

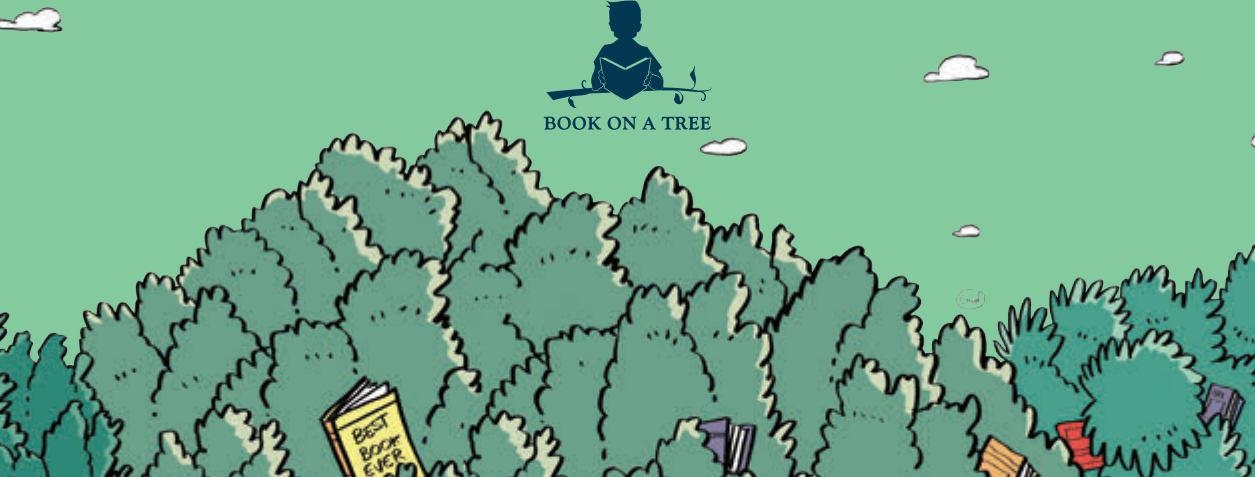


SCHOOL

Picture Book • The Truth Is Like a Bird • Are you there Bigfoot? • The Elves on Strike • The House of Light • I am a Leaf • I wrote you a book (just not this one) • An Accidental Christmas • And Then It Was Time • Homes around the World • Monsieur Claquette's Sunday • Ogre Nostril's Christmas • Read Again Nana • There's a Smudge on My Drawing! • The Admiral Has Nicked the Sky • To Catch a magic frog • Walking with Poldo • **Early Readers** • Tiny Houses • Who Said Santa Isn't Real? • Detecticat • I Don't Like Going to School • Who Stole the Star? • **Chapter Books** • Super Toothless • Mouse Encounters of the Third Kind • Ghosts Are Kindly Asked Not to Scream • Super Bomb & Captain Frizz • The Animals of Strangewood • Detective Linus • A Too-Secret Agent • A Waking Nightmare • **Non Fiction** • Homes around the World • The Game Book of All Olympic Sports • Animal Superstars • True Stories of Incredible Exploits and Other Things Like That • 160 Films (and Series) to Watch Before You're 16 (and even after) • The Fear of the Lion • Tawny Owl Family • The Children of the Forest • The Summer of the Great Bear • The Big Book of Submarines • Save the World • Journey beyond the Unknown • 15 Questions • **Graphic Novel** • Peek-a & Boo • The Forest • Moon Kids • **Middle Grade** • Enid Enigma • Ghost Agency • My Friend is a Witch • Post Tenebras • Diary of Jane Burrasca: The Walkman Files • The Jukebox Time Machine • In the Footsteps of the Great Classics • I'm Too Me! • Magic Potions & Other Disasters • Calypso, the Wi-Fi Girl • Celeste's War • Darkmare • Dedalo & Dharma • Draconis Chronicle • In the Pard's Shadow • The Berlin Offside • The Book Rebels • The Loonies Strike Back • The Coming of the Bear • The Desert Foxes • The Evil Twenty • The Greys • The Phenomenal P.T. Heliodore • Uncle Cringe • Zilla Snake Fangs • Il ladro dei cieli • Bone Music • A Letter with Pigtales • A Hundred Steps to Freedom • Iris Cloudsaway and the Tower of Dreams • Maud West, Lady Detective • Puzzle Mysteries • The Mysteries of Mercurio • The Legendary Treasure of Hell Gate • The Mystery of Kaspar Hauser • The You • The Pocket Watch Gang • The Lost Flower of the Shaman of K • The Greatest • Red Stars • The Son of the Sea • The Wind Thief • The Crimson City Heist • Maydala Express • The Last Hunter • The Missing Piece • The Dreamers Room • **Upper Middle Grade** • Haven's End • The Fisher Girl • The Forest • Cassandra Apollinaire's Prodigious Soul-Capturing Machine • CountDawn • Barriera • Burn This Book • The Kids Who Saved Dr Zhivago • Escape from Paradise • Free to Be Me • Hack3r • Like Cicadas • Hoop Driver • Night of the Biplanes • Nothing Ever Changes Here • Of Fire and Silk • Olga • The Houses of the Dead Have No Stairs • The Night of the Malombre • The Night of the Stag Beetles • The Pikes of Lake Road • Three Friends On Holiday • Three Friends, One Diary • The Forbidden Hour • Bright Nights • We Are Fire • White Fog • Two Nights • **Young Adult** • The Night of the Fireflies • My Cat Saw The Killer • No One Is Coming to Get You • Detour • The Cursed Idol • The Folio Club • Anomaly • Syberia • The Beasts • The Stone • Yanez • The Hidden Society • The Night I killed Curt Cobain • Me, You and Other Curses • **New Adult** • Alligator Sense • Love Ends Before Dinner • Try Not To Sleep



BOOK ON A TREE



ENID ENIGMA

AGE 9+



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SHE HAS A MAGPIE FRIEND AND A SECRET.
SHE SOLVES CASES BEFORE THEY HAPPEN,
IN THIRTEEN MAGPIES.

AGE 9+



in partnership with



ENID ENIGMA

Sonia Elisabetta Corvaglia

Illustrated by Alida Pintus

"Thirteen magpies for a murder," as the old nursery rhyme says — and for Enid Enigma, it is all too true. Whenever she dreams of magpies, someone in Midway is about to be killed. Only Enid can stop it, by deciphering the clues hidden in her visions and unmasking the would-be murderer. But what lies behind these attempted crimes? And what is the secret of the strange watch that counts down instead of telling the time? Enid investigates with her friend Julio, who is hopelessly in love with her but far too shy to admit it. Yet a family secret ties Enid to the dark forces at war beneath Midway. For while the magpies help her prevent the crimes, the crows — their bitter enemies — will do everything they can to stop her."

- 1 = THIRTEEN MAGPIES FOR A MURDER.** When Enid's first dream warns her that Professor Mirabilia is about to be killed, she follows the magpies' clues into a case involving a hidden lab and a stolen invention. Solving it also opens the door to a much larger mystery beneath Midway.
- 2 = THE FLOWER OF DARKNESS.** A new dream points to Lucrezia, Midway's beloved baker. As Enid investigates a poisoning plot, she uncovers the first real clue to the mysterious "Fruit of Persephone" — and to the ancient power the Crows are searching for.
- 3 = THE DANCE OF SHADOWS – OUT ON JUNE 2026.** A new dream points to Lucrezia, Midway's beloved baker. As Enid investigates a poisoning plot, she uncovers the first real clue to the mysterious "Fruit of Persephone" — and to the ancient power the Crows are searching for.
- 4 = THE REVENGE OF THE CROWS – OUT ON OCTOBER 2026.** The final countdown begins when Julio falls under the Crows' control. To save her best friend and stop the darkness rising beneath Midway, Enid must finally uncover the Gate's true location.

- ✦ **A UNIQUE SUPERNATURAL TWIST ON MYSTERY:** PREMONITORY DREAMS, MAGPIES AND A COUNTDOWN WATCH CREATE A FRESH BLEND OF WHODUNIT AND DARK FANTASY.
- ✦ **A RICHLY IMAGINED WORLD:** MIDWAY, WITH ITS UNFINISHED BUILDINGS, BURIED NECROPOLIS AND ANCIENT SYMBOLS, MAKES EACH CASE PART OF A LARGER MYTHOLOGY.
- ✦ **A STRONG EMOTIONAL CORE:** ALONGSIDE THE PUZZLES AND SUSPENSE, ENID'S BOND WITH JULIO BRINGS WARMTH, LOYALTY AND THE FIRST STIRRINGS OF LOVE.

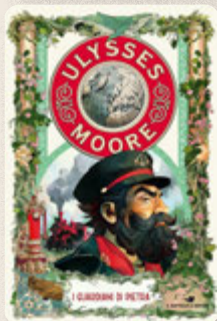
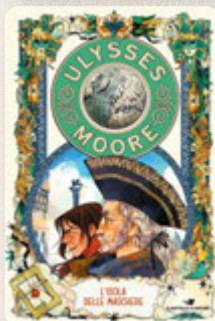
- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** GIUNTI (ITALY), 2026
- **RIGHTS SOLD:** FRENCH (FLAMMARION), GERMANY (OETINGER), RUSSIAN (AZBOOKA)

SONIA ELISABETTA CORVAGLIA ✦ is a children's and YA author who lives in Milan, teaches in high school, and works on projects for inclusion and the promotion of reading. Her books are also translated abroad, and she is especially drawn to stories about teenagers and their adventurous, colourful worlds.

ALIDA PINTUS ✦ is an illustrator and character designer who studied in Milan and Rome and now works across publishing and animation. In 2024 she received the Toppi Prize from the Italian Association of Image Authors, and her work was selected for an exhibition curated by the Bologna Children's Book Fair and launched at the Frankfurt Book Fair.

ULYSSES MOORE

AGE 9+



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THE LEGENDARY SERIES WITH OVER 10 MILLION COPIES SOLD AND TRANSLATED INTO MORE THAN 30 LANGUAGES – NOW BACK IN A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY EDITION WITH A BRAND-NEW GRAPHIC LOOK.

in partnership with



AGE 9+

• II SEI-REN S

ULYSSES MOORE

Pierdomenico Baccalario

Cover Illustrations by Alida Pintus

In Kilmore Cove, the mysterious Villa Argo hides one of the legendary Doors of Time: portals to imaginary lands like El Dorado, Atlantis and 18th-century Venice. Opened only with special keys, the doors sweep twins Jason and Julia into vanishing worlds. With their friend Rick, they follow Ulysses Moore's trail, unearthing secrets while evading those who would steal the doors' power. But who is Ulysses Moore, really?

1 = THE DOOR TO TIME

2 = THE LONG LOST MAPS SHOP

3 = THE HOUSE OF MIRRORS

4 = THE ISLAND OF MASKS

5 = THE STONE GUARDIANS

6 = THE FIRST KEY

-
- ≈ AN EPIC WORLD-BUILDING ADVENTURE: THE SERIES CONSTRUCTS AN ENTIRE UNIVERSE OF HIDDEN DOORS, IMAGINARY PLACES, SECRET SOCIETIES AND TIME TRAVEL — ALL ANCHORED IN THE REAL WORLD.
 - ≈ A JOURNEY THROUGH IMAGINATION: EACH BOOK IS A TRIBUTE TO CURIOSITY, WONDER AND THE POWER OF STORIES TO RESHAPE REALITY.
 - ≈ A CROSSOVER CLASSIC: LOVED BY READERS 9+ AND NOSTALGIC ADULTS ALIKE, THE SERIES SPEAKS TO EVERY GENERATION WITH ITS LAYERED NARRATIVE AND TIMELESS THEMES.
-

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2024
 - **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** RIGHTS SOLD: SPANISH (PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE), GREEK (DIOPTRA), INDONESIAN, (PENERBIT), POLISH (DRESSLER), PORTUGUESE, (PRESENÇA), ROMANIAN (RAO), RUSSIAN (RIPOL), TURKISH (DOĞANI)
-

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

ULYSSES MOORE

THE WORLDS AT THE END OF THE WORLD

AGE 10+



“

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

AGE 10+



in partnership with



ULYSSES MOORE

THE WORLDS AT THE END OF THE WORLD

Pierdomenico Baccalario

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

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

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

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2024
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** POLAND (DRESSLER)

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

SHERLOCK, LUPIN & ME

AGE 8+



IL BATELLO
A VAPORE

NEW EDITION
OF THE FIRST
3 TITLES, WITH COVERS
BY ALIDA PINTUS,
COMING IN JUNE 2026
INCLUDING A BRAND
NEW EPILOGUE

“

BEFORE THEY BECAME LEGENDS, THEY WERE THREE BRILLIANT
CHILDREN SOLVING THEIR VERY FIRST MYSTERIES.

AGE 8+



in partnership with



SHERLOCK, LUPIN & ME

IRENE ADLER aka
PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO and ALESSANDRO GATTI

Told through the eyes of Irene Adler, this bestselling middle-grade series reimagines the childhood adventures of three iconic literary figures before the world knew their names: Sherlock Holmes, Arsène Lupin and Irene Adler — the girl clever enough to challenge them both. Across foggy streets, seaside fortresses, opera houses and hidden passages, Irene, Sherlock and Lupin solve mysteries that test their courage, sharpen their gifts and forge the friendship — and rivalry — that will shape their future legends.

1 ≈ THE BLACK QUEEN'S TRIO

2 ≈ LAST ACT AT THE OPERA HOUSE

3 ≈ THE MYSTERY OF THE SCARLET ROSE

4 ≈ THE CATHEDRAL OF FEAR

5 ≈ THE ICE CASTLE

6 ≈ SHADOWS ACROSS THE SEINE

7 ≈ THE MYSTERY OF THE KING COBRA

8 ≈ THE SPHINX OF HYDE PARK

9 ≈ MURDER AT THE FOX HUNT

10 ≈ THE LORD OF CRIME

11 ≈ PORT OF DECEPTION

12 ≈ THE SHIP OF FAREWELLS

13 ≈ TWO ENDINGS

14 ≈ LOOKING FOR ANASTASIA

15 ≈ THE TOP-HAT MAN ENIGMA

16 ≈ THE ASSASSIN'S MASK

17 ≈ CRIME AT CHRISTMAS

18 ≈ A DEADLY TRAP FOR MISTER HOLMES

≈ A HIGH-CONCEPT, INSTANTLY GRASPABLE PREMISE: THE UNTOLD CHILDHOOD ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, ARSÈNE LUPIN AND IRENE ADLER COMBINE ICONIC RECOGNITION WITH A FRESH MIDDLE-GRADE ENTRY POINT.

≈ A SOPHISTICATED BUT ACCESSIBLE MYSTERY STRUCTURE: EACH BOOK OFFERS A COMPLETE, CLEVERLY BUILT INVESTIGATION, WHILE THE EMOTIONAL ARC OF THE TRIO GROWS ACROSS THE SERIES.

≈ A RICHLY ATMOSPHERIC EUROPEAN CANVAS: FROM SAINT-MALO TO VICTORIAN LONDON, THE SETTINGS ARE VIVID, CINEMATIC AND FULL OF SECRETS, SHADOWS AND HISTORICAL INTRIGUE.

• FIRST PUBLISHER: PIEMME (ITALY)

IRENE ADLER aka PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO and ALESSANDRO GATTI ≈ two of Italy's most successful and internationally published children's authors. Together, they have created bestselling series acclaimed for their blend of mystery, adventure and elegant storytelling.

HAVEN'S END

AGE 12+



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A SEALED WORLD. A FORBIDDEN LINE.
A TRUTH POWERFUL ENOUGH TO BURN EVERYTHING DOWN.

• x 10HS E 0

AGE 12+



in partnership with



HAVEN'S END

Guido Sgardoli

AGE 12+

Sixteen-year-old Rebecca has spent her whole life in Haven's End, an isolated settlement hidden deep in the forests of North America, where the outside world is said to be poisoned and deadly. But when she crosses the Red Line and survives, the first crack appears in everything she has ever been taught. Punished and branded as Disobedient, Rebecca begins to uncover a terrifying truth: Haven's End is not a sanctuary, but the last surviving fragment of Aurora, an abandoned experiment built on fear, isolation and control. As she escapes beyond the forest and into the ruins of the world outside, Rebecca is forced to confront buried secrets about her past — and decide whether to protect the only home she has ever known, or expose the lie at its heart.

-
- ✦ **A GRIPPING PSYCHOLOGICAL SETUP:** A CLOSED WORLD BUILT ON FEAR, SECRECY AND MANIPULATION KEEPS READERS CONSTANTLY QUESTIONING WHAT IS REAL.
 - ✦ **A STRIKING AND HIGHLY VISUAL SETTING:** THE CONTRAST BETWEEN AN OLD-FASHIONED RURAL COMMUNITY AND HIDDEN UNDERGROUND SPACES GIVES THE STORY A STRONG CINEMATIC EDGE.
 - ✦ **AN EMOTIONALLY POWERFUL HEROINE:** REBECCA'S JOURNEY FROM OBEDIENCE TO SELF-DETERMINATION BRINGS DEPTH, TENSION AND STRONG READER IDENTIFICATION.
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- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** SAN PAOLO (ITALY), 2026
-

GUIDO SGARDOLI ✦ is one of Italy's most acclaimed and versatile authors for children and young adults, with more than one hundred books to his name. A three-time Andersen Prize winner, he also received the Bancarellino Prize and the Premio Strega Ragazze e Ragazzi for *The Stone*. His work spans many genres, from adventure and mystery to sci-fi, thriller and fantasy, and several of his books have been recognised internationally.

THE FOREST

AGE 12+



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IN A WORLD RULED BY ANIMALS,
POWER IS INHERITED, FEAR IS ENFORCED,
AND THE SMALLEST MUST PAY THE HIGHEST PRICE.

• x 10HS

AGE 12+



in partnership with



THE FOREST

Granville

In a world where humans have vanished but traces of their consciousness remain, animals have built complex societies shaped by power, faith and control. In the Burrow, every year one hundred young creatures are “chosen” by the Ancient Gods and taken beyond the Burrow in a sacred ritual said to be the highest honour. Fragile young Ves has always dreamed of being selected, hoping it might finally make him special. But when he is chosen alongside his bold friend Astrid and the clever mole Claude, the journey begins to uncover a far darker truth. Influenced by Agatha, a young mouse whose faith in the rulers of the Burrow is absolute, Ves is drawn ever deeper into a brutal system of sacrifice, secret alliances and betrayal. To survive, he must decide whether to keep believing in the world that raised him — or help destroy it.

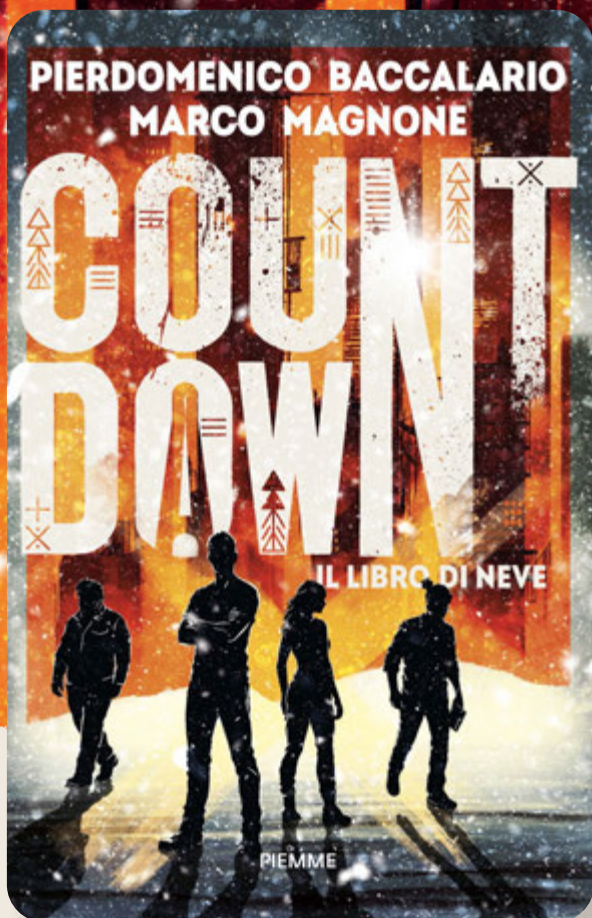
- ✦ **A DARK, EPIC ANIMAL FANTASY:** A WORLD OF PREY AND PREDATORS, RITUALS AND SACRIFICE, WHERE POWER IS BUILT ON FEAR.
- ✦ **A RICH AND IMMERSIVE UNIVERSE:** COMPETING REALMS, DEEP LORE AND A LARGE CAST CREATE STRONG SERIES AND TRANSMEDIA POTENTIAL.
- ✦ **EMOTIONAL, HIGH-STAKES STORYTELLING:** FRIENDSHIP, BETRAYAL, SACRIFICE AND SURVIVAL GIVE THE STORY REAL DEPTH AND RESONANCE.

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2026



GRANVILLE ✦ is the collective pseudonym of a group of writers from Liguria: **SARA DE MARTINO**, **ALESSIO ARBUSTINI** and **NICOLÒ BELMONTE**. With backgrounds in literature, storytelling, screenwriting and performance, they bring together different creative voices in a shared narrative project. Sara De Martino has worked as an assistant director in film and advertising and won “A caccia di storie” a competition for emerging children’s authors created by Book on a Tree, Mondadori and Lucca Comics & Games with *Escape from Paradise*. Alessio Arbustini studied psychology and storytelling and works across writing and theatre. Nicolò Belmonte studied philosophy and interactive storytelling, and works as a copywriter, editor and teacher.

DYSTOPIA



“

A BLIND POET CALLED HOMER NEVER EXISTED.
NEITHER DO I. BUT THE STORY I'M TELLING DOES.
WE'RE SENDING IT TO YOU FROM THE FUTURE.
WHAT YOU DO WITH IT IS UP TO YOU.”

AGE 13+



in partnership with



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Pierdomenico Baccalario & Marco Magnone

In 2069, humanity survives inside sealed Oases controlled by APEX and the VIVI, sentient silicon beings capable of hijacking technology, emotions and memory itself. Against them stands Jason Peake, heir to the system he wants to destroy, and a small band of rebels trying to do the impossible: send a handwritten book back through time. Written by Clo, the group's quiet chronicler, *The Book of Snow* is more than a testimony — it is an act of resistance, designed to escape surveillance and carry the truth into the past. Years earlier, in our present, that book resurfaces in the hands of Scarlett, an activist who discovers it predicts both her sister's fate and her own death.

- 1 ✱ **THE BOOK OF SNOW.** In a collapsing future ruled by APEX, the system that controls the last human enclaves, Jason Peake and his rebel crew race to deliver a handwritten manuscript to HereThere, the last hidden archive of paper books in the world. Their mission is to send the truth back through time — before the future is sealed forever.
- 2 ✱ **THE BOOK OF ASH – OUT ON FALL 2026.** In present-day Europe, Scarlett comes into possession of an impossible book that seems to predict her sister Therese's fate — and her own death. As unrest spreads and the machines begin to rebel, the two sisters are drawn into a final attempt to stop the collapse.

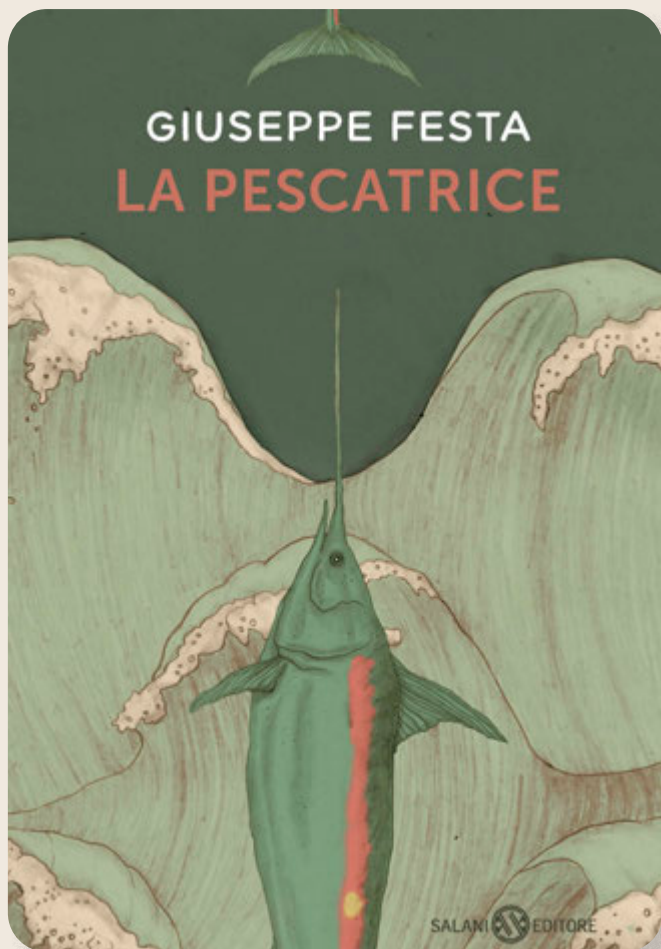
-
- ✱ **A STORY BUILT TO CROSS TIME:** AT THE CORE OF THE DUOLOGY IS A HANDWRITTEN BOOK SENT FROM A COLLAPSING FUTURE TO REWRITE THE PRESENT.
 - ✱ **THE BOOK AS THE LAST FREE SPACE:** IN A WORLD RULED BY SURVEILLANCE AND ALGORITHMS, PAPER AND INK BECOME THE ONLY MEDIUM CAPABLE OF CARRYING TRUTH ACROSS GENERATIONS.
 - ✱ **CHARACTER-DRIVEN DYSTOPIA:** FEAR, LOYALTY, GUILT AND BELIEF SHAPE EVERY TURNING POINT, MAKING SACRIFICE AND RESPONSIBILITY THE TRUE ENGINE OF THE STORY.
-

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2026
-

PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO & MARCO MAGNONE ✱ They are two of Italy's most acclaimed authors for young readers. Both bestselling and award-winning, they have each built a strong literary identity through stories of adventure, emotion, and imagination. Their works have been translated worldwide and praised for their vivid, cinematic storytelling. *CountDown* marks their first collaboration.

THE FISHER GIRL

AGE 12+



66

LIFE AT SEA MIRRORS LIFE ITSELF.

AGE 12+



in partnership with



THE FISHER GIRL

Giuseppe Festa

AGE 12+

You cannot drift with the current and hope to arrive somewhere safe.
You must take the helm, read the wind, face the horizon —
and have the courage to choose your own course.
Like Scilla does.

Egadi Islands, Sicily. Fourteen-year-old Scilla Rubino works as a swordfish hunter aboard her family's traditional felucca, the *Cariddi*. Two years after her father's death at sea, she has taken his place at the helm. Then, during a perilous hunt, Scilla finds a gold pendant hidden inside the season's largest swordfish. Inside is the photograph of a woman holding a newborn — and two engraved initials: "A.D." When she discovers that the pendant was made only months earlier in New York, Scilla is forced to question everything she has been told about her missing mother. Her search for the truth will take her far beyond Marettimo, into buried family secrets, tensions threatening the island, and a choice between leaving home behind or claiming it on her own terms.

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- ✕ **AN ANCIENT PRACTICE THAT MIRRORS LIFE ITSELF:** TRADITIONAL SWORDFISH HUNTING BECOMES A POWERFUL METAPHOR FOR CHOICE, COURAGE AND RESPONSIBILITY.
 - ✕ **A COMING OF AGE SHAPED BY RESPONSIBILITY:** SCILLA GROWS THROUGH LABOUR, DOUBT AND HARD CHOICES, OFFERING A RARE PORTRAIT OF ADOLESCENCE GROUNDED IN ACCOUNTABILITY.
 - ✕ **AN ISLAND WORLD ALIVE WITH MYSTERY:** MARETTIMO IS A VIVID, WORKING ISLAND SHAPED BY WIND, LABOUR AND MIGRATION, WHERE FAMILY SECRETS AND SILENCES RUN AS DEEP AS THE SEA.
-

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2026
-

GIUSEPPE FESTA ✕ is an Italian writer, environmental educator, documentary filmmaker and science communicator with a degree in Natural Sciences. He is widely known for immersive adventure stories in which nature and animals play a central role, combining emotional depth with environmental awareness. His books have won major awards including the Gianni Rodari Children's Prize, the Bancarellino Children's Prize, the Kadaitosho Prize in Japan, and the Torre del Agua International Literary Prize at FESTILIJ in Madrid.

THE NIGHT OF THE FIREFLIES

AGE 13+

one-sitting novels



66

CAN THE POWER OF FIRST LOVE OVERCOME
THE BARRIERS OF TIME AND SPACE?

AGE 13+



in partnership with



THE NIGHT OF THE FIREFLIES

Marco Magnone

AGE 13+

Asia searches for Diego — her boyfriend — among the lights of a party. Teresa wanders alone through the places where she and Diego grew up together. They do not know each other, yet they are bound to him in different ways. As the night unfolds, their two voices move between past and present, desire and grief, slowly revealing what Diego meant to each of them — and what really happened to him. In a story suspended between memory and loss, first love and lifelong attachment, Asia and Teresa are drawn towards the same truth: one that neither of them is ready to face, and that will change forever the way they remember him.

✕ **A DUAL NARRATIVE CHARGED WITH EMOTION AND SUSPENSE:** TERESA AND ASIA REVEAL TWO DIFFERENT SIDES OF THE SAME STORY, KEEPING READERS ENGAGED UNTIL THE FINAL REVELATION.

✕ **A POIGNANT MIX OF ROMANCE, GRIEF AND LONGING:** FIRST LOVE, FRIENDSHIP AND LOSS INTERTWINE IN A STORY WITH STRONG YA AND CROSSOVER APPEAL.

✕ **A MEMORABLE ATMOSPHERIC MOTIF:** THE FIREFLIES CREATE A POETIC VISUAL THREAD THROUGH MEMORY, DESIRE AND DISAPPEARANCE.

• **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2026

MARCO MAGNONE ✕ is an established Italian author for young readers. His books range from contemporary romance and coming-of-age stories to historical adventure, dystopia and thriller, and include titles nominated for the Premio Strega Ragazze e Ragazzi. He regularly meets young readers through schools, festivals and reading groups across Italy.

