

**GRANDI & ASSOCIATI
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London Book Fair 2011**

Fiction

Federica Bosco, *INNAMORATA DI UN ANGELO*, Newton Compton Feb '11, 320 pp.

With a unique and inimitable style, the bestselling author (over 500.000 copies sold) Federica Bosco writes a new chapter in romantic literature. Passages of great intensity alternate with moments of intelligent irony

'The degree of identification in Federica Bosco's books is so high it makes you wonder if she isn't a clairvoyant, rather than a novelist.' - Cosmopolitan

Mia is 16 years old and lives in Leicester. The daughter of separated parents, she is going through the hardest phase of her life, that of adolescence. But unlike her schoolmates, who spend their days in shopping malls stealing lipstick and listening to their Ipods, Mia wears her feet out at dance lessons in the hope of getting into the prestigious Royal Ballet School in London. Introverted, ironic and frank, Mia is not the most popular girl in the school, but she can count on the unconditional affection of Nina, whom she loves like a sister. Her passion for ballet is matched by her equally powerful (and secret) love for Nina's big brother, Patrick, who, alas, also regards her as a little sister. So she has no choice but to keep this secret in her heart and try to survive school and her family, endeavouring to have a bit of a social life, and concentrating her energies on dance in order to achieve her dream. But destiny has something in store for her that will throw her life into turmoil...

Federica Bosco is a novelist and screenwriter. She has published *Mi piaci da morire, L'amore non fa per me* and *L'amore mi perseguita* (the trilogy about the sentimental adventures of Monica), *Cercasi amore disperatamente* and *S.O.S. amore*. All these books have received great acclaim from the reading public and critics, both in Italy and abroad. She is also the author of two 'survival manuals' for young women: *101 modi per riconoscere il tuo principe azzurro (senza dover baciare tutti i rospi)* and *101 modi per dimenticare il tuo ex e trovarne subito un altro*. She has an highly popular blog at <http://www.federicabosco.com>

Translation rights with Newton Compton

Ferdinando Camon, *LA MIA STIRPE*, Garzanti, April 2011, 155 pp.

"It's as if his body copies my body which in turn copies another body. It's a question of race, of blood."

Ferdinando Camon's story is a touching one of immortality through the species. It is the story of a son by the bedside of his father, felled by a stroke and incapable of communicating in any normal, simple and direct way. So what's left? What's left is a genetic code that lets you recognize in your own body--for example, by means of a scar on the skull--traces of loved ones who survive in our genes. It's DNA taken as a shared external soul which can be handed down from father to son. What an extraordinary feeling, of both a sense of company and at the same time a sense of alienation, an identity which melds into that of our forebears. It's as if traits which have withstood the test of time rise to the surface from the very depths of our being, and we realize that we are in essence inhabited by our departed loved ones. Perhaps when someone dies, their children start resembling them more and more since the genes of the departed blossom in those remaining. The life of those left behind becomes a sort of settlement between absence and permanence. Children inherit the lives of their parents and thus also inherit a duty to fulfill their parents' unfulfilled missions in life.

Ferdinando Camon's novels cover the life of peasants, terrorism, psychoanalysis and the clash of civilizations due to immigration. All of his books are published by Garzanti. His books have been translated into 22 languages. Check his website: www.ferdinandocamon.it.

Mario Desiati, *TERNITTI*, Mondadori, April 2011, 264 pp.

Shrotlisted for the Italian most important literary award Premio Strega 2011

"The narrator's softly intriguing voice, his ability to float above reality, to look down on it with affection, yet at the same time probe its dark depths, dominates the book and pulls it together." – Repubblica

