn gray suit, a briefcase just to add some character - plans to stay one night then go: he has business in China, he claims. Father will have forgotten the events of twenty years earlier and will gladly welcome him, he guesses, then finds an old man stuck in bed and thinks that it's not his father...

**Sergio La Chiusa** is a poet - his book *Interred* (LietoColle, 2005) was shortlisted for the 2006 Montano Prize - and a writer - his travel prose and excerpts from novels are featured in cultural magazines and blogs. *I Pellicani* was shortlisted at the XXXII edition of the Italo Calvino Prize, where he was awarded with the "Treccani Special Mention 2019" for its linguistic originality and expressive creativity.

"Rarely does the reading of a novel give so much pleasure for the writing in itself; and rarely such a narrative richness is so casually crammed into a single novel, in a single apartment, almost in a single room."  
Giulio Mozzi

# LUCA RAGAGNIN

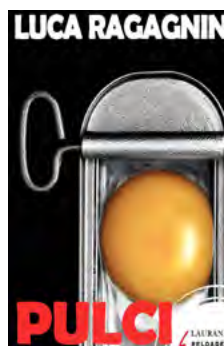
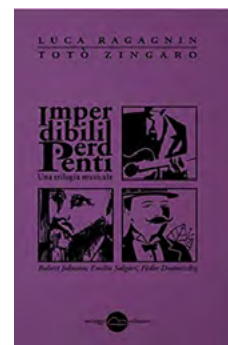
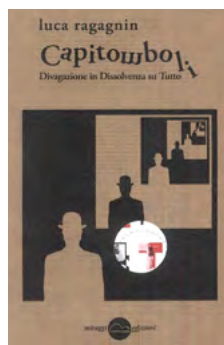


Luca posing next to his portrait as seen by photographer Guglielmina Otter

**Luca Ragagnin** was born in Turin in 1965. He is an Italian writer, poet and lyricist. His collections of short stories have been published in literary magazines since the early '80s. In 1995, a collection of his poems won the Montale Prize and was read by Vittorio Gassman in the television series "Cammin leggendo" after being published by Scheiwiller. He is the author of many successful plays, written on his own or in collaboration with famous playwrights of the likes of Enrico Remmert, Emanuele Conte, Andrea Liberovici, Michele Di Mauro, Murcof and Lella Costa.

His novel *Gloombridge* (*Pontescuro* in its original Miraggi Edizioni edition, 2019), was shortlisted for the most important Italian literary prize, the Premio Strega and is about to be published in the U.S.

Among his other novels: *Marmo Rosso* (Baldini & Castoldi, 2014), *Arcano 21* (Del Vecchio Editore, 2014), *Agenzia Pertica* (2017), and *Winking Child*, published in 2022, both by Miraggi Edizioni.





## PERTICA AGENCY

by **Luca Ragagnin**  
**Miraggi Edizioni, 176 p**

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## ARCANA 21

by **Luca Ragagnin**  
**Del Vecchio Editore, 496 p**

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A very sad comic novel.

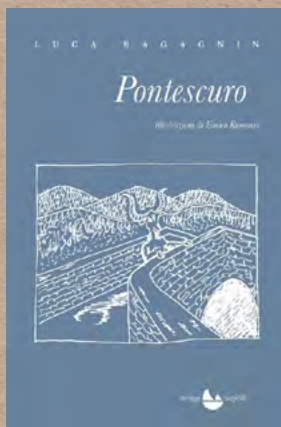
Domizio Pertica is a failed author, who has written twenty-six novels who only have one thing in common: the public failure. Domizio decides to give up writing and devote himself to another activity, as a private detective, and opens the Domizio Pertica Divination & Lies Uncovering & Alibi. Collaborators of the company, Venus Diomede, a blonde Prague girl in skimpy clothes, met in a filthy bar, with whom he shares the sad Turin attic, and an alcoholic Indian blackbird named Zappa. Nothing should be taken for granted in this novel, not even the fact that, as an animal, Zappa does not speak. The agency's peculiar aim is to provide alibis to offenders. But all that, which is written, is a lie in itself, misleading and dismantling its own tale during the telling, in a carousel of different realities which are funny and amusing, but carry an aftertaste of defeat and loss.

"A surreal narrative that owes a debt to noir literature, but also to South American magic realism, to the delusions of Venedikt Erofeev, to vodka and to a long tradition of texts representing chaos and frenzy in the global postmodern society." - Lorenzo Mazzoni on Il Fatto Quotidiano

"*Agenzia Pertica* by Luca Ragagnin is an irreverent book that mocks the reader, a false thriller that - digression after digression - turns out to be an exercise in metaliterary awareness, a somewhat dreamlike, a little dizzy and reckless journey into the world of storytelling" - Alessandra Chiappori

*Arcana 21* is a journey into the wonderful world of bookstores as seen from within. A long-time bookseller narrates his descent into the underworld of the book market with all its circus of grotesque and hilarious characters, as well as gruesome and surreal situations. Next to them another absurd group of characters make their show: The characters of the narrator's most beloved books, from Don Quijote to Siddharta and Don Ciccio Ingravallo, commenting and giving their prospective on the events. Mental images - or maybe perhaps not - those latter characters become more realistic than the real ones: their intervention breaks down the linear succession of events, linking them with irony and satire.

And then, suddenly, a third narrative thread casts light on the path to follow: a wisteria, which is born and blossoms, and whose destiny is firmly linked to that of the protagonist.