THREE FRIENDS ON HOLIDAY

AGE 11+



66

A BRILLIANT GIRL. A DANGEROUS MYSTERY.
A LATE-19TH-CENTURY GENEVA WHERE SCIENCE,
SUPERSTITION AND SECRET SOCIETIES COLLIDE.



BOOK ON A TREE

POST TENEBRAS

Valentina Federici

AGE 11+

In a reimagined Belle Époque Switzerland, seventeen-year-old Mimi arrives in Geneva to save her sister Léa, accused of witchcraft. Rational, sharp-minded and trained in chemistry, she joins forces with John, a young English lawyer, to dismantle the case against her. But what begins as an investigation into superstition soon opens onto something far larger: dragons rising from the lake, an epidemic that may not be what it seems, and a secret society working in the shadows. As Mimi and John follow the clues, science and mystery begin to blur — and so do the boundaries between logic, danger and desire.

1 ≈ DEATH TO THE WITCH. Switzerland, late 1800s. Geneva is in turmoil: dragons have surfaced in the lake, a deadly epidemic is spreading, and witches are being blamed for every new disaster. Seventeen-year-old Mimi, marked by her striking mismatched eyes, arrives determined to save her sister, imprisoned as a witch. With the help of John, a young lawyer, she is drawn into a web of conspiracies, hidden truths, and unexpected feelings.

2 ≈ WITCHES DO NOT EXIST. Now working together as investigators in Geneva, Mimi and John share a growing attraction they both try to deny. While they continue digging into the Post Tenebras case, their main suspect vanishes, and the investigation takes a new turn. At the same time, John's mother begins pushing him towards Léa, forcing Mimi to confront both her feelings and her loyalty to her sister.

≈ **A FRESH MIX OF SCIENCE, MYSTERY AND WITCHES:** CHEMISTRY, EPIDEMICS, DRAGONS AND COURTROOM INTRIGUE COME TOGETHER IN A RICHLY ORIGINAL HISTORICAL FANTASY.

≈ **A VIVID BELLE ÉPOQUE SETTING:** LATE-19TH-CENTURY GENEVA BLENDS INDUSTRIAL MODERNITY, OCCULT FASCINATION AND REAL HISTORICAL FIGURES INTO A STRIKING BACKDROP.

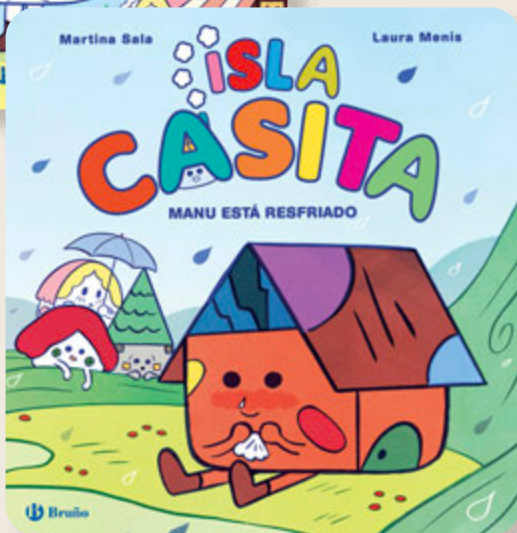
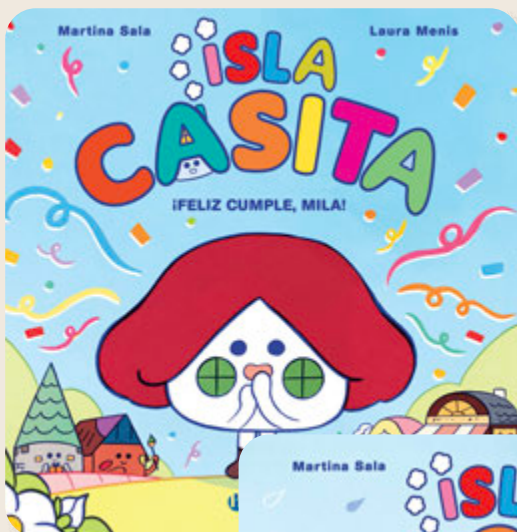
≈ **A SMART, EMOTIONALLY CHARGED HEROINE:** MIMI CHALLENGES SUPERSTITION, PREJUDICE AND GENDER EXPECTATIONS WITH INTELLIGENCE, IRONY AND DETERMINATION.

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- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** IL CASTORO (ITALY), 2025-2026
 - **RIGHTS SOLD:** USA (OFFER)
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VALENTINA FEDERICI ≈ lives in Switzerland between the mountains and Lake Geneva, though she grew up in Perugia. A lifelong reader and storyteller, she later became a lawyer without giving up inventing stories. Her debut novel was *Viaggio Oltre l'Ignoto*, in which she challenged an artificial intelligence to a writing contest.

TINY HOUSES

AGE 6+



“

WELCOME TO CASSETTE ISLAND:
A PLACE WHERE EVERY HOUSE HAS A VOICE,
A HEART, AND A PERSONALITY ALL ITS OWN

AGE 6+



in partnership with



TINY HOUSES

Martina Sala & Laura Menis

On Casette Island, houses talk, laugh, help one another and sometimes get into trouble. At the heart of the stories is Mimi, a cheerful little house with a big curiosity and an even bigger heart. From birthday surprises and rainy-day adventures to Christmas mix-ups and seaside rescues, each story turns a small everyday event into a playful, heartwarming adventure. With its colourful setting, memorable cast and gentle focus on friendship, emotions and community, *Tiny Houses* is a charming series for young readers.

1 ≈ HAPPY BIRTHDAY MIMI. It's Mimi's birthday, but all her friends seem too busy to celebrate with her. Hurt and disappointed, she runs off to hide in the forest. But back in the village, a joyful surprise is waiting: everyone has secretly been preparing a party just for her.

2 ≈ ACHOO, MICHI! After a storm, Mimi and Tito find Michi soaked, shivering and sneezing – his roof is leaking. None of their remedies work, so Mimi calls in Martino Martello, the handyman house. With one quick repair, Michi is safe and cosy again

3 ≈ WHAT A SURPRISE, MRS. MACINA! OUT ON 22/04/26 It's Christmas on Casette Island, but Paco the postman is delivering all the presents to the wrong houses. Mimi steps in to help sort out the festive confusion. In the end, every gift finds its rightful owner – including one for Paco himself.

4 ≈ MERRY CHRISTMAS, PACO! OUT ON 7/10/26 It's Christmas on Casette Island, but Paco the postman is delivering all the presents to the wrong houses. Mimi steps in to help sort out the festive confusion. In the end, every gift finds its rightful owner – including one for Paco himself.

≈ **A STANDOUT HIGH-CONCEPT WORLD:** AN ISLAND OF LIVING HOUSES CREATES AN INSTANTLY ORIGINAL AND MEMORABLE SETTING.

≈ **WARM, EVERYDAY STORIES FOR YOUNG READERS:** SMALL ADVENTURES, BIG EMOTIONS, AND GENTLE HUMOUR MAKE THE SERIES EASY TO LOVE.

≈ **STRONG VISUAL AND SERIES APPEAL:** A COLOURFUL WORLD AND A LIVELY CAST OFFER GREAT POTENTIAL FOR MULTIPLE STORIES AND FORMATS.

• **FIRST PUBLISHER:** BRUNO EDITORIAL (SPAIN), 2025-2026

MARTINA SALA ≈ is an author who creates stories for young readers with warmth, imagination and a playful touch. In *Tiny Houses*, she brings to life a lively community of talking houses, turning everyday moments into small adventures full of humour, emotion and charm.

LAURA MENIS ≈ is an illustrator whose bright, expressive style brings warmth and personality to every page. Her colourful artwork gives each house on Tiny Houses Island its own distinctive look, helping create a world that feels both playful and instantly memorable.

NO ONE IS COMING TO GET YOU

AGE 12+

one-sitting
novel

66

A PIECE OF PAPER INSIDE A CRACK IN THE WALL.
A MESSAGE FROM SOMEONE WHO SHOULDN'T EXIST.
WHAT IF IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE TO ESCAPE?

AGE 12+



in partnership with



NO ONE IS COMING TO GET YOU

Manlio Castagna

AGE 12+

During the class trip to the archaeological site of Herculaneum, Calista – known as Cali – happens to find a piece of paper inside a crack in the wall. A message is written on it in clumsy handwriting: a request for help, a scream of loneliness. Cali doesn't know how to find the writer, so she puts her reply in the crack between the tiles. This is the beginning of an exchange of thoughts with someone who always seems to be with her, behind the walls, in her room, at school... And as Cali's life intertwines with that of her mysterious interlocutor, strange and dangerous things start happening. While the messages were conspiratorial and intriguing at first, Calista soon starts to want to get rid of this increasingly disturbing presence... until a terrible event presents her with the hardest choice of all.

- ✱ **A PSYCHOLOGICAL HORROR WHERE REALITY AND NIGHTMARE BLUR AS THE MYSTERY DEEPENS.**
- ✱ **A CRESCENDO OF TENSION AND FEAR.**
- ✱ **SHORT BOOKS WITH FAST-PACED, EASY-TO-READ CHAPTERS FOR RELUCTANT READERS AND YOUNG THRILLER ENTHUSIASTS.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2025
- **RIGHTS SOLD:** RUSSIAN (AZBOOKA)

MANLIO CASTAGNA ✱ is a screenwriter, director, writer, film critic and, for over 20 years, artistic director of the Giffoni Film Festival. He has worked in Hollywood and Doha. He made his debut in children's literature in 2018 with the bestselling trilogy *Petrademone*, translated into various languages. This was followed by (for Mondadori): multi-award-winning *La notte delle malombre*, *Draconis Chronicon*, *116 film da vedere prima dei 16 anni*, *Le Belve* (with Guido Sgardoli), *Goodwill*, *Barriera* (with Marco Magnone), *Dedalo & Dharma*, *Fuga dal cinema Kazan*, *Di fuoco e seta*.

He writes about film for Cinecittà News and holds writing courses at the Scuola Holden in Turin. In 2022 he wrote and directed the *Il viaggio degli eroi*, with Marco Giallini, which was screened in cinemas and received record viewing ratings on Rai 1.

MY CAT SAW THE KILLER

AGE 12+

one-sitting
novel



“

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

AGE 12+



in partnership with



MY CAT SAW THE KILLER

Davide Morosinotto

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE CURSED IDOL

TARGET: NEW ADULT



“

WISH, AND IT WILL TAKE EVERYTHING YOU LOVE.
A MODERN YA HORROR WITH THE ECHOES OF THE MONKEY'S PAW,
WHERE THE HUNGER FOR VISIBILITY
BECOMES THE SEED OF SELF-DESTRUCTION
FROM MULTI-AWARD-WINNING CHILDREN'S AUTHOR GUIDO SGARDOLI

TARGET: NEW ADULT

THE CURSED IDOL

Guido Sgardoli

Daniel feels invisible at school, trapped by bullies and overlooked online, while at home he faces a violent father and a mother lost to pills. All he wants is recognition, escape, and control.

That is, until he discovers a grotesque idol hidden in the attic of an abandoned villa. The figure — stitched mouth, tangled hair, twisted limbs — seems to grant his secret wishes. At first it feels like luck: the bully vanishes, his TikTok goes viral, even love comes his way. But every gift carries a curse.

Soon the story echoes the timeless lesson of *The Monkey's Paw*: three wishes, each fulfilled at the cost of an irreparable loss. Daniel learns too late that asking is easy. Paying the price is another story.

✖ **BECHOES OF THE MONKEY'S PAW WITH CLEAR ECHOES OF JACOBS'S CLASSIC, THE NOVEL BUILDS AROUND A GROTESQUE IDOL — STITCHED MOUTH, TANGLED BLACK HAIR, TWISTED LIMBS. MORE THAN GROTESQUE DÉCOR, THIS WISH-GRANTING FIGURE TURNS DESIRE INTO DESTRUCTION, REVIVING THE TIMELESS PATTERN OF THREE WISHES GRANTED AT DEVASTATING COST, WHILE SPEAKING TO TODAY'S FEARS OF BULLYING, BROKEN FAMILIES, AND TOXIC VISIBILITY**

✖ **A PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER ROOTED IN LONELINESS DANIEL'S SOLITUDE IS WHERE THE HORROR BEGINS. HUMILIATION AND HIS DESPERATE NEED TO BE SEEN MAKE HIM DANGEROUSLY VULNERABLE, AND THE IDOL FEEDS ON THAT EMPTINESS — TURNING HIS LONGING INTO TERROR AND HIS DESIRES INTO TRAPS.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2025
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** RUSSIAN (AZBOOKA-ATTICUS)

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

DETOUR

AGE 13+



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NO WAY OUT.

AGE 13+



in partnership with



DETOUR

Guido Scgardoli

AGE 13+

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

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

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

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

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

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

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- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2024
 - **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** FRENCH (DIDIER) AND RUSSIAN (PHOENIX)
-

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

THRILLER

THE FOLIO CLUB

AGE 13+



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

AGE 13+



in partnership with



THE FOLIO CLUB

Guido Sgardoli

AGE 13+

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

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

- FIRST PUBLISHER: DEAGOSTINI [ITALY], 2024

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

THE STONES OF LEVERMOIR

AGE 12+



66

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

AGE 12+



in partnership with



THE STONES OF LEVERMOIR

Guido Sgardoli

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

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

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

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

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

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

-
- ✱ **A SMALL VILLAGE WITH A GLOOMY AND MYSTERIOUS BACKGROUND, OLD GRUDGES AND A FEELING OF CONSTANT DANGER WORTHY OF DAVID LYNCH. BUT ALSO A TALE OF ADVENTURE AND FRIENDSHIP.**
 - ✱ **A HIGH-OCTANE ESCALATION OF EVENTS IN A COMPELLING TALE THAT WILL GRAB THE READER FROM THE FIRST PAGE. A MUST FOR STEPHEN KING FANS.**
 - ✱ **2019 STREGA CHILDREN'S PRIZE WINNER.**
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- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2017
 - **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** POLAND (AKAPIT), CZECH REPUBLIC (BOOKMEDIA)
 - **TV RIGHTS OPTIONED**
-

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



THE MYSTERY OF KASPAR HAUSER

AGE 12+



66

WHO IS KASPAR HAUSER?

AGE 12+



in partnership with



THE MYSTERY OF KASPAR HAUSER

Davide Morosinotto

A boy turns up at the gates of Nuremberg one spring morning. He is carrying a letter. He doesn't speak a word of German but he can say his name: Kaspar Hauser. This is the beginning of one of the most mysterious and intriguing news of the last two centuries, a case that captivated Germany and beyond, becoming the subject of thousands of books. Who is Kaspar Hauser? Who kept him prisoner for over ten years and then freed him for no apparent reason? And above all, why did an assassin suddenly come after him?

Who is Kaspar Hauser, really?
Because this is the real question to solve.
Not just because it's a mystery. But because, by asking
ourselves who he is, we might find out who we are.

- ✱ ONE OF THE MOST INTRIGUING UNSOLVED MYSTERIES OF THE 19TH CENTURY.
- ✱ AN INTRICATE, SUSPENSEFUL THRILLER.
- ✱ A MAIN CHARACTER WHO IS UNDERESTIMATED BY EVERYONE, BUT WHO CAN SEE WHAT OTHERS MISS.
- ✱ AND THE SPACIEST DETECTIVE YOU'VE EVER MET.

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** THIENEMANN VERLAG (GERMANY), 2025
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** ITALIAN (MONDADORI)

DAVIDE MOROSINOTTO ✱ is an award-winning author whose works have been translated into 25 languages. He won the Super Andersen Prize in 2017 with *Il rinomato catalogo Walker & Dawn* (*The Pocket Watch Gang*, Mondadori) and the Strega Children's Prize in 2021 with *La più grande* (*The Greatest*, Rizzoli), which earned him a place on the IBBY Honour List 2021. He has also published *Red Stars*, *The Lost Flower of the Shaman of K*, *The Last Hunter* (finalist for the Andersen Prize 2022), *The Son of the Sea*, and *The Wind Thief*. Internationally, he has been a finalist for the Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis, won the Penzberger Urmel in Germany, the Prix des Bouquins en Seine and Grand Prix des Lecteurs du Journal de Mickey in France, the Vlag en Wimpel and Zilveren Griffel in the Netherlands, the KJV Prize in Flanders, and the Protagonista Jove Prize in Catalonia. He was also nominated for the Carnegie Medal 2022 in the UK, won the 2023 Bookstar Prize for German-language literature, and in 2024 received the Elbakin.net Award for best translated fantasy novel for young readers. In 2025, he is the Winner of the Prix des Libraires Jeunesse du Québec (12-17), Canada's most prestigious award for children's literature, and Winner of the Prix Sorcières in France – Carrément Sorcier Fiction – Passionnant Maxi.

THE LEGENDARY TREASURE OF HELL GATE

AGE 11+



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A HEART-RACING TALE OF SECRETS, LOYALTY,
AND A SHOT AT REDEMPTION. SET IN NEW YORK IN THE 1920S.

AGE 11+



in partnership with



THE LEGENDARY TREASURE OF HELL GATE

Davide Morosinotto

A gripping new adventure by the bestselling author of *Il Rinomato Catalogo Walker & Dawn*, Mondadori, 2016.

They were a gang – the Roaches, people called them – and they had always known that life was not fair: Lucy, the angry one; Amy, the secretive one; Tommy, the fearful one; Mario, the dreamer; and Rico, who only wanted to be invisible. But everything is about to change.

New York, 1927. When the Roaches find a dead man beneath the Hell Gate Bridge, they stumble upon the first clue to a treasure lost for generations. But the deeper they dig, the more their hunt reveals not just gold, but a hidden story of love, resistance and belonging – and a chance to change their own lives forever.

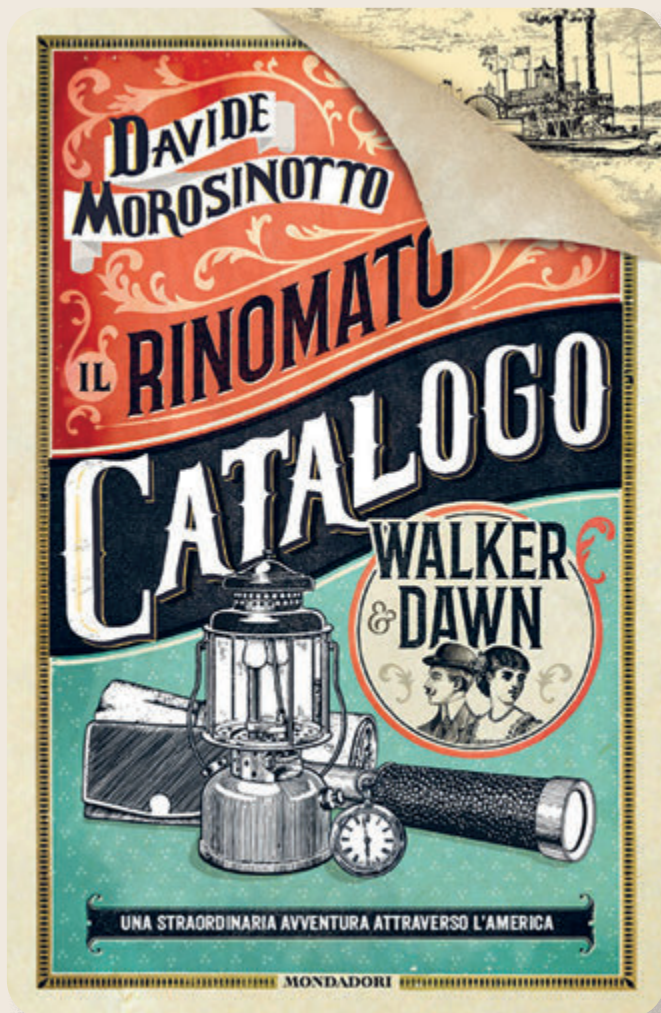
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- ✦ **DAVIDE MOROSINOTTO AT HIS BEST: IMMERSIVE WORLDBUILDING, EPIC ADVENTURE AND UNFORGETTABLE CHARACTERS IN THE SPIRIT OF *THE POCKET WATCH GANG* (WALKER & DAWN), NOW CELEBRATING TEN YEARS SINCE PUBLICATION..**
 - ✦ **A TREASURE HUNT ROOTED IN HISTORY: INSPIRED BY THE REAL WRECK OF THE *HMS HUSSAR* NEAR HELL GATE, THE NOVEL TURNS A LEGENDARY LOST TREASURE INTO A GRIPPING STORY OF MYSTERY, DANGER AND DISCOVERY.**
 - ✦ **A LAYERED COMING-OF-AGE STORY ACROSS TIME: THE ROACHES' QUEST MIRRORS BILL SWAN'S TALE OF LOVE, RESISTANCE AND JUSTICE, SHOWING THAT THE GREATEST TREASURE IS OFTEN THE CHANCE TO BE TRULY SEEN.**
-

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2025
 - **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** GERMAN (THIENEMANN), DUTCH FOR THE NETHERLANDS & BELGIUM (PELCKMANS), FRENCH (L'ÉCOLEDES LOISIRS), SPANISH AND CATALAN (VIENA)
-

DAVIDE MOROSINOTTO ✦ is an award-winning author whose works have been translated into 25 languages. He won the Super Andersen Prize in 2017 with *Il rinomato catalogo Walker & Dawn* [*The Pocket Watch Gang*, Mondadori] and the Strega Children's Prize in 2021 with *La più grande* [*The Greatest*, Rizzoli], which earned him a place on the IBBY Honour List 2021. He has also published *Red Stars*, *The Lost Flower of the Shaman of K*, *The Last Hunter* (finalist for the Andersen Prize 2022), *The Son of the Sea*, and *The Wind Thief*. Internationally, he has been a finalist for the Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis, won the Penzberger Urmel in Germany, the Prix des Bouquineurs en Seine and Grand Prix des Lecteurs du Journal de Mickey in France, the Vlag en Wimpel and Zilveren Griffel in the Netherlands, the KJV Prize in Flanders, and the Protagonista Jove Prize in Catalonia. He was also nominated for the Carnegie Medal 2022 in the UK, won the 2023 Bookstar Prize for German-language literature, and in 2024 received the Elbakin.net Award for best translated fantasy novel for young readers. In 2025, he is the Winner of the Prix des Libraires Jeunesse du Québec (12-17), Canada's most prestigious award for children's literature, and Winner of the Prix Sorcières in France – Carrément Sorcier Fiction – Passionnant Maxi.

THE POCKET WATCH GANG

AGE 11+



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A DARING ADVENTURE CAN
CHANGE YOUR LIFE FOREVER

AGE 11+



in partnership with



THE POCKET WATCH GANG

Davide Morosinotto

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

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

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

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

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2016
 - **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** GERMAN (THIENEMANN), FRENCH (L'ÉCOLE DES LOISIRS), POLISH (DWIE SIOSTRY), GALICIAN (RINOCERONTE EDICIONES), JAPANESE (IWASAKI SHOTEN), CATALAN (VIENA EDICIONS), UKRAINIAN (NEBO BOOKS), DUTCH (PELCKMANS), SWEDISH (OPAL)
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DAVIDE MOROSINOTTO ✱ is a multi-award-winning author of works translated into 25 languages. In 2021 alone, he won the Zilveren Griffel in the Netherlands, the Penzberger Urmel in Germany, the Grand Prix des Lectures du Journal de Mickey in France and the Strega Children's Prize in Italy. He has also been nominated for the 2022 Carnegie Medal in the UK.



THE GREATEST

AGE 12+



“

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



in partnership with



AGE 12+

THE GREATEST

Davide Morosinotto

Cover by Rebecca Dautremer

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

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

✱ **A BREATHTAKING ADVENTURE AND AN EXTRAORDINARY COMING-OF-AGE STORY INSPIRED BY THE TRUE STORY OF CHING SHIH, COMMANDER OF THE LARGEST PIRATE FLEET OF ALL TIME.**

✱ **AMAZING COVER ILLUSTRATIONS BY EUROPE'S MOST FAMOUS ILLUSTRATOR.**

✱ **WINNER OF:**

2021 STREGA CHILDREN'S PRIZE

BOOKSTAR PRIZE FOR GERMAN-LANGUAGE LITERATURE IN 2023

ELBAKIN.NET AWARD FOR BEST TRANSLATED FANTASY NOVEL FOR YOUNG READERS IN FRANCE IN 2024

THE PRIX DES LIBRAIRES JEUNESSE DU QUÉBEC (12-17) IN 2025

THE PRIX SORCIÈRES IN FRANCE – CARRÉMENT SORCIER FICTION – PASSIONNANT MAXI IN FRANCE IN 2025

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** RIZZOLI (ITALY), 2020
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** GERMAN (THIENEMANN), DUTCH (PELCKMANS), FRENCH (L'ÉCOLE DES LOISIRS), ENGLISH WW (TUTTLE PUBLISHING), RUSSIAN (POLYANDRIA)
- **TV RIGHTS OPTIONED**

DAVIDE MOROSINOTTO ✱ is an award-winning author whose works have been translated into 25 languages. He won the Super Andersen Prize in 2017 with *Il rinomato catalogo Walker & Dawn* (*The Pocket Watch Gang*, Mondadori) and the Strega Children's Prize in 2021 with *La più grande* (*The Greatest*, Rizzoli), which earned him a place on the IBBY Honour List 2021. He has also published *Red Stars*, *The Lost Flower of the Shaman of K*, *The Last Hunter* (finalist for the Andersen Prize 2022), *The Son of the Sea*, and *The Wind Thief*. Internationally, he has been a finalist for the Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis, won the Penzberger Urmel in Germany, the Prix des Bouquins en Seine and Grand Prix des Lecteurs du Journal de Mickey in France, the Vlag en Wimpel and Zilveren Griffel in the Netherlands, the KJV Prize in Flanders, and the Protagonista Jove Prize in Catalonia. He was also nominated for the Carnegie Medal 2022 in the UK, won the 2023 Bookstar Prize for German-language literature, and in 2024 received the Elbakin.net Award for best translated fantasy novel for young readers. In 2025, he is the Winner of the Prix des Libraires Jeunesse du Québec (12-17), Canada's most prestigious award for children's literature, and Winner of the Prix Sorcières in France – Carrément Sorcier Fiction – Passionnant Maxi.





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WHATEVER HAPPENS,
STAY TOGETHER



in partnership with



RED STARS

Davide Morosinotto

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

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

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

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

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

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2017
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** GERMAN (THIENEMANN), FRENCH (L'ÉCOLE DES LOISIRS), POLISH (DWIE SIOSTRY), GALICIAN (RINOCERONTE EDICIONES), JAPANESE (IWASAKI SHOTEN), CATALAN (VIENA EDICIONS), UKRAINIAN (NEBO BOOKS), DUTCH (PELCKMANS), SWEDISH (OPAL)

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



THE LOST FLOWER OF THE SHAMAN OF K

AN EPIC JOURNEY FROM THE ANDES TO THE AMAZON



66

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

THE LOST FLOWER OF THE SHAMAN OF K

AN EPIC JOURNEY FROM THE ANDES TO THE AMAZON

Daive Morosinotto

Peru, 1986.

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

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

But the day comes when Laila's illness is finally given a name and she learns it's terminal. All hope is lost for her. Or maybe not. There is still one thing the two friends can do together and that's recover the Lost Flower of K in the hope it can heal her. And change both their fates. A long and eventful journey follows that sees them travel from the Andes through the Amazon forest and face many battles with the wild and unyielding landscapes.

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

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2019
 - **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** GERMAN (THIENEMANN), DUTCH (PELCKMANS), FRENCH (L'ECOLE DES LOISIRS), SPANISH & CATALAN (EDITORIAL BAMBÚ)
-

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THE LAST HUNTER

AGE 12+



66

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

AGE 12+



in partnership with



THE LAST HUNTER

Davide Morosinotto

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

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

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

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

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

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2021
 - **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** GERMAN (THIENEMANN), DUTCH (PELCKMANS)
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THE SON OF THE SEA

AGE 10+



“

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

AGE 10+



in partnership with



THE SON OF THE SEA

Davide Morosinotto

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

Pietro will make a friend, Tito, and meet a great love, Giustina. He will have to disguise himself, be taken hostage, fight and even be fatally wounded by an enemy spatha. And, in the end, he will contribute to founding a city destined to shine through the centuries and become famous throughout the world. The queen of the lagoon. Venice.

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

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2022
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** GERMAN (THIENEMANN), FRENCH (L'ÉCOLE DES LOISIRS), DUTCH (PELCKMANS)

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



THE WIND THIEF

AGE 10+



“

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

AGE 10+



in partnership with



THE WIND THIEF

Davide Morosinotto

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

◆ **AN ADVENTURE STORY THAT DESCRIBES AN UNKNOWN TIME AND PLACE.**

DA MAR, BOOK 2.

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

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2023
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** GERMAN (THIENEMANN), DUTCH (PELCKMANS)

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TWENTY-FOUR

AGE 13+



66

ONE STORY, TWO BOOKS: TWO WAYS OF READING IT

AGE 13+



in partnership with



TWENTY-FOUR

Davide Morosinotto

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

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

-
- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** CAMELOZAMPA (ITALY), 2022
 - **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** GERMAN (THIENEMANN), DUTCH (PELCKMANS)]
 - **TV RIGHTS OPTIONED**

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

NIGHT OF THE BIPLANES

AGE 13+



“

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



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 13+

NIGHT OF THE BIPLANES

Davide Morosinotto

AGE 13+

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

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

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

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

THE DESERT FOXES

AGE 11+



“

THE BEST-HIDDEN,
MOST CUNNING PLAN IN HISTORY

AGE 11+



in partnership with



THE DESERT FOXES

Pierdomenico Baccalario

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

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

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

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

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

-
- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2018
 - **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** FRANCH (THIERRY MAGNIER), CHINESE (TB PUBLISHING LIMITED)
-

PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO ✱ is a writer and journalist.

