

Agenzia Servizi Editoriali

**FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR
2010**

**FICTION & LITERARY FICTION
HIGHLIGHTS**

AUTHORS REPRESENTED

Morena Aguzzoli
GLI UOMINI LEOPARDO

THE LEOPARD MEN

adventure novel

unpublished manuscript

Original language: Italian

No. of words: 900,000 characters with spaces

Available materials: full manuscript; detailed synopsis in English

The adventurous search for a mysterious and sacred place in the remote forests of Africa – whose ruthless guardians are the legendary Leopard men

The Ebola is a distant river running through the immense tropical forests of Central Africa. Its waters are slow and insidious, hiding secrets known to few. Shannon MacMillan, who has sought to hide them away for so long in the past, in her diaries, can no longer keep them silent. To reveal the truth they contain something that would mean exposing the whole world to a mortal danger. The only person she trusts is her granddaughter, Sarah De Santis - a young biologist who has been involved in research into viruses and bacteria.

Sarah's audacity and fascination for Africa will lead her step by step into the past of her grandmother in an incredible journey of discovery in Congo and an old world adventure. Past and present intertwine with each other with the perils of strange rituals and the menacing presence of Leopard men emerging from her dreams into reality.

She also has to deal with her cousin Patric Tipret, a jealous and unscrupulous man, and David Harrington, an English billionaire, seeking to take possession of an immense and mysterious treasure hidden in the lands round the Ebola River. Most difficult of all for her, though, she has to look again into the eyes of Alec Nardi, the man she once passionately loved and now hates with all her heart.

Her journey through the Congolese high plains is the crucial moment of Sarah's life, putting her sorely to the test. Past and present intertwine with each other with the perils of strange rituals and the menacing presence of Leopard men emerging from her dreams into reality.

Morena AGUZZOLI (1970) has a Degree in Biology, with a specialization in Ecology and Evolution. After working as Environmental teacher for W.W.F and as a school teacher to children with handicaps, she is currently entertainment manager of all show activities at the Bianello Castle in Reggio Emilia, where she creates stories and coordinates visitors in animating them. *The Leopard Men* is her first novel. A passionate reader of adventure books, she has supported by careful documentation all the historical, scientific and naturalistic contents that appear in it.

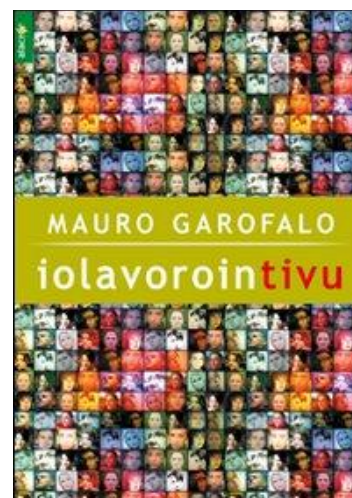
ALACRÁN *foreign rights*

Mauro Garofalo
IOLAVOROINTV
 IWORKINTV

novel

Original language: Italian
 Publisher: Alacrán , series: "4you"
 Publication: June 2010
 Pages: 183 | Cover price: € 14,50

Five stars readers' rating on IBS.it – the Italian Amazon



The world of TV, in all its vices and virtues, seen through the eyes
 of a short-term author

The protagonist of this novel – written in the form of a diary – is an enthusiast young man in his thirties, who takes on the creation of a scientific format for a TV station – looking forward to a contract that will never come. Alienated in his universe of memory cards, problem solving and time code, he will undergo a progressive metamorphosis – dark shadows under his eyes, backache, a growing feeling of unsatisfactio and boredom – until his final redemptio...

With palpable rage-against-the-Machine, but in ironic detachment and no victimization, Garofalo portraits an anonymous anti-hero which becomes a symbol of a whole generation – investing all their energies in a world where everything is transitory. He deploys a personal and original style, which combines an ultra-technological language with terms taken from the marketing and information jargon, punctuated with references to comics, science-fiction, videogames and rock music.

That's entertainment, baby... Follow the white rabbit!

«Garofalo invents a new style»
 Nicoletta Vallorani

Mauro GAROFALO (1974), a journalist, writes for the Italian magazine "Nova - Il Sole 24 Ore" about underground culture, music and comics. For the RAI (Italian national broadcasting service) he was the author of scientific-technologic formats targeted to the young audience. In 2008, his book of conversations with the iconic and controversial Italian pop singer and song writer Marco "Morgan" Castoldi obtained a wide success. *iolavoroIntv* is his first (and of autobiographical inspiration) novel.

