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BOOK FAIR

2026

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CATHERINE BIRMINGHAM MY LIFE OFF THE GRID

ITALY

Original language: English

Publisher: Solferino

May 2026, 250 pages

Birmingham explores urgent questions about nature and mainstream culture.

Catherine Birmingham and her husband made a choice early in their relationship to live off the grid and in harmony with nature. In rural Italy, they built a peaceful, self-sufficient family life outside conventional social structure.

This memoir follows her trajectory from Australia, where she dressed horses, to Japan, Denmark, Germany, and Malaysia where she met her husband, a forester. They found themselves at the center of an international controversy when their children were removed from the family home and placed in care. They are currently fighting to regain custody.

The story resonates beyond one family. At a time when millions are drawn to “cabin porn”, tiny homes, and the booming **#offgridliving** and **#homesteadlife** movements, Catherine and her husband did what many only fantasize about: they stepped outside the system. Her extraordinary experience explores urgent questions about nature and mainstream culture.

The case has become a symbol of a broader cultural reckoning. Catherine herself rejects ideological appropriation, focusing instead on truth, humanity, and the possibility of alternative ways of living closer to nature.

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CATHERINE BIRMINGHAM

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Outcry in Italy after court removes children of British-Australian couple living off grid

Government leaders condemn juvenile court for interfering in personal life choices

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Experts back Anglo-Australian parents in Italy in child custody row

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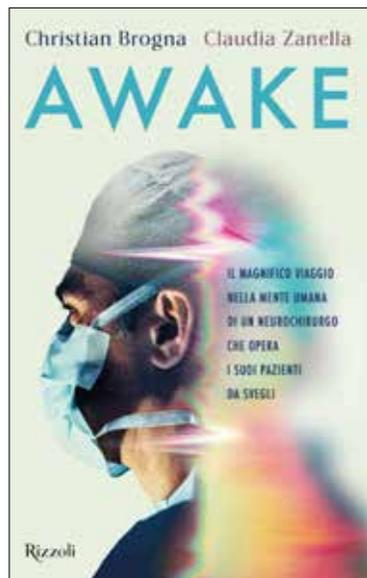
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We dropped everything to live in the woods. Now police want to take our children away

Nathan Trevallion and his family live ‘off-grid’ in an Italian farmhouse but social services accuse the couple of ‘parental negligence’

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**CHRISTIAN BROGNA
and CLAUDIA ZANELLA**
AWAKE

ITALY

Original language: Italian
(Partial English translation available)

Publisher: Rizzoli

October 2025, 172 pages

Rights sold

Arabic (Dar Shafaq)

Italy (Rizzoli)

Korea (Wisdom House Inc.)

Film rights optioned by Cattleya

Dr. Christian Brogna, an internationally renowned neurosurgeon, has spent his career exploring the brain like few others. But three years ago, a severe case of meningitis changed everything. Falling into a coma, he experienced firsthand what happens in the limbo between life and death. Trapped in unconsciousness, unable to move or speak, he made a startling discovery: the brain does not shut down—it amplifies its power. This revelation challenged everything he had been taught.

Today, Brogna is at the forefront of neurosurgery, specializing in awake brain surgery, where patients remain conscious—singing, speaking, or playing instruments—while he operates. His groundbreaking procedure on a musician, who played the saxophone as Brogna removed his brain tumor, made global headlines, showcasing not only the marvels of the brain but also the deep empathy between doctor and patient.

Dubbed *Awake*, Brogna shares the extraordinary lessons he has learned from his time inside people's minds, explaining how the brain continuously adapts, rewires, and evolves, shaping who we are.

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CHRISTIAN BROGNA and CLAUDIA ZANELLA

Through real-life surgical cases, personal reflections, and the latest neuroscience, he explores:

- **The gut-brain connection** – how gut microbiota influence cognitive function.
- **Music's impact on the brain** – enhancing memory, learning, and neural plasticity.
- **The brain and physical activity** – how movement boosts cognitive function.
- **Mindfulness and mental health** – how meditation alters pain perception and stress.
- **The power of language** – how our words shape thought patterns and well-being.

One of the brain's most fascinating secrets is its infinite capacity for transformation. The brain of yesterday is not the brain of today, nor the brain of tomorrow—meaning that change is always possible.

Blending cutting-edge research with compelling patient stories and his own life journey across four continents, *Awake* is a profound exploration of the mind's mysteries—told by the surgeon who sees them unfold every day.

Christian Brogna (1980), a neurosurgeon, is an internationally recognized expert in brain surgery for complex tumors. Author of over 40 scientific publications in international journals, he focuses on advancing brain mapping techniques to improve the quality of life for his patients.



Claudia Zanella (1979) was born in Florence. After graduating in acting from the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia, she earned a degree in Literature.

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SERENA CAPPELLOZZA THE VALUE OF THINGS

ITALY

Original language: Italian
(Partial English translation available)

Publisher: Sellerio
September 2025, 387 pages

Set against the backdrop of the sulky Venetian Lagoon, *The Value of Things* is a gripping crime novel—solid, full of twists. A debut written with the skill of a seasoned mystery writer and an absolutely unforgettable new female investigator.

On a Monday in autumn, the body of the president of a major company in Italy's North-East is found in the Lagoon of Venice. Wrapped in a Persian carpet, anchored to the seabed, and rendered barely recognizable by the voracity of blue crabs, the corpse is identified as Leone Balloni. He had been missing for a couple of days; the last people to see him alive were the members of the board of directors, at the close of their annual hunting lodge party on Saturday night. The final trace: a furious message sent to his wife on Sunday evening.

For the witty and brutally honest Inspector Mirna Pagani and her partner Angeli—already juggling a complicated relationship and wedding plans—the investigation is anything but straightforward. The list of suspects is long: a mysterious mole inside the company, a rival firm, a stepdaughter who is a radical animal-rights activist, the wife and her lover, disgruntled employees. The evidence, on the other hand, is scarce: a missing box of costly cigars, a vanished bag stuffed with cash, traces of a car, and a diary filled with strange notes.

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SERENA CAPPELLOZZA

Meanwhile, Mirna's private life is in turmoil: a bitter divorce, a teenage son in crisis, and an exasperating mother forever scheming to find her a new partner—preferably a very wealthy one. To solve the case, she must wade through the mud of the business world, confronting sordid characters, hidden ambitions, and simmering vendettas.

**A noir with atmosphere as thick as the lagoon itself,
The Value of Things delivers suspense, intrigue,
and the unsettling realization that behind wealth we often find rot.**

Serena Cappelozza, a graduate in Foreign Languages and Literatures, teaches. Her short stories have appeared in magazines and anthologies, and she is the winner of the *Giallo in libreria* contest organized by SEM and La Feltrinelli.



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ROMINA CASAGRANDE THE FOUR WINTERS

ITALY

Original language: Italian
(Partial English translation available)
Publisher: Garzanti
May 2025, 368 pages

Rights sold

Arabic (Dar Shafaq Publishing Company)

In the frozen heart of the Alps, a hidden community raises children cut off from the world; when their fragile rites begin to fracture, the wild children must confront the cult that shaped their fate.

Maia has always trusted the story of her past, convinced she was cherished and protected by her adoptive parents. But when she discovers she is expecting a child, long-buried questions begin to surface. In a forgotten trunk in the attic, she finds fragments of another life—photographs, newspaper clippings, and cryptic notes that unravel the certainty of her childhood.

Her search leads her to the remote valleys of Trentino-Alto Adige, where whispers of a hidden community of women and children echo across the mountains. There, Maia uncovers the intertwined fates of Esther, Agata, and Tamilè—three women bound by secrets—and the six “wild children” they raised in isolation. What emerges is a story of maternal love pushed to the extreme, of faith warped by obsession, and of wounds that cross generations.

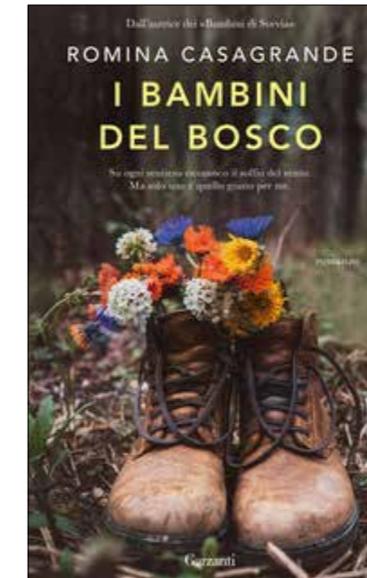
As past and present converge, Maia must face the truth that has been waiting for her all along: the answers she seeks are not only about where she came from, but about who she must choose to become.