A rich, mature novel grounded in the simple needs of human beings

It is 1975. Mimi Orlando is 15 years old when she is forced to leave Apulia to follow her father who'd been hired by a huge Swiss factory manufacturing *lu ternitti* - Eternit, on which were pinned the hopes of a better life of thousands of migrant workers. Eternit looks like bread dough, but it's not. It's something that emits lethal fumes that slowly destroy the body. For Mimi those years up north are the years in which she is

consumed by a secret passion burning in the depths of the worker barracks—her love for Ippazio, an 18 year old boy...The 90s. Mimì is back in Apulia. Alone. Her determination and pride make her an exceptional woman. She has a teen-age daughter, Arianna, not much younger than she is herself. There are no men in their lives. Mimì has a ferocious kind of innocence, eager to experience the youth she never had, yet imbued with the strength of an entire lifetime. She is a loyal, unconventional mother, a fearless comrade for her colleagues working in the factory; she is a woman who can face her own anxieties and fears yet, listening to the voices of her ancestors who are her daily companions, she can also unyieldingly face the future.

Mario Desiati was born in 1977 in Martina Franca and lives in Rome. His first novel was *Neppure quando è notte* (Pequod, 2003). His second novel, *Vita precaria e amore eterno* (Mondadori 2006) won the Paolo Volponi Prize for Social Commitment. In 2008 his book *Il Paese delle spose infelici* (Mondadori, Mondello Prize 2009) was published, followed by *Foto di Classe*, a non fiction book (Laterza 2009).

Davide Ferrario, SANGUE MIO, Feltrinelli September 2010, 192 pp.

A father and his daughter, whose only link is a blood relationship, try to make up for twenty years' lost time

Just few days and Ulisse Bernardini will finish his jail sentence for armed robbery and murder, when he receives a letter from Gretel, his twenty-year-old daughter he didn't know to have, asking to visit him in jail. Ulisse has been a gangster, a bank robber, he is charming, intelligent, bon vivant, but now he sees no future ahead. Gretel suffers from a rare degenerative disease. Father and daughter finally meet: it's embarrassing, and touching. She breaks the ice inviting her father on a southward trip, to pray to San Biagio di Maratea for the miracle of healing. Travelling by car, along the streets cutting Italy vertically, the two of them learn hardly to know each other and Italy, surprising but also unchangeable.

Davide Ferrario is a famous film maker (*Dopo mezzanotte, La strada di Levi, Tutta colpa di Giuda*) and the Italian distributor of important film makers as Wenders, Jarmush, Fassbinder. He won the Hemingway Award for his first novel, *Dissolvenza al nero* (Longanesi 1994/Sperling&Kupfer 1997 translated in France, Germany, Brazil and Greece).

Rights sold to: Russia/ Ripol; France/Lattès

Beppe Lanzetta, INFERNAPOLI, Garzanti May 2011, 200 pp.

A novel with the speed of an action film. A fall into the black heart of Italy.

Vincent Profumo is one of the camorra's most ferocious and powerful bosses. He is rich, feared, respected. He loves opera and is devoted to the religious figure of Padre Pio. He is surrounded by four women—his wife and daughters, MariaSole, MariaLuna and MariaStella. His daughters are all named after Maria Callas. Profumo's life is bloody yet complete until he has to deal with the head of the new Chinese mafia coming from the East. That is when the blood really begins to flow... InferNapoli is the epic story of a cynical, passionate 'wise guy'. A bad guy who seems to step from the pages of a pulp fiction novel and speak with a Neapolitan accent. Beppe Lanzetta pulls back the curtains and shows us the boss's private life, his fears, how he thinks, his instincts, how his grossly overweight body reacts. It's all laid bare and we see the naked truth of him—his ferocity, his weaknesses, his charm and his grotesque humanity.

Peppe Lanzetta (Napoli, 1956) debuted with *Napoletano pentito* in 1983. He worked also for cinema and tv, with directors as Tornatore, De Crescenzo, Martone and Abel Ferrara. He published short stories and novels. Among them *Figli di un Bronx minore, Incendiami la vita* and *Giugno Picasso* (Award Domenico Rea 2006).

Giuseppe Lupo, L'ULTIMA SPOSA DI PALMIRA, Marsilio February 2011, 174 pp.