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



MAYDALA EXPRESS

AGE 11+



“

AN UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEY
TOWARDS THE LAST, UNKNOWN DESTINATION

AGE 11+



in partnership with



MAYDALA EXPRESS

Pierdomenico Baccalario & Davide Morosinotto

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

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

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

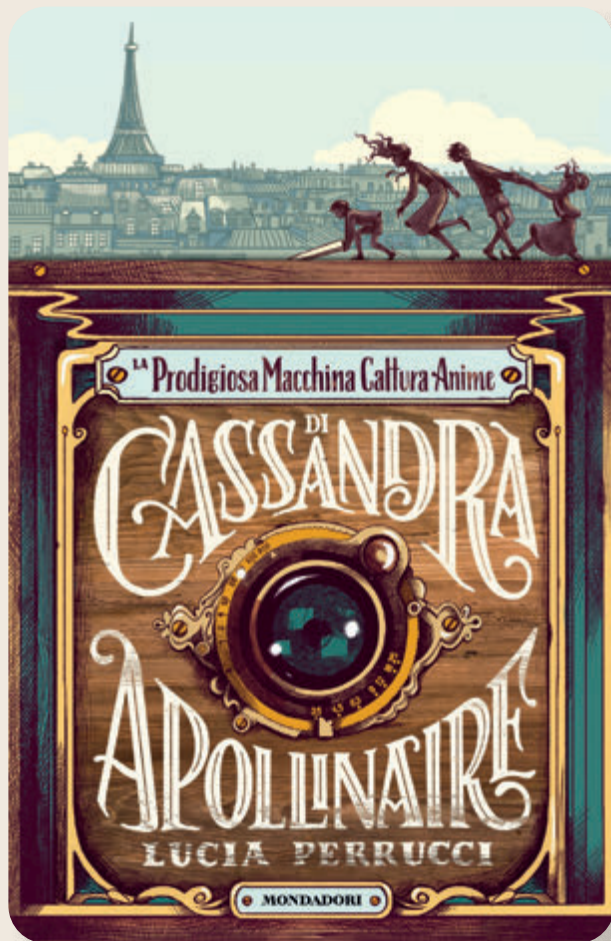
- **RIGHTS OWNER:** BOOK ON A TREE
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** FRENCH (L'ÉCOLE DES LOISIRS)

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CASSANDRA APOLLINAIRE'S PRODIGIOUS SOUL-CAPTURING MACHINE

AGE 10+



“

WHATEVER HAPPENS,
NEVER LOOK INTO THE LENS

AGE 10+



in partnership with



CASSANDRA APOLLINAIRE'S
PRODIGIOUS SOUL-CAPTURING MACHINE

Lucia Perrucci

AGE 10+

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

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

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

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

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

THE HOUSES OF THE DEAD
HAVE NO STAIRS

AGE 12+



66

HOUSES ALWAYS RESEMBLE THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THEM.

THE HOUSES OF THE DEAD HAVE NO STAIRS

Lucia Perrucci

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

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

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



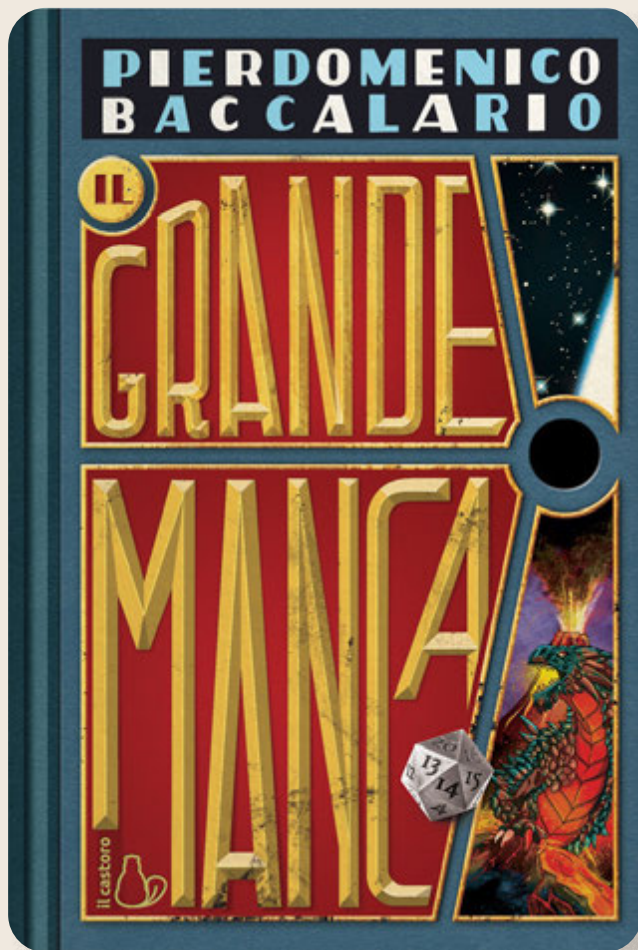
- FIRST PUBLISHER: MONDADORI (ITALY), 2024
- RIGHTS SOLD IN: FRENCH (L'ÉCOLE DES LOISIRS)

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



THE MISSING PIECE

AGE 14+



66

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

AGE 14+



BOOK ON A TREE

THE MISSING PIECE

Pierdomenico Baccalario

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



HERE IS LOREDANA LIPPERINI'S MOTIVATION:

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

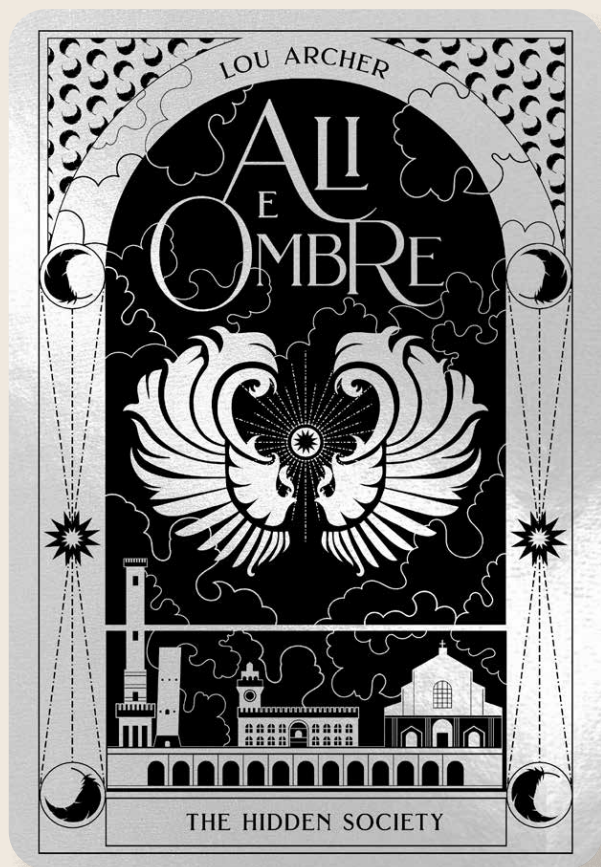
“The Missing Piece” by Pierdomenico Baccalario does this: it narrates the loss suffered by Vittorio and his pain for his brother Federico, in a coma after an accident. Vittorio tries to be him, and therefore to complete his comic collections, to walk in his footsteps, to exist in his role-playing games.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

S
A
G
A
•

ROMANTASY

THE HIDDEN SOCIETY

AGE: NEW ADULT



“

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

AGE: NEW ADULT



•
S
A
G
A

THE HIDDEN SOCIETY
The Archer Sisters

SPELLS AND BRASS

Jude Archer

VENICE
MAGICIANS

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



DREAMS AND SPARKS

Serena Archer

FLORENCE
FAES

Cordelia believes her biggest problem is choosing between the future her father wants for her – engineering – and the one she truly desires, art. But everything changes when she meets Dante: beautiful, immortal, and one of the fae princes competing for the throne. Drawn into a lush and dangerous Florence, Cordelia becomes part of the Three Trials that will decide the next ruler of the fae realm. As she is pulled closer to Dante, she discovers that falling for an immortal may be the most impossible challenge of all.



ABYSS AND CHARM

Ella Archer

NAPLES
MERMAIDS

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



WINGS AND SHADOWS

Lou Archer

BOLOGNA
DEMONS

Velia Matai has fled a toxic relationship and started over in Bologna, sharing an apartment with her sister Alba. Their bond is intense, loving and strained, and living side by side soon tests them both. But when Velia meets Ravel during one of Alba's band rehearsals, her attention shifts entirely to him; why does he never appear in daylight, where does he disappear to, and what lies behind his silence? As a series of brutal murders shakes the city, Velia begins to suspect that Ravel is hiding something far darker than she imagined – and that accepting the truth may be harder than falling for him.

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

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



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

FIRST PUBLISHER: IL CASTORO (ITALY), 2024-25

RIGHTS SOLD IN: Spain, France, Russia, Belgium
and the Netherlands. *Movie rights optioned*

OF FIRE & SILK

AGE 12+



“

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

AGE 12+



in partnership with



• x THS

OF FIRE & SILK

Manlio Castagna

AGE 12+

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

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

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

-
- ✦ ELEGANT, POWERFUL WRITING WITH SHORT, FAST-PACED CHAPTERS THAT QUICKLY CHANGE THE RHYTHM OF THE STORY. A STORY OF LOVE, FRIENDSHIP AND UNIVERSAL VALUES SET AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF ITALY.
 - ✦ AN UNEXPECTED ENDING WITH A TWIST THAT WILL LEAVE YOU BREATHLESS.
 - ✦ PREMIO ACQUI STORIA 2025 WINNER - PREMIO STREGA RAGAZZI E RAGAZZE LONGLIST - PREMIO ORVIETO SHORTLIST - PREMIO GIGANTE DELLE LANGHE SHORTLIST - PREMIO CASTELLO DI SANGUINETTO SHORTLIST
-

- FIRST PUBLISHER: MONDADORI (ITALY), 2024
-

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

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

BURN THIS BOOK THE CHILDREN WHO SAVED DR ZHIVAGO

AGE 12+



66

IS IT WORTH RISKING YOUR LIFE FOR A BOOK?

AGE 12+



in partnership with



BURN THIS BOOK

THE CHILDREN WHO SAVED DR ZHIVAGO

Pierdomenico Baccalario

Moscow, 2025. Nikolai, who dreams of being noticed by the Office, has learned to juggle secrets and prohibitions. Along the way he encounters a network of poets, writers and dissidents, particularly Anja, a mysterious girl who entrusts him with a task: hiding a manuscript. Hunted by the secret services, he is forced to rely on increasingly cryptic instructions to take the document out of the country. Peredelkino, 1956. Victor is catapulted into the world of writer Boris Pasternak, amid literary secrets and dreams of freedom, teetering between loyalty and fear. Moscow, 1915. Anja, a promising young violinist, is intrigued by a group of intellectuals who meet at the Writers' Bookshop. Determined not to lose sight of her ideals, she has to pick a side. Pasternak's book really was published in Italy in 1956 thanks to the foresight of Giangiacomo Feltrinelli. In the fictional novel, it is also thanks to Anja, who has become a spy in order to protect writers from inside the system. In 2025 *Zhivago Returns* is published in Finland, thanks to the courage of Victor, alias Mayakovskij, the author, his grand-daughter Anja (named after the Anja of 1915) and Nikolai.

✖ **IS IT WORTH RISKING YOUR LIFE FOR A BOOK? BORIS PASTERNAK WOULD SAY YES, THAT IDEAS ARE NOT BORN TO BE HIDDEN OR SUFFOCATED. AND SO WOULD HIS PUBLISHER, GIANGIACOMO FELTRINELLI, WHO MANAGED TO PUBLISH *DR ZHIVAGO*, WHILE AVOIDING CENSORSHIP.**

✖ **70TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION.**

✖ **AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF THIS EXCITING AND ADVENTUROUS AFFAIR, WORTHY OF A GREAT SPY NOVEL, THREE 16-YEAR-OLDS, NIKOLAI, ANJA AND VICTOR, MOVE THROUGH THREE DIFFERENT HISTORICAL PERIODS, ALWAYS POISED ON THE BRINK OF CHANGE.**

• **FIRST PUBLISHER:** FELTRINELLI (ITALY), 2025

PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO ✖ is a writer and journalist. His books have sold millions of copies worldwide and been translated into over 30 languages. He has written under various pseudonyms (from *Ulysses Moore* to *Irene Adler*), worked with Lucca Comics & Games for over 20 years, and is a columnist for *La Lettura* and *Corriere della Sera*. In 2014 he established the creative agency Book on a Tree in London. He co-wrote with Gianluca Viali the biography *Le Cose Importanti* and worked on the books *La Bella Stagione* by Gianluca Viali and Roberto Mancini.

THE NIGHT OF THE MALOMBRE

AGE 12+



66

ITALY HAD ITS OWN 'TITANIC'...
ADVENTURE, LOVE AND DEATH ON A TRAIN,
INSPIRED BY A DEVASTATING TRUE STORY

AGE 12+



in partnership with



THE NIGHT OF THE MALOMBRE

Manlio Castagna

On the freezing night of the 3rd of March 1944, the train travelling from Naples to Potenza was found at a stop in a tunnel near Balvano. Hundreds of bodies lay inside and all around it. Of course, massacres are not uncommon in wartime, but these corpses had no wounds. To unravel the mystery of goods train 8017, we must go back in time, elbow our way up onto the long convoy and look the clandestine passengers in the face. Like Rocco the rogue, looking for loot in the crowd. Or Brando, forced to look after his family too young. When his pure determined gaze meets that of Nora, the daughter of Dr Moscati (who is on the train to find his lost son) their souls make an indissoluble connection. But something is tormenting the girl: she has seen the imminent danger in the form of malombre, dark presences that are harbingers of death according to popular belief. But who will believe her?

-
- ✦ **THE LEGENDS AND THE TRUTH ABOUT ITALY'S MOST SERIOUS RAILWAY DISASTER, LONG-FORGOTTEN OVER THE YEARS, IN A SWEEPING AND POWERFUL STORY.**
 - ✦ **THREE TEENAGERS ON BOARD A TRAIN: BRANDO, WHO HAS NEVER SEEN THE FIELDS FLY PAST SO QUICKLY; ROCCO, HIDDEN AMONG THE STOWAWAYS; NORA, WHO SENSES THE EVIL OF OTHERS AND SEES WHAT OTHERS CAN'T SEE. THE MALOMBRE, SPECTRAL BEINGS THAT COME FROM THE DEPTHS OF NIGHT.**
 - ✦ **SHORTLISTED FOR THE STREGA CHILDREN'S PRIZE 2021.**
-

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2020
 - **TV RIGHTS OPTIONED**
-

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

THE NIGHT OF THE STAG BEETLES

AGE 11+



66

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

AGE 11+



in partnership with



THE NIGHT OF THE STAG BEETLES

Giuseppe Festa

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

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

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

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

THE PIKES OF LAKE ROAD

AGE 10+



“

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

AGE 10+



in partnership with



THE PIKES OF LAKE ROAD

Giuseppe Festa

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

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

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

-
- ✱ **A UNIQUE AND ENGAGING ADVENTURE, A CRAZY SUMMER BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL AND THE PASSAGE FROM CHILDHOOD TO ADOLESCENCE.**
 - ✱ **"I WROTE THIS BOOK DURING THE FIRST LOCKDOWN. IN THE STILLNESS OF THAT PRESENT, I REVISITED A PAGE FROM MY PAST: A SUMMER IN THE SHADOW OF THE HALF TOWER, AT MY GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE, THE CUSTODIANS OF AN OLD MANOR ON THE SHORES OF LAKE ISEO. ADVENTURES, FIRST LOVES, LIFE, DEATH, MYSTERY. EVERYTHING CAME BACK TO LIFE AS IT WAS THEN, WHISPERING TO ME THE STORY OF THE PIKES OF LAKE ROAD." – GIUSEPPE FESTA**
 - ✱ **FINALIST FOR GIGANTE DELLE LANGHE 2021 AND WINNER OF THE GIANNI RODARI CHILDREN'S PRIZE 2021.**
 - ✱ **WINNER OF THE BANCARELLINO CHILDREN'S PRIZE 2022.**
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- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** SALANI (ITALY), 2021
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GIUSEPPE FESTA ✱ has a degree in Natural Sciences and works in the environmental education field. Founder and singer of the Lingalad folk music group, he has also written a number of nature reports for Italian broadcaster RAI and starred in the award-winning documentary *Oltre la Frontiera*. His novels have been widely translated. He was shortlisted for the Strega Children's Prize 2019 with *Cento passi per volare* (*A Hundred Steps to Freedom*), Salani, 2018. The same novel received the Kadaitoshō in Japan in 2020 and was chosen by the Japanese Ministry of Education as summer reading for all school children in the target age group.



A HUNDRED STEPS TO FREEDOM

AGE 9+



66

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

AGE 9+



in partnership with



A HUNDRED STEPS TO FREEDOM

Giuseppe Festa

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

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

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

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



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

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



第66回

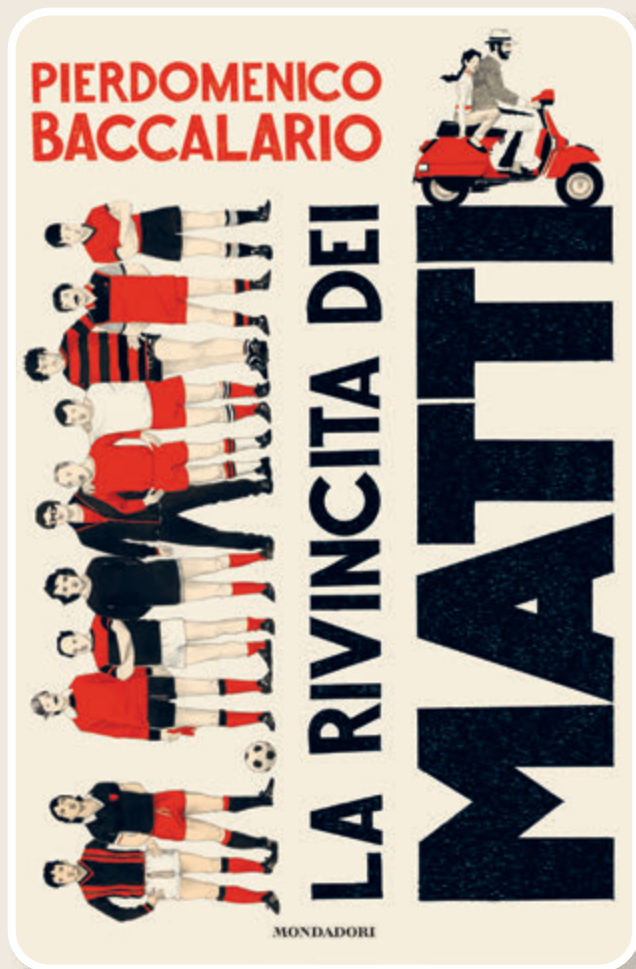
読んで世界を広げる、读いて世界をつくる。

青少年読書感想文全国コンクール

主催：文部科学省、文部科学省児童読書推進委員会、全国読書会、協賛：文部科学省、読書：ナショナル・リーダーシップ・アカデミー

THE LOONIES STRIKE BACK

AGE 10+



“

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



in partnership with



• x • THS

THE LOONIES STRIKE BACK

Pierdomenico Baccalario

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

✱ **A STORY OF FRIENDSHIP, SPORT, REVENGE, AFFECTION, AND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE FREE. A MEMORABLE PORTRAYAL OF THE WORLD OF MISFITS AND THOSE WHO ARE OVERLOOKED, WHO LIVE ON THE MARGINS OF SOCIETY, WAITING FOR THEIR REMATCH, AND WHO FINALLY TAKE ON THE ROLE OF GIANTS AND MYTHICAL HEROES, BUILDING DREAMS THAT HAVE NEVER EVEN CROSSED OTHERS' MINDS.**

✱ **TOUCHES ON THE SUBJECT OF PSYCHIATRY AND COGNITIVE PROBLEMS WITH SCIENTIFIC AND HISTORICAL PRECISION, BUT ALSO IN A COMIC TONE.**

✱ **DRAWS ON ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MOMENTS IN THE HISTORY OF MODERN PSYCHIATRY: THE CLOSURE OF THE TRIESTE ASYLUM IN 1978.**

✱ **ITALIAN IBBY HONOUR LIST 2023**

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

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

DARKMARE

AGE 10+



“

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

AGE 10+



in partnership with



DARKMARE

Manlio Castagna

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

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

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

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

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

✱ **TEENAGE LOVE, FRIENDSHIP AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS.**

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

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

DEDALO & DHARMA

AGE 11+



“

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

AGE 11+



in partnership with



DEDALO & DHARMA

Manlio Castagna

Illustrations by Kalina Muhova

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE DREAMERS' ROOM

AGE 11+



“

WHAT IF THE PERFECT LIFE
WERE ONLY A DREAM — AND YOUR FATHER
CHOSE IT OVER REALITY?

AGE 11+



in partnership with



THE DREAMERS' ROOM

Ilaria Prada

Thirteen-year-old Flora lives in San Savino, a tiny village where life moves slowly and everything still feels real. But more and more adults are joining the Dreamers Program, an advanced system that lets them fall asleep forever and live inside a world built entirely around their desires. When Flora's father secretly becomes one of them after losing his job, she is devastated. Determined to bring him back, she becomes the first underage participant ever allowed into the program. Inside an endless summer in Senigallia — the place of their happiest memories together — Flora begins to understand the seductive emptiness of a life with no waiting, no risk and no real human connection. To save her father, she must find him inside the dream — and remind him of the bond that still ties them to the real world.

- ✕ **AA POWERFUL FATHER-DAUGHTER BOND: FLORA ENTERS THE DREAM WORLD NOT TO ESCAPE REALITY, BUT TO BRING HER FATHER BACK, HOLDING ON TO THE SHARED MEMORIES AND SECRET WORDS THAT STILL CONNECT THEM.**
- ✕ **A HIGH-CONCEPT STORY WITH REAL EMOTIONAL DEPTH: THE DREAMERS PROGRAM OFFERS INSTANT FULFILMENT, BUT THE NOVEL EXPLORES WHAT IS LOST WHEN LIFE BECOMES TOO EASY AND NOTHING IS TRULY REAL.**
- ✕ **A HEARTFELT COMING-OF-AGE JOURNEY: THROUGH WONDER, DISAPPOINTMENT AND DIFFICULT CHOICES, FLORA LEARNS THAT IMPERFECT, UNPREDICTABLE LIFE IS WORTH MORE THAN ANY DREAM.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** SALANI (ITALY), 20

ILARIA PRADA ✕ studied foreign languages and literature and has lived and worked in several countries, including Poland, Belarus, Slovenia, Switzerland and Germany. She has written widely as a journalist and reporter, and made her children's fiction debut with an award-winning novel recognised for the originality of its theme and its emotional impact on readers.

HOOPDRIVER

AGE 10+



“

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

AGE 10+



in partnership with



HOOPDRIVER

Pierdomenico Baccalario

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

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

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2021 – ON WATTPAD IN APRIL / JUNE 2020
-

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

NEVER WALK ALONE

AGE 10+



“

FOOTBALL IS A GREAT JOURNEY TO TAKE IN COMPANY

AGE 10+



in partnership with



NEVER WALK ALONE

Marco Cattaneo

AGE 10+

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

x **FOOTBALL, HUMOUR AND ABOVE ALL FRIENDSHIP.**

x **AN EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY THE MAGIC OF FOOTBALL
IN A ROAD TRIP STORY.**

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

• **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** FRANCE (POULPE FICTIONS & SLALOM)

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

TWO NIGHTS

AGE 11+



“

THE DARKEST DARKNESS
IS WITHIN OURSELVES.

AGE 11+



BOOK ON A TREE

TWO NIGHTS

Azzurra D'Agostino

For the first time in their lives, Nico, Anna, Bone, and Joel spend two nights away from home at Nico and Anna's grandmother's house – a house steeped in premonitions, superstitions and rituals that only Nico seems to understand. Each of them must confront their greatest fears: moments of dread in shadowy tunnels, frantic escapes through the darkest woods and torrents of wild, raging streams. Are they simply unprepared for this adventure, or does nature truly conceal spirits and powers? Only Nico seems to hold the answer.

-
- ✕ **THE POWER OF FRIENDSHIP, THE STRENGTH TO FACE THE FEARS, THE COURAGE TO EMBRACE THEM AND THE WILL TO MOVE FORWARD.**
 - ✕ **THE POWER OF FEELINGS AND THE MAGIC THAT COMES FROM ANCIENT POPULAR BELIEFS.**
 - ✕ **ADVENTURE AND NATURE.**
-

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** IL CASTORO (ITALY), 2025
-

AZZURRA D'AGOSTINO ✕ is the author of poems, books for young people, theatre. Her novels include *Il giardino dei desideri* (DeAgostino) and *La notte in cui ho ucciso Kurt Cobain* (Il Castoro). She leads workshops on collective poetic writing for all ages.

THE DOG SUICIDE BRIDGE

AGE 10+



“

A BRIDGE WITH A DARK PAST,
DOZENS OF SHATTERED BODIES,
NO EXPLANATION

AGE 10+



in partnership with



THE DOG SUICIDE BRIDGE

Daniele Nicastro

Martino is thirteen, with a hyper-protective mother, a complicated father and an affectionate mongrel called Rumo.

Martino wanted a dog for two reasons: to get out of the house at least three times a day, and to impress Serena, who knows everyone but him... and now he's about to be devoured and has to save himself and his four-legged friend from the talons of darkness, at all costs.

With Rumo he feels protected, especially since he's felt a strange presence following him closely. Too closely. In the shadows.

He doesn't remember exactly when it started, but now he hears it wherever he goes. Even though he's half deaf.

At the same time, in town the dogs have started killing themselves by jumping off the historic Devil's Bridge. Martino and his friend Serena are the only ones investigating, and they're horrified when the guilty party appears before their eyes: an infernal creature that looks like a black hound. Scarface. Martino is terrified. How can he take on a beast like that? But he has to, in order to save Rumo and himself from the talons of darkness. But also to find his place in the world, and finally be free from every 'monstrous' fear.

-
- ✕ **A STORY ABOUT THE FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN: DARK, THREATENING, INSCRUTABLE, IT WAITS FOR US IN THE SHADOWS UNTIL WE DECIDE TO FACE IT.**
 - ✕ **A MYSTERY/HORROR STORY INSPIRED BY ANGLO-SAXON FOLKLORE AND LEGENDS.**
 - ✕ **FEARS DON'T ONLY COME FROM OUTSIDE, IN THE FORM OF ENEMIES, BUT FROM INSIDE TOO: THE FEAR OF FACING THE WORLD.**

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

DANIELE NICASTRO ✕ was born in 1970 and is of Sicilian origin. He currently lives in a little town in the province of Cuneo where he writes all kinds of things: novels, postcards, messages in bottles, and phrases on walls. He started telling stories as a boy, to his mother, every time he came home late without warning her. Over time, he has made a profession of it. He made his debut with the novel *Grande (Grown Up)*, Einaudi Ragazzi, 2017, winner of the Legenda Junior Prize.

GOODWILL

AGE 13+



“

THE ORIGIN OF EVIL.
The West has never been so scary

AGE 13+



in partnership with



GOODWILL

Manlio Castagna

Cover by Mirka Andolfo

One dark dawn in November 1851, after a seven-month-long journey, the settlers arrive in what will become Seattle. Hope, happiness and desperation blend with the rain that soaks them to the bone. Into this community of willing men and women, little Ambrosius Goodwill is born. His childhood passes happily until, at the age of four, playing in the woods, the boy disappears. He doesn't come home for a week. The forest is combed inch by inch to no avail, and the Journey of Knowledge undertaken by the great Indian shaman to find some trace of the boy provides no reassurances. Then, one stormy day, Goodwill reappears on the doorstep. But he's no longer the carefree child he was before: he doesn't seem to suffer from hunger or cold, nor to get tired or feel emotions. And when tragedies start occurring in Seattle, affecting the whole community, word is that it's the boy himself who has brought the misfortune...

-
- ✕ **CAN YOU LOVE A MONSTER? OFTEN, WE LATCH ONTO PLEASANT MEMORIES, A DELICATE TOUCH ON THE FACE, A HUG, TO ENABLE US TO CLOSE OUR EYES TO THE ATROCITIES...**
 - ✕ **"A DARK WESTERN THRILLER THAT'S RIGHT UP THERE WITH THE GREATEST INTERNATIONAL MASTERS OF THE GENRE. MIGHTY WRITING THAT GRABS YOU BY THE THROAT ON THE FIRST PAGE, DRAGGING YOU INTO A VIVID AND COHERENT WORLD."— GIUSEPPE FESTA**
 - ✕ **THE (STANDALONE) PREQUEL OF THE GRAPHIC NOVEL *MERCY*, WRITTEN BY MIRKA ANDOLFO, SOLD IN 18 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD AND WHICH BECAME A BEST-SELLER IN AMERICA.**

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

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

LIDIA POËT

AND THE SECRET OF THE BOARDING SCHOOL

AGE 12+



“

IMPOSSIBLE TASKS MAKE ME FEEL CALM.

AGE 12+



in partnership with



LIDIA POËT AND THE SECRET OF THE BOARDING SCHOOL

Vernante Pallotti

Lidia Poët was the first female lawyer and rebellious teenager in Italian history. In 1871, when girls could only crochet and make rice pudding, she was already stubborn enough to follow her dreams and defend those who had no rights. This makes Lidia the perfect travel companion for young readers looking for their place in the world. A fascinating and atypical heroine who, in her own words, is "*just an ordinary girl who sometimes does extraordinary things*". In this all-female mystery, the real Lidia is put to the test by the dark secret of the boarding school where she was sent to learn good manners. The aspiring lawyer will need all her powers of speech and courage to solve the case, overcoming prejudices and remaining true to herself.

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

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

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

MAUD WEST, LADY DETECTIVE

AGE 10+



“

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

AGE 10+



in partnership with



MAUD WEST, LADY DETECTIVE

Max Finch

Illustrations by Iacopo Bruno

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

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

- 1 = **A MATRYOSHKA OF MYSTERIES.** London, 1920. A simple case of suspected infidelity turns into something far bigger—murder, blackmail, and a plot against the Queen. Maud West and Max Finch must untangle a web of secrets hiding the Empire's most dangerous criminal organisation: the Hundred Masks.
- 2 = **A CATHEDRAL OF COBWEBS.** Liverpool, 1920. A top-secret mission takes Maud and Max on a high-stakes chase for a mysterious briefcase. But they're not the only ones after it—someone far more dangerous is willing to do anything to get there first.
- 3 = **A MAZE OF MIRRORS.** England, 1920. Maggie and Max Finch are spying on a lavish party—why? Because behind the glitter hides Julius Morgenthaler, the Empire's most elusive criminal. Before dawn, they'll dodge thieves, speeding cars, and deadly traps in Maud West's toughest case yet!