## GLOOMBRIDGE

by **Luca Ragagnin**

**Miraggi Edizioni, 160 p**

PREMIO  
**STREGA**

Shortlisted Premio Strega

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## INTERMITTENTLY BERG

by **Luca Ragagnin**

**Miraggi Edizioni, 672 p**

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Shortlisted for Premio Strega 2019, and winner of the International Egi Volterrani Prize.

In this novel both victims and witnesses – be they humans, animals or things – are given the chance to speak in a catching dialogue delving into the depths of human nature. The setting is Pontescuro, along the river Po, in the lower flatlands where the fog always lingers, in the north of Italy. The year is 1922, and Daphne, the beautiful and scandalous daughter of the local landlord, is found dead, with a red ribbon tied around her neck. This event unleashes envies and nastiness among the poor village dwellers, as the girl was desired by the same men who despise and deplore her and had gathered the hatred of their women. The landlord makes every effort to punish the culprit... well, a scapegoat more likely. Daphne had known power of seduction and had used it to take revenge against her father and those people who hated and desired her at the same time. Embarrassingly enough the one who won her heart was the village idiot, a countryside wanderer who would talk to birds, trees and rivers. An unacceptable bond, one that had to be broken by whichever means...

Through the short tales whispered by the wind, the priest, the bird, the village idiot, the jealous priest's housekeeper, the fog and the police detective, the story unfolds and truth comes to the surface, revealing the little horrors hidden in the depths of human hearts and their misery.

Little Berg lives with his mother. Grown-up Berg sees an industrial landscape from his window, among this two ages events take place. Objects become important and then irrelevant. Words substitute objects while the child changes names and identities. He has a father who owns a yellow Beetle with pink dots and teaches him the names of trees and mushrooms. He has grandparents in the city who educate him to the philosophical use of agnolotti and the contemplation of Lego blocks. He has sea-faring grandparents who accompany him in his growth, from a kitchen with a window overlooking the waves or from a magical closet. Berg grows up reshaping reality, in a continuous pouring of imagination.

As a child he has many "enemies", he gradually gets familiar with the metaphysical danger of objects, the inexorability of other people's thoughts, the years of lead. As a boy -amazed and incredulous -love and the awakening of an entire industrial city. As an adult, the strength and abandonment, the mute crowding and a loneliness that sizzles with its many inner voices. He finds God in a beach cabin - then loses him in an underground canteen.

A composable and intermittent story that jumps among the eras of Berg's life, which are also the eras of our recent history and which are, perhaps, the eras in the life of all of us, displaying the fragmented ego we all try to piece together.



## STEFAN ZWEIG

The Year Everything Changed

by **Raoul Precht**

**Bottega Errante, 224 p**

**ALL TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE EXCEPT POLISH**

### **Shortlisted for the Premio Comisso 2022**

1935 was the year when everything changed: for Stefan Zweig, who had to deal with a marital crisis and increasing publication difficulties; and for all of humanity, as the Nuremberg Laws made Jews second-class citizens.

In his novel, Precht analyzes the climate of that decisive year with intimate involvement, almost identifying himself with Zweig as he reflects on himself and his work, unable to oppose the spread of Hitler's ideology, for Jewish intellectuals and for she prophesied that the whole world of culture would fall into an abyss whose contours could only be guessed at the time. 1935 was the year when his wife Friderike became aware of his relationship with his secretary Lotte Altmann. In fact, the novel opens with the entry of Friderike, who discovers them while kissing. From this episode, a series of events related to the gradual distancing of the couple will branch out in the course of the book. In fact, during that long 1935 they will try to maintain a semblance of stability despite Zweig's continuous hindrances and movements.

1935 was, indeed, the year when, following an initial confrontation with the local police, Zweig decided to leave Salzburg and Austria and temporarily settle in Great Britain, while continuing to travel and meet writers and artists with whom he was friendly, from Thomas Mann to Joseph Roth, from Sigmund Freud to Arturo Toscanini. The many different places where he came to be, on both sides of the ocean and around Europe give name to the chapters of the book.

In these journeys the reader witnesses minor issues in Zweig's life, when compared with the major events he describes in his writings.

This book is in fact a quite different narrative from those to which we are accustomed with Stefan Zweig: Precht's narrative is turned inwards, in an aim to show that hidden part of Zweig that in his texts and epistolary exchanges does not show: rather than showing Zweig's gaze on the world, Precht shows the world's gaze on Zweig, from the very first lines, starting from his wife Friderike. In the twelve months of 1935 Zweig conceived the book on Castellio and Calvino, his most eloquent work from a political point of view and his personal manifesto against Nazism. Also, in 1935 the first signs show of that meandering weariness that will bring him -seven years later- to decide to end it, in a sort of homage to another famous "double suicide", the one of Heinrich von Kleist.

In an impassive and moving style Precht sheds light on Zweig's familiar and psychological aspects, the ones that drove him to suicide and are usually got rid of with the Pilate formula "he suffered from depressive crises". It is a fictional new perspective on the writer's life, a point of view that could turn up one's nose at first glance, but soon shows to be an increasingly valid and intriguing chance to appreciate and understand the inmost details of Zweig's world.

Born in Rome in December 1960, **Raoul Precht** lives in Luxembourg. He is the author of four novels and three volumes of poetry, one of which was reworked for the stage.

