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Guernica Editions

ItalCan LIT

2022



2021/22





Celebrating

Italian


Culture and Heritage





Fiction

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- The World Through Your Eyes*** by Valeria Camerino (S22)
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-  ***Anthony*** by Shayne McGreal (F21)

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- 🇨🇦 ***Crito Di Volta*** by Marc di Saverio
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- 🇨🇦 ***The Two-Headed Man*** by Antonio D'Alfonso
- Thirteen Ways of Crossing the Piazza*** by Pellegrino D'Acierno





Fiction | Young Adult

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Catch and Release

A YOUNG ADULT NOVEL BY

Liana Cusmano



About coming out and coming of age.

In *Catch and Release*, twenty-one-year-old Lucca looks back on her childhood and adolescence as she comes to terms with both her sexual orientation and her mental illness. When she falls in love with the brilliant and beautiful Adèle, Lucca is forced to acknowledge not only that she is not and never has been straight, but also that her relationship with a teacher in high school was not as harmless as she might have thought.

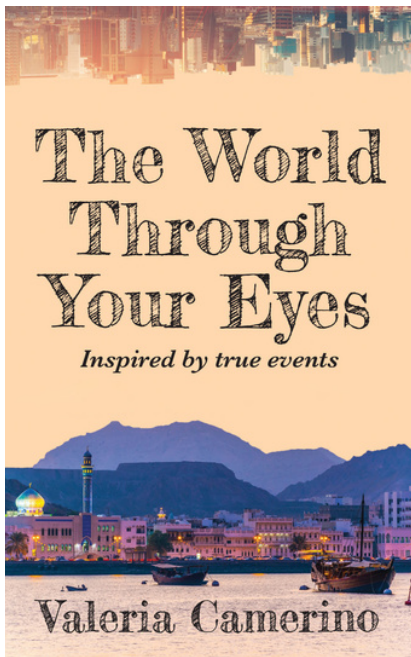


About the Author

Liana Cusmano (they/them/iel/lu), aka Luca and BiCurious George, is a writer, poet, spoken word artist and filmmaker. They are the 2018 and 2019 Montreal Slam Champion; runner up in the 2019 Canadian Individual Poetry Slam Championship. They have performed at Montreal's Pride and in the "I See You" tour. A participant in the 2019 Spoken Word Residency Program at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Liana has presented their work in English, French and Italian across North America, Europe and Asia. Liana Cusmano wrote and directed the film *Matters of Great Unimportance* (2019). They also wrote the film script for *La Femme Finale*, screened at the Cannes Film Festival (2015). Liana created « People, Poésie, Politique » in the television documentary series *Vivre ensemble* (2021). Through writing that focuses on heritage, queerness and mental health, Liana aims to help others feel seen and safe. They ran in the 2019 federal election and was Interim President of the Green Party of Canada (2020-21). *Catch and Release* is their first novel.

Keywords:

Young adult, love, romance, harmful relationships, LGBTQ+, coming out, sexual orientation, mental illness, falling in love, anxiety depression.



Fiction | Romance

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The World Through Your Eyes

A NOVEL BY

Valeria Camerino



A story of three loves and a journey of self-discovery.

After years spent living in the Middle East, Sofia, an Italian freelance journalist, moves back to England, determined to leave her past behind and build a new life for herself and her daughter in Leeds. On a night out on the town, she meets an enigmatic Iranian man whom she is immediately drawn to, as he reminds her of her Omani ex-husband. At first, she seems to have many things in common with him: from a difficult childhood and a rebellious personality, to a disdain for social norms and a nostalgic love for the Middle East. The two enjoy a whirlwind romance which will make her question herself and her certainties. As she relates her story to him, she will be forced to face her painful past, and make sense of it to discover a new sense of self that will change her outlook on life forever.

‘There was no more time to waste. No more space for regrets, for impossible questions that could never be answered, for all those hours spent staring at a mirror which reflected an image you could not recognise. Was that really you? Where had you been when life was happening just in front of your eyes?’