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

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

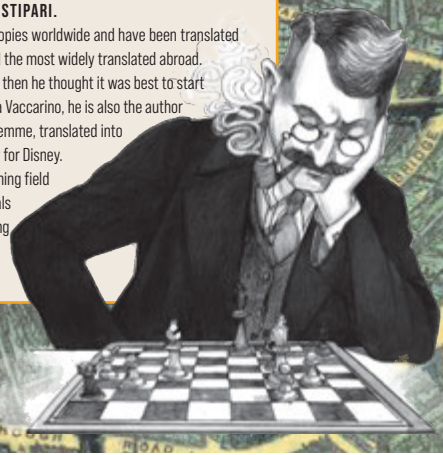
- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** GALLUCCI (ITALY), 2023-2024-2025
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** RUSSIAN (CLEVER MEDIA)

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

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

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

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



GHOST AGENCY

AGE 9+



“

CALL MY AGENT... FOR GHOSTS!

AGE 9+



in partnership with



GHOST AGENCY

PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO and ALESSANDRO GATTI

When thirteen-year-old Will Moogley inherits the worst-run ghost agency in New York, he also inherits a wildly inconvenient afterlife economy. His job? Finding suitable hauntings for demanding ghosts, dodging rival agencies, handling spectral emergencies and somehow keeping the business afloat. With eccentric gadgets, disastrous clients and supernatural chaos around every corner, this fast-paced, funny chapter-book series turns ghost-hunting upside down: here, it's the ghosts who need management. Set in a quirky, ghost-infested New York, it is a witty, high-energy blend of comedy, mystery and paranormal mischief

- 1 = **GOOD JOB, WILL MOOGLEY!** Will Moogley's ghost agency is on the brink – until a luxury hotel wants a haunted castle. With a quirky assistant, unruly ghosts and a scheming rival, Will must pull off the ultimate haunting in this spooky, comic adventure.
- 2 = **A FEARFULLY FRIGHTENING FAMILY!** Retired ghost Jerrold wants his house back from a noisy human family, so he calls Will Moogley's Ghost Agency. But this time it's not about evicting a ghost – it's the living who must go! A spooky, comic twist on haunted-house fun.
- 3 = **THE SKYSCRAPER GHOST** At the Empire State Building, a contractless ghost is causing chaos – and it's up to Will Moogley's hapless agency to evict him. But stubborn spirits, rivals and Tupper's blunders make it Will's tallest challenge yet.
- 4 = **EVEN GHOSTS QUIVER** Ghosts are vanishing – leaving only eerie slime behind. With panic rising, Will, Tupper and Frida must unmask a rogue ghost-catcher before the spirit world disappears. Suspenseful, spooky – Will's most dangerous case yet.

- » **A BRILLIANTLY FUNNY HIGH-CONCEPT PREMISE: IN THIS WORLD, GHOSTS NEED PLACEMENTS, HAUNTINGS ARE JOBS, AND THE AFTERLIFE RUNS ON AGENCY WORK.**
- » **A LOVABLE RELUCTANT HERO: WILL MOOGLEY IS A YOUNG CEO WITH TERRIBLE EQUIPMENT, IMPOSSIBLE CLIENTS AND JUST ENOUGH STUBBORNNESS TO SURVIVE THE CHAOS.**
- » **PERFECT FOR RELUCTANT READERS: SHORT CHAPTERS, SHARP HUMOUR, PARANORMAL ADVENTURES AND A HIGHLY ACCESSIBLE FORMAT MAKE THE SERIES INSTANTLY INVITING.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2019
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** TURKISH (ITHAKI), RUSSIAN (AST), CZECH (ALBATROS)
- **TV SERIES IN PRODUCTION!**

PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO and ALESSANDRO GATTI = are two of Italy's most successful children's authors, internationally known for bestselling series that combine adventure, humour, mystery and strong narrative drive.

PUZZLE MYSTERIES COLLECTION

AGE 10+



66

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

AGE 10+



in partnership with



PUZZLE MYSTERIES COLLECTION

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

Puzzle-within-a-puzzle stories.

Intense and intricately plotted novels.

- 1 = MYSTERY HOTEL = ALESSANDRO GATTI & LUCIA VACCARINO
- 2 = MURDER IN THE MIRROR = TOMMASO PERCIVALE
- 3 = THE MYSTERY OF GORSE MANOR = TOMMASO PERCIVALE
- 4 = TEN LITTLE TENANTES = PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO, ALESSANDRO GATTI & ANDREA DALLA FONTANA
- 5 = MURDER IN THE BAND = CHRISTIAN HILL
- 6 = THIS BOOK CONTAINS A CRIME = PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO
- 7 = THE MYSTERY OF VILLA POLYPHEMUS = MARIA ELISA ALOISI
- 8 = MURDER ON THE OCCIDENT EXPRESS = PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO, ALESSANDRO GATTI & ANDREA DALLA FONTANA
- 9 = MURDER AT THE FESTIVAL = VERNANTE PALLOTTI, FRANCESCO MORGANDO
- 10 = SEVEN SUSPECTS FOR A MURDER = TOMMASO PERCIVALE
- 11 = MYSTERIES OF SUMMER = CURATED BY MARCO MAGNONE
- 12 = THE SAMURAI'S SECRET = TOMMASO PERCIVALE

-
- = A METAFICTIONAL NARRATIVE OR THEMED PREMISE THAT CAN BE ENTERTAINING FOR SEASONED MYSTERY FANS AS WELL AS NEWCOMERS TO THE GENRE, WHO WILL ENJOY HONING THEIR ARMCHAIR SLEUTHING SKILLS WITH EACH BOOK.
 - = WRITTEN WITH HUMOUR, SUSPENSE AND ENTHUSIASM BY THE MASTERS OF ADVENTURE, COMEDY AND CRIME GENRES AT BOOK ON A TREE.
-

- FIRST PUBLISHER: PIEMME (ITALY), 2021-2025



THE CITY OF WITCHES

AGE 10+



66

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

AGE 10+



in partnership with



• x T O H S

THE CITY OF WITCHES

Marco Ponti

AGE 10+

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

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

- FIRST PUBLISHER: SALANI (ITALY), 2023

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

HACK3R

AGE 12+



“

HE JUST WANTED TO WIN OVER THE GIRL OF HIS DREAMS...
THEN HIS ACCOUNT WAS HACKED!

AGE 12+



in partnership with



• x • T O H S

HACK3R

Christian Hill

Fifteen-year-old Raffaele has two passions: IT and Alina, with her big green eyes. But though he knows how to deal with computers, he doesn't know where to begin with her.

When he finds out she is on a social media writing group, Raffaele joins it and starts posting stories. At first they earn quite sceptical comments. But one morning a story appears on his account that he didn't write. It gets a lot of good feedback and Raffaele doesn't dare admit the truth...

So, while he pretends to be someone else in order to win over the girl he likes, in secret he tries to find out who has taken control of his profile... and discovers an unimaginable situation.

"This is life: the sky, whipped cream,
poetry, friends... love. You see?
You can't dream of spending it in front of
a computer!"

- ✕ **THREE GENRES IN ONE: THE ROMANCE OF FIRST LOVE, MYSTERY AND DYSTOPIA.**
- ✕ **WELL-ROUNDED CHARACTERS, BLENDING FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD NAIVETY WITH SHARP OBSERVATION AND DEPTH.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2025

CHRISTIAN HILL ✕ is a children's novelist. Before becoming a writer, he held various jobs, including working as an IT journalist, where he discovered a passion for computers. He has published successful books with several Italian publishers and won the Cento Prize for *Il Ladro dei Cieli* (*The Sky Thief*, Rizzoli). He is also involved in film and television, writing screenplays for both live-action and animated children's series. He lives in Milan with his wife, two daughters, a dog, and an electric bass guitar.

IRIS CLOUDSAWAY AND THE TOWER OF DREAMS

AGE 7+



“

WHAT IF THERE WAS MAGIC HIDING IN YOUR OWN HOUSE?
A SECRET INHERITANCE, A GRANDMA WHO TALKS FROM A PHOTO,
AND TWO KIDS READY TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH.

AGE 7+



in partnership with



IRIS CLOUDSAWAY AND THE TOWER OF DREAMS

Meo Rabai & Lucia Stipari

Twelve-year-old Iris Cloudsweeper has inherited something special: magic runs through her veins. She finds this out one day when her grandma, who has officially been dead for five years, starts talking to her from a photograph. But that's just the beginning. The neighbourhood she lives in hides forgotten secrets, there are buildings that are not what they seem, and a mysterious boy who understands the language of birds. Amid improvised spells, mysteries to solve and a city that hides more than it shows, Iris will have to learn to master her power before the truth gets out of hand.

- ✱ **A BRILLIANT, INDEPENDENT MAIN CHARACTER: IRIS IS IRONIC, REBELLIOUS AND CURIOUS, WITH AN INNATE TALENT FOR MAGIC (EVEN THOUGH SHE SOMETIMES TURNS PEOPLE INTO PIGLETS).**
- ✱ **AN URBAN SETTING WITH HIDDEN SECRETS: TWO IDENTICAL APARTMENT BUILDINGS, A PARK THAT ATTRACTS UNUSUAL CREATURES, AND A STORYTELLING WIND THAT SEEMS TO KNOW MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE.**
- ✱ **A BLEND OF TENSION, IRONY AND ADVENTURE: WITCHCRAFT, MYSTERIES AND SPELLS INTERWOVEN WITH SPARKLING DIALOGUE AND EXCITING MOMENTS.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** RIZZOLI (ITALY), 2025

MEO RABAI ✱ is a crossword solver, clarinetist and translator. This is his first children's novel.

LUCIA STIPARI ✱ is a writer and editorial consultant. For Castoro, she has published *Il Manuale delle 50: Avventure - in vacanza!* (with Pierdomenico Baccalario), *Il ragazzo senza ombra* and *Ada e lo specchio magico*. For Gallucci she has coauthored the series *Maud West, lady detective*.

THE PHENOMENAL P.T. HELIODORE

AGE 10+



66

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

AGE 10+



BOOK ON A TREE

in partnership with



• x T O H S

THE PHENOMENAL P.T. HELIODORE

Guido Sgardoli

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

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

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

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

THE GARDEN OF WISHES

AGE 10+



“

YOUR WISHES CAN CHANGE THE UNIVERSE

AGE 10+



in partnership with



THE GARDEN OF WISHES

Azzurra D'Agostino

Nobody knows. But shooting stars are actually seeds. Once they reach the Earth, those little black stones we call meteorites can be gathered, planted and cultivated. It's hard, but with the right amount of care they will sprout. And their luminous, magical aura makes people's dreams come true: it is the flower of wishes. Among the forests of the Apennines, there was a star-gardener who had learned how to take care of these delicate, sparkling plants; but after he died, the secret was lost. For a long time, the plants he had cultivated did not flower, and the wishes continued to sleep. But then Davide and Margherita came, and they discovered that managing people's dreams is more difficult than you might think. But also much, much more adventurous...

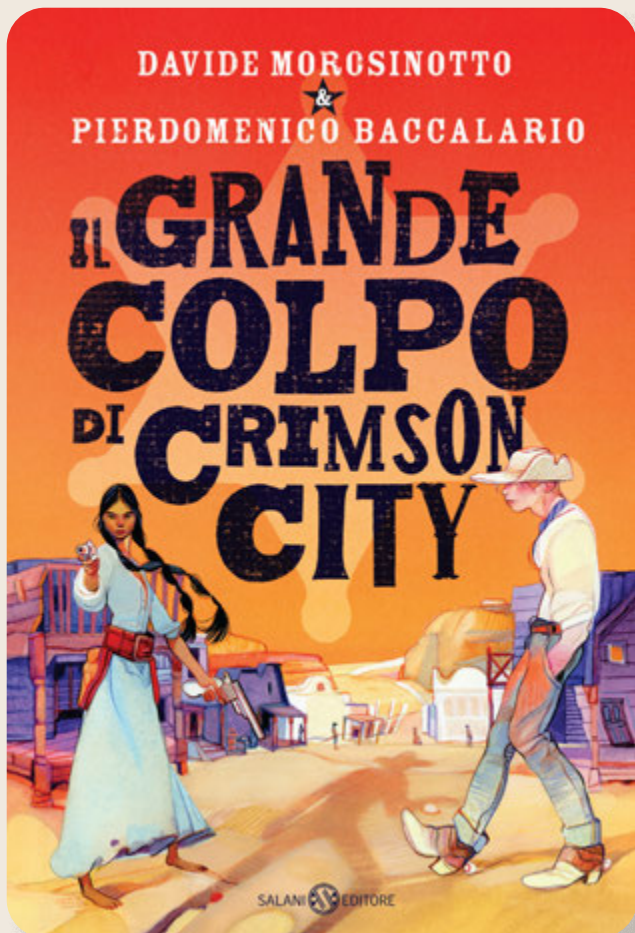
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- ✱ **A HYMN TO THE POWER OF WISHES, ABLE TO CHANGE THE WHOLE UNIVERSE.**
 - ✱ **A FREE, POWERFUL ADVENTURE, WHERE THERE IS ONLY ONE RULE: NEVER BE SELFISH.**
-

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** DE AGOSTINI PLANETA (ITALY), 2020
 - **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** HUNGARY (PHOENIX BOOKS)
-

AZZURRA D'AGOSTINO ✱ has published various poetry collections, earning her countless prizes and awards, including the Carducci Prize in 2014. Since 2005 she has written for theatre and worked on writing and poetry workshops for adults and children. As well as books of poetry, she has published numerous illustrated comics with Fatastrac and Electa Kids. *Il giardino dei desideri* is her fantastic and poetic debut in children's literature.

THE CRIMSON CITY HEIST

AGE 10+



66

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

AGE 10+



in partnership with



THE CRIMSON CITY HEIST

Pierdomenico Baccalario and Davide Morosinotto

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

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

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

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

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

✱ CAN A WESTERN ALSO BE A GREAT LOVE STORY?

✱ AND MAKE YOU LAUGH?

✱ WHO KNOWS... IN ANY CASE, HERE THERE ARE SHERIFFS, BANK ROBBERIES, JAILBREAKS, SALOON BRAWLS... PLOTTING, DOUBLE AND TRIPLE CROSSING... AND A MACHINE GUN THAT WILL NEVER SHOOT. SORRY, CHEKHOV.

✱ FROM TWO GREAT PENS OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE, A NOVEL TO BE READ UNTIL THE LAST... SHOT!

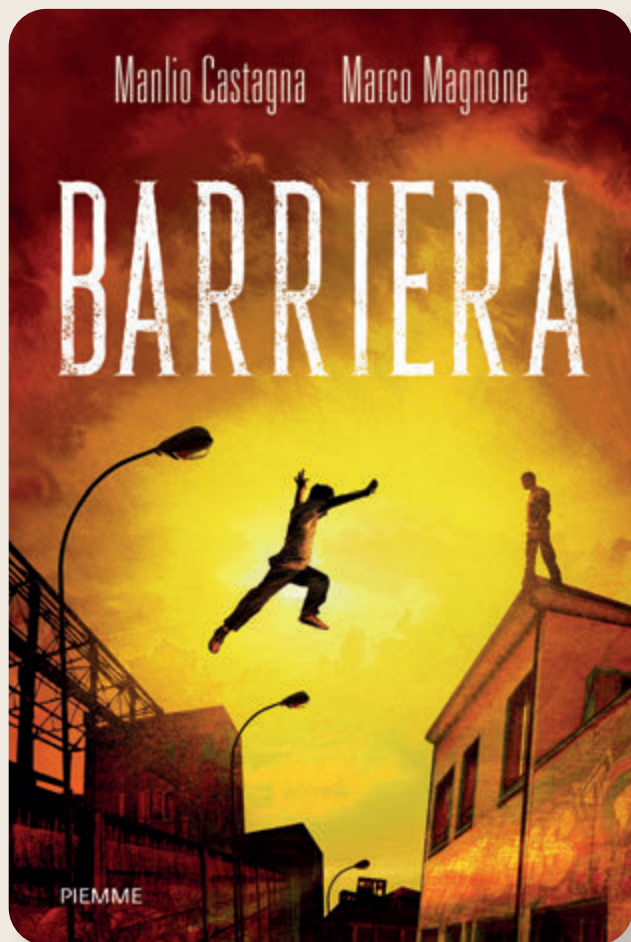
• FIRST PUBLISHER: SALANI (ITALY), 2023

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

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

BARRIERA

AGE 14+



“

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

AGE 14+



in partnership with



BARRIERA

Manlio Castagna & Marco Magnone

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

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

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

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

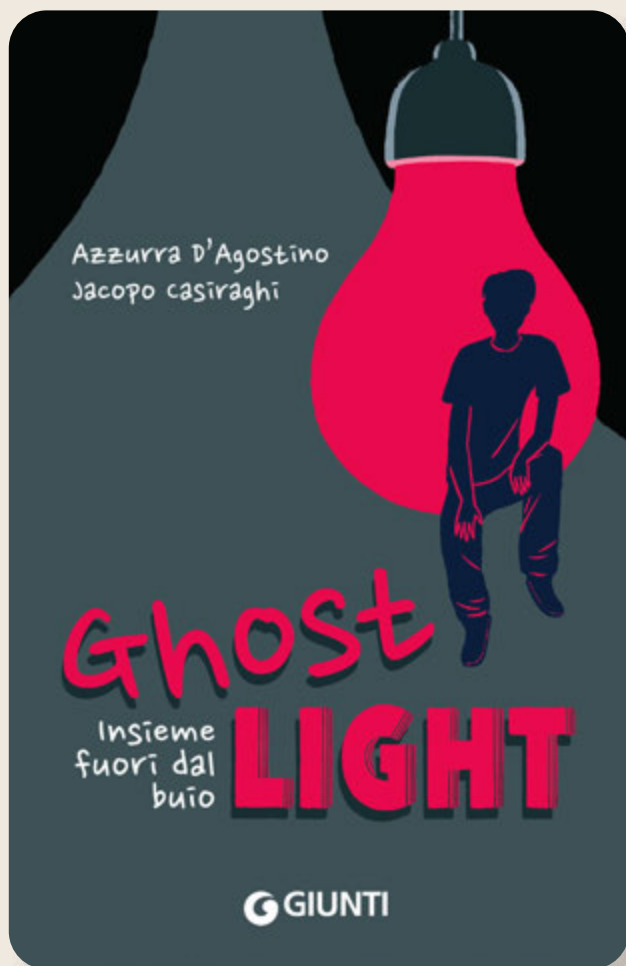
- **FIRST PUBLISHER: PIEMME (ITALY), 2023**
-

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

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

GHOST LIGHT

AGE 11+



66

TOGETHER OUT OF THE DARKNESS

AGE 11+



in partnership with



•
X
LOHS

GHOST LIGHT

Azzurra D'Agostino & Jacopo Casiraghi

A superstition has it that in Broadway theatres, at night, a single light always remains on while all the others are off. It's called the Ghost Light and it's a light that drives away evil spirits.

There are just a few days left before the opening night of the comedy staged by a group of ten boys and girls, and around this light, in addition to the ghosts of the theatre, their stories of fragility, which have not only to do with the show's opening night but also with life, light up.

A novel that's also a mirror to help us feel less alone, not be ashamed of being fragile, and know how to ask for help if needed.

- ✱ **A GROUP OF BOYS AND GIRLS COURAGEOUSLY FACES GHOSTS, THE REAL ONES THAT LIVE INSIDE THEM**
- ✱ **EATING DISORDERS, MOBILE PHONE ADDICTION AND OTHER FRAILTIES, TOLD IN TEN STORIES THAT INTERTWINE AND REVEAL THEMSELVES, WITHOUT JUDGEMENTS OR EASY SOLUTIONS, BUT WITH THE AWARENESS THAT IT'S POSSIBLE TO BE HELPED.**

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

AZZURRA D'AGOSTINO ✱ has published several poetry collections and writes plays for both adults and children. In writing this book she has been inspired by the **concrete practice of conducting theatre groups with young people**.

She has published several illustrated books and an anthology of poems written by children – the results of workshops held throughout Italy. In October 2020, her first novel, *Il Giardino dei desideri* (*The Garden of Wishes*), was published.

In addition to writing, she runs poetry workshops for people of all ages.

JACOPO CASIRAGHI ✱ is a psychologist and relational systemic psychotherapist who is an expert in families, functional diversity and the elderly. He is the head of the Psychology Service at the NeMO Clinic Centre in Milan and deals with the "psychological care" of patients in the developmental age and their families.

He collaborates with the teaching activity and the Laboratory of Clinical Psychology at the Catholic University of Milan and with various speciality schools in psychotherapy.

THE FORBIDDEN HOUR

AGE 11+



“

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

AGE 11+



BOOK ON A TREE

THE FORBIDDEN HOUR

Lucia Stipari

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

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

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

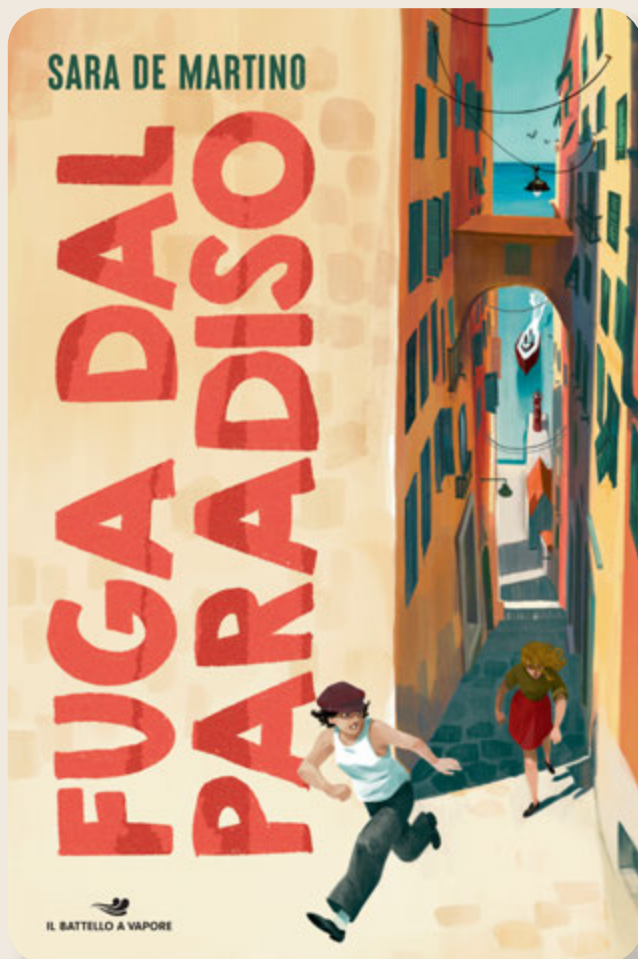
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- ✱ **A NOVEL THAT TASTES OF SUMMER, MYTHOLOGY AND FIRST KISSES.**
 - ✱ **A DELICATE, AUTHENTIC AND ENGAGING LOVE STORY, THE SORT THAT MAKES YOU DREAM AND LOSE YOURSELF IN IT.**
 - ✱ **A STORY ON TEENAGE THEMES: THE MEANING OF LOVE AND WHY IT'S THE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

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** IL CASTORO (ITALY), 2023
 - **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** RUSSIA (PHOENIX PUBLISHING HOUSE) AND ALBANIA (OMBRA GVG)
-

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

ESCAPE FROM PARADISE

AGE 12+



“

PARADISE IS A TRAP.

AGE 12+



in partnership with



ESCAPE FROM PARADISE

Sara De Martino

AGE 12+

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

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

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

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

✖ A TRUE STORY SET IN A FASCINATING GENOA, THAT OF DE ANDRÉ'S SONGS.

✖ A COMING-OF-AGE ADVENTURE OF SELF-ACCEPTANCE, THE RIGHT TO LOVE, AND FREEDOM.

✖ A GREAT LOVE PUT TO THE TEST BY A THOUSAND OBSTACLES.

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

• **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** DUTCH (BLAUW GRAS)

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

LIKE CICADAS

AGE 12+



“

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG
WITH WHO YOU ARE

AGE 12+



in partnership with



LIKE CICADAS

Fiore Manni

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

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

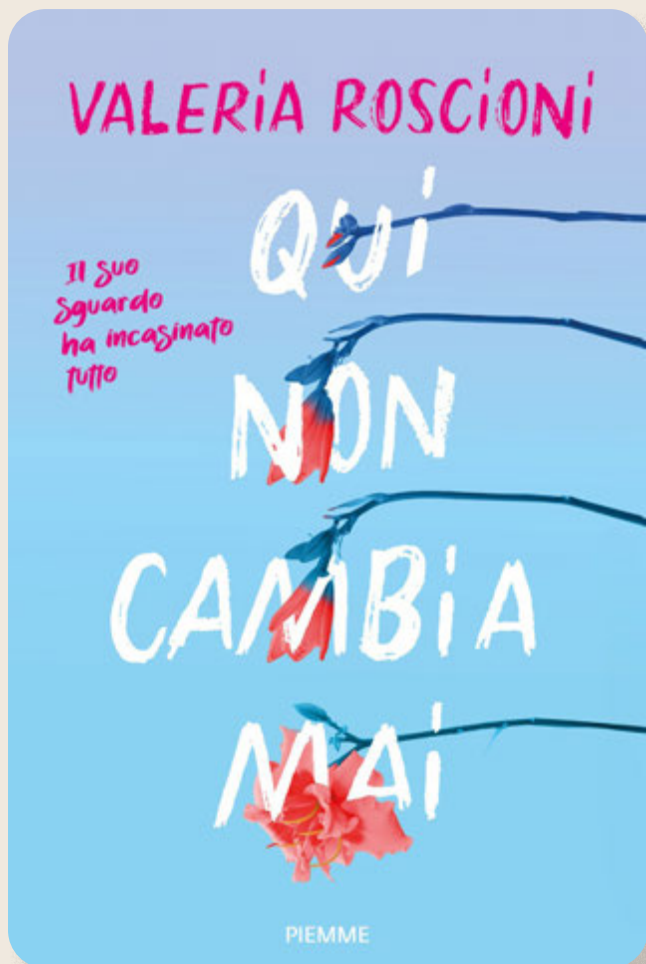
-
- ✱ **THE JOY, SUFFERING, AND PROBLEMS OF FIRST LOVE.**
 - ✱ **A "CALL ME BY YOUR NAME" FOR KIDS.**
 - ✱ **A NOVEL ABOUT DIVERSITY, AND SEARCHING FOR AND FINDING ONESELF.**
-

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

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

NOTHING EVER CHANGES HERE

AGE 12+



“

CAN FIRST LOVE BE AN ETERNAL COMING BACK?

AGE 12+



in partnership with



NOTHING EVER CHANGES HERE

Valeria Roscioni

Stolen kisses, diving from canoes, pool matches, shooting stars to pin our wishes on if we can't even confess them to ourselves, and secret crushes revealed in the half-light of a tent. They may sound like the ingredients for a perfect summer, but they're also everything you need to start a lot of trouble. Sixteen-year-old Nina, who can't admit she's in love with her best friend, knows that all too well. What she doesn't know, though, is that her mother has also experienced those same emotions. Ready to set off on a trip back and forward in time, at a campsite where the same summer seems to last forever?

x **SUMMER ROMANCES ARE UNIQUE—SO INTENSE THAT SOMETIMES A WHOLE WINTER ISN'T ENOUGH TO FORGET THEM. THE PARALLEL BETWEEN NINA'S LOVE STORY AND HER MOTHER'S MAKES THIS EVEN MORE TANGIBLE, DRAWING THE READER INTO A SUMMER TALE REMINISCENT OF *THE SUMMER I TURNED PRETTY*, BLENDING ROMANCE, LAUGHTER, AND MOMENTS OF REFLECTION.**

x **NINA IS SHY AND AWKWARD, BUT ALSO FUNNY AND SARCASTIC. SHE NEVER GETS ANYTHING RIGHT. ON THE OTHER HAND, YOU HAVE TO MAKE MISTAKES IN ORDER TO GROW UP, RIGHT?**

x **TOLD FROM TWO VIEWPOINTS, ONE MALE.**

• **FIRST PUBLISHER: PIEMME (ITALY), 2025**

VALERIA ROSCIONI x Roman by birth and Milanese by adoption, when she realised she would never be a princess, she decided she wanted to be a writer, like Louisa May Alcott. But over time, she became a Head of Marketing and Communication. She has a drawerful of stories to be told, though, so all is not lost. *Qui non cambia mai* is her first novel.

