



PELLED  CA

Foreign rights

23 February 2016 marked the foundation of Pelledoca.

A publisher of children's literature. Our books tell great, strong, unusual stories. Thrilling tales that leave readers with bated breath and their eyes glued to the page. We have made a specific choice, deciding only to deal with thrillers, noirs, and mysteries. Exploring fear and amplifying it with the imagination is a huge challenge. This is the intense emotion that we want to transmit to readers, exploring with them how fear can make people stronger and braver.



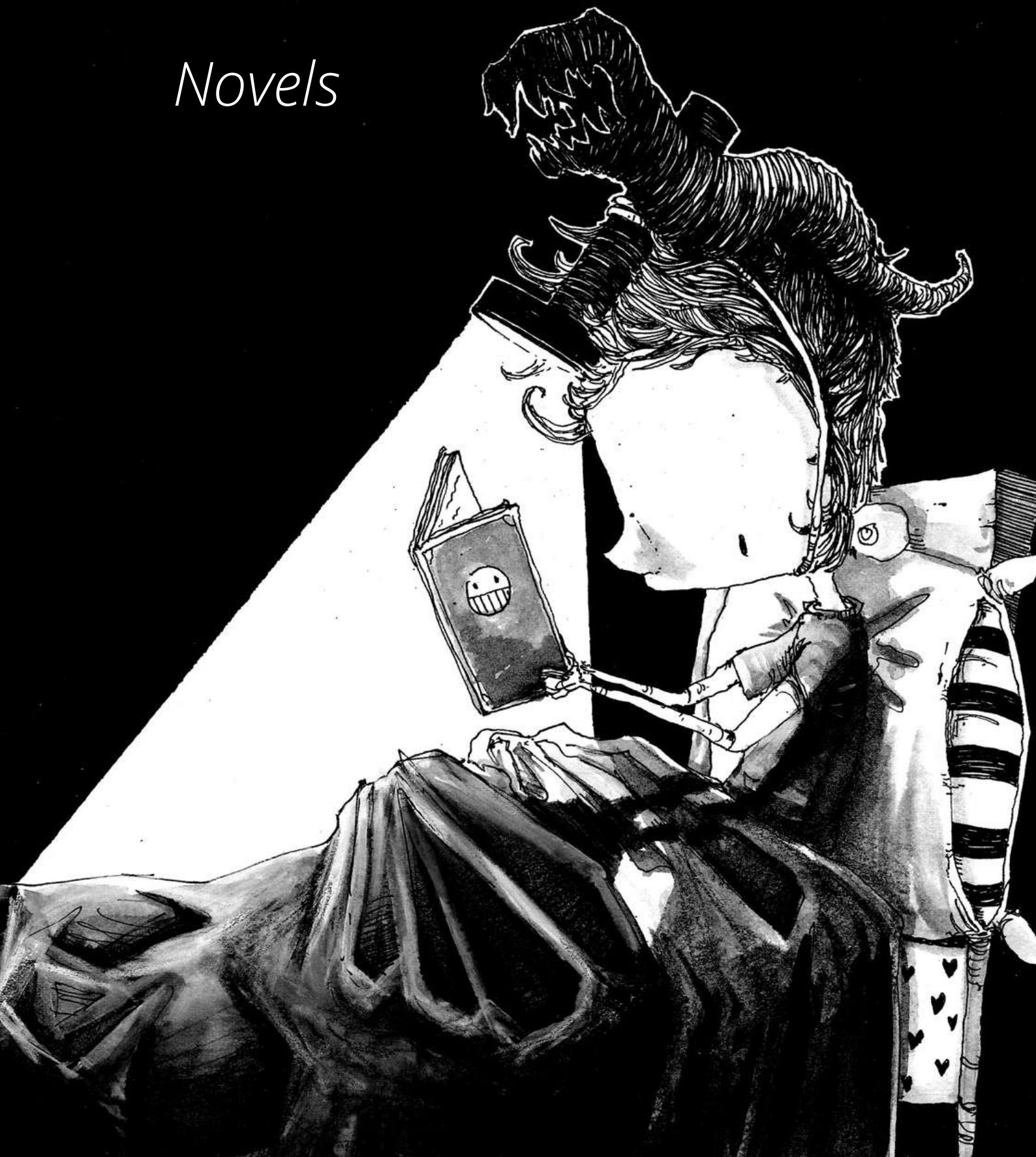
Pelledoca's writers accompany the young readers through a narrative world of intrigue inhabited by shady characters, victims, and perpetrators, but also smart heroes. We believe that reading helps people get to know themselves, so it is an important tool to help young people grow. Pelledoca does not presume to know the answers, but instead explores fear and how to manage it, bringing readers into a narrated world. Here they have the opportunity to move more freely, as it is a space outside reality where they can put themselves to the test. At times fear takes the form of tension, other times anxiety, and sometimes it can even emerge as discomfort. However, when tackled, it has just one companion: courage. Apprehension and adventure go hand in hand. Exploring fears also means being able to understand when, in fact, there is no need to be afraid.



Pelledoca publishes in three types of series. Illustrated stories, similar to graphic novels, in a new format which distributes words and images in one space that is managed more freely, trying experimentation wherever possible. Detective novels/thrillers that captivate readers with the pace of their narration and the unwinding of the plot from the first page right down to the last. The first readings, for the youngest readers, written with highly legible characters. Action-packed adventures and investigations to solve for little detectives who miss nothing.

NEROINCHIOSTRO

Novels





#INTHEWEB

Georgia Manzi

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **144**

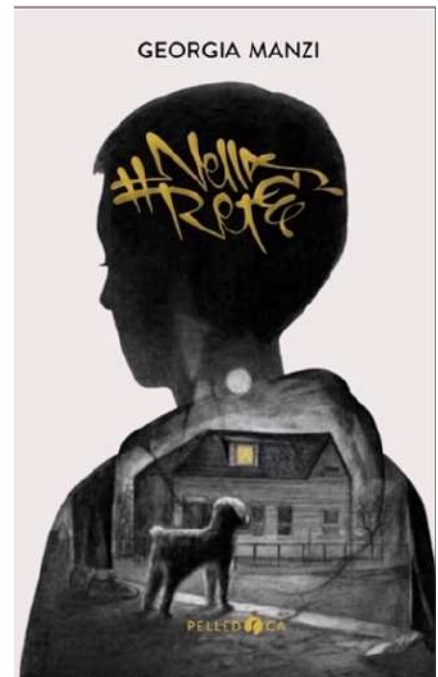
PRICE € **15**

ISBN **978-88-3279-000-9**

RELEASE **MARCH 2017**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm



- By winning author of Italian literary prize “Alice guarda il mondo”, among the most appreciated Italian authors by young readers.
- The Web as the background of a compelling thriller.
- «Georgia Manzi has been called a young Simenon for the suspense and thrill of her plots, full of extraordinary characters». (*La Repubblica*)

Georgia Manzi

She was born in Foggia and graduated in Modern Literature in Rome. Professional journalist, after a period in London and Bruxelles working at Emma Bonino’s press office, she moved to Athens. She was awarded the first prize for the literary contest “Alice guarda il mondo” with the YA novel *Non avrò più paura*, published by Rizzoli and she received the special mention in the YA literary contest “Pippi” for the novel *L’ultimo segreto*, published by Fabbri. She also published *Il Ladro* and *Io la signora Tamara la terrei*, both published by Rizzoli. In 2016 she made her debut in adult fiction with the novel *Giovanni dei topi*, published by Bompiani.

Plot 8+

Amelia and Dino don’t like each other much but when a hacker, in the guise of an unbeatable online player, hacks Fulvio’s computer they will join together for an investigation. Dino, obsessed by conspiracies and violence, thinks that the hacker is a terrorist. Fulvio, not sure about this theory, is willing to find out the identity of the player. The matter becomes even stranger when weird events happen. The investigation keeps on going and the friends succeed in finding an address. The house of the anonymous hacker is not far from the school. But who is living there is a mysterious woman. What does the house hide? Why does Tarzan, Amelia’s dog, act crazy every time he gets close to it? And who is the woman living there?



THE TIGER MACHINE

Laura Pariani, Nicola Fantini

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **192**

PRICE **€ 16**

ISBN **978-88-3279-007-8**

RELEASE **MARCH 2018**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm



- By two award-winning authors, Laura Pariani (three times finalist at Premio Campiello) and Nicola Fantini, refined writer, and a connoisseur of genre fiction.
- The Tiger Machine, a wonderful and fantastic invention that can predict the future and protect a boy from the fear of the unknown.
- A fast-paced, engaging, extraordinary novel about the fear of the future and of change.

Laura Pariani, Nicola Fantini

Laura Pariani debuted in the 1970s as a painter and a cartoonist. Since the 1990s she has been writing especially fiction and for the theatre. Among her most recent works: *Milano è una selva oscura* (Einaudi 2010), *La valle delle donne lupo* (Einaudi 2011), *Il piatto dell'angelo* (Giunti 2013), *Questo viaggio chiamavamo amore* (Einaudi 2015), *Caddi e rimase la mia carne sola* (Effigie 2017).

Nicola Fantini deals with fiction both as a translator and a writer. Among his works: *La variabile Berkeley* (Editrice Nord 1995), *A due voci. Diario argentino* (with Antonio Dal Masetto, Effigie 2005), *La setta delle catacombe* (Barbera 2008). With Laura Pariani he has written many short stories and two novels: *Nostra Signora degli scorpioni* (Sellerio 2014) and *Che Guevara aveva un gallo* (Sellerio 2016).

Plot 10+

Didi is 12 years old. He is troubled and solitary. Since he started living with his aunt Betta, he keeps deep in his heart the few memories he has of his mother. He has no friends, and he runs away in the forest whenever he can. There, and on the slopes of the mountain overlooking the town where he lives, Didi has built his refuges, remote places, almost unreachable. There he has brought supplies, books and all his mechanic widgets in order to build the "Tiger Machine". Didi dreams of predicting the future, and that machine will help him do so. Will the Tiger Machine protect him from the Black Monk and from the man he has never met and who is supposed to be his father? Didi can only run away, hiding once again in one of his refuges, the most dangerous to reach: the Unnamed Refuge.



THE BERENSON LEGEND

Alessandro Zannoni

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **192**

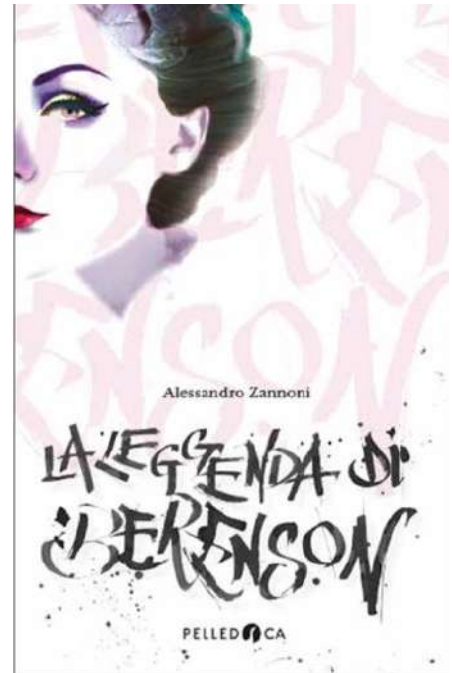
PRICE **€ 16**

ISBN **978-88-3279-006-1**

RELEASE **MARCH 2018**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm



- Alessandro Zannoni, a connoisseur of Italian noir fiction, writes a story full of mystery aimed at teenagers.
- A boat to be put back to sea, a missing diary, an old unsolved crime and a big treasure. The classic ingredients for an extraordinary adventure.

Alessandro Zannoni

He lives and writes in Sarzana, on the regional border between Liguria and Tuscany. His debut as a writer happened thanks to Luigi Bernardi – the undisputed guru of Italian noir fiction – who helped him publish his first work with Perdisa Editore. Some of his short stories have been featured on important Italian blogs, literature magazines and anthologies. He is the author of the texts of the cartoon *Il cugino*, the character created by Lorenzo Palloni, a young cartoonist, very well known in France. He writes for cinema and theatre. In 2002, Zannoni launched *FestivalNoir* in Lerici (Spezia Province), which after six editions has turned into the itinerant literary meetings known as *Leggere fa male*.

Plot 10+

Michelangelo's (Mongy's) father buys an old cabin cruiser at an online auction, aimed to be both his office and their summer house, his son's dream. Before they even go to sea, somebody phones asking if they want to sell it. During the restoration works, Mongy finds a manuscript hidden in a cabin. It talks about Berenson's treasure. He soon finds out that the author is the former owner of the boat, Carlotta Joffe Berenson, a respected antique dealer who was killed in the night-time on board years before and whose murderer is still unknown. He decides to solve the mystery and especially to recover the treasure, a collection of art works smuggled by the Nazis during World War II. The enquiry is not easy at all, and the matter gets more complicated by the invisible but steady presence of an unknown man waiting apparently for the right opportunity to get what he considers his own property back.



A VERY LONG NIGHT

Annalisa Strada

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **160**

PRICE **€ 15**

ISBN **978-88-3279-014-6**

RELEASE **MARCH 2019**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm

6th REPRINT



- Nilla is alone in her dark and empty house. It's the beginning of a very long night. An unusual night.
- An essential and sharp writing perfect for the pace of an intense noir.
- By an award-winning author, winner of the "Andersen Prize", a thriller for teenagers with a high level of adrenaline.

Annalisa Strada

She was born in 1969 in the province of Brescia. After many years of publishing services, ghost writing, cookbooks and handbooks she started writing children and teenagers books. She also teaches Italian and Literature in the secondary school. Her books are published by Mondadori, Piemme, Giunti, Einaudi Ragazzi, San Paolo. She wrote more than 30 books and has been awarded with many prizes such as: "Premio Gigante delle Langhe" for *Il laboratorio di Mastino Machiavelli – Fino all'ultima mosca*; "Premio Arpino" for *1861: un'avventura italiana* and *Il laboratorio di Mastino Machiavelli – Piantala, Mastino!*; "Premio Andersen" for *Una sottile linea rossa*; "Premio Selezione Bancarellino" and "Premio Cento" for *Io, Emanuela*.

Plot 11+

Nilla is 12 years old. Coming back from school she finds her townhouse empty. Her father is far away for work, her sister is in New Zealand for one-year study and her mother is not in. Also Gullo, her dog, has gone. When the darkness comes her mother is not back yet and doesn't answer her mobile. With an excuse Nilla asks a neighbour who reassures her. As soon as Nilla is back to her kitchen, the power goes out. The counter is in the basement. Nilla is more and more worried and concerned about her mother. The houses in the surroundings are empty and dark, the neighbours left. The home phone is out of work. While Nilla prepares herself to hole up inside a room she hears her dog barking. Gullo is back and it looks like he is chasing somebody near the tool shed. Here Nilla finds the body of a dead woman, a horrible discovery that she reports to the police. Now the only place to go is her grandma's house, but Nilla will keep on investigating until the criminal is caught and her mother is back home safe and sound. The night will be very long.



BREATHE WITH ME **Raffaella Romagnolo**

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **144**

PRICE **€ 15**

ISBN **978-88-3279-013-9**

RELEASE **MARCH 2019**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm

Rights sold for Diogene Edizioni - Switzerland



- **Shortlisted for the Witch Award Girls and Boys 2020.**

- A novel about growing, endurance, and the return to affections.
- A compelling story telling us that everybody has his/her own fear and that going through is the only way to overcome it.
- A novel for teenagers about how to face and defeat our fears written by one of the most interesting Italian novelists.

Raffaella Romagnolo

She was born in Casale Monferrato (Province of Piedmont) in 1971. Now she lives in Rocca Grimalda (same Province) together with her husband. She teaches Italian and History at a technical institute. She has published *L'amante di città* (2007), *La masnà* (2012), *Tutta questa vita* (2013, finalist for "Premio Peradotto"), *La figlia sbagliata* (2015, shortlisted for "Premio Strega 2016" and winner of "Premio Società Lucchese dei Lettori 2016"), *Destino* (2018). She collaborates with newspapers and magazines. She reads as much as she can, but never how much she would love to.

Plot 12+

Amedeo has no doubt: his father is a bastard and the walking excursion on the top of Punta Libertè sounds like a punishment. He has been missing school for one month but at home nobody knows. And now his father's weird idea: two days together, just the two of them. Behind a lock of his long hair, Amedeo stares at the valley, the summit at 3.400 mt and the starting point of the trail, until the Fontanafredda refuge, the first stop of the climb. A backpack, boots, some extra clothes, a heavy jacket and above all... no mobile. The mountain is a jail, only ascent and stones, and he is dead tired. The memory of her mother, dead in an accident, is always with him and the annoyance to her father's company is growing more and more. The only relief is thinking of Lucilla, the new school mate, quiet and solitary. An overnight stop in an old hut and then again on the track all the way to the top, walking along the cliffs. The way back is an abyss of stones. A landslide breaks his father's leg. Without a mobile it's impossible to call for help and Amedeo starts running against time and above all against his fears: he must find aid and rescue his father.



THE INVISIBLE EMPIRE

Gabriele Nanni

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **208**

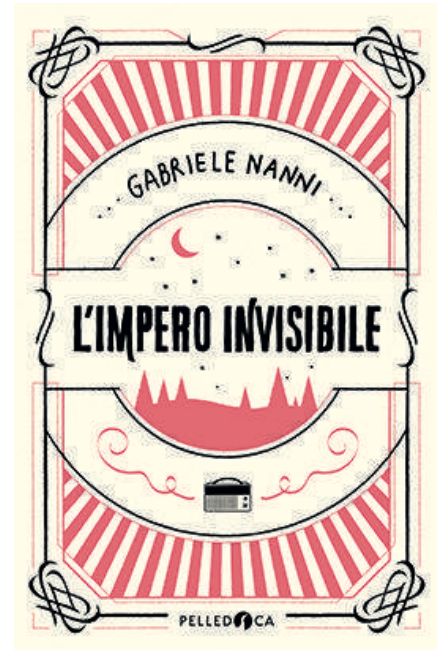
PRICE **€ 16**

ISBN **978-88-3279-016-0**

RELEASE **JUNE 2019**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm



- **Awarded book for the *White Raven List 2020*.**

- A compelling novel inspired by true crime stories and set in 1966, exactly one hundred years after the birth of Ku Klux Klan.
- From the winner of “Premio Battello a Vapore” a story full of plot twists, challenges and dangers. A window to completely unknown times, especially for young readers.

Gabriele Nanni

He was born in Rimini in 1977. He comes from “Barafonda”, the neighborhood of San Giuliano Mare, a place of spry fishermen, real storytellers. Actually his grandfather is one of them, he was a storyteller and also a painter. Gabriele started writing and painting after him. In 2015 he won the “Premio Battello a Vapore” with his debut children novel *Il Numero 5*, published by Piemme. The his first novel was a collection of horror stories written together with his friends in summer 1989. They were meant for the tv program “Zio Tibia Picture Show”. Freelance journalist and writer he lives in Rimini with his partner Catia and their little kid.

Plot 11+

1966. 14 years old Richie, Mash, Darry and Jodie are friends and all are fans of horror and fantasy stories. They live in Frick Leaf, a town in Indiana, a State in the south USA. A morning, while skipping school, the three friends witness a weird kidnapping. In the following days they come to know a murder of a man whose body has been discovered without a shoe. After a little recon they actually find a shoe equipped with a micro recorder containing information about a Ku Klux Klan cell involving the highest political authorities of the town. Moreover the recording reveals a forthcoming attack to the afro american community and the political corruption spread all over the State of Indiana.

For the three friends that’s the starting point of an investigation, full of challenges and dangers, aimed to prevent the conspiracy. On the background a radio voice announcing the triumph of the Texas Western Miners, the world’s only college basketball team with an all-black lineup, winner of the 1966 NCAA Division championship.



SOFTLY
Fulvia Degl'Innocenti

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **160**

PRICE **€ 16**

ISBN **978-88-3279-021-4**

RELEASE **JANUARY 2020**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm



- An excellent thrilling story filled with mystery, investigation and a bit of horror.
- A cold case written with a pace and a suspense as brilliant as a tv series.
- By an eclectic author a noir full of twists and turns.

Fulvia Degl'Innocenti

She was born in La Spezia. She lives and works in Milan as a journalist for the magazine "Famiglia Cristiana". In 1998 she published her first book for children and since then she has never stopped. Soon she will celebrate the line of 100 books, among which illustrated books and novels for young adults. Many of her books have been translated all over the world, from Brasil to China. She received many awards, such as the Bancarellino and the Andersen Prize. She is the editor-in-chief of the fiction series *Il parco delle storie*, published by Edizioni Paoline and is the President of the Italian Children's Writers Association (ICWA).

