

Bompiani
Non-Fiction
Spring 2025



Anti-Semitic: A Word Held Hostage

Valentina Pisanty



ANTISEMITA

PB + flaps / Euro 12 / 176 pages

Imprint: Passaggi

Rights: V.Mazza@giunti.it

January 15, 2025

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Partial English translation available



Valentina Pisanty is a semiologist. She teaches at the University of Bergamo. She has written essays on interpretative semiotics, fairy tales, humor, political discourse, the rhetoric of racism, and memory. For Bompiani she has published, among other titles, *L'irritante questione delle camere a gas* (1998, updated edition 2014), *La difesa della razza* (2006) and *I guardiani della memoria e il ritorno delle destre xenofobe* (2020).

What is fueling the anti-Semitic wave in the world?

Is there an anti-Semitic emergency today?

An easy read to clarify what discrimination is and what it is not.

Violence and hate speech against the Jewish people have a centuries-old and dramatic history that unfortunately did not end with the Holocaust. In the first decades of the 21st century, a new insidious form of anti-Semitism seems to be emerging, which goes beyond those nostalgic for National Socialism or more traditional forms of prejudice.

Since the end of 2023, following the terrorist attacks against Israel and the subsequent invasion of Gaza, the political and cultural debate seems to be hostage to a militarization and an impasse on what anti-Semitism is, what anti-Zionism is, and what it is not.

Valentina Pisanty has been studying the public discourse around these issues for years and she has dealt with memory. In this volume she addresses the crux of the problem: the political use of words to justify government or partisan interests.

An essential contribution to the ongoing debate.

press

- "... a lucid and well-documented analysis of how a useful and important word can lose its original meaning with worrisome outcomes..." – Ivo Silvestro, *La Regione Ticino*

excerpt

There has been an exchange of favors between the State of Israel and the global right for some time. The terms of the agreement are simple: unconditional support for Netanyahu's policies against immunity from any accusation of racism and anti-Semitism.

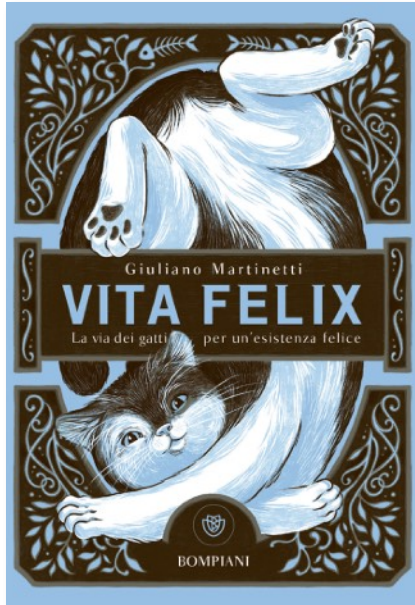
An official visit to Yad Vashem, especially if accompanied by expressions of harsh condemnation towards the current enemies of the Jewish state, is enough to cleanse the public image of any xenophobic leader who aspires to access roles of political responsibility.

The quid pro quo has proven very effective for both parties, also because to unmask their strategy it is necessary to venture into the minefield of Holocaust Remembrance, and the definition connected to it of what is and what is not anti-Semitism.

Given the sensitivity of the subject, many prefer to steer clear, delegating to the institutions in charge the task of tracing the perimeter of tolerable discourse, and scrupulously applying any precepts imposed from above.

Vita Felix: the Cat's Way to a Happy Existence

Giuliano Martinetti, illustrations by Sabrina Gabrielli



VITA FELIX: LA VIA DEI GATTI ...

HC + jacket / Euro 16 / 176 pages

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First print run: 8,000 copies

Partial English translation available



Giuliano Martinetti is a literature professor at a high school in Genoa. He is passionate about travel, and Japanese literature, and he takes care of a cat colony in the hinterland of the Ligurian coast. He tends to shun social media and enjoys quiet walks in the countryside, as well as reading good books in the silence of his study, surrounded by his cats.

How to live Felix and Feline.

Cats, as we know, have many lives. We are fortunate in that they give us companionship, and, in this book, their precious suggestions on how to live a happy and cat-like life.

The eyes of a cat are portals to an enchanted world, hidden behind their velvety eyelashes. Cats have been watching us for centuries, and while we humans struggle to understand the meaning of life, cats seem to have all the answers. Here, finally, our wise and furry companions are ready to share their secrets on how to live an enjoyable and fulfilling life.

Vita Felix is a distillation of their instinctual wisdom, rich with advice culled from their many lives in which we see how they are resilient and capable of adapting. As hunters who also happen to be very introspective, as well as great observers, they have a lot to teach us.

They do so beginning with their basic but very important credo: that life is something that happens between naps. A must-read for all cat lovers, but also for those who wish to live a more elegant and peaceful life.

excerpt

This morning I went to the kitchen to make myself a coffee and the Baroness was there. As always. Well, not really: when I come down in the summer she often isn't there. She's still out and about from the night before, having adventures I know very little about. Sometimes she comes home carrying a small gift, and that's it. But this morning she was there. On the armchair, like the true owner of the house. She slept, at peace with herself and the world. And meanwhile she was scrutinizing me. Yes, I know: she does it all the time, and I've never really understood how it's possible. But she does it very well.

