

MELANIA G. MAZZUCCO

Melania G. Mazzucco was born in Rome, and made her debut in fiction with *Il bacio della Medusa* (1996), followed by *La camera di Baltus* (1998) and *Lei così amata* (2000). Her novel *Vita* was awarded the Premio Strega in 2003, named in a New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice and selected for the Publishers Weekly Top Ten Books of the Year. After *Un giorno perfetto* (2005), she wrote about Tintoretto the novel *La lunga attesa dell'angelo* (2008) and the essay *Jacomo Tintoretto e i suoi figli* (2009). Her most recent works are the novel *Limbo* (2012), *Il bassotto e la Regina* (2012), *Sei come sei* (2013), *Io sono con te. Storia di Brigitte* (2016), *L'archittrice* (2019). She created and wrote the docu-film *Tintoretto. A Rebel in Venice*, a 2019 Sky Arts original production distributed all over the world. Her books have been translated in 27 languages.

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MELANIA G. MAZZUCCO

L'ARCHITETTRICE

The first female architect of modern history.

Giovanni Briccio is a plebeian genius, opposed by the literati and ignored by the court: he is a mattress-maker, a painter of scant fame, a popular playwright, actor and poet. He has a daughter, Plautilla.

Briccio wants to make her the total artist he has failed to become and teaches her about painting, mathematics, science. Plautilla, however, is doubly disadvantaged as a female and of humble origins. She struggles in Rome's artistic circles, dominated by the genius of Bernini and Pietro da Cortona, and conditioned by the patronage of the Barberini family. Her father's overbearing presence forces her to sacrifice her youth. But the meeting with Elpidio Benedetti, a young aspiring writer, will eventually change her life.

Plautilla Bricci and Elpidio Benedetti, both apparently unarmed due to the dangers of the court, will become the most extravagant couple of seventeenth-century Rome. She a virgin, he an abbot, both of them held to chastity to safeguard the only treasure they possess. They must hide and officially ignore each other for twenty-five years, until they can embark on an enterprise that crowns the dream of a lifetime: the construction of a Villa designed, planned and executed by the woman.

DETAILS

A novel, Einaudi, November 2019, 560 pages

Melania G. Mazzucco returns to the historical novel, to the passion for art and its interpreters. While narrating the glories, the intrigues, the violence and the miseries of Rome – city of popes – and the fervour of a century both sanctimonious and libertine, she gives us the portrait of an extraordinary woman of the seventeenth century.

PREMIO JOHN FANTE, PREMIO CAPALBIO, PREMIO ALASSIO, PREMIO CORRADO ALVARO E LIBERO BIGIARETTI, PREMIO MASTERCARD, PREMIO IO DONNA, PREMIO STRESA, PREMIO RIGHETTO, PREMIO MANZONI, PREMIO DESSÌ

The National Galleries of Palazzo Barberini are organizing at Palazzo Corsini alla Lungara in Rome the first monographic exhibition ever dedicated to Plautilla, which in November 2021 will bring together all her known works and which was born thanks to *L'architetrice*.

“ An incredible Rome in the Seventeenth century: alive and overflowing, stimulating and corrupt, cheerful and sad. ”

Alberto Asor Rosa, *la Repubblica*

“ An extraordinary writer. ”
Angelo Guglielmi, *Tuttolibri*

“ We need this kind of imagination, to start to give voice to the women who haven't had a right to be represented. ”
Alessandra Sarchi, *La Lettera*

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Hungary (Jelenkor), Portugal (Book Cover), Spain (Anagrama).

MELANIA G. MAZZUCCO

L'ARCHITETTRICE

EINAUDI



MELANIA G. MAZZUCCO

FUOCO INFINITO

(Infinite Fire)

Premio Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia

Friuli, 1917. Nilo Boschini, a young history of art professor, is in charge of saving the works of art in danger of being destroyed on the Italian front. Among them there are the masterpieces by Giambattista Tiepolo, a much-loved artist, who received his first major commissions there back in the 18th century.

Marquise Solferina Zender is also not there to fight: she wants to support her homeland as a Red Cross nurse, but she's deluded by war propaganda, which in no way corresponds the reality of war. Her encounter with Nilo, in that dark hour of the country, will change both their lives.