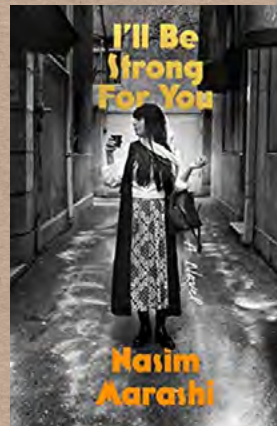


## A GUIDE TO DEATH BY MEDICAL HERBS

by **Atieh Attarzadeh**

**Nashre Cheshmeh, 117 p**

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NORWEGIAN, PORTUGUESE AND  
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## I'LL BE STRONG FOR YOU

by **Nasim Marashi**

**Nashre Cheshmeh, 189 p**

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The novel tells the story of a blind girl who has no connection to time or to other people, other than to her mother and the old house where they live. In the basement of this house, they prepare, mix, and package different Iranian traditional herbs. They sell these to Seyyed, an old herbalist; the only person who visits their house.

The young girl lost her sight seventeen years ago, during a mysterious event that led to the separation of her parents. In all these years, she has lived with her senses of smell and touch, feeling different plants and becoming familiar with their sometimes deadly powers. Her world has other occupants as well: the greatest novels of all time; Avicenna, the renowned Iranian philosopher and physician of the Middle Ages; and, of course, her mother with unusual beliefs, strange isolation, and a mysterious life story. The young girl searches the corners of this dark, quiet world to find missing pieces of her life, the shocking and terrifying pieces of a world where love and violence blend together. Everything is as usual until, one day, an unexpected event draws the girl and her mother outside the house, where she, for the first time, meets a young man, and this is the beginning of a storm that will lead to startling events...

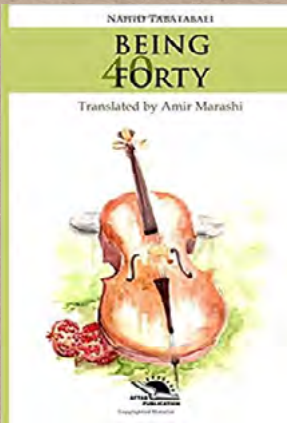
**Atieh Attarzadeh** was born in 1984 in Tehran. She was raised in a family of physicians, but studied documentary film and earned a master's degree in film from University of Tehran. She primarily became known as a poet and painter, and her poetry collection won the prestigious "Shamlou Award" in 2016, and was selected for the "Reporters" poetry award.

Three recent college graduates in Tehran struggle to find their footing in this award-winning debut by Iranian journalist Nasim Marashi. Roja, the most daring of the three, works in an architecture firm and is determined to leave Tehran for graduate school in Toulouse. Shabaneh, who is devoted to her disabled brother and works with Roja, is uncertain about marrying a colleague as it would mean leaving her family behind. Leyla, who was unable to follow her husband abroad because of her commitment to her career as a journalist, is wracked with regret. Over the course of two seasons, summer and fall, the three women weather setbacks and compromises, finding hope in the most unlikely places. Even as their ambitions cause them to question the very fabric of their personalities and threaten to tear their friendship apart, time and again Roja, Shabaneh and Leyla return to the comfort of their longtime affection, deep knowledge and unquestioning support of each other. Vividly capturing three very distinct voices, Marashi's deeply wrought narrative lovingly brings these young women and their friendship to life in all their complexity. A manifestation of feminine spirit against an imposing history.

**Nasim Marashi** is one of the most popular Iranian writers of recent years. Her novel *I'll be strong for you* has been reprinted twenty times and won the Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Award.

English and Italian full text available.

"Moving....Marashi succeeds at depicting her characters' limited freedom in an otherwise modern society." *Publisher's Weekly*



## BEING FORTY

by Nahid Tabatabaei

Nashre Cheshmeh, 213 p

DANISH, FINNISH, GERMAN,  
ITALIAN, NORWEGIAN,  
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## I'M PROBABLY LOST

by Sara Salar

Nashre Cheshmeh, 143 p

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*Being Forty* is the story of a woman who is frustrated and feels unfulfilled despite a comfortable life and a very happy family consisting of her loving and understanding husband and a daughter. The unfulfilled life is the consequence of the Revolution that deprived her of continuing to pursue her passion: playing the cello and becoming a concert cellist.

She experienced a period of confusion, examining her life and the causes of her frustration and disappointment. This coincides with the arrival of her former fellow musician who had left Iran and later had become a world famous conductor in Paris. She goes to the store room where she had put her cello away all those years ago and starts playing again after twenty years. She and the conductor meet and the conductor encourages her to resume and continue with her playing for she had been a very talented and promising musician.

The story is every person's gains and lost, regrets and disappointment in life. It also reflects on the gains at the expense of what was lost.

It reads beautifully and often reminds one of the human touch that one finds in Alice Monroe's stories.

English extract available.

The novel takes place in Tehran. It narrates a day of a middle-class woman's life. She drives aimlessly in the streets playing with the idea of cheating on her husband. As she wanders in the city, she delves into her childhood and its odd happenings. She reviews her rough adolescence and also her platonic love for a man. And above all she thinks of Gandom; an old female friend who always seemed to be the opposite of her in terms of boldness, liveliness, and freedom of spirit, yet very much alike her. A great deal of emotional strain due to the abundance of memories and dilemmas overwhelms her. She lost touch with Gandom a long time ago and now on the verge of a rebellion begins to look for her. On the one hand, she wishes to be with another man; a man who was in love with Gandom years ago and probably has news of her now. On the other hand, norms, ethics, and even her child are giving her cold feet. *I'm probably lost* is a novel which depicts one of the most important issues of the middle-class women in big cities of Iran; those who, questioning the established ethics, are driven by the desire to rebel against the norms.

The novel won the Hooshang Golshiri Literary Award and was nominated for Press Critics Award for the Best Book of the Year at its publication. The publishing of the book created an unprecedented wave in the Iranian literature resulting in the comparison of **Sara Salar's** novel with Zoya Pirzad's works. Sara Salar is considered to be one of the most important figures of the new generation of female writers in Iran.