Plot 11+

Carolina has weird feelings anytime she accompanies her grandmother to the graveyard to pay a visit to her grandfather. She feels like she is hearing the voices of dead children, actually she feels their touch on her skin. When her mom decides to move, she opts for a beautiful house, at number 13, in a suburban area, in the back of the old and abandoned graveyard. In the new school Carolina makes friends with Ruth and Eddie, a lonely guy obsessed with aliens and horror stories. Meanwhile, in the night, her dreams are increasingly unsettling: she dreams more and more unknown kids claiming from her something that she doesn't understand. And if they weren't be dreams but messages from the underworld? You just have to poke around the old graveyard, together with Eddie, and once again the weird feelings reappear. Even when the family moves to a smaller town this situation doesn't change. Weird phenomena and the disturbing encounter with a man confirm that Carolina is gifted with the ability to feel the invisible, especially the S.O.S. messages sent by three girls that went missing many years ago. Carolina starts her investigation from the archives of the local newspaper that reports the assumption of a serial killer. Keeping on investigating Carolina bumps into the horrible truth and catches the culprit.



DARK WEB

Sara Magnoli

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **200**

PRICE **€ 16**

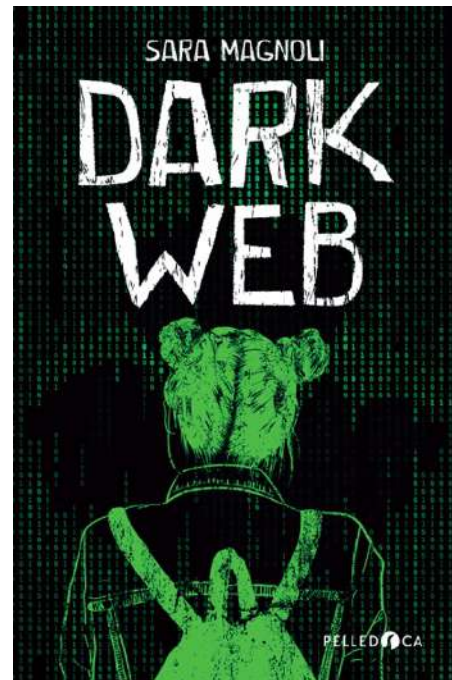
ISBN **978-88-3279-020-7**

RELEASE **JANUARY 2020**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm

13th REPRINT



- An excellent thriller about the dark side of the web.
- By an award-winning author an engaging and fast-paced novel about a topical subject.
- There are places to avoid. Places where the encounters get into traps and the people are never what they look like.

Sara Magnoli

She lives in the Varese province in a renovated house that once upon a time was her grandmother's cinema. She is a journalist graduated in Foreign Languages and Literature from Università degli Studi of Milan. Her books for children and adults have been awarded many times. She has always had a passion for writing and noir and thriller stories.

Plot 12+

Vesna is a fake name. That's the name chosen by the 14-year-old Eva whose goal is to become an influencer with millions of likes. Doom Lad is his nickname: it means "the boy of destiny". They meet on Instagram. But Doom Lad changes image, style and mood accordingly to the situations. Internet is like a spider web where it's possible to find everything: kids, young girls, stolen images, horror and terror. Giovanni Boccaccio is not interested in this stuff but he pretends to be. Rocco D'Antonio, the inspector hidden behind the nickname of a writer of the XIV century, must find a way to find Eva. Doom Lad keeps on asking for more and more photos and she believes that he is only willing to help her in becoming a trendy influencer. The only one of Eva's friend who knows everything is Pio, who is scared of the bullies making fun of him on the internet and in his face. Pio is the only one ready to challenge the world in order to protect Eva. But Doom Lad has her in his pocket and knows that he can demand and expect more and more. In the meantime, the inspector D'Antonio closes the ranks of the sexting scam. To be wrong is not allowed, now that Donar is close by. At a pace increasingly fast, the end will reveal a surprise beyond any possible suspicion.



LUNAMADRE
Teo Benedetti

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **152**

PRICE **€ 16**

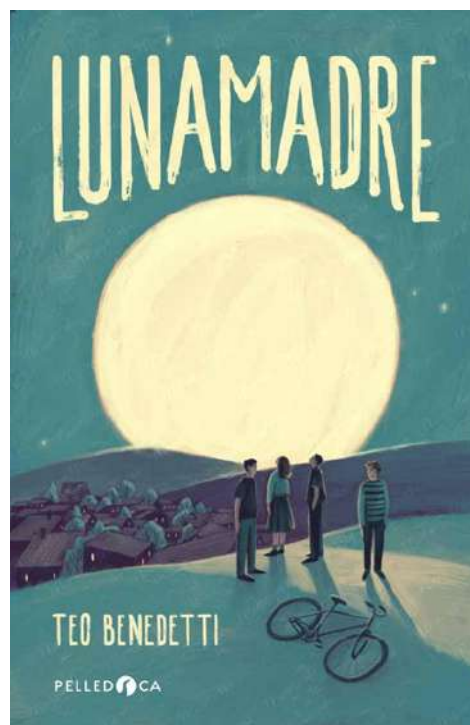
ISBN **978-88-3279-022-1**

RELEASE **MARCH 2020**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm

4th REPRINT



- A tribute to a mysterious and thrilling land, Sardinia, a homage to its endless world of color, sensations, traditions.
- The legendary Sardinian witch is both a vampire and a wizard, but she's also bloody mysterious and totally "flipping" as a good storybook.

Teo Benedetti

Born in Lucca (Tuscany), Teo has always been living buried in books, comics, albums, movies in a house where there isn't anymore a free space to allow more stuff. After making up surrealistic and far-fetched stories he goes back and forth to present them to the most creative audience on the Heart: the kids. Some of his stories have been published by Edizioni EL, Einaudi Ragazzi, Fanucci Editore, Editoriale Scienza, Pane e Sale. Instead his scariest tale is proudly published by Pelledoca Editore.

Plot 11+

The holidays at the paternal grandmother house in the little town of Lunamadre, embedded in the southern island among the sea, the hills and the countryside are one of the most wished moments by Lorenzo, a long-awaited occasion which represents in his view a trip into a earthly paradise, a world frozen in time framed perfectly. Yet, in his 14 years, Lorenzo doesn't know that together with his three friends, Filippo, Carlo and Maria, will face an evil hidden for a long time in the corners of the little town, a secret evil that nobody wants to talk about. Weird things start to happen without any reasonable cause. Nobody knows the culprit. Innumerable rumours buzz about witches, curses, dark events coming from the past and an impending future. Although the villagers defuse the situation talking about "children games" a sort of concern spreads out all over Lunamadre. Actually something had happened long ago and now it's coming back. As soon as the four kids get closer to the truth anxiety and fear replace their naive curiosity for the mystery. The only chance to overcome and protect the one among them predestined to die is sticking and standing together.



10 CLUES FOR AGATHA

Gigliola Alvisi

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **152**

PRICE **€ 16**

ISBN **978-88-3279-027-6**

RELEASE **SEPTEMBER 2020**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm



- «He must have a Belgian name, so French. A powerful name, in contrast to his appearance. An ancient name, the name of a hero ... Ulysses, no not Ulysses. Hercules! Hercule, I like it. And his surname? Let's try... Poirot, that's it: I like Poirot because he has a soft and rounded sound, in contrast to his sharp mind. Hercule Poirot: it's perfect!».
- A captivating novel to understand the origins of the most famous investigator in the world and the story of an exceptional woman.

Gigliola Alvisi

She was born in Vicenza in 1963 and she lives in the province of Padua. She is married to a reporter who brings news from around the world home to her every day, she has two children who are already out of the house who, when they were young, filled her life with young fantasies, and she has a red and wise dog that accompanies her on walks in the countryside. She writes novels for teens and short stories for children. She brings to schools BILL suitcases, which contain the 303 books of the Library of Legality. She is a voluntary guardian of foreign unaccompanied minors.

Plot 11+

Where do I come from? What's my past? Wonders Hercule Poirot, the greatest investigator in the world. To find out, he will have to investigate the past of his author, starting from her childhood: Agatha Christie. Through 10 clues, spread throughout the story, Hercule manages to understand many things about the great English writer, and consequently the nature and investigative genius of his character. Who was the figure of the bandit who visited the dreams of little Agatha? And that of the Older Sister who took the place of the real Madge and terrified her with her mellifluous voice?

Well, as Poirot tells us, Agatha's imagination was running fast and the passion for fear was evident since she was a little girl. Left free to grow freely in the beautiful residence of Ahfield, little Agatha developed all the typical characteristics of the perfect writer: love for mysteries, passion for books, empty time to invent, curiosity.



EMERGENCY EXIT

Carla Anzile

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **192**

PRICE **€ 16**

ISBN **978-88-3279-023-8**

RELEASE **SEPTEMBER 2020**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm



- A story about friendship and personal growth. Throughout the book entries and exits, interior and exterior borders, communication and incommunicability are the metaphors of the character's life.
- A fast-paced thriller full of mysteries, discoveries, intrigues and turns of events.
- Cornwall with its landscape and atmosphere is the ideal set for this suspense and thriller novel. Goose bumps are guaranteed!

Carla Anzile

She lives in the Pordenone province and teaches in the primary school where she promotes readings and the school library "Il magazzino di Diderot". Her first work experience is as a children's entertainer, children's theatre actress and host for reading workshops. In 2013 her story *La mia bici ha tre ruote* won the "Premio Letterario Anna Osti" and in 2017 her realistic story *Gigi e l'Apollonia* achieved the second place for the "Premio Arpalice Cuman Pertile". Currently she is experimenting multimedia languages, especially videomaking, applied to the storytelling.

Plot 10+

Sasha, an autistic boy, disappears during a family excursion. Only his close friends Luca and Charlie believe that he has been kidnapped. The previous day a comic book about the weird story of an aristocratic Italian family had been stolen and accordingly to the kids this event is linked to Sasha's missing. So they start investigating, for sure they are the only ones who know the real danger for their dear Sasha. The caretaker of the sports ground, together with his inseparable ferret, is willing to assist the kids in this adventure more and more complicated since also Sasha's father disappears. Only after many dangers, such as walking into a trap in the wood, being nearly drowned, unmasking a gang of cheaters, riding in a sidecar with a 80 years old lady, reaching Italy by a Turkish bus and pointing a loaded gun at a guy the friends will solve the mystery of the kidnappings. The answer to a graphic riddle, hidden in the pages of the comic book, will lead the kids to discover a priceless artistic treasure, very well guarded by the secrets of time and of an old war.



MANSION WEREWOLF

Laura Orsolini

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **168**

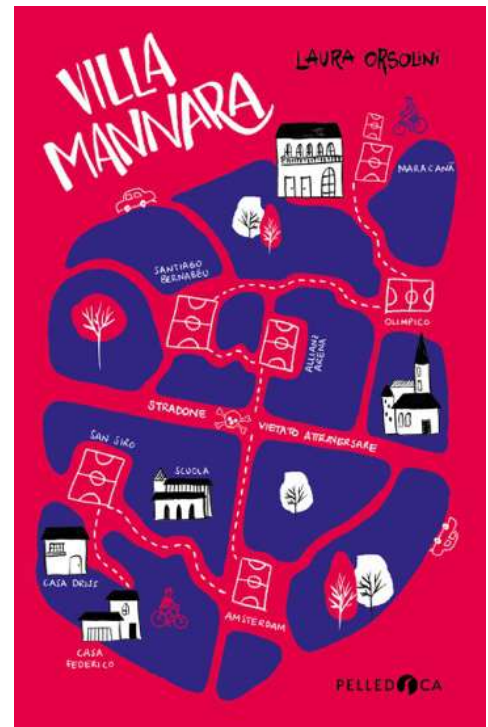
PRICE **€ 16**

ISBN **978-88-3279-025-2**

RELEASE **SEPTEMBER 2020**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm



- A story about friendship and in the background the chase of the culprit.
- The cool and straight writing style of an author fond of thriller stories.

Laura Orsolini

She is an editorial consultant, a professor of creative writing and an author of children's and adults' books. In September 2018 she inaugurated her bookshop "Millestorie" in Fagnano Olona. Since 2017 she has been the head of the Writing, Theatre, Illustration Camp of Gazzetta Summer Camp. Since October 2019 she has been curator of the "Books" column for the monthly magazine "Ambiente" and of the "Mamma scegliamo un libro" column, where she recommends weekly two children's books, for the online daily newspaper "Varesenews".

Plot 10+

Federico lives with his mother Sara and her partner Giovanni Milazzo, a Police Marshal. Federico starts secondary school where he doesn't have any friends. But he makes friends with his new classmate Driss, born in Italy from Moroccan parents. To get noticed they decide to solve the case of an old missing lady. During their afternoon bicycle rides they draw a map portraying 6 perfect football fields named respectively: San Siro, Amsterdam Arena, Allianz Arena, Santiago Bernabeu, Olimpico and Maracanà, the latter the best of all. A storytelling about confidence, cultural melting pot and resilience free of rhetoric and clichés. One day, while playing at Maracanà the ball lands on a garden of a very creepy mansion. The two friends call it Mansion Werewolf because the howl of a wolf, or maybe of a dog, is always heard in the woods. The kids get back the ball in the Mansion Werewolf's garden and meet the landlady. A weird and cryptic lady, surely guilty of the kidnapping of the old missing lady. One night the kids are determined to unmask her, but the case will prove to be more complex than they had thought.



THE MYSTERY OF THE BLACK LAKE

Luca Occhi

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **200**

PRICE **€ 16**

ISBN **978-88-3279-032-0**

RELEASE **JANUARY 2021**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm



- Both a thriller and a noir: a mix of excellent ingredients as in a well cooked meal.
- A striking and breathtaking novel until the last page.
- It's better to believe that we have been dreaming certain things rather than to know that they are true.

Luca Occhi

He lives in Imola. He is one of the founders of the Officine Wort, an association organising and promoting readings, book presentations, literary events and contests. Luca was awarded with many prizes and has published more than twenty stories. In 2017 he published his first novel *Il Cainita* (Comma21-Damster Edizioni), in 2018 the e-book of his short novel *Tartare* (Oakmond Publishing), in 2019 his second novel *Della stessa sostanza del buio* (Zero-Bacchilega Editore), and in 2020 the novel *Se perdo te*, co-written with Giorgio Ottaviani (Golem Edizioni). Luca has been the Artistic Co-Director of the "Emilia Noir Festival" and since 2016 has been collaborating in the annual creative writing course for young adults organised by BIMED.

Plot 11+

Matteo, orphaned, lives with his grandfather in Castel Nero, a little town in the mountains, overlooking the Black Lake. All that Matteo wants is spending a lighthearted summer playing basket in the Oratory playground waiting for the school opening dates. Instead the sergeant Augusto Zanella, transferred few months ago to Castel Nero, is looking only for a bit of peace, far away from his past. The discovery along the lake shore of two mangled bodies will upset the life of both of them. The night before the first murder Matteo, wandering along the Black Lake shore, spotted somebody and somebody spotted him, although Matteo doesn't know. The sergeant Zanella, affected by a weird sort of hydrophobia worsened by the persistent presence of the lake, is incapable to give a reasonable and logical explanation, the only one he's willing to accept, for those mysterious deaths. Castel Nero and its villagers hide a sinful secret that don't want to share with the outsiders. Present and past, reality and legend will end to intertwine as Matteo's and Zanella's life will do. They will find together that nothing is as it seems. Or maybe it's simply like that.



WITHOUT A GOOD REASON

Benedetta Bonfiglioli

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **220**

PRICE **€ 16**

ISBN **978-88-3279-030-6**

RELEASE **JANUARY 2021**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm



- **Winner of the Andersen Award 2021.**

- The topic of bullying is the focus of a thriller story.
- A writer careful and sensitive to kids troubles who loves to investigate hot current events and turn them into positive stories.
- An inspirational, intense and unexpected novel.

Benedetta Bonfiglioli

She is a fan of thriller books. She teaches English Literature in the high school and works as an editorial consultant for Mondadori Ragazzi. Benedetta loves to read and write Young Adult fiction because almost all the encounters with people and things that changed her life happened in high school. Starting from 2012 she published the novels *Pink Lady* (San Paolo Edizioni), *Tutto il cielo possibile*, co-written with Luigi Ballerini (Piemme Edizioni), *My Bass Guitar* (San Paolo Edizioni), *Tutte le cose lasciate a metà* (Piemme Edizioni), *In attesa di un sole* (Mondadori).

Plot 13+

Bianca lives a simple life: a few close friends, the pretty difficult school faced with a determined mind, an imperfect family as all are. She is very close to her elder brother Carlo, growing up with him side by side in the continued absence of their parents busy at work. Carlo has recently moved to Paris to study. As soon as he is back from university for the Christmas holidays he breaks up with his longtime girlfriend, the gorgeous Greta, one of Bianca's classmates. From now on Bianca becomes a victim of mean and bad things, first almost insignificant and then increasingly serious. Behind all of them obviously there is Greta, too flipped out over Carlo's break-up to nastily haunt his sister. Little by little Bianca sinks into the abyss of loneliness and only her friend Mila, a careful and thoughtful classmate, stays close to her. Only when Bianca is very far away from home she will find the dark and striking truth hidden behind her fall and the strength to rise again and start from scratch.



THE BOOK OF THE DEAD

Annalisa Strada

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **180**

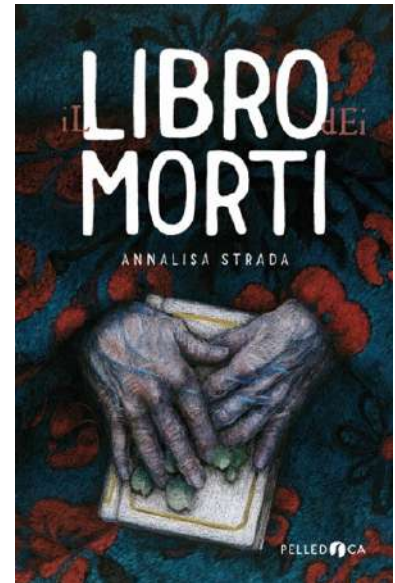
PRICE **€ 16**

ISBN **978-88-3279-038-2**

RELEASE **JUNE 2021**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm



- Memories that reemerge from the past. Friends meeting in the park. Surprises by the memory. An intricate and suspicious story, guarded in a mysterious Book of the Dead, which it deserves to be brought to light.
- There are stories that bring you from the very beginning in the vortex of mystery and suspense and authors who know how to engage their readers with great mastery. Once again Annalisa Strada gave us an exciting novel.
- The past can be a door not to open.

Annalisa Strada

After many years of publishing services, ghost writing, cookbooks and handbooks she started writing children and teenagers books. She also teaches Italian and Literature in the secondary school. Her books are published by Mondadori, Piemme, Giunti, Einaudi Ragazzi, San Paolo. She wrote more than 30 books and has been awarded with many prizes such as: “Premio Gigante delle Langhe” for *Il laboratorio di Mastino Machiavelli – Fino all’ultima mosca*; “Premio Arpino” for *1861: un’avventura italiana* and *Il laboratorio di Mastino Machiavelli – Piantala, Mastino!*; “Premio Andersen” for *Una sottile linea rossa*; “Premio Selezione Bancarellino” and “Premio Cento” for *Io, Emanuela*. *The book of the dead* is her second novel for Pelledoca, after the release and reprint of *Una lunghissima notte*.

Plot 12+

Letizia is spending her first summer alone, ever since she lost her father to a bank robbery. The school year ended in the desolation of canceled relationships. Going up and down the stairs of the building, she meets Diletta, the tenant of floor above her, relegated to her wheelchair who is intrigued by Letizia’s walks in the park. At every meeting, she asks her to bring her back a souvenir from the park: a leaf from the eucalyptus tree, a few drops of water from the fountain... What is the relationship between these memories of the elderly woman and the Book of the Dead that she cherishes meticulously? With what logic does Diletta recount and then freeze and leave out passages from her past? Letizia will find out by listening, investigating, thanks also to the help of her new friend Marcello and, above all, in the finale which, in a climax, will lead her to know every fact, perhaps even too much, that a long time ago, in 1952, shocked the city.



THE REVENGE OF THE FOREST Teo Benedetti

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **144**

PRICE **€ 16**

ISBN **978-88-3279-039-9**

RELEASE **JUNE 2021**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm



- There is only one rule that we need to know when we set foot in the woods: we are just guests of a whole other world where anything can happen.
- A dark story, very current in dealing with the theme of the increasingly conflictual relationship between Man and Nature.
- Once again Teo Benedetti fishes in folklore to dye his second novel for Pelledoca black.