YOU'RE A BUTTERFLY

AGE 14+



“

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

AGE 14+



in partnership with



YOU'RE A BUTTERFLY

Camilla Mancini

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

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

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

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

WE ARE FIRE

AGE 12+



“

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

AGE 12+



in partnership with



WE ARE FIRE

Marco Magnone

AGE 12+

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

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

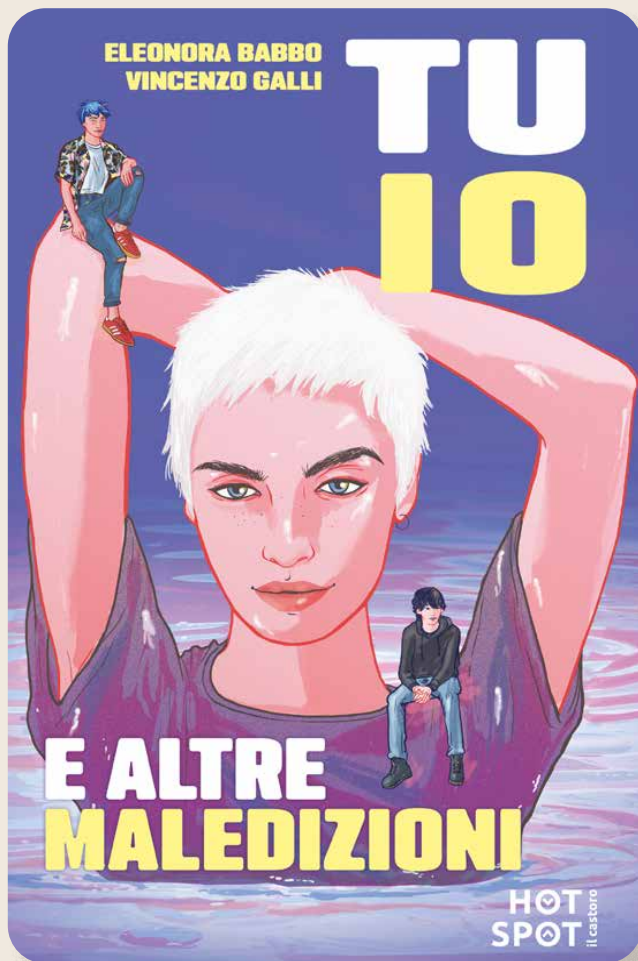
- ✱ **A PLOT FULL OF TWISTS AND TURNS FROM THE FIRST TO THE LAST PAGE. THE STRONG EMOTIONS TYPICAL OF LOVE STORIES WITH THE FAST-PACED RHYTHM OF THE BEST ADVENTURES.**
- ✱ **A HIGHLY TOPICAL STORY – BETWEEN SENTIMENTAL EDUCATION AND TOXIC MASCULINITY – TO BREAK THE GENDER STEREOTYPES ACCORDING TO WHICH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

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

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

ME, YOU & OTHER CURSES

AGE 14+



“

WHEN LOVE BECKONS,
DO YOU EMBRACE IT OR RUN AWAY?

AGE 14+

ME, YOU & OTHER CURSES

Eleonora Babbo and Vincenzo Galli

Zoe keeps everyone at a distance and dreams of escaping somewhere far away. Then one night Teo reappears at her side: loud, provoking, impossible to ignore – the imaginary friend she left behind as a child. Desperate to get rid of him, Zoe turns to Adam, a classmate who has inherited unsettling mediumistic powers he never asked for. But freeing herself from Teo is not so simple, especially when the bond between them grows stranger, stronger and dangerously physical. As old feelings resurface and Adam is drawn deeper into Zoe's curse, the three are pulled towards a buried truth that refuses to stay dead.

- ✱ **A LOVE TRIANGLE WITH A SUPERNATURAL TWIST: A GIRL, A SHY MEDIUM, AND THE IMAGINARY FRIEND WHO COMES BACK AS A VERY REAL PRESENCE CREATE AN IRRESISTIBLE PARANORMAL HOOK.**
- ✱ **A DARKLY ROMANTIC EMOTIONAL CORE: DESIRE, JEALOUSY, GRIEF AND LONGING INTERTWINE IN A STORY WHERE LOVE FEELS AS POWERFUL AS A CURSE.**
- ✱ **A VIVID VENETIAN SETTING: WATER, VOICES FROM BEYOND, AND THE HAUNTED ATMOSPHERE OF VENICE GIVE THE NOVEL A STRONG IDENTITY AND VISUAL APPEAL.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** EDITRICE IL CASTORO (ITALY), 2025

ELEONORA BABBO and **VINCENZO GALLI** ✱ began their careers as television screenwriters and story editors, and now write together for a wide range of readers, from younger children to young adults and adults. Their work spans fiction, entertainment and science-based publishing, often across different genres and age groups. When they are not signing with their own names, they hide behind pseudonyms or write for others – so it is no wonder they sometimes forget what they are called..

THE FOX KING

AGE 12+



66

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

AGE 12+



in partnership with



THE FOX KING

Fiore Manni

AGE 12+

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

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

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

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

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

FIORE MANNI ✱ studied as a fashion designer and presented a children's TV show for many years. In her free time she is a content creator and talks about books on her Instagram profile. She has published the *Jack Bennet* saga, *Come le cicale* (*Like Cicadas*) and *Amore, sesso e altre cose così* (*Love, Sex and Other Such Things*), written with Elena Peduzzi, with Rizzoli. She is also the co-author of the graphic novel *Mask 't*, published by Star Comics.

ARVIS OF THE CLOUDS

AGE 12+



“

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

AGE 12+



in partnership with



ARVIS OF THE CLOUDS

Christian Antonini

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

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

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

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

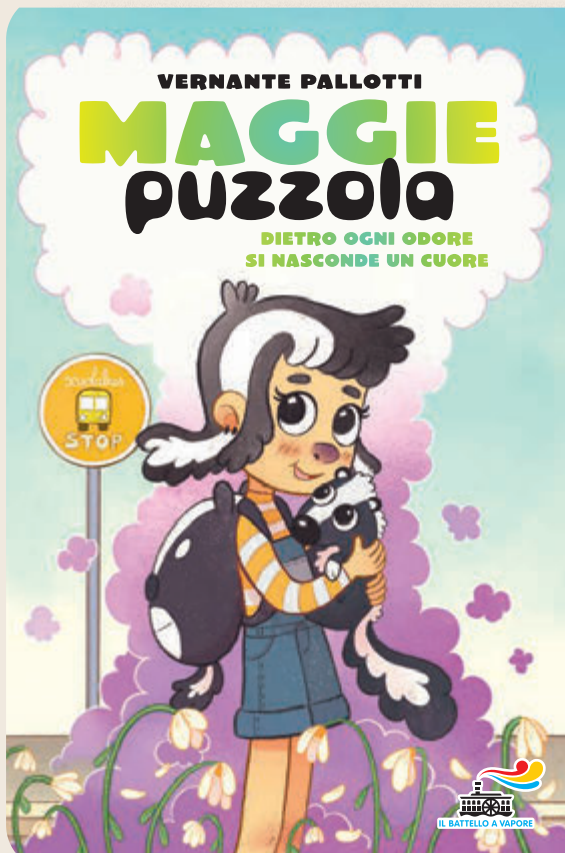
- ♦ A FANTASY STORY WITH ADVENTURE, ACTION, WAR, DISCOVERIES AND A STRONG FEMALE LEAD CHARACTER
- ♦ SOLID, WELL THOUGHT-OUT WORLDBUILDING WITH SPECIFIC LANGUAGE CHOICES
- ♦ AIR BATTLES, WOODEN FLYING SHIPS, DRAGONS AND WARRIORS HANGING UNDER GIANT BIRDS AS IF THEY WERE HANG GLIDERS
- ♦ AMAZING ILLUSTRATIONS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

- FIRST PUBLISHER: GIUNTI (ITALY), 2023

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

STINKY MAGGIE

AGE 8+



“

SPIDER-MAN WAS BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER
AND BECAME A HERO.
I, ON THE OTHER HAND, BECAME A SUPER-SKUNK.

AGE 8+



in partnership with



STINKY MAGGIE

Vernante Pallotti

Ten-year-old Maggie can handle raccoons, storms and life in the wild – but moving to a flower-mad Italian town where everyone is horrified by her skunk smell may be her toughest challenge yet. Told through the gloriously chaotic episodes of her homemade podcast Sniff – with her loyal skunk Spruzzo chiming in as a one-of-a-kind co-host – this is a funny, big-hearted middle-grade story about standing out, finding your people, and discovering that the thing that makes you different might also be your greatest strength.

- ✱ **AN INSTANTLY UNFORGETTABLE HEROINE: MAGGIE'S SKUNK SMELL IS FUNNY, BOLD AND BRILLIANTLY PITCHABLE – BUT BEHIND THE COMIC HOOK LIES A WARM STORY ABOUT IDENTITY, SHAME AND BELONGING.**
- ✱ **A FRESH, CONTEMPORARY VOICE: TOLD THROUGH MAGGIE'S HOMEMADE PODCAST SNIFF, WITH SPRUZZO THE SKUNK AS HER GLORIOUSLY UNRULY CO-HOST, THE STORY FEELS LIVELY, ORIGINAL AND IMMEDIATELY ENGAGING.**
- ✱ **HUMOUR WITH REAL HEART: SCHOOL CHAOS, FRIENDSHIP, BULLYING, RUGBY AND FAMILY BONDS TURN MAGGIE'S OUTSIDER STATUS INTO A FAST-PACED, HIGHLY ILLUSTRATED ADVENTURE FULL OF COMEDY, TENDERNESS AND CONFIDENCE-BUILDING ENERGY.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2026



VERNANTE PALLOTTI ✱ is a screenwriter, author and director working across film, television and children's publishing. She writes for young audiences with humour, heart and the conviction that children and teenagers deserve to be taken seriously.

DIARY OF JANE BURRASCA: THE WALKMAN FILES

AGE 8+



“

SHE WANTED A SMARTPHONE.
SHE GOT A VINTAGE WALKMAN.
NOW THE MOST CHAOTIC DIARY EVER RECORDED HAS BEGUN.

AGE 8+



in partnership with



DIARY OF JANE BURRASCA: THE WALKMAN FILES

Sara Mezzetti

Illustrations by Giorgia Castiglioni

For her tenth birthday, Giovanna wants just one thing: a smartphone. Instead, she gets an ancient Walkman with giant buttons and enormous headphones. Furious at her “evil parents,” she decides to turn it into a voice-recorded diary and starts documenting everything: school disasters, family drama, embarrassing secrets, suspicious grown-ups and her own increasingly wild investigations. What begins as a protest soon turns into the funniest, most chaotic record of being ten.

- ✱ **A FRESH TWIST ON DIARY FICTION:** A VOICE-RECORDED DIARY REPLACES THE TRADITIONAL WRITTEN FORMAT, GIVING THE STORY A FUNNY, ORIGINAL AND HIGHLY CONTEMPORARY FEEL.
- ✱ **AN UNFORGETTABLE CHAOTIC HEROINE:** JANE BURRASCA IS BOLD, MESSY, MANIPULATIVE AND IRRESISTIBLY FUNNY — A CHARACTER READERS WILL INSTANTLY RECOGNISE AND LOVE.
- ✱ **HUMOUR, MYSTERY AND STRONG SERIES POTENTIAL:** FAMILY DISASTERS, SCHOOL MISHAPS AND REAL INVESTIGATIONS TURN JANE'S EVERYDAY CHAOS INTO FAST-PACED ADVENTURES BUILT FOR MORE STORIES.

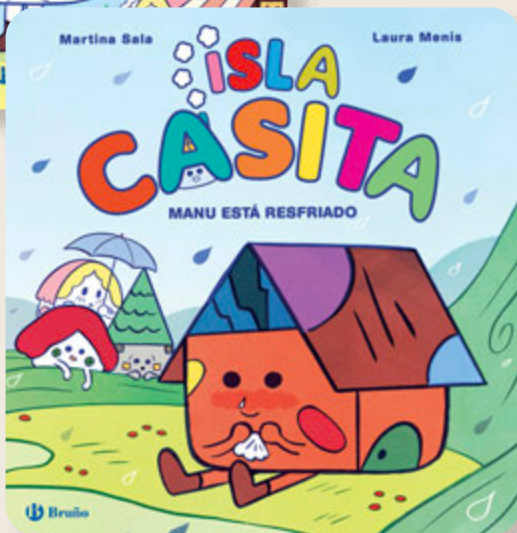
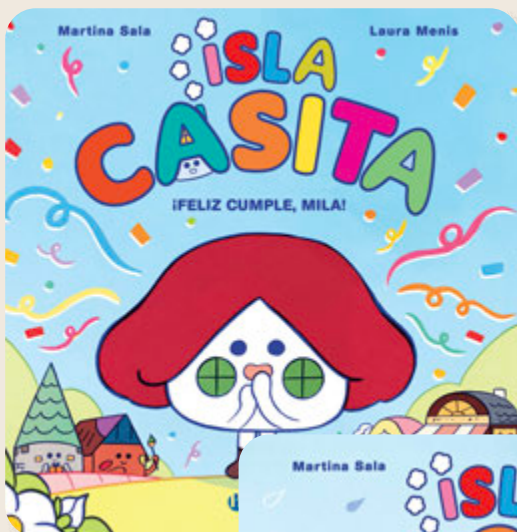
- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** GIUNTI (ITALY), 2026

SARA MEZZETTI ✱ holds a degree in Communication Sciences and has worked in the social sector for over ten years. A lifelong passionate reader, she has more recently become a children's author.



TINY HOUSES

AGE 6+



“

WELCOME TO CASSETTE ISLAND:
A PLACE WHERE EVERY HOUSE HAS A VOICE,
A HEART, AND A PERSONALITY ALL ITS OWN

AGE 6+



in partnership with



TINY HOUSES

Martina Sala & Laura Menis

On Casette Island, houses talk, laugh, help one another and sometimes get into trouble. At the heart of the stories is Mimi, a cheerful little house with a big curiosity and an even bigger heart. From birthday surprises and rainy-day adventures to Christmas mix-ups and seaside rescues, each story turns a small everyday event into a playful, heartwarming adventure. With its colourful setting, memorable cast and gentle focus on friendship, emotions and community, *Tiny Houses* is a charming series for young readers.

1 ≈ **HAPPY BIRTHDAY MIMI.** It's Mimi's birthday, but all her friends seem too busy to celebrate with her. Hurt and disappointed, she runs off to hide in the forest. But back in the village, a joyful surprise is waiting: everyone has secretly been preparing a party just for her.

2 ≈ **ACHOO, MICHI!** After a storm, Mimi and Tito find Michi soaked, shivering and sneezing – his roof is leaking. None of their remedies work, so Mimi calls in Martino Martello, the handyman house. With one quick repair, Michi is safe and cosy again

3 ≈ **WHAT A SURPRISE, MRS. MACINA!** **OUT ON 22/04/26** It's Christmas on Casette Island, but Paco the postman is delivering all the presents to the wrong houses. Mimi steps in to help sort out the festive confusion. In the end, every gift finds its rightful owner – including one for Paco himself.

4 ≈ **MERRY CHRISTMAS, PACO!** **OUT ON 7/10/26** It's Christmas on Casette Island, but Paco the postman is delivering all the presents to the wrong houses. Mimi steps in to help sort out the festive confusion. In the end, every gift finds its rightful owner – including one for Paco himself.

≈ **A STANDOUT HIGH-CONCEPT WORLD:** AN ISLAND OF LIVING HOUSES CREATES AN INSTANTLY ORIGINAL AND MEMORABLE SETTING.

≈ **WARM, EVERYDAY STORIES FOR YOUNG READERS:** SMALL ADVENTURES, BIG EMOTIONS, AND GENTLE HUMOUR MAKE THE SERIES EASY TO LOVE.

≈ **STRONG VISUAL AND SERIES APPEAL:** A COLOURFUL WORLD AND A LIVELY CAST OFFER GREAT POTENTIAL FOR MULTIPLE STORIES AND FORMATS.

• **FIRST PUBLISHER:** BRUNO EDITORIAL (SPAIN), 2025-2026

MARTINA SALA ≈ is an author who creates stories for young readers with warmth, imagination and a playful touch. In *Tiny Houses*, she brings to life a lively community of talking houses, turning everyday moments into small adventures full of humour, emotion and charm.

LAURA MENIS ≈ is an illustrator whose bright, expressive style brings warmth and personality to every page. Her colourful artwork gives each house on Tiny Houses Island its own distinctive look, helping create a world that feels both playful and instantly memorable.

SUPER TOOTHLESS

AGE 6+



66

WHO SAYS MISSING TEETH MEAN WEAKNESS?
SHE IS SIX, HAS LOST HER TEETH AND GAINED A SUPERPOWER.
MEET SUPER TOOTHLESS, THE LITTLE GIRL
WHO CAN SAVE THE WORLD WITH A WHISTLE.

AGE 6+



in partnership with



SUPER TOOTHLESS

Lisa Riccardi

Illustrated by Margherita Riccardi

When six-year-old Caterina loses her front teeth, she thinks everything is about to go wrong. Instead, she discovers a surprising family secret: every lost baby tooth reveals a superpower. With the help of her beloved Grandpa Gian and her rabbit Little, Caterina becomes Super Toothless, a funny, fearless heroine ready to face everyday disasters with her Super Whistle. Set in a world of family life, school, holidays and small childhood worries turned into epic adventures, Super Toothless is a lively, highly visual series about growing up, finding confidence and turning weakness into strength

Book 1 – Super Toothless and the Super Whistle

When six-year-old Caterina loses her two front teeth, she is sure everything is about to go wrong. Instead, Grandpa Gian reveals a family secret: every lost baby tooth brings a superpower. With her rabbit Little by her side, Caterina becomes Super Toothless and learns to turn fear into courage.

Book 2 – Super Toothless: The Popsicle Mission

At the Annual Popsicle Fair, strange frozen treats throw all the children into chaos. As Super Toothless investigates, she uncovers a mysterious plot — just as her Super Whistle stops working. With Grandpa Gian and Little beside her, Cate discovers that being a hero means more than having powers.

- ✱ **A BRILLIANT CHILDHOOD HOOK: LOSING BABY TEETH BECOMES THE START OF A SUPERPOWERED ADVENTURE.**
- ✱ **A FUNNY, FEARLESS HEROINE: CATERINA'S LIVELY VOICE, FAMILY BONDS AND EVERYDAY CHALLENGES MAKE HER INSTANTLY RELATABLE.**
- ✱ **HUMOUR, HEART AND SERIES POTENTIAL: FAST-PACED STORIES, STRONG VISUAL COMEDY AND A WORLD BUILT FOR MANY MORE ADVENTURES.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2026 - 2 BOOK PUBLISHED SERIES:
1. SUPER TOOTHLESS AND THE SUPER WHISTLE. 2. SUPER TOOTHLESS:
THE POPSICLE MISSION

LISA RICCARDI ✱ is a screenwriter who has worked in film and television and has been publishing children's books since 2020. She brings cinematic pace, humour and energy to her stories, while also drawing inspiration from family life and imaginative play.

MARGHERITA RICCARDI ✱ is a surgeon based in Berlin who combines her medical work with writing and illustration. Her playful, expressive artwork helps bring the comic spirit and emotional warmth of *Super Toothless* to life.



DETECTICAT

AGE 6+



66

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

AGE 6+



in partnership with



DETECTICAT

Pierdomenico Baccalario

Illustrations by Alessandro Parodi

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

- 1 = DETECTICAT AND THE BULLGLAR
- 2 = DETECTICAT: CRIME AND FISHERMENT
- 3 = DETECTICAT: THE MASTIFF ALWAYS PLAYS TWICE
- 4 = DETECTICAT: THE WINDOW OVERLOOKING THE PIGSTY
- 5 = DETECTICAT: ARSENIC AND OLD WOLVES
- 6 = DETECTICAT: BIG OCTOPUS IN LITTLE CHINA
- 7 = DETECTICAT: THE CATERPILLAR BEYOND THE HEDGE
- 8 = DETECTICAT: THE SUNDAY WEASE
- 9 = DETECTICAT: ESCAPE FROM ALPACRAZ (out on 10 April 2026)
- 10 = DETECTICAT: AND THE RATTOPARD (out on 10 April 2026)

- = LAUGH-OUT-LOUD STORIES!
- = SMALL CASES TO SOLVE WITH CLUES THAT ARE ALWAYS EVIDENT TO THE READERS, BUT NOT INITIALLY TO THE PROTAGONIST.
- = NEW FORMAT FOR EARLY READERS: SHORT LINES OF TEXT TO MOVE THE NARRATIVE FORWARDS, SPEECH BUBBLES FOR THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE CHARACTERS.

- FIRST PUBLISHER: HARPER COLLINS (ITALY), 2022-2026
- RIGHTS SOLD IN: SPAIN (EDEBE), GREECE (DIOPTRA)

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



MY FRIEND LANCELOT

AGE 7+



66

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

AGE 7+



in partnership with



MY FRIEND LANCELOT

Christian Antonini

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

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

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

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

WHO STOLE THE STAR?

AGE 6+



“

WHO STOLE THE SHERIFF'S STAR?
A MYSTERY FULL OF FUR, FUN, AND FUZZY SUSPECTS.

AGE 6+



in partnership with



WHO STOLE THE STAR?

Angelo Mozzillo

Sheriff Biscottino McKenzy is proud of his quiet, orderly town. But one morning, his precious star badge goes missing! He immediately suspects the last three “free” rascals in town: Pippy Dakota (an otter who runs a hair salon), Coccola Bill (a dad-badger taking care of his cubs), and Johnny Batuffolo (a hare who hangs at the saloon). But every time he confronts one of them... someone unexpected confirms their alibi: his secretary Cortecchia the beaver.

Turns out Cortecchia helps out everywhere in town—at the salon, in the kitchen, even at the bar! Biscottino is furious. If everyone is innocent... Where is the badge?

-
- ✕ **EASY-TO-READ MYSTERY WITH LARGE FULL-COLOUR ILLUSTRATIONS**
 - ✕ **A LOVABLE RECURRING CHARACTERS AND A TWIST ENDING**
 - ✕ **A FUZZY WILD WEST SETTING FULL OF CHARM AND PERSONALITY**
-

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2025
-

ANGELO MOZZILLO ✕ is a young and acclaimed author of children's books, published by the most important Italian publishers. Among his books *When I'm a Caveman* (illustrated by Miguel Tanco, Camelozampa), *I Wrote You a Book (Just Not This One)*, illustrated by Silvia Gariglio and also published by Camelozampa, the bestselling children's detective stories series *Detective Linus* (Piemme) and the picture book *I Am a Leaf*, illustrated by Marianna Balducci, winner of Premio Andersen as best picture book and also of Super Premio Andersen as best children's book overall in Italy. His books are translated into several languages.

THE ANIMALS OF STRANGEWOOD

AGE 7+



66

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

AGE 7+



in partnership with

JUST
RIGHT

THE ANIMALS OF STRANGEWOOD

Giuseppe Festa

Illustrations by Martina Motzo

A squirrel suffering with vertigo, a short-sighted falcon, a claustrophobic mole and many other strange animals fight against those who threaten Strangewood.

They will manage to overcome adversity by making their limitations a source of strength, often unintentionally, thanks to teamwork and the friendship that binds them.

1 = DUNG STRIKE.

4 = A NAPPY FOR STINKY.

2 = THE SOURCE OF THE RUT.

5 = A WARM-BLOODED SNAKE.

3 = DISHEVELLED BRISTLE.

6 = THE FORGETFUL ELEPHANT.

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

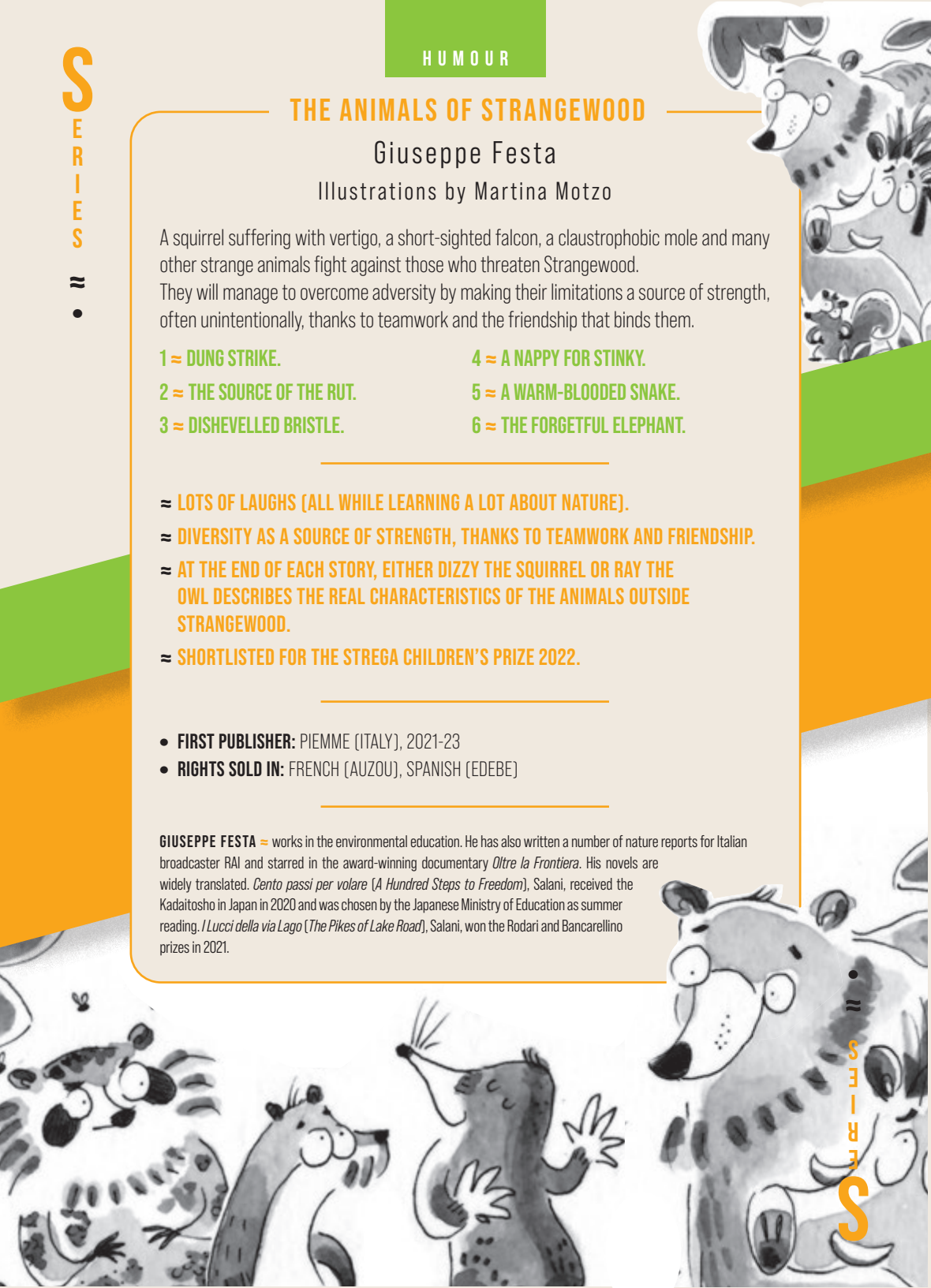
≈ DIVERSITY AS A SOURCE OF STRENGTH, THANKS TO TEAMWORK AND FRIENDSHIP.

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

≈ SHORTLISTED FOR THE STREGA CHILDREN'S PRIZE 2022.

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

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



SUPER BOMB & CAPTAIN FRIZZ

AGE 7+



“

“SUPER BOMB!”

“FOAM FIST!”

THEY ARE READY TO SAVE THE WORLD!

AGE 7+



in partnership with



SUPER BOMB & CAPTAIN FRIZZ



Guido Sgardoli & Enrico Macchiavello

Their moms shared a hospital room when they were pregnant, so technically, they've been hanging out together since they were in the womb. Instant BFFs. From nursery to primary school, through swimming lessons (which they both hated because swim caps made their faces look ridiculous), they've always stuck together. Real friends like the same stuff, right? Well, Guido and Enrichetto definitely do. They love TV, chewing gum, video games, pizza with frankfurters, peach iced tea, sneaking peeks at gory surgery pics, and covering themselves in temporary tattoos. Obviously. When they grow up, they want to be superheroes — like Superman or Spider-Man — saving the world from evil villains. But why wait? Enrichetto is great at drawing, and Guido is a master at writing, so they started creating their own stories. Naturally, they made themselves the heroes. In their stories, Guido becomes **Super Bomb** and Enrichetto transforms into **Captain Frizz**—unstoppable masked crusaders with capes, secret identities, and epic missions. No one knows it's them. (Well, duh, that's what the masks are for.) And in this story, they're about to face their biggest challenge yet: defeating a Sausage Man and a Little Poop Soldier!

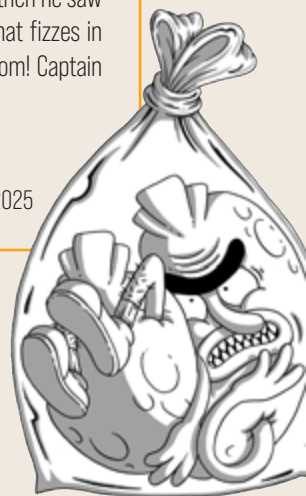
1 = SUPER BOMB & CAPTAIN FRIZZ VS THE SAUSAGE MAN.

2 = SUPER BOMB & CAPTAIN FRIZZ VS THE LITTLE POOP SOLDIER.

= EXPLANATION OF THEIR SUPERHERO NAMES:

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

• FIRST PUBLISHER: MONDADORI (ITALY), 2024-2025



THE GIGGLE GANG

AGE 7+



66

THE SCHOOL YOU ALWAYS DREAMED OF!

AGE 7+



in partnership with



THE GIGGLEGANG

Illustrations by Laura Re

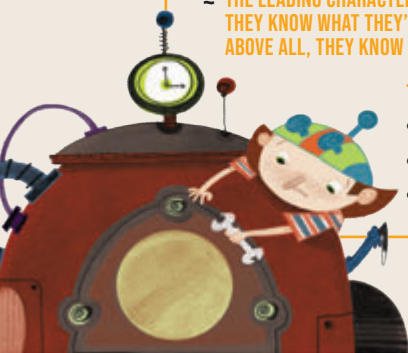
A class of quick-witted, quirky kids
and a headmaster who will give you the heebie-jeebies.

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

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

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

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



DETECTIVE LINUS

AGE 8+



“

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

AGE 8+



in partnership with





DETECTIVE LINUS

Angelo Mozzillo

Illustrations by Davide Panizza

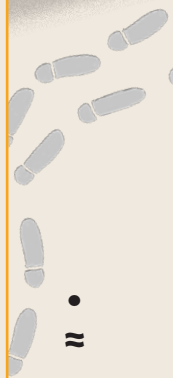
Linus likes to work in the shadows, but he's a detective so famous that he's destined for glory! He claims to have a personal secretary, whom he refers to as Mum for convenience's sake, and an assistant, Bagarre, a little dog whose potential Mum doesn't seem to have understood yet. He is an eccentric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

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

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

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2022-2023
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** GREEK (DESYLLAS); RUSSIAN (CLEVER MEDIA), TURKISH (EKSİK PARÇA)

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



MY FRIEND IS A WITCH

AGE 7+



“

MAGIC AND... LOTS OF TROUBLE!
SO, I WARN YOU:
DON'T USE THE LAST DOOR ON THE RIGHT.