It is a kind of superpower: being distracted and aware at the same time; fully focused on something, immersed in the moment, yet attentive to everything around you. And I wouldn't even define it as a "strong propensity for multitasking", as is so fashionable. I mean, who would dream of saying that? I've never seen anyone more capable of enjoying what she does while she does it. Especially if it involves doing absolutely nothing, but with admirable and complete dedication, it's almost as if the fate of the universe depends on her. (A universe which otherwise, incidentally, the Baroness doesn't seem to care much about.) The impression is that she and her lineage have learned to inhabit the world with a particular spirit: immersing themselves fully and carelessly in the constant flow of everything, perfectly at ease in the intricate and yet simple web of existence; without useless superstructures, without enthusiasm, without studied affectation. Elegant and concrete, graceful even while she dedicates herself to the most banal activities, such as careful and meticulous cleaning.

So, the Baroness slept and scrutinized me. And I, under the attentive gaze of eyes that seemed perfectly closed, went to make myself a coffee.

God Is Not Like This

Lucetta Scaraffia



DIO NON È COSÌ

PB + jacket / Euro 18 / 192 pages

Imprint: Overlook

Rights: V.Mazza@giunti.it

February 19, 2025

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Lucetta Scaraffia, a historian and a journalist, taught Contemporary History at *La Sapienza* in Rome and was a professor at the Sorbonne in Paris. The history of women, and of female religiosity in particular, is among her main interests. She is an editorialist for *La Stampa* and since 2007 she has been a member of the National Committee for Bioethics. In 2017 she received the insignia of the Legion of Honor from the President of the French Republic for her activities as a historian and a journalist. She is the author of many books on religion and sexuality.

“God is not like this, I am certain, so I will search for him on my own.”
“As a woman one is in a certain sense always ‘irregular’ and it gives one a breadth of vision that leads to innovative choices. So innovative that they may be prophetic.”

“This is not what God is,” is declared in words or gestures by the eight protagonists of this book. All eight are free and courageous women who want to go beyond the idea of God that is proposed to them. They want to understand, they want to know him personally. They turn this yearning into a path for emancipation within the great and complex women’s liberation movement of the twentieth century.

They are Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox: they are women who live intensely, who love and who work, and cannot be described as the iconic “madwoman of God”, or heroine of faith.

Instead, these are women who, thanks to their spiritual openness, experiment with new relationships and new hierarchies resulting in new prophetic spheres, which churches and society shall be able to draw on for inspiration in the near and distant future.

Catherine Pozzi, Charlotte von Kirschbaum, Adrienne von Speyr, Banine, Elisabeth Behr Sigel, Simone Weil, Romana Guarnieri, and Chiara Lubich are the protagonists of this story. All are women fully rooted in their time, yet eager to raise their gaze and draw from an inner source that can transform restlessness into a broader and more universal spiritual experience for all.

excerpt

“God is not like this” is the phrase that – repeated many times, often implied in the speeches of the eight mystics described herein – constitutes the common thread that unites them. Their search for God, in fact, is characterized by extreme freedom and great courage, maintained throughout their lives even by those who join a religious confession by conversion or confirm their belonging to it. All want to go beyond the God who is proposed, they want to understand more, they want to know God truly, personally.

This is precisely the desire that lies at the heart of this development: in the twentieth century, the birth of an adventurous and free mysticism by lay women. It is not simply a religious experience, therefore, but a path of female liberation that is part of the great history of the emancipation of women. The English historian Eric Hobsbawm has defined it as the only successful revolution of the twentieth century. Even if until now, it has not been defined by others in this way.

I must warn the reader that I intend to use the term “mystic” – a noun that came into use centuries after the adjective from which it is derived – in a broad sense.

In fact, I use it in the sense that it has assumed in modernity, a broad and not strictly defined sense, which is well demonstrated by the definition given to it by María Zambrano: “Mysticism is a possibility of human nature.”

Basta! Work *Right* Now

Silvia Zanella



BASTA LAVORARE COSÌ

PB + jacket / Euro 17 / 224 pages

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Rights: V.Mazza@giunti.it

February 26, 2025

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Silvia Zanella deals with and writes about the future of work. Her job is to make employees of companies find happiness, without losing sight of their business objectives. A manager for the largest human resources and consulting companies in the world, she works both in Italy and internationally. In addition to her primary profession, she maintains an intense schedule as a speaker, author, journalist, and trainer. Her website is www.silviazanella.com.

Happiness and work: an impossible combination? Silvia Zanella shows us that an ideal work-life balance is possible for everyone and that it is also a great advantage for a company's productivity.

Work calls made from the couch or from the playground in front of school, flexible 'smart working' that is either wished for or mandatory, time cards that must be punched, invasive micro-managing bosses incapable of delegating, the need to disconnect as opposed to emails that follow us into the bathroom: the working world is changing in a tumultuous way and it is often poisoning our lives.

But it is not necessary to feel bad about work. If we free ourselves from all the behaviors and thoughts that pollute our working days, we will feel much better immediately, become more efficient and – why not? – much happier. Happiness in our work would bring advantages not only to us as individuals but also to the companies we work for.

Using everyday situations, Silvia Zanella analyzes the frequent mishaps between life and work and demonstrates that the right time to free ourselves from toxic work and transform ourselves from frustrated to full-time happy, is now.

excerpt

Where does work end? Where does life begin? How can we overcome the threat (or the promise?) of a world with even less work thanks to technology? And above all, how can we move as quickly as possible into the ranks of the happy, and stop swelling those of the frustrated? How can we dismantle toxic behaviors, defuse them, make them go out of fashion, for the benefit of individuals as well as the competitiveness of companies?