ROMINA CASAGRANDE



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Hungary (Európa Könyvkiadó Kft)



Rights sold

Germany (Fischer Verlag)

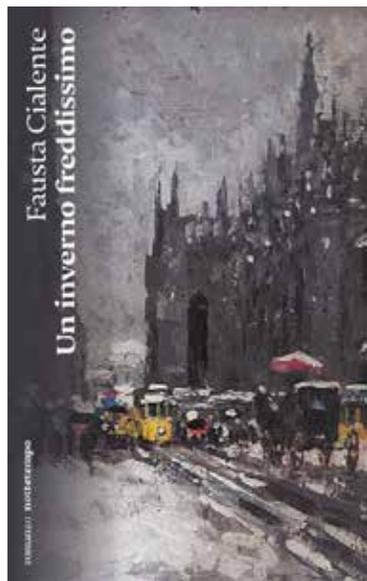


Rights sold

Arabic (Dar Al Khayal)
France (Fleuve Noir)
Germany (Fischer Verlag)

Romina Casagrande (1977) lives and teaches in Merano. She works with museums and schools on interdisciplinary courses and is a passionate nature lover.





FAUSTA CIALENTE A VERY COLD WINTER

ITALY

Original language: Italian
(Full English translation available)
Publisher: Nottetempo
October 2022, 293 pages

Rights sold
US/UK (Transit Books)

A novel of secrets and female solidarity set in post-war Milan, by one of Italy's most significant women writers.

In A Very Cold Winter, it is 1946 and Milan is in ruins. A woman named Camilla opens her illegally occupied attic to her extended family as they rebuild their lives among the rubble. The absence of men—lost to war, death, or abandonment—leaves the burden of survival to the women, who use the attic to incubate fragile futures: Camilla works to carry the family toward dignity and normalcy; Lalla dreams of becoming a novelist to escape their grim reality; Regina, widowed by the war, pins her hopes on her infant daughter; Alba chases independence and love.

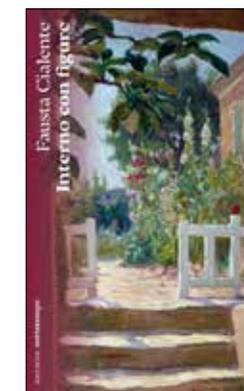
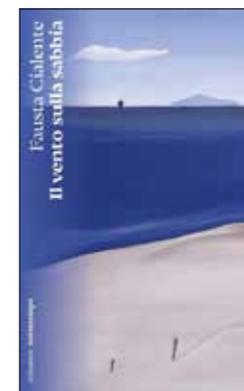
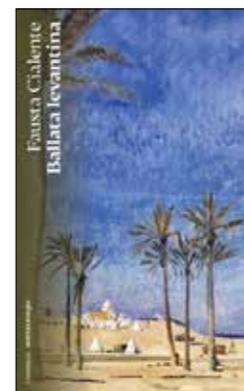
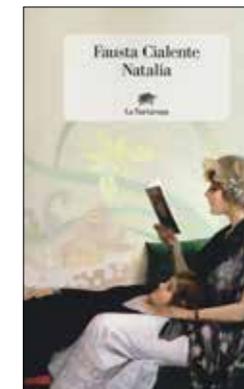
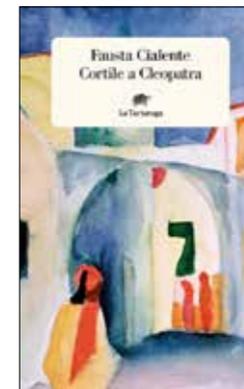
Varying political ideologies, loyalties, and wartime secrets filter through the house, creating a thick net of tension. As the narrative roams from the thoughts of character to character, the residents of this “hotel for the poor” consider their own complicity and moral compromises, wondering if they’re able to escape the weight of what they’ve lived through.

Fausta Cialente’s exquisite prose captures the frailty of the human heart in its desperate search for connection.

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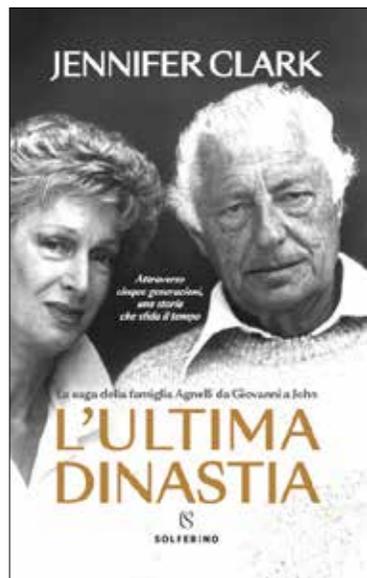
FAUSTA CIALENTE



Fausta Cialente (1898-1994) was born in Sardinia but spent much of her adult life in Alexandria, Egypt, which provided the backdrop for many of her books. A focal antifascist, she returned to Italy after WW2, and saw out the end of her long life in England. The author won recognition in 1974 when she won the Strega Prize.



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JENNIFER CLARK THE PATRIARCHS

The Agnelli Dynasty and the Price of Power

Original language: English

ITALY

Publisher: Solferino
May 2024, 432 pages

The fascinating and tragic story of one of the world's wealthiest and most powerful families, as they navigate monumental shifts in history.

The overwhelming power and inestimable fortune of the Agnelli dynasty, paired with the glamour and inimitable class of the legendary *Fiat* figure head, Gianni Agnelli, and the tragic death of his son, makes this family story unique in every sense.

Inspired by Henry Ford, the Turin-based founder of Fiat accumulated a fortune during WW1 and WW2 by providing trucks, cars, and machine guns to Italy's army. But the Agnelli family soon extended its influence by acquiring a newspaper (*La Stampa*), a football club (*Juventus*), and a host of other businesses.

By 1980, the Agnelli businesses accounted for approximately 3% of the national GDP and 25% of the companies listed on the Milan Stock Exchange.

JENNIFER CLARK

Gianni Agnelli, who passed away in 2003, leaving the reins to his grandson, was a legend in his own right. His mother was half American, and his wife, Marella, was one of Truman Capote's "Swans". As "jet setters", they hobnobbed with the likes of Prince Aga Kahn, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, and Pamela Churchill. The Agnelli men ruled in a way that reflected the patriarchal mindset of an epoch that is gone forever.

Much has been written about this enigmatic family, but none with the access needed to tell the whole personal and financial story, including what was going on in the shadows, where death and tragedy are as much a part of the family story as the business.



Rights sold

Poland (Spoleczny Instytut)
Russia (Bombora)

Jennifer Clark is an Italy based business journalist and freelance writer with 25 years of experience working for *Bloomberg*, *Reuters*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.





ERRI DE LUCA IN FIRST PERSON

ITALY

Original language: Italian
(Partial English translation available)

Publisher: Feltrinelli
October 2025, 112 pages

Rights sold

Croatia (Vukovic & Runjic)

Options

France (Gallimard)

Spain (Seix Barral)

“ I believe that each of us is granted, if only for an instant, a glimpse of the plan conceived in heaven — and the knowledge of being included in it, like threads in a tapestry.

Erri De Luca’s encounter with the sacred scriptures is a long and intimate one. From his deep and prolonged study of their pages this retelling of the Old Testament is brought to life through the voices of the characters who inhabit it.

They are blazing brief portraits, autobiographies of sorts by a poet and an author described as “one of Italy’s greatest living writers”.

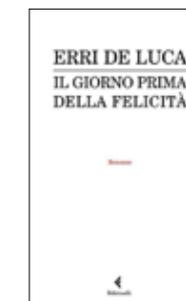
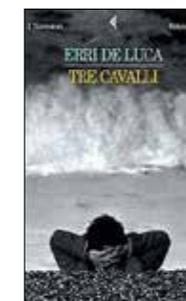
The book opens with the first human beings, Adam and Eve — Adàm and Hauà — and then, in order of their appearance, gives voice to a multitude of their descendants. Each one speaks for him or herself, seeking refuge in words from those defining events, claiming them, clarifying them, or setting them straight.

These are powerful voices, filled with truth or compassion, with strength against adversity, with hope, with sins beyond redemption. It is their humanity — their free will — that makes them stand out and renders them unforgettable.

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ERRI DE LUCA



Published in over 24 countries worldwide and translated into more than 30 languages:

English, French, Spanish, Catalan, Portuguese, German, Swedish, Dutch, Polish, Norwegian, Danish, Romanian, Greek, Lithuanian, Croatian, Slovenian, Hebrew (Modern), Yiddish, Russian, Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Serbian, Albanian, Hungarian, Czech, Slovak, Turkish, Arabic, Persian, Japanese, Chinese, Korean.



Erri De Luca is a renowned Italian writer, poet, translator, and screenwriter. Raised in an affluent family, he developed an early passion for literature and languages. In the 1970s, he was active in the political movement Lotta Continua, an experience that deeply influenced his literary works. After leaving political life, he worked various manual jobs in Italy and abroad, enriching his writing with a realistic and human touch.



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SIMONA DOLCE
ROSAMUND FISCHER'S
REAL NAME

ITALY

Original language: Italian
(Partial English translation available)

Publisher: Mondadori
May 2024, 384 pages

Candidate for the 2025 Strega Prize

A literary debut by one of Italy's most promising screenwriters.

In the suburbs of Washington D.C. lives an elderly woman who has erased her past until a call from a journalist forces her to reckon with her true identity.

On the other side of the telephone is a journalist, whose great uncle had fled Berlin in the 1930's. His research on Rudolph Höss's capture led him to Virginia, where Höss's daughter, Inge Brigitte has been living under the alias of Rosamund Fischer.