AGE 7+



in partnership with

JUST RIGHT

MY FRIEND IS A WITCH

Gisella Laterza

Illustrations by Stefano Tambellini

Miriam's new classmate Priscilla Applepot lives in a magical house with her parents and Bartholomeus, a barn owl who can turn into a boy. She's also a witch! But she can't control her powers properly... When she laughs too much, she gets taller; when she's angry, she starts storms!

- 1 = **A STRANGE CLASSMATE.** Strange things are happening in Miriam's class. Someone's hair catches fire, someone's teeth turn blue. And a storm breaks out during the maths test. Could Priscilla Applepot, the new girl next to her, be responsible?
- 2 = **A MUMMY AT THE MARKET.** Miriam wants to ace her history group work to impress Thomas. So Priscilla sneaks her into the Wednesday Market to see the magical Ancient Egyptian artefacts. But a touchy mummy discovers them, causing lots of trouble!
- 3 = **MORGANA'S DIADEM.** Miriam's friend Priscilla is the clumsiest little witch ever. Bringing the real diadem of the famous witch Morgana to school? Bad idea! Especially when the snooty Clarabella puts it on... and turns into a horse! To reverse the spell, Miriam, Priscilla, and Bartholomeus must travel to Avalon, where they'll meet King Arthur and discover the island's mysterious power.

= **A FUN WAY OF TALKING ABOUT THE THEMES OF FRIENDSHIP AND ACCEPTING DIVERSITY.**

= **PRISCILLA IS AN INEXPERIENCED LITTLE WITCH AND HER EMOTIONS ALWAYS GET HER INTO TROUBLE. MIRIAM IS INTRIGUED AND AMUSED BY THE MAGICAL WORLD, BUT SHE'S ALSO A LITTLE SCARED OF IT SOMETIMES, BECAUSE IT'S DIFFICULT TO FULLY UNDERSTAND. BY EXPERIENCING EACH OTHER'S WORLDS, THE TWO WILL LEARN MORE AND ENJOY AN UNFORGETTABLE ADVENTURE.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** SALANI (ITALY), 2022 - 2025
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** SPANISH (DUOMO), RUSSIAN (CLEVER MEDIA)

GISELLA LATERZA = started working with the "Corriere della Sera" newspaper, in the Bergamo office, when she was at university. An editor advised her: "If you want to do this job well, you have to hunt for stories, step after step, wearing your shoes out." Since then, she has never stopped writing and travelling. If possible, on foot and, if possible, getting lost. In 2018, she was selected from participants in the *A Caccia di Storie* (Do you have a story?) competition, a contest to find new writers and great book ideas, and started working for a Tree. Her latest books include the *Doctor Jackie e Miss Haide* (Doctor Jackie and Miss series (Piemme, 2021), written with Giada Pavesi.



A TOO-SECRET AGENT

AGE 9+



“

HIS NAME? CLASSIFIED.
HIS MISSION? UNKNOWN.
EVEN TO HIM!

AGE 9+



in partnership with



A TOO-SECRET AGENT

Angelo Mozzillo

Illustrations by Davide Panizza

Ettorino Dobecco is a secret agent. Or rather, he would be... if he weren't too secret—even for the Organisation! An expert in the art of hiding, Ettorino lives by coded diaries, encrypted messages, and clandestine missions (which, unfortunately, exist only in his imagination). But when a mysterious parcel arrives with his name on it—containing a prize for a competition he never entered—his carefully hidden world is turned upside down. Someone is looking for him, and maybe, just maybe, there's a real secret mission at play. Or perhaps... it's just a massive swindle. Between confused friends, eccentric grandparents, and an influencer mother who documents his every move, Ettorino must prove he's worthy of his title.

This time, to crack the case, he'll have to step out of the shadows!

- ✱ AN IRRESISTIBLY IRONIC SPY STORY WITH WITTY DIALOGUE AND ABSURD SITUATIONS.
- ✱ FAST-PACED, SHORT CHAPTERS, AND A BLEND OF COMEDY AND SUSPENSE.
- ✱ AN ORIGINAL, ENTERTAINING PROTAGONIST AND A CAST OF MEMORABLE CHARACTERS: FROM A GRANDPA WHO IS A FORMER SECRET AGENT, TO AN INFLUENCER MUM, THEY ALL CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHAOS... AND THE FUN!
- ✱ THE ULTIMATE *WRONG* ANSWER TO JAMES BOND!

• FIRST PUBLISHER: PIEMME (ITALY), 2024

ANGELO MOZZILLO

* Never eats food containing...

* Enjoys writing books with ridiculously long titles, such as *Bello il bosco ma... non ci vivrei!* and *La domenica di Monsieur Claquette* (just to name a few)

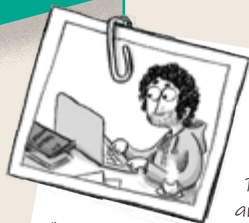
* His picture book *Io sono foglia* won a major award (perhaps because it has a short title).

DAVIDE PANIZZA

* Loves board games, and usually plays once a week

* A small... lives in his garden

* Claims to have illustrated the characters from Detective Linus book series, including Linus and Ettorino — the duo of agents featured in these pages — but has never provided any proof.



THREE FRIENDS ON HOLIDAY

AGE 11+



“

ONE SUMMER.
THREE BEST FRIENDS.
ONE TRAVELLING DIARY THAT KEEPS THEM TOGETHER.

AGE 11+



in partnership with



THREE FRIENDS ON HOLIDAY

Gisella Laterza & Giada Pavesi

Lola, Isi and Zoe are inseparable — but this summer, each of them is heading somewhere different: one to a theatre camp in the mountains, one to a seaside resort, and one to Scotland on a family trip. To stay close, they invent the “Friends’ Diary”, a travelling journal filled with messages, drawings, confessions and emotions. As it passes from hand to hand, it captures three very different holidays shaped by first crushes, new friendships, self-doubt and small acts of courage. A warm, funny and authentic story about growing up — and staying connected, even from afar.

- ≈ **A FRESH TRAVELLING DIARY FORMAT:** MESSAGES, DRAWINGS AND SHARED PAGES BRING THREE DISTINCT VOICES TO LIFE IN A LIVELY AND ACCESSIBLE WAY.
- ≈ **A HEARTFELT STORY OF FRIENDSHIP AT A DISTANCE:** EVEN APART, LOLA, ISI AND ZOE REMAIN BOUND BY TRUST, HUMOUR AND EMOTIONAL HONESTY.
- ≈ **THREE HOLIDAYS, THREE WAYS OF GROWING UP:** MOUNTAINS, SEASIDE AND SCOTLAND PROVIDE VIVID SETTINGS FOR A SUMMER OF CHANGE, DISCOVERY AND FIRST FEELINGS.

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2024-2025

GISELLA LATERZA & GIADA PAVESI ≈ are Italian writing partners who met during *A Caccia di Storie*, a competition for emerging children’s authors created by Book on a Tree, Mondadori and Lucca Comics & Games. Together they co-authored *Dr. Jackie and Miss Hydrie* and the *Three Friends Adventure* series. Writing under a shared pseudonym, they are also sisters and the authors of a bestselling romantasy series sold in Spanish, French, Dutch and Russian.



THREE FRIENDS, ONE DIARY

AGE 8+



66

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

AGE 8+



in partnership with



THREE FRIENDS, ONE DIARY

Gisella Laterza & Giada Pavesi

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

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

"THIS IS THE DIARY OF LOLA, ISI AND ZOE

Friends' Diary Rules:

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

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

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

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



GHOSTS ARE KINDLY ASKED NOT TO SCREAM!

AGE 8+



66

FROM THE DUO WHO WON
BOTH THE ANDERSEN AND SUPER-ANDERSEN PRIZES,
A SPOOKY, FUNNY GHOST STORY.



BOOK ON A TREE

in partnership with



GHOSTS ARE KINDLY ASKED NOT TO SCREAM!

Angelo Mozzillo

Illustration by Marianna Balducci

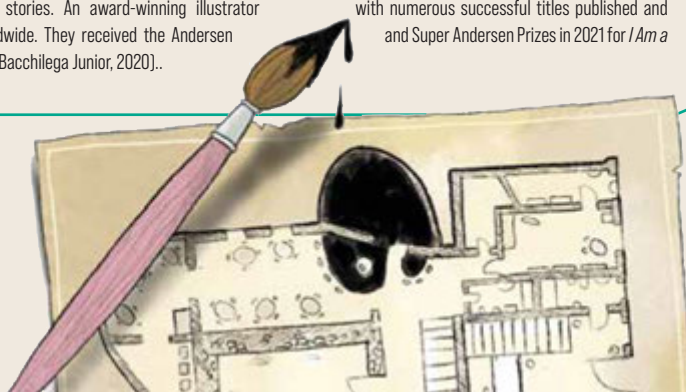
In Naples' haunted Hotel Lojacono, four eccentric ghosts revel in scaring guests – until a famous actress books the entire hotel and demands silence. Miserable and forbidden to scream, they stumble on clues to a long-lost treasure and join forces with Armida, a gloomy little ghost who paints crows in the attic. Together they unravel riddles, awaken forgotten memories and uncover the treasure.

And in the end, they still manage to terrify the actress – without a scream, just shadows, drawings and a touch of ghostly flair!

- ✦ **A HILARIOUS GHOST STORY WITH A TWIST – FOUR CHAOTIC SPIRITS FORCED INTO SILENCE MUST REINVENT THEMSELVES IN SURPRISING AND CREATIVE WAYS.**
- ✦ **TREASURE HUNT & RIDDLES – MAPS, RHYMES, SECRET CHAMBERS AND UNEXPECTED REVELATIONS MAKE THIS MUCH MORE THAN A GHOST COMEDY.**
- ✦ **ATMOSPHERIC SETTING – THE HAUNTED HOTEL LOJACONO IN NAPLES, WITH DETOURS INTO CEMETERIES AND ANCIENT WOODS, ADDS ITALIAN GOTHIC FLAIR WITH A COMIC EDGE.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** TERRE DI MEZZO (ITALY), 2025

ANGELO MOZZILLO ✦ born in Naples, moved to Milan to study filmmaking but soon devoted himself to writing. A true story collector, he crafts picture books, scripts, reportages and rhymes, reinventing words like cards in a deck. Author of many acclaimed books translated into several languages, **MARIANNA BALDUCCI** ✦ graduated in fashion and works as an illustrator in publishing and advertising. She loves to experiment by blending drawing and photography, turning everyday life into visual stories. An award-winning illustrator translated worldwide. They received the Andersen with numerous successful titles published and and Super Andersen Prizes in 2021 for *I Am a Leaf* Marianna (Bacchilega Junior, 2020)..



THE BOOK REBELS

AGE 9+



P. D. BACCALARIO LUIGI SPAGNOL
Book Rebels
 La spiaggia dei lettori clandestini

66

WELCOME TO PLAINTON,
 THE BEACH OF CLANDESTINE READERS

AGE 9+



in partnership with



THE BOOK REBELS

P. D. Baccalario & Luigi Spagnol

AGE 9+

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CALYPSO, THE WI-FI GIRL

AGE 7+



“

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

AGE 7+



in partnership with



• x • T O H S

CALYPSO, THE WI-FI GIRL

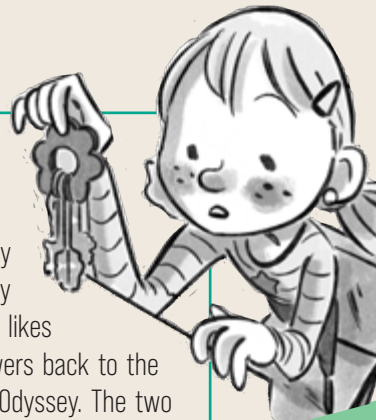
Francesco Morgando

Illustrations by Agnese Innocente

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

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

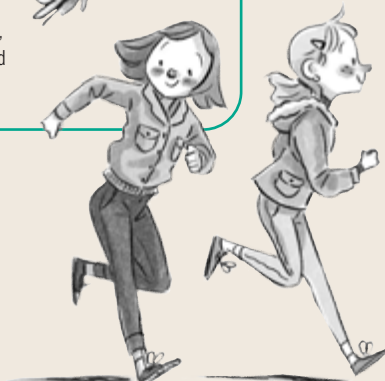
The opportunity comes one rainy night when a lightning storm lights up the sky...



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

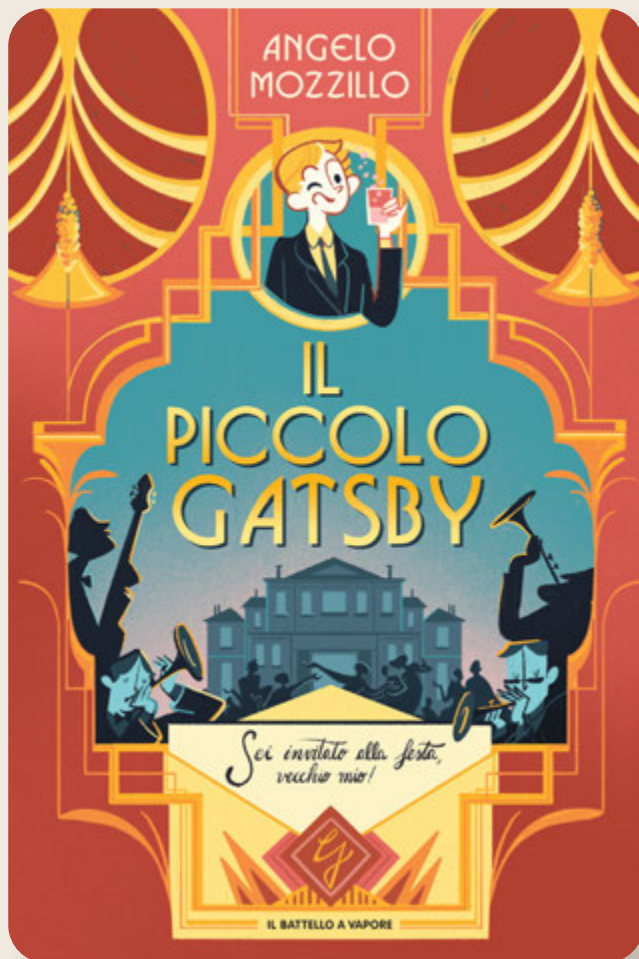
- FIRST PUBLISHER: FELTRINELLI (ITALY), 2023

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



LITTLE GATSBY

AGE 10+



“

A HUMOROUS NEW TAKE ON
FRANCIS SCOTT FITZGERALD'S MASTERPIECE

AGE 10+



in partnership with



LITTLE GATSBY

Angelo Mozzillo

AGE 10+

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

At that party, he meets young Junior – this is his neighbour’s real name.

He immediately understands that his mystery is built on a misunderstanding: if nobody knows anything about Little Gatsby, it’s simply because he’s so mediocre that nobody notices him...

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

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

✱ **A LOT OF LAUGHS!**

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

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

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

THE JUKEBOX TIME MACHINE

AGE 8+



66

PRESS PLAY. GO BACK.

AGE 8+



in partnership with



THE JUKEBOX TIME MACHINE

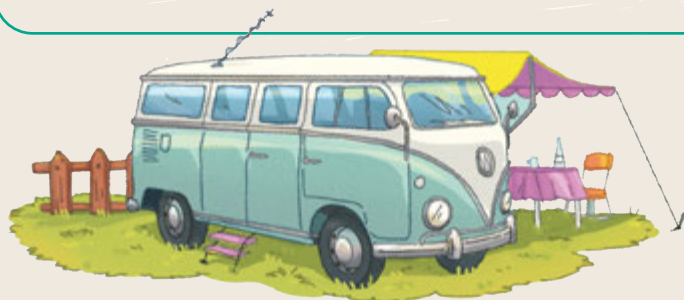
Chiara Bonazzi

Milo is sure he is about to spend the most boring summer of his life at Camping Cala Chiatta, an old-fashioned lakeside campsite where nothing ever seems to change. But on his tenth birthday, a mysterious key leads him to a locked storage shed hiding a forgotten 1980s disco — and a glowing jukebox that bends time. With the help of Vera, a sharp and adventurous girl who already knows its secret, Milo begins travelling into the past, where he can only watch as friendships are forged, lives are saved, and family history quietly takes shape.

- ✕ **A BRILLIANT TIME-SLIP HOOK: A FORGOTTEN JUKEBOX BECOMES A TIME MACHINE, CARRYING MILO ACROSS DECADES OF HIDDEN FAMILY HISTORY.**
- ✕ **A VIVIDLY NOSTALGIC SUMMER SETTING: A SLIGHTLY WORN LAKESIDE CAMPSITE, FULL OF QUIRKY DETAILS AND HIDDEN CORNERS, BECOMES THE STAGE FOR MYSTERY AND DISCOVERY.**
- ✕ **ADVENTURE WITH EMOTIONAL DEPTH: BENEATH THE TIME-TRAVEL PREMISE LIES A WARM STORY ABOUT FRIENDSHIP, MEMORY, GRANDPARENTS AND THE DIFFICULT ART OF LETTING GO.**

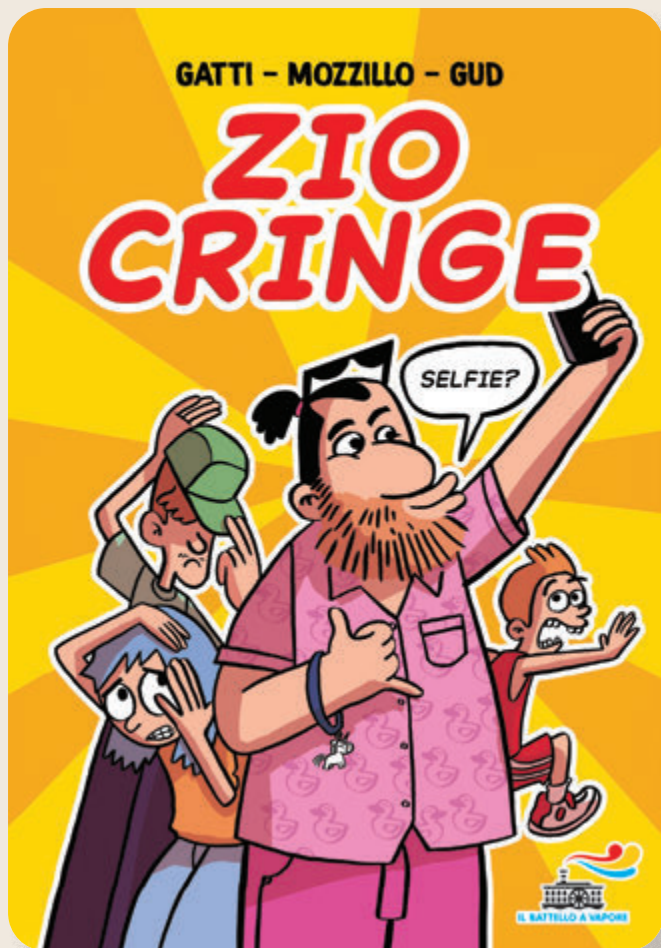
- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2026

CHIARA BONAZZI ✕ has worked in tourism since 2005 and has spent the past thirteen years as the receptionist of a lakeside campsite on Lake Maggiore, where she also oversees marketing and communications. Born in 1986 in Cittiglio, in northern Italy, she has always lived in Piedmont. With *The Jukebox Time Machine*, she won the 2025 "A Caccia di Storie" Prize, a competition for emerging children's authors created by Book on a Tree, Mondadori and Lucca Comics & Games.



UNCLE CRINGE

AGE 9+



“

THE CRINGIEST TRIP EVER

AGE 9+



in partnership with



UNCLE CRINGE

Alessandro Gatti & Angelo Mozzillo

Illustrations by GUD

Everyone has an Uncle Cringe. But Neve's is the worst one of all. And this will be the most embarrassing trip of her whole life. Neve is certain of one thing in life: every family has an Uncle Cringe. And unfortunately, hers is the cringiest of all. Always



over the top with unlikely jokes, embarrassing dancing and an obsession with bolts. But when the school organises a Parents' Day and hers are so super busy they can't come, the situation gets out of hand: Uncle Cringe is coming instead! In desperation, Neve looks for a plan to avoid him... and even manages to get him chosen to appear on a ridiculous TV show, Too Many Togas. Mission accomplished? Nope! Now she has to go with him on a trip out of town, with the worst travelling companion ever. Will she survive the most embarrassing trip of her life, without losing her dignity? Or will she have to accept that we're all a bit Cringe in the end?

✱ **AN IRRESISTIBLE CHARACTER: A NIGHTMARE FOR TEENAGERS BUT YOU CAN'T STOP LOVING HIM.**

✱ **HILARIOUSLY FUNNY: JOKES, DISASTERS AND ABSURD SITUATIONS TO MAKE YOU LAUGH TILL YOU CRY.**

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

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

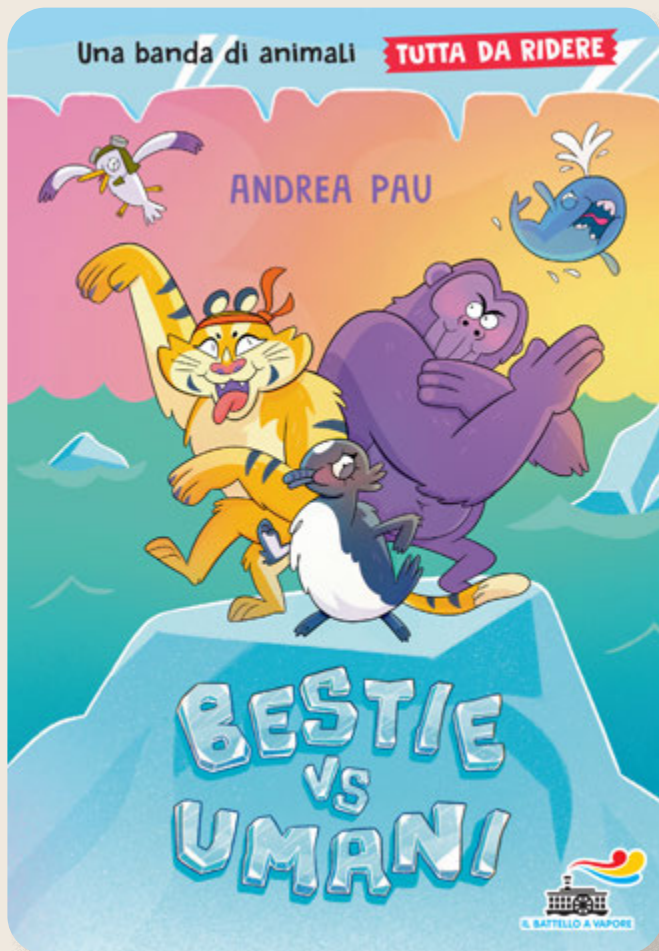
ANGELO MOZZILLO ✱ is the author of bestselling children's novels such as the *Detective Linus* series and picture books such as *Ho scritto un libro per te (ma non è questo)* (*I Wrote You a Book, Just Not This One!*), *Camelozampa* 2024, and *Io sono foglia (I Am a Leaf)*, illustrated by Marianna Balducci,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

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



BEASTS VS HUMANS

AGE 8+



66

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

AGE 8+



in partnership with



BEASTS VS HUMANS

Andrea Pau



Animals, attack!

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

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

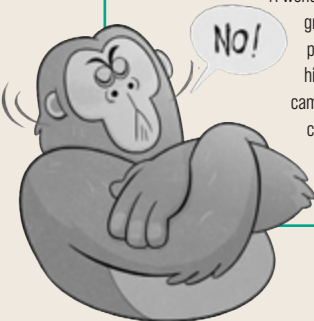
- ✱ **THE SAPIENS SAPIENS' HOURS ARE NUMBERED."**
FROM THE MANIFESTO OF THE SOCIETY OF (ALMOST) EXTINCT BEASTS
- ✱ **"GIVE THIS BOOK TO AS MANY HUMANS AS YOU CAN.
YOU'LL MAKE THEM DIE... LAUGHING!"** *THE CUTTLEFISH COURIER*
- ✱ **"A WORK FROM WHICH THE HUMAN RACE... COMES OUT IN PIECES!"**
AUK, THE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

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

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

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

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



✱

T O H S

E N O

LITTLE PIRATE ABOARD

AGE 8+



“

IT'S GIÒ,
THE MOST ABSURD LAND-BASED
APPRENTICE PIRATE AROUND.

AGE 8+



in partnership with



• x • T O H S

LITTLE PIRATE ABOARD

Sara Mezzetti

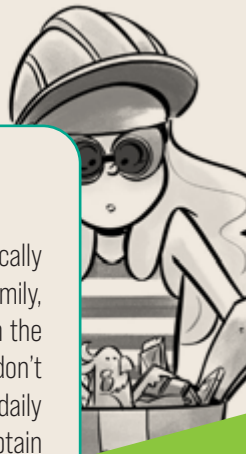
Little Giò is an apprentice pirate. That is, technically she's a little girl adopted by the Baldassarri family, who lives in a small village absolutely far from the sea, lakes or any source of water. Okay, but don't you think that it's much easier to face daily life as a pirate? Inspired by her Captain (her adoptive father Christian Baldassarri),

the ship's cook Clara (her adoptive mum) and cabin boy Tont (her adoptive brother), Giò embarks on new, absurd adventures every day. Between knot-tying exercises, trips to the museum, slingshot battles at school, haute cuisine dishes and many treasure hunts, Giò manages to be a terrible but really nice apprentice. In her adventures, her new family grows increasingly fond of her, even her grumpy older brother Tont. And, in the end, all of Giò's whimsical pirate skills will suddenly prove useful...

- ✱ **THIS BOOK WILL MAKE YOU LAUGH A LOT. BUT IT WILL ALSO MOVE YOU A LOT. BECAUSE WE LIKE TO EXAGGERATE, THAT'S ALL. PIRATES, AS YOU KNOW, TEND TO BE A BIT MELODRAMATIC. BUT THEY HAVE A BIG HEART. ESPECIALLY IF THEY'VE BEEN ADOPTED BY A FANTASTIC CREW!**
- ✱ **THE GREAT OCTOPUS KNOWS WHERE YOU LIVE. SO YOU DECIDE WHETHER TO SAY THIS BOOK IS GREAT AND IS WORTH READING OR NOT!**

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

SARA MEZZETTI ✱ holding a degree in Communication Sciences, has dedicated over a decade to working in the social sector, striving to change the world one day at a time. She has a longstanding passion for reading and writing and is particularly adept at composing threat letters signed 'Great Octopus,' reminiscent of Giò, the protagonist of her debut novel. She loves stracciatella ice cream, and her favorite literary character is Anne of Green Gables.



MAGIC POTIONS & OTHER DISASTERS

AGE 9+



66

A PINCH OF MAGIC,
A SPRINKLE OF CHAOS...
AND A WHOLE LOT OF TROUBLE!.

AGE 9+

MAGIC POTIONS & OTHER DISASTERS

Sara Mezzetti

Mel's dad is in love with the most horrible woman on Earth: the terrifying headmistress of her school, whom all the kids call the Crusher. But Mel is not going to let this happen. She enlists the help of Brunilde, a weird yet brilliant middle-schooler who lives surrounded by spellbooks, potions, and enchanted junk in her family's garage.

Together, they'll try to concoct the perfect love antidote. But when Mel's plan backfires, she unwittingly awakens a much darker magic that threatens the entire school – and the sweet new teacher might not be who she seems after all.

- ✖ **A UNIQUE BLEND OF HUMOR, SCHOOL DRAMA, AND SPOOKY MAGIC**
- ✖ **A PLAYFUL AND IRONIC TAKE ON FAMILY BONDS, FATHER-DAUGHTER DYNAMICS, AND THE CHAOS OF NEW RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH THE BELIEF WE CHOOSE TO NURTURE, A LESSON FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS ALIKE.**
- ✖ **A QUIRKY, LOVABLE DUO OF GIRL PROTAGONISTS – SMART, STUBBORN. A ENDEARING A RICHLY DETAILED SCHOOL SETTING, WITH SECRETS AND DANGERS LURKING BEHIND EVERY DOOR**

-
- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2025
-

SARA MEZZETTI ✖ Sara was born in 1984 and lives in Bologna. She has a degree in Communication Sciences and has worked in the social sector for over a decade, changing the world one day at a time. A passionate lifelong reader, she is also a mother, wife, friend and, apparently, a writer. Her favourite literary character is Anne of Green Gables, and she loves stracciatella ice cream. She made her debut with *Little Pirate Aboard*, published by Il Battello a Vapore (Piemme)

NOTES FOR YOUNG DRUIDS

AGE 8+



“

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO BECOME A YOUNG DRUID!

AGE 8+



in partnership with



NOTES FOR YOUNG DRUIDS

Giovanni Avolio

Zuk is a young *short*, who lives with his people in a village in the Centenary Forests. After he ruins his village's holy festival due to a bad prank played on him by his bitter rival, Asi, Zuk is sent to study with the Scintillating Bo, the druid of Cimaspugna. So Zuk makes his first journey alone, accompanied only by a book of spells and a bungling hawk. Along the way, he will not only meet new friends but also encounter terrible monsters who will test his courage to the limits. He may be small and not at all heroic, but he will find himself confronting and defeating the Lord of the Fog thanks to his natural magic and weird inventions.

- ✱ A FANTASY WORLD TO EXPLORE FULL OF AMAZING CREATURES, PLANTS AND PLACES.
- ✱ ENTERTAINMENT GUARANTEED THANKS TO THE UNLIKELY INVENTIONS – BUT DON'T TRY THEM AT HOME.
- ✱ NATURE LOVERS WILL ENJOY THE DRUIDIC MAGIC IN THIS BOOK.
- ✱ A STORY OF FRIENDSHIP, THAT GOES BEYOND DIVERSITY, WHERE EVEN THE SMALLEST AND CLUMSIEST CAN BE A HERO WITH GENIUS AND COURAGE.

• FIRST PUBLISHER: GRIBAUDO (ITALY), 2025

GIOVANNI AVOLIO ✱ has always lived in Rome. After working for years in the theatre as a writer, actor and director, he happened almost by chance to find himself working in a children's bookshop to his great delight. Looking back, his journey is a little surprising, since he was a determined non-reader as a kid. What has guided him over the years is a passion for stories, and he tries his best to link this to the other passion of his life, gaming, which has led him to write gamebooks too. He has published several gamebooks with Totem-Albero delle matite: *Castello Spavento* (2022), *Mi scappa la pipì* (2024), *I gialli di Golden Shell* (2024). He encountered his first druid through the Asterix comics, one of the few things he read. *Notes for Young Druids* is his first children's novel.



