



# THE BEST OF MINIMUM FAX

AUTUMN 2019

FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR



HIGHLIGHT  
october 2019

NON FICTION - REPORTAGE  
200 pages



## ANTONIO TALIA

# Route 106

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE SECRET  
ROADS OF THE 'NDRANGHETA,  
THE MOST POWERFUL MAFIA-TYPE  
ORGANIZED CRIME GROUP AT A  
GLOBAL LEVEL.

A journey of 104 kilometers on a two-way street, caught between the Ionian Sea and the Aspromonte slopes: the path from Reggio to Siderno is only one hour and a half long, but Calabria branches into five continents and more than forty years of crimes.

From the homicide of the very powerful CEO of the Italian State Railways, Lodovico Ligato, to the maxi laundering operations in Hong Kong; from the privileged relations with Colombian narcos to the brutal assassination of the journalist Ján Kuciak, in Slovakia; from the biggest ecstasy shipment of all times hidden in Melbourne port, to the wars that are bringing bloodsheds to Montréal and Toronto: "driving on Route 106 means to go back to the source of the global phenomenon of the 'ndrangheta".

Undercover agents, sons of innocent victims, fourth generation criminals that only know violence, corrupt officials and cleaned-up businessmen lead us down the route that generated one of the most powerful criminal organizations on the planet. An organization capable of celebrating ancestral rituals of a crying Virgin Mary while pulling off reckless financial international operations worth million of euros.

Route 106 is a journey in the history and psicogeography. Deciphering the minds of the 'ndrangheta affiliates is its end point.



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**HIGHLIGHT**  
*october 2019*

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**NON FICTION - REPORTAGE**  
**200** pages

## **THE PEOPLE**

Most of the people born and grown in Reggio Calabria between the end of the 70's and the mid 90's run away as soon as possible. All these people share a "survivor mentality". They attended primary and secondary schools during a period in which the war between clans produced an average of 100 victims a year, and our city was synonym of the most infamous crime: kidnapping.

## **THE ROUTE**

Route 106 is a wealth of stories and characters, but it remains an "elsewhere" even for those who know it, while people who go down it for the first time go through a cultural shock. Landscapes characterized by abandoned villages, slow pace, accents that change within miles, a deep beauty mixed with a vague feeling of threat. Everything maintains a peculiar impenetrability that hasn't changed in years.

## **THE ASTONISHMENT**

As the power of criminal Calabria families grew, I found some splinters of Route 106 even ten of kilometers away, and I noticed an incredible adaptability of these models and these characters. But the root was always the same, and was undecipherable to those who didn't live in that context.

## **THE AMBIVALENCE**

Under Route 106, out in the open air, a secret Route 106 runs, made of family branches and lines that spread everywhere. This ambivalence also characterizes the inhabitants, capable of a sort of "biculturalism" depending on the context in which they operate.

## **ANTONIO TALIA**

*grew in a cosmopolitan family and has been lucky enough to travel and learn foreign languages since his childhood. So, when he became a journalist he immediately chose to work with foreign affairs.*

*He worked for seven years in Beijing as a news correspondent for an Italian press agency: during this period he worked on different stories related to crime like:*

- *the gang that, from Beijing, controlled football betting all over the world;*
- *the money laundering between Italy and China;*
- *the rise of Jihadism in Indonesia and the training of special forces in Jakarta;*
- *Silvio Berlusconi's shell company in Hong Kong;*
- *the money laundering of the 'ndrangheta in Hong Kong.*

*Once back in Italy, he worked for three years as a crime reporter for the same press agency, and he worked on the international proliferation of the 'ndrangheta.*

*He now works as co-author of Nessun Luogo è Lontano ("Nowhere is Far Away"), a foreign affairs broadcast of Radio24, and Io Sono il Cattivo ("I am the bad guy"), a broadcast dedicated to portraying international terrorists and criminals on the same radio and on Audible.*



NEW TITLE  
october 2019

FICTION - NOVEL  
320 pages



## REMO RAPINO

### The Life and Times of Liborio Bonfiglio

REMO RAPINO / 1951

*has been professor of philosophy and history. He published many books of both poetry and prose for small publishing houses.*

Liborio Bonfiglio is a “cocciamatte”, the lunatic that everyone mocks. The weird and irregular person who prowls on the basalt slabs of a village that is not mentioned. But in his tangled voice the Twentieth century passes again in front of our eyes, with the overwhelming and joyful rhythm of a procession with a marching band in tow.