"The Italian Gabriel Garcia Marquez" – Daniela Pizzigalli

November 23, 1980: an earthquake hits the Basilicata and Campania regions causing deaths, missings and homelesses. A Milanese anthropologist rushes towards Palmira, a tiny village in the middle of the Apennine Mountains, which curiously doesn't appear on maps. She finds streets and discontinued railways, collapsed dams and bridges, destroyed homes and traumatized families. Only one carpenter's workshop is still standing. Inside, Master Gerusalemme builds furniture all day long for the last bride of the village. On the panels, he draws legends that have been handed down over the years: mysterious prophecies of people without time or memory, miracles of a wonderful place where Christians, Jews, Muslims live together. The furniture panels are the only proof that Palmira has really existed, and in them every man fulfills his destiny.

A dialogue with evasive eyes and arcane words begins between the anthropologist and the carpenter. They set off on a journey to find the last bride and the adventure leading toward the secrets of this community, transformed by the apocalyptic earthquake into an immense manger scene of dead people.

Giuseppe Lupo was born in Lucania (Atella, 1963) and now lives in Lombardy where he teaches contemporary Italian literature at l'Universita Cattolica in Milan and in Brescia. With Marsilio he published the novel *L'americano di Celenne* (2000; Premio Giuseppe Berto, Premio Mondello opera prima, Prix du premier roman), *Ballo ad Agropinto* (2004) and *La carovana Zanardelli* (2008; Premio Grinzane Cavour-Fondazione Carica, Premio Carlo Levi). Translation rights with Marsilio

Marino Magliani, *LA SPIAGGIA DEI CANI ROMANTICI*, Instar Jan 2011, 234 pp.

“There is a degree of virtuosity in the way the narrator and his loser heroes lie about their yearnings and their lost dreams. It’s a virtue, in equal measure poetic of the composition and human.” - Alias

A noir mystery, hardboiled and romantic, tight and spare

In the pampas in Lincoln, Argentina, the exodus of the chicos piola to go work in Europe, in the nightclubs of the Costa Brava, signals the end of summer. One day in 1983, Almeja leaves Lincoln, too. Almeja fought in the Falklands and wants to become a footballer. His family comes from Italy, so he lands there looking for a team to play for, taking his girlfriend with him. However, once he is in Europe, he is hopelessly attracted to Loret de Mar—the beach of the kids from Lincoln, the endless nights, the beaches full of youngsters on holiday, which are also the beaches where a number of English soldiers die a horrible death. Almost thirty years later, a Dutch journalist looks up some of the kids of that time, following Almeja’s path in reverse, and uncovers traces of the past that everyone thought had disappeared but which are still tangible.

Marino Magliani has first-hand knowledge of the places and background of the novel. He has invented both a slang and a literary language which will surprise even the most sophisticated reader and will delight even the most rabid of thriller fans, placing him right in the tradition of the greatest writers of noir fiction in the Mediterranean—Izzo, Manchette, Carlotto, Yasmina Kahdra, Manuel Vazquez Montalban

Pre-empted in *The Netherlands/Prometheus*

Emilia Marasco, *FAMIGLIA: FEMMINILE PLURALE*, Mondadori Feb ‘11, 170 pp.

“It’s more important to have a model family than a family model. Here’s a larger-than-life version of a family that grows, becomes aware, cries and laughs, all in the space of less than 170 pages. You can read it in one sitting. And learn something.” - Repubblica

Two edition in one month

Genoa. A home filled with light, a beach view, a big, noisy, chaotic family with its very own center of gravity: Nina. Nina is a red-head who wears long skirts and flat shoes and is one of those women who have been gifted with the knowledge of how to keep the world together. Nina has four children, two exes and an entirely unexpected third marriage which came like a gift in her forties. We follow Nina—January through December—during the year before her fiftieth birthday and watch as she manages to fit so many things into her life, from her job as a gallery owner, which she loves, to meeting the many needs of her ‘mongrel family’. Emilia Marasco’s novel is a marvel of lightness and life, written in an easy, immensely likeable style. We follow Nina’s year as sketched out for us by the author in a delightfully ironic yet sympathetic recounting of the problems large and small of a modern-day family.