Teo Benedetti

Born in Lucca (Tuscany), Teo has always been living buried in books, comics, albums, movies in a house where there isn't anymore a free space to allow more stuff. After making up surrealistic and far-fetched stories he goes back and forth to present them to the most creative audience on the Earth: the kids. Some of his stories have been published by Edizioni EL, Einaudi Ragazzi, Fanucci Editore, Editoriale Scienza, Pane e Sale. *The revenge of the forest* is his second novel for Pelledoca, after the release and reprint of *Lunamadre*.

Plot 11+

Arianna, her younger brother Pietro, her mom and dad, are traveling to a natural park nestled in the valley about a hundred kilometers from home. They decided to commit to a long weekend to collect the dirt left along the paths by rude people. For this reason, they accepted the invitation of a small association of volunteers who meet each month in the green forest to clean it up a little bit. They do not know, however, that the forest they are going to is home to a spirit that has exceeded the limit of resistance towards Man and has decided to protect the Nature in a way that will prove lethal for anyone who dares to approach it. So the family and the group of volunteers find themselves at the center of a revenge by an entity that does not distinguish the good from the bad but only sees enemies to drive away from its land. The only weapon that Man will be able to put in play to defend himself will be the absolute worst, the one that will bring to the destruction of the forest with a devastating fire, violating once again the pact of balance between humans and Nature.



2 HOTELS AND A CRIME

Erika Torre

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **136**

PRICE **€ 16**

ISBN **978-88-3279-044-3**

RELEASE **OCTOBER 2021**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm



- A story inspired by the great detective stories, but as a detective a girl who loves intrigues and disguises, as a method of investigation she uses post-it notes with advice left by her mother.
- Two hotels at war, a lakefront as a battle field and a race against time to clear a murder suspect.

Erika Torre

For work she writes articles in English for a company that sells vintage racing bikes. For passion she still writes. From small stories for children who are learning to read, to young adults. From fantasy to mystery. Experimenting and trying different genres is her favorite thing. The first encouragement to get serious came in 2013, when she arrived among the finalists for the *Il Battello a Vapore Award*. Then, in 2018 she started publishing. With the pseudonym Erika Torre, she published the illustrated book *Diego and the Glasses*, and in 2020 *Pirati all'Avventura*, both for the Tandem series.

Plot 10+

Rebecca lives in the elegant Hotel Belfiore, but her life is not really a fairy tale. Her father ignores her, the war between their hotel and the Rocca Blu has lasted so long that everyone has forgotten how it started. Rebecca would like to end that war and so she takes refuge to plot in the Thriller room, which her mother filled with books and news about investigations that helped her become a cunning police officer. With her, there is always her cat Mystery, who appeared out of nowhere after the death of her mother, as if she had sent it to him. But everything falls apart when in the war between hotels there is a murder. The body of the Rocca Blu gatekeeper is found on the road between the two hotels, strangled. Under the body, they found only a wallet belonging to Rebecca's father, who becomes the only suspect.

Rebecca decides to start a real investigation to save him, and she will have to use all her intelligence and also her mother's old post-it with notes on her investigation which Rebecca accidentally found in the most unthinkable place: a cookie jar.



OUTSIDE THE PACK

Sara Magnoli

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **180**

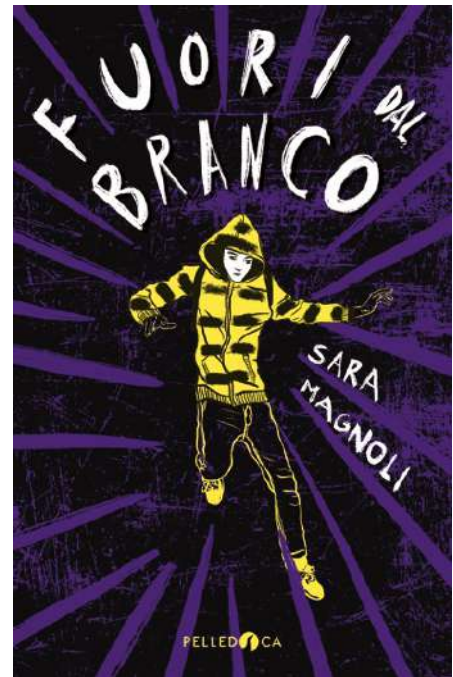
PRICE **€ 16**

ISBN **978-88-3279-045-0**

RELEASE **JANUARY 2022**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm



- Sara Magnoli returns to investigate the world of youth and adolescence in its darkest and most disturbing aspects. And once again, she does so with an overwhelmingly paced and exciting story.
- They are a group, they feel invincible, they eye up the weak person... and then they strike. It's the baby gangs.

Sara Magnoli

She lives in the Varese province in a renovated house that once upon a time was her grandmother's cinema. She is a journalist graduated in Foreign Languages and Literature from Università degli Studi di Milan. Her books for children and adults have been awarded many times. She has always had a passion for writing and noir and thriller stories. *Outside the pack* is her second novel for Pelledoca, after the release and reprint of *Dark Web*.

Plot 12+

Marti There is an initiation ceremony to be accepted by the group. The Cobra, the undisputed leader of a gang of minors, has been clear and Elia cannot hold back. He has to jump on the balcony of an elderly woman who lives alone at night and terrify her to the point that the next morning the police will find her body at the foot of the bed, lifeless. The police and the press focus their attention on the pack of boys and girls who have been carrying out urban guerilla raids for some time, insulting, frightening and attacking people.

Elia's father does not suspect in the slightest that his son is part of the gang. To open his eyes to the inner contrasts that the boy is experiencing, it is a somewhat elderly professor who tries to understand what Elia is going through: on the one hand, the desire to be accepted by the group of peers, and on the other hand the fear and anguish for the death of the elderly woman for which he feels responsible. But Elia is not alone and, in the difficulty of that moment, he finds in his love for Futura an anchor to cling to and in his friendship with the "baka" a shoulder to share a secret that is difficult to keep.



ALIVE Alessandro Pasquinucci

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **200**

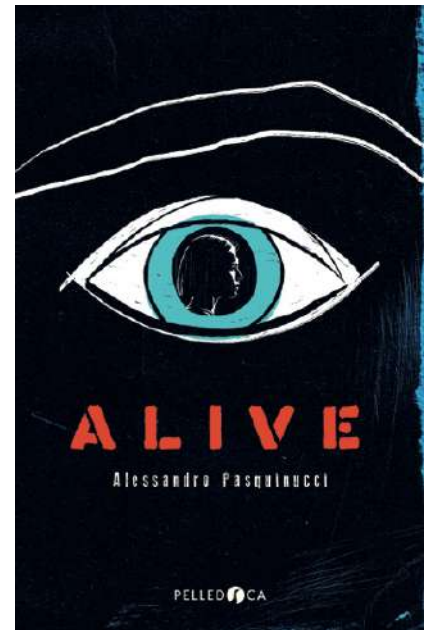
PRICE **€ 16**

ISBN **978-88-3279-046-7**

RELEASE **JANUARY 2022**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm



• **Audiovisual rights optioned by *Fabula Pictures* for serie tv.**

- A psychological thriller where everything is the opposite of everything and technology, for better or for worse, is the real great protagonist.
- A chatbot, a request for help, a known voice and a sudden disappearance. A very topical novel, with an edgy writing and a fast pace.

Alessandro Pasquinucci

He was born in Pietrasanta on June 4th, 1995 and has always lived in Viareggio. From an early age he cultivated a passion for everything that has to do with creativity. From music to graphics, through writing and photography. He has participated in numerous literary competitions, obtaining various awards. In 2012 he published *12*, a short story that interprets, in a supernatural key, the Massacre of Sant'Anna of Stazzema. In 2020 he created, together with the Designer Lorenzo Paoli, the illustrated story *The wizard soap and the Terrible Covid* distributed for free in all primary schools in Italy as didactic support for the dissemination of anti-contagion rules. In 2021, his first novel *Hypno* was released, published by *La Memoria del mondo*. A thriller aimed at teenagers that tackles the delicate and current issue of the dangers behind the use of smartphones and applications.

Plot 12+

Two teenagers, love at first sight on the shores of the Elba Island, days spent chatting to each other, a missed date, then nothing more. Six months have passed since their last meeting, when Alice writes to Giulio claiming to be in danger and begging him to return to the island to help her. The boy decides to indulge her but, as soon as he disembarks, he starts to understand that something strange is really going on and that she may not be the only one in danger.

What really happened on the night of their last date? It is in that doubt that the answer lies, the key to everything. It will be up to him to reconstruct, in a fight against time, the intricate puzzle that remained unfinished during those months of deafening silence. And tile after tile, clue after clue, what emerges will be a truth that no one would ever want to know.



THE RULES OF ANGER **Mariapaola Pesce**

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **120**

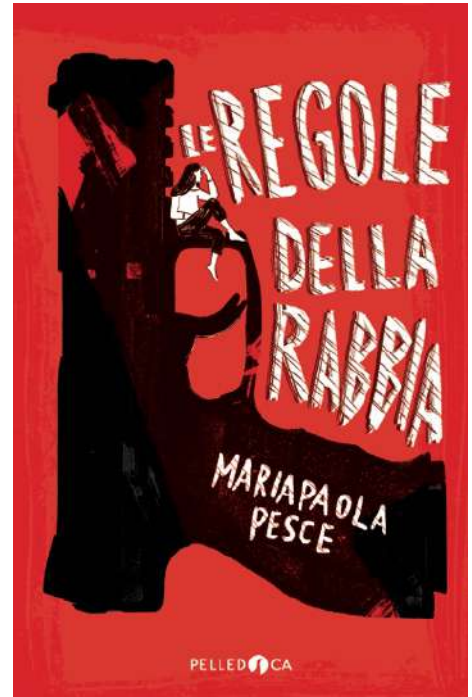
PRICE **€ 16**

ISBN **978-88-3279-049-8**

RELEASE **MARCH 2022**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm



- There are decisions that lead to dead-end roads and encounters that can change your life.
- A sharp and engaging novel that tells of strong characters, deep feelings and transformations.

Mariapaola Pesce

Born in Genoa, a bookseller by family trade, then trainer and executive coach, today she's finally working on writing and training. Between 2018 and 2021, in Italy and in France, she published about ten picture books and children's novels and two graphic novels. She's quite nosey so, besides running creative writing workshops, editing, ghost writing and literary coaching under the *Ararat* brand, she also coordinates the training and reading promotional project "Omero – Gli scrittori raccontano i libri", and organises festivals in which she can interview other authors and illustrators, and all this because she still hopes to learn how to draw.

Plot 12+

At this point, it seems nothing is destined to be easy for Suzi. First, the teachers and school staff pity her because of the loss of her mother; then there's her father's arrest, implicated in a bribery scandal; and lastly the mocking from her classmates. Suzi's pain, her loneliness, her struggle to adapt to a place she doesn't recognise herself in, quickly transform into a hatred and desire to end it all. But she won't go alone: her classmates have to pay too, them more than anyone. Suzi just has to properly plan how and who is going to experience all her pain and fear. But she hasn't accounted for Isabella, the new janitor who works on her floor. She's young, pretty and passionate about gardening. She seems a happy person, in a sincere way. Since school started back, Isabella's offered her a refuge when she's needed space, a shield against the excessive attention of her classmates, an excuse for returning late to her foster home. But Suzi can't allow Isabella to break down her walls and end up thwarting her plan. So, quickly, she even moves away from this unique chance of freedom. The vortex of anger and pain into which she's fallen is isolating her from everything, in a spiral which is destined to take her towards an epilogue that could scar her forever.



UNTIL YOU SEE THE SEA

Milvia

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **200**

PRICE **€ 16**

ISBN **978-88-3279-048-1**

RELEASE **MARCH 2022**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm



- A debut novel from a sensitive and very original author.
- A narrative journey inspired by Little Thumbling, that travels between reality and fiction, news and imagination.

Milvia

Born in Naples, she lives and works in Rome. She has two kids, two cats and a garden. Illustrator and graphic designer, she worked for many years as an art director for big advertising agencies. Since 2017, after Bottega Finzioni, she has returned to writing for children and young adults - which is what she loves most. Some of her picture books are soon to be published in Italy and abroad, and her debut novel is being released by Pelledoca. Her *daemon* is a white rabbit which, like its illustrious predecessors, is always in a rush and would like everything it deems urgent to be done immediately, or better, yesterday. Milvia however, gives him a hard time. As always, the white rabbit bounds along, but now Milvia is finally keeping up, with dizzying free falls and crazy ventures into territories still unknown.

Plot 11+

Pollo (Chicken) has a serious and respectable real name too of course. He's called Lucio. It's his four older brothers who call him that, because he's all bony and reminds them of the yard chickens in their slum. But being a Pollo is miles better than being a blind kid, like the children mutilated by Cowboy.

The young disabled kids compete with Pollo and his brothers in the begging business at the station. That's where the old man leaves them every morning, while he devotes himself to the bottle, and less frequently, to taking care of his ill wife. It's also where Pollo meets Leyla, one of Cowboy's children. But Leyla isn't really blind so, when Cowboy captures Pollo, they both manage to get away, taking his precious golden-toed boots with them. Their escape then turns into an initiation journey towards freedom, during which they'll meet different characters, including the woman who put Leyla into Cowboy's hands. Their path is crossed by a policeman whose soul has been devastated by the loss of a child: his help will be crucial for their final salvation, symbolically represented by the sea.



THE CURSED TWIN Fulvia Degl'Innocenti

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **200**

PRICE **€ 16**

ISBN **978-88-3279-053-5**

RELEASE **JUNE 2022**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm



- Fulvia Degl'Innocenti returns with an intense novel which, amongst the light and shadows, delves into the difficult relationship between siblings.
- The story of twins with a special unbreakable connection that seems to be able to challenge anything, even death.

Fulvia Degl'Innocenti

She was born in La Spezia. She lives and works in Milan as a journalist for the magazine "Famiglia Cristiana". In 1998 she published her first book for children and since then she has never stopped. Soon she will celebrate the line of 100 books, among which illustrated books and novels for young adults. Many of her books have been translated all over the world, from Brasil to China. She received many awards, such as the Bancarellino and the Andersen Prize. She is the editor-in-chief of the fiction series *Il parco delle storie*, published by Edizioni Paoline and is the President of the Italian Children's Writers Association (ICWA). *The cursed twin* is her second novel for Pelledoca, after the release and reprint of *Softly*.

Plot 11+

Children often have imaginary friends: so, when Paolo, at three years old, adds a seat at the table for Leonardo, his parents are not so worried and play along. Paolo and Leonardo live in symbiosis: they talk, play, share fears and joys. Until, at the age of ten, the parents decide to take their son to a child psychologist and, after many meetings, a disturbing hypothesis arises: Paolo believes that the imaginary friend is his twin brother who died before his mother could even know of his existence. According to the therapist, however, the boy suffers from only child syndrome. So, his parents decide to open the way for foster care and, by the time Paolo is thirteen, Massimo arrives at home, an eleven-year-old who has been removed from his drug addicted parents. With time, Leonardo seems to lose his important role. Rage and jealousy only increase his resentment towards Massimo. Soon, a series of mysterious accidents start to happen and Paolo understands that it's his twin brother who's responsible. The two boys decide to face Leonardo, whose fury, however, is now uncontrollable: will they be able to save themselves?



OUTSIDER
Antonio Ferrara

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **160**

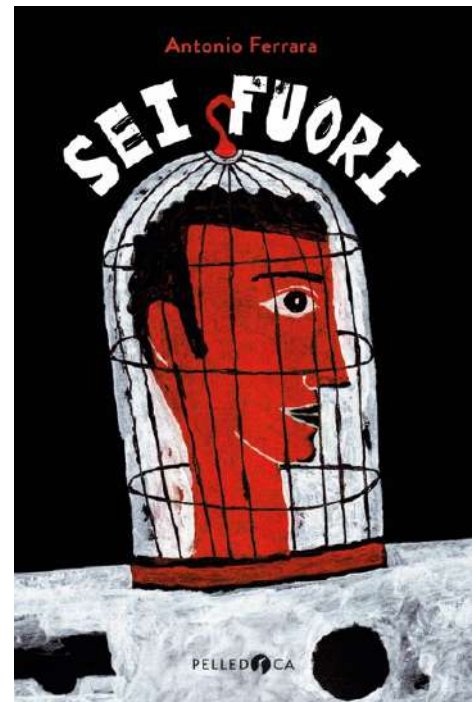
PRICE **€ 16**

ISBN **978-88-3279-060-3**

RELEASE **SEPTEMBER 2022**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm



- The story of a boy, suffering from a rare disease, and his friend, two “one-offs” united by the struggle to grow up among superficial people lacking patience and curiosity.
- Engaging writing that catapults the reader between the pages, making them feel what the characters feel.
- An author much appreciated by children who favours social themes and stories with a strong link to reality.

Antonio Ferrara

Antonio Ferrara is a writer, poet and illustrator. He has worked in an accommodation community for minors. He holds writing workshops in schools, libraries, prisons and hospitals. He has published with several publishing houses and received numerous awards, including, as a writer, the "Andersen Award" in 2012 for the book *Ero cattivo* (Edizioni San Paolo) and, as an illustrator, the 2015 "Andersen Award" for *Io sono così* (Edizioni Settenove, text by Fulvia Degl'Innocenti).

Plot 12+

You are outsider, they tell you, when in fact you are locked inside a cage that no one wants to open. You are strange, they tell you, you are not like the others. Glauco, thirteen years old, has a rare disease, the kind that has to do with chromosomes, and knows what it means to be different. Beatrice, called Bea, thirteen years old just like him, is his best friend. A shy girl, good at school, a book lover and, in particular, scary stories. Bea does everything she can to pass unnoticed until Glauco comes into her life and she suddenly finds herself in the spotlight, always. At the bar, on the train, at school, everyone is watching. Or rather, they watch him. Glauco, whose name means sparkling, lights up her life: he runs, dances, shouts, sings, overwhelming everything with his exuberance and sweeping Bea's shyness away. Hanging out with those who are different, however, takes courage and open-mindedness because people are afraid of persons like Glauco. And fear is not easy to defeat. But the two friends, bound by the desire to be happy, will fight to earn their place in the world.



THE CLUE
Luisa Mattia

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **200**

PRICE **€ 16**

ISBN **978-88-3279-059-7**

RELEASE **SEPTEMBER 2022**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm



- Three boys improvise themselves as detectives to investigate a crime that will lead them to delve into one of the darkest periods in history. But what to do if no one is what they seem to be, starting from the victim?
- A gripping story linked to an obscure affair from the past, which took place in post-war Rome.

Luisa Mattia

She lives and works in Rome. She has written numerous novels for children and young adults, which have also been translated abroad. Her books have received numerous awards. In 2008, she received the prestigious 'Andersen Award' as best writer. She is the author of "Melevisione" and "L'albero azzurro", successful television programmes for children, broadcasted on Rai Yoyo. She has invented and written the brand new programme "Calzino" for Rai Yoyo. She is the creator and author of the animated series "Nefertina sul Nilo", produced by Graphilm and Cyber Group.

Her most recent texts for the theatre are Zeus and the Fire of the Gods, produced by Teatro Verde in Rome and Leo, produced by Teatro Argentina in Rome.

Plot 12+

The body of Else Cohen, an elderly woman of German origin, is found in the Tiber, near the Tiber Island. After an initial hypothesis of suicide, the police investigation leads to a formal charge of murder against Leo, a boy whom everyone in his neighbourhood calls "the fool" because of his obvious mental retardation. But Leo is not a violent boy. This is well known by Serena, a teenager who lives in the same suburban area isolated from the centre of the city. Serena has no particular sympathy for Leo and, like everyone else, treats him like a "fool" but, in the case of Else's death, she knows that the boy is not responsible. She stubbornly claims this, but no one listens to her: Leo is the perfect culprit. Serena, however, does not give up and together with two other boys - Marchetto and Cristiano - begins her very own investigation, which starts from the victim's biography.

Who really was Else? Who could have wanted her dead? It is the beginning of a search that leads them to explore Rome, to discover the history of the ghetto and that catapults them into the past, until the final revelation that will definitively exonerate Leo.