Everything in Liborio becomes tale, word, slip and memory: his school, his apprenticeship in a barbershop, the brothels, the war and the Resistance, his factory work, the trade union, the madhouse and his solitude during the old age. A series of unforgettable characters populate his memory: the teacher Cianfarra Romeo, the maitresse Donna Assunta, his young love Teresa Giordani, his laborer friends, Boschetto, Lenino, Bacunino and Malatesta, the doctor Alvise Mattolini, Teté and the “Sordicchia”...

From 1926, the year in which Liborio was born – “but in summer” – until 2010, the year in which he is preparing to bow out – “but in winter” – Liborio will celebrate, in a hilarious and melancholic chronicle of failures and revenges, the Carnival of our century, its black signs but also its madness and courage.

Through the miracle of an unpredictable language, crooked and circular, between tradition and funambulism, Remo Rapino wrote a novel that entertains and moves, and pulses in each line of a fragile but obstinate humanity, the one that only a crazy person like Liborio, who lived on the fringes of society, between pulped dreams and lost words, could preserve.





NEW TITLE  
june 2019

FICTION - NOVEL  
357 pages



## TIZIANO SCARPA *Kamikaze of the West*

*"The author has irony, sarcasm, a rare rhythm in his style, in a personal and paradoxical elaboration of authors like Gadda and Manganelli, because of so much intrusion of the self."*

**Corriere della sera**

*"It captures the reader in an unusual complicity, in a sort of mutual identification that sweeps away any diaphragm."*

**Il Fatto Quotidiano**

The protagonist of *Kamikaze of the West* is a precarious writer who is almost 40. He is a chronic penniless, so he makes money thanks to a matter of clients: women pay him to pass their nights with him, to take a walk, to argue. Everything has its price, its translation in money.

But one day, he receives a proposal from an obscure character who presents himself as a cultural officer of the Chinese government: he must write a book on himself, to show the decadence of Europe and justify the imminent, not only economic, Chinese invasion. Unless the writer traces, in his own life or in everyone's one, almost an ounce of passion.

"Just like what happened to Josef K in Kafka's novel, the same happens to my protagonist: he discovers to be on trial by a very powerful authority, he is not the only one to be tried but the entire West. And like K. in *The Trial*, he seeks help in women. And he does it with the same enthusiasm and disenchantment". This is what Tiziano Scarpa writes in his afterward to this new edition of his freest novel. *Kamikaze of The West* actually refuses any conventions and consolations, and continues to be today an unclassifiable novel – as only real novels are – that mixes irony, meditation, truth, invention and sex.

### **TIZIANO SCARPA** / 1963

wrote the collection of poems *Le nuvole e i soldi* (2018), the novels *Il cipiglio del gufo* (2018) and *Il brevetto del gecko* (2015), and the collection of essays *Come ho preso lo scolo* (2014). His most famous books are *Stabat Mater* (2008), with which he won the Strega Prize in 2009, the poem *Groppi d'amore nella scuraglia* (2005) and his guide *Venezia è un pesce* (2001). *Minimum fax* published his collection of poems *Una libellula di città in* 2018 and his novel *Kamikaze d'Occidente* in 2019.



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BACKLIST TITLE

may 2019

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FICTION - NOVEL

270 pages



## LUCA MERCADANTE

### Presumption

THE PLACES OF **CAMORRA** SEEN THROUGH A NEW PERSPECTIVE, IN AN IRONIC AND POWERFUL DEBUT NOVEL.

*"Luca Mercadante constructs with accuracy the passage from the shadow zone of an illusory teenager hood to the real life. A very different life from the imagined one, made of new, unexpected, conscious actions."*

**la Repubblica**

"You're not missing anything, real life is not now. Real life is later". These are the words that Bruno Guida tells himself every day, like a mantra, while he is attending his senior year of high school in Caserta, and he is trying to escape from a world that claims him.