Italian and German texts available.





## YOU WILL RETURN TO ISFAHAN

by **Mostafa Ensafi**

**Nashre Cheshmeh**, 276 p

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AND SWEDISH TRANSLATION  
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## ENDLESSNESS

by **Zahra Abdi**

**Nashre Cheshmeh**, p 253

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At the beginning of the Second World War, about one hundred and fifteen thousand Polish women escaped to Iran and were settled in cities such as Tehran and Isfahan to return to Poland after the war. However, when the war was over many of these women stayed in Iran. Referring to this historical event and the situation of today's Iran, Ensafi sets the stage for discovering forgotten pasts and emotions buried under the dust of time.

In those times Shamim Shamseh, a well-established and successful literature professor, lost the love of his life, Audrey, in unknown circumstances. Now with the appearing of Elisa - a Polish girl who has apparently come to Iran to track down her displaced grandma, he walks down the memory lane and relives his memories of Audrey or rather his assumptions about her. Elisa is aware that Shamim was once her mother's lover and wants to know about her mother's unknown side through his eyes. Shamim still yearns to unfold Audrey's secret and despite his wife and child's insistence to leave the turbulent Iran after the 2009 Iranian presidential election, he stays in the country and tracks down Audrey -or himself?- along with Elisa. In this quest, he comes to know about some aspects of himself and of people around him, which were formerly unknown. Would Audrey be the same as before?

**Mostafa Ensafi's** highly praised novel has been reprinted three times so far.

English extract available. Italian full text available.

*Endlessness* is a psychological and political novel. It is a mystery that narrates the lives of those modern Iranian women who are threatened by insecurities and for whom trust is an out of reach commodity. The multi-layered social insecurity depicted in the novel involves love, hatred and politics in a whole.

The story takes place on a girl-only university campus in today's Tehran. Lyan, a zestful, brave-hearted southern girl disappears all of a sudden. Soulmaz, a cowardly and cautious girl from Tabriz, cannot overlook this incident despite her inherited passivity and conservativeness. No one knows what's become of Lyan. There are rumors of her political involvement. Soulmaz sets on a quest to find her going through every corner of her life and all the people related to her. She even sets foot in terrifying neighborhoods in Tehran. In her quest, she encounters things she never dreamt she would come across. She faces her own true self and that of people around her... Each one of Lyan's acquaintances carries secrets that uncover parts of her life but there is more mystery to the girl... Is Lyan alive?

*Endlessness* has been written in the context of the political state of contemporary Iran. It pays special attention to the powerful political movements in universities in recent years, which carried many people away with them overnight and dissolve them somewhere in the history.

**Zahra Abdi**, born in 1974, has written four novels so far. *Endlessness* was nominated for the best novel of the year in most literary awards such as Ahmad Mahmoud Literary Award and 7 Eghlim Literary Award.



## WASTE OF TIMELESSNESS AND OTHER EARLY STORIES

by **Anaïs Nin**

**Ohio Swallow**, 376-400 p

**BULGARIAN, DUTCH, FINNISH, NORWEGIAN, ROMANIAN AND SWEDISH TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**



## COLLAGES

by **Anaïs Nin**  
with an Introduction by  
**Anita Jarczok**

**Ohio U.P.**, 170 p

**BULGARIAN, DUTCH, FINNISH, FRENCH, ITALIAN, NORWEGIAN, ROMANIAN AND SWEDISH TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

### **FRENCH, GERMAN, ITALIAN AND SPANISH RIGHTS SOLD.**

Written when Anaïs Nin was in her twenties and living in France, the stories collected in *Waste of Timelessness* contain many elements familiar to those who know her later work as well as revelatory, early clues to themes developed in those more mature stories and novels. Seeded with details remembered from childhood and from life in Paris, the wistful tales portray artists, writers, strangers who meet in the night, and above all, women and their desires.

These experimental and deeply introspective missives lay out a central theme of Nin's writing: the contrast between the public and private self. The stories are taut with unrealized sexual tension and articulate the ways that language and art can shape reality. Nin's deft humor, ironic wit, and ecstatic prose display not only superb craftsmanship but also the author's own constant balancing act between feeling and rationality, vulnerability and strength. Perhaps more than any other writer of the twentieth century, she mastered that act and wrote about it on her own terms, defying the literary and social norms of the time.

**Anaïs Nin** (1903–1977) is an iconic literary figure and one of the most notable experimental writers of the twentieth century. As one of the first women to explore female erotica, Nin revealed the inner desires of her characters in a way that made her works a touchstone for later feminist writers. Swallow Press is the premier US publisher of books by and about Nin.

A transplant from Vienna to Malibu who is driven by her urge to observe and depict those around her, Renate is "the freest woman I know." Working at the Paradise Inn restaurant, she encounters a series of people whose stories make up a larger collage: Henri the chef; Count Laundromat; Varda the artist and his teenage daughter, Nobuko the actress; the French Consul in the Hollywood Hills; an aged lifeguard with a spiritual longing for the sea; and Bruce, the intimate friend with an unnerving secret. First published in 1964 and now reissued with a new introduction by Anita Jarczok, *Collages* showcases Anaïs Nin's dreamlike and introspective style and psychological acuity. Seen by some as linked vignettes and by others as a novel, the book is a mood piece that resists categorization. Based on a close friend of Nin's, Renate is the glue that holds the pieces, by turn fragmentary and full, together. One character absorbs a lesson from the Koran: "Nothing is ever finished." With each of Renate's successive encounters, we take that message to be true.