ANIMAL'S HEART
Davide Sarti

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **180**

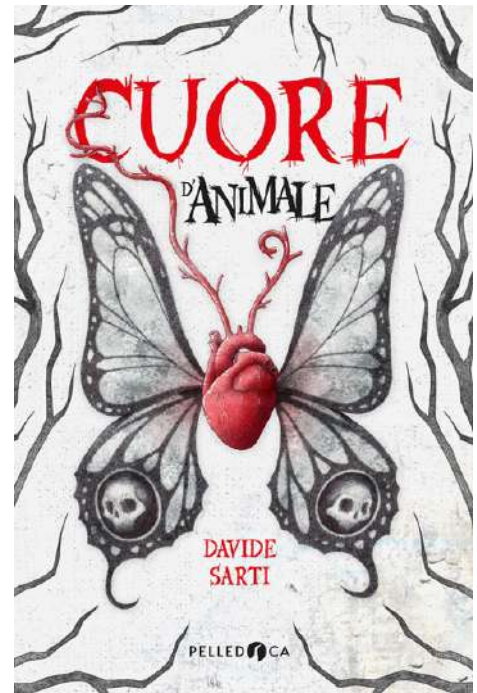
PRICE **€ 16**

ISBN **978-88-3279-065-8**

RELEASE **FEBRUARY 2023**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm



- A coming-of-age story based on the legend of the Benandanti, characters endowed with special powers who protected Italian villages from the actions of witches and sorcerers.
- Pathos, mystery and fear at the centre of a tale that evokes a dark past, bringing to light ancient feelings of rage and revenge.

Davide Sarti

He lives in Bologna. After graduating in Japanese language and culture, he was published in magazines and fanzines. In 2016, his comic *Swan Power* was published and in 2018 the essay *Understanding Manga. Graphic and narrative characteristics*. In 2021, the novel *Le streghe del Mezzanotte* (The Witches of Midnight) was published by Edizioni Corsare. He attended the course in "Audiovisual and multimedia productions for children and young people" at the writing and screenwriting school Bottega Finzioni of which, in 2020, he also attended the advanced course.

Plot 11+

During a village festival, 14-year-old Mattia suddenly finds himself transformed into a caterpillar. This event, which everyone knows as The Curse, turns the young boy's entire life upside down. He flees the village and takes refuge in the eerie-looking forest that surrounds the village. There he meets Camilla, Elio and Alvisè, and realises the enormous scale of what has happened to him: as a caterpillar, he only has a few months to live before the animal takes over and he transforms into a butterfly, destined to live only a few hours. Yet, Mattia does not give up, so he decides to react and understand the origin of the curse. Together with his other companions in misfortune, he starts researching and questioning fellow citizens, until he finds an archive with photos of all the 'cursed' of the last fifty years. He also discovers that there are strange connections between the mayor of the village and a witch killed by the villagers seven hundred years earlier.

Digging deeper and deeper, the young boy uncovers a terrible truth, buried by an attitude of suspicion and distrust that, like a black blanket, has shrouded the entire community for centuries.



MURDER IN THE RECIPE

Fabrizio Altieri

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **180**

PRICE **€ 16**

ISBN **978-88-3279-067-2**

RELEASE **FEBRUARY 2023**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm



- A story of old friendships, desire for glory, ambition and thirst for revenge.
- A thrilling detective story set in the early post-war period that transports the reader on an unpredictable hunt for the culprit.

Fabrizio Altieri

He was born and lives in Pisa. After graduating from classical high school, he graduated in Mechanical Engineering and currently teaches at a professional institute. He has published many books for children and adults and travels around Italy to meet his readers in schools and wherever they call him. As a child, he wanted to be an inventor and succeeded. Thanks to his books, he invents entire universes, people and animals that he often meets on the street and they greet him. He loves to write detective stories because in this way he can strike down the wicked and send them to prison. In fact, he never meets them in the street.

Plot 10+

Summer 1919. In a luxury seaside establishment, Asio Gioberti, a famous chef, is found dead from many bee stings. One thinks it is a misfortune, but Clara and Rolando, two siblings on holiday with their parents, suspect murder and start investigating together with their friend Tulletto. Thanks to their determination and a few little tricks, they discover that, during that summer, Ginestra Stoppini, an old lady in her eighties, had rented a cabin that someone was using secretly. To punish and expose the culprit, the old lady had devised an elaborate plan: she had replaced the sunscreen with an ointment that attracted bees, so that the intruder would be stung. Something, however, did not add up: Chef Gioberti would have had no reason to use the widow Stoppini's cabin, as he had his own cabin. The murderer, therefore, had decided to lure him there knowing of his allergy, which turned out to be fatal. Who could have wanted the celebrity chef dead? And, above all, why? The mystery deepens but the kids, clue after clue, manage to trace the culprit, bringing to light a story of old friendships, desire for glory, ambition and thirst for revenge.



CURSED SHAKESPEARE

Francesco Bedini

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **200**

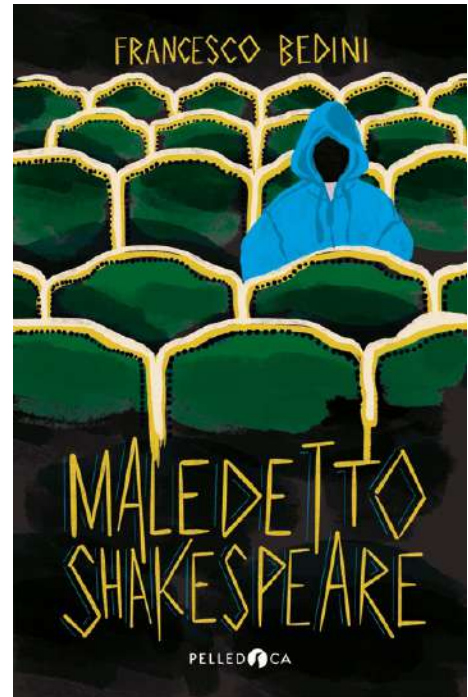
PRICE **€ 16**

ISBN **978-88-3279-066-5**

RELEASE **FEBRUARY 2023**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm



- In a dark game between truth and suggestion, Jonathan is in a danger of losing his identity: will he be able to save himself?
- Trials of love and demonic rituals as the centre of a disturbing story, linked to the Shakespearean play *The Tempest*.

Francesco Bedini

He was born in Sassuolo in 1984. After working as an educator in after-school and cultural centres, since 2012 he has been running his own lutherie workshop where he builds and repairs electric guitars. He also holds courses in the construction of musical instruments with recycled objects and popular evenings on guitar and music. He lives in Ferrara and often walks to work so he can stroll along the historic walls. He is a maniacal fan of comics, cinema, literature and music. If he does not write at least a little every day, he becomes restless and his dream is to write a Spider-Man story. He is the author of the fantasy series *Il mio gatto si chiama Odino* (Editrice il Castoro).

Plot 13+

Zoe is obsessed with Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and asks Jonathan to pass some love tests for her along the lines of the play. The first test follows the plot of the play: there will be no physical relationship between the two, not even kissing. Until the staging of the play, it will be just pure love. The boy, intrigued by the request, accepts. Jonathan, however, does not know that Zoe is part of a sect that, under the disguise of a theatre company, wants to summon Setebos, the demon mentioned in *The Tempest*. The same love tests to which Zoe has subjected him are part of the ritual to summon the demon that is now inside him, waiting. The moment the curtain closes on the premiere, the boy is deprived of his identity. Jonathan, devastated by Zoe's betrayal, loses his mind and is terrified of being possessed. Alone and frightened, he finds himself having to understand what is suggestion and what is truth, in a dark game that has as its prize, or price, his life.



BRUCIA LA STREGA **Teo Benedetti**

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **180**

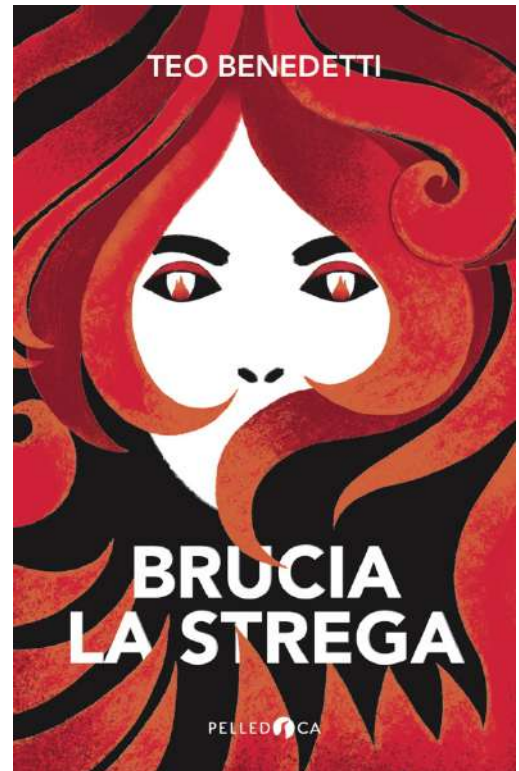
PRICE **€ 16**

ISBN **978-88-3279-068-9**

RELEASE **MARCH 2023**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm



- After the success of *Lunamadre*, Teo Benedetti returns with an even more powerful and disturbing novel, transporting his protagonists into an affair with horror overtones.
- A black story, a curse from which there is no escape and new characters hiding dark secrets. The witches are back and Benedetti is their cantor.

Teo Benedetti

Born in Lucca (Tuscany), Teo has always been living buried in books, comics, albums, movies in a house where there isn't anymore a free space to allow more stuff. After making up surrealistic and far-fetched stories he goes back and forth to present them to the most creative audience on the Earth: the kids. Some of his stories have been published by Edizioni EL, Einaudi Ragazzi, Fanucci Editore, Editoriale Scienza, Pane e Sale. After *Lunamadre* and *The revenge of the forest*, for Pelledoca editore, he publishes *Burn the witch*.

Plot 11+

Summer is over in *Lunamadre*, and the tragic story - told in the previous volume - has almost been forgotten by the four main characters. So, with the arrival of autumn, it is time to make new choices, have new adventures and, perhaps, return to everyday normality. Right from the start, however, Mary discovers that her "gift" causes problems, and although she tries to fight it with all her strength, it causes dramas that fall on her, her loved ones, and the new world she must face. Despite attempts for help from her boyfriend Filippo, of Carlo and Lorenzo, she enters a vortex of horror and despair from which she cannot get out. And her acquaintance with the twins, who appear friendly at first but who conceal a terrible secret, further complicates the situation. Thus, a grim journey begins for Mary to discover her black side, hoping to find a light at the end of it all.



LA FUGA DI PAT

Roberto Piumini

NOVEL

SERIES **NeroInchiostro**

PAGES **180**

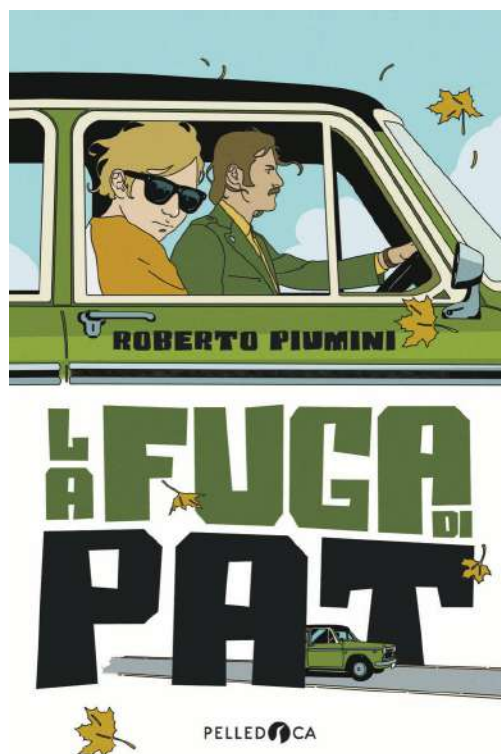
PRICE **€ 16**

ISBN **978-88-3279-069-6**

RELEASE **MARCH 2023**

Paperback with jacket

Format 130 mm x 210 mm



- A relentless chase from England, passing by train under the English Channel, through the heart of Europe to Italy: amidst ambushes, suspicions and mystifications.
- A great children's writer tell us a gripping story with an important theme at its heart: the increasingly widespread use of doping in youth sport.

Roberto Piumini

He was born in Edolo, Valcamonica, in 1947. He lives in Milan. He was a teacher, a pedagogue, a conductor of expressive groups, an actor. Since 1978, he has published books of poems, nursery rhymes, fairy tales, stories, novels, and plays with about eighty publishers. He meets many groups of children in schools and libraries. He composed about thirty poems on expressive and research materials of groups of teenagers. He has written many texts for choirs and musical plays. He is the author of radio plays, short stories, poems, novels and poetic translations for adults. Many of his books have been translated abroad.

Plot 11+

Patrick is Pat, a promising star of youth football, so good that he deserves a place in the most coveted Sports Training Center: Fulton. But one day, Pat escapes from Fulton climbing over the wall of the Center, and starting a hunt for the boy without catching breath and without limits. Together with Samuel, an old photographer met by chance and willing to help him, he will move outside of England, trying to hide from his pursuers. Why is he fleeing and who is following him, getting closer each time? Something heavy and strange hovers over the Center, Pat is sure of it. In there he always felt nervous and threatened, and the behavior of the managers is very suspicious. Samuel and Dr. Malstone are also convinced of this. Yet to find out what happens and make the truth public, there is only one solution left, the most dangerous: Pat must return and provide Dr. Malstone with the evidence she needs.

OCCHIAPERTI

Illustrated stories





BLUE. A different story of Bluebeard

Beatrice Masini

ILLUSTRATED STORY

SERIES **OcchiAperti**

PAGES **80**

PRICE **€ 18**

ISBN **978-88-3279-003-0**

RELEASE **SEMPTEMBER 2017**

Softcover with jacket

Format 170 mm x 240 mm



- Beatrice Masini won the “Elsa Morante Prize”, the “Andersen Award” and was shortlisted for the “Campiello Prize”.
- By the Italian translator of Harry Potter, a story on the extraordinary strength of women.
- Evocative drawings by one of the most talented Italian illustrators, Virginia Mori.

Beatrice Masini

She lives between Brusuglio, a small suburban town, and the Garda Lake countryside. She has two children, Tommaso and Emma. She has been writing since her childhood and has previously worked as a journalist for two newspapers (“Il Giornale” and “La Voce”). Afterwards she moved on to the publishing industry as a translator, editor, and author. She writes for readers of all ages, and it’s the story to decide where to lead her: to illustrated stories for little kids, novels for kids and young adults, or novels for adults.

The rewrite of ancient stories is one of her recurring passions because voice – to wellknown characters of renowned yet not fully revealed s

Virginia Mori

She was born in Cattolica (Rimini Province), graduated from the School of Animation Film and Illustration in Urbino, won the “Sentieri Selvaggi” competition and the “SRG SSR Idée Suisse Prize” at the Annecy International Project. She took part in the “FilmMakers festival” at the Chiostro of Pordenone, where she won the “FriulAdria Quality Award”.





«A renowned Italian author rewrites a classic fairy tale which has always aroused ambiguity, anxiety and fear. A psychological and poetic version for today's little girls and tomorrow's women. Blue is the only one among Bluebeard's wives to be destined to survive counting on her own strength, perspicacity, quick thinking, and promptness.»

Plot 11+

All fairy tales are disturbing, and most are scary. For sure Bluebeard is one of the most frightful: a blood spot on a gold key, wives murdered and hung in the dungeon like cloaks on hooks. And, as often the case in fairy tales, all this happens without us knowing why. This rewrite precisely attempts to explain the protagonist's motives. At least until Blue shows up. Blue is the last wife, the only one destined to survive counting on her own strength, on her perspicacity, on her quick thinking and promptness, on her ability to deduce and connect the dots. Blue and Bluebeard play cat and mouse throughout the story. However, we don't know who the cat is and who the mouse is.





A SMALL MAP OF FEARS

Andrea Valente

ILLUSTRATED STORY

SERIES **OcchiAperti**

PAGES **96**

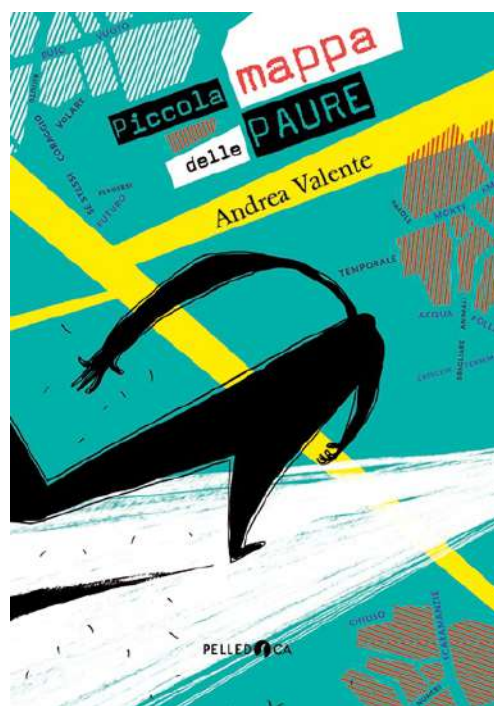
PRICE **€ 18**

ISBN **978-88-3279-004-7**

RELEASE **SEPTEMBER 2017**

Softcover with jacket

Format 170 mm x 240 mm



- 21 stories, 21 characters and 21 fears help the reader understand that the only way to overcome an obstacle is to face it.
- Stories by a “New York Times” contributing author.
- Andersen Award winner and inventor of a kids favourite character: Pecora Nera.

Andrea Valente

Writer and illustrator, he is the author of more than thirty children books. He was honoured with the Andersen Award as “all-around author”. He reached success thanks to “The New York Times” and later started collaborations with “Linus”, “Comix”, “Il Corriere della Sera”, “Pimpa magazine”, the TV show for kids “l’Albero Azzurro”. In 1995 he invented the cartoon character Pecora Nera and the cultural project “La Pecora Nera & altri Sogni”, carried out in the Nisida juvenile hall.

Sonia Zucchini

Born in Bologna, after graduating from the Liceo Artistico Statale in Bologna, she started working in the advertising industry as a freelance illustrator, cartoonist, and graphic designer. Among her clients: Giunti Scienza, R.C.S. Libri, Gruner Mondadori, Black Velvet editrice, Hachette, Sinnos editrice, Philip Morris Italia, Federconsumatori Marche, CER Medical. Since 2005 she has been collaborating with Panini, Marvel Italia unit. Since 2013 she has been focusing mainly on the web together with AltaSartoria Web Design Agency. She has participated in many exhibitions and was awarded with several prizes.





«A map of the fears which accompany the growth of any kid and often affect adult life as well: from the fear of the dark to the fear of death. From the phobia of voids to the fear of confined places. The fear of others and the fear of making mistakes. The fear of growing up and not being accepted. The fear of loving and the fear of the future.»

Plot 9+

Who is the guy living in the deepest, most impenetrable pitch-black darkness without complaining? And how can Enrica carry inside her small pieces of four dead people? Where does the voice pushing Filippo to grasp the girl's wrist and convince her to follow him under the cherry tree come from? Paola would jump without a problem, but higher rather than down, because she doesn't like water. She doesn't like it in any form, not even the clear, blue, transparent water below her. Roberto is scared of growing up too fast, or even to grow up at all.

Twenty-one protagonists, boys and girls, twenty-one stories, twenty-one fears.





WALDO BASILIUS

Tiziano Fratus

ILLUSTRATED STORY

SERIES **OcchiAperti**

PAGES **80**

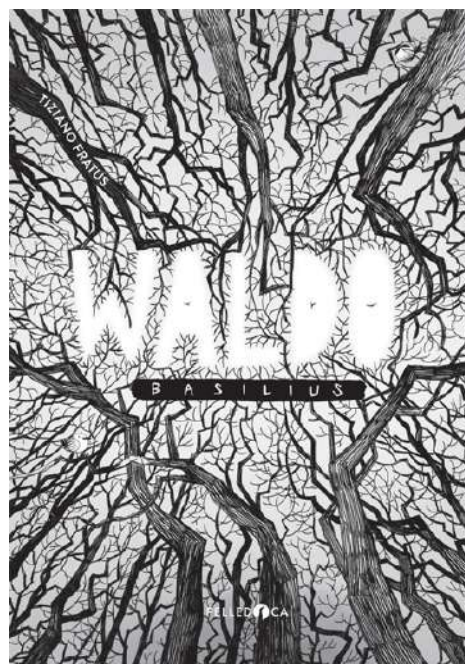
PRICE **18 €**

ISBN **978-88-3279-008-5**

RELEASE **JUNE 2018**

Hardcover

Format 170 mm x 240 mm



- Tiziano Fratus presents a gothic fairy tale about the inclusiveness of the stranger and the quest of a place to be called home. Emanuele Giacometti, a talented illustrator inspired by Gipi and Milazzo, depicts a forest full of monsters.
- An experimental writing and novel. A mysterious story, an allegoric fantasy for teenagers.