Emilia Marasco lives and works in Genova. She is professor of Arts at the Accademia Ligustica di Belle Arti in Genova. She published essays, articles. In 2008 was published her first book, *La memoria impossibile* (Tea).

Mariangela Mianiti, *ANCHE IL CAVIALE STANCA*, Sonzogno April 2011, 333 pp.

Halfway between a comedy by Lina Wertmüller and Desperate Housewives, a reckless and mad woman faces the tough moments of the today’s economic crisis in Milan with irresistible irony.

Prunella... with that improbable name pronounced with an exaggerated “rrr”, is the quintessence of the Milanese lady. At forty, she frequents the best society, but secretly grew up with *I love Shopping* and *Sex and the City*. Now Prunella is terrorized by the thought of growing old, especially after seeing her daughters become more stupid. This is what she thinks when seeing the thin and pale Opale read *Anna Karenina* all day long while Dafne, who looks as if she’s come out of a rehab, smokes pot and drinks beer. It’s really despairing for a glamorous mother like herself, who spends her life with parties, invitations, premières and private views, beauty treatments of all kind: massages, fillers, Botox and trips to the spa. As if that weren’t enough, the financial crisis comes, the husband goes broke and Prunella is forced to think up new tricks in order to maintain her tenor of life...

Mariangela Mianiti was born in Parma and now lives between Milan and Switzerland. She writes for “La Repubblica” and “Vanity Fair”. She has won two important journalistic prizes (Reporter of the Year, 2003; Premio Maria Grazia Cutuli, 2005) and has published two investigative books, *Una notte da entraineuse, Lavori, consumi, affetti narrati da...*, *La vita Viagra, Uomini, pillole, sesso e relazioni*. To analyze the defects and virtues of Italians, she disguised herself as a hostesses, a waitress at a luxury-hotel, a countess in search of a villa, a single looking for a husband, and a patient for plastic surgeon.

Translation rights with Sonzogno

Bruno Morchio, *COLPI DI CODA*, Garzanti November 2010, 280 pp.

For the first time Bacci Pagano faces the great events of international politics, first of all with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Four young bodies mangled by a spray of Kalashnikov bullets lie in two rooms. Just older than kids, maybe Arab, with no names or identity. The place of this massacre is a little flat in the heart of Genoa, just round the old port. The private detective Bacci Pagano is asked to investigate this multiple murder by the imam of the Italian Islamic Community, in order to clear Bashir, one of the tenants of the flat. Bacci is sent to Lisbon to meet an Irish freelance journalist expert on geopolitics and war scenarios. The investigations bring him to Berlin as well, before taking a dangerous turn...

Bruno Morchio lives and works in Genoa as a psychologist and a psychotherapist. He writes articles about literature, psychology and psychoanalysis for several magazines. He wrote other six novel featuring Bacci Pagano as the hero. He is a great bestselling author in Italy and Germany (DTV).

Film rights optioned

Mario Paternostro, *TROPPE BUONE RAGIONI*, Il Melangolo March 2011, 226 pp.

A new police 'Commissario' joins the ranks of Salvo Montalbano, Guido Guerrieri and Bacci Pagano in Italian noir literature

In the spirit of Simenon, Mario Paternostro pens a thrilling, beautifully orchestrated plot. The investigation covers three intense days in Genoa under the broiling summer sun. Augusto Tasca Taschini, the son of a well-known surgeon, is kidnapped on his way home. The police are alerted. It will take, however, the skills and intuition of Commissario Falsopepe to solve this case which will keep the reader glued to the page. The bitter truth is a shock to the bourgeoisie of the city, whose lies and deceptions under the mantle of respectability are shockingly laid bare.

Mario Paternostro was born in 1947 in Genoa. He worked for 'Il Lavoro' and 'Il Giornale' with Indro Montanelli, and was chief reporter, special envoy and deputy director at 'Il Secolo XIX'. Currently is the director of the TV channel 'Primocanale' and teaches journalism at the faculty of Political Science. He writes essays on history and politics. He divides his time between his home town of Genoa and the trulli of Apulia, which he has chosen as his buen retiro.