The phenomena of the Great Resignations or Quiet Quitting have shown how urgent it was for many people to take back their lives, or at least reset their professional sphere. At the same time, we have also witnessed a Great Restoration, when many managers asked to return to the previous model, five days a week in the office, resuming the old methods, canceling any process of change triggered by the health crisis. Contemporary work makes us commute, not only because we move between different places due to our job, but also because we constantly oscillate between multiple poles, not without difficulty. How can we manage the weight of continuous connection? How can we alternate focus and teamwork? What happens to our free time? We need to put people at the center of this discourse, because each of them will decide what pace and choreography to give to this ballet between private and professional life, and what boundaries to place on work.

The clear boundary between work and life no longer exists, if it ever existed in our recent economic history. Navigating these hybrid times is not trivial, and even the most trained and enthusiastic surfers do not always manage to ride the biggest waves. Surely, there is a widespread desire to stop floundering.

The Echo of our Ancestors

Valeria Curzio



L'ECO DEGLI ANTENATI

PB + jacket / Euro 17 / 224 pages

Imprint: Overlook (illus.)

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First print run: 5,000 copies

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Valeria Curzio was born in Turin and has a degree in Educational Sciences. She is an expert in training processes, and is specialized in experiential learning, as well as neuroeducation, ludodidactics and emotional education. She is also a facilitator in family and systemic constellations by Bert Hellinger and a certified Thetahealer, as well as an educational and training consultant specialized in systemic pedagogy. Her podcast is followed by more than 60,000 listeners and her Instagram profile has more than 11,000 followers.

Exploring the family constellations in order to live with a complete and conscious understanding.

Family, systemic and spiritual constellations are living images that heal deeply. This book takes the reader on a journey through thirty stories, thirty images of constellations, thirty systemic themes, and thirty family dynamics.

Each story allows a step of transformation and awareness to heal the past, understand the present, and create the future. The constellation images sweep away the mental constructions of the ego, the stories and constellations described make us immerse ourselves in the deepest emotions, the explanations of the systemic themes allow us to transform the autopilot into a conscious guide.

In this illustrated book, Valeria Curzio guides us for the first time into the world of family constellations to see what we cannot see with other tools: to resolve a situation or overcome a block; to transform dysfunctional relationships; to understand the next step to take in life.

excerpt

Family constellations are not only a fascinating way to explore the dynamics of relationships, but a real journey into the soul. Imagine entering an internal theater where each member of your family plays a role and reveals secrets, pains and joys hidden in time.

The echo of the ancestors is your guide in this subtle world, where the wisdom of the ancestors intertwines with the challenges of today, illuminating those invisible knots that often block you. It is a dance of legacies that come from the past with the freedom of your actions and choices in everyday life.

Through touching stories, practical exercises and deep reflections, you will discover how family constellations can transform your life, revealing the power of forgiveness, reconciliation and love.

Prepare yourself for an unprecedented inner adventure, where each page will lead you to know yourself and your roots better.

Are you ready to unveil the mysteries of your family tree and rewrite your own destiny?

The Wind Blew: A Sentimental History of Italian Communism

Claudio Caprara



FISCHIAVA IL VENTO

PB + jacket / Euro 16 / 224 pages

Imprint: Overlook

Rights: V.Mazza@giunti.it

April 9, 2025

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Partial English translation available



Claudio Caprara was born on January 21 (the same date as the foundation of the PCI/*Partita Comunista Italiana* in a section of the PCI, in Imola, Italy. He directed the FGCI (*Federazione Giovanile Comunista Italiana*) at local, regional, and national levels. A journalist, he worked with Massimo D'Alema and then was also involved with the development of the first Italian search engine, for television and for photography. Together with Luca Sofri he is the CEO of the online newspaper, *Il Post*, of which he was one of the founders in 2009.

A sentimental journey through the history of the Italian Communist Party, which left an important and deep mark on the history of a Western capitalist country.

“Without a moment’s pause to reflect, completely absorbed in the fight and without anything personal”: this is how Palmiro Togliatti described his life in the summer of 1946 to Nilde Iotti, whose love restored his desire to keep something for himself, saving him from absolute dedication to his political party.

The story of Togliatti and Iotti is just one of the stories from the community of great people who lived and breathed politics with complete exhilaration and passion: the Italian Communist Party.

Claudio Caprara evokes its places, events, rites, from Moscow to Imola, from the various sections to the l'Unità, from parties to funerals, always pervaded by that pedagogical and caring spirit that allowed the party to accompany each of its members from the cradle to the grave.

excerpt

Lord Byron described the people of Emilia Romagna as follows: “a rude and proud race; but the fittest known to reinvigorate a nation.” He did so in his letters and observations during his stay in Ravenna, where he was fascinated by the local culture and political activities of the time, including the secret societies of the *Carbonari*.

In the main square of my city, a marble plaque bears the words of Andrea Costa. This inscription connects the political and social events of the last century, from the Italian Unification to the social conflicts of the last forty years, with the expectations of social and civil progress that the subaltern classes place in the new century ...

The red flag was first used as a symbol of rebellion during the French Revolution. Initially, it served as a sign of martial law, indicating that the authorities were about to forcefully suppress a revolt.

During the revolutions of 1848, which developed in different parts of Europe, the red flag became a common symbol for revolutionary, republican, and socialist movements, representing the workers’ struggle and the social revolution.

In the Paris Commune of 1871, the Communards adopted the red flag as a symbol of the proletarian revolution and the fight against the bourgeoisie. The First International (*Associazione Internazionale dei Lavoratori*) and the Second International further consolidated its use as an emblem of socialism and of international workers’ solidarity.