He hates without cease his village, Villa Literno. He looks with arrogance at his province and at the yokels that live there, even at the quirks and mannerisms of his parvenu schoolmates. Above all, he is not willing to follow and indulge his father's obsessive efforts. Since his legendary uncle Piero, twin brother of his father, disappeared without trace, his father has convinced himself that Piero has been victim of Camorra, and he has even gone so far as creating an association for legality, dedicated to Piero. Sarcasm and isolation are to Bruno the only possible defensive weapons: to show presumption, in order to avoid that other people pretend they could cage him and decide for his life. He challenges everything and everyone, so that he can keep alive his dream of being "destined to something different". And when the world around him, his family included, crumbles, he is strongly tempted to seek a way of salvation in catastrophe.

*Presumption* is a coming of age novel, set in the so called "Terra dei Fuochi", an area in the south of Italy characterized by a strong presence of Camorra.

This novel narrates very known places through a new and internal perspective, focused on a young rebel without pre-established ideologies who has just one simple desire: to begin living again.

### LUCA MERCADANTE 1976

received a special mention by the Calvino Prize jury for his novel *Presumption*. He published for Einaudi *Nata per te*. *Storia di Alba* raccontata fra noi (2018), written with Luca Trapanese.



BACKLIST TITLE  
march 2019

NARRATIVE NON FICTION  
200 pages



## DAVIDE COLTRI

### Where My Home Is

Terse and moving stories based on truth, on Others' lives, the ones of those who are excluded from Europe.

**DAVIDE COLTRI / 1981**

lives in Beirut and he is working on educational projects in humanitarian emergency. He worked in Iraq, Sierra Leone, Nepal, Sudan, Tanzania, Turkey and Syria. His short stories have been published on Effe - Periodico di altre narrative, Nazione Indiana, L'Inquieto.

Khalat, a young Syrian Kurd girl, leaves the city of Qa'mishli to attend Damascus University; the outbreak of the war destroys her dreams but not her will of resisting the violence and rescuing her family.

Anneke is a Danish girl with a very clear objective: to devote her life to the weakest people. A mission to Darfur makes her go beyond the boundary of altruism and afford a new difficult beginning.

Théogène, a proud headmaster at a primary school, refuses to accept prejudices and superstitions that divide in two factions people in the refugee camp in which he lives. He will have to pay a heavy price for his coherence, with his wife Rosette.

These are only some of the stories that Davide Coltri collected during his work and then elaborated: they testify a not yet shared present, they are universal stories, far and very close to us at the same time. Coltri has been in Iraq, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Turkey, Syria and other countries as aid worker.

*Where My Home Is* shows civil wars and acts of terrorism but also solidarity, resistance and hope for a different life. The first two ideal places of the book are the refugee camps for who runs away from violence and the compounds for aid workers. The third and last place is the wall, the line that divides those who are considered "us" and those who stay outside.

**Coltri narrates the lost home and the one that one hopes to find.**

*"In a novel that has the flavour of reportage, Davide Coltri never loses sight of human being with his fears and weaknesses."*

**la Repubblica**



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**NEW TITLE**  
*september 2019*

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**FICTION**  
*120 pages*



## ORESTE DEL BUONO

### Winter Tale

**ORESTE DEL BUONO** / 1923 - 2003

*was born in the island of Elba. He was one of the most eclectic and atypical writers of the Italian Nineteenth century. He wrote many fiction and non fiction works during more than 50 years, and he carried out an incessant publishing activity, as translator and publicist for the most important national publishing houses and newspapers. From 1971 to 1981 he was director of the monthly magazine Linus, contributing to the diffusion of Peanuts and the poetic genius of Charles Schulz in Italy. Winter Tale is his debut novel.*

The work camp is the one in Gerlospass, in the Austrian Alps. Tommaso, together with a group of Polish, Ukrainian and Italian prisoners, work at the creation of a power line between the Tyrol and Salzburg.