Alessandro Perissinotto, *SEMINA IL VENTO*, Piemme April 2011, 276 pp.

First print run 20.000 copies. Great marketing campaign in bookshops and massive coverage on media, newspaper and internet.

Perissinotto will attend the Mondadori Festival in Pietrasanta in Spring

This is a book which, however magnificent, is sure to unsettle readers who cannot cope with life's uncertainties - Paolo Conte

Giacomo Musso, a 35 year old teacher is led by love, or perhaps by chance, to incarceration in the maximum security wing of the Novara penitentiary. He protests his innocence while holding the newspaper with a photo of the mutilated corpse of his wife. Out of desperation, Giacomo decides to tell the story of his life—that is, the series of events which inevitably led him to this cell. Their marriage was not a red-hot love affair, but rather something that grew slowly and steadily; a love meant to last. He and his wife decided to move back to Molini, a town in the Piedmontese mountains, where Giacomo was born. Giacomo wanted to move back because he was homesick. Shirin wanted to move to Molini because she needed the security of roots after escaping Iran. But Shirin was wrong. Even in Molini, she remained a foreigner, treated first with intrusive curiosity and then with mistrust. So this non-believer, this atheist, made the mistake of turning to the elaborate religiosity of her compatriots. Now nothing is left of her and of their love, except for the memories Giacomo writes down in his diary, in the hope that perhaps he can write another, better ending to the story.

Alessandro Perissinotto teaches at the University of Turin and had written a number of essays. In 1997, he wrote his first novel, a police procedural - *L'anno che uccisero Rosetta* (Sellerio). Then he wrote *La canzone di Colombano* and *Treno 8017* (Sellerio). In 2004, he published with Rizzoli *Al mio giudice* (2005 Grinzane Cavour Prize for Italian Fiction) a noir in epistolary form, followed by *Una piccola storia ignobile*, *L'ultima notte bianca* and *L'orchestra del Titanic*. His thoughts on police procedurals were turned into a non-fiction book, published in 2008 - *La società dell'indagine* (Bompiani). He continued writing fiction, publishing *Per vendetta* in 2009. His novels have been translated into several European languages and into Japanese. He also writes for "La Stampa" and its supplement "TorinoSette".

Aurelio Picca, *SE LA FORTUNA È NOSTRA*, Rizzoli February 2011, 240 pp.

“What an important book--a diary-novel where the author gets his hands dirty kneading together past and present” - La Repubblica

“An archaic family that veers from cheerfulness to ferocity and back” - La Repubblica

“An intense dialogue between the id and memory” - Il Giornale

“Picca is the greatest stylist our literature has.” - Il Giornale

A novel dealing with memory and full of memories, written in a style as harsh and bitter as the land.

The novel is set in a world full of primitive and passionate rites, a world of men who are as sweet as honey and as fierce as animals, ferociously and viscerally devoted to their land. Grandfather Aurelio, a fiercely anti-clerical republican, encouraged the author to write this book, dedicated to the ‘fortuna’ – the luck – in the title. The old man hoped luck would turn his way and help him rebuild the family fortune the founder of the family, Grandfather Arcangelo, had lost. Close to death, Aurelio had shown his favorite grandson splinters of gilt wood Arcangelo had given to him. He’d kept the gilt slivers of wood in the desperate hope that they would turn back into the wings of the Archangel Michael, the founder’s guardian angel, thus restoring the family’s lost grandeur. The author’s writings keep alive the memory of Arcangelo and Aurelio in the eyes of their descendants.

Aurelio Picca was born in Velletri. Among his novels published by Rizzoli are: *Tuttestelle* (1998), *Bellissima* (1999), *L'esame di maturità* (2001), *Sacrocuore* (2003), *Via Volta della morte* (2006). He writes for magazines and newspapers.

Antonio Semerari, *L'AMANTE DEGLI ULTIMI FUOCHI*, Piemme Feb '11, 446 pp.