I AM TOO ME!

AGE 8+



“

A FUNNY, HEARTFELT NON-DIARY OF ALEX,
A BOY WHO TURNS CHAOS INTO CREATIVITY
AND LEARNS THAT BEING “TOO MUCH” MIGHT BE HIS SUPERPOWER.

AGE 8+



in partnership with



I AM TOO ME!

Daniele Nicastro

Alex is 12. He's brilliant at making jokes, inventing games, and coming up with the wildest ideas—but when it comes to rules, homework, or staying still for more than three minutes, things get... complicated. His teachers complain, his parents worry, and his classmates don't always understand him.

That's why Alex decides to keep a diary. Well, not a diary-diary (too boring!), but his own "anti-diary": a mix of doodles, confessions, lists, jokes, and unexpected reflections. Through these pages, readers enter his whirlwind of thoughts, his misadventures at school, his endless arguments with authority figures, and his small, luminous victories. What starts as a chaotic chronicle soon becomes something more: Alex's way of making sense of himself, of finding allies (a best friend who never leaves him, an understanding teacher), and of realizing that his difference isn't a flaw—it's a different way of looking at the world. And maybe, just maybe, that's what makes him unique

-
- ✦ **HUMOR WITH HEART – WARMTH AND WIT TURN ALEX'S CHAOTIC ADVENTURES INTO HILARIOUS AND MOVING EPISODES.**
 - ✦ **AUTHENTIC REPRESENTATION – A RARE MIDDLE-GRADE NOVEL TACKLING ADHD FROM THE INSIDE, WITH HONESTY AND EMPATHY.**
 - ✦ **POSITIVE MESSAGE – A STORY OF SELF-ACCEPTANCE, RESILIENCE, AND CREATIVITY, ENCOURAGING READERS TO EMBRACE WHO THEY ARE.**
-

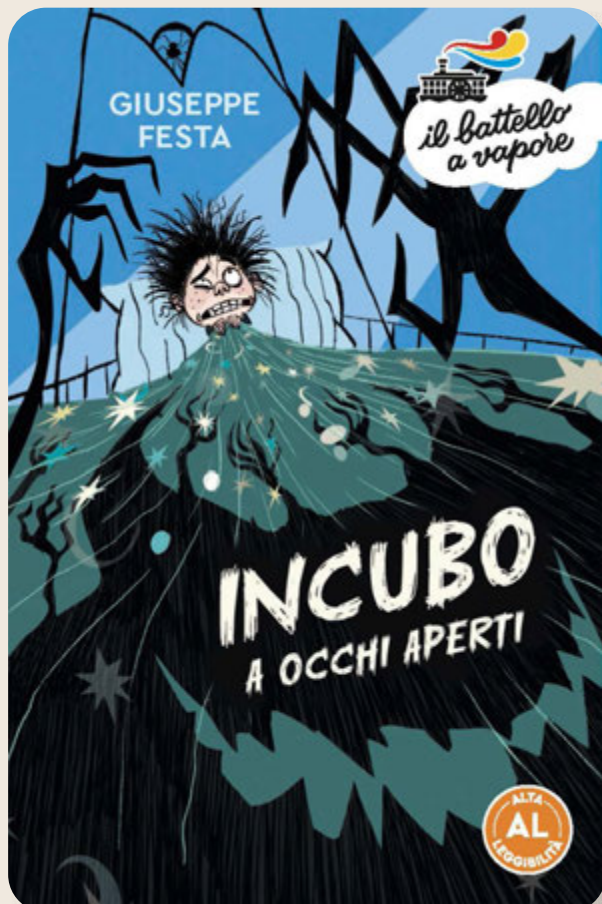
- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2025
-

DANIELE NICASTRO ✦ Daniele Nicastro is an author known for his lively, realistic style. Since his debut with *Grande* (Einaudi Ragazzi), he has published over forty books, including *#100DayChallenge* (Lapis), finalist for the 2024 Premio Bancarellino.

CAROLINA GROSA ✦ graduated in Visual Communication Design at IED Turin and works with major publishers as an illustrator, while nurturing her passion for graphic design and mountain walks.

A WAKING NIGHTMARE

AGE 9+



“

THE MONSTER UNDER THE BED IS REAL.
AND IT KNOWS YOUR NAME...

AGE 9+



in partnership with



A WAKING NIGHTMARE

Giuseppe Festa

When eleven-year-old Leo moves to a cabin in the forests of West Virginia, he hears noises, smells rot, and finds opossums crushed to death. Everyone says it's his imagination—except Amy, his pesky stepsister. But the legend of the Mowosh is no joke. Something is crawling out of the dark, and it wants them both... Maybe monsters under the bed were supposed to stay in stories!

- ✱ **CLEVER NARRATIVE TWIST – WHAT STARTS AS A CLASSIC MONSTER UNDER THE BED HORROR TURNS INTO A MYSTERY WITH A LOGICAL SOLUTION, BEFORE REOPENING THE DOOR TO THE SUPERNATURAL WITH A CHILLING EPILOGUE.**
- ✱ **THE MONSTER IS REAL—BUT NOT WHAT YOU THINK – THE BOA CONSTRICTOR “CHICKEN” IS BOTH FRIGHTENING AND PITIFUL, A UNIQUE MIX OF HORROR, EMPATHY, AND SURPRISE.**
- ✱ **ATMOSPHERIC SETTING – A DECAYING CABIN, DENSE FORESTS, AND LOCAL LEGENDS OF THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS ENRICH THE STORY WITH GOTHIC CHARM.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2025

GIUSEPPE FESTA ✱ is an Italian author, biologist, and filmmaker whose novels explore the deep bond between humans, animals, and the wild. His vivid, immersive stories blend adventure and emotion with scientific insight. A national bestseller with multiple literary prizes, his books — including *The Coming of the Bear*, *The Moon Belongs to the Wolves*, and *The Pikes of Lake Road* — have been translated into several languages. He has also written for National Geographic and produced nature documentaries for RAI.

ZILLA SNAKE FANGS

AGE 9+



“

FASTEN YOUR SEATBELTS: ANIMAL RESCUE UNDERWAY!

AGE 9+



in partnership with



ZILLA SNAKE FANGS

Vernante Pallotti & Daniele Zen

AGE 9+

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

- × **ICONIC, REBELLIOUS, IRRESISTIBLE FEMALE PROTAGONISTS.**
- × **DIFFICULT COMIC THEMES, POSITIVE VIBES AND FANTASY.**
- × **THE ADVENTURE THAT EVERY TEENAGER WOULD LIKE TO LIVE, FULL OF ACTION AND EMOTIONS.**
- × **TEAR-JERKING ENDING GUARANTEED!**

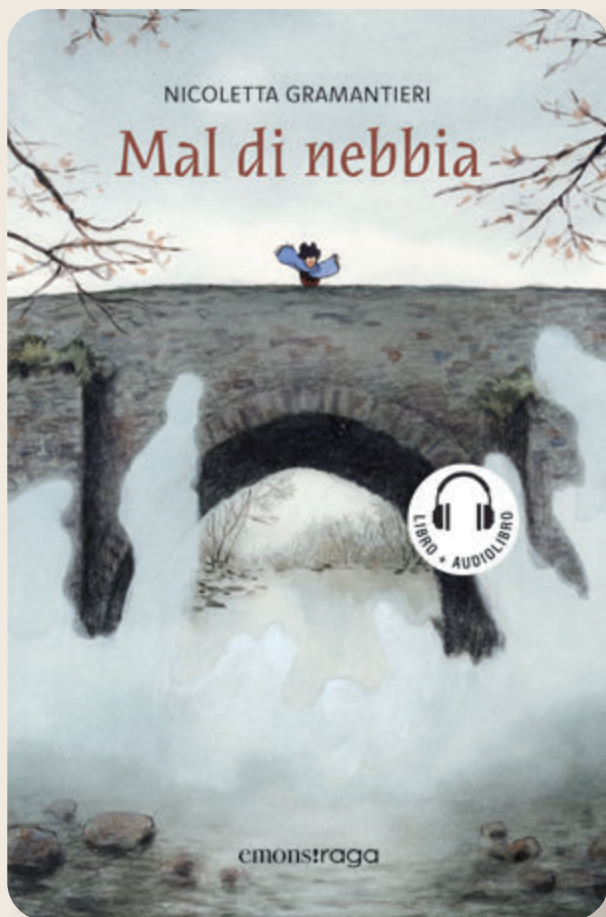
- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2024

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



WHITE FOG

AGE 12+



“

A VILLAGE.
A RIVER.

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

AGE 12+



in partnership with



• x • T O H S

WHITE FOG

Nicoletta Gramantieri

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

-
- ✱ AN INTRIGUING, ATMOSPHERIC SETTING, FADING TO GREY LIKE THE WINTER FOG.
 - ✱ A BREATHTAKING THRILLER AND BLOODY MYSTERY TO BE REVEALED.
 - ✱ AN UNFORGETTABLE HEROINE LOOKING FOR HERSELF AND HER PLACE IN THE WORLD.
 - ✱ A BALANCE BETWEEN REALITY AND FANTASY.
 - ✱ WHITE RAVENS 2025 - SHORTLISTED PREMIO LAURA ORVIETO 2025 AND GIGANTE DELLE LANGHE
-

- FIRST PUBLISHER: EMONS (ITALY), 2025
-

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

LIKE FOXES AMONG WOLVES

AGE 12+



66

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

AGE 12+



in partnership with



LIKE FOXES AMONG WOLVES

Christian Antonini

AGE 12+

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

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

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

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

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

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

#10DAYCHALLENGE

AGE 12+



“

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

AGE 12+



in partnership with



#10DAYCHALLENGE

Daniele Nicastro

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

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

- **FIRST PUBLISHER: LAPIS EDIZIONI (ITALY), 2023**
-

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



THE NIGHT I KILLED KURT COBAIN

AGE 13+



“

DEFINING YOURSELF ALSO MEANS LOSING SOMETHING.

AGE 13+



BOOK ON A TREE

THE NIGHT I KILLED KURT COBAIN

Azzurra D'Agostino

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

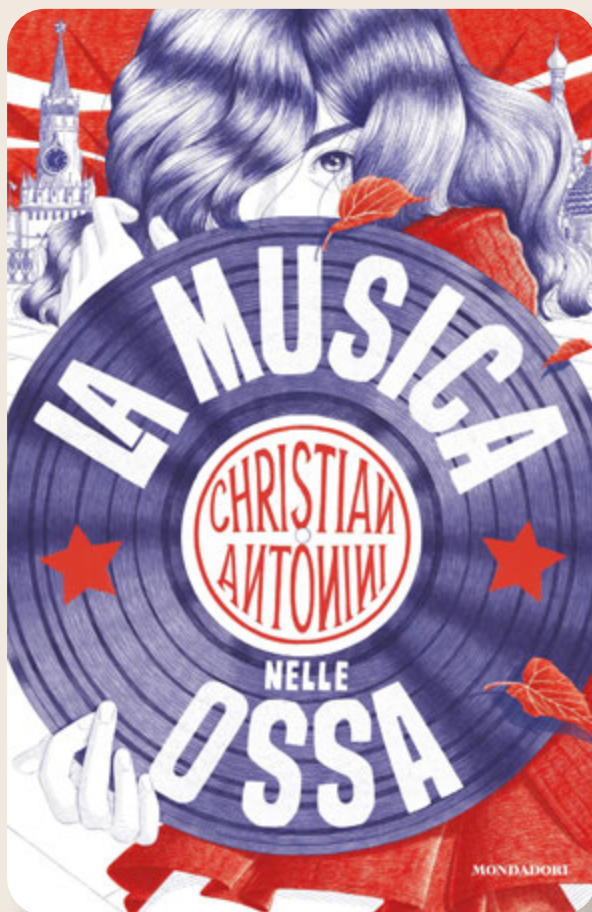
-
- x **THE '90S, THE PASSION FOR A LEGEND, AN IDOL.**
 - x **THREE TEENS JOURNEY ON THE TRAIL OF THEIR HERO; TWO BOYS AND A GIRL WITH THEIR BODIES: THE STRENGTH AND AMBIGUITY OF LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP IN ADOLESCENCE.**
 - x **THE POWER OF LANGUAGE. AS IN A DIARY OR A PERSONAL ALBUM, EVERY EVENT IS TOLD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

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

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

BONE MUSIC

AGE 12+



66

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

AGE 12+



in partnership with



BONE MUSIC

Christian Antonini

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

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

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

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

SYBERIA

AGE 13+



“

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

AGE 13+



in partnership with



SYBERIA

Guido Sgardoli

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

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

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

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

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

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

CELESTE'S WAR

AGE 10+



“

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

in partnership with



AGE 10+

CELESTE'S WAR

Marco Magnone

AGE 10+

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

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

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

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

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

OLGA

AGE 12+



“

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

AGE 12+



in partnership with



OLGA

Christian Hill

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

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

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

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

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

IN THE FOOTSTEPS
OF THE GREAT CLASSICS

AGE 10+



66

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

AGE 10+



in partnership with



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE GREAT CLASSICS

CURATED BY GUIDO SGARDOLI

Fabrizio Silei, Annalisa Strada,
Cristina Brambilla, Guido Sgardoli, Roberto Piumini

A new series dedicated to readers aged 10 to 14, created by the partnership between Erickson and Book on a Tree. The authors: **Guido Sgardoli**, **Annalisa Strada**, **Fabrizio Silei**, **Cristina Brambilla** and **Roberto Piumini**. Not the original classics, but new stories by contemporary writers, inspired by events — real or imagined — that happened to classic writers.

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

OF THE WORKS THEY WRITE.” Guido Sgardoli

1 = FABRIZIO SILEI = THE CURSED ISLAND

The young Robert Louis Stevenson takes on adventure

2 = ANNALISA STRADA = ONE PIECE AT A TIME

The young Mary Shelley takes on horror

3 = GUIDO SGARDOLI = THE GEOMETRIC MAN

The young Jules Verne takes on science fiction

4 = CRISTINA BRAMBILLA = THE CRUEL SISTER

The young Agatha Christie takes on mystery

5 = ROBERTO PIUMINI = THE VOICE OF OMOS

The young Omero takes on myth

FABRIZIO SILEI = Award-winning writer, graphic designer, and artist, he has published over sixty books translated into twenty-five languages. In 2014, he won the Premio Andersen as Best Author. He has received numerous awards, including the Ceppo International Prize (2022) and the Premio Bancarellino (2024).

ANNALISA STRADA = Children's and YA author, literature teacher, and trainer, she has published with major publishers, with many books translated. She has won prestigious awards, including the Premio Andersen (2014) and the Premio Cento (2017).

GUIDO SGARDOLI = One of Italy's most prolific and awarded children's authors, he has written over 100 books, translated into twenty languages. He has won major literary prizes, including the Premio Andersen (three times) and the Premio Strega Ragazze e Ragazzi (2019).

CRISTINA BRAMBILLA = Writer, editor, and translator, she directs the Superbaba series for Babalibri and teaches writing at Belleville School. She has written for TV, digital media, and major publishers, including Salani, Mondadori, and Rizzoli.

ROBERTO PIUMINI = Writer, poet, and performer, he is one of Italy's most acclaimed authors for children and young readers. He has written across genres, from fairy tales and novels to poetry, theatre, and epic retellings, and has received several major literary awards.



THE MERCURY MYSTERIES

AGE 10+



66

EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEYS
THROUGH THE SECRETS OF ART.

AGE 10+



BOOK ON A TREE

in partnership with



THE MERCURY MYSTERIES

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

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

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

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

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

THE TRUE STORY OF BLACK ITALY

AGE 10+



“

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

AGE 10+



in partnership with



THE TRUE STORY
OF BLACK ITALY

Marilena Umuhoza Delli

Why do we see so few black people in roles of public importance in Italy? In politics, television broadcasts, journalism and teaching. Yet, people of African descent have shaped Italian history. This is precisely where we start from – from this void.

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

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

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

• FIRST PUBLISHER: PIEMME (ITALY), 2024

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

www.marilenadelli.com

160 FILMS (AND SERIES)

TO WATCH BEFORE YOU'RE 16 (AND EVEN AFTER)

AGE 13+



66

A UNIQUE GUIDE TO FILMS AND SERIES
FOR UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD – AND OURSELVES.

AGE 13+



in partnership with



160 FILMS (AND SERIES)

TO WATCH BEFORE YOU'RE 16 (AND EVEN AFTER)

Manlio Castagna

Cinema can open worlds, spark emotions and change the way we see ourselves. In this rich and engaging guide, author, screenwriter and film critic Manlio Castagna curates 160 essential films and TV series for young viewers and the adults around them. From Chaplin to Studio Ghibli, Spielberg to Pixar, international classics sit alongside contemporary titles and hidden gems from different cultures. More than a list, the book becomes a journey through stories, ideas and feelings, inviting readers to watch, discuss and discover how cinema speaks to friendship, family, courage, identity and growing up.

- # **160 ESSENTIAL FILMS AND SERIES:** A CURATED JOURNEY FROM TIMELESS CLASSICS TO CONTEMPORARY DISCOVERIES, DESIGNED FOR YOUNG VIEWERS.
- # **A GUIDE THAT READS LIKE A STORY:** CASTAGNA'S VOICE IS WITTY, PASSIONATE AND ACCESSIBLE, TURNING EVERY ENTRY INTO A STARTING POINT FOR REFLECTION AND CONVERSATION.
- # **CROSS-GENERATIONAL APPEAL:** A BOOK FOR TEENAGERS, PARENTS, TEACHERS AND FILM LOVERS TO SHARE, DISCUSS AND USE TOGETHER.

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2025
- **RIGHTS SOLD:** KOREAN (BOOK'S HILL PUBLISHING)

MANLIO CASTAGNA # is a screenwriter, director, author, film critic and educator. After more than twenty years with the Giffoni Film Festival — serving as Deputy Director until 2018 — he went on to build a wide-ranging career across fiction, cinema and cultural criticism. In 2025, *Fortune Entertainment* included him among the 25 most influential digital creators in Italy in the field of film and entertainment. He writes about cinema for *Cinecittà News* and *Fortune Entertainment*, teaches genre writing at the Scuola Holden in Turin, and in 2022 wrote and directed the documentary *The Heroes' Journey*, released in cinemas and later broadcast on Rai 1 to record ratings. His most recent documentary, *I Love Lucca Comics & Games*, was released in Italian cinemas in autumn 2025.



MY LIFE IN CINEMA

AGE 10+



“

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

AGE 10+



in partnership with



MY LIFE IN CINEMA

Giovanna Mezzogiorno

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



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

- FIRST PUBLISHER: MONDADORI (ITALY), 2024

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



PREMI FLAIANO

HOLLYWOOD

THE FOREST IS BEAUTIFUL BUT I WOULDN'T LIVE THERE

AGE 10+



66

THE FORMIDABLE FEAT
OF TWO UNLIKELY HIKERS.

AGE 10+



in partnership with



THE FOREST IS BEAUTIFUL BUT I WOULDN'T LIVE THERE

Angelo Mozzillo & Davide Panizza

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

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

✖ A TRUE STORY THAT WILL MAKE YOU LAUGH.

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

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

• FIRST PUBLISHER: PIEMME (ITALY), 2024

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

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

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

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



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O

THE FEAR OF THE LION

AGE 10+



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

AGE 10+



in partnership with



THE FEAR OF THE LION

Chiara Morosinotto & Davide Morosinotto

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

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

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

Because no one is free from fear.

Not even the ferocious and majestic mountain lion.

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

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

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

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

TAWNY OWL FAMILY

AGE 8+



“

FROM THE SCIENTIST WHO STUDIED TAWNY OWLS
IN THE FINNISH WOODS
A FASCINATING EDUCATIONAL BOOK

AGE 8+



in partnership with



TAWNY OWL FAMILY

Chiara Morosinotto, Davide Morosinotto

Illustrations by Isabella Grott

With its funny expression and soft plumage, the tawny owl is an animal that inspires tenderness. In reality, it is a fearsome predator! But it is also a faithful companion (there are almost no cases of “divorce”), a caring parent and a splendid animal to study in all its characteristics. In this informative illustrated book we follow a pair of tawny owls as their eggs hatch and their chicks grow; we discover their flight and hunting techniques, strategies to escape predators, but also how human activities and climate change are impacting their lives.

- # A REAL SCIENCE-BASED BOOK MADE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL READERS FROM PRIMARY SCHOOL UPWARDS.
- # IT STARTS WITH A SPECIFIC SPECIES (TAWNY OWLS) AND ZOOMS OUT TO INCLUDE THE WORLD AND THE CHALLENGES WE FACE.
- # A JOURNEY FULL OF IDEAS ALSO ON THE BIOLOGY AND BEHAVIOR OF OTHER ANIMALS, ANIMATED BY A PASSION FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND THE PROTECTION OF NATURE.

- FIRST PUBLISHER: CAMELOZAMPA (ITALY), 2025

CHIARA MOROSINOTTO # graduated in evolutionary biology from Padua university and then migrated north to complete a doctorate in ecology in Finland. With one thing and another she stayed there 15 years studying interactions between prey and predators. This was where she started studying tawny owls and how animals respond to environmental stress. She now works at the University of Padua and the National Biodiversity Future Centre studying the effects of heatwaves on animals. She has written many scientific articles and an informational book with her brother Davide, “*La Paura del Leone*”. This is her second book. She loves travelling and discovering ethnic cuisines and new recipes to try out!

DAVIDE MOROSINOTTO # is an award-winning author whose works have been translated into 25 languages. He won the Super Andersen Prize in 2017 with *Il rinomato catalogo Walker & Dawn* (The Pocket Watch Gang, Mondadori) and the Strega Children's Prize in 2021 with *La più grande* (The Greatest, Rizzoli), which earned him a place on the IBBY Honour List 2021. He has also published *Red Stars*, *The Lost Flower of the Shaman of K*, *The Last Hunter* (finalist for the Andersen Prize 2022), *The Son of the Sea*, and *The Wind Thief*. Internationally, he has been a finalist for the Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis, won the Penzberger Urmel in Germany, the Prix des Bouquins en Seine and Grand Prix des Lecteurs du Journal de Mickey in France, the Vlag en Wimpel and Zilveren Griffel in the Netherlands, the KJV Prize in Flanders, and the Protagonista Jove Prize in Catalonia. He was also nominated for the Carnegie Medal 2022 in the UK, won the 2023 Bookstar Prize for German-language literature, and in 2024 received the Elbakin.net Award for best translated fantasy novel for young readers. In 2025, he is the Winner of the Prix des Libraires Jeunesse du Québec (12-17), Canada's most prestigious award for children's literature, and Winner of the Prix Sorcières in France – Carrément Sorcier Fiction – Passionnant Maxi.

ANIMAL SUPERSTAR

AGE 9+



66

**TWENTY TRUE STORIES OF ANIMALS
WHOSE EXTRAORDINARY ABILITIES HAVE CHANGED
THE WAY WE UNDERSTAND ANIMAL INTELLIGENCE**

AGE 9+



in partnership with



ANIMAL SUPERSTAR

AGE 9+

Jacopo Oliveri & Caterina Spiezio

From Alex the talking parrot and Koko the sign-language gorilla to heroic pigeons, mine-detecting rats and dolphins that save lives, *Animal Superstars* gathers true stories that read like adventures. Blending humour, science and discovery, the book moves across species, times and places to explore the many ways animals think, learn, communicate and cooperate. A lively, curiosity-sparking journey into the wonders of the animal world.

- # **NARRATIVE NON-FICTION AT ITS BEST:** EACH CHAPTER TURNS A DOCUMENTED CASE INTO A VIVID, FAST-PACED STORY.
- # **SCIENCE MADE EXCITING:** A LIVELY MIX OF STEM, HISTORY AND ADVENTURE.
- # **VARIED AND WIDE-RANGING:** DIFFERENT SPECIES, PLACES AND ERAS MAKE EVERY CHAPTER FRESH AND SURPRISING.



- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** LAPIS (ITALY), 2025

JACOPO OLIVERI # began his career as a comic artist and illustrator, later designing theatre costumes before becoming a children's author. Fascinated by natural sciences since childhood, he spent hours drawing real and imaginary creatures and exploring the countryside around Verona in search of amphibians and beetles. It is no surprise that his stories are often filled with animals – from ferrets to dinosaurs.

CATERINA SPIEZIO # has loved animals since childhood and soon decided to devote her work to protecting them. After earning a degree in Natural Sciences with a thesis on primates, she studied lemurs in Madagascar. Back in Italy, she continued her training at SISSA in Trieste and now works at Parco Natura Viva in Bussolengo, near Verona, where she studies animal behaviour and develops programmes to improve welfare and protect endangered species.



THE SUMMER OF THE GREAT BEAR

FOR ALL AGES



“

THE STORY OF A WOMAN AND THE BEAR WHO SAVED HER

FOR ALL AGES



in partnership with



THE SUMMER OF THE GREAT BEAR

Giuseppe Festa

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

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

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

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

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

• FIRST PUBLISHER: GARZANTI (ITALY), 2023

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

THE BIG BOOK OF SUBMARINES

AGE 8+



“

EVERYTHING, ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING,
YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT SUBMARINES

AGE 8+



in partnership with



THE BIG BOOK OF SUBMARINES

Christian Hill

Illustrations by Giulia Lombardo & Arianna Bellucci

Exploring the depths is a difficult and dangerous business: there's no oxygen underwater, little light, and as you go down to the depths the temperature falls, while the pressure increases drastically!

It took centuries to design the first safe and reliable submarines: military models as well as civilian and touristic ones, for exploration and rescue. Filippo and Sofia discover this mysterious world, guided by their grandpa, an ex-submariner who tells them tales of adventures linked to the history of submarines, revealing the more complex technical aspects – such as why they don't float (and, above all, sink) – as well as more curious ones: where's the bathroom? And who cooks?

- # EACH TALE INTRODUCES A TECHNICAL CHAPTER, WITH THE SUPPORT OF INFOGRAPHICS AND BOXES WITH DETAILS. A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY OF ALL ASPECTS OF SUBMARINES, FROM THE SCIENCE OF HOW THEY WORK TO THE TECHNOLOGY OF THEIR SYSTEMS AND STRUCTURES.
- # FOUR SIMPLE EXPERIMENTS HELP THE READERS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE MOST DIFFICULT ASPECTS.
- # ATTRACTIVE AND ENGAGING ILLUSTRATIONS.

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** EDITORIALE SCIENZA (ITALY), 2022
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** SIMPLIFIED CHINESE (CHINA MACHINE PRESS)

CHRISTIAN HILL # is an aerospace engineer who, immediately after graduating, decided he didn't want to be an engineer. So, he turned to role-playing games and journalism and, more recently, to children's fiction. He has published successful books for several Italian publishers and won the Cento Prize with *Il Ladro dei cieli* (*The Sky Thief*), Rizzoli.

• #



FREE TO BE ME

AGE 12+



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WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN
TO BE YOURSELF?

AGE 12+



in partnership with



FREE TO BE ME

Camilla Mancini

In a world full of expectations and labels, being yourself can feel like an act of defiance. In this personal, lively and thought-provoking book, Camilla Mancini shares thoughts, memories, doubts and turning points with honesty and humour, reflecting on insecurity, friendship, self-image, ambition and the long path towards self-acceptance. Written through lists, inner dialogues and sharp, intimate reflections, *Free to Be Me* is not a manual, but a mirror for readers still figuring out who they are – and how to be proud of it.

-
- ✦ **AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL AND EMPOWERING VOICE: A PERSONAL, DIRECT AND DEEPLY AUTHENTIC BOOK DRAWN FROM LIVED EXPERIENCE.**
 - ✦ **A DYNAMIC, ACCESSIBLE FORMAT: LISTS, REFLECTIONS, DIALOGUE AND SHORT PIECES MIRROR REAL THOUGHT PATTERNS AND INVITE REREADING.**
 - ✦ **A POWERFUL MESSAGE OF SELF-ACCEPTANCE: THE BOOK ADDRESSES BULLYING, VULNERABILITY AND IDENTITY WITH HONESTY, CLARITY AND EMOTIONAL STRENGTH.**

-
- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** MONDADORI (ITALY), 2025

CAMILLA MANCINI ✦ grew up travelling around Italy and Europe thanks to her father, the well-known football player and coach Roberto Mancini. She is passionate about photography, writing and sport, and finds inspiration in life's simplest pleasures. She is also the author of the novel *You Are a Butterfly*, published in Italy by Mondadori.

JOURNEY BEYOND THE UNKNOWN

AGE 11+

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

VIAGGIO OLTRE L'IGNOTO



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

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



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

66

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



BOOK ON A TREE

AGE 11+

• x T O H S E N O

JOURNEY BEYOND THE UNKNOWN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

AGE 8+



66

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

AGE 8+



BOOK ON A TREE

15 QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

AGE 8+

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

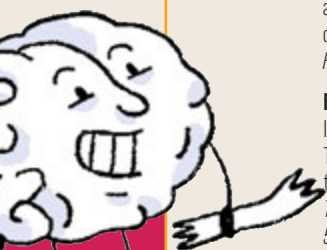
THE AUTHORS ≈ **PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO** ≈ An author and journalist, Pierdomenico Baccalario's books have been translated into more than twenty languages and sold over two million copies worldwide. They include novels, game books, stories, role-play games, educational and humanitarian projects and specialised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

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

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

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

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



MONETINA,
RIPETO,
MONETINA.



LOVE, SEX AND OTHER SUCH THINGS

AGE 10+



66

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

AGE 10+



in partnership with



LOVE, SEX AND OTHER SUCH THINGS

Elena Peduzzi & Fiore Manni

Illustrations by Giada Carboni

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



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

- FIRST PUBLISHER: RIZZOLI (ITALY), 2022

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

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



ARE YOU THERE BIGFOOT?

AGE 3+



66

FOLLOW THE TRACKS — ADVENTURE IS WAITING!

AGE 3+



in partnership with



ARE YOU THERE BIGFOOT?