They pull up the telegraph poles in the snow, under a livid and inclement sky. The days have the sharp smell of the wet cloaks, their shoes are low and broken, their lips are sore like their muscles. At evening, the huge room are filled up with smoke. Out of the windows you can hear the yell of the fir woods, along the slopes smoothed by the storms, and the thud of the shutters at night. Sometimes, stale bread and a cup of acorn coffee relieve the broken legs. But they don't expect anything else anymore. They just look at the absurd whiteness of the snow and think that winter is no longer just a season but a state of the soul, a close fate.

It's as if captivity lasts forever and life has been severed.

Oreste Del Buono tells us – and he was one of the first in Italy – the experience of the work camps, almost in real time: *Winter Tale*, based on a brief short novel, was published at the end of 1945. But its witness transcends the History and ends up illuminating the universal human condition, that sense of loss that many European writers felt at that time: to assist, as foreigners, at the silent pain of the world and at its nonsense; the impossibility of going back to the former words, after the experience of the war and deportation; the betrayal of all expectations and hopes.





NEW TITLE  
june 2019



**LUCIANO BIANCIARDI  
E CARLO CASSOLA**  
**I minatori  
della Maremma**

POSTFAZIONE DI ANTONELLO RICCI

## LUCIANO BIANCIARDI CARLO CASSOLA

### The Miners of Maremma

**LUCIANO BIANCIARDI** / 1922 - 1971

was born in Grosseto. He was a professor, librarian, journalist, translator, sportscaster. He promoted an itinerant library-van called *Bibliobus* to alphabetize the workers of his county. His most popular novel, *The Hard Life* (1962), is the disenchanted chronicle of the Italian economic miracle. *Minimum fax* published his *Antistoria del Risorgimento* in 2018.

**CARLO CASSOLA** / 1917 - 1987

is author of fundamental works, like *Il taglio del bosco* and *La ragazza di Bube* (winner of the Strega Prize in 1960). In the 50's, together with Bianciardi, he drove the *Bibliobus*, an itinerant library between the coast and the little mining villages of Maremma.

## LITERARY NON FICTION

257 pages

On the 4th of May 1954, between 8.35 am and 8.45 am, a firedamp outburst occurs at the well of Camorra in the Ribolla lignite mine. Forty-three miners died as a result of the explosion and the fire of the coal dust. It's a national tragedy.

The bodies are taken to a garage to be reassembled and identified, then lined up in the cinema room. On each coffin the miner's helmet, and under the screen an altar of red flags. Women weep; the old workers repeat the same phrase as a responsorial psalm: "We said so many times that it would have happened, and it happened."

In this improvised fiery chamber, the investigation that Carlo Cassola and Luciano Bianciardi were conducting on the working conditions of the Tuscan miners changes its nature. Both have now become accustomed to these men with disheveled lungs, men of few words, often from peasant family and mostly of communist faith. They lent them their books, organized screenings and meetings, listened to their fate of injuries and silicosis.

The disaster is not due to a tragic fatality, but to "a conscious default" on the part of Montecatini: it is the final chapter, the most painful, of a long history of exploitation, from the formation of the first mining companies to the birth of the working villages, anti-fascist and trade-union struggles. *The Miners of Maremma* thus becomes a funeral oration and an indictment, a courageous work at the time of its publication that still preserves its topicality.

*"A classic book of civil literature that reconstructs the context, the conditions and the consequences with the lucid passion of the post-war investigative journalism."* **Il Venerdì di Repubblica**

*"No one had ever narrated the last by naming them."* **Corriere della Sera**



NEW TITLE  
march 2019

FICTION - NOVEL

180 pages



## GIOVANNI ARPINO

# The Fabulous Domingo

*"One of the greatest writers of the 20th century."*

**Michele Mari**

*"Giovanni Arpino, an anarchical writer and a never obvious sportscaster, puts his novel in a neorealist key."*

**il Foglio**

Everything is irregular in Domingo. His face, "structured on triangles, protrusions, sloping shadows"; his crooked way of walking, like a fox; his forty years, long and tight like his profile. He is an important figure of protest and disobedience. He is the last human being to refuse to adapt himself to the world. He lives on inventions, cabals and perfect trickiness. He is the king of picares, manwhores and liars, a lonely and original thief, a con artist. He has an eternal and angelic girlfriend who has a truck and works behind the candy counter, near the darts stall and the roller-coaster.