And, of course, the diaries:





## WINTER OF ARTIFICE

Three Novelettes

by **Anaïs Nin**

**Ohio Swallow**, 148 p

**BULGARIAN, FINNISH, NORWEGIAN, ROMANIAN AND SWEDISH TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

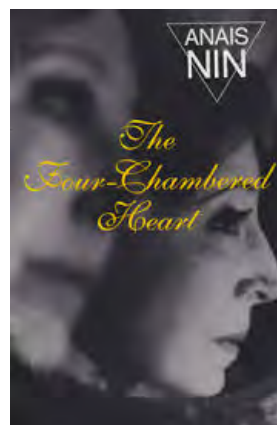
*Winter of Artifice* was first published in 1945. The book opens with a film star, Stella, studying her own, but alien, image on the screen. It ends in the Manhattan office of a psychoanalyst - the Voice who, as he counsels patients suffering from the maladies of modern life, reveals himself as equally susceptible to them. The middle, title story explores one of Nin's most controversial themes, that of a woman's sexual relationship with her father. *Elliptical*, fragmented prose, unconventional structure, surrealistic psychic landscapes, presents an important opportunity to consider anew the work of an author who laid the groundwork for later writers.

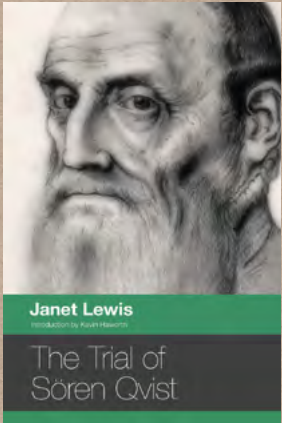
*Winter of Artifice* represents a literary artist coming into her own, with the formal experimentation, thematic daring, and psychological intrigue that became her hallmarks.

"The lead female characters begin small and damaged and eventually emerge at the other side more complete people at the expense of the men in their paths. But Nin accomplishes this with such delicacy and style that one would swear there was no other way." - Bookslut

**Anaïs Nin** (1903–1977) is an iconic literary figure and one of the most notable experimental writers of the twentieth century. As one of the first women to explore female erotica, Nin revealed the inner desires of her characters in a way that made her works a touchstone for later feminist writers. Swallow Press is the premier US publisher of books by and about Nin.

Also available, by Anaïs Nin:





# THE TRIAL OF SÖREN QVIST

by **Janet Lewis**

**Ohio U.P.**, 112 p

**BESTSELLING AUTHOR**

**FRENCH EDITION OF ALL THE TITLES OF THE SERIES BY LAFFONT. THE SECOND BOOK "THE TRIAL OF SOREN QVIST" AND THE THIRD BOOK "THE GHOST OF MONSIEUR SCARRON" ARE AVAILABLE FOR: GERMAN, SPANISH, ITALIAN, BULGARIAN, DUTCH, FINNISH, NORWEGIAN, ROMANIAN AND SWEDISH. EACH TITLE IS AN INDEPENDENT STORY.**

"Probably (The Trial of Sören Qvist) is the most perfect of Janet Lewis' novels, and among the most perfect of any novels." Fred Inglis, *Critique: Studies in Modern Fiction*

"The perfect novel of its genre."  
New York Times

"You know from the beginning what has happened—that a man has been executed for a murder no one in the small Danish community believes he committed. Yet circumstantial evidence points to him. By the end, he has convinced himself he is indeed guilty, and would rather die with a good conscience, forgiven by God, than struggle to live." Meredith Sue Willis's Books for Readers

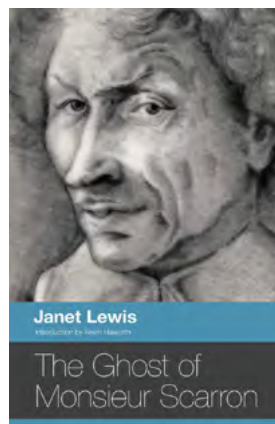
Based on a notorious seventeenth century trial is one of three novels making up **Lewis's Cases of Circumstantial Evidence**

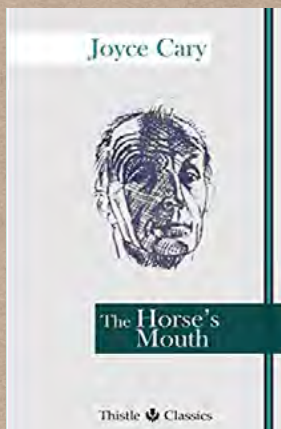
Also, by the same author:

**Janet Lewis** was a novelist, poet, and short-story writer whose literary career spanned almost the entire twentieth century. The New York Times has praised her novels as "some of the 20th century's most vividly imagined and finely wrought literature." She taught at both Stanford University and the University of California at Berkeley. Her works include *The Wife of Martin Guerre*, *The Trial of Sören Qvist*, *The Ghost of Monsieur Scarron*, *Good-Bye, Son* and *Other Stories*.

**THE FIRST TITLE OF THE SERIES "THE WIFE OF MARTIN GUERRE": GERMAN EDITION BY DTV, SPANISH EDITION BY PENGUIN, ITALIAN EDITION BY RACCONTI EDIZIONI. BULGARIAN, DUTCH, FINNISH, NORWEGIAN, ROMANIAN AND SWEDISH TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE.**

**EACH TITLE IS AN INDEPENDENT STORY.**





# JOYCE CARY: THE TRILOGY OF ART and THE TRILOGY OF POLITICS

## BESTSELLING AUTHOR

JOYCE CARY WAS AN ENGLISH NOVELIST WHO DEVELOPED A TRILOGY FORM IN WHICH EACH VOLUME IS NARRATED BY ONE OF THREE PROTAGONISTS WHO TELLS HIS PART OF THEIR INTERLOCKING EXPERIENCES AND REVEAL THEIR CONTRASTING PERSONALITIES. CARY'S BOOKS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN BULGARIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, FINLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, HOLLAND, HUNGARY, ISRAEL, ITALY, NORWAY, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA AND SPAIN.