OTHER TITLES AVAILABLE BY THE SAME AUTHOR

IN (p)ARTE MORGAN | MORGAN, IN (p)ART - Conversations with Marco
 "Morgan" Castoldi | non fiction | elèuthera 2008 | 160 pp. | 20,000 copies sold

MAGENES *foreign rights*

Claudio Conti
L'INCREDIBILE VIAGGIO
DI HERNAN CIENFUEGOS
HERNAN CIENFUEGOS' INCREDIBLE
JOURNEY

historical novel

Original language: Italian
 Publisher: Magenes, series "maree"
 Publication: forthcoming Fall 2010
 Pages: 320 | Cover price: € 16.00



A great piece of sailing literature

Seville, 1431. Captain Cienfuegos and his crew set out from the Arenal of the Andalusian town for a trade journey to East Indies. The search for exotic spices is only a pretext for the author to stage a rich and complex variety of historical, scientific and philosophical themes. It is also a journey through the many a shade of human soul, with its desires and vane ambitions – embodied by the many characters of the novel. So from a historical account, from the very beginning the narration turns into an epic story, in the tradition of the great sea adventures – an exciting fiction, though realistic to the crudest realism.

The author masterly reconstructs locations, historical uses and customs and language codes – portraying a powerful, never fading picture of a past time that invites the reader to reflect on what we are and might become.

The novel will appeal both to the general readership of adventure stories and the readers keen on history and sailing.

Claudio CONTI, a Milanese professional, is the author of scientific essays. This is his first novel – and the first volume of Captain Cienfuegos's Saga.

MANNI Editori *foreign rights*

Erminia Dell'Oro
VEDERE OGNI NOTTE LE STELLE
EVERY NIGHT SEEING STARS

novel

Original language: Italian
 Publisher: Manni - Series "Pretesti"
 Publication: forthcoming (May 2010)
 Pages: 88 | Cover price: € 12.00



The narrator reconsiders her life after her mother's death – "It is a strange feeling when you are no longer a daughter". Her inner dialogue however continues with a mother who is always involved in her daughter's life.

It is most of all a dialogue with her own soul, to take stock of her life, to go through some past events, to dig out from her mind special memories...

Erminia DELL'ORO was born in Eritrea and lives in Milan, where she has worked for fifteen years in the Einaudi bookstore. She has also been reader for publishing companies.

For the last 20 years she has published children and adult books (with Piemme, Einaudi, Bruno Mondadori, EL, Baldini & Castoldi, and Feltrinelli). Her most successful novels are *L'abbandono* (translated in English, German, French and Dutch) and *La gola del diavolo* (translated into German). Her books have been translated in most European countries and won several awards.

Her website is: <http://www.erminiadelloro.com>

MANNI Editori *foreign rights*

Lorenzo Greco
IL CONFESSORE DI CAVOUR
COUNT CAVOUR'S CONFESSOR

historical novel

Original language: Italian
 Publisher: Manni - Series "Pretesti"
 Publication: 2010
 Pages: 156 | Cover price: € 15.00

«A unique document»
 Marco Gasperetti, *Il Corriere della Sera*



The novel is inspired by a manuscript written in his own defence (and attached in full in Appendix) by father Giacomo Poirino, a monk who set himself against the Catholic hierarchies, and gave the sacraments on his deathbed to Count Camillo Benso di Cavour, who had been excommunicated because of his political actions in favour of the unification of Italy.

Fra' Giacomo, summoned to the court of Pope Pius 9th and submitted to the proceedings of the Inquisition, in a timely and thorough memory reconstructs his own story - his journey to Rome, the investigation and subsequent punishment by the Inquisition – with a realistic portrait of the Papal court and the Roman hierarchy.

The book allows to closely scrutinize the personality of Cavour, his historical role as well as his most private and secret moral fibre, and the figure of Pius 9th, in a striking portrait that highlights the Pope's inner spirituality and contradictory policy guidelines.