Born in 1933 on a farm on the Baltic Sea, she grew up in a villa in Poland, a "little paradise" where, the pavilions and the prisoners of Auschwitz, simply did not exist. In this cat and mouse game with the journalist, she claims she was unaware of the sounds around her and the role her father played. But Rosamund Fischer is a liar. She has lied to her husband, her children, and she lies to herself.

SIMONA DOLCE

In 1947, Rudolph Höss was tried and hanged in Poland. Inge Brigitte moved to Spain, became a model for Balenciaga and then changed her name. She might have forgiven her father, like her mother whom she nurtured towards the end of her life, but we will never know. Because there is no changing history, she rewrote her own.

A novelized first-person reconstruction of the life of the daughter of Auschwitz Commandant Rudolph Höss. To date, all we know of her lies in a single, disturbing interview she gave in 2015.

“ *My whole life, I deluded myself that no one would ever discover my secret. But one day, the past found me, and I was forced to recognize the secrets I had kept from everyone, including myself.* ”

Rights sold

France (Presses de la Cité)

Simona Dolce (1984) is the author of prize-winning children's books. She contributes to the literary magazine *Nuovi Argomenti* and works as a screenwriter in Rome.





NINE D'URSO UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ITALY

Original language: French
 Publisher: Flammarion
 December 2025, 240 pages

Rights sold

Italy (Rizzoli)

Nine d'Urso is an actress and illustrator. *Unfinished Business* was born from a single, disarming question she asked friends, family, and strangers alike: ***“What in your life began and ended without ever reaching its conclusion?”***

The answers — intimate, fleeting, unresolved — form a constellation of fragments. Each response inspired a drawing, originally presented as part of a collective exhibition in Paris: 240 small sketches, each sealed inside a tiny vial of oil, aligned on shelves like preserved memories.

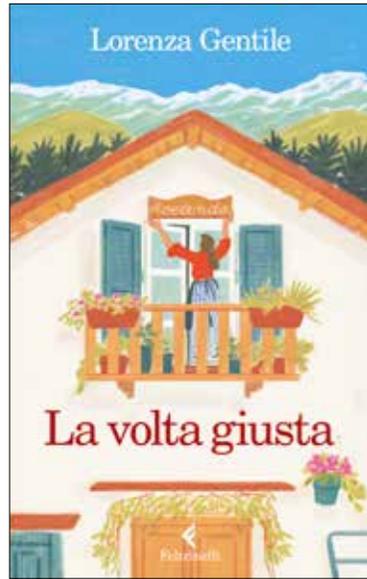
The title refers to the dark fracture line visible on an X-ray when a bone breaks—a “solution of continuity.” In that gap, *Solution de Continuité* imagines the possibility of repair: the space where something new can grow, where absence becomes potential. At once visual art, literary meditation, and emotional archive, this book invites readers to contemplate unfinished stories—not as failures, but as openings for transformation.

NINE D'URSO



Nine d'Urso is an actress and visual artist. She began her studies at the École Normale Supérieure before turning to theatre and cinema, working with directors such as Olivier Assayas (*Hors du Temps*), Alain Cavalier (*Le Paradis*), and Rodolphe Tissot on the French series *La Rebelle*. Alongside her acting career, she develops a visual arts practice and co-created *La Carte du Tendre* with collaborator Joaquim Fossi, a participatory neo-geography installation presented in numerous public theatres across France.





LORENZA GENTILE THIS TIME IT'S FOR REAL

ITALY

Original language: Italian
(Partial English translation available)

Publisher: Feltrinelli
October 2025, 320 pages

Rights sold

Arabic (Dar Shafaq Publishing)

A witty, heartwarming romantic comedy about starting over, discovering strength in solitude, and finding family in unexpected places.

In a tiny Italian village, Lucilla dreams of a romantic new beginning with her boyfriend Enrico—until she discovers he has other plans. Alone in a crumbling inn at twelve hundred meters, with no phone signal and only a bottle of disinfectant for company, she fears her dream life is over before it begins. But the mountains have other ideas. What starts as a surreal welcome becomes a lifeline. Despite her heartbreak, she's drawn into village life, full of eccentrics: an innkeeper quoting Dante, a baker obsessed with focaccia, a widow determined to marry her off, and a handyman who always appears when disaster strikes. Running the tavern is chaos—burst pipes, complaining tourists, sudden storms. Yet Lucilla, long used to leaning on others, slowly proves she can stand on her own. Against her better judgment, she begins to suspect the mountains didn't just give her a tavern, but a second chance at love.

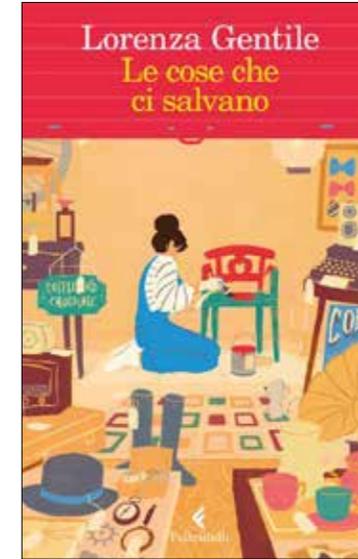
With its Alpine setting and lovable oddballs, a heroine whose vulnerability makes her hilarious and relatable shows how being left behind can set us free—and how finding your place in the world isn't something we wait for, but something we create.

LORENZA GENTILE



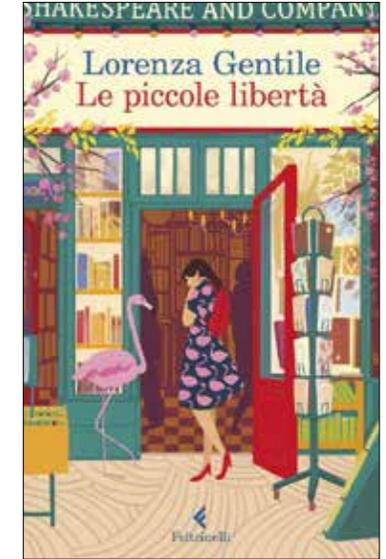
Rights sold

Arabic (Dar Shafaq Publishing)
France (Editions Leduc)
Israel (Matar Publishing)
Russia ((Mann, Ivanov and Ferber)



Rights sold

Arabic (Dar Shafaq Publishing)
Germany (Droemer Verlag)
Poland (Wydawnictwo Czarna Owca)
Russia (Mann, Ivanov and Ferber)



Rights sold

Arabic (Dar Shafaq Publishing)
Germany (Droemer Verlag)
Poland (Wydawnictwo Czarna Owca)
Russia (Mann, Ivanov and Ferber)
Serbia (Vulkan Publishing)
Film rights optioned by Life Cinema

Lorenza Gentile (1988) is a full-time writer. She spent formative years in Paris, working as an actress and sleeping in the basement of Shakespeare & Co.





CHIARA GILY KISS ME AT CAFFÈ NAPOLI

ITALY

Original language: Italian
(Partial English translation available)

Publisher: Mondadori
February 2026, 252 pages

Tucked away in the narrow streets of Naples is a second-hand shop that three young women have transformed into a vintage haven. At Caffè Napoli, every object is carefully chosen, customers linger for hours, and the comforting aroma of traditional coffee brewed in cuccuma fills the air.

For Lidia, Alice, and Mila, however, standing still is not an option. Their next challenge is to turn the shop into a meeting place for local artists. The result is a monthly “spritz date” — an form of of speed-dating event where painters, sculptors, writers, and poets meet, connect, and sometimes fall in love.

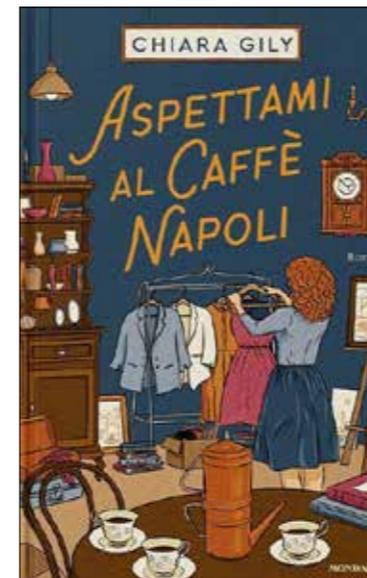
When the shop’s growing success leads them to hire an assistant, Amanda arrives: a talented young painter from Florence with the perfect résumé and an impeccable sense of style — but little desire to talk about her past. As Lidia and Alice juggle travel and motherhood, and Mila devotes herself to her photography, the group’s equilibrium begins to shift.

With warmth and grace, *Kiss Me at Caffè Napoli* is a celebration of sisterhood, resilience, and second chances — a feel-good novel that offers comfort and joy, like a fragrant cup of coffee savored in the heart of Naples.

“A witty and brilliant novel, to be savored like a delicious cup of coffee!”

Lorenza Gentile

Vicki Satlow Literary Agency
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CHIARA GILY MEET ME AT CAFFÈ NAPOLI

ITALY

Original language: Italian
(Partial English translation available)

Publisher: Mondadori
March 2025, 252 pages

Bestseller
25,000 copies sold.