Anrea Farotto & Martina Tonello

On a bright summer morning, four friends — Liz, Will, Bill and Jyn — set off with their dog Cheesecake on a mission to find the legendary Bigfoot. Armed with blankets, a giant net and endless curiosity, they climb a mountain, follow mysterious footprints and explore a lakeside forest full of surprises. Along the way, every clue leads not to Bigfoot, but to other wonders of the wild: mountain goats, foxes, beavers, a woodpecker and singing frogs. And when Cheesecake goes missing, the adventure turns into an even more important rescue mission.

- * **A JOYFUL OUTDOOR ADVENTURE:** A PLAYFUL QUEST THAT CELEBRATES CURIOSITY, DISCOVERY AND THE EXCITEMENT OF EXPLORING NATURE.
- * **WARM, ENGAGING ARTWORK:** MARTINA TONELLO'S ILLUSTRATIONS FILL EVERY SPREAD WITH HUMOUR, MOVEMENT AND RICHLY DETAILED NATURAL SETTINGS.
- * **A STORY OF TEAMWORK AND RESILIENCE:** THE CHILDREN SOLVE PROBLEMS TOGETHER, SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER AND LEARN THAT THE BEST DISCOVERIES ARE OFTEN THE UNEXPECTED ONES.

• NOT YET PUBLISHED

ANDREA FAROTTO * was born in Zambia to Italian parents and now lives in London, where he works as a petroleum engineer. Alongside his professional life, he is deeply interested in fostering children's creativity through play, reading and writing.

MARTINA TONELLO * is an Italian illustrator and designer whose playful style combines warm palettes, expressive characters and richly detailed natural settings. She works across publishing, animation and design, creating visual worlds full of humour, charm and childhood curiosity.

AGE 6+

ILLUSTRATED *

THE TRUTH IS LIKE A BIRD

AGE 6+



“

A POETIC JOURNEY INTO ALL
THE SURPRISING SHAPES THAT TRUTH CAN TAKE.



in partnership with



* DETAIL SU LL

THE TRUTH IS LIKE A BIRD

Andrea Farotto & Anna Pirolli

Truth is alive: if you push it off a cliff, it flies like a bird; if you throw it into water, it swims like a fish; if you bury it, it grows like a seed; if you leave it in the dark, it shines like a star. Through a sequence of visual metaphors, the book follows truth in all its forms — hidden, denied, attacked, yet never erased. Lies, by contrast, sink, burn and disappear. Then, after this lyrical journey, comes one final and very familiar question: who ate the cake from the fridge?

- * **A UNIVERSAL METAPHOR FOR TRUTH:** CLEAR, RESONANT IMAGERY MAKES AN ABSTRACT IDEA ACCESSIBLE TO READERS OF ALL AGES.
- * **STRIKING, POETIC ARTWORK:** ANNA PIROLI'S BOLD COLOURS AND VISUAL STORYTELLING CREATE AN IMMERSIVE, MEMORABLE READING EXPERIENCE.
- * **A POWERFUL READ-ALoud FOR HOME AND SCHOOL:** THE BOOK INVITES MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS ABOUT HONESTY, RESPONSIBILITY AND EMOTIONAL GROWTH, ENDING WITH A HUMOROUS SCENE CHILDREN WILL IMMEDIATELY UNDERSTAND.

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PINKWALE (KOREA), 2026

ANDREA FAROTTO * was born in Zambia to Italian parents and now lives in London, where he works as a petroleum engineer. Alongside his professional life, he is deeply interested in fostering children's creativity through play, reading and writing.

ANNA PIROLI * is an Italian illustrator and art director whose work is known for expressive colours, refined visual storytelling and strong emotional resonance. She also teaches art design at the Brera Academy of Fine Arts in Milan.

THE HOUSE OF LIGHT



“

A Lighthouse at the edge of the world
becomes the eternal voice of history — witness
to storms, monsters, prayers,
and forgotten worlds.



in partnership with



THE HOUSE OF LIGHT

Guido Sgardoli & Cristiano Lissoni

Long ago, at the boundary of the known world, brave men built a tower and lit a fire to hold back the darkness. Since then, the House of Light has stood as a silent witness to storms and shipwrecks, ghosts and monsters, sirens, whales, and forgotten kingdoms.

Its walls preserve both wonders and horrors – the echoes of everything it has seen. Now, as its flame begins to fade, new keepers must arrive to rekindle the light and carry its stories forward.

- * **A TIMELESS, UNIVERSAL METAPHOR:** THE Lighthouse BECOMES A POWERFUL SYMBOL OF TIME, NATURE AND HUMAN DESTINY.
- * **A RICH VISUAL AND LITERARY EXPERIENCE:** GUIDO SGARDOLI'S LYRICAL TEXT AND MATTEO LISSONI'S STRIKING ARTWORK CREATE A DEEPLY IMMERSIVE BOOK.
- * **A PICTURE BOOK FOR ALL AGES:** ITS EMOTIONAL DEPTH AND REFLECTIVE THEMES MAKE IT APPEALING TO CHILDREN, OLDER READERS AND ADULTS ALIKE.

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** RIZZOLI (ITALY), 2025

GUIDO SGARDOLI * is one of Italy's most acclaimed and versatile authors for children and young adults, with more than one hundred books to his name. A three-time Andersen Prize winner, he also received the Bancarellino Prize and the Premio Strega Ragazze e Ragazzi for *The Stone*. His work spans many genres, from adventure and mystery to sci-fi, thriller and fantasy, and several of his books have been recognised internationally.

CRISTIANO LISSONI * is an Italian illustrator known for an evocative style that combines fine detail with a strong cinematic atmosphere. Trained in graphic design, comics and illustration in Milan, he has worked with major publishers and magazines including Rizzoli, Edizioni EL, Editoriale Scienza, *Traveller* and *La Cucina Italiana*. His richly atmospheric artwork creates immersive worlds where nature, memory and imagination come together.

FOR ALL AGES

FOR ALL AGES

• * D E T A I L S

I WROTE YOU A BOOK

(JUST NOT THIS ONE!)



“

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



in partnership with





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

Angelo Mozzillo & Silvia Gariglio

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

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

• FIRST PUBLISHER: CAMELOZAMPA (ITALY), 2024

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

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



THE ADMIRAL HAS NICKED THE SKY

Marianna Balducci
L'AMMIRAGLIO
SI È PRESO IL CIELO



“

THE SKY BELONGS TO EVERYONE

GIANNI RODARI



in partnership with



THE ADMIRAL HAS NICKED THE SKY!

Marianna Balducci

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

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

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

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

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

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

IBBY
ITALIA

I AM A LEAF

AGE 4+



“

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

AGE 4+



in partnership with



I AM A LEAF

Angelo Mozzillo & Marianna Balducci

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

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** BACCHILEGA JUNIOR (ITALY), 2020
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** SIMPLIFIED CHINESE (SHANGHAI JUVENILE), SPANISH FOR ARGENTINA (ABRAZANDO CUENTOS), TRADITIONAL CHINESE (TAIWAN EDUCATIONAL), TURKISH (DOGAN), ENGLISH WORLDWIDE (RED COMET PRESS), SLOVENIAN (VIDA), BRAZILIAN PORTUGUESE (GLOBO LIVROS).

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

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

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



MONSIEUR CLAQUETTE'S SUNDAY

AGE 7+



66

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



in partnership with



MONSIEUR CLAQUETTE'S SUNDAY

Angelo Mozzillo & Davide Panizza

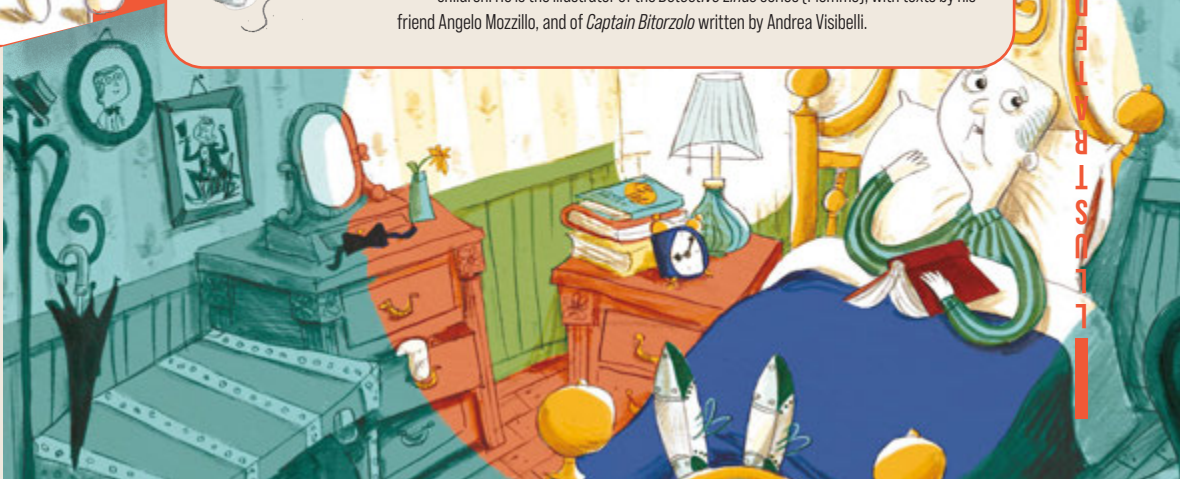
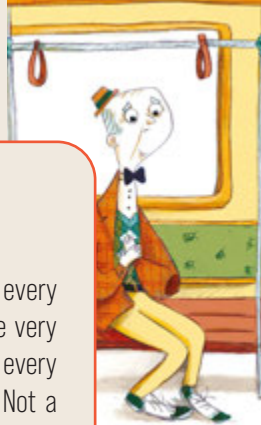
Tomorrow is an important day for Monsieur Claquette: it's Sunday. Like every Sunday, he will go to his dance lesson. And, like every Sunday, he will be very agitated. Like every Sunday, he will put a lot of effort into calculating every possible unexpected event: he wants to arrive at a very precise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

- * THE HECTIC PACE OF EVERYDAY LIFE IN A PICTURE BOOK.
- * A FUNNY AND TENDER LOVE STORY.
- * AN ACTION BOOK WHERE THE ONLY DANGER IS THAT OF ARRIVING TOO LATE FOR A ROMANTIC DATE.
- * PREMIO MALERBA 2025 BEST PICTURE BOOK 2ND PRIZE

• FIRST PUBLISHER: RIZZOLI (ITALY), 2024

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

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



THERE'S A SMUDGE ON MY DRAWING!



“

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



in partnership with



THERE'S A SMUDGE ON MY DRAWING!

Marianna Balducci

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

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

- FIRST PUBLISHER: EDIZIONI CLICHY (ITALY), 2022
- RIGHTS SOLD IN: TURKISH

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

AGE 4+



AGE 4+

DETAILS



READ AGAIN, NANÀ!

AGE 6+



“

A PROMISE TO KEEP
A LOOMING THREAT
THE POWER OF IMAGINATION

AGE 6+



in partnership with



READ AGAIN, NANÀ!

Marco Magnone & Lorenzo Sangiò

Nanà, a young capybara, lives with the condor Coco in a small village in the Andes. Every day Coco, the only one who knows how, reads the newspaper to the other inhabitants. Until some news changes everything...

Every morning Nanà read a new newspaper made from old clippings.
And the more the rest of the village listened to her, the more they began to hope. That the time of fear and war was coming to an end.
«Read again, Nanà!» everyone asked.
And Nanà read and read, and read again, articles that were ever more brilliant and persuasive.
To the point that sometimes even she was tempted to believe the words.

- * A UNIVERSAL STORY CELEBRATING THE FORCE OF IMAGINATION, WHICH CAN FOSTER HOPE AND RESIST ANY THREAT – BECAUSE NO WEAPON CAN WITHSTAND IMAGINATION AND THE POWER OF STORIES.
- * WAR IN THE WORDS OF CHILDREN, WITH TACT AND POETRY.

- FIRST PUBLISHER: MONDADORI (ITALY), 2025
- RIGHT SOLD IN: COMPLEX CHINESE (SBOOKER), KOREAN (JIGUEUIACHIM)

MARCO MAGNONE * is one of the most admired and sought after children's authors by schools, exhibitions and reading groups in Italy, through which he meets thousands and thousands of young readers all over the country every year. His works include: *La mia estate indaco*, *Fino alla fine del fiato*, *La guerra di Celeste*, *Barriera*, *Noi siamo fuoco*. With Fabio Geda he authored the two popular sagas *Berlin* and *I segreti di Acquamorta*. He teaches at the Scuola Holden in Torino and the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan, and is part of the artistic direction of the Mare di Libri festival in Rimini and Storie in Cammino in Firenzuola.

LORENZO SANGIÒ * is an illustrator. Born in Milan in 1993, he is a graduate from the Fine Arts Academy and holds a Master's degree from Ars in Fabula. Since 2018 he has published over 20 illustrated books with Italian and international publishers. His name was added to the list of *Italian Excellence: a new generation of children's illustrators* at the 2021 Bologna Children's Book Fair, and at the 2023 edition he was selected for the illustrators' exhibition. Since 2023 he has taught illustration at Ars in Fabula. He loves drawing nature, cats, and cities.



THE ELVES ON STRIKE



“

AN IRONIC, LAUGH-OUT-LOUD STORY
ABOUT THE FUNNIEST CHRISTMAS
REVOLUTION EVER!



in partnership with





THE ELVES ON STRIKE

Angelo Mozzillo & Davide Panizza

The elves are fed up: they build the toys, but Santa gets all the credit. This Christmas, Piotr and his fellow elves are going on strike – and nothing will ever be the same at the North Pole! With llamas instead of reindeer, exploding toy cannons and endless arguments over who is naughty or nice, chaos takes over. Funny, sharp and full of festive absurdity, this is a story about teamwork, recognition and speaking up.

- * **A BRILLIANT CHRISTMAS HOOK:** WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE ELVES GO ON STRIKE AGAINST SANTA?
- * **HUMOUR WITH HEART:** A FUNNY STORY ABOUT TEAMWORK, FAIRNESS AND RECOGNITION.
- * **STRONG INTERACTIVE APPEAL:** INCLUDES A SEEK-AND-FIND GAME AND A DUST JACKET THAT UNFOLDS INTO A FESTIVE POSTER.

• **FIRST PUBLISHER:** RIZZOLI (ITALY), 2025

• **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** UKRAINIAN (CHITARUM)

ANGELO MOZZILLO * is an acclaimed Italian children's author whose books are known for their originality, humour and emotional depth. His works include *I Am a Leaf*, illustrated by Marianna Balducci and winner of the Premio Andersen for Best Picture Book and the Super Premio Andersen as Italy's Children's Book of the Year. His books have been translated into several languages.

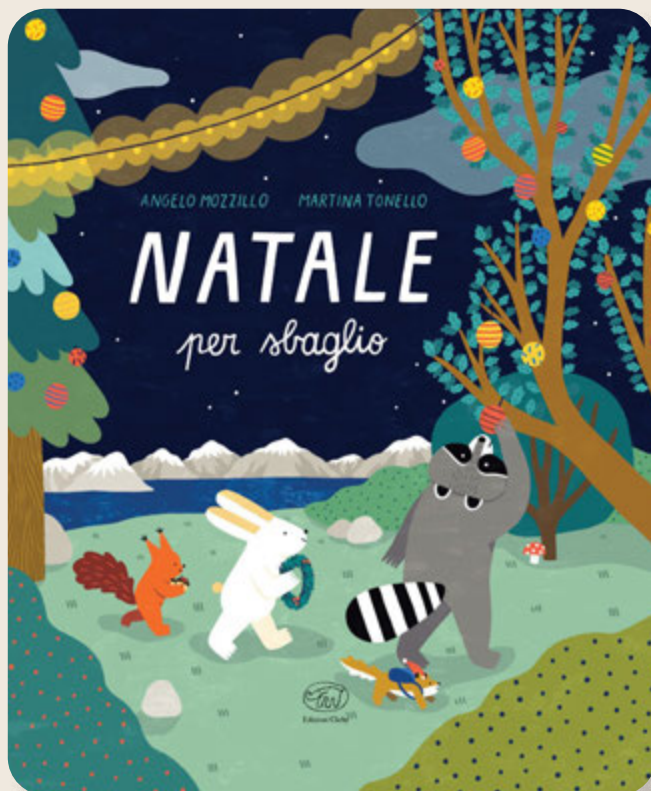
DAVIDE PANIZZA * is an Italian illustrator based in Bologna, with a background in fine arts and children's illustration. He creates picture books and adventure stories that combine playfulness with a refined visual style. His work includes the bestselling *Detective Linus* series, *The Forest is Beautiful But I Wouldn't Live There*, and *Monsieur Claquette's Sunday*, awarded second prize for Best Picture Book at the Premio Malerba 2025, all written by Angelo Mozzillo.



CHRISTMAS TALES

AN ACCIDENTAL CHRISTMAS

AGE 4+



“

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

AGE 4+



in partnership with



• * DETAIL SU LL

ILLUSTRATED * •

AN ACCIDENTAL CHRISTMAS

Angelo Mozzillo & Martina Tonello

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OGRE NOSTRIL'S CHRISTMAS

AGE 3+



66

WHOSE HOUSE WILL BE THE UGLIEST?

AGE 3+



in partnership with



DEPARTSULL

* •

* •

OGRE NOSTRIL'S CHRISTMAS

Angelo Mozzillo & Alice Piaggio

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

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

Who will win the longed-for prize this year?

* A FUN "BACKWARDS" CHRISTMAS STORY.

* SOMETIMES BEING DIFFERENT ISN'T SO BAD! A FUNNY STORY ABOUT BELIEVING IN YOURSELF.

• FIRST PUBLISHER: GALLUCCI (ITALY), 2022

• RIGHTS SOLD IN: KOREAN (BOOK & SOLUTION)

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

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



TO CATCH A MAGIC FROG



“

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



in partnership with



TO CATCH A MAGIC FROG

Pierdomenico Baccalario & Daniela Demurtas

To catch a magic frog, you need someone to tell you how.
You must hurry. You need a good pair of shoes, and a purple hat. (Everyone knows magic frogs like purple hats).

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

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

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** CAMELOZAMPA (ITALY), 2023
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** FRENCH (EDITIONS DU RICOCHET), RUSSIAN (POLYANDRIA)

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

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



WALKING POLDO

AGE 4+

Walter Leoni

Isabella Tiveron

A spasso con

Poldo



“

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

AGE 4+



BOOK ON A TREE

* DETAIL SU LL

WALKING POLDO

Walter Leoni
& Isabella Tiveron

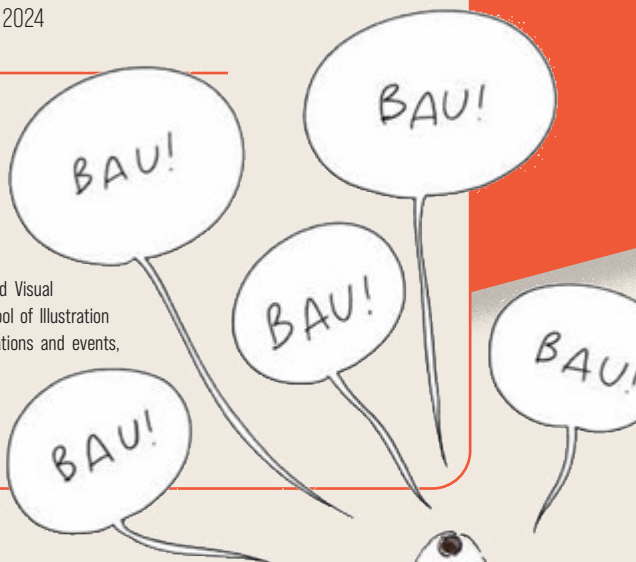
Poldo is veeery big. Lily is small.
But who says little kids can't do big people stuff?
Taking the dog for a walk will be a breeze. Right?

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

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

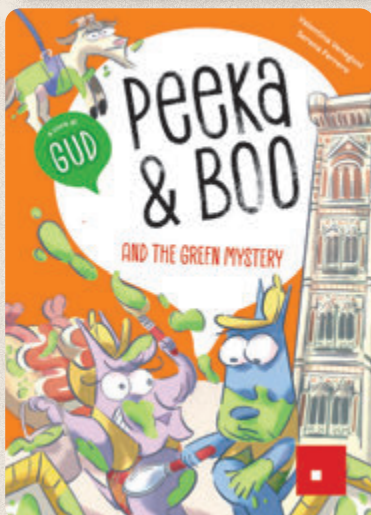
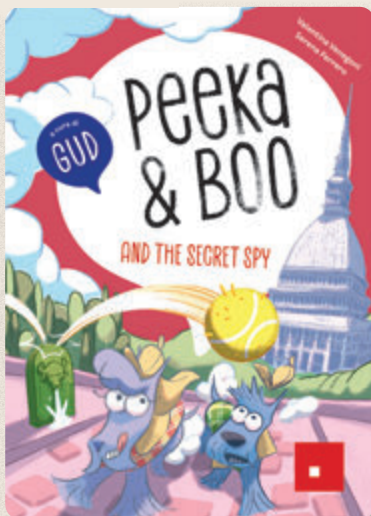
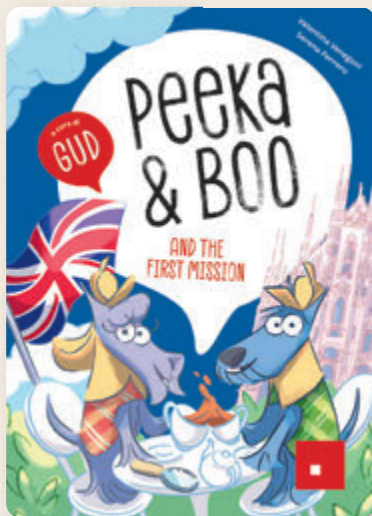
WALTER LEONI * invents stories and sometimes them. He creates cartoons, illustrations, comics, and an autobiographical comic strip called Totally Unnecessary Comics. Whether he works from home or lives in the office... it's hard to say.

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



PEEKA & BOO

AGE 8+



“

LEARN ENGLISH THROUGH COMICS!

AGE 8+



in partnership with



PEEKA & BOO

CURATED BY GUD

Valentina Venegoni & Serena Ferrero

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

- 1 = PEEKA & BOO AND THE FIRST MISSION
- 2 = PEEKA & BOO AND THE SECRET SPY
- 3 = PEEKA & BOO AND SUPER CHAMPIONS
- 4 = PEEKA & BOO AND THE GREEN MYSTERY

- ≈ A1 LEVEL ENGLISH.
- ≈ SIMPLE, ADVENTUROUS STORIES.
- ≈ MORE CLARITY ON COMPLEX EXPRESSIONS.
- ≈ CROSSWORDS AND GAMES TO TEST YOURSELF.
- ≈ UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE ELICOM RESEARCH GROUP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PARMA.
- ≈ IN THE FINAL PAGES YOU'LL FIND SOME *TIPS AND TRICKS* TO BECOME A COMIC BOOK WRITER YOURSELF!

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** ERICKSON (ITALY), 2024-25

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

WHO SAID SANTA ISN'T REAL?

AGE 7+



“

A GIRL WHO DOESN'T BELIEVE.
A SLEIGH THAT WON'T FLY.
A CHRISTMAS THAT'S FALLING APART.

AGE 7+



in partnership with



WHO SAID SANTA ISN'T REAL?

Vernante Pallotti

Illustration by Giada Carboni

When Santa gets a letter from “a very, very naughty girl” insisting he doesn't exist, everything collapses: the reindeer sulk, the toy factory breaks down, the elves quit – even Santa begins to fade.

He brings the girl to his magical village, but no spell can defeat doubt and a lack of imagination.

Then she finds a cracked snow globe, and whispers: “If I believe, you exist.” And suddenly something stirs – in the snow, in the sky, and deep inside her.

Because Santa exists... whenever someone dares to believe.

✱ **A FRESH TAKE ON CHRISTMAS**

✱ **A POWERFUL METAPHOR — SANTA EXISTS THROUGH THE BELIEF WE CHOOSE TO NURTURE, A LESSON FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS ALIKE.**

✱ **A POWERFUL METAPHOR — SANTA EXISTS THROUGH THE BELIEF WE CHOOSE TO NURTURE, A LESSON FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS ALIKE.**

• **FIRST PUBLISHER:** PIEMME (ITALY), 2025

VERNANTE PALLOTTI ✱ is a writer, screenwriter, and director whose work celebrates youth, vitality, and wonder. With her husband Daniele Zen, she creates stories for children and teens that blend magic, folklore, and nature. Among her books: *Zilla Snake Fangs* and *Lidia Poët and the Secret of the Boarding School* (Piemme, 2024).

GIADA CARBONI ✱ is an illustrator and visual development artist whose work spans publishing, comics, and animation. She has collaborated with Netflix, Sky Kids, Penguin Random House, and major publishers. Her style combines expressive character design and cinematic atmospheres to create vibrant, storytelling imagery.

MOON KIDS

AGE 10+



“

FIVE STRANGERS.
A LUNAR SPACE STATION.
A YEAR THAT WILL
SHAPE THEIR LIVES.

AGE 10+



BOOK ON A TREE

MOON KIDS

Daide Morosinotto
Illustration by Beatrice Galli

Five teens — Violette, Akin, Cho, Timberly and Camil — are about to embark on the adventure of a lifetime: spending a full school year aboard a new international space station in orbit around the moon. Life in space means close quarters, demanding scientific research, hours spent playing the video game Lunar, and all the highs and lows of friendship. Follow this unlikely group as they journey through space and through the tangled emotions of growing up.

- **SPACE EXPLORATION FEELS INSPIRING AGAIN: A NEAR-FUTURE SETTING THAT BRINGS WONDER, DISCOVERY AND ADVENTURE BACK TO THE CENTRE OF THE STORY.**
- **FRIENDSHIP, FIRST LOVE AND TEENAGE EMOTIONS — IN ORBIT: LIFE ABOARD THE STATION TURNS EVERY BOND, CONFLICT AND FEELING MORE INTENSE.**
- **A SMART CONNECTION BETWEEN SPACE AND EARTH: THE VIDEO GAME LUNAR ALLOWS THE TEENS TO STAY LINKED TO THEIR PEERS ON THE GROUND, ADDING ANOTHER LAYER TO THE STORY'S EMOTIONAL WORLD.**

- **FIRST PUBLISHER:** IL CASTORO (ITALY), 2025
- **RIGHTS SOLD IN:** FRENCH (RUE DE SÈVRES)

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

BEATRICE GALLI is an illustrator and comic artist who was born in Palermo in 2001. She currently lives in Rome where she attends the Graphic Design: Comics and Illustration course at RUFA. Since 2022, she has part of the Viscosa collective, working on stories for the anthological volumes *Intermezzo* and *Tritatutto*.



THE FOREST

AGE 10+



“

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

AGE 10+



in partnership with



THE FOREST

AGE 10+

Harriet Webster & Riccardo Pieruccini

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AGE 10+

• 10 LEVON GRAPHIC

LOVE ENDS BEFORE DINNER

TARGET: NEW ADULT



“

ONE WOMAN.
TWO MEN.

A TANGLED LOVE STORY
WHERE FICTION BECOMES THE MOST DANGEROUS AFFAIR.

TARGET: NEW ADULT

• x JOHS EN 0



in partnership with



LOVE ENDS BEFORE DINNER

Lorenzo Rulfo

When Leon storms into the London flat of Ernest Barton, 73-year-old literary icon, all he wants is Sophie back. But Sophie isn't who she seemed to be. As the two men talk, they discover that she may have left Leon not for another man, but for a fictional one: Emilio P., the enigmatic hero of Ernest's most famous novel. What follows is a tense, theatrical dialogue about truth and delusion, love and invention, where roles reverse and reality folds in on itself. Can we ever love someone for who they are – or only for the story we tell ourselves about them?

- ✱ **A DEEP DIVE INTO THE NATURE OF LOVE—AND THE THIN LINE DIVIDING IT FROM OBSESSION.**
- ✱ **A LITERARY META-THRILLER THAT BLENDS BECKETT-LIKE ABSURDISM WITH EMOTIONAL DRAMA — THE NOVEL UNFOLDS LIKE A TENSE, THEATRICAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN TWO CHARACTERS TRAPPED IN A CONFINED SPACE, WHERE REALITY UNRAVELS THROUGH LANGUAGE AND PSYCHOLOGICAL GAMES. THE TONE SHIFTS BETWEEN IRONY AND INTENSITY, WITH EXISTENTIAL UNDERTONES AND A CONSTANT QUESTIONING OF WHAT IS TRUE, WHAT IS INVENTED, AND WHETHER LOVE CAN SURVIVE EITHER.**
- ✱ **A NOVEL ABOUT LOVE, MADNESS, FICTION, AND THE STORIES WE TELL OURSELVES TO SURVIVE THEM.**

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

LORENZO RULFO ✱ is a writer and entrepreneur. A former RAI child actor, he later turned to writing plays and fiction for young readers. His works include *Furio Furetti e la macchina della pazienza* and *I Fetenters*. Since 2014, he has been Managing Director of the storytelling agency *Book on a Tree*.

ALLIGATOR SENSE

TARGET: ADULT



“

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

TARGET: ADULT



in partnership with



• x J O H S

ALLIGATOR SENSE

Guido Scgardoli

TARGET: ADULT

2000, Wytago, Vermont.

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

x **BETWEEN KING, CARRISI AND KENT HARUF, A STORY SO REALISTIC AS TO TAKE US BACK TO FEARING ONE OF THE FEARS WE’VE BEEN CARRYING WITH US SINCE CHILDHOOD, THAT OF THE STRANGER WHO GRABS US AND CARRIES US AWAY.**

x **A TENSE, RAW, BUT ALSO VERY HUMAN THRILLER, A KALEIDOSCOPE OF UNIQUE AND PERFECTLY DESCRIBED CHARACTERS THAT GUIDE US THROUGH A LABYRINTH OF HATE, RESENTMENT, ENVY AND GENEROSITY.**

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

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

TARGET: ADULT

• x 10HS ONE

TRY NOT TO SLEEP

TARGET: ADULT



“

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

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

• x JOHS

TARGET: ADULT



in partnership with



TRY NOT TO SLEEP

Manlio Castagna

TARGET: ADULT

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

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

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

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

TARGET: ADULT

• X 10HS EN ONE