The red color of the flag symbolizes the blood shed by workers in their struggle for justice, solidarity and equality.



Diversa-Mente: More Head, Less Heart

Immanuel Casto



DIVERSA-MENTE

PB + jacket / Euro 18 / 224 pages

Imprint: Overlook (2c)

Rights: V.Mazza@giunti.it

April 30, 2025

First print run: 8,000 copies

Partial English translation available



Immanuel Casto is the pseudonym of Manuel Cuni (Alzano Lombardo, 1983). Cuni is an Italian singer-songwriter, game designer, and activist. From 2019 to 2023, he was the president of the Italian Mensa Association. Since 2024, he has been the artistic director of QUID, the digital magazine of Mensa Italia. His Youtube channel has over 62,500 subscribers, and his Instagram account (@immanuelcasto) has more than 103,000 followers.

Relationships explained by one who has more head than heart.

Hashtags: social relationships - rationality - neurodivergence

You have talked about it, you have messed around with it, and you have measured your own IQ. But until now you have never read this: Immanuel Casto's essential guide to surviving relationships somewhere between the very serious and the entirely facetious.

We live in extravagant times. Modernity is fluid, the future is a mystery, and our daily relationships are increasingly at the mercy of social media. We live in haste in love, with friends, with colleagues, and with humanity as a whole.

In *Diversa-mente*, Immanuel Casto offers us a brilliant guide to dealing with our daily chaos in communication and relationships: an enjoyable journey for those who do not want to give in to misanthropy, and yet who find it increasingly difficult to create and maintain relationships that are based on logic.

Casto, with his unique style, draws heavily on personal experiences to give us a *vademecum* that is more useful than provocative for relationships, with full of advice on how to handle small talk with ease, all the way to mastering effective constructive criticism.

excerpt

How many times have we found ourselves bogged down in conversations that seem to have come out of a theater of the absurd?

How many times have we been trapped in misunderstandings with our loved ones?

How many times in the presence of boyfriends, girlfriends, friends, or spouses have we struggled to make ourselves understood or, worse, have we struggled to understand even ourselves?

And what about our uncontrollable desire to post photos or texts on social media that talk about our daily lives?

Sure, sometimes it seems that we need professional help. But in the meantime, *Diversa Mente* gives us the chance, with irony and sagacity, to self-analyze and to perhaps obtain some lucid transparency in our personal relationships.

In many cases, a little clarity is enough to allow us to understand each other.

Prepare to laugh, to reflect, and above all, to be able to navigate more safely the stormy seas that we call modern life.

Where Are You Going in Such a Hurry?

Lama Michel Rinpoche



DOVE VAI COSÌ DI FRETTA?

PB + jacket / Euro 17 / 244 pages

Imprint: Overlook

Rights: V.Mazza@giunti.it

May 28, 2025

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Lama Michel Rinpoche (São Paulo, Brazil, 1981) is the leader and spiritual guide of the Ngalso foundation and centers around the world, as well as the representative to the United Nations of the Lama Gangchen World Peace Foundation. He is the author of four books in Portuguese and numerous booklets in seven languages. He dedicates his life to serving the Ngalso centers and its disciples, and also to the dissemination and diffusion of the Buddhist teachings, as well as of the Culture of Peace.

A book on Buddhism for non-Buddhists.

Wisdom, clarity, and simplicity for our hurried lives.

In his kind and engaging way, Lama Michel Rinpoche takes us on a journey towards the rediscovery of happiness, intertwining personal anecdotes and profound reflections on our daily lives.

Through the joys and challenges that we all face day after day, Lama takes us straight to the heart of Buddhist teachings, revealing with wisdom and originality the keys to achieving an inner peace that often seems unattainable.

His is not a lesson imparted from above: with humility and without relinquishing his smile, Lama Michel begins from the doubts that everyone has, offering a new way of looking at life.

What is happiness really and how can we use our mind to achieve it? Through very concrete examples related to our relationships with colleagues, friends, or family members, this book opens the mind and the heart: a perfect book for those seeking profound change in their lives.

excerpt

What is happiness?

If we want to understand how to use our minds to be happy, first of all we must at least agree on what we mean by happiness. It seems like something obvious, but in reality it is not so simple. There are four questions for which we all have different answers.

The four questions are:

What do I not want? In other words: What do I want to avoid in my life?

Or more formally: What causes my suffering?

The second question is: Why do I have this, why do I suffer?

The third question is: What is happiness?

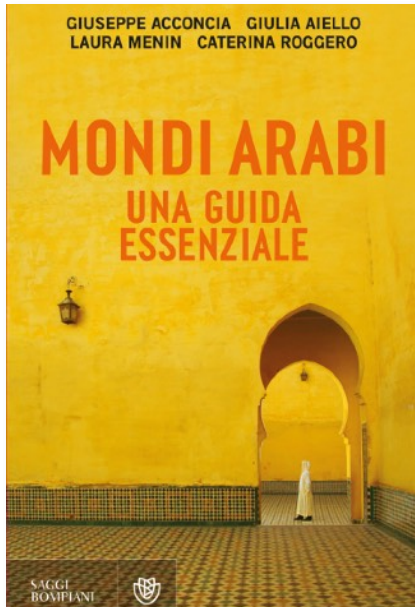
The fourth question is: What do I do to be happy and not suffer? What can I do about this?