A fascinating and profound family saga. A surprising debut

1704. Don Francesco Caracciolo, Duke of Martina, stares at the sky, trying to descry his future. He inherited his title only a month ago, though the last years of life of his father are enveloped in obscurity. The Iron Man who was never vanquished on the battlefield became a helpless child in the hands of Gaetano Faraone, his adviser and a simple tailor, seemingly unworthy of the trust of an aristocrat. Yet Faraone had managed to convince his father to banish him, the first-born son, and his wife from Martina, confining them in a villa on the borderlands of the Duchy. Only now has Francesco learned the truth. Many feel that Faraone cast a spell on his father with the help of a witch, a woman in the throes of the devil, who managed to dim the mind of the old man and who will now try to dim Francesco’s mind. The Duke never thought he would ever be forced to deal with this world he had always held in contempt, a world of superstitious dimwits, ensnared in a world of amulets and spells. He is terrified of falling prey to this underworld and will do anything to hold onto his power and his self control. Only once Francesco is free of the ghosts of his past will he realize that times are changing, that pyres for witch burning are dying to embers and that a true, tangible enemy lies in wait to take over his domain and break his will.

Antonio Semerari, was born in 1950, he is graduated in Medicine at Università La Sapienza di Roma. He is One of the most famous experts of cognitive science in Italy. He published many essays such as *La psicologia dei costrutti personali*, *Le teorie cognitive dei disturbi emotivi*, *I processi cognitivi nella relazione terapeutica* and *Psicoterapia cognitiva del paziente grave*. Di recente ha pubblicato con Laterza *Storia, teorie e tecniche della psicoterapia cognitiva e Stati mentali, metarappresentazione, cicli interpersonali*.

Alessio Torino, *TETANO*, Minimum fax April 2011, 200 pp.

“Tetano” packs the tension of a thriller with the emotional punch of an initiation-rite novel

In a small town in the Apennine Mountains, three young boys plan their great adventure. They want to build a raft that can float down a nearby river. Alas, some very strange men are hanging about the woods around the village. Even the ‘quiet’ little town they grew up in is rife with tension and unexplained mysteries. Life gets even more complicated when a fourth friend, Tetano, joins the three buddies. The whole town has conspired to hide from Tetano the brutal truth of his father’s death, so for Tetano, building that raft acquires a significance which goes well beyond a simple summer project. Tetano takes the lead and drags the boys into the secrets of the woods and of the town. Rafting down the river signals the loss of innocence and will mark the boys for life.

Alessio Torino (born in 1975) is a professor of South American literature at the University of Urbino. He has published a number of short stories in “Nuovi Argomenti”. His debut novel, *Undici Decimi*, was published in 2010 by Pequod won the Bagutta Award for debut novel and was short listed for the Campiello Prize and tied for the 2010 Frontino Prize with *Stirpe* by Marcello Fois.

Translation rights with Minimum fax

Non Fiction

Federica Brunini, SARÒ REGINA, Sonzogno March 2011, pp. 168

The life of Kate Middleton as if she herself had told me

The secret chronicle of the wedding of the century. A commoner on the throne of the United Kingdom. The gossip and behind the scenes of the fairy tale that is making millions of women dream. Between biography, gossip, fantasy and creative license, a journalist from one of the most tenacious gossip magazines recounts the story of Kate Middleton – her childhood in the country, chasing ducks, school plays in which she was always the princess, a restless adolescence with the photo of William hanging above the bed. And then, in college, the fateful encounter: their first words, living together, the joy and pain of a royal love.

Federica Brunini is a world-traveling journalist reporter and a photographer. The issues with her special investigations have sold more than 250,000 copies. For the weekly *Diva e Donna*, she monitored the activities of the British royals and developed a passion for them. She has been following the story of Kate Middleton especially closely, the future commoner Queen of the United Kingdom. She has published *Il piccolo libro verde del viaggio: 250 eco-sustainable suggestions*. She lives in Milan even though she keeps saying that she will move elsewhere.

