

Isbn. rights list London 2010

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◀ We'll be at the London Book Fair.
Please, feel free to ask for a meeting.

fiction/new novels

Amedeo Romeo, *Don't Cry, You Jerk* • English sample available
Gabriele Reggi, *Free Us From Cops* • English sample available
Paolo Caredda, *Other Days, Other Trees*
Emanuele Tonon, *The Enemy* • English sample available

fiction/Italian novecento

Renzo Rosso, *The Hard Thorn*
Domenico Rea, *Jesus, Shine a Light*

warmly suggested

Michela Murgia, *The World Has To Know* •
Film rights sold / Drama rights two times sold / English sample available
Various Authors, *India* (2008) Ed. by Gioia Guerzoni •• sold to India
Carlo Antonelli, *The Noughties - Atlas of a condensed decade* •
English articles available
Alessandro Scotti, *Chasing the Dragon XXL* (Illustrated version) •
All pictures available
Paola Masino, *Birth And Death Of The Housewife* •
Recently published in the US (2009) / English version available

FICTION

Amedeo Romeo

DON'T CRY, YOU JERK

NON PIANGERE COGLIONE

novel

Publication date: March 2010

Manuscript available

English sample available

Andrea Morini is terrified of being a father, as much as he would love to be a mother. He is physically attracted to the female body, especially that of a pregnant woman. The very scent of a stretch mark cream arouses a whole erotic universe in him. Yet, at the same time, he wishes he, too, could carry a baby in his womb and bring forth life. This seemingly irreconcilable contradiction will lead him, among other things, to commute between Genua and Milan, to live on a chair, to befriend a slovenly old actor, to kidnap a kid, and most importantly to love Lena, who is pregnant with another man's child.

Don't Cry, You Jerk is the neo-Existentialist novel of 2010. It describes, in a light-hearted and poetical way, the search for happiness of a man like any other. An intelligent and perceptive author, Amedeo Romeo attempts an answer to one of the most compelling questions of our times: what does it mean to want to have a child today?

Amedeo Romeo (1970)

Is an actor, film director, playwright and author of children's books. He is Head Teacher at Teatri Possibili, Milan.



Gabriele Reggi

FREE US FROM COPS

LIBERACI DAGLI SBIRRI

novel

192 pages | 14 euros

Publication date: January 2010

English sample available

A substitute teacher at a school in the deep South of Italy, the main character of the novel soon realizes he has landed in a doomed village, reminiscent of a Stephen King book or an Italian B-movie, rather than Ignazio Silone's or Ernesto De Martino's novels. This is not just because mafia is so pervasive that everyone, grown-ups and youths alike, pray every day: "Free us from cops". Not just because the gang masters force all the women in the village to work in the fields, guarded by fierce Kapos. It is mainly because there is a tribal ritual that seems to keep the community together: a gory replica of the crucifixion that marks the fate of the village year in, year out. The teacher's fate, however, is sealed from the very beginning: madly in love with the wrong woman – the Boss' girlfriend, beaten and battered, he plans a great escape.

Gabriele Reggi (1961)

Was born in Roseto degli Abruzzi, Italy. He graduated from the Accademia delle Belle Arti. He is currently living in Rieti. He was a substitute teacher in a town in Southern Italy in the early Nineties.



It succeeds in being a material and surreal novel at the same time. [...] A tragic, rugged, agonizing western.
Europa

The landscape is reminiscent of Magritte's paintings, and things happen in a sort of eerie apocalypse. Science-fiction applied to sociology.