I once found myself talking about happiness and these issues with a group of children in Brazil in a totally secular context. I was trying to explain what happiness was in very simple words and I struggled a bit at first. Then I found this definition: happiness is a moment, that instant in which we do not want anything to be different from how it is. It is an internal feeling, an internal state that we have all experienced before, but which usually lasts a moment, in which everything is good, we are neither on the defensive nor on the attack, we are not victims of something, we are not looking for something. It is that instant in which everything is fine. We experience this in different ways when there is a moment in which we experience pleasure: for example, if I am very thirsty, I drink water and, in the moment in which I drink it, I feel good. However, these moments of satisfaction, of so-called happiness, usually last how long? Weeks, months, days, hours, minutes or seconds?

Usually, they last a matter of seconds.

Arab Worlds, An Essential Guide

G. Acconcia, G. Aiello, L. Menin, C. Roggero



MONDI ARABI (c)

PB + jacket / Euro 19 / 320 pages

Imprint: Bompiani Non-Fiction (*33)

Rights: V.Mazza@giunti.it

October 30, 2024

First print run: 3,000 copies

Partial English translation available



Giuseppe Acconcia teaches political sociology at the University of Padua. He lived in Cairo for many years and deals with social movements in the Arab world. He collaborates as a journalist for various newspapers.

Giulia Aiello is a PhD student in Languages, Literatures and Modern Cultures at the University of Bologna. She works in the field of multilingualism and social inclusion in Lebanese comics. **Laura Menin** is a Research Associate at the Department of Global Studies at the University of Sussex. She is a social anthropologist specializing in North Africa. **Caterina Roggero** teaches Arab culture at the University of Milan. She published *A History of Independent North Africa* for Bompiani in 2019.

A simple and engaging guide to understanding the history, habits, customs, and fundamental concepts of a culture waiting to be explored.

When we talk about the Arab world we are led to imagine a fairy-tale scenario from *The Arabian Nights* or, on the contrary, a discourse dominated by religious conservatism, lack of democracy, and constant conflicts.

There is much more to and a lot that is very different from these two extremely stereotypical representations.

To fully understand what is happening today in Arab countries, and in particular the contours of the conflict that is currently inflaming the world, a new perspective is urgently needed.

This book, which is free from the “orientalist” gaze and open to embracing the Arab culture, guides us in a clear and structured way through history, social and political movements, and ideas and currents of thought, to give the reader a new door by which to access the Arab worlds in an agile and curious way.

A book that offers many keys to understanding different and changing realities.

topics

• **#Arabs #Mediterranean #Islam #Middle East #Intercultural Dialogue**

excerpt

In the aftermath of the terrorist attack on the Twin Towers, the rhetoric of the “clash of civilizations” has contributed to strengthening an understanding of the dynamics at work through dichotomies such as ‘us’ versus ‘them’, or even ‘Islam’ versus ‘the West’, understood as monolithic and naturally opposing categories.

A growing “Islamization of political discourse”, already underway since the Iranian revolution of 1979 and the conflicts in the Middle East, it has nourished stereotypical images of Muslims as anti-modern, retrograde subjectivities and enemies of the democratic state.

In the rhetoric of “clash of civilizations”, as in the local, journalistic, and literary versions, the Egyptian or Moroccan migrant was transformed into a Muslim, while a new idea of Europe and the West took shape.

Dichotomous thinking and the categories it deploys operate a pernicious reductionism which has the effect of obscuring the understanding of the complexity of the dynamics in progress.

Al Ghalas: The Darkest Hour for the Middle East

Luca Foschi



AL GHALAS, L'ORA PIÙ BUIA

PB + jacket / Euro 22 / 544 pages

Imprint: Bompiani Overlook

Rights: V.Mazza@giunti.it

May 8, 2024

First print run: 3,000 copies

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Luca Foschi was born in Cagliari in 1981. After graduating in Literature he obtained a postgraduate diploma at the London School of Journalism. He is currently a freelance journalist. In 2012 he attended the *Maria Grazia Cutuli* course for war correspondents. For over ten years he has reported from the main war fronts, working for the newspaper *Avenire*. In 2018 he completed his PhD in Political Science at the University of Cagliari with a dissertation on resistance movements in Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine.

A land whose borders were drawn by Europeans without any consideration for the people who live there is a land doomed to be miserable.

Ernesto Fiaschi is a freelance journalist, who defines himself as a “speaking waiter” and a “fine embellisher”. Starting from the outskirts of Is Mirrionis, in Cagliari, he tells us about his experiences in Palestine, Lebanon, and Afghanistan, eventually reaching Kobariid by way of London, in this moving and amusing memoir.

A coming-of-age story with a lyrical and avant-garde style, *Al Ghalas* plunges the reader into the events of the war and its sensations.

The author portrays a number of unforgettable characters, such as the partisan priest Abuna, the thoughtful drag queen Edith who is his formidable roommate in Beirut, little Cermil, one of the many, extraordinary boys who guide him through the most dangerous places, and even “Fairuz”, a broom plant that is much more than it seems: a symbol of a heartbreaking, unhappy love.

press

- “A text that is not easy to classify due to its rare ability to transcend genres and definitions, ranging from the autobiographical novel to memoir, and from the picaresque tale to broad reportage ...along the way acquiring a vision that is precise and never banal ...” – Luca Mirarchi, *L'unione Sarda*

excerpt

They're always the ones who wake me up, the damned schoolchildren. Some cross my dream with their chatter and the game of *pinaro* in the square, while others arrive as strays from the tunnels of the lower city, bleary and lolling and with their bags full of books. Then the bell rings, shit, the masters scream to collect all that fuss and sort it into austere martial lines. When they are ready the record with the march starts, and the kids sing the ditty over it: “*Let's study, let's study, for a joyful and free Palestine...*” And so on.