Rights sold

Arabic (Dar Shafaq)
Russia (Mann, Ivanov and Ferber)

Lidia left Naples for Trieste just out of college, and she has rarely looked back. Now, her cousin Alice is getting married for the third time and Lidia is her maid of honor. She cringes thinking about how her boyfriend would react to the chaos of her home, but she has to go.

Lidia is supposed to stay in Naples just long enough to attend the wedding. But fate interferes when she finds herself the sole heir to her father’s antique shop. More than just a business, it was a gathering place for the neighborhood, a treasure trove of forgotten stories—and the best coffee in town.

The shop comes with its complications and problems. Lidia is tempted to shut it down and walk away but there are a few secrets she must unravel before making any decisions.

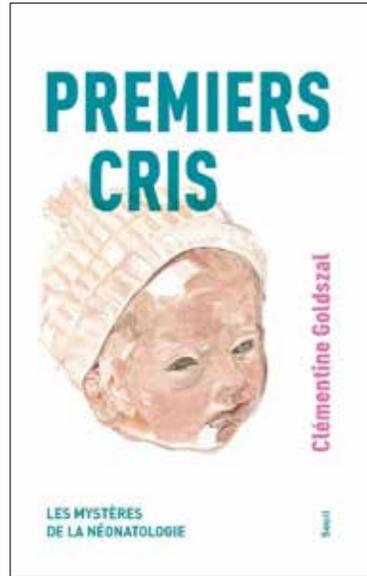
By her side are Alice, the bride still searching for true love, and Mila, a photographer with a knack for detecting the truth.

Together, these three women turn an abandoned antique shop into a beacon of new beginnings. Because sometimes, to find your future, you need to stop and listen to the past.

Chiara Gily is a freelance journalist born in Naples and based in Trieste, who writes a column about living in the city.

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CLEMENTINE GOLDSZAL NEWBORN

FRANCE

Original language: French
 Publisher: Editions du Seuil
 January 2025, 224 pages

The truth of newborns eludes us. Completely helpless, without words... an enigma surrounds their precious existence. What would they tell us if they could speak for themselves?

To approach and begin to unravel these mysteries, the author was granted the rare privilege of spending six months immersed in the neonatal intensive care unit at the Necker–Enfants Malades Hospital in Paris. In this ward, where complex and sometimes desperate cases unfold every day, she observed the world around the newborns—doctors, nurses, psychologists, parents—all united in the effort to guide these fragile beings into life.

First Cries reads both as a field journal of what was seen and as a meditation that draws on art, religion, philosophy, and psychoanalysis—while always centering the lived reality of its youngest patients. It seeks to illuminate what each of us has experienced at birth: our first minutes, our first hours, our first days of humanity. A book about life and death at their most delicate threshold, it is also a profound reflection on vulnerability itself.

CLEMENTINE GOLDSZAL

“*To look at a newborn is to face the very beginning of our own story.*”



Rights sold

Germany (DTV Verlagsgesellschaft)
 Spain (Gattopardo)
 UK/US (Pushkin Press)

Clémentine Goldszal is a prize-winning French journalist, who is currently writing on literature and entertainment for *Elle* and *Le Monde* Magazine. She recently published an important profile of Deborah Levy in *Le Monde*. She is fluent in English and lived for several years in Los Angeles where she covered American culture for *Elle* among others.



NÂZIM HIKMET



Rights sold

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 France (Gallimard)
 Italy (Mondadori)
 Germany (Edition Sonblom, Suhrkamp)
 Greece (Performing Arts Agency)
 Italy (Mondadori)
 Japan (Daido Life Foundation Japan)
 Korea (Thaehaksa)
 UK (Headline Publishing Group)
 US (Persea Books)
 Spain (Ediciones del Oriente y del Mediterraneo, Nordica Libros)

Nâzim Hikmet (1902–1963) was a Turkish poet, playwright, novelist, screenwriter, director and memoirist acclaimed for the ‘lyrical flow of his statements’.

Described as a ‘romantic communist’ or ‘romantic revolutionary’, he was repeatedly arrested for his political beliefs and spent much of his adult life in prison or in exile before he died in Moscow. His poetry has been translated into more than fifty languages.

A CLOUD IN LOVE

In the imaginary land of Pipeau, malicious Seidi, who feels unrequited love towards Aishe, possesses everything: the mountains, the pastures, the camel caravans, except a wonderful garden that belongs to Aïché. Syfi will do anything to take it from her, even asking the wind Dry to ruin her garden. But Aïché’s friends include a strange cloud that falls in love with her who rescues the garden with his own life. **A cloud who is in love with the girl makes the ultimate sacrifice to protect her, and like love itself, the cloud proves to be immortal.**

Vicki Satlow Literary Agency
 info@vickisatlow.com

One of the first and most important ‘European’ novels written in Turkey: its horizons are not limited to the national issues of Turkey, it explores the basic values of life, and its heroes live cosmopolitan lives.
 — Orhan Pamuk

HUMAN LANDSCAPES FROM MY COUNTRY

Nâzim Hikmet’s epic masterwork written during WW2, while Hikmet was serving a thirteen-year sentence as a political prisoner, his verse-novel tells the story of the emergence of secular, modern Turkey by focusing on sundry characters from all walks of life. A turbulent story of the 20th century and the ongoing struggle between tradition and modernity.

POETRY

Hikmet wrote many works of poetry, including *The Epic of Shaykh Bedreddin* and *Portraits of People from My Land*, both published in 1936. His early verse tended to be patriotic and written in syllabic form, but from the 1930s, Hikmet increasingly eschewed overtly poetic devices in his work and instead returned to Turkish folk traditions.

LIFE’S GOOD, BROTHER

Set in 1925 in Izmir, Turkey, protagonist-narrator, Ahmet, a Communist Party member who shares many biographical details with Hikmet himself, is hiding out in a stone cottage. Ahmet is being pursued by the secret police as he sets up an underground printing press. Present events and memory freely merge, capturing the passionate undercurrents of Hikmet’s tumultuous life.

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FRANCESCO LOTORO
THE LOST MUSIC
OF THE HOLOCAUST
Music can save a life

ITALY

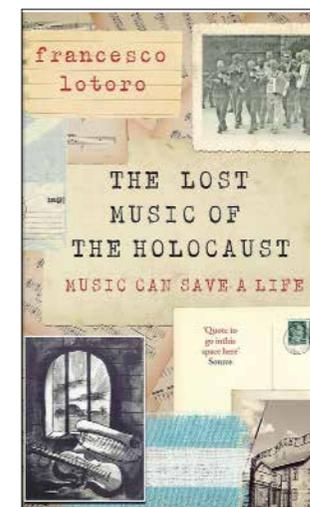
Original language: Italian
 (Full English translation available)
 Publisher: Feltrinelli
 January 2022, 312 pages

Italian pianist and composer Francesco Lotoro has been on a lifelong quest to find the music written by the inmates of concentration camps during the Second World War. *The Lost Music of the Holocaust* movingly pieces together the stories of those whose only solace during their imprisonment was their music.

These incredible stories bear witness to the most devastating experiences in twentieth-century history—but here music was a lifeline that had to be hidden with ingenuity and so sheet music was sewn into the lining of coats, instruments were taken apart and hidden in suitcases, scores written on food wrappings and prison walls.

Lotoro has painstakingly salvaged and performed symphonies, operas and songs written by the incarcerated musicians, many of whom died in the camps, not expecting their music could ever be known or heard by the world. He has travelled the globe to meet with the families of those who lost their lives, as well as survivors themselves. This compelling book takes readers on a journey into some extraordinary lives and music, shining a light on a unique beauty that somehow prevailed against all odds.

FRANCESCO LOTORO



Rights sold

Hungary (Európa Könyvkiadó)
 UK (Headline)

Born in 1964 in Barletta (Italy), **Francesco Lotoro** is a pianist, composer, and conductor in addition to being a piano professor at the “Niccolò Piccinni” Music Conservatory, in Bari. He is the author of several volumes of musicology. In 1995 he founded the Musica Judaica Orchestra. Francesco Lotoro has been the subject of books and films but never told his story in his own words.





מדל מועלם
צופן נתניהו
ביוגרפיה

MAZAL MUALEM THE NETANYAHU PARADOX AND THE WAR THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

ISRAEL
Original language: Hebrew
Publisher: Kinneret/Zmora Publishing
2022, 431 pages

Rights sold
Poland (Wydawnictwo Otwarte)

The Netanyahu Paradox is the most informative and impartial, deeply reported biography of Benjamin Netanyahu, the man whose decisions continue to shape Israel, the Middle East, and global politics at a moment of historic volatility. Written by one of Israel's most respected political journalists and broadcasters, the book draws on more than a decade of reporting and hundreds of interviews with senior security officials, diplomats, advisers, confidants, and bitter rivals—including former heads of the Shin Bet. As one insider told Mualem: "Even Bibi's shadow doesn't know what he's thinking."

Now fully updated with exclusive new material on the ongoing war with Hamas and the cascading geopolitical shocks that followed, the book deciphers how Netanyahu continues to defy political gravity: how his personality, formative experiences, and survival instincts drive his actions—and how his pursuit and retention of power are reshaping the region in real time.