Tiziano Fratus

Italian writer and poet, he is a passionate “searcher of trees”. He travels looking for centuries-old forests where is possible to meditate, measure, register, and photograph. He writes about forests and plants. In front of the thousand-year-old redwoods of California he conceived the concepts of “*Homo Radix*”, “*Arborgraphia*”, “*Déndronsophìa*”, developed in many books, such as *L’Italia è un bosco* (Laterza 2014), *Ogni albero è un poeta* (Mondadori 2015), *L’Italia è un giardino* (Laterza 2016). The bestseller *Il Manuale del perfetto cercatore d’alberi* (2013) is published by Feltrinelli. His most recent book *I giganti silenziosi* is published by Bompiani. He collaborates with the daily Italian newspaper “La Stampa”.

Emanuele Giacometti

Born in 1982 in Sampierdarena (Genoa Province), he graduated from the artistic high school and (almost) graduated in Contemporary History. He collaborates with “*Lucha Libre*”, “*Bradiponauta*”, and “*Costola*”. The multimedia reportage *Do you remember Balkan Route?* is among his most recent works. His first publication, much inspired by Gipi and Milazzo, is *Il regno animale* (Bébert 2017).





«Mrs Magher has learnt quickly to cook the meat of the wild pigs. The wrinkled noses bring them to her already dead and she takes them because this little human doesn't absolutely want to eat wood and bark as does any other wrinkled nose. Is that the delicatessen that the old fellows pick up in the forest, once per month, staying out many days. Not always they are back safe and sound because the forest is hostile and doesn't like the intrusion of the wrinkled noses. But the noses must go anytime the supplies are almost over.»

Plot 13+

Waldo Basilius is a baby when he is found by the wrinkled noses, a population of strange giants of the forest. People inside out, talking backwards. Here people were born wise and grow old foolish. The only giant taking care of Waldo is Mrs Magher, a step-mother who tries to bring him up as a wrinkled nose. But Waldo is a stranger, he will have to cope with emargination. His destiny seems to be that of a ghost, ignored by all. The solution comes from the trees of the forest and the hostile nature surrounding the village of the giants. A world made of insects, animals and plants; symbols and methaphors of how difficult is growing up. Trees, books, nature and words become the guides of Waldo through a journey of mistery and blood which will end up in the comprehension of himself and the find of a home.

It will be a journey useful to understand that the somewhere else is only the world inside out because the feelings that move the universe are the same everywhere. Humankind, to which he belongs, loves and hates as do the wrinkled noses. Waldo will find out that his lost and found mother is not very different from Mrs Magher.





THE MISTERIES OF CIRCUS TREPIDINI

Chiara Lorenzoni

ILLUSTRATED STORY

SERIES **OcchiAperti**

PAGES **96**

PRICE **€ 18**

ISBN **978-88-3279-009-2**

RELEASE **JUNE 2018**

Hardcover

Format 170 mm x 240 mm



- The first novel by Chiara Lorenzoni, appreciated for her illustrated books and stories.
- Blades, axes, and razors: the weaponry of a knife thrower against two brave kids.
- The fascinating world of the circus, a jewel thief, blood and chopped fingers are the elements of macabre mysteries to be solved.

Chiara Lorenzoni

She was born in 1971 in Padua, where she attended the “Piccola scuola”, a creative writing school directed by writer Giulio Mozzi. In 2009 she published her first book, a collection of stories and nursery rhymes, *Attila, Adalberta... e chi più ne ha più ne metta* published by Lupo.

In May 2010 her story *Le scarpe di Elia Torvecchia* gained a special mention at the 43rd edition of the international contest “H.C. Andersen – Baia delle favole” dedicated to unpublished fairy tales. For the series “Giralangolo” published by EDT she wrote *Romeo Mozartin e la frutta canterina*, and for Lapis publishing company she wrote *Le parole di Bianca sono farfalle*, *Quello speciale*, and *Sogni con la coda*. Chiara Lorenzoni is one of the coordinators and the artistic director of Lecce Picture Book Festival.

Laura Re

She graduated at the Comics School in Rome and she specialized as a character designer and illustrator at the animated film production studio Studio Animundi. She attended the international school of illustration in Sarmede (Treviso) and after moving to Milan she attended a Master in Illustration (Mimaster). Back to Rome, she illustrated educational books for Pearson publishing company and for Eli La Spiga Editions the books *Storie di fantasmi per il dopocena* by Jerome K. Jerome and *Novelle scelte* by Pirandello. For Lapis publishing company she illustrated six titles of the series *Quelli della Rodari*.





«There, standing up on a bed of colorful pebbles, immersed in a transparent liquid, there was a finger. A human finger. On the spot Giulietta's mouth dried out. In her mind echoed the shaken voice of Sibilla during her nightmare: "... fingers like fish..." A horrific premonition clamped her stomach. She turned the little vase slowly. Now the finger was looking at her. Pale and white. With a little nail almost translucent, after having lost its natural pink shell color. A golden blaze grabbed her gaze. At the bottom of the finger was a little golden ring. Two interlaced circles with a snagged bead. Giulietta opened her mouth wide in a silent yell and all of a sudden dropped the little vase.»

Plot 9+

Giulietta is alone in the world. Her only distant relative is Ulderica, the "Cobra Woman", whose husband is Goffredo Trepidini, the famous knife thrower, owner of the well-known Circus Trepidini. The lonely Giulietta – her sister Martina has run away from the circus – is the protagonist (or, better, the target) of dangerous and sadistic shows: The Coffin of the Pirate, The House of the Butcher, The Rug of the Fakir, and The Tank of Death. Giulietta's only friends are the circus' trained doves and Victorious, a solitary and abandoned boy working for the Trepidinis. The two kids are very close and protect each other, with the help of the fortune teller Sibilla and the taciturn giant Alonso. Often, while they're in town, weird robberies happen at the same time as the shows: the police enquires but with no success. The kids, suspecting the Trepidinis may be the culprits, start searching and eventually find out the stolen goods in Ulderica's trailer. After horrific discoveries and an attempted escape, everything collapses: Goffredo tries to kill the kids to hide his crimes; but thanks to Sibilla and Alonso, the kids are saved and Giulietta is reunited with her sister.





ALLIES OF THE WIND

Otto Gabos

ILLUSTRATED STORY

SERIES **OcchiAperti**

PAGES **144**

PRICE **€ 18**

ISBN **978-88-3279-010-8**

RELEASE **OCTOBER 2018**

Hardcover

Format 170 mm x 240 mm



- Otto Gabos is the winner of “Premio Andersen 2018” for Best fiction series.
- By a “professor of comics” an illustrated novel mixing mystery and adventure.

Otto Gabos

Mario Rivelli (alias Otto Gabos) was born in Cagliari in 1962. In 1985 he debuted in the comic magazine “Tempi Supplementari” and since then he has been featured in the most important comic magazines. Together with Emilio Clementi he has collaborated on *Finale di sangue*, a story inspired by the well-known character of Fantomas. He has written many series for the magazine “Cyborg” both for Star Comics and Telemaco. For the publishing company Phoenix Gabos has written the graphic novel *Cold Graze*, and the miniseries *Apartments* and *San Pietro*. He illustrates covers and books for Einaudi, Zanichelli, Paravia, Bruno Mondadori, Giunti. For Lang publishing house he has realized a graphic adaption from the novel *Un sacchetto di biglie* by Joseph Joffo. In 2010 he published the graphic novels *Sarti Antonio. Come cavare un ragno dal buco* for Leonardo Publishing and *La giustizia siamo noi* for Rizzoli. Besides being a graphic novelist, a writer, and an illustrator Gabos is professor of Comics at the Accademia di Belle Arti in Bologna.





«Professor Fausto Crea has forgotten by now how long he has been locked up. Without any reference point he had soon lost track of time. In his captivity, nothing could help him in understanding if it was day or night. Few were the sounds, few the smells. Everything looked minimised and muffled as if the space had been submitted to a preventive treatment of a total sensorial flattening. Fausto Crea was living in an everlasting aseptic present.»

Plot 11+

Trieste is a special city, with many borders and bridges, full of History and stories, a true hub of different cultures, whose corners hold mysteries and myths. Fausto Crea, an eccentric scholar, cat lover and passionate collector of rare books, tries to solve them and finds out new ones over and over. Bruno Berg, a colleague, has been his main competitor since ages. They challenge each other in hunting more and more complex mysteries. The only prize is keeping on a never-ending chess game between them. Arcangela, a 13-year-old kid, the new neighbour of old Fausto, will change this equilibrium. Arcangela and Fausto will be at first friends, then mentor and apprentice, and finally allies when Fausto asks her to join him in the challenge against Bruno Berg. Everything looks beautiful and exciting, discovering the secrets of Trieste is wonderful, until one day hooded strangers wearing Habsburg costumes kidnap Fausto Crea in front of the little girl without any explanation. The situation starts tumbling down and Arcangela can't do anything but ask the mean Bruno Berg for help, since he's the only one who really knows the secrets both of the city and Fausto's, who has a past to hide. The game turns and gets more and more dangerous. Arcangela and Bruno Berg will put aside their mutual fears and distrust and will become allies in order to rescue Fausto Crea from a terrible destiny, in a race against time that engages people nostalgic of the old Empire, looters of antiquities and madmen.





I SAW YOU
Sara Colaone

ILLUSTRATED STORY

SERIES **OcchiAperti**

PAGES **112**

PRICE **€ 18**

ISBN **978-88-3279-018-4**

RELEASE **OCTOBER 2019**

Softcover with jacket

Format 170 mm x 240 mm



• **Shortlisted and mention for Children's Literature Award 2021.**

- A novel written and illustrated by one of the most Italian talented cartoonists.
- A tactful story unveiling the many worlds – none of them better than the other – where our emotions can inhabit.
- The fears, the worries, and the uncertainties of a teenager who faces the swings of her life.

Sara Colaone

She was born in Pordenone in 1970. She is a cartoonist, an illustrator, and a short animated designer. She has published for Kappa Edizioni, Dargaud, Coconino Press, Norma editorial, Schreiber&Leser, Centrala, Stripburger, Giunti PE, Zanichelli, Pearson Italia, and has illustrated for the magazines "Internazionale", "Le Monde Diplomatique DE", "Rivista Il Mulino", and "Ventiquattro Magazine". Among her works, *Pranzo di famiglia*, *Lupin III*, *Monsieur Bordigon*, *In Italia sono tutti maschi*, *Ciao Ciao Bambina*. Sara teaches Cartoon and Illustration at Accademia di Belle Arti of Bologna. She says that over the years she has learnt to work everywhere: while travelling, standing, eating or waiting for the school let out. «A drafts-man is always working and cannot allow breaks between thought and action. It seems mind-blowing but it's somehow beautiful.»





«After what happened yesterday, she feels a deep calm inside herself. She looks around and all the objects she sees, the surroundings, even her own thoughts are sharper, clearer. All of the sudden everything is on focus.»

Plot 11+

Bad grades plus an absurd hairstyle means the call for a family meeting. The solution is only one: a week at granpa Gianni in his mountain hut. Luce doesn't know if this is a bad or good solution. Finally, she went away alone for the first time in her life. A twelve-years old girl with an old backpack, her beloved herbarium, and a brand new haircut. The yellow house is her grandfather's mountain hut, amidst the wood and the snow. That's the place of the stories and tales which she listens open-mouthed. This time, however, the story is borderline between fiction and reality. It seems that an enormous and dangerous creature is wandering around Bosco Alto and Luce has the hard evidence of his presence. In the meantime her grandfather is every day more and more weird and misterious. Luce had come here to get away and rejoin her once-close granpa, but now everything is different, all has changed, and she is again, as always, out of sync, out of sorts.





THE GOOSEBUMPS HOUSE

Beatrice Masini

ILLUSTRATED STORY

SERIES **OcchiAperti**

PAGES **80**

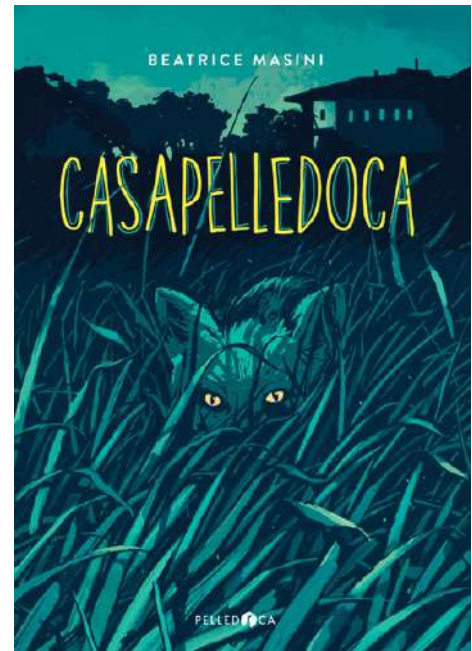
PRICE **€ 18**

ISBN **978-88-3279-019-1**

RELEASE **OCTOBER 2019**

Softcover with jacket

Format 170 mm x 240 mm



- A shivering story telling the first experiences of a city boy in contact with the wild nature in the new house where he has just moved.
- Beatrice Masini loves telling the inner side: what is inside our minds and hearths, inside the houses and the events.
- By a pluriawarded author a scary story accompanied by a bit of humor.
- The details and the light and shade effects by Lorenzo Conti put into life the illustrations.

Beatrice Masini

She lives between Brusuglio, a small suburban town, and the Garda Lake countryside. She has two children, Tommaso and Emma. She has been writing since her childhood and has previously worked as a journalist for two newspapers ("Il Giornale" and "La Voce").

Afterwards she moved on to the publishing industry as a translator, editor, and author. She writes for readers of all ages, and it's the story to decide where to lead her: to illustrated stories for little kids, novels for kids and young adults, or novels for adults. *Casapelledoca* is her second book published for Pelledoca, after the release of *Blu. Un'altra storia di Barbablù*.

Lorenzo Conti

He was born in Tivoli and lives in Roviano (Rome province). He studied illustration in Rome and Dublin. To be able to realize something that just before was only inside his mind is one of his most rewarding results. He collaborates with daily newspapers and magazines, publishing houses and animated film production companies. He is the winner of "Tapirulan Prize" (2016 edition) in the illustration contest.





«I have been living here only for six months, but so many things have happened so far that I have lost my appetite. After all, however, the blame for everything is the silence and what I have said earlier. It's so easy to hear the silence: the pebble outside creaking under the feet. Of whom? The walls breathing, in short, indeed it's dark and inside the dark you hear something panting. What is that? Who is it?»

Plot 8+

Ten-years-old Riccardo has moved from the city to the countryside. It's not sure if he likes living in an isolated house, surrounded by greenery, with wild animals just outside his door. These are amusing things when you read them in the books, but the reality is a totally different matter. In that unwelcoming place the darkness seems even darker and the silence never shuts. Also being holed up inside the house is not a good solution because the house itself and its surroundings are animated by scary sounds and unsettling presences. Weird phenomena begin to happen. Riccardo is sure that what he hears in the garden are screams and moreover the foot-tracks on the snow appear enormous in comparison to his. All that weirdness, more and more threatening, is happening just while Christmas day is coming. No doubt, the house has certainly something wrong. A mystery that Riccardo will soon solve.





DRACULA'S TALE
From the novel by Bram Stoker
Serenella Quarello

ILLUSTRATED STORY

SERIES **OcchiAperti**

PAGES **112**

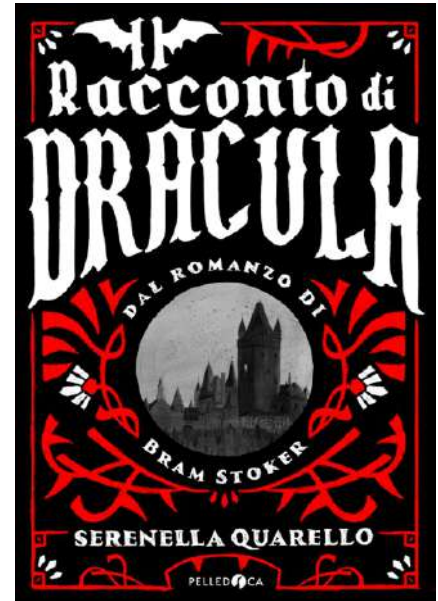
PRICE **€ 18**

ISBN **978-88-3279-026-9**

RELEASE **MARCH 2020**

Softcover with jacket

Format 240mm x 170 mm



- Readers cannot help but identify with the characters of this gothic breathtaking adventure novel fighting against time and evil.
- Diaries, cards, letters and the incisive writing style of an author familiar with classical literature.

Serenella Quarello

She was born in Asti in 1970. She found out her love for writing children and kids books in 2007. Since then she cannot do without writing. She publishes for Rizzoli, Orecchio Acerbo, Thule, Avenauta, RG&C, Narval, HOP!, Rapsodia, Tramuntana. She teaches Spanish in a high school and writes educational books for teaching Spanish language, her true passion. In this field she publishes for CIDEB DeA, Pearson and Loescher. With *El barco volante y los personajes estrafalarios* she won the Prize "Álbum Ilustrado Edelvives". She writes screenplays for the theater and runs the student theatre company "Las Máscaras" winner of many awards. Noir is her favourite literary genre probably because as a child rather than reading "Topolino" she flipped through books on Goya having a great fun in being frightened of the monsters created by her favourite painter.

Fabiana Bocchi

She was born in Parma. Graduated from Istituto Statale d'Arte P. Toschi, she attended the St. Martin School in London, the school of illustration in Sarmede, the illustration course at the Accademia di Belle Arti in Macerata together with Maurizio Quarello and few others. She collaborates as freelance illustrator with many communication agencies and publishing companies, among which Mondadori Electa, RCS Libri, Gruppo Editoriale Principato, Pearson International, Salani, DeA Black Cat, Edizioni Corsare, Zanichelli, Fragatina, Thule, Tramuntana, Avenauta.





DOCTOR SEWARD'S DIARY

«It's weird! The ship doesn't yet show up. Secretely, the professor and I look at Mina's teeth. We are a bit worried. She spends lots of time sleeping, afterwards she awakes with a good complexion and cheerful again. All that arouses Van Helsing's suspicions.

Hypnosis doesn't always work.
The whole affair is very weird.»

Plot 11+

That's the story of Count Dracula, the most famous vampire of all the times. If this book which gathers diaries, transcriptions, letters, notes, telegrams, newspaper articles, and even train schedule falls into the hands of some curious readers, who knows if they will believe all what happened to the protagonists. Mina, the brave secretary fan of train schedule, turns into an adventurous reporter. Jonathan Harker lives in the castle with the Count challenging him in order to save his wife Mina's life. Doctor Seward turns from a detective of the human psyche into an investigator of the occult. Professor Van Helsing accomplishes his mission from Holland throughout Europe: to destroy Evil. Quincey Morris, a brave and a bit loudmouth American, unfortunately loses his life. Lord Arthur, the miserable Lucy's boyfriend, takes on the terrible task "to drive stakes through the hearths". Renfield, the crazy fly eater, is slaved to the Count. And of course Him, the Count Dracula, charming, powerful, but probably slaved himself to a greater Evil. We like the idea that this weirdo club of characters is successful in fighting and overcoming the most tremendous vampire in the Carpathians, in the name of friendship and love.





I SEE BLACK
90 stories on anything black
Andrea Valente

ILLUSTRATED STORY

SERIES **OcchiAperti**

PAGES **104**

PRICE **€ 18**

ISBN **978-88-3279-024-5**

RELEASE **MARCH 2020**

Softcover with jacket

Format 240 mm x 170 mm



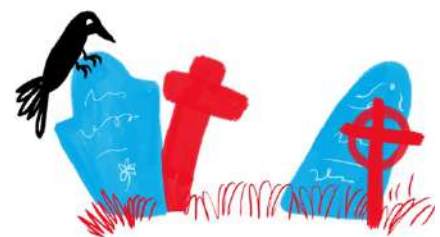
- Ninety stories for smiling or shivering, exploring whatever is black: the black coat, the black moon, Blackbeard, the Blackfoot tribe, the dark eyes, the black sheep, the black spider, the black chess.
- With his musical and ironic writing Andrea Valente sketches in his very personal style a series of short stories linked by a black color thread.