I've been here for a while, but I still haven't deciphered it.

When the general gargle dries up and the crew enters the classrooms, the light begins to filter through the thick curtains of fabric. The cell is a dense orange reflection where the dust that has not cemented your nose and throat dances in sinuous puffs. From the floor below emerges that trombone Abuna, who dispenses instructions to the first disciple of his ramshackle clique. Or perhaps in Fatima, her new perpetual mother. “She has six children!” she explained to me a few days ago. “The Israelis killed her husband, damn them! The artra, the Christian one, was slow, damn how slow it was... This one is robust, hardworking, a magnificent peasant! Too bad about the lunch and the coffee... it's really awful.”

Inside Libya: Days on the Mediterranean Front

Nancy Porsia



MAL DI LIBIA

PB + jacket / Euro 18 / 288 pages

Imprint: Bompiani Munizioni

Rights: V.Mazza@giunti.it

May 3, 2023

First print run: 6,500 copies

Partial English translation available



Nancy Porsia is a freelance journalist working in the Middle East and Northern Africa. As a main topic she has specialized on the network of human trafficking in the central Mediterranean sea. In 2016, she published an investigative report about the mafia in Tripoli and the links between the Libyan coastguard and human trafficking. For this reason, she has been barred from entering Libya again. Ilaria Jovine and Roberto Mariotti have made a documentary film about her and about these events, entitled, *Telling of My Son's Land*.

A story from the front lines by the only Italian journalist who stayed in Libya after the revolution.

After the 2011 Libyan revolution Nancy Porsia was the only Italian – and overall one of the very few – journalists to stay in Libya in order to document the changes in a country that would eventually become her own. She wrote about the political alliances, coups, civil war, the complex clashes between revolutionaries, those nostalgic for Gheddafi, and the tragedy of migration. From the streets of Tripoli to the seaside town of Sabrata, she visited the houses of the traffickers, the jails overcrowded with migrants, and the beaches filled with corpses.

In this extraordinarily brave book, Porsia accompanies us on a journey to discover a contradictory and misunderstood people who have often been forgotten by the mainstream media.

She also offers us an honest look at her life: what does it mean to be on the frontline if you are a woman and a mother? What is the price to pay for a free and independent voice?

press

- *"No one better than Nancy Porsia has testified and narrated the events that shook Libya..."* – David D. Kirkpatrick, *The New York Times*
- *"Nancy Porsia tells us of the veritable hell that those escaping from their own land have been forced to endure. After reading these pages, we give thanks for having been born on a more fortunate side of the sea that sits between our two countries ..."* – Roberto Saviano, author

excerpt

It is October 20, 2011 and I am finalizing my preparations between plane tickets, life insurance, and the equipment needed for the interviews when, suddenly, the rebels of Misurata kill Muammar Gaddafi. I watch the grainy images scroll by on TV, filmed with a cell phone by one of the young revolutionaries: the feeling of being in the wrong place at the wrong time leaves me breathless.

I should have already been there, in Libya, to tell the story of the fighting, the capture of the dictator and his death, but Manuel, the cameraman, has to deliver a job that he has been working on for a long time so we have postponed our departure. I feel like I am late to my date with History, the one that I would have liked to first experience in person and then tell in person; instead I find myself watching it from afar.

On November 4, 2011, Manolo, Manuel and I landed at Mitiga airport, a few kilometers from Tripoli. With us was Sheryl, an experienced American war photojournalist whom I met in Syria where I was studying Arabic at the University of Damascus in 2007. When I told her about my trip to Libya, she booked a one-way flight to Rome. And from Rome, here we are, all together in Tripoli. Ours is one of the first civilian flight from abroad since March 2011, when NATO declared a no-fly zone in Libyan airspace.

Brigate Russe (updated edition)

Marta F. Ottaviani



BRIGATE RUSSE

PB + jacket / Euro 18 / 304 pages

Imprint: Bompiani Munizioni

Rights: V.Mazza@giunti.it

May 11, 2023

Copies in print: 6,000 copies

Partial English translation available



Marta F. Ottaviani is a freelance journalist who worked as a correspondent based in Turkey from 2005 and 2013 for *Apcom*, *Avvenire*, *La Stampa* and *Radio24*. In 2008 she covered the Greek debt crisis and in 2016 began to specialize in articles on Russia and ex-Soviet republics.

The Hidden War against the Western World.

A new kind of warfare, in which it is not houses that are bombed but people's minds. This is the hidden war the Kremlin is waging against Western democracies to make way for a new authoritarian world order.

Is it possible to manipulate public opinion? Is there such a thing a weaponless war that is just as dangerous? Yes, and Vladimir Putin's Russia has been a pioneer of this unseen conflict, using the Internet, new technologies and social networks to reshape minds and consciences. It is an occult, untouchable war, one that is waged even in times of peace and that can have devastating consequences upon a nation.

These kinds of aggressive acts are Russia's way of attempting to influence the Western world, and this unilateral war in our fast-changing world can cause serious problems for even the most mature democracies.

press

- *"A must-read that you won't want to miss: the most up-to-date and well-documented book on this subject, not just in Italy but also on the international landscape."* - Luigi Grassia, *La Stampa*

excerpt

If the journalist has one job, it is to point out when something is not working.