This World War I version of *Monuments Men* is both a powerful depiction of wartime that lets the reader actually hear the terrifying sound of the bombings – walls shattering all over, dust and dirt covering everything – and a delicate and insightful portrait of a great artist and his work, so vividly told that you can almost see it. Melania G. Mazzucco creates a masterfully orchestrated story in which the irreversibility of historical events and the consequent human tragedy alternate with the artistic parable of one of the greatest painters of the 18th century. And poses the reader a complex question: in the face of the death and the suffering of millions of people, what kind of relevance does art have?

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DETAILS

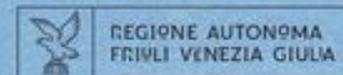
A short novel, Italo Svevo, September 2021, 102 pages

MELANIA G.
MAZZUCCO

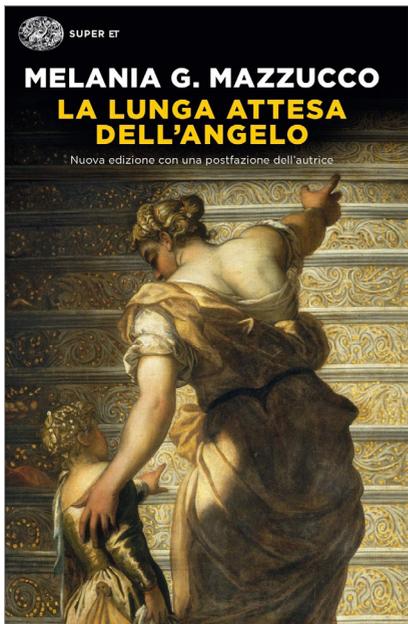
FUOCO INFINITO

TIEPOLO 1917

ITALO SVEVO



Premio Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia



DETAILS

A novel, Rizzoli 2008/Einaudi 2021, 418 pages
 Premio Bagutta 2009
 Premio Scanno 2009
 Premio Biblioteche di Roma 2009
 Premio Tobino Viareggio 2011 Writer of the year

The novel on the life of an extraordinary artist. The mystery of love and art in Italy's most fascinating city.

“A hard-to-forget female character.”
l'Espresso

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Bulgaria (Uniscorp), Denmark (Tellerup), Finland (Avain), France (Flammarion), Germany (Knaus Bertelsmann), Spain and Latin America (Anagrama).



MELANIA G. MAZZUCCO

LA LUNGA ATTESA DELL'ANGELO (The Long Wait for the Angel)

To celebrate Tintoretto's 500 years since his birth, in Fall 2018 a gigantic exhibition has opened in Venice (Palazzo Ducale and Accademia), in many European cities and then at the National Gallery in Washington. Melania G. Mazzucco has also created and written the docu-film *Tintoretto. A Rebel in Venice*, a 2019 Sky Arts original production distributed all over the world.

In Venice, toward the end of the 16th century, Jacomo Robusti – otherwise known as Tintoretto – defends his achievements by any means. He thrives on competition, bodily threat, and deceit, while also finding inspiration for his paintings in the extraordinary physical world that surrounds him. Tintoretto's illegitimate daughter Marietta is his most perfect creation. A gifted musician and painter in her own right, Marietta is a woman of acute intelligence, boundless creativity, and clear vision. From her illicit origins to her practice of dressing as a boy in order to observe her father's world unrestricted, her life takes on a mythical aura. Mazzucco explores the love between Tintoretto and Marietta to the end. Her confident prose draws the reader deep into the mystery of painting, into the world of two unforgettable artists, and into the mood of Italy's most fascinating city, itself on the edge of an inevitable collapse.

MELANIA G. MAZZUCCO

IL MUSEO DEL MONDO (The Museum of the World)

One of Italy's most beloved narrators accompanies us in the discovery of her own personal “imaginary museum”.

Every painting, every work displayed in a church or gallery leaves a mark on those who look at it. It is the beginning of an adventure. Created out of faith, or money, or vocation or love, the works of art that Melania G. Mazzucco has not been able to forget embrace five continents, from antiquity to nowadays. Among the most beloved paintings, Mazzucco has selected fifty-two – “only works by artists worth spending time with” – and after a rigorous selection, she decided to recount them in her weekly *Repubblica* column over the course of a year. This volume gathers the stories and the images of these works that become presences, a mirror of thought, indelible emotion and sparks of the world's meaning.