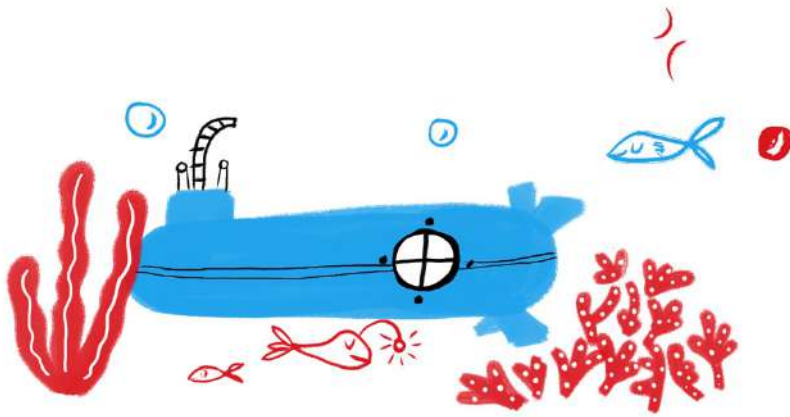
Andrea Valente

Writer and illustrator, he is the author of more than thirty children books. He was honoured with the Andersen Award as “all-around author”. He reached success thanks to “The New York Times” and later started collaborations with “Linus”, “Comix”, “Il Corriere della Sera”, “Pimpa magazine”, the TV show for kids “l’Albero Azzurro”. In 1995 he invented the cartoon character Pecora Nera and the cultural project “La Pecora Nera & altri Sogni”, carried out in the Nisida juvenile hall. *Vedo nero* is the his second book published for Pelledoca.

Anna Pini

She is an illustrator and a graphic designer. She studied illustration and visual graphic design at ISIA in Urbino after her degree in Science of Communication at the University of Verona. She collaborates with publishing companies, magazines, bookshops and schools on projects relating to illustration, graphic design and books. She enjoys and uses a minimalist and humorous style, better if hilarious. In 2017 she received a “Merit Award” in the educational category from the prestigious American association 3x3 for her thesis project and has been selected by the illustration contest Tapirulan among the best illustrators. She has worked for Einaudi Ragazzi, EL edizioni, DeAgostini, Teatro alla Scala, American Airlines.





«Once upon a timethere was a black man. Fully black, from the head to the toes. He had black skin, black hair, dark eyes, black eyebrows. He had often a black mood. He wore a black hat, black sunglasses, a black shirt with black buttons, a red tie – blood red – a black jacket, black trousers, black and shiny shoes, black socks, a black mantle. When he left, people kept recalling and talking about him as the man with the red tie.»

Plot 10+

Once upon a time, before Big Bang, when nothing existed, everything was black. And when everything is over and the last man, getting out, switches off the light, everything will turn black again. More or less halfway between the beginning and the end there is this book which is not black, but it's about black. Page by page ninety short stories about black follow each other only apparently at random. Stories, notes, hints, oddities, aphorisms, and ideas which are purposely open to the imagination of the readers. Well, if now you are the reader you could try to free your imagination in the dark and check what's going on but I know that this might be risky. What if somebody all of the sudden switches on the light and catches you with your hands in the jar and your nose stuck in the book? What a fright! Okay, well, it's fine also reading the book under the light – no worries –since the black is not a color and probably it's not as dark as it could appear.... It's obscure, maybe yes, or perhaps this is only the way we all are used to look at it.





APNEA
Brian Freschi

ILLUSTRATED STORY

SERIES **OcchiAperti**

PAGES **100**

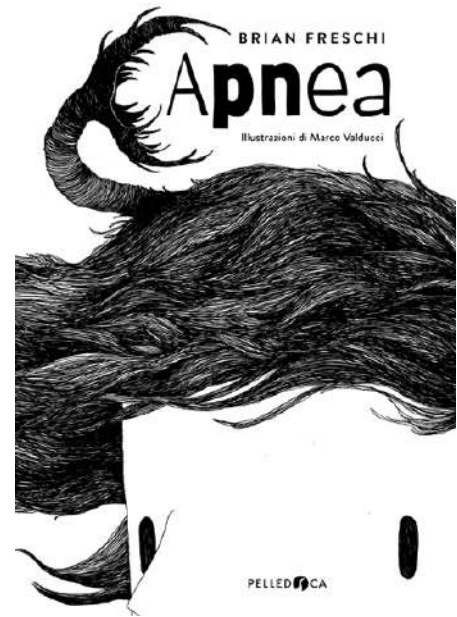
PRICE **€ 18**

ISBN **978-88-3279-028-3**

RELEASE **OCTOBER 2020**

Softcover with jacket

Format 170 mm x 240 mm



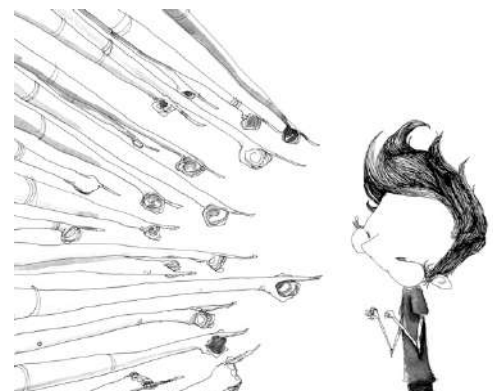
- Fear can be a little monster always next to us, little by little it takes our breath away leaving us out of breath... But soon enough it's an April morning and the little monster goes away allowing us to breathe deeply.
- A delicate story about doubts and fears that we don't have to worry about too much because growing up they leave us and go elsewhere.
- Two young and eclectic authors boasting many prestigious editorial collaborations.

Brian Freschi

He was born in 1993. Before specializing in screenwriting and creative writing he has worked many years for the theatre and the scenic arts. Since 2015 he has been collaborating with the artistic collective Manticora writing many comic books for several publishing companies, such as BAO Publishing, Kleiner Flug, Noise Press, Attaccapanni Press and MaliEstremi. Since 2018 he has been collaborating as an author of illustrated books for children with Pelledoca Editore, Sassi Junior, Bacchilega Junior and Giazira. He has worked for Gucci, Smemoranda, Banfi, L'Inquieto Magazine. He teaches creative writing and screenwriting for comic books.

Marco Valducci

He was born in Cesena in 1990 and is the son of two goldsmiths. During his years of schooling he spent many hours drawing. After his working debut in the world of cooking in 2016 he got back to his passion for drawing and attended the International Comics School of Reggio Emilia, specializing in illustration. Fallen in love with the children's literature he started working in this field planning workshops for children and producing commissioned works. Currently he is working on his first illustrated books and is designing a clothing line.





«During a hot April morning a little monster hid in my hair. My mom said that it was fine and she had hosted him for a long time.»

Plot 7+

During a hot morning a little monster decides to wrap himself around the hair of a kid. The kid doesn't know how to handle the situation, he doesn't know what this new situation involves and at the end decides to spend his days together with the little monster. Soon they become good friends. But one day the kid makes a deadly discovery: the little monster has the power, anytime he likes, to take the kid's breath away and stop him from speaking. As long as is it possible to live in apnea? Until the monster goes away... maybe.





ANSELMO AND GRETA

Francesco Formaggi

ILLUSTRATED STORY

SERIES **OcchiAperti**

PAGES **84**

PRICE **€ 18**

ISBN **978-88-3279-029-0**

RELEASE **OCTOBER 2020**

Softcover with jacket

Format 170 mm x 240 mm



- In this contemporary rewriting of a classic fairytale what is in danger is not the body of the kids but rather their inner image because the wicked witch is greedy of images. She wants to eat the childhood innocence, the exuberance, confidence, love, imagination and strength of the children's heart. She will fail.
- Like old trunks or magic chests fairytales preserve a very old wisdom made of a simple but fundamental knowledge.

Francesco Formaggi

He was born in 1980 in Anagni, in the Frosinone province. He graduated in Philosophy from the University of Bologna. He has worked for literary magazines and has run workshops of fiction writing for adults and kids. Currently he is a High School teacher. His first novel *Il casale* published by Neri Pozza in 2013 was finalist for the "John Fante First Novel Award". In 2017 he wrote the novels *Il cortile di pietra* (Neri Pozza) and *Non chiudere gli occhi* (Pelledoca).

Marino Neri

Cartoonist and illustrator, he was born in Carpi, in the Modena province, in 1979. After his graphic novels *Il re dei fiumi* (Kappa edizioni, 2008) and *La coda del lupo* (Canicola, 2011), both translated in France and in South Korea, in 2012 he won the award "Nuove Strade" by Napoli Comicon and "Centro Fumetto Andrea Pazienza" as the best emerging talent. He has collaborated with several newspapers and magazines, such as "Il Sole 24 Ore", "Internazionale", "Le Monde", "Linus". In 2016 he wrote *Cosmo* (Coconino Press Fandango) and in 2018 *L'incanto del parcheggio multipiano* (Oblomov). *Numo salva la luna* was published in 2019, his first comic book for children, by Canicola.





«Anselmo and Greta are not sleeping, at least not tonight. They communicate in silence, without speaking, through hand gestures, a private way of expression similar to the language of the mutes, although they are not mute. They create the letters of the alphabet with their fingers...»

Plot 11+

This rewriting of Hänsel and Gretel changes the historical time and the sets of the original fairytale. The big city where the kids get lost replaces the wood; the paint marks that Anselmo scatters on the city sidewalks after stepping on the artwork of a street artist replace the bread crumbs that Hänsel drops on the footpath; a princely buffet of candies in a hotel room replaces the gingerbread house; a glamorous lady, a powerful influencer on Instagram, who hides a terrible violence behind her makeup, replaces the old wicked witch. The world and the historical period change, also the adventure changes, but the heart of the fairytale pumps the same blood.





THE GHOST FRIEND

Sabrina Rondinelli

ILLUSTRATED STORY

SERIES **OcchiAperti**

PAGES **80**

PRICE **€ 18**

ISBN **978-88-3279-034-4**

RELEASE **APRIL 2021**

Softcover with jacket

Format 170 mm x 240 mm



- A story that explores important themes such as the end of a deep friendship and the mourning of death.
- The rarefied and pictorial illustrations of one of the most talented Italian illustrators.
- A dry and sharp writing for a crescendo of tension between tight dialogues and spaces for reflection.

Sabrina Rondinelli

She was born in 1972 in Turin, where she graduated in Literary Subjects with a theatrical focus. After teaching for twenty years in public schools, today she is completely dedicated to writing. She has published short stories and novels, both for children and teenagers, and for adults, that have been awarded and translated also abroad. Expert of creative writing and of reading education, she is part of ICWA, the Italian Association of Writers for children and teenagers.

Andrea Calisi

Andrea Calisi was born in Rome in 1968. For many years he lived in Perugia with his own large family (four sisters, one brother and many animals). After completing his artistic studies, he started working in a social cooperative teaching creative workshops in a semi-residential facility for schizophrenic children. He then moved to Rome where he intensified his experiences as an illustrator and graphic designer. The experience as teacher in a kindergarten in Rome was important and significant, as he is enjoyed drawing and playing with children. He works with the most important publishing houses and his own works have been exhibited in museums and galleries.





«Mia doesn't say anything. She just lowers her head and, at the same time, I feel sucked into an abyss of loneliness and anger, in a black and liquid space where I feel like I am drowning.»

Plot 12+

Camilla and Mia, best friends, made a pact: nothing and no one can separate them. The friendship between the two girls is quite exclusive. In particular, Camilla is jealous of Mia: she wants her all for herself and does not accept that others may interfere with them. So, when Betty comes on the scene, she feels betrayed. Day after day, Mia walks away. But the real reason for Mia's change is another one. Camilla is not a real girl. She died two months ago; it's just a memory that still lives in the friend's fantasy. And like all memories, when time passes, it is bound to disappear. As Mia forgets her, Camilla begins to fade. Mia is torn between guilt and the desire to start her life again, while Camilla does not want to die a second time and becomes more and more suffocating, intrusive, dangerous...





ARI AND THE MASTER OF POISONS

Paolo Roversi

ILLUSTRATED STORY

SERIES **OcchiAperti**

PAGES **104**

PRICE **€ 18**

ISBN **978-88-3279-033-7**

RELEASE **APRIL 2021**

Softcover with jacket

Format 170 mm x 240 mm



- Roversi managed to create another of his special characters, a girl with a particular "gift" and the right flair for the mysteries to be solved.
- Skillful builder of detective and crime plots, Roversi plays with appearances, suspicions, and questions writing a story that is light and at the same time intriguing and full of suspense.
- The biting and contemporary illustrations by a young illustrator selected from the best industry awards and considered among the most interesting voices on the Italian scene.

Paolo Roversi

Writer, journalist and screenwriter, lives in Milan. He collaborates with newspapers and magazines and is the author of characters for cinema and television series, theatrical performances and short films. He teaches courses of crime writing for the "Holden school" of Turin. He writes for adults and children. He published books for major publishing houses, he won the Camaiore Prize for crime literature (*The left hand of devil*, Mursia), the Bancarella Selection Award and the Garfagnana Award in crime (*Only the time to die*, Marsilio). His novels are translated in eight countries. He is the founder and director of the review dedicated to crime and noir "Nebbia Gialla Suzzara Noir Festival". He created the "Milano in Bionda crime and noir festival". He is the founder and director of MilanoNera web press, a portal entirely dedicated to crime literature.

Andrea Franchini

From Brindisi, born in 1997, graduated from the "E. Simone" artistic high school. Subsequently, he obtained a degree in the three-year course of Comics and Illustration of the Academy of Fine Arts of Bologna. He is currently enrolled in the academic course of Comics languages of the same Academy. He is among the authors selected by the Authors Association of images as one of the most interesting voices in the context of Italian illustration.





Plot 10+

All people have a characteristic smell and Ari has the gift of recognizing it. It is about perfumes or smells that others do not feel but she, a thirteen-year-old girl who has now learned to exploit this skill of hers, does. From the smell that a person emanates, Ari can understand many things. She often helps her father Bart in his investigations, but this time it's different: the stranger who has just arrived in town is a kaleidoscope of smells. Ari is baffled because it had never happened to her before: so, she renames him "the master of poisons" because she imagines that that could be the occupation of that one mysterious person. The stranger is never seen around, he only goes out to go to the store to get supplies. Why did he move here? What's his job? One day, just before the only road that connects the town with the rest of the valley is closed for an avalanche, something happens that requires all the attention of Ari and her father. A couple, husband and wife, disappear. The inhabitants begin to suspect that the stranger killed them... It will be up to Ari and her father to solve the mystery.





DEADLY FLOWERS

Cristina Brambilla

ILLUSTRATED STORY

SERIES **OcchiAperti**

PAGES **80**

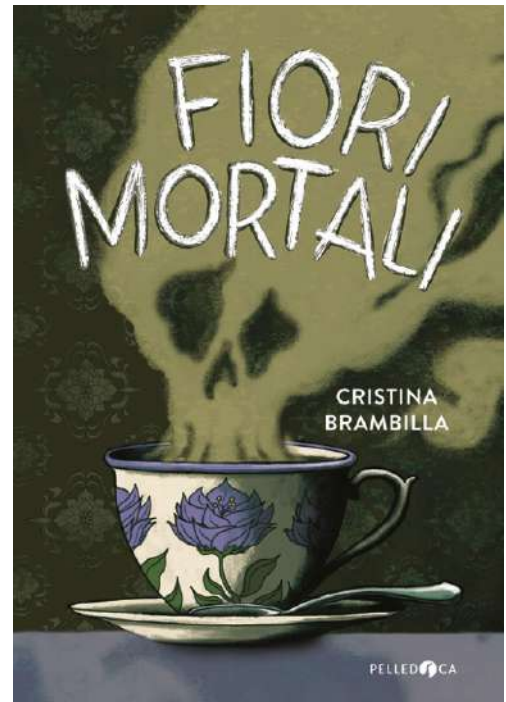
PRICE **€ 18**

ISBN **978-88-3279-062-7**

RELEASE **NOVEMBER 2022**

Softcover with jacket

Format 170 mm x 240 mm



- A story set shortly after the end of the Second World War, in a still suffering Milan. However, death seems to have no intention of leaving the city...
- Jewellery, poisons, unscrupulous characters: these are the main ingredients of a tale full of mystery, enhanced by unsettling illustrations.

Cristina Brambilla

She lives in Milan. She has worked as a copywriter and editorial consultant, also working on translations. She directs the Babalibri's "Superbaba" series of first readings.

She has written editorial products for the Internet, television projects and novels for children published by Salani, Mondadori, Giunti, Il Battello a Vapore, Rizzoli.

Francesco Montesanti

Freelance illustrator, born in 1984, he was born in Calabria and has lived in Perugia since 2003. He graduated in Art History in 2011 and, after various work experiences, he decided to devote himself to his greatest passion: illustration.

A graduate of the master's degree in illustration for publishing ARS IN FABULA in Macerata in 2015, he has been part of the Becoming-X art collective since 2018, specialising in live-drawing events accompanied by live music. The techniques he uses the most are ink/graphite on paper reworked and digitally coloured.





Plot 11+

Milan, 1946. The Second World War has been over for a year, and one would think that everyone had had enough of death. But no. For some, killing is a job and jewellery-making a passion. Or vice versa. Anyway, it is something that can attract rich ladies before having their husbands bury them. Or vice versa, because when it comes to deceiving and murdering, our man makes no distinction between genders. He is anonymous, opaque, invisible: quite the opposite of a beautiful piece of jewellery or a promise of love. Like the city that hosts him, his name is also surrounded by a curtain of fog, so much so that no one remembers him. Everyone knows him as the jeweller of Maggiolina. And it is in this man, as mysterious as he is ambitious, that a mother and a twelve years-old son run into. They have lost their husband and father, they still have a house and a tailor's shop to run, and many girls who rely on that salary. The mother and son would just like to live peacefully, perhaps spend a nice evening at La Scala, hastily rebuilt to give a sign of hope to the Milanese who have suffered so much: hunger, fear and bombs. Someone, however, has other plans. Plans to get their hands on the business, on the house, on those naive girls full of dreams. Plans as brilliant as a diamond flower and as dangerous as a drop of poison...





THE KIDS OF BALTIMORE HOUSE

Daide Cali

ILLUSTRATED STORY

SERIES **OcchiAperti**

PAGES **80**

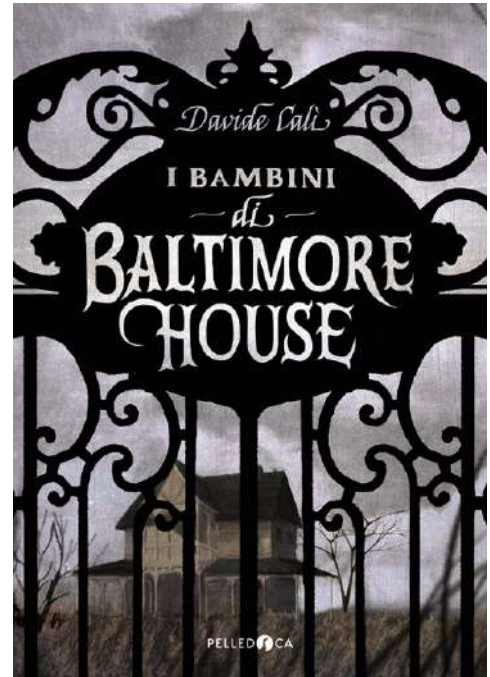
PRICE **€ 18**

ISBN **978-88-3279-031-3**

RELEASE **NOVEMBER 2022**

Softcover with jacket

Format 170 mm x 240 mm



- Mysterious apparitions in a disused hotel make an old story about a former hospital for children with rare deformities resurface.
- The vivid illustrations of a young italian illustrator convey the disturbing atmosphere of an episode from the past.

Daide Cali

Born in Switzerland, he is a cartoonist, illustrator and author of children's books, with almost a hundred titles to his credit, translated in over thirty countries, some of them award- winning in France, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Spain and the United States. In 2020, he started a series of online projects to promote reading. He has published with several Italian publishers, including Terre di Mezzo, Orecchio Acerbo Editore, KITE Edizioni, Zoolibri. *The Kids of Baltimore House* is the first title published for Pelledoca Editore.

Riccardo Renzi

Born in Macerata in 1989, he began his education at the Cantalamessa State Art Institute in Macerata. He then enrolled at the Macerata Academy of Fine Arts, where he graduated in graphic design for illustration. In 2014 he graduated from the Ars in Fabula Master in Illustration for Publishing and in 2015 he was one of the illustrators chosen to illustrate Montagna, published by Rizzoli, his first publication. In 2021 he specialised in animation in the motion design course at Cfp Bauer in Milan.