Giacomo Dacquino, DOVE INCONTRI L'ANIMA, Mondadori February 2011, 251 pp.

Giacomo Dacquino analyses nature and the various forms of spirituality in today's world using as his point of departure the stories and feelings of his patients. All of his cases are harbingers of an increasing state of anxiety and dissatisfaction with the offerings of a society predicated upon hedonism and consumerism and of the ceaseless thirsting after something which can overcome the anxieties and neuroses of daily life. It is important to throw off the shackles of the conditioning of our education and learn to listen to and understand our inner selves, in the hope that each and every one of us can experience that deep inner spiritual quest to honor and unleash our truest selves.

Giacomo Dacquino is a neurologist, psychiatrist, psychotherapist and university professor who lives and works in Turin. He has published over two hundred articles on psychiatry, sexology and psychoanalysis. He has written several books: *Che cos'è l'amore* (1994), *Paura d'amare* (1996), *Legami d'amore* (1997), *Se questo è amore* (1999), *Credere e amare* (2000), *Bisogno d'amore* (2002), *Seduzione* (2004), *Relazioni difficili* (2006) and *Soldi, sesso e sentimenti* (2008) translated in Croatia. In 2000, he received a special award, the Premio Speciale, from the President of the Italian Republic for his outstanding contributions to science.

Paolo Di Stefano, CATASTRÒFA, Sellerio April 2011, 249 pp.

"This is an unusual book, a richly woven tale made up of eyewitness reports, documentation and story-telling which is darkly attractive. In its distance from the historical, political and above all human truth, it shatters a number of tropes of modern-day literature made up of petty picayune events." – *Corriere della Sera*

"Such lively tales, such a wealth of accents you almost feel the hardships of life at that time. Each tale is utterly unique, individual." – *L'Unità*

This is a book that forces the reader to think hard about labor, about the dignity of labor, and about safety and migration.

Marcinelle, August 8, 1956. The 'catastrophe' is the fire that broke out 975 meters underground in a coal mine in Charleroi, Belgium. This minor accident cost the lives of 262 men, who were killed not because of the accident itself but were by the lack of any protection and by disorganization.

This is a narrative non fiction based on real life, the dialogue taken from the impassioned speech of the victims, from old miners who survived, from their families and their children. The voices lead the reader straight down into the burning inferno of the caves on fire, in the fissures where they desperately sought safety, and topside, among the tears shed by family members, the clamor of the rescue teams and the broken phrases of the first statements.

Paolo Di Stefano, born in 1956, correspondent of "Il Corriere della Sera" has been chief of culturale pages. He debuted in journalism at "Il Corriere del Ticino" in Lugano. He has worked for l'Einaudi and "La Repubblica". He published with Feltrinelli *Azzurro, troppo azzurro; Baci da non ripetere, La famiglia in bilico, Tutti contenti, Aiutami tu*. With Rizzoli *Nel cuore che ti cerca* and *Potresti anche dirmi grazie*.

Gabriele Nissim, *LA BONTÀ INSENSATA*, Mondadori January 2011, 264 pp.

Three editions and 15.000 copies sold

Gabriele Nissim's book is an invitation to reflect upon the 20th century's greatest thinkers—Hannah Arendt, Vasilij Grossman, Ety Hillesum, Hans Jonas, Varlam Ialamov, Itsván Bibó, Jan Patočka, Václav Havel—men and women who have written about the possibility of good in the midst of extreme situations. Nissim analyses the meaning of the terms 'responsibility', 'dignity', 'truth', 'judgment', 'forgiveness' and 'conciliation' and tries, within the context of many stories, to grasp exactly what was the trigger which led these individuals to carry out what appear to be senseless acts of goodness.

The author concludes that the just are not "saints, but just as imperfect as we all are; we can consider them to be friends who teach us how to live our daily lives enjoying helping those weaker than ourselves, enjoying the courage to think for ourselves, the ability not to lie to ourselves, to put ourselves in someone else's shoes, to be able to forgive and yet not feel ourselves to be the sole bearers of truth."