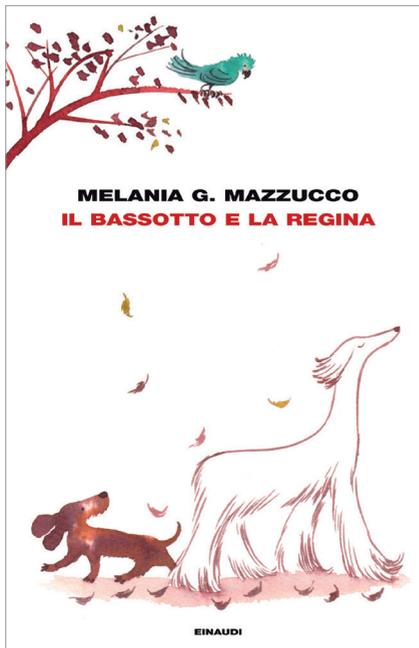


MELANIA G. MAZZUCCO IL MUSEO DEL MONDO

EINAUDI

DETAILS

Einaudi 2014, 240 pages
 Premio Città delle Rose 2015



DETAILS

Einaudi 2012, 106 pages
 Illustrations by Alessandro Sanna
 Premio Frignano Ragazzi 2013

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Germany (Atlantik), Japan (Michitani).

MELANIA G. MAZZUCCO

IL BASSOTTO E LA REGINA

(Plato and the Queen)

A Christmas tale, a story of love and friendship about the strength and purity of feelings, both of animals and their human owners.

Plato is a dachshund who loves singing, he is kind of a poet, brave as a tiger. The Queen is a proud Afghan greyhound with oblique eyes. The Queen is kept prisoner by cruel smugglers and Plato would risk his own life to free her. A love affair between the two of them seems impossible, but nothing is impossible in fairy tales – and maybe not only there, because “appearance is just a chance, the soul is our destiny”. A tender and deep story told by a parrot that is sitting on a tree and understands all the languages of the world. A wonderful and moving tale about the courage of dreaming and the beauty of travelling.

“ These parrots, dogs and monkeys’ adventures tell something about today’s life, without heroism and with no obligation of a moral lesson. ”

la Repubblica

“ An intense and passionate story. ”

tuttoLibri

“ Mazzucco succeeds in telling a classic tale, but set in a cruel contemporary world, taking only realistic elements from the fantastic. ”

Il Messaggero

“ A new proof of Mazzucco’s eclectic writing. ”

La Sicilia



MELANIA G. MAZZUCCO

IO SONO CON TE

STORIA DI BRIGITTE

(I Am With You. The Story of Brigitte)

The story of a meeting and of recognition, of an ordeal and a rebirth, the description of an Italy that is both inhospitable and welcoming.

For months, two women meet regularly; they learn to know each other, understand each other and trust each other.

Brigitte arrives at Termini train station one day at the end of January. She is cold and hungry and doesn’t really know what country she’s in. She had fled hastily from Congo and was then unloaded like a burdensome package. The train station in Rome becomes her dormitory; garbage becomes her dinner. And yet she used to be a nurse, the mother of four children she doesn’t even know if still alive. When she is completely at the end of her tether, she is approached by a man. He scribbles an address on a paper napkin: the Centro Astalli, where she will find a meal, human warmth and all the help she needs. It is a new beginning, but it is also the beginning of a new odyssey.

Melania Mazzucco has put herself on the line in every page, as a human being and as an author, with a style that is precise, personal, and full of restrained and explosive emotion. In *Vita* she had narrated the epic of Italian emigration; in *Io sono con te* she changes perspective: by looking these men and women in the eye, we cannot help but recognize the desperate energy that we all have in common when life has wrecked us and we are trying to get back on our feet.



DETAILS

Einaudi 2016, 224 pages
 Book of the Year Fahrenheit-Radio3

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Croatia (Oceanmore),
 Hungary (Európa Könyvkiadó),
 Spain (Anagrama).





DETAILS

A novel, Einaudi Stile Libero 2013, 244 pages
Premio Internazionale Molinello 2014

“Eva comes out as an authentic literary heroin.”
la Repubblica

“A precise and deep writing, an educated, engaging eye... a precious reading.”
tuttoLibri

“For 235 pages *Sei come sei* captures the reader, making him suffer and hope with this little girl.”
Io donna



MELANIA G. MAZZUCCO

SEI COME SEI (*You Are How You Are*)

A daughter and her two fathers: a normal family. A wish fulfilled and a broken dream. The courage and tenderness to disarm prejudices.