Plot 12+

After his wife left him, the writer finds by chance, in a drawer, the novel he had interrupted years before and decides to finish it. Yet, to do so he needs a special place, in slight decline, like his state of mind. He arrives at the Baltimore Hotel, a dilapidated old hotel: welcoming him there is Miss Kraven, a lady with a face covered in fine wrinkles, and Alighieri, an enormous cat with smoke-coloured fur. Right from the start, however, the writer notices that something is wrong: he perceives disturbing presences, glimpses silhouettes of children, while strange writing appears and then disappears right away. One day, while in the library, he discovers that the place was once called Baltimore House, a hospital for unfortunate children suffering from rare deformities. In 1966 there had been a fire in which everyone had died, but the body of Ellis, the little girl who had appeared in his room during the first night, had never been found. Shaken and terrified, the writer just wanted to leave. Something, however, holds him back, prompting him to investigate. And, putting together the pieces of the puzzle, he discovers a disconcerting truth... But how to bring it to light? Who will ever believe him?





THE EMPORIUM OF FEAR

Chiara Cacco

ILLUSTRATED STORY

SERIES **OcchiAperti**

PAGES **80**

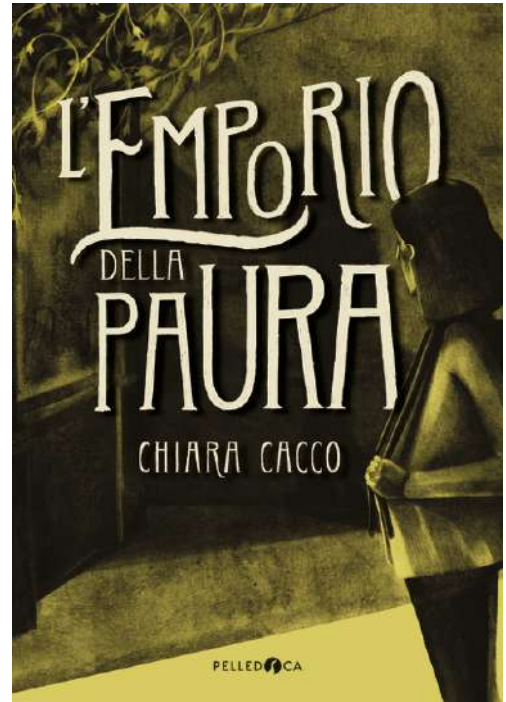
PRICE **€ 18**

ISBN **978-88-3279-061-0**

RELEASE **NOVEMBER 2022**

Softcover with jacket

Format 170 mm x 240 mm



- They do not know where it comes from or where it is headed. It appears suddenly, where there was nothing before: the Emporium of Fear is an unparalleled condensate of terror and mystery.
- A magical story, as dense as the thickest fog, that leads the reader to wander through pages and images, searching for a way out.

Chiara Cacco

Class of 1982, she was born in Pianiga, a small village in the Veneto countryside, and grew up in a cottage, full of books and creaks. Today she lives in the province of Vicenza where she writes and teaches at a secondary school: specialised in educational support activities, she deals with inclusion and initiatives to create enthusiasm for reading in children. *The Emporium of Fear*, her first children's book, that was first thought of in 2020 while participating in "Sotto il segno della paura", the writing contest to train future authors to write for children, organised by Pelledoca Editore and Grandi & Associati.

Benedetta Baraldi

Born in Rome in 1996, after obtaining her art diploma, she enrolled at the ISIA in Urbino, where she completed first the three-year course in Graphic Design, and then the two-year specialisation course in Illustration. She currently lives in Milan where she works as a freelance illustrator and graphic designer, attending the Master's degree in Paper and Digital Publishing at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore.





Plot 11+

It is night. Agnes is climbing down from her bedroom window. She is angry at the whole world but, above all, at her mother who, ever since her little sister was born, whom she had with her new partner, no longer seems to consider her, so much so that she has even forgotten her twelfth birthday! So she decides to run away: she starts wandering aimlessly, surrounded in a light fog that becomes thicker and thicker, turning the deserted streets of the city into a labyrinth. At a certain point, she realises that she is wandering in circles, always ending up in the same place: in front of the illuminated window of a shop that, despite the late night, is open. But what kind of shop is that? As she looks around, a voice surprises her from behind: it is Mr Fobos, the owner of The Emporium of Fear. The man explains to her that what she is admiring is his personal collection and all the items on display have one thing in common: they hide a story, a story of fear. In order to possess those objects, Agnes will have to have the courage to listen to the story attached to each one. Story after story, however, the situation becomes more and more disturbing and the girl does not know how to get out of it. Will she manage to return home?



PICCOLE PIUME

First readings





SUSAN DUCKLING AND THE CASE OF THE BIRTHDAY PRESENT

Maddalena Schiavo

ILLUSTRATED

SERIES **Piccole Piume**

PAGES **56**

PRICE **€ 11**

ISBN **978-88-3279-040-5**

RELEASE **SEPTEMBER 2021**

Paperback with jacket

Format 165 mm x 225 mm

High Legibility Fonts



- Piccole Piume is the new series of first readings for the little ones. More space to the illustrations, great care for the texts and a highly readable font.
- The first adventure in a series starring Susan Duckling, a little, fearless and determined investigator struggling with unusual and very particular mysteries.
- The atmosphere of an old London gives a background to stories full of surprises.

Maddalena Schiavo

She lives in Montecchio Maggiore in the province of Vicenza, at the foot of the Castles of Juliet and Romeo. After graduating in Philosophy, she worked for many years in a public library. Her passion for writing was born along with the pleasure of reading, until she became an author of children's books. For some years now, she has been publishing several picture books and children's books in Italy. Her books have been featured in major specialist magazines, including Andersen and the national press. She also does animated reading and workshops in schools, libraries and bookstores.

Laura Zani

She lives and works in the province of Brescia. She is a painter and illustrator. Passionate about figurative arts, she first made use of painting as an expressive modality and subsequently also as illustration. Over the years she has participated in numerous exhibitions in Italy, Egypt, China, France, Belgium and Spain and collaborated with several illustrators, and worked at various editorial projects. She received numerous awards and prizes in painting and illustration competitions, both in Italy and abroad. On the catalogue of Italian illustrators "Annual 2020", published by Authors of images, there are some images taken from the picture book *Ssss, the silence!*.



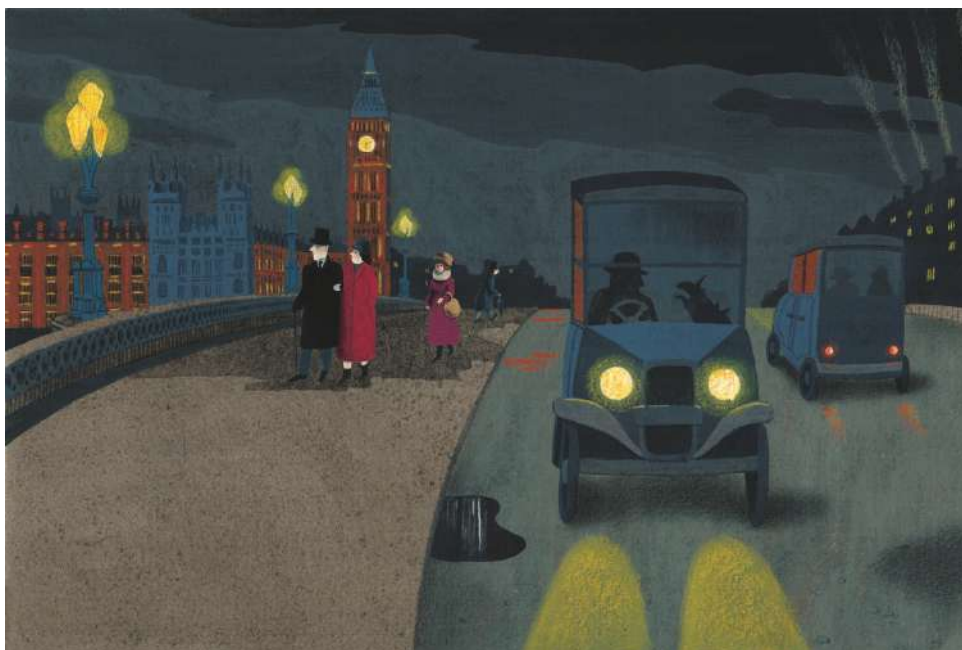


«Ok, Susan, the case is yours: you have a week to solve it. This is mine London Zoo contact and here is also my magnifying lens. Good luck, honey.»

Plot 6+

Susan Duckling the daughter of the most famous Scotland Yard Commissioner in London, asks her dad, for her birthday, an unusual gift: to be able solve one of his important cases. That week, a rhino had disappeared from the London Zoo: the story is on the front pages of the whole national press. It would seem to be just the case for Susan... at least to start. "But where has the poor rhino gone? Who has taken it?" Susan starts her investigations, and it takes very little: a lens, a flashlight and some coins... you never know she might want an ice cream. Clue after clue Susan manages to solve the mystery, moving like a real detective: with observation, method and psychology.

Not alone, of course, but with the help of Officer Puddle, Commissioner Duckling's righthand man, that he will have everything to learn from the little detective!





SUSAN DUCKLING AND THE CASE OF THE MISSING COLD

Maddalena Schiavo

ILLUSTRATED

SERIES **Piccole Piume**

PAGES **56**

PRICE **€ 11**

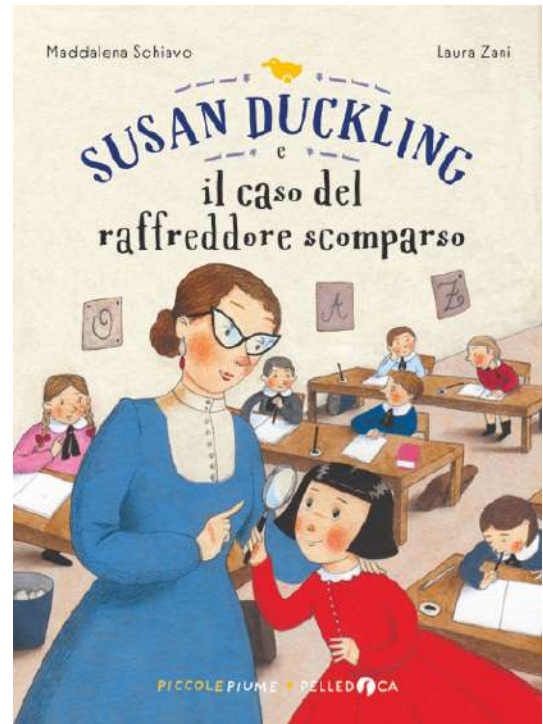
ISBN **978-88-3279-041-2**

RELEASE **SEPTEMBER 2021**

Paperback with jacket

Format 165 mm x 225 mm

High Legibility Fonts



- A new case for little Susan, this one once accompanied by Penelope, the dog with an exceptional nose.
- What is the teacher hiding? The investigations seem to really concentrate at school!

Maddalena Schiavo

She lives in Montecchio Maggiore in the province of Vicenza, at the foot of the Castles of Juliet and Romeo. After graduating in Philosophy, she worked for many years in a public library. Her passion for writing was born along with the pleasure of reading, until she became an author of children's books. For some years now, she has been publishing several picture books and children's books in Italy. Her books have been featured in major specialist magazines, including Andersen and the national press. She also does animated reading and workshops in schools, libraries and bookstores. *Susan Duckling e il caso del raffreddore scomparso* is the second book in the Susan Duckling series, published for Pelledoca.

Laura Zani

She lives and works in the province of Brescia. She is a painter and illustrator. Passionate about figurative arts, she first made use of painting as an expressive modality and subsequently also as illustration. Over the years she has participated in numerous exhibitions in Italy, Egypt, China, France, Belgium and Spain and collaborated with several illustrators, and worked at various editorial projects. She received numerous awards and prizes in painting and illustration competitions, both in Italy and abroad. On the catalogue of Italian illustrators "Annual 2020", published by Authors of images, there are some images taken from the picture book *Ssss, the silence!*.





«...that teacher arouses some suspicion, remember Susan:
“Psychology Susan, Susan observation... and then it is better not trust the journalists!”,
intervenes dad. “But dad, Anne is not a journalist, she is my teacher” replies Susan.
“Whether she is a teacher or a journalist, you will agree with me, you’ll see.»

Plot 6+

Susan’s teacher, Anne, would like to interview Susan’s father, Commissioner Duckling, to discover “the job’s secrets” of the greatest Commissioner of England. Actually, she and her cold intend to test him! Commissioner Duckling smells something odd in the behavior of Mrs. Anne and declares open “the case”, a case to be solved all together, this time: Susan, dad, mom, agent Puddle and Penelope, the dog with an exceptional nose. The investigations are filled with bizarre clues, unusual disguises and prudent chases within the London buildings. And between a riddle, mmh, brain teasers and more, all the pieces of the puzzle fall into place... including the missing cold!





THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE HOUSE

Sergio Rossi

ILLUSTRATED

SERIES **Piccole Piume**

PAGES **56**

PRICE **€ 11**

ISBN **978-88-3279-050-4**

RELEASE **MARCH 2022**

Paperback with jacket

Format 165 mm x 225 mm

High Legibility Fonts



- A story about fear, courage and friendship: three infallible ingredients!
- How can you face something don't know and can't see, but you know is there, hidden in the darkness of the room?
- Fresh, provocatory writing, without ever being too much.

Sergio Rossi

Born in Perugia, he undertook editorial training in Milan and lives in Bologna, the three cities in which he sets his stories. A physics graduate, he's also a school book editor, a writer, an exhibition organiser, comic-book critic, and graphic novel editor and translator. Unbeknownst to him, in 2019 he won the 'Giancarlo Dosi Prize' for public understanding of science with the graphic novel *Nikola Tesla* (Becco Giallo), and in 2021 he won the 'Andersen Prize' for the best graphic novel with *Girotondo* (Il Castoro).

Paola Formica

Born in Milan where she lives and has worked for many years as an adult and children's illustrator. She draws for picture books, novels, school books and magazines, collaborating with important Italian publishing houses. She illustrates columns for magazines, periodicals and newspapers including «Corriere della Sera». She's also the author of silent book and artistic pages for school texts. She's received much recognition for her work, including the 'Andersen Prize' 2018 in the category *Silent book*.





Plot 7+

Something has snuck into Andrea's home to annoy him as much as possible: it hides his things, it wakes him up at night, it slips around suddenly behind his back. Unfortunately it's not his imagination, as his friends who come to visit notice it too, and so does Andrea, who barely sleeps at night and falls asleep during the day, especially at school, where he ends up being teased by his classmates and told off by the teachers. Tired of the situation, he has an idea to confront Something: he'll wear masks inspired by his beloved superheroes. It works: things don't disappear anymore and he can go back to sleeping at night. One evening though, while he's going with his parents to a friend's house, he notices that Something is following him to attack. Andrea will also have to face Chadia, the classmate who inspired his most powerful mask. As long as Something allows him to wear it. As long as Chadia allows Something to come between her and Andrea.





THE SPIRIT OF THE WOODS

Beatrice Masini

ILLUSTRATED

SERIES **Piccole Piume**

PAGES **64**

PRICE **€ 11**

ISBN **978-88-3279-051-1**

RELEASE **MARCH 2022**

Paperback with jacket

Format 165 mm x 225 mm

High Legibility Fonts



- They say that in the woods lives the varvarel, a magical creature, shy, cunning, that loves... collecting stolen hats! But no one has ever seen it ...
- From an award-winning author, a story inspired by the old legends from Trentino.

Beatrice Masini

Born in Milan, she lives between Brusuglio and the Lake Garda countryside. She started writing when she was a child, she was a journalist then she dedicated herself to the publishing world in many ways: as a translator, an editor, a writer. In her stories she loves telling what happens inside: inside heads, inside hearts, inside houses and things. Since 2015 she has been the editorial director of Bompiani. Following *Blu. Un'altra storia di Barbablù* (2017) and *Casapelledoca* (2019), *Lo spirito del bosco* is the third book published for Pelledoca Editore.

Edoardo Sciarra

Born in Macerata in 1993. He studied at Accademia di Belle Arti of Macerata where, in 2018, he received a I level Academic Diploma in "Graphic Art and Illustration" and in 2020 a II level Academic Diploma in "Illustration".

In 2021 he continued his studies at the Ars in Fabula school, where he obtained a I level Master Degree in Editorial Illustration.

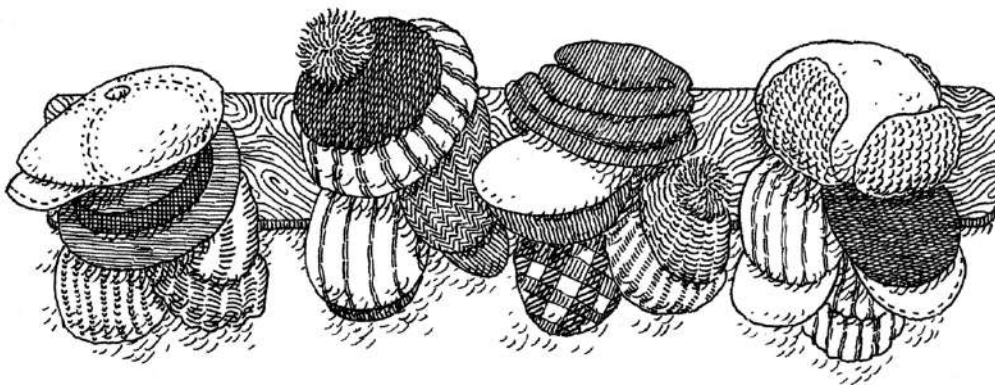




Plot 7+

One day, Ms Decestina assigns the children in her class a challenging task: they have to write a report on a Ladin legend. Toni and Margrit want to do something different from their classmates, so they decide to make one up themselves. So as not to make mistakes, they ask Toni's grandfather to help, a skinny old man with a long beard, who looks like an elf from a stone pine tree and who knows many tales. Indeed, it's none other than grandfather Tita who suggests they start their research with the varvarel, a small creature of the woods that's shy, cunning and collects stolen hats. Enthusiastic, the two kids get to work immediately, sketching an accurate portrait of the varvarel: small eyes, big feet, fur everywhere, greedy for berries and an excellent skier, particularly on off-piste runs in fresh snow. But sometimes, getting wrapped up in a legend can be dangerous.

In the blink of an eye, the mountain transforms into a trap for Toni and Margrit: what if the only way to save themselves is to believe in the impossible?





MYSTERY AT THE CEMETERY

Giuditta Campello

ILLUSTRATED

SERIES **Piccole Piume**

PAGES **64**

PRICE **€ 11**

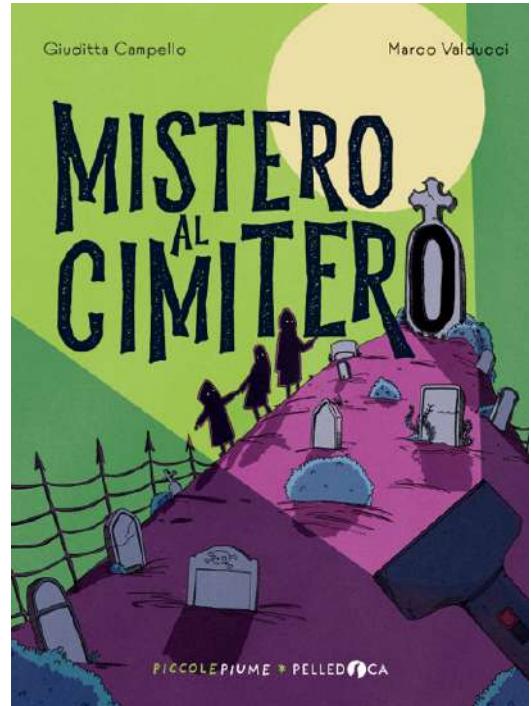
ISBN **978-88-3279-055-9**

RELEASE **JUNE 2022**

Paperback with jacket

Format 165 mm x 225 mm

High Legibility Fonts



- Three friends, an old abandoned cemetery and strange characters form the centre of a story by a young author.
- A perfect adventure for young detectives who love mysteries!

Giuditta Campello

Born in 1987, she lives near Varese. She creates, writes, and reads her stories to children. She has published many books and short story collections. She translates rhyming texts, manages reading courses for little ones, and organises creative courses and after-school activities for middle school kids with the association “La Piuma di Dumbo”, founded together with some friends. She writes for «The Giornalino» and, together with musician Claudio, she started “Storie Suonate”, an animated reading with music project for schools, libraries and bookshops.