Clear-eyed, rigorously sourced, and free from ideological distortion, *The Netanyahu Paradox* offers an essential key to understanding the world's most scrutinized leader and the consequences of his leadership for Israel and international stability.

The chain of events triggered on October 7, 2023 has permanently altered the Middle East. Netanyahu's political future, Israel's security, and the region's trajectory are now inseparable. This book provides the indispensable framework for understanding the "Bibi at War" era—and what may come next.

Vicki Satlow Literary Agency
info@vickisatlow.com

MAZAL MUALEM

An up-to-date biography of Netanyahu by highly respected broadcaster and political analyst Mazal Mualem whose opinion is widely considered on all matters that pertain to him.

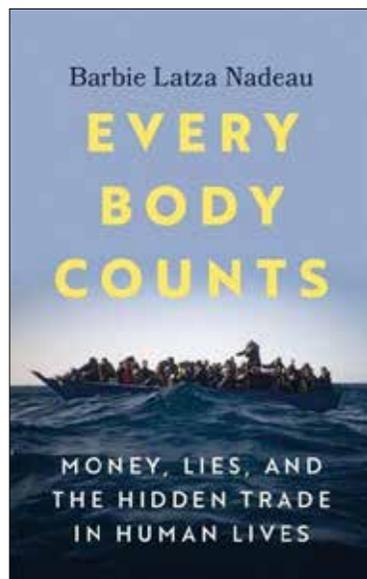
This is essential insight into understanding the man at the center of the world's current most volatile crisis, and the future of international politics. The book is written over a decade of research, updated with new, exclusive revelations about Israel's ensuing war with Hamas and the geopolitical shocks that followed: the September 2024 "pager attack," the assassination of Hassan Nasrallah, and the downfall of the Assad regime.

The book dives deep to decipher why Benjamin Netanyahu—Israel's longest-serving Prime Minister—acts the way he does, how a man who has been in power longer than any Israeli prime minister and any Western democratic leader continues to defy political gravity and transform the Middle East. Mualem provides the key to the most talked about head of state in the world, his complex personality, his motivations, and the formative experiences that have driven his unparalleled pursuit and hold on power.

Mazal Mualem (1969) is one of Israel's most well-regarded political analysts and commentators. Her authority and insight have made her an in-demand voice for international media seeking to understand the Israeli perspective during the war.



Vicki Satlow Literary Agency
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BARBIE LATZA NADEAU
EVERY BODY COUNTS
 Money, Lies and Hidden Trade in Human Lives

Original language: English
 Publisher: Bonnier Books UK
 March 2025, 227 pages

Rights sold

France (Grasset Edition)
 Germany (Hanser Blau)
 Netherlands (Balans)
 Spain (Seix Barral)
 UK (Bonnier Books)

In this investigative narrative, Rome-based American reporter Barbie Latza Nadeau unravels the dirty money driving migration and human trafficking. Taking advantage of desperate people's tragic destiny has created a global market worth billions of dollars.

There are more than 280 million people on the move around the world at any given moment, according to the *International Organization of Migration*. Each person—every body—offers potential for the corrupt. From sex trafficking to drug mules, and child laborers in the fashion industry, desperate people generate billions of dollars. Every body has a value, and each death is a loss that conjures mild compassion from the general public, but which rattles the multi-billion dollar chain of human exploitation. A chain of unmeasurable length that has infiltrated the criminal underworld reaching up to the highest echelons of respectable institutions, from the Italian mafia to the cartels, from banks to governments.

No other multi-billion dollar translational enterprise is less understood than the money trail behind trafficking of humans and their organs. People stop looking when they see desperate people in boats or trudging through the jungle, but every single person represents potential for profit, and every body counts for those in the business of exploiting despair. *Every Body Counts* tells the stories of those who navigate a world where lives don't matter, but where every body counts.

Vicki Satlow Literary Agency
 info@vickisatlow.com



BARBIE LATZA NADEAU
THE GODMOTHER
 Murder, Vengeance and the Bloody Struggle of Mafia Women

US/UK/CANADA
 Original language: English
 Publisher: Viking Penguin
 September 2022, 256 pages

Dive into the abyss of this unexplored territory
Roberto Saviano

Rights sold

Audio (Penguin Audio)
 Brazil (Darkside)
 Italy (VandA Edizioni)
 Poland (Albatros)
 Serbia (Public Praktikum)
 UK/US (Penguin Random House)
 Ukraine (Vivat Publishing)

Going beyond stereotypes, *The Godmother* redefines our ideas of criminal enterprises led by the women who are strong enough, smart enough, and mean enough to take control. Meet 'Lady Camorra,' one of the first female mafia bosses, as she sips coffee and drums her black-lacquered fingernails on her kitchen table. *The Godmother* takes the reader into the little-known role of the women that underpin Italy's most ruthless mob families and are forced to reckon with the social and sexual codes governing the violent reality of mafioso rule.

Barbie Latza Nadeau (1960) is an American journalist in Rome, working for *Newsweek*, *The Daily Beast* and *CNN*. She has covered crime in Europe, Italian politics, the Vatican, migration, the refugee crisis and women's issues. Her previous book about the murder trials of Amanda Knox was adapted for film by Michael Winterbottom (*The Face of an Angel*, 2015).



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PAOLO RODARI
RUTH'S MANTEL

ITALY

Original language: Italian
 (Full English translation available)

Publisher: Feltrinelli
 May 2026, 144 pages

Rights sold

France (Archipel)
 Serbia (TEA Books)

Rome, 1926. At just twelve years old, Remo is abandoned by his mother at the gates of the Pontifical Seminary, a desperate choice after becoming widowed with four children to feed. The Church is his only hope for survival.

1943. As the city falls under Nazi occupation, a chance encounter will shatter his world and test his deepest beliefs. Now a parish priest in the heart of Rome's Monti district, Remo is entrusted with little Aida, a young girl whose life is at risk after the brutal roundup at the Portico di Ottavia. Rachele begs him to protect her daughter, promising to return—but she never does. For years, Remo and Aida wait, caught in a web of uncertainty and unspoken hope.

2000, Remo's days are numbered. He decides to write a long letter to Aida, a testimony of love, to her and to her mother, whose love he never relinquished.

PAOLO RODARI

Inspired by true events of the Roman Holocaust, *Il mantello di Rut* (Ruth's Mantle) tells the heart-wrenching story of a priest who risks everything to honor a promise made to a mother he barely knew. Hidden beneath the dome of a church, twenty Jewish girls were saved from Nazi deportation, shielded by a priest and nuns who defied death to save them. This novel is a testament to faith, love, and loyalty, as Remo's act of protection becomes a symbol of impossible love and unshakable belief.

Through a beautifully delicate narrative, Paolo Rodari forces us to confront a powerful question: *How far would you go for love and faith?*

Letting go, this is love. Nothing less, nothing more.

A gripping tale of sacrifice, impossible love, and an unforgettable act of courage, inspired by the true stories of the Roman Holocaust.

Paolo Rodari (1973) is a journalist and writer. After earning a degree in Political Science from the Catholic University of Milan, he moved to Rome, where he obtained a licentiate in Fundamental Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University. He has worked for *il Riformista* and *Il Foglio* and spent nine years as a correspondent and Vatican expert for *la Repubblica*. Since 2023, he has been part of the Culture editorial team at Radiotelevisione Svizzera Italiana (RSI) and collaborates with *Il Manifesto*.





ROBERTA SCHIRA THE DAISIES CAN WAIT

ITALY

Original language: Italian
(Partial English translation available)

Publisher: Garzanti
June 2025, 416 pages

At *La Mariconda*, a secluded house perched above the sea and cradled by nature, nothing happens by chance. Within its walls — keepers of memories — and under the whisper of ancient trees, five women seek refuge and solace. A sudden blackout severs them from the outside world. But in the darkness, each woman begins to seek the quiet light she carries within.

Camilla, heir and guardian of *La Mariconda*, stumbles upon a mysterious book: *The Song for Restless Hearts*. As its guide and interpreter, she leads the others—women of different ages, wounds, and pasts—on an intimate journey of healing and self-discovery. Through shared rituals, swimming, cooking by firelight, and honest conversation, each woman confronts her unsaid past.

From the acclaimed author of *The Wisdom of Flowers*, Roberta Schira returns with a lyrical and soul-stirring novel of rebirth. With tenderness and depth, she gives voice to a femininity rooted in strength, empathy, and awareness. This is a story of inner renewal—where nature heals, the house protects, and women learn to choose, to speak, and to truly listen. Like daisies blooming in the toughest soil, these women find their way back to themselves. And through Camilla's song, we're reminded that every wound can become a seed, from which hope blossoms.