Gabriele Nissim, (Milano 1950), essayist, founded in 1982 L'Ottavo Giorno, an Italian magazine about the clandestine dissent in the East of Europe. He works for "il Mondo", "Il Giornale" and "il Corriere della Sera". He published with Mondadori, with Gabriele Eschenazi, *Ebrei invisibili: I sopravvissuti dell'Europa orientale dal comunismo a oggi, L'uomo che fermò Hitler, Il tribunale del bene, Una bambina contro Stalin*.

Gianna Schelotto, *NOI DUE SCONOSCIUTI*, Mondadori April 2011, 174 pp.

"We think we know everything about the people we live with. Until we're proven wrong."

"Deceiving one another for the sake of peace. Thousand stories of people living together without knowing each other" - Repubblica

"You can live with someone for better or for worse and still find out that there is a sort of parallel universe, where your partner conducts an entirely separate existence, silently and secretly. You might have thought you knew everything about that person, warts and all, and yet that person's life is utterly surprising, completely different from what you thought you knew."

"And yet, if you have the nerve to look clearly into yourself and be pitiless about it, you almost always find that you have long overlooked obvious clues, and that what you are most astonished by, the wild card in the deck, was there right from the start. Quite a few painful surprises don't treacherously creep up on you from out of the blue. Though you might ignore them (while surreptitiously being aware of them), they are—right from the start—in the background of most relationships between men and women, between parents and their children, between friends and between enemies."

Whether we like it or not, whatever the type of relationship—be it conjugal, family or friendship—there are hidden aspects, secrets and degrees of ambivalence. These are precisely the hidden rooms of love which Gianna Schelotto leads us through in her new non fiction book. She guides us through these surprises with a psychologist's awareness and a writer's ability to creep into the soul of the reader, just as doubts creep into the soul as well.

Gianna Schelotto is Italy's most renowned sexologist, specialized in couples therapy and the treatment of psychosomatic symptoms. She writes for newspapers and magazines. Mondadori has published a number of successful books of her. Many of them translated in Germany, Brazil, Japan, Portugal and Korea.

Sergio Valzania, *U-BOOT*, Mondadori January 2011, 262 pp.

From 1940 to 1943, one of the longest and most bloody battles of the Second World War was fought in the depths of the Atlantic Ocean, where German U-Boats skirmished with the fleet and the air force of the Allies. Admiral Donitz, the skillful commander of the Unterseeawaffe, had an ambitious goal—to use his submarines to destroy the Anglo-American merchant fleet and block shipping traffic between North America and Europe, cutting off supplies to England to force her surrender. Admiral Donitz was certain his plan would provide the tipping point and resolve the war in favor of the Axis. Admiral Donitz wrongly believed that the dedication, spirit of sacrifice and discipline of his sailors would suffice to break the iron hold the Americans and the English had over the Atlantic. Though there were early victories, his conviction proved to be a fatal mistake. Eight submarines out of ten were destroyed during the course of the conflict and one unit out of three sank on its maiden mission. Sergio Valzania not only provides a detailed, realistic technical and military reconstruction of the great Battle of the Atlantic, but he also gives the human element, telling the stories of the men—some barely out of boyhood—who fought in the U-Boats, giving horrifying descriptions of life in those steel cans.

Sergio Valzania historian and journalist ("Repubblica", "la Nazione", "Il Giornale"), radio and tv author is the director of Radio2. Between his last publications, *Brodo nero*, *Sparta pacifica, il suo esercito, le sue guerre; Jouvence; Tre tartarughe greche; Le armi dei maghi; Una radio strutturalista. Consigli per ascoltare e trasmettere; Jutland. 31 maggio 1916. La più grande battaglia navale della storia; Austerlitz. La più grande vittoria di Napoleone*. He contributed to the book by *La città degli uomini* (Mondadori). And is co-author with Franco Cardini of *Le radici perdute dell'Europa. Da Carlo V ai conflitti mondiali* (Mondadori).