Lorenzo GRECO is Professor of Sociology of Communication at the University of Pisa. He was scientific director of the Franco Antonicelli Foundation (which he helped to found), dealing with its literary and cultural organisation, directing the library, taking care of editions of books and conferences. An expert in maritime culture, Professor Greco organised international meetings and participated in research at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris. In the 1990s he taught in the United States, particularly in the University of California (Berkeley, Davis, and San Francisco) and Wisconsin (Madison), as Visiting Professor of literary communication

Paolo Pasi
MEMORIE DI UN SOGNATORE
ABUSIVO
MEMORIES OF AN ILLEGAL DREAMER

novel

Original language: Italian
 Publisher: Spartaco edizioni
 Publication: November 2009
 Pages: 214 | Cover price: € 14.00



« I dream too much and, in a Community where dreams are taxed, this means
 I am in trouble. »

Year 2035: the government – a dictatorial regime called “the Community” – puts a tax on the citizens’ dreams. People’s sleep is controlled thanks to a dreadful machine: X-19. Bob, a fervent dreamer, is on the rocks because of debt accumulated with dreams. Tired of the state of alienation in which he lives and constantly searching for a way to oppose the injustice of the system, Bob decides to take a psycho-diary where he notes the events of his life as a romantic insomniac, haunted by the tax police.

The only hope for redemption besides the love of Mara, his ex-wife lost because of tax problems, is the mysterious machine of the Oneiric Liberation Front that seems to be able to boycott the X-19. Reality, however, is never what it seems nor you hope, especially when dealing with dreams.

Written in a simple but incisive and very modern language, with good futuristic creativity and a pervasive satiric tone, Pasi’s novel is an engaging dystopia – not so far from our current reality, though.

«A fluent and disrespectful dystopia»
 Simone Bertelegni, *Corriere della Sera*

«Anyone who loved George Orwell’s or Philip K. Dick’s novels cannot
 but like *Memorie di un sognatore abusivo*» ilrecensore.com

Paolo PASI (1963) is a journalist for the national RAI TV, awarded twice with the journalistic prize “Ilaria Alpi”. He published three collections of short stories and a novel (*L’estate di Bob Marley*, 2007). He is also a rock guitarist. *Memorie di un sognatore abusivo* is the first Italian novel in Spartaco’s list – that includes, among others, Dan Fante, Maggie Gee, and Albert Cossery.

STAMPA ALTERNATIVA *foreign rights*

Alberto Prunetti
IL FIORAIO DI PERÓN
PERON'S GARDENER

novel

Foreword by Massimo Carlotto

Original language: Italian

Publisher: Stampa Alternativa

Publication: January 2010

Pages: 160 | Cover price: € 14.00



« A story of Italian immigration to Argentina. A Sicilian gardener who witnessed years of violence and political turmoil. The search for a heritage that has disappeared. A thread marking the continuity of concealed histories between Italy and Argentina. These are some of the stories narrated by Prunetti in his novel: a book that everyone should enjoy. A book that you cannot stop reading.»

Oswaldo Bayer, author of *Patagonia rebelde*

In 1926, Cosimo Guarrata, a gardener from Sicily, leaves Italy and moves to Buenos Aires, where he becomes the official gardener of president Juan Perón. The humble immigrant's life is the counterpoint to the violence of the political history of Argentina, and the colours of his flowers celebrate sentimental betrayals and *coups d'état*. When he dies, in the last months of the military dictatorship, his will has gone *desaparecido*.

In 2006 Alfredo, an Italian grand-nephew of Perón's gardener, travels to Buenos Aires to seek for the disappeared inheritance. He will find an impoverished city, marked with scars, where occult powers connected to the military forces are still operating. Helped by well-known Argentinian writer Oswaldo Bayer, Alfredo will eventually find out the man who stole the gardener's legacy.

Il fioraio di Perón is an absorbing novel going through the history of Argentina in the 20th century - combining mystery with reportage, in the great Argentinean tradition of *no ficción* and with a taste of Latin-American literature *à la* Osvaldo Soriano. It was inspired to a real story: the author's granduncle was the official gardener of the Casa Rosada, the presidential palace in Buenos Aires.

«The complex reality of Argentina could not be better described.»

Valerio Evangelisti

Alberto PRUNETTI (1973) is a translator, a photographer and a teacher of Italian for foreigners. He writes for the daily "il manifesto" and the literary e-zine "Carmilla". He published the novel *Potassa* (2004) and edited a collection of short stories (*L'Arte della fuga*, 2005). He is the author of the entry word "Oswaldo Bayer" for the *International Encyclopedia of Revolution and Protest* (Blackwell). His translation of Oswaldo Bayer's *Patagonia rebelde* – a contemporary classic in Argentinean literature, publicly burnt during Videla's dictatorship – was recently published in Italy (elèuthera, 2010).