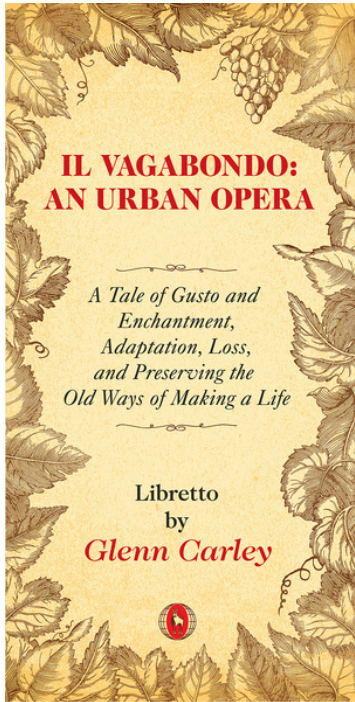


Author Bio

Valeria Camerino is a UK-based writer, journalist, and globetrotter. She was born in Rome but moved to the North of England when she was nineteen to attend university, and has since settled there. *The World Through Your Eyes* is her first book. valeriacamerino.com.

Keywords:

fiction, romance, novel, love, Middle East, travel, journalism, Iranian, Leeds, self-discovery, reconciliation.



Opera | Libretto

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Il Vagabondo: An Urban Opera

A Tale of Gusto and Enchantment, Adaptation, Loss, and Preserving the Old Ways of Making a Life in Canada.

A LYRICAL MEMOIR BY



Glenn Carley

True tales to tell in the dialect of love.

A rare type of literature of a new avant garde genre: literature presented as installation art in 'libretto form' which is meant to be read as operatic recitative in song/speak. It is a pan-cultural love story.

Enter the cross-cultural tale of gusto and enchantment, adaptation and loss, preserving the old ways of making a life. Presented in six acts with intermissions and curtain calls, it is a new form of literature presented in interactive libretto form. Read it silently, read it out loud, or step upon the imaginary stage of all life to commandeer the operatic recitative called sing/speak. *Il Vagabondo* is a love story—an opera rusticana of the people, by the people, for the people. It is all true.

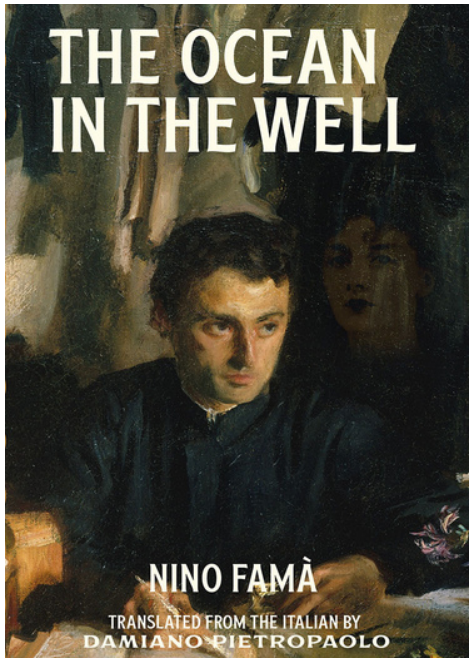


Author Bio

Author **Glenn Carley** was born in Trenton Ontario. He is the author of *Polenta at Midnight: Tales of Gusto and Enchantment in North York* (Vehicule Press, 2007) and *Good Enough From Here* (Rock's Mills Press, 2020) His stories have appeared in Italian Canadians at *Table: A Narrative Feast in Five Courses* (Guernica Editions, 2013) and in *Accenti Magazine*. *Il Vagabondo: An Urban Opera* is his third book. A retired chief social worker, Glenn lives in Bolton Ontario with his wife, Mary. Their family is blessed with daughter, son, and daughter-in-law.

Keywords: opera; opera rusticana; installation art; script; urban opera; Italian;

Italian-Canadian; libretto; Old World; tradition; lyrical memoir; installation art; sing; speak; performance; communication; family; avant garde; interactive; drama; theatre; stage; home; love; marriage; intercultural marriage;



**Fiction | translated from
Italian**

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The Ocean in the Well

A NOVEL BY

Nino Famà

TRANSLATED FROM THE ITALIAN BY

Damiano Pietropaolo



A seminarian falls in love with a girl and ends up in jail.