XL Repubblica

FICTION

Paolo Caredda

OTHER DAYS, OTHER TREES - A Fantasia for Brighter Days

ALTRI GIORNI, ALTRI ALBERI - Una fantasia per giorni più chiari
novel

202 pages | 16 euros

Publication date: November 2009

In a parallel and timeless Genoa, the Christmas Trees engage in fierce battles for the survival of the neighborhoods they represent. The guardian tree of Marassi, Gustavius, suffers from a serious illness which infects humans as well. Will it survive the battle against «Mascherafuturo», the ruthless Tree of the rival neighborhood? And will Vinicio, the head doorkeeper, in charge of coaching Gustavius, be able to save Rocco and all the kids of the orphanage run by Mirella, the woman he loves? *Altri giorni, altri alberi* is a moving fairytale for grown-ups, rich in pop references and learned quotations: Tiger Mask, Tim Burton, Boris Vian, Jeunet and Caro's *The City of Lost Children*, Terry Gilliam, *Fist of the North Star* and Iain Sinclair.

Paolo Caredda (1960)

Was born in Genoa. He directed hybrid television formats, mockumentaries and real-life documentaries on ecstasy addicts, top-notch thieves, Dominican gangas, the Kazakhstan national football team, and Matthew Smith, the Syd Barrett of videogames. He published «Giorno di paga in via Ferretto» for the anthology *Gioventù Cannibale* and «La città uccello» for *Paesaggi Italiani*.



A noir, visionary and moving fairytale, in between Nightmare Before Christmas and Brazil.

The most original and moving Christmas Carol ever written!

Emanuele Tonon

THE ENEMY

IL NEMICO - Romanzo eretico
novel

102 pages | 14 euros

Publication date: September 2009

In this bipartite novel, Emanuele Tonon creates a memorable family epic, displaying a consummate mastery of style. Relentlessly alternating between high and low style, literary and coarse language, prayer and profanity, Tonon turns writing into a complex esoteric ritual to denounce the unbearable unfairness of existence. Factory life, wine, a dilapidated Benelli motorcycle, internet and the voices of the dead: it all adds up to making this book a powerful, macabre, magnificent heresy. *The Enemy* is blasphemy, the fierce accusation of a man towards god: an absolute and deceptive god, who would, if he existed, be liable for the hateful crime of sanctioning pain, death and betrayal.

Emanuele Tonon (1970)

Was born in Napoli and now lives in Gorizia as a factory worker. *The Enemy* is his first novel. He is currently writing his second novel for Isbn Edizioni.

Emanuele Tonon is the winner of the «Esor-dire» Prize (2009)

Official Jury's verdict:

A visionary tale. A driving, dexterous rhythm, forceful metaphors, an accomplished tale, vibrating in an authentic, painful realism. This is a scary tale, not because it tells scary things, but because while everything suggests horror in it, nothing really happens in the end. The most frightening thing in the world is to live with broken promises.



A book that goes between every day life and spiritual invective, a consuming portrait of Northern Italy.

L'Unità

Tonon narrates the "pure horror" of the factory and he screams towards God a blasphemously-lovely message of protest.

Repubblica XL

Renzo Rosso

LA DURA SPINA

THE HARD THORN

novel

304 pages | 13 euros

Publication date: February 2010

Afterword by Anco Marzio Mutterle

First published in 1963 by Feltrinelli

“My heart bleeds / as any other heart. / The hard thorn that love inflicted to me / I carry it everywhere...” A poem by Umberto Saba gave the title to this novel by his fellow townsman Renzo Rosso. A famed pianist in his sixties, Ermanno Cornelis is back in Trieste for a concert. But what he finds is a city in disarray, so rough and concrete that he cannot deny the decline of his artistic and physical performance much longer: the sex with young Giuliana is no exception.

La dura spina is a private and intimate story about the somber and unpleasant realization of aging. It is told in an eagerly matter-of-factly and perceptive way, and its consummate precision is reminiscent of Edward Hopper’s bourgeois interiors.

Renzo Rosso (1926-2009)

Pursued musical studies from his childhood. With a diploma in violin performance, he graduated in Philosophy. In 1951 he moved to Rome, where he has lived since, to work for RAI, the public Italian broadcaster. He also worked as a playwright. His novels were translated in french, Spanish, English and German.