Cary's trilogy on art begins with the first-person narration of a woman, Sara Monday, in *Herself Surprised* (1941) and follows with that of two men in her life, the lawyer Tom Wilcher in *To Be a Pilgrim* (1942) and the artist Gulley Jimson in *The Horse's Mouth* (1944), his best-known novel. Monday is portrayed as a warm-hearted, generous woman who is victimized both by the conservative upper-class Wilcher and by the talented but disreputable painter Jimson.

The latter character is a social rebel and visionary artist whose humorous philosophy and picaresque adventures in *The Horse's Mouth* helped make him one of the best-known characters in 20th-century fiction: The Horse's Mouth, famously filmed with Alec Guinness in the central role, is a portrait of an artistic temperament. Its principal character, Gulley Jimson, is an impoverished painter who bothers little about conventional values. His unquestioning certainty that he must live and paint according to his intuition without regard for the cost to himself or others makes him a man of great, if sometimes flawed, vision.

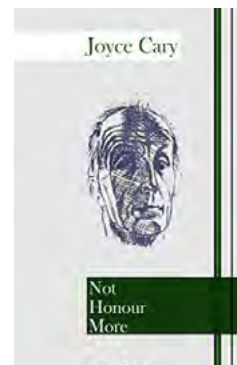
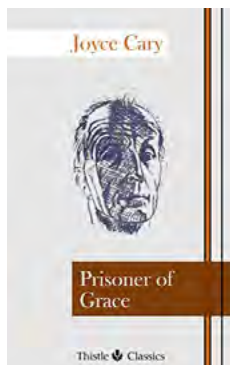
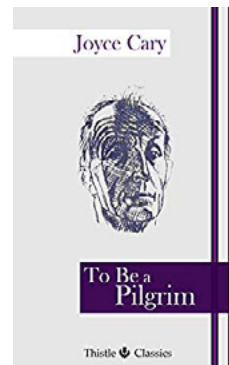
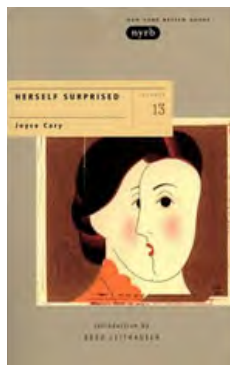
Cary's second trilogy is seen from the vantage of a politician's wife in *A Prisoner of Grace* (1952), the politician himself in *Except the Lord* (1953), and the wife's second husband in *Not Honour More* (1955).

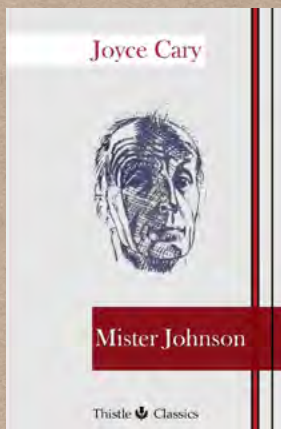
*"Whenever I am idle I choose a Cary novel in the way I might seek a friend's company, and it is not long before I am encouraged, inspired to write."* Paul Theroux

*"A splendid writer."* John Updike

**FRENCH, GERMAN AND ITALIAN (DEPENDING ON TITLE)  
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**Joyce Cary** was born in 1888 into an old Anglo-Irish family. He served in the Nigeria Regiment during the First World War. His time in Africa provided the inspiration for his early novels. At the time of his death in 1957, he was recognised as one of the leading novelists in the world. However he was also a fine short story writer, essayist and poet.





# MISTER JOHNSON

by **Joyce Cary**

**Thistle**, 198 p

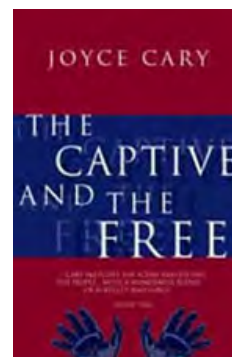
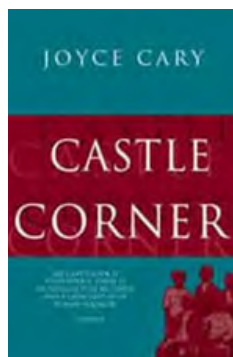
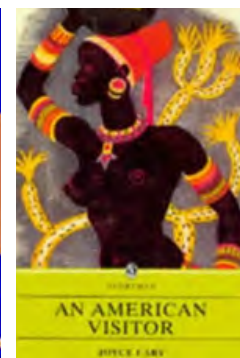
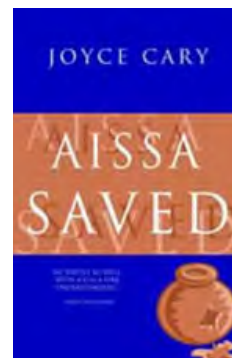
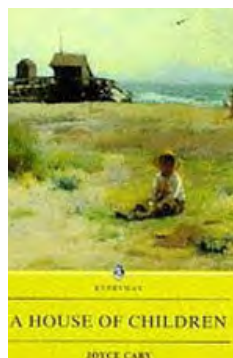
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Johnson, a young African, is assigned as clerk at a British district office in Fada, Nigeria. He is from a different district and is regarded as a foreigner by those native to the area. Johnson works his way into local society, marrying there only one wife- he was monogamous-, but never really fitting in. The district officer, Rudbeck, meanwhile, conceives the notion that a road linking Fada to the main highway and larger population centers will be of great benefit to the region. Johnson, as Rudbeck's clerk, also becomes enthused about this project. Johnson is one of Cary's joy-filled characters, possessor of a great energy that infects all around him. People are drawn to Johnson and follow him without realizing that they are being led. Indeed, Johnson has no clear idea of where he is going.