ROBERTA SCHIRA THE WISDOM OF FLOWERS

ITALY

Original language: Italian
(Partial English translation available)

Publisher: Garzanti
September 2023, 400 pages

Rights sold

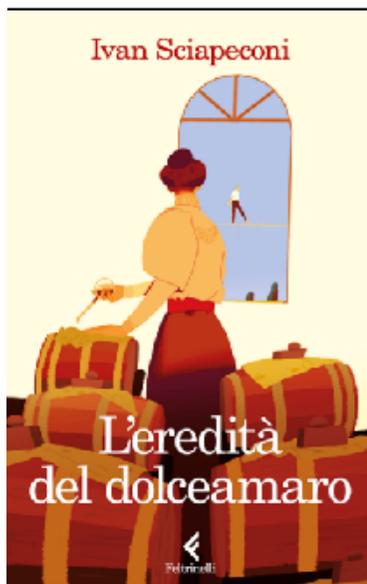
Russia (Eksmo)
Turkey (Serenad Yayinlari)

Few people in this world are gifted with Eleonora's heightened, almost supernatural sense of smell. It has served her well as a gourmet...until she woke up in the hospital unable to taste or smell.

Now that her love life is in shambles and her restaurant risks closing, she needs the wisdom of Grandmother Ernesta more than ever. Ernesta taught her that cooking, like love, is much more than chemistry. In preparation, there is healing. Day after day, Eleonora tries to rebuild her life with the help of the letters she finds in a trunk that could only have been written by her grandmother. A touch of courage today and a drop of joy tomorrow, over time, create resilience. They simmer to keep her world from collapsing like a soufflé until she finds the will to live again.

Born in Crema, **Roberta Schira** is a feared food and wine critic, a cookbook author, and an innovative food stylist. She writes about cuisine for various national newspapers and teaches courses for chefs and restaurant owners.





IVAN SCIAPECONI THE HOUSE OF BALSAMIC

ITALY

Original language: Italian

Publisher: Feltrinelli

May 2026, 256 pages

At the dawn of the twentieth century, in the fog-shrouded plains of Emilia-Romagna, love and history ferment slowly—like balsamic vinegar.

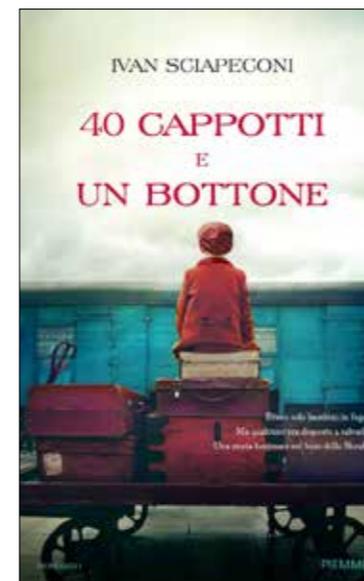
Violante Malavasi grows up in her family's osteria in the small town of Bastiglia, raised between fire and barrels of balsamic vinegar. From the hearth she inherits an untamable spirit; from the vinegar, patience, strength, and instinct. When a traveling circus arrives from Paris, she meets Honoré, a rootless tightrope walker who seems made of air rather than earth. Their encounter marks the beginning of a family story shaped by passion, longing, and the pull between freedom and belonging.

Hidden in the attic of the osteria lies the Malavasi family's true legacy: an ancient balsamic vinegar, untouched by time, having survived dukes, emperors, and centuries of change. But the twentieth century is no ordinary era. Its wars, rapid innovations, and brutal acceleration clash with the slow, deliberate rhythms of tradition. As Great History reaches Bastiglia, Violante and Honoré's sons are swept away by the opposing forces of the new century, while hope comes to rest in the gaze of their daughter Amelie—a child with differently colored eyes, capable of seeing both sweetness and bitterness, and imagining a different future.

A lyrical family saga that explores love, memory, and inheritance against the backdrop of a transforming Italy. Through the powerful metaphor of balsamic vinegar—an alchemy of time, care, and endurance—Ivan Sciapeconi offers a profound meditation on how families survive history, and how the past, if tended with patience, can still nourish what comes next.

Vicki Satlow Literary Agency

info@vickisatlow.com



IVAN SCIAPECONI 40 COATS AND A BUTTON

ITALY

Original language: Italian

Publisher: Piemme

January 2022, 208 pages

Based on the extraordinary true story of 73 Jewish children from across Europe who were sheltered in an abandoned villa in Italy.

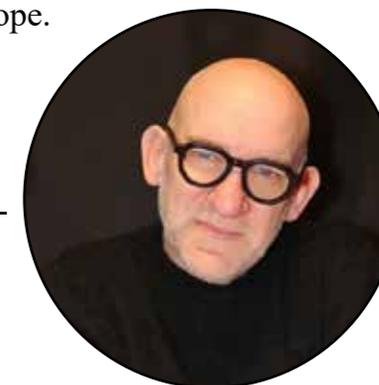
Berlin, 1942.

Nathan, a Jewish boy, is taken on a journey to salvation through the Slovenian winter to Villa Emma in Italy on his way to Switzerland and Palestine.

In Italy, he is safe, almost happy, in the company of 73 other Jewish children from across Europe. But as Germany advances, leaving begins to look impossible. Just when all seems lost, the town priest and local seamstresses invent a brilliant plan to take the children out of Europe.

Rights sold

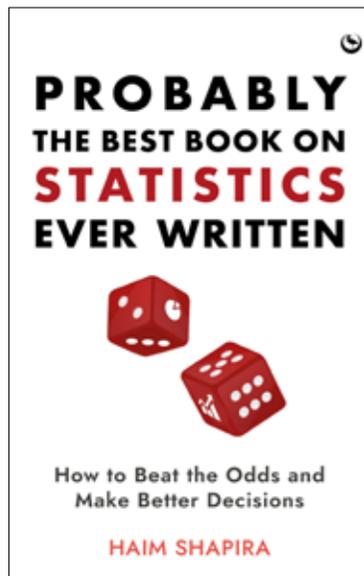
Denmark (Alpha Forlag)
France (Albin Michel)
Germany (Ullstein Buchverlage)
Hungary (Alexandra Kiado)
Lithuania (Baltos Lankos)
Netherlands (Xander Uitgevers)
Portugal (Presenca SA)
Slovenia (HKZ)
Spain (Roca Editorial)



Ivan Sciapeconi (1969) is a primary school teacher in Modena and has published several novels for young readers.

Vicki Satlow Literary Agency

info@vickisatlow.com



HAIM SHAPIRA
**PROBABLY THE BEST BOOK ON
 STATISTICS EVER WRITTEN**
**How to Beat the Odds and
 Make Better Decisions**

UNITED KINGDOM
 Original language: English
 Publisher: Watkins
 August 2024, 250 pages

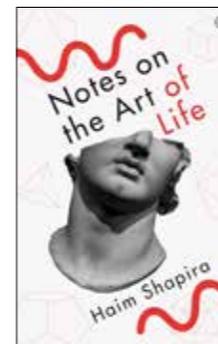
Rights sold
 Italy (Apogeo Editore)
 Korea (East-Asia Publishing)
 Spain (Planeta)
 UK/US (Watkins)
 Traditional chinese (Streamer Publishing)

Taking an amusing and digestible look at the usually dry world of probability and statistics, this is the ultimate guide to how you can incorporate them into everyday life, from one of the world's most sought-after experts in game theory.

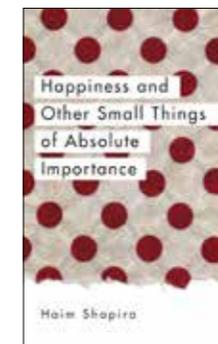
This is the only book you need to become a statistics whizz!

Numbers are everywhere – food packaging, weather forecasts, social media, adverts, and more. You can't escape them. But you can learn to understand them – and avoid being fooled! This book breaks down the key fundamentals in statistics in a fun and accessible way so that you can understand the numbers that occupy your life.

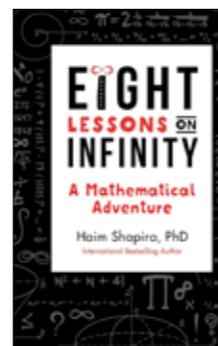
HAIM SHAPIRA



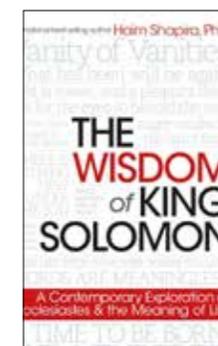
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Rights sold
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 Complex Chinese (Streamer)
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Haim Shapira is an Israeli mathematician, pianist, speaker, philosopher and game theorist. He is one of the most sought-after lecturers in Israel, and was also a keynote speaker at TEDxJaffa on game theory and strategy.



MATTIA SIGNORINI PEACE ON THE WESTERN FRONT

ITALY

Original language: Italian
(Full English translation available)

Publisher: Feltrinelli
October 2022, 192 pages

Rights Sold

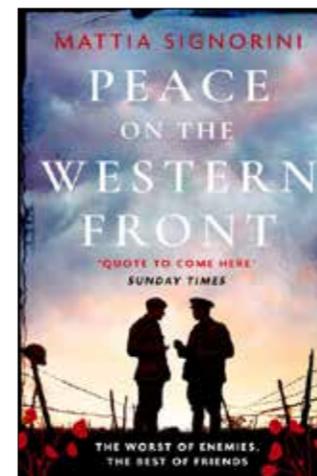
Arabic (Dar Shafaq Publishing Company)
France (Michel Lafon Publishing)
Netherlands (Horizon)
UK/US (Bonnier Manilla Books)

A powerful, emotional novel of peace and friendship against the greatest of odds.