Previous foreign editions of this book:

The Hard Thorn, Alan Ross LTD, 1966 (UK)

La Dura Spinae, Nanteuil, 1965 (France)

La Dura Espina, Seix barral, 1967 (Spain)

«Renzo Rosso can capture the essence of a man or a situation with just a few words, using no artifices, in a conspicuous style.»

Times Literary Supplement



A perceptive and refined narrator, the author looks into human contradictions with “millions of eyes taking a 360-degree look at the world.

Italo Calvino

Its story proves the author’s umbilical relationship with Italo Svevo’s characters and atmospheres.

Il Piccolo

Domenico Rea

GESÙ, FATE LUCE

JESUS, SHINE A LIGHT

short stories

160 pages | 10 euros

Publication date: February 2010

Afterword by Domenico Scarpa

First published in 1950 by Mondadori
Viareggio Prize 1951

Nofì, Naples and its surroundings, in the time between Fascism and the departure of the Allies from Southern Italy: this is the backdrop for the twelve stories included in this collection. First published in 1950, these stories describe grieving and weary characters in their everyday lives: a couple fighting in an unseemly way, a fake cripple who scrapes a living under the Fascists, a beggar who steals from a convent’s cellar to feed his family, a peasant’s wild and wanton passion for a girl his age.

In his coarse but anxious writing, Domenico Rea focuses alternatively on the look of a man, the tension in a feeling, the voices in a courtyard. Every one of his stories straddles the fine line between tragic and comic.

Domenico Rea (1921-1994)

Was a factory worker, a stenographer, a proofreader. He later worked for some newspapers, including *La Repubblica* and *Il Mattino*, as well as the Italian public broadcasting company Rai. His short stories were translated in French, Spanish, English and German.

Previous foreign editions of this book:

Jésus, fais la lumière, Actes Sud, 1989 (France)



Arguably, no other Italian writer today has this introspecting ability.

Alberto Asor Rosa

Meaty, ruddy, baroque, glamorous and flashy.[...] A piece of “magnesium-flash” writing, a Caravaggesque illumination of the eternal city of Naples.

Lights, shadows, loss, ecstasy, violence and perdition.

Il Mattino

backlist/**fiction**

Biagio Autieri, *The Unusual Rumba* (2008)
Omar Di Monopoli, *Iron and Fire* (2008)
Omar Di Monopoli, *Of Men and Dogs* (2007)
Michele Vaccari, *Italian Fiction* (2007)
Ilaria Bernardini, *The End of Love* (2006)
Various Authors, *Singapore* (2006)

backlist/**non fiction**

Stefano Benzoni, *Youngsters Don't Exist Anymore* (2008)
Anonymous, *Against Ratzinger 2.0* (2007) sold to US, Spain, Greece and Czech Republic
Anonymous, *Against Ratzinger* (2006) sold to US, Spain, Greece and Czech Republic
Giacomo Papi, *Under Arrest* (2005) sold to US, Spain, UK and France
Luciano Bianciardi, *The Antimeridian Vol. I-II*
Alessandro Scotti, *Chasing the Dragon* (2007)

backlist/**special projects**

Massimo Coppola, *Bianciardi!* (2008)
Tobor Experiment/QOOB, *Tech Stuff* (2007)
Pietro Adamo, Stefano Benzoni, *Psychofarmers®* (2006)
Carlo Antonelli, Fabio de Luca, *Discoinferno* (2006)

latest acquisitions from abroad

Antoine Audouard, *L'Arabe* •
Cynan Jones *After the Factory* and *Out Onto The Water* •
Hallgrímur Helgason, *The Hitman's Guide To House Cleaning* ••
Tristram Hunt, *The Frock-coated Communist: The Revolutionary Life of Friedrich Engels* ••
Francis Wheen, *Karl Marx* (repub.) ••
Ed. Rob Young, *The Wire Primers* •
Kyle Gann, *No Such Thing as Silence: John Cage's 4'33'* •
William Perry, *Against the Wall* •