His mood infects Rudbeck and, when Johnson suggests how the books may be fiddled to support Rudbeck's road project, the colonial officer is seduced. Rudbeck and his superior work out the extent to which he can finagle road-building funds from the accounts and Johnson's infectious enthusiasm makes the road-building successful. But Rudbeck discovers that Johnson has been engaged in petty graft and dismisses him. Johnson turns to theft to support his lifestyle and, when discovered, kills the storekeeper where he has been stealing. Now Rudbeck must try Johnson for murder. The trial brings Rudbeck to the breaking point. Johnson is found guilty and begs Rudbeck to keep him from the gallows by killing him. Rudbeck follows his heart rather than the rules and does so, though the act will destroy his career and possibly have other ramifications, legal and personal, that lie beyond the closure of the novel.

*The book was adapted into the 1990 film Mister Johnson starring Maynard Eziashi in the titular role and Pierce Brosnan as Harry Rudbeck. The film was entered into the 41st Berlin International Film Festival, where Eziashi won the Silver Bear for Best Actor.*

Also by the same author:





## ONE OF US

by **Daniele Zito**

Miraggi Edizioni, 128 p

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AVAILABLE**



## THE GOOD OMEN

by **Lorenza Ronzano**

Miraggi Edizioni, 544 p

**ALL TRANSLATION RIGHTS  
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A dark, disturbing and gripping read.

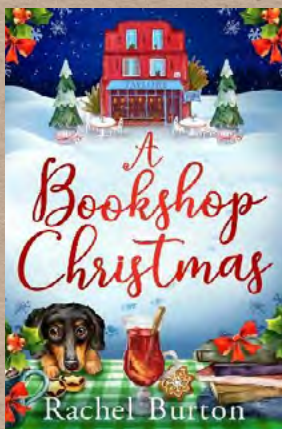
At the end of a soccer match, four old friends decide to set fire to a slum. There is no precise reason after the act, just the euphoria of the moment. Unfortunately, their bravado turns into tragedy and leaves indelible traces on all them. *One of us* is the account of these events, as seen and lived by all the characters involved, both the victims and the executioners.

A harsh book, a story of anger, hatred and frustration, which speaks of weak fathers, of their faults, of their useless repentance. It speaks of a town's soft underbelly, of its inexorable racism and impossibility of forgiving.

**Daniele Zito** is a novelist and a journalist. His contributions appeared on the *Indice del mese* and *Che fare*. His first novel was published in 2013, *La solitudine di un rapporto* (Hacca). His second novel, *Robledo* (2017, Fazi) was translated and published in France. In 2018 the novel *Catania non guarda il mare* was released and published by Laterza.

*The Good Omen* is a mosaic novel, which tells the story of Lorenza through her diary and emotional digressions. Lorenza is a "philosophical consultant" in the psychiatric ward of the hospital of her city, where she herself is being treated for paranoid schizophrenia. Episodes from her life and that of the patients that open up with her follow one after another, becoming an emotional polyphony. The sentimental life of the protagonist mirrors that of her alter-ego Lorenzo, who always acts seductively, but never really concedes to her advances. This surrogate of unrequited love prevents Lorenza from loving other men. Both entertain grotesque relationships with other partners, as if they loved each other through the other's bodies. A sort of sacrifice in front of which the bodies of the two lovers remain intact, untouchable. On a formal level, a large part of the novel is woven from the diary entries drawn up by the protagonist in an impressionistic way, as a "work of the time". Fluid and complex sexuality, worldliness, the difficult relationship with the male figures in her life, the relationship with writing and the emergence of madness in the folds of everyday life are the real, vibrant protagonists of this book.

**Lorenza Ronzano**, who died in 2021, taught Literature. She was a philosophical consultant of the psychiatric department of the hospital in Alessandria, and of the prosecutor's office in Milan. In 2014 she made her debut with the novel *Zolfo*, nominated at the Campiello award and finalist at the Premio Alvaro 2015; in 2019 she published the essay *The human variable*. Some of her articles have appeared in the *Wall Street International*, *Il primo amore* and *Minima & Moralia*.

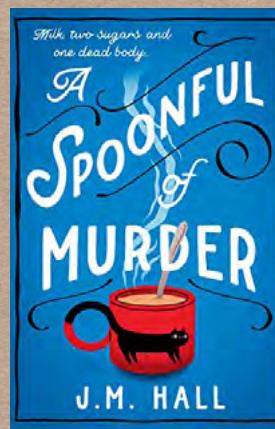


## A BOOKSHOP CHRISTMAS

by **Rachel Burton**

**Aria**, 416 p

GERMAN, FRENCH, SPANISH,  
ESTONIAN, LATVIAN AND  
LITHUANIAN TRANSLATION  
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## A SPOONFUL OF MURDER

by **J.M. Hall**

**Avon**, 331 p

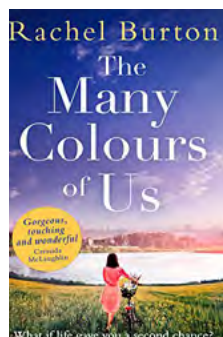
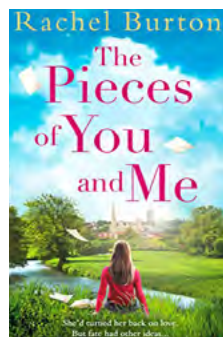
GERMAN, FRENCH, SPANISH,  
ESTONIAN, LATVIAN AND  
LITHUANIAN TRANSLATION  
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A brand-new heartwarming Christmas novel from the beloved author of *The tea room on the bay*.