Marco Valducci

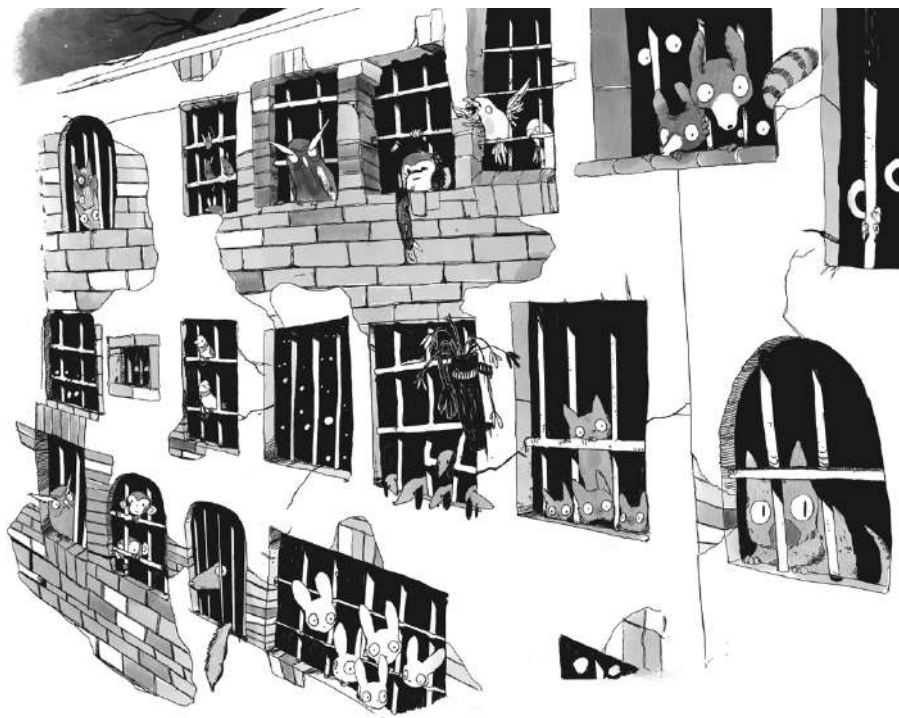
He was born in Cesena in 1990 and is the son of two goldsmiths. During his years of schooling he spent many hours drawing. After his working debut in the world of cooking in 2016 he got back to his passion for drawing and attended the International Comics School of Reggio Emilia, specializing in illustration. Fallen in love with the children’s literature he started working in this field planning workshops for children and producing commissioned works. Currently he is working on his first illustrated books and is designing a clothing line.





Plot 7+

Maddi, Gianluca and Susi discover that near the field where they often play and have picnics, is a small abandoned cemetery which looks a bit spooky. The three friends want to nose around, but an old lady from the town advises them to stay away: according to old legends, it's haunted. Despite this, or precisely because of this, one dark autumn afternoon, they decide to confront their fear and explore the cemetery. Torches at the ready, they move around the tombs until, all of a sudden, they hear a superhuman scream coming from the back of a funeral chapel, followed by rustling, footsteps, and shrieking: is the place really haunted? And are the strange comings and goings of a van spotted during the night connected? The mystery deepens, so the kids decide to investigate.





ZEFFIRINA WHERE ARE YOU?

Chiara Lorenzoni

ILLUSTRATED

SERIES **Piccole Piume**

PAGES **64**

PRICE **€ 11**

ISBN **978-88-3279-054-2**

RELEASE **JUNE 2022**

Paperback with jacket

Format 165 mm x 225 mm

High Legibility Fonts



- A fun story for young investigators who love to solve mysteries. The best way to do it? Following the rulebook of the Perfect Sleuth!
- Chiara Lorenzoni returns with an original story about a strange detective duo.

Chiara Lorenzoni

She was born in 1971 in Padua, where she attended the “Piccola scuola”, a creative writing school directed by writer Giulio Mozzi. In 2009 she published her first book, a collection of stories and nursery rhymes, *Attila, Adalberto... e chi più ne ha più ne metta* published by Lupo (Copertino – Lecce). In May 2010 her story *Le scarpe di Elia Torvecchia* gained a special mention at the 43rd edition of the international contest “H.C. Andersen – Baia delle favole” dedicated to unpublished fairy tales. For the series “Giralangolo” published by EDT she wrote *Romeo Mozartin e la frutta canterina*, and for Lapis publishing company she wrote *Le parole di Bianca sono farfalle*, *Quello speciale*, and *Sogni con la coda*. Chiara Lorenzoni is one of the coordinators and the artistic director of Lecce Picture Book Festival. *Zeffirina where are you?* is his second book published for Pelledoca.

Margherita Allegri

A graduate in Cultural Heritage Conservation specialising in Museum Didactics, she has completed various high level training courses in children’s illustration and oversees an intense educational activity regime in the comics and museum education arena. She has illustrated various children’s books and produces comic strips for magazines, institutions and private citizens. She works with “Centro Fumetto A. Paziienza” in Cremona and the Milan branch of Mus-e Italia Onlus, where she creates and lead comic workshops for children aged 4 and over.





Plot 7+

One morning, Mrs Berenice tells her friend Nilde a very bizarre fact. Two days earlier, she buried her beloved Zeffirina, a budgie with blue and black feathers, which had died of old age. Yet the following afternoon, to her great surprise, she found her alive and well, intent on singing and uttering rude sentences... her Zeffirina, who had never spoken before! It's the ideal case for Pappi, a boy with a passion for mysteries, and his loyal assistant Sgombro, a dog who loves canned tuna and who, every time he gets excited or picks up an intense scent, emits a loud... burp! Everything seems to point to the incredible return of the budgie, but two good detectives like them know that you should never stop at appearances. Following the rules of the Perfect Sleuth, clue after clue, they will solve the mystery. In the appendix, the rulebook of the Perfect Sleuth!





SUSAN DUCKLING
AND THE COTTON CANDY CASE
Maddalena Schiavo

ILLUSTRATED

SERIES **Piccole Piume**

PAGES 56

PRICE € 12

ISBN 978-88-3279-063-4

RELEASE **OCTOBER 2022**

Paperback with jacket

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High Legibility Fonts



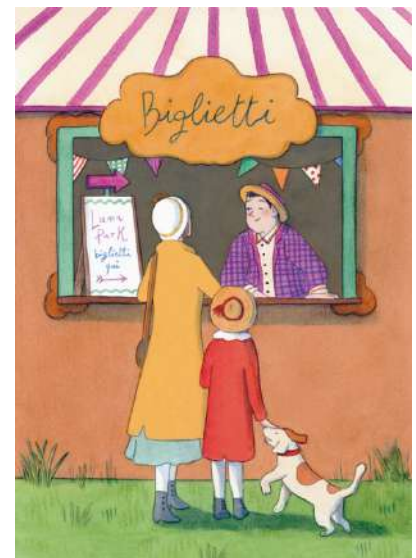
- A new, fun adventure for little Susan, accompanied by her mother and Penelope, the inseparable dog.
- At London's Luna Park, something is wrong, strange things are happening: it's time to investigate!

Maddalena Schiavo

She lives in Montecchio Maggiore in the province of Vicenza, at the foot of the Castles of Juliet and Romeo. After graduating in Philosophy, she worked for many years in a public library. Her passion for writing was born along with the pleasure of reading, until she became an author of children's books. For some years now, she has been publishing several picture books and children's books in Italy. Her books have been featured in major specialist magazines, including Andersen and the national press. She also does animated reading and workshops in schools, libraries and bookstores. *Susan Duckling e il caso dello zucchero filato* is the third book in the Susan Duckling series, published for Pelledoca.

Veronica Truttero

Born in Padova, she attended the Academy of Fine Arts and a Master's degree for booksellers in Bologna. In 2015 she published her first book and the following year, together with two colleagues, she opened an independent children's bookshop in Ravenna: Libreria Momo. She collaborates with several publishing houses and children's magazines. Two of her books have been chosen for the White ravens of the Jugend Bibliothek in Munich. In 2021 she was selected along with 19 other illustrators in the exhibition "Italian excellence; the new generation of children's illustrators", organised by the Bologna Children's Book Fair.





Plot 6+

Finally, the holidays have begun and, in the city, the Luna Park has arrived, the biggest in the whole city of London. Susan, her mother and their inseparable dog Penelope decide to go there together. As soon as they arrive, however, they notice that something is wrong: the popcorn is splattering everywhere, the cotton candy they bought is salty, the darts of the shooting gallery are all going to the right, as if attracted by a magnet... and, incredibly, the first to be suspicious is the mother of our little detective!

There is something strange going on and so Susan decides to climb onto the Ferris wheel to get a better look at Luna Park from above: thanks to her new binoculars, she spots a suspicious gentleman who is acting busy with tools near the popcorn machine. At first glance, it would appear to be the mechanic, but then Susan notices that he is dressed for a party, overdressed.

So who is the man really? And, above all, will he be the culprit in the chain of sabotage? The mystery deepens and little Susan, as always, is determined to solve the case!



SUSAN DUCKLING
AND THE MISSING EGGS CASE
Maddalena Schiavo

ILLUSTRATED

SERIES **Piccole Piume**

PAGES 56

PRICE € 12

ISBN 978-88-3279-064-1

RELEASE **OCTOBER 2022**

Paperback with jacket

Format 165 mm x 225 mm

High Legibility Fonts



- It's summer, the holidays have begun, but for little Susan there is no break: a new case awaits for her to be solved!
- From London to the English countryside for another adventure of England's most famous young detective.

Maddalena Schiavo

She lives in Montecchio Maggiore in the province of Vicenza, at the foot of the Castles of Juliet and Romeo. After graduating in Philosophy, she worked for many years in a public library. Her passion for writing was born along with the pleasure of reading, until she became an author of children's books. For some years now, she has been publishing several picture books and children's books in Italy. Her books have been featured in major specialist magazines, including Andersen and the national press. She also does animated reading and workshops in schools, libraries and bookstores. *Susan Duckling e il caso delle uova scomparse* is the fourth book in the Susan Duckling series, published for Pelledoca.

Veronica Truttero

Born in Padova, she attended the Academy of Fine Arts and a Master's degree for booksellers in Bologna. In 2015 she published her first book and the following year, together with two colleagues, she opened an independent children's bookshop in Ravenna: Libreria Momo. She collaborates with several publishing houses and children's magazines. Two of her books have been chosen for the White ravens of the Jugend Bibliothek in Munich. In 2021 she was selected along with 19 other illustrators in the exhibition "Italian excellence; the new generation of children's illustrators", organised by the Bologna Children's Book Fair.





Plot 6+

A new adventure for Susan Duckling, our little detective, daughter of England's most famous Commissioner. From London, we move to the English countryside, specifically to the village of Bibury. One day, Aunt Emma calls her niece asking her to join her because there is a mysterious case to solve. Susan doesn't ask twice and sets off with her very heavy suitcase: what does it contain? The perfect detective's kit, of course! Magnifying glass, notebook to write down all the clues and a crowbar... just in case! Arriving at her aunt and uncle's house, Susan is welcomed by her little cousins Jane and Tom, her helpers in the investigation. For a few days, the eggs of the hens Gwenda and Holly have been disappearing from the chicken coop, but the culprit is nowhere to be found: no animal footprints, no thieves spotted, no suspicious noises... it's a headache, mmmhhh, a headache, to say the least! Once again, to solve the case, Susan will have to rely on her instincts and the strategy learned from her father: observation, psychology and method, *of course!*





THE MISTERY OF DREAMING DOGS

Alice Keller

ILLUSTRATED

SERIES **Piccole Piume**

PAGES 56

PRICE € 12

ISBN 978-88-3279-071-9

RELEASE **MARCH 2023**

Paperback with jacket

Format 165 mm x 225 mm

High Legibility Fonts



- For some people, mystery is a real magnet and the great Shirley Jackson returns as a child to become the protagonist of a truly incredible story.
- Disappearing dogs and dreaming dogs, reality and fiction. There is much to investigate to find out what is going on. With her usual skill, Alice Keller has come up with a story for children full of surprises and puzzles.

Alice Keller

Born in Bologna in 1988, after a period spent between theater and music, she is involved in writing for children and teenagers. She is the author of novels, illustrated books and graphic novels, published in Italy and abroad. In 2016, together with Sara Panzavolta and Veronica Truttero, she opened Momo, a bookstore for children and teenagers in Ravenna.

Marilisa Cotroneo

She began her journey with a suitcase in hand. After graduating in art disciplines from Turin, she continued her journey towards Rome with two Master's degrees in Visual Development and Illustration. Today she collaborates for foreign and Italian publishing houses. She works in her small Roman studio between a cup of tea and a cat walking on the keyboard.



Plot 7+



America, 1920s. Shirley loves to write and make up mystery stories that she reads aloud to her family, but they don't seem to show much interest. So, Shirley, resolute and stubborn, decides that she will never write again. Certain events, however, force her to change her mind. In her neighborhood, mysterious little events begin to happen: an ownerless puppy takes a liking to her, while some unexplained disappearances of dogs begin to terrorize the inhabitants of the area where she lives. Between children playing with dolls and stuffed dogs, between fiction and reality, Shirley has nothing left but to investigate to discover the truth, and she will succeed thanks to the theory of dreaming dogs. A delightful story starring Shirley Jackson, the celebrated American writer of horror, mystery and gothic.





THE ISLAND OF CROWS

Sara Marconi

ILLUSTRATED

SERIES **Piccole Piume**

PAGES 56

PRICE € 12

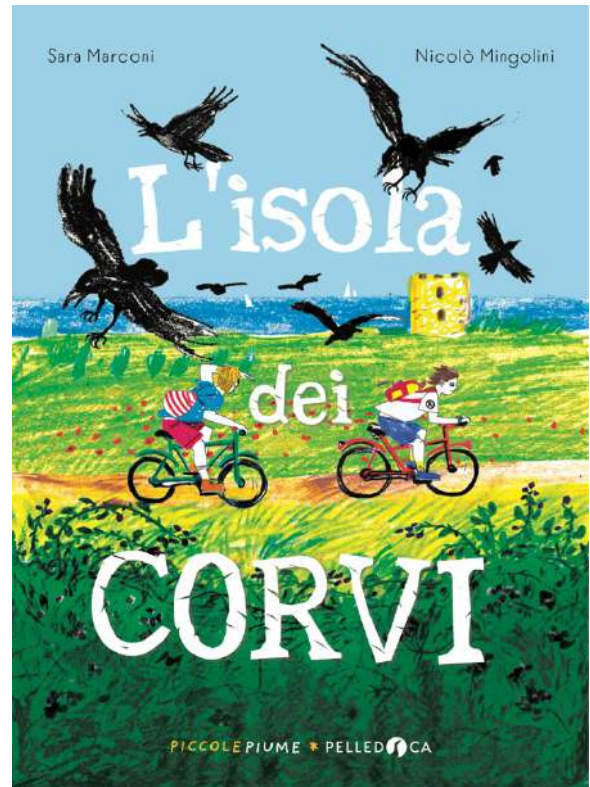
ISBN 978-88-3279-070-2

RELEASE **MARCH 2023**

Paperback with jacket

Format 165 mm x 225 mm

High Legibility Fonts



- From a crooked holiday, an adventure full of surprises unfolds in a country where strange thefts and strange encounters occur.
- There is an isolated, old house, a little girl surrounded by crows and a dusty island from which you just want to escape... but appearances are often deceiving.

Sara Marconi

She is a children's writer, editor, translator and trainer. She graduated in History of the Italian Language in Bologna and started publishing in 2000 (Olimpia e le principesse, Feltrinelli - republished with Lapis in 2015). To date, she has written over forty books, ten of which with Simone Frasca. She lives in Turin, where she directs 'Il Mignolo', the supplement of the 'Book of the Month Index' dedicated to books for children and young people.

Nicolò Mingolini

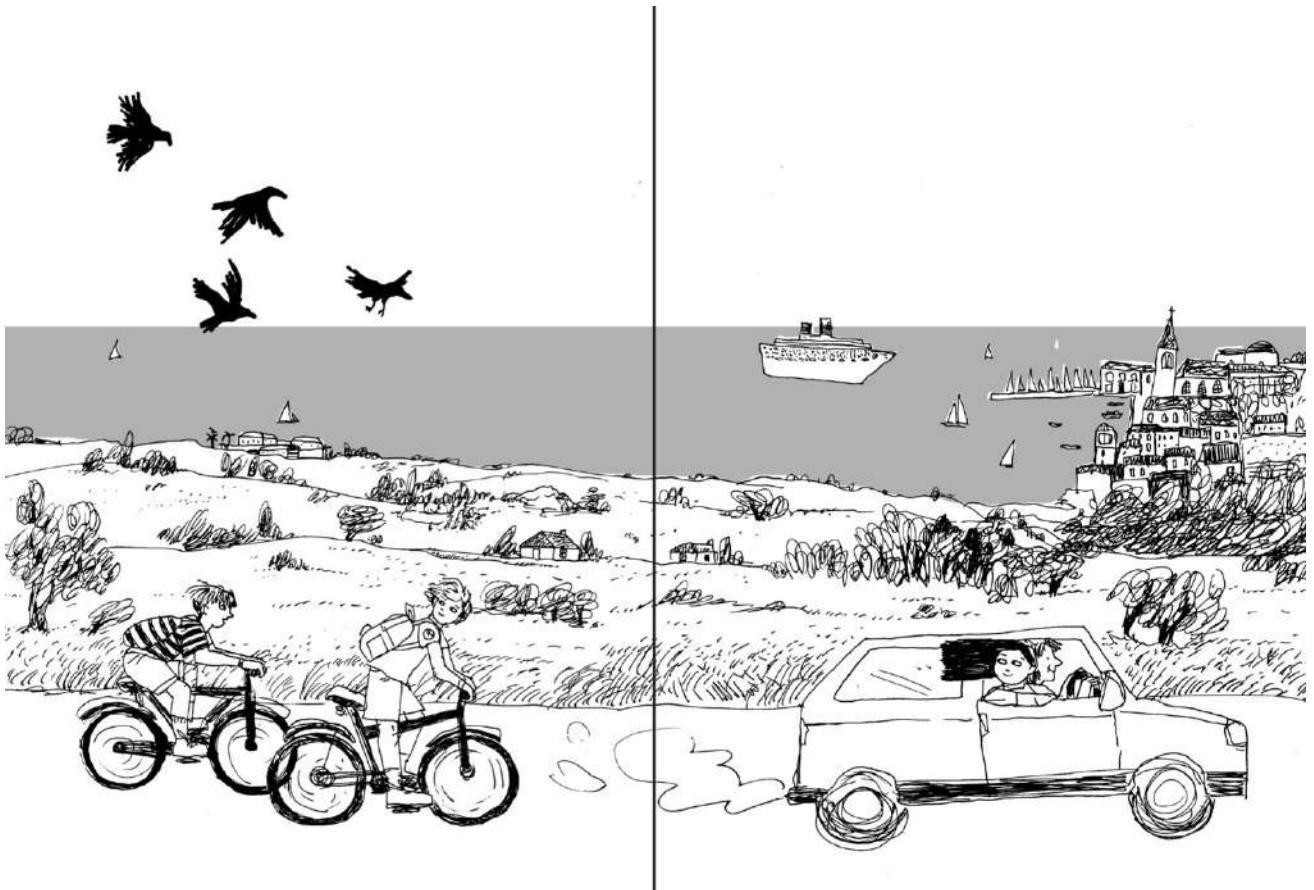
He is an editorial designer, illustrator and author. He has been collaborating with the University of Cambridge since 2016. In 2017 he graduated from Isia in Urbino with an experimental thesis on the archive of the Malatesta Manuscripts. In 2018 he worked in Silvana Amato's studio dealing with cultural industry (Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Nuova Consonanza) and editorial design (Editori Laterza, 66thand2nd). Since 2019 he has been publishing books for children and young people as author and illustrator.





Plot 7+

Edoardo is almost ten years old and has a great passion for scary movies. What he really can't stand, however, is being stranded together with his very boring little cousin Tommaso, known as Tofu, on an island where there is nothing to do. That is why, when precious jewellery starts being stolen in the village, Edo throws himself into the investigation on a broken- down bicycle, followed by his cousin. They investigate in the village and in the countryside, uphill and downhill, until they find a mysterious abandoned- looking house and a little pale girl surrounded by a flock of crows. From this moment on, the adventure will take an unexpected turn, full of twists and turns, balanced between frights and ice cream, desire for freedom and escapes, skateboards and jazz. And at the end, Edo will be forced to recant almost everything he thought he knew.





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