Domingo is different respect other people: he feels the glassy air through which he moves; his sufferance is the face of the world that falls apart. Until, one day, a spine rips "the musty shell of his heart" and makes him play with his destiny using a roll of the dice: he kidnaps a young gypsy girl, who was born with her heart displaced. Her skin is lightly blue, like the color of a candle burning out. Her lips are like blackberries and her smile like the wing of a swallow. The hours that Domingo passed with her give him back the abyss of life and the adventure that he never gave up, moving among knives, premonitions and pursuits, in an overnight luciferin Turin, which recalls the surreal Paris of Boris Vian or the Moscow of Bulgakov.

With a language that is irregular and fanciful as much as his character, Giovanni Arpino pays his best tribute to the fantasy genre and creates a mysterious tale like a map of the signs carved on a hand.

*The Fabulous Domingo* is a story of witchcraft and guardian angels, that celebrates the survival of the enchantment in a disenchanting world.



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BACKLIST TITLE

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FICTION - NOVEL

190 pages



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GIOVANNI ARPINO  
*Sei stato felice,  
Giovanni*  
INTRODUZIONE DI GIULIO BIANCHI

## GIOVANNI ARPINO

### You Have Been Happy, Giovanni

*"A text that has the taste of the end of youth but not yet of adult age, where you breathe the salty air of the port, you meet sailors and whores, you get drunk, you talk about rebellion and think of Hemingway."*

Studio

Reading the debut of a classic author is like assisting to a natural phenomenon. After all, as Italo Calvino wrote, the first book is the only one that matters, and we should maybe write only that one and then just stop. *Sei stato felice, Giovanni* has been the big shift in Arpino's life. The fatal occasion to express himself. The big issue to solve, forever or never again. He was twenty-three years old and was staying in a little filthy and seedy guesthouse in Genoa. It took him twenty days. Twenty days to invent a voice and a landscape, to say goodbye to his friends, to his youth, to his impossible love stories, to so many joys and desperations of all precarious ages. To put Hemingway, Steinbeck, Vittorini and the French cinema behind himself. And the long war period. Arpino's debut novel is a book of partings. A story that is like the last drunk

before waiting for the adult age and the miserable future. The adventure of who wears his solitude like a hat and feels like a missing bullet, the adventure of a survivor who doesn't know of what. The protagonist knows he has to move, find a job. But in the meantime he gets drunk, argues, falls in love, owes money and has misfortunes. He is lazy, cruel and wasteful. He cannot do anything else but live at the port, have its smell, belong to a humanity of sailors, prostitutes and tramps. A port called Genoa, with its thin and moving sea air, but it could also be Buenos Aires or any other place.

*Sei stato felice, Giovanni* talks to our time with true, bossy and irreplaceable words. To young and old people, to those who are going to leave and to those who are coming back.



#### GIOVANNI ARPINO 1927 / 1987

was born in Pola and died 60 years later in Turin. *Sei stato felice, Giovanni* was published by Elio Vittorini in the important and prestigious review *I Gettoni* in 1952. The *Fabulous Domingo* is part of a fantastic trilogy published for the first time in the 60's. Gifted with a unique voice, Giovanni Arpino is among the very few authors that won both the Strega and the Campiello Prize. In addition to this novel, he wrote more than thirty books and worked as a sport journalist for many years. Rights for his books have been sold to many countries, like France (Belfond and Autremet) and USA (Penguin Classics).