SELECTED BACKLIST

Ernesto Franco
USODIMARE
A Tale for Solo Voice

novel

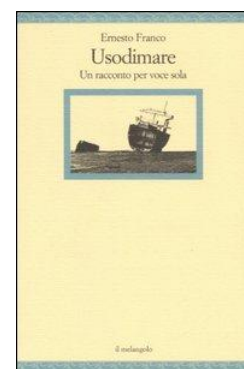
Original language: Italian

Publisher: il Melangolo

Publication: 2007

Pages: 70 | Cover price: € 10.00

French rights sold (L'Arbre Vengeur)



Pepe Usodimare is the captain of the *Bahia Inutil*, an old cargo boat bound to Chittagong in Bangladesh, where it will be demolished. Holed up in his cabin, he thinks back to his life, and to an untold secret that a beloved and now dead woman has kept hidden from him. In order to disclose it, Usodimare has just the time of this final voyage. Descending from a lineage of heroes born from the imagination of Melville, Conrad and Pratt, he is ready to undergo the charms and perils of a sea where mirages, pirates and magic have a new look but the same old nature. Intense and beautiful, this very brief story highlights the talent of a rare and elegant writer.

«An excellent hymn to the literature of travels with no coming back»
 Télérama

Ernesto FRANCO (1956), an expert of Spanish literature, taught at the University of Genoa and Siena. He is the Italian translator of Octavio Paz, Alvaro Mutis and Julio Cortazar. The editorial director of the major publishing house Einaudi, he published *Isolario* (1994) and *Vite senza fine* (1999), also translated in French (L'Arpenteur).

Aleksey Meshkov
IL CANE IODOK | IODOK THE DOG

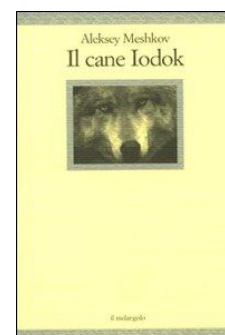
novel

Original language: Italian

Publisher: il Melangolo

Publication: 2008

Pages: 214 | Cover price: € 10.00



A Kafkian mystery in today's Russia

Who is Iodok the dog? Why does a man decide to wear a dog fur and wander around Moscow in a four-legged way? What tracks is the man scenting by and who are his chasers? Where does the howl that you can hear everywhere come from? And where does the dribble on the body of the dealer who is found dead on a bench of Detskiy

Park come from? But most important, what is “the Zoo” and how big are its boundaries? At the end of a worrying adventure in a dark atmosphere, the nightmare of Russian neo-authoritarian regime and the farce of its democracy will be shown to the reader. And there is maybe even more in the pages of this withering novel, written in a Kafkaesque style, a direct language and an immediate narration.

«An excellent psycho-thriller, finely disturbing»
Il Mangialibri.it

Readers' reviews (five stars, on Ibs.it - the Italian Amazon)

«Crazy! Read it, if you like *The Desert of the Tartars* and metaphysical thrillers»
Francesco (28-08-2009)

« A lyrical, classic, subversive book» Andrea (28-02-2009)

« A viscerally libertarian book, as metaphysical as any authentically Russian work»
Dominique (27-01-2009)

Aleksey MESHKOV **Aleksey Meshkov** was born in Moscow in 1966 by a Russian father and an Italian mother. Like his parents, he is a musician. After completing his studies in Saarbruecken and Wien, in 1988 he moved to Paris where he had a career as instrumentalist. In 2002 Mashkov moved back to Moscow and later to Siberia. Since 2005 he has lived between Rome, Southern Italy, and the Elsewhere.

Claudio Di Manao
FIGLI DI UNA SHAMANDURA
CHILDREN OF A SHAMANDURA
Secrets and Sins of Sharm el-Sheikh

novel

Original language: Italian

Publisher: Magenes editoriale

Publication: 2008

Pages: 160 | Cover price: € 10.00

Full English translation available



A shamandura, in the Red Sea, is where you moor ships to avoid devastating coral reefs. But in Sharm el-Sheikh, it is much more: it is a philosophy of life, made of a mix of water, nitrogen and beer. With skilful and wise irony, Di Manao tells tragicomic stories of people and the sea, little and bigger misadventures, secrets and sins, survival techniques and sacred symbols of this beloved area of Egypt - where thousands of tourists and scuba divers from all over the world travel each year. **The first edition of this book, self-printed by the author, sold more than 5,000 copies.**

Claudio DI MANAO is an experienced scuba diver trainer and an underwater sea guide. He manages a dive center in Sharm el-Sheikh, and is an editorial advisor and editor for technical publications.