1914. A boy enrolls in the army, hoping to find peace in the great adventure of war. Handed a rifle, he discovers the grim reality: grey days distinguished only by the ever-present spectre of death. In the midst of horror, he finds close friendships, love and companionship.

In an unexpected act of courage, he changes the course of history, bringing German and Brits to put down their weapons for a celebration of peace. In 1933, a father and son set out for Flanders. The former soldier carries more of the war with him than his maimed left hand. The British man he met in the forest of Ypres is a memory passed down from father to son, a story of friendship across enemy lines, forged by one unifying belief: the need for peace.

MATTIA SIGNORINI



A timeless novel which resonates with a profound truth: that each and every one of us can make peace blossom.

Viola Ardone

A small gem of a novel about the folly and wickedness of war.

A.N. Wilson

Peace On the Western Front is the first of a trilogy Mattia Signorini is planning on themes of world peace.

Mattia Signorini (1980) holds a degree in communications from the University of Padua. After working as an Editor in Milan, he started a creative writing school, the Palomar School, in his hometown, Rovigo. He also founded and directs the yearly literary festival RovigoRacconta. He debuted in 2007 with *Lontano da ogni cosa (Far from Everything)*, followed by *La Sinfonia del Tempo Breve (The Symphony of the Nineteenth Century)*, *Ora (Now)*, *Le Fragili Attese (Fragile Awaitings)*, and *Stelle Minori (Lesser Stars)*. He is the winner of the Tropea Prize 2010, and finalist of the Stresa Prize.





SUSANNA TAMARO FOR THE LOVE OF DOGS

ITALY

Original language: Italian
(Partial English translation available)
Publisher: Solferino
October 2024, 192 pages

Rights sold

France (Albin Michel)
Germany (HarperCollins DE)
Slovenia (Mladinska Knjiga Beograd)

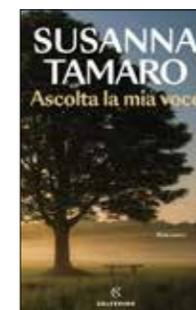
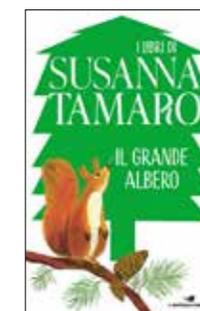
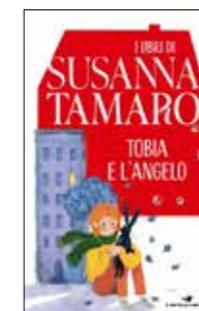
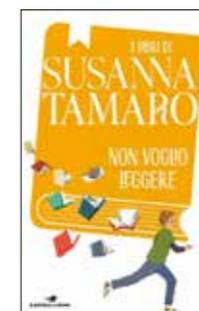
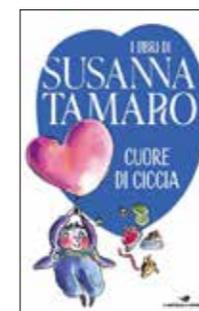
Just as Snow White has seven dwarfs, so I will have seven dogs.

When Susanna Tamaro swapped her small flat in central Rome for a spacious house in the country, the first thing she did was adopt a dog. First, there was Argo, a disabled hound who drove Shepherds of the Maremma into hiding; then poor Bianchina entered the gates of doggy paradise; Tobia, anarchic but noble-hearted; followed by Pongo, an ordinary mutt; Sissi, the perfect cure for insomnia; and Archimede, the polygamist beagle. There were other four-legged companions, all adopted from kennels and with tragic backgrounds. One by one, Susanna transformed her home into a happy family of not only dogs and humans, but also cats and parakeets, not to mention horses and donkeys.

In this hilarious and heartfelt book, she tells the story of how these animals enriched the lives of everyone around them, offering more than just companionship, but unconditional love. Anyone who has ever loved or been loved by an animal will understand how they bring peace and acceptance as no human can. Our furry friends, so inextricably linked to human companionship, are also unique teachers of loyalty, gratitude and happiness.

A profound message about living together in unbalanced times.

SUSANNA TAMARO





SUSANNA TAMARO
THE WIND BLOWS
WHERE IT PLEASES

ITALY

Original language: Italian
 (Full English translation available)

Publisher: Solferino
 October 2023, 240 pages

100,000 copies sold

By the author of the International Bestseller *Follow Your Heart*.

Under the silence of snow as the year ends, Clara decides to spend the holiday at home alone, to face her biggest fear. As she awaits the prognosis, she reflects on the secrets she has kept from her family and writes three intimate letters: one to Alisha, her adopted daughter born in India, who has undertaken an identity search. One to Ginevra, her natural daughter conceived during the adoption process. And one to Davide, her husband, a man whose steadfast nature upheld the family, until shocking and inexplicable events uprooted all their lives.

Three letters written from the heart, a secret, and a generational legacy.

SUSANNA TAMARO

“What if that unexpected decision was suggested to me while I slept by the same angel who had whispered my name to my mother twenty years earlier? Wasn't this a surprise intrusion of Shivasankalpa? Had the invisible guide granted me the grace of the Spirit so that I should understand the right path to follow? Does this not perhaps happen many times in our life? To what extent does the destiny we build depend on our ability to listen to these mysterious nocturnal whispers? Is there not a very fine silk thread that links the lives destined to meet each other?

Of course, in the inevitable dark times we might sometimes think this invisible thread is woven by a spider rather than an angel, to prepare us for its fatal trap. But in the end, do you know what I think?

That we must accept our fragility, the fact that we are in any case suspended between light and shadow.

Rights sold

Arabic (Yasturoon)
 Germany (HarperCollins DE)
 Portugal (Presença SA)
 Serbia (Vulkan Publishing)
 Slovenia (HKZ)
 Spain (Planeta)
 Turkey (Can Sanat Yayinlari)

Susanna Tamaro (Trieste, 1957) moved to Rome when she was 19 years old to attend the Experimental Center of Cinematography. She lives on a self-sufficient farm in the Umbrian countryside. In addition to writing, gardening, and practicing martial arts, she devotes her time to humanitarian projects that assist women and children.





AURORA TAMIGIO A WOMAN'S LAST NAME

ITALY

Original language: Italian
(Partial English translation available)
Publisher: Feltrinelli
July 2023, 416 pages

180,000 copies sold

Winner of Bancarella Prize 2024
Winner of John Fante Opera Prima Prize 2024

An engaging family saga that marks the debut of an extraordinary talent.

The story begins with Rosa, born in a small Sicilian village at the turn of the 20th century. Strong-willed and yearning for the freedom reserved for men, she runs away with Sebastiano Quaranta, a man with no family. They marry and open a tavern that becomes a social hub for the nearby towns.

They have three children: Fernando, Donato (who joins the seminary), and Selma, a gentle and talented embroiderer. Selma, too beautiful and too meek, marries Santi Maraviglia despite Rosa's warnings. Rosa fears her daughter's gentleness will lead to misfortune — and she's right. Santi wastes Selma's inheritance and dominates the family.

Selma's three daughters — rebellious Patrizia, stunning Lavinia, and studious Marinella — face the consequences of their parents' choices. As they try to break free from the past and find their own identities, they are quietly watched over by the spirit of their grandfather, Sebastiano.

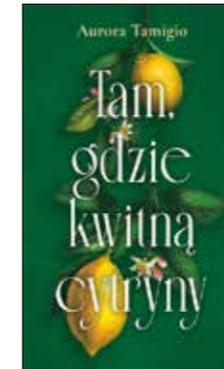
This novel is an epic family saga centered on unforgettable women who struggle to reclaim their voices, their power, and their names.

AURORA TAMIGIO

What remains of the grandmothers, the mothers, and the women who came before us?

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France (Calmann Levy) two book deal
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Poland (Publicat SA) two book deal
Portugal (Bertrand Editora)
Romania (Editura Univers)
Russia (Alpina Publisher)
Spain (Editorial Planeta)
Film rights optioned by Clemart



Aurora Tamigio (1988) was born in Palermo and grew up in Milan. She works as a copywriter for a high-tech company and contributes to literary magazines.



ELENA TARANTOLA
THE CASTLE OF GOOD MANNERS

ITALY

Original language: Italian

Publisher: Garzanti

2026

Eloise, forty-three, lives in Florence with her husband Filippo and their marriage is already on fragile ground. When her mother-in-law – Filippo’s mother – dies, few mourn the loss: Costanza was wealthy, authoritarian, and relentlessly hostile to all, especially to her daughter-in-law. But her final act is the most destabilizing of all. In her will, Costanza leaves Eloise — and no one else — an abandoned castle in the Tuscan hills.

The inheritance leaves Eloise at the center of family tensions and unspoken resentments. Determined to reclaim control over her life, she accepts the challenge and moves into the castle, planning to restore it with her last savings. There she meets Leone, son of the elderly caretakers: a socially awkward and unconventional thirty-year-old builder with extraordinary intelligence and an intuitive understanding of structures — architectural and human alike.