A snowstorm. A stranger. A spark. And it's Christmas! It should be the perfect start to the perfect love story. But real life is far messier and more complicated than in the pages of the books in Megan Taylor's family bookshop – the last few years have left this young widow in no doubt of that. Moving back home to York should have been a fresh start, but all it did was allow her to retreat from the world. When prize-winning author Xander Stone rams his supermarket trolley into her ankles and then trashes her taste in books, Megan is abruptly awoken from her self-imposed hibernation. It's time to start living again, and she's going to start by putting this arrogant, but sexy stranger at his place...

**Rachel Burton** has published three books with HQ (HarperCollins), and is now on a two-book contract with Aria, Head of Zeus.

Also, by the same author:



A pitch perfect, page-turning cosy crime novel for or fans of *The Thursday Murder Club*, Agatha Christie, *Death in Paradise* and *Midsommer Murders*

Set in the bewitching village of Thirsk, Yorkshire, a dreamy setting, *A spoonful of murder* has charming characters and lots of cake! Retirement can be murder... Every Thursday, three retired school teachers - Thelma, Pat and Liz - have their 'coffee o'clock' sessions at the Thirsk Garden Centre café. One fateful week, as they are catching up with a slice of cake, they bump into their ex-colleague, Topsy. And by the next Thursday, Topsy's dead. The last thing Liz, Thelma and Pat imagined was that they would become involved in a murder. But they know there's more to Topsy's death than meets the eye – and it's down to them to prove it...

**J.M. Hall** is an author, playwright and deputy head of a primary school. His plays have been produced in theatres across the UK as well as for radio, the most recent being *Trust*, starring Julie Hesmondhalgh on BBC Radio 4. *A Spoonful of Murder*, is his first novel.

Readers reviews of *A Spoonful of Murder*:  
"Absolutely loved this book!! I was up all night reading and couldn't put the book down! I highly recommend!"  
NetGalley review

"Charming... The plot is cozy and tricky, with just the right blend of Miss Marple interesting and quirky characters, secrets, unexpected nuance, colourful cardigans, and of course, heaps of tea and warm companionship. I loved this book." NetGalley review





## THE FLOWER OF MINERVA

by **Carmine Mari**

**Marlin**, 432 p

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## THE QUEEN OF THEBE

by **Annamaria Zizza**

**Marlin**, 160 p

**ALL TRANSLATION RIGHTS AVAILABLE**

1551. A buried secret emerges from the earth with a flower in her hair. The 16th century is marked by passion, blind faith and court intrigues: barbarian pirate ships infest the Mediterranean and Henry II, king of France, never renounced his ambitions of domination over Italy, relying on the discontent of the Neapolitan nobility, intolerant of the Spanish policy of the viceroy of Naples Don Pedro Alvarez de Toledo. In Salerno, the former conquistador Héctor of Extremadura is in the service of Prince Ferrante Sanseverino. The cannons of his ship sink down a French brig, and the commander is the only survivor. The man carries an encrypted letter with him and some documents that Héctor delivers to the stratigote Marcantonio Villano. A series of murders and the disappearance of the letter will shake the astute Isabella Villamarina, wife of Prince Ferrante and a devoted subject of Emperor Charles V. Her husband's alliance plans with the King of France are as ambitious as they are dangerous: accusation of treason would be their undoing. For Héctor it will be a complex investigation that will intertwine with another mystery: the discovery of the skeleton of a little girl, found in the garden of Costanza Calenda, a fascinating and expert herbalist. He will have to dig into a story whose roots go back to the expulsion of the Jews from Spain.

**Carmine Mari** made his literary debut with the novel *Il regolo imperfetto*, awarded the National Literary Prize "Borgo di Albori". He published the novel *Hotel d'Angleterre*, a spy story with a historical background, winner of the Literary Prize "Giallo al Centro".

A compelling story, ignored by the history books: during the dynastic crisis in Egypt, a woman rebels against her destiny by making a courageous gesture and defying the laws of her time. We are in the period of full expansion of the Hittite empire, equipped with a formidable and still unknown weapon: tempered iron. An evocative narration that makes use of tight dialogue. A singular novel about the story of two empires and two women, Ankhesenamon and Malnigal.

Thebes, capital of Egypt, in the 14th century BC. Widowed of Pharaoh Tutankhamun, his beautiful and childless wife Ankhesenamon sends a letter to the king of the Hittites devising a plan to guarantee the descendants, in attempt to pacify her country and to give an heir to her kingdom.: a marriage. After some incertitude the Hittites are convinced to join the young queen by Menthuotep, sent by the queen as ambassador, and accept the proposal. They have long been waiting to conquer Egypt. They know they are stronger in battle because they know the secret of tempering iron, still unknown to other populations, who continue to forge bronze to build their weapons. The Hittite king, who married the Babylonian Malnigal, a dangerous and ambiguous expert in black magic, will send one of her sons, Zannanza, to marry the Egyptian queen, but things are never as simple as they seem.

Passionate about Near Eastern civilization, **Annamaria Zizza** collaborates with the Egyptology and Archeology magazine *Ancient Mediterranean* and has published the historical novel *Lo scriba e il Faraone* (2021).

Eulama's Staff is looking forward to hearing from you!  
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