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HIGHLIGHT TITLE  
september 2012

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FICTION - NOVEL  
201 pages



## PAOLO COGNETTI

### Sofia Always Wears Black

**RIGHTS SOLD TO:** De Bezige Bij (Netherland), Liana Levi (France), Fraktura (Croatia), Palomar (Denmark), Inaque (Slovakia), DVA (Germany), Finland (Artemisia), Korea (Hyundae Munhak Publishing)

*"The most beautiful book of 2012. Read it, and Sofia will stay with you forever."*

**Vanity Fair**

*"Cognetti's prose is masterful."*

**Blow Up**

*"Cognetti is exquisitely perceptive when describing women."*

**Maire Claire**

Sofia is a complex, restless woman from Northern Italy whose story we follow for thirty years: from her childhood in a seemingly peaceful middle-class family during the '80s to her troubled adolescence in the '90s, to her liberating discovery of sex and her passion for theatre, to the moment when, in New York at the beginning of a new century, she must take stock of her life so far. Compellingly readable and emotionally charged, this novel is poised to be Cognetti's definitive breakthrough.

#### PAOLO COGNETTI / 1978

is the author of two acclaimed short-story collections (his first, *Handbook for Successful Girls*, sold more than 10,000 copies; his second, *A small thing about to explode*, won the Premio Settembrini and the Premio Renato Fucini, and was shortlisted for the Premio Chiara), with the novel *Sofia Always Wears Black* was consecrated as one of the best voices in contemporary Italian literature. With his last novel *Le otto montagne* (Einaudi, 2016) he won the 2017 Strega Prize.

*Is it possible to portray a female character, as a child, a teenager and then a young woman fickle as a flame? Paolo Cognetti does it, and the result is wonderful."*

**Elle**

*"One of the most compassionate voices of his generation."*

**Famiglia Cristiana**

*"Paolo Cognetti builds up a perfectly oiled machine of imprecision."*

**Le nouvel Observateur**

**SHORTLISTED FOR  
THE STREGA PRIZE**

**PAOLO COGNETTI****A Handbook For Successful Girls****RIGHTS SOLD TO:****Inaque (Slovakia)****120 pages**  
**october 2004***"A lovely surprise [...] Minimalist technique mastered with poised elegance."***Il sole 24 ore**

Seven stories, seven portraits of women. Girls fighting for love, for motherhood, for work; women who travel, build their careers or inherit fortunes; women who lose their jobs, who are betrayed and abandoned, and try to deal with failure; women who start over, rebel, sail without a compass through the storms of daily life. By their sides are weak and disoriented men, only capable of getting by, lacking courage and irony and also often lacking the

solitude that surrounds their girlfriends. With a dry and sharp style, and a captivating plot skillfully mixing bittersweet romance and coming-of-age tales against the frantic, often surreal backdrop of post-industrial Northern Italy, Cognetti builds the chapters of an imaginary "handbook for successful girls", seven ways of finding or losing happiness in today's world, seven stories that speak out with a voice that is impossible to forget.

**PAOLO COGNETTI****A Small Thing About To Explode****RIGHTS SOLD TO:****Inaque (Slovakia)****158 pages**  
**november 2007***"For the poignancy and sheer quality of his writing, Cognetti can compete with the great American short-story writers." Linus*

After his previous astonishing debut with *Handbook for successful girls*, his time Paolo Cognetti's unifying theme is the most sensitive, violent, and painful age of life-adolescence.

Whether focusing on wealthy, twisted, fascinating girls committed to a clinic for the anorexic, or kids hurtling into the solitude of their parents' disintegrating marriage, the adolescence explored in these short stories becomes a game of roulette in which it is the future that is at stake; the moment, painful and keenly felt, in which the pro-

tagonist becomes aware of his or her identity, and discovers sex, friendship, and the cruelty of life, while striving to transform all these elements into an opportunity for redemption and emancipation.

With the intense and precise writing that won him his first popularity, and a perfect mastery of the way things intertwine, Paolo Cognetti proves once again that he is one of the best new writers at describing everyday life. And, more important, one of the few writers able to keep his readers' rapt interest from the first page to the last.





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NEW TITLE  
may 2019

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NON FICTION  
480 pages



## RAFFAELE ALBERTO VENTURA

### The War of All Against All

PARANOIA, TERROR AND CRISIS OF THE LIBERAL SOCIETY

From the author of “*Who Do We Think We Are*”, one of the most acclaimed debuts in 2017.