When Eloise is invited to an exclusive Florentine gala where wealthy patrons will choose which historic property to fund, she faces a dilemma: attendance requires a companion, but who can she bring? Leone unexpectedly offers to go with her, but he will be a fish out of water at such an event. She agrees if he will allow her to give him one month of lessons in culture, etiquette, and “good manners,” designed to help Leone survive high society — and save the castle.

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ELENA TARANTOLA

As daily restoration work gives way to five-o’clock etiquette lessons (“Common Mistakes You Must Never Make”), an unlikely bond forms. What begins as a social experiment becomes a transformation for both: a sharp, witty exploration of class, appearances, emotional intelligence, and the hidden foundations that truly hold things together.

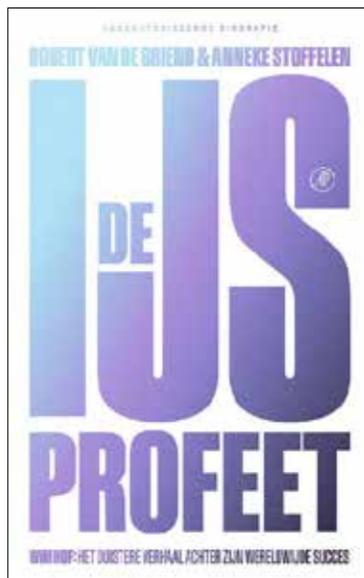
The Castle of Good Manners is a smart, romantic, and uplifting novel about second chances, social codes, and the courage to rewrite one’s role — blending humor, heart, and cultural insight, with strong crossover appeal to readers of contemporary romance and feel-good fiction.

Elena Tarantola is an Italian content creator and storyteller with a combined audience of over 1.5 million followers across Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, and TikTok, where she explores culture, etiquette, and everyday social dynamics. She brings her sharp observational voice and hugely popular “common mistakes” format into fiction, blending humor, insight, and contemporary romance.



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**ROBERT VAN DE GRIEND &
ANNEKE STOFFELEN
THE ICE PROPHET
WIM HOF AND THE DARK STORY BEHIND
HIS GLOBAL SUCCESS**

Netherlands
Original language: Dutch
Publisher: Arbeiderspers
376 pages, 2026

There is much talk today about toxic masculinity—the set of cultural norms that pressure men to be emotionally rigid, dominant, invulnerable, and dismissive of vulnerability. These expectations include: “real men don’t cry,” “strength means control,” “pain is proof of worth”, none of which are necessarily evil. However, they may not contribute to a progressive, caring society.

And yet, standing in stark contrast to this cultural critique, an international countercultural wellness hero has built a multimillion-dollar empire on those very ideals. His name is Wim Hof, better known as “THE ICEMAN”.

According to his site, he runs courses, sells music, offers certification and dispenses free medical advice, and of course writes books which are published worldwide.

Wim Hof’s philosophy— centered on cold exposure, breathwork, and extreme mental toughness — has attracted millions seeking resilience, discipline, and a sense of mastery. But behind the mythology lies a far more complicated figure, with methods increasingly questioned and a personal history marked by allegations of manipulation, coercion, and deception.

Why do so many believe in him?

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ROBERT VAN DE GRIEND & ANNEKE STOFFELEN

This revealing, researched and unauthorized biography exposes the hidden dark side of the man the world knows as The Ice Man, who gained worldwide fame with his method based on breathing techniques, exposure to cold, and mindset. In a time when the health cult has taken on almost religious proportions, millions of people turn to his approach to heal physical and mental suffering.

But Hof’s success story also has a lesser-known side: a long family history full of poverty, crime, and accusations of (sexual) violence; exaggerated record attempts; contradictions about his past; serious allegations of abusing his second partner and her children; and his irresponsible health claims. And then there are the risks of his method, which — according to relatives — have led to more than twenty drowning deaths.

How could all these dark sides remain hidden for so long? And what does Hof’s immense success say about our society?

Robert van de Griend is a Dutch investigative journalist with years of experience in regional and national media. He specializes in in-depth reporting on social and cultural issues. He co-authored a critical biography exploring the controversies behind Wim Hof’s global success.



Anneke Stoffelen is an accomplished Dutch journalist and co-author of investigative non-fiction. She focuses on uncovering untold stories behind influential public figures.

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Boldwood is an **award-winning independent**, global fiction **publishing house** launched in February 2019, with its first titles published in August 2019.

The company has published over **1500 titles**, signed over **217 authors** and sold **45 million books across the world**.

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Founded by a team with over 80 years success in fiction publishing, Boldwood is innovative but experienced, fearless but responsible, and lots of fun!

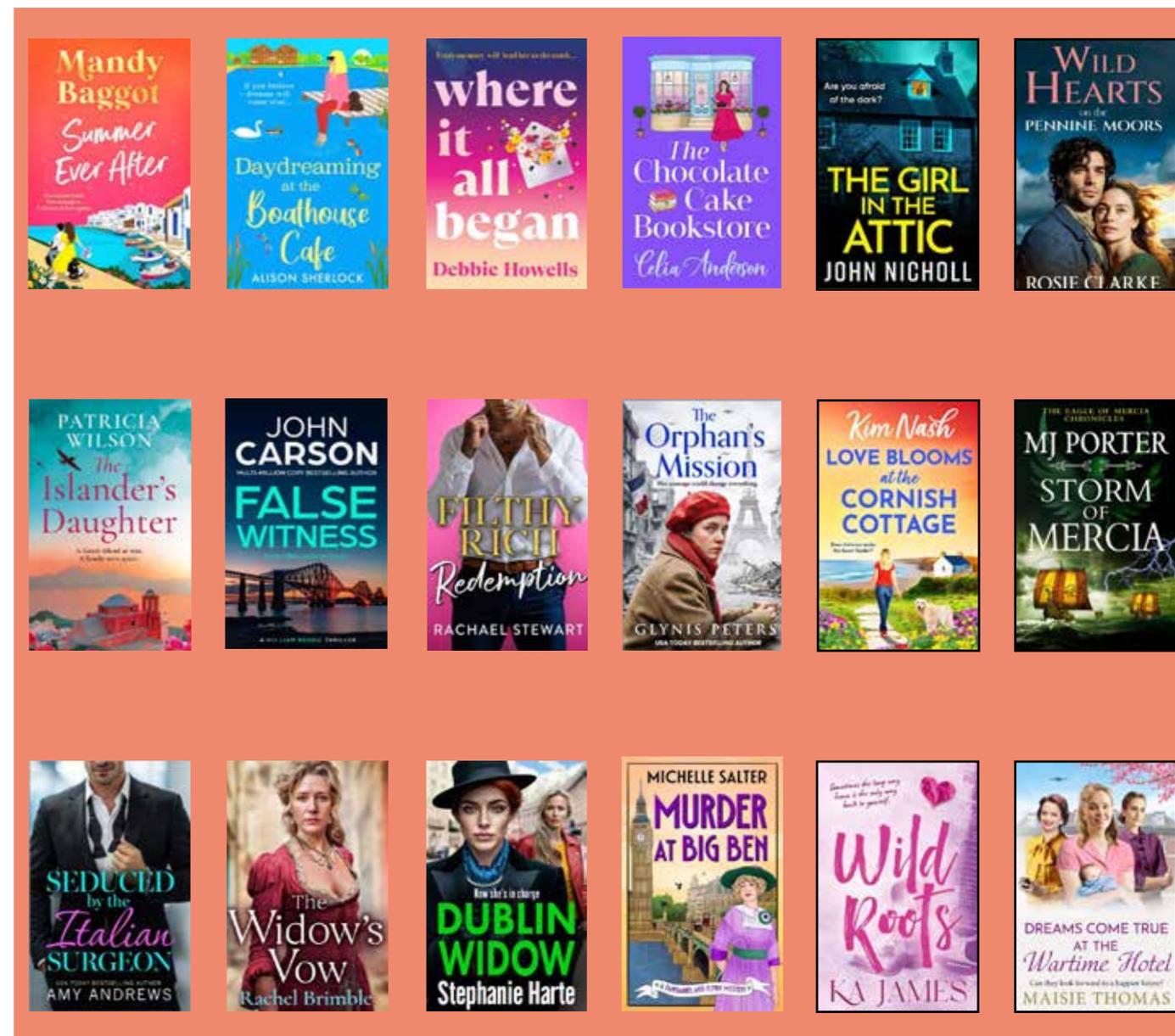
We were delighted to be awarded **Independent Publisher of the Year at the British Book Awards 2025**, after being awarded **Small Press of the Year in 2023**. We were named both **Independent Publisher of the Year and Trade Publisher of the Year at the 2025 Independent Publishing Awards**, and Independent Publisher of the Year in 2022. We were awarded **Publisher of the Year at the RNA Awards in 2023 and 2021**. We were the recipient of the Nick Robinson Newcomer of the Year Award at the Independent Publishing Awards in 2020.



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Spring 2026

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And when you come to a meeting of many ways
and do not know which to choose, do not choose at random,
but pause and reflect.
Breathe with the trusting, deep breaths you took when you first
came into the world; let nothing distract you,
but wait and go on waiting.
Be still and listen in silence to your heart.
When it has spoken to you, rise up and follow it.

Susanna Tamaro, *Follow Your Heart* 1994

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