After having nearly fallen into the trap of believing Putin's false narrative on Crimea (along with many others), I discovered that beneath that fake news a vortex was opening, and it needed to be brought to light.

Someone in Moscow believes freedom, freedom of information in particular, to be a weakness of our world, a weak point to be targeted. The objective, the enormous effort we must all make, should be to prove that person is wrong.

Proving also that, if we have got to this point, it is precisely because we are free. Free also not to allow the wool to be pulled over our eyes. To be free means exercising the use of reason and understanding when it comes to whether we are being told the truth or a lie, often one that is well dressed up, often a blatant untruth. It means being able to say 'I don't agree' and being able to put forward our own motivations without denigrating those of others. It means being aware of the fact that all of this could be lost much more quickly than we might imagine and without anyone actually invading or bombing us.

The bombing of consciences is intangible, subtle, and its aim is to take away the most precious thing we own: our freedom to think for ourselves.

It is called asymmetrical warfare; it was invented by Russia and we must find a way to fight it.

The first step is accepting that it exists.

The Gods at Six O'clock, an *Iliad* Aperitivo

Giovanni Nucci



GLI DÈI ALLE SEI

PB + jacket / Euro 17 / 256 pages

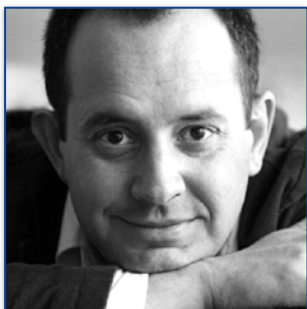
Imprint: Bompiani Overlook

Rights: V.Mazza@giunti.it

May 17, 2023

First print run: 4,000 copies

Partial English translation available



Giovanni Nucci was born in Rome in 1969. He is a poet and a writer of fiction. He has been studying, re-telling and re-writing the classical myths for twenty years. His books include *Ulisse il mare color del vino* (e/o, 2004; Salani, 2013), *E fonderai la più grande città del mondo* (Feltrinelli, 2007), *Francesco* (Rizzoli, 2013), *La storia di tutto* (Salani, 2017), *E due uova molto sode* (Italosvevo, 2017), *La differenziazione dell'umido* (Italosvevo, 2018), *Achille, il midollo del leone* (Salani, 2020).

In the stories of the Trojan war, behind every hero, his life, and his humanity there is a god determining his actions. This book is a reinterpretation of The Iliad as a great choral novel, as well as a way to see our own time through the lens of Epos.

Greek gods are forever looking down on humankind from above, watching the heroes in their battles and taking sides, sometimes interfering by determining people's actions. But this is not how things really are. There is not one single event in the Trojan war as narrated in *The Iliad* that is not the result of divine intention.

Gods fight alongside humans, they stand behind them, they manifest themselves by becoming the heroes' most deeply-rooted ideas.

Giovanni Nucci re-reads *The Iliad* from the gods' point of view, making them the true protagonists of the deep, intimate forces moving humankind along its path.

Myths can help us explain our own times: pandemic, war, women's rights, the crisis of the patriarchy, sexual identity, childhood loss, and the incompatibility between those in power and the new generations.

press

- *"Poetic Justice: suspected thief caught reading book on The Iliad..."* – Philip Wilson, *The Times*, August 23, 2024
- *"A would-be burglar in Rome was caught after stopping to read a book on Greek mythology... he reportedly became distracted after picking up the book on a bedside table... the author told local media he wished to send the man a copy so he could 'finish reading the book'..."* – Zahra Fatima, *BBC News*, August 23, 2024

International rights

Worldwide Spanish (Siruela)

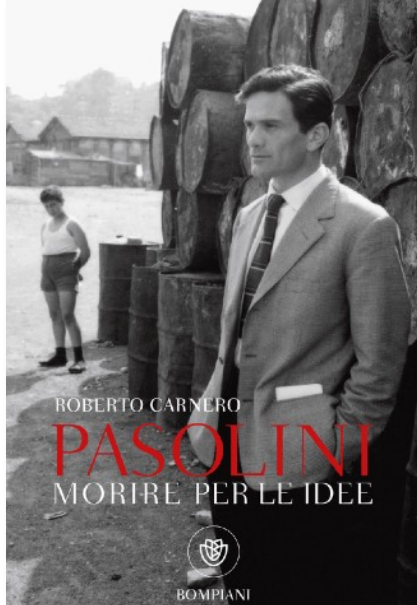
excerpt (from the partial English translation by Howard Curtis)

There is a basic ambiguity concerning Achilles: he is so invincible that we are accustomed to thinking of him as immortal, whereas his all too explicit fate is precisely to have to die before his time, during the Trojan War, in the prime of youth. Obviously, being invincible and being immortal are two quite different things, although we think he is immortal except for his heel: but then each of us is immortal apart from the reason for which we will die. The only difference between us and Achilles is that he knows his own fate, he knows when he will die and perhaps even how. What makes him heroic, then, is his awareness, his clear sense of his own limitations, and above all the way in which at the end he decides to fulfil his own existence, the determination with which he goes to meet his death. In this sense Achilles is the master of his fate.

...When he goes to the shore to look at the wine-dark sea, Achilles is looking for himself in that infinity. He is already one step from eternity, but now he is again putting one foot in it...