This is the story of a love at first sight, of a struggle between love for God and love for a woman, a clash between contrasting feelings. The reader is immersed in the whirlwind of passions, upheavals and feelings of guilt that overwhelm Stefano, the protagonist of the novel.

What happens when a dream becomes a nightmare? Stefano is put to the test in a series of events that toss him from the seminary to a great love story, from Italy to New York, from a humble job to the clutches of the American underworld.

The emotional alteration that is created in Stefano's mind pushes him to re-evaluate the meaning of things, of life itself. For him, these are times of profound and heartfelt reflections on human relationships, on one's existence, on the before and the after, on the self and on the other: "Am I the criminal lying in this cell, or the shy, generous and selfless boy from the seminary?," Stefano asks himself.



Author Bio

Born in Barcellona P.G. (ME), **Nino Famà** is currently professor emeritus at the University of Waterloo, where he taught Latin American literature for 25 years. He also taught at the University of Victoria (1976-1984). He has published two books of literary criticism: *Realismo mágico en la narrativa de Demetrio Aguilera Malta* and *Las últimas obras de Alejo Carpentier*. He is also the author of numerous scholarly articles and essays, which have been published in scholarly journals in Canada, Europe, USA and Latin America. More recently, he has cultivated his passion for writing works of fiction in Italian. His latest novels, *Il sogno di Toloma* (2017) and *L'oceano nel pozzo* (2014), were published by Pellegrini Editore. *La stanza segreta* (Sciascia Editore 2004) and was later translated in English by Douglas Campbell and Leonard Sbrocchi and published by LEGAS Publishing in 2008 with the title *The Secret Room*. A collection of short stories, *Don Gaudenzio e altre storie*, was published by Bastogi Editrice Italiana in 1996.

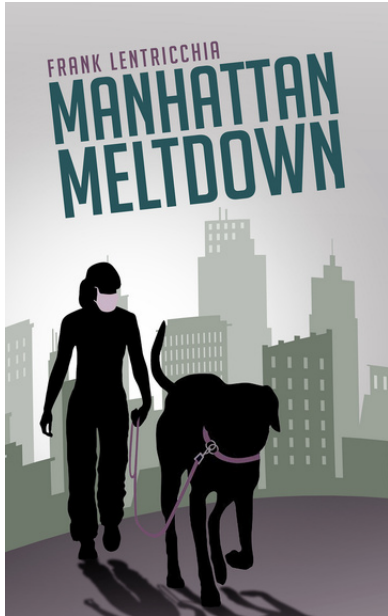
Toronto's **Damiano Pietropaolo** is an award-winning and widely published writer/broadcaster, director, translator, and educator.

Keywords: New York, Italy, American politics, good and evil, Second World War, Italian emigration, underworld, passion, guilt, love, religion, nostalgia, misadventure, discrimination, identity, generational divide, imperialism, hope, misfortune, disillusion



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Manhattan Meltdown

A NOVEL BY

Frank Lentricchia



Fighting crime, Covid-19, and old age

Crime Fiction | Novella

PUB. DATE: Oct. 1, 2021
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Two men, no longer young, and friends from childhood, fly to NYC—each with a secret purpose unknown to the other. They arrive just as COVID-19 explodes across the city’s 5 boroughs. One of the men (white) has come to Manhattan to confront a theater producer who has made a coercive offer to his wife. The other man (Black, former All-American football star) plans to confront and take revenge on his white girlfriend from college days—who left him for a white man. As they pursue their goals they are caught up in the hunt for America’s most famous criminal. The Black man, seeking revenge, makes a surprising turn. The white man, who has taken his confrontation with the theater producer to criminal length, may never leave Manhattan to return to his family. *Manhattan Meltdown* introduces a series of inter-connected characters who, even as their lives are impacted by lethal disease, must continue to struggle with more conventional personal crises: uterine cancer, imperiled romantic relationships, and the deteriorations of advancing old age.



Author Bio

Frank Lentricchia was born to working-class parents in Utica, New York, in 1940. He earned his M.A. from Duke University in 1963, and his Ph.D. in 1966. His first two books were about modern poetry, and he then began to write more about literary theory, publishing his ground-breaking books in the early 1980s. Lentricchia served as the editor of two book series, one for The University of Chicago Press (The Wellek Library Lectures), and