Populism and conspiracy theories, racism and terrorism, fake news and politically correctness are all symptoms of a cultural crisis.

The struggle for social recognition has turned into a war of all against all. A war enclosed in virtual spaces, now threatening to spill over and infect the real world. A spectre is haunting Western society – the spectre of civil war. It’s continuously evoked and blanked out, it surfaces as a real possibility every time there is a terroristic attack, when there are urban riots, or in the context of the success of populist movements. Faced with the risk of a spiraling into rebellion, governments are unable to conceive no other remedy than the strict control of public space. But what if the problem was found to be nothing more than our relationship with language and with symbolic violence?

No civilization has ever sensationalized wellbeing so much, and no civilization has ever suffered the effect of the resentment that escalates when promises are broken: **it’s the triumph of sad passions, intercommunity hatreds and conspiracy theories.** After having regulated public consent by producing dreams and needs for decades, the cultural industry is now just a machine that produces paranoia. But how can we not feel paranoid when the political categories on which the social order has been constructed have now reverted to just fiction? Democracy is merely an ideal, Population is just a philosophic construction. Justice is the law of the strongest, Truth is a fragile compromise of different world visions.

Our society is torn apart between the tyranny of universalism and the claims of minorities: it is impellent that we recover the value of tolerance.

**We have to grieve and elaborate a strategy that calls for coexistence**, since we have to face the threat of an escalation of the extremisms and cultivate a radical refusal of “undisputed facts” that risk to destroy the social body.

With his second book, pop philosopher Raffaele Alberto Ventura takes us on a journey through the ruins of the affluent society: he takes us across rallies inspired by Hollywood movies, he listens to superheroes who talk about philosophy and he speaks with conspiracy theorist fans of Rihanna, princess of the Illuminati. In the midst of this noise, he brings to our attention the voices of Hobbes and Rousseau, explores the pages of Dick and Flaubert and recalls the history of old wars of religion.

### RAFFAELE ALBERTO VENTURA / 1983

*studied philosophy and cultural economy. He now works in Paris for a big publisher, in the marketing department. He writes for Linus, IL and Prismo, of which he is editor-at-large. He wrote for Internazionale, Rivista Studio, Alfabeta2 and Nazione Indiana. Since May 2017 he has been directing a non fiction book series for D Publishing House. His blog is Eschaton (eschaton.it).*



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HIGHLIGHT TITLE

september 2017

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NON FICTION

160 pages



## RAFFAELE ALBERTO VENTURA

Who Do We Think We Are.

Millenials And The Aspirational Disease

RIGHTS SOLD TO: **ÂVINÉ** (Brazil)

Today, Western Middle Class is chained to the bourgeois habits and needs created by the spectacular economic growth of the post-war years, but can no longer afford them. Their children are now realizing that there is literally no room for them. Standing at the gates of an adult age that seems it will never come, Millennials are wasting a huge amount of resources in order to participate in a winner-takes-all competition for fewer and fewer job opportunities.

In this way they are providing the aggregate demand Late Capitalism desperately needs in order to sustain its productive system: but this non-cooperative game among the heirs of the Middle Class is also leading to a "Mutual Assured Declassing". Switching between economics and literature, from Veblen to Kafka, *Teoria della classe disagiata* (literaly "The Theory of Aspirational Class Disease") formulates a merciless self-critical analysis of this social class.

*"A poignant, beautiful book. Everybody should read it. And take the time to reflect on it."*

**il Venerdì di Repubblica**

*"The aspirational class of the cultivated losers: Raffaele Alberto Ventura makes an entrance."*

**Il Fatto Quotidiano**

*"An epoch-making essay that should be read by our ruling class."* **La Stampa**

*"Our era urgently needed a book such as Ventura's, every member of the ruling class should read it in order to better understand the deep discomfort of their fellow citizens."*

**Corriere della Sera**

*"A fierce and realistic snapshot of the middle-class status quo, taken in the current economic and social crisis."* **Frammenti**

*"Simply enlightening."* **Panorama**

*"Teoria della classe disagiata gathers together many different souls: pamphlet, generational portrait, economics essay through a cultural lens."* **Rivista Studio**