Pasolini: To Die for One's Ideas

Roberto Carnero



PASOLINI: MORIRE PER LE IDEE

PB / Euro 14 / 412 pages

Imprint: Bompiani Non-fiction

Rights: V.Mazza@giunti.it

February 16, 2022

Copies in print: 4,000

Partial English translation available



Roberto Carnero teaches Italian Literature at the University of Bologna University as well as Contemporary Italian Culture at the University of Urbino. He writes for many newspapers, such as *Avvenire* and *Il Sole 24 Ore*. He is author of *Lo scrittore giovane. Pier Vittorio Tondelli e la nuova narrativa italiana* and *Il bel viaggio. Insegnare letteratura alla Generazione Z*. He is also the curator of Guido Gozzano's *Verso la cuna del mondo. Lettere dall'India* and Silvio D'Arzo's *Casa d'altri e altri racconti*.

"Personally, I love Pasolini: for this book, however, I decided to remove the kid gloves."

Pasolini's works must be read as a whole, where his different artistic phases (poetry, fiction, theatre, cinema, journalism, literary criticism) intertwine continuously as portions of one unique, open, and dynamic creative discourse that is in constant evolution.

Roberto Carnero investigates this complete *opera* without separating its various genres, but rather bringing the multiple experiences back to the coherence of a unique artistic path. In particular, the great Pasolinian themes are linearly articulated: his youth in Friuli, his poetic vocation and the discovery of homosexuality; the contrasting relationship with religion and politics; the discovery of the Roman sub-proletariat in the fifties; the nostalgia for the past and the escape towards an impossible elsewhere in space and time; the apocalyptic phase of the last years, before a tragic death still shrouded in mystery.

This is an analysis of a great figure of Italian 20th-century culture and for that reason it is a "literary biography", a study that is meant as a starting point for students and general readers alike, many of whom may be approaching the works of Pasolini for the first time.

international rights

Russia (AST)

excerpt

Before saying why I thought of writing a book about Pasolini (yet another book about Pasolini...), I would like to briefly ask myself what is so special about this writer, so much so as to have determined a critical response that very few Italian authors of the second half of the twentieth century can boast.

A figure of enormous importance in the second half of the twentieth century, Pier Paolo Pasolini, perhaps more than any other intellectual of the time, has traversed many forms of literary and artistic expression: he was a poet, novelist, playwright, film director, literary critic, and a journalist, even if he loved to define himself simply as a "writer".

In his works he was able to deal with the great social, literary, and civil themes of Italy in the last century: fascism and the Resistance, post-war politics, the advent of neo-capitalism in the phase of the economic boom, the social transformation of the bourgeoisie and the proletariat, the 1968 movement and the drama of the "strategy of tension".

Provocative in his life and works, Pasolini occupies a central role in contemporary Italian culture. With each of his works he expressed the will to fight, even alone, against those institutions and mechanisms of consensus that deprive humans of their authenticity. His work is an invitation to investigate the reality that surrounds us, to explore its more shadowy sides, to not settle for the easy certainties of a conformist mentality.

Where the Wind is Born: the Life of Nellie Bly

Nicola Attadio



DOVE NASCE IL VENTO

PB + jacket / Euro 16 / 204 pages

Imprint: Bompiani Overlook

Rights: V.Mazza@giunti.it

March 7, 2018

Copies in print: 11,000 copies

Partial English translation available



Nicola Attadio lives and works in Rome, Italy. He is the author and the host of the radio program entitled, *Vite che non sono la tua* (*Lives That Are Not Yours*) which is broadcast on Radio 3 in Italy. *Dove nasce il vento* is his first book.

The life of a brave and intelligent woman who understood how the power of communication via writing could unite us and change the world.

September, 1887. A young girl knocks at the door of John Cockerill, the director of Joseph Pulitzer's *The New York World*. She wants to be a reporter, something that no woman has ever dared. Her name is Elizabeth Cochran, she is twenty-three years old, and writes for a Pittsburgh newspaper under the name of Nellie Bly. A female reporter!

No one had ever heard of anything like it before. However, her project of writing under cover about Blackwell Island, the women's asylum in New York, convinces Mr. Cockerill and Mr. Pulitzer. Her idea will result in investigative reportage that will change journalism for ever.

Nellie Bly will become the nightmare of politicians and conformists, she will travel around the world, she will live through various loves and failures, however, always sure that journalism is something that has the capacity to improve the lives of her readers.

press & awards

- "An honest and brave work ..." - *Il Messaggero Veneto*
- "Attadio retraces sympathetically the life of a legendary figure ..." - *L'Espresso*
- Long-listed for the **2018 Viareggio-Rèpaci Prize**
- Short-listed for the **2018 Alessandro Manzoni International**

international rights

Germany (Orell Fussli), **France** (Editions du Portrait), **Poland** (Znak), **Arabic** (Almutawassit)

excerpt

This is Nellie's talent: recognizing the line, that phrase that reveals to the reader an entire world. What more could there be to say about the state of women in the working world? In fact, the paper sells like hot cakes. Industrialists protest, citizens of all kinds protest. No male colleague had ever gone that far, no one had ever been so courageous. It is a shock to the system. Madden congratulates her, increases her salary, and promotes her (!) to head of the gardening and fashion pages. It is a way to defuse her energy, as many have asked him to do. Even if her articles make sales soar. In the meantime, Nellie has learned something: people rarely speak freely with a journalist. Some just want to boast about their results, others are afraid of the consequences of their statements. In the factory, when you introduce yourself as a reporter, either they don't let you in or they only show you what works. You have to be one of them to understand how things really are.

You have to camouflage yourself.

www.giunti.it / www.bompiani.it

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