There's a little girl riding the Milan-Rome train – alone and on the run after a violent quarrel with her classmates. Eva is a proud girl who reads a lot of books and has a gift for telling stories. She's only eleven years old, but already knows pain and abandonment. Giose is an instinctive man, exuberant and affectionate to a fault. He was a rising star in the punk-rock scene of the 1980s, then fell in love with Christian, a young Latin professor. Eva is their daughter. To have her they had to go to Armenia, where Eva was born. Theirs was a happy family, but it started to break apart with the sudden death of Christian. The former musician was deemed to be an unsuitable guardian, so he is holing up in a farmhouse in the Apennine Mountains. Eva was entrusted to her uncle and moved to Milan. She hasn't seen him for some time, but Giose is the first and only person Eva thinks of when she flees from a frightening reality. Almost miraculously she manages to find him, and they leave together on a trip through Italy in which she discovers a lot about herself, about her two fathers, the feelings that unite people beyond roles and laws, and the wonderful story to which she owes her life.

Sei come sei is dramatic and entertaining, as fast-paced as an adventure novel. With grace, tenderness and emotional depth, it tells the story of love between a father and a daughter, a love at once utterly unique and universal, with which each of us can identify.

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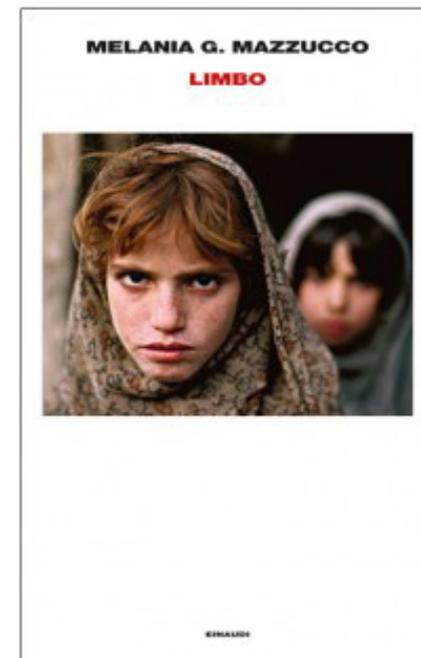
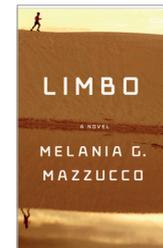
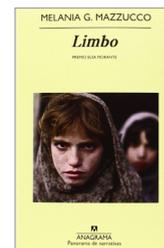
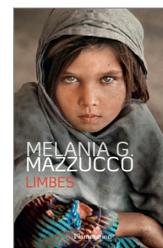
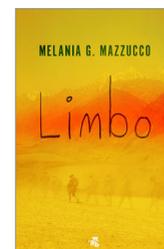
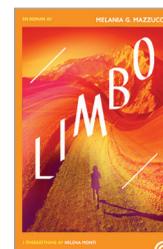
Spain (Anagrama), Sweden (Contempo).
Film rights optioned by Fandango.

MELANIA G. MAZZUCCO

LIMBO (*Limbo*)

A novel about losing yourself in a war and finding yourself in love.

It's Christmas Eve and twenty-seven-year-old Manuela Paris is returning home to a seaside town outside Rome. Years earlier, she left to become a soldier. Back then, Manuela was fleeing an unhappy, rebellious adolescence; with anger, determination, and sacrifice she painstakingly built the life she dreamed of as a platoon commander in the Afghan desert. Now, she's fleeing something else entirely: the memory of a bloody attack that left her seriously injured. Her wounds have plunged her into a very different and no less insidious war: against flashbacks, disillusionment, pain, and victimhood. In chapters that toggle between Manuela at home, grappling with her new life, and Manuela in Afghanistan, coming to terms with her role as a leader of fighting men and as a peacemaker in a country that doesn't seem to want her help, Mazzucco limns a story of love and loss, death and resistance, in terms both surprising and cathartic.



DETAILS

A novel, Einaudi 2012, 484 pages
Premio Elsa Morante 2012, Premio Bottari Lattes Grinzane 2013, Premio Giacomo Matteotti 2013

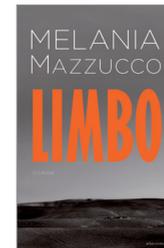
NOW A TV-MOVIE PRODUCED
BY FANDANGO AND RAI CINEMA

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Denmark (Turbine), France (Flammarion), The Netherlands (Atlas-Contact), Poland (WAB Foksal), Serbia (Sezam Book), Spain and Latin America (Anagrama), Sweden (Contempo), USA and UK (Farrar Straus and Giroux).

“Mazzucco has proven herself to be a gifted storyteller, able to touch deeply the human soul.”

Le Monde

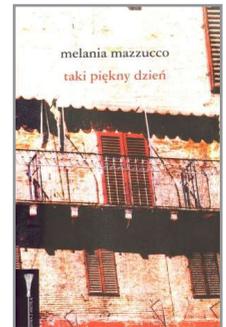
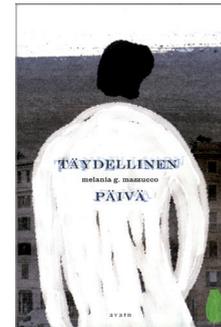
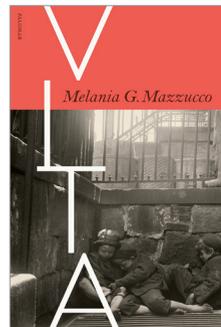
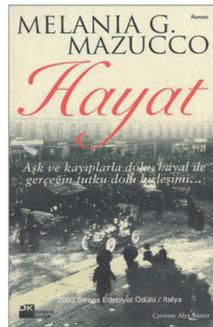
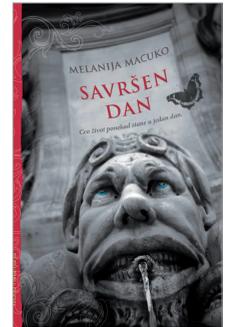
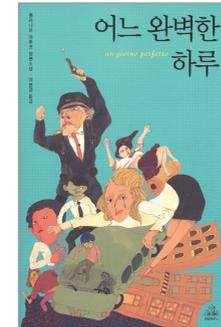
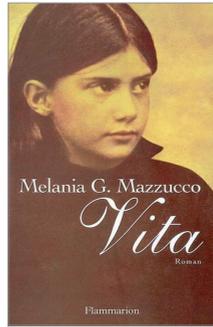
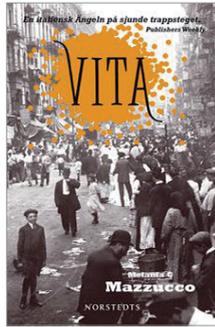
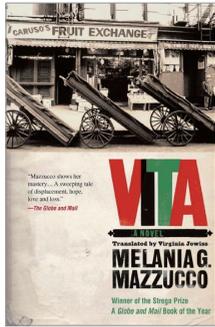
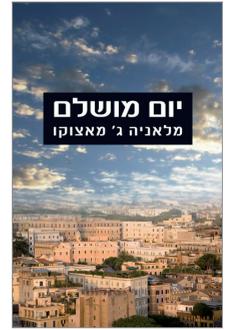
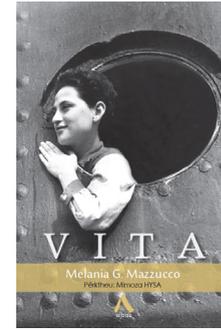


FOREIGN PUBLISHERS OF MELANIA MAZZUCCO'S WORKS

Albania (Albas), Bulgaria (Uniscorp), Canada (HarperCollins, Harper Perennial), China (Horizon), Croatia (Oceanmore), Denmark (Tellerup, Turbine, Palomar), Finland (Avain), France (Flammarion, J'ai lu, Editions du Club), Georgia (Sulakauri), Germany, Austria and Switzerland (Piper, Knaus, btb, Hoffmann und Campe), Greece (Diigisi, Modern Times), Hungary (Európa Könyvkiadó), Israel (Schocken, Kinneret Zmora-Bitan Dvir), Japan (Michitani), Korea (Random House Core), The Netherlands and Belgium (Mouria, Atlas-Contact), Norway (Cappelen), Poland (Wab-Foksal), Romania (Polirom), Russia (Ast), Serbia (Mono j Manjana, Sezam Book), Spain and South America (Seix Barral, Planeta, Anagrama), Sweden (Norstedts, Contempo), Turkey (Yapi Kredi Culture and Arts, Doğan Kitap), UK (Pushkin), US and UK (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, Picador, Thorndike Press).

A SELECTION OF FOREIGN EDITIONS

**VITA
UN GIORNO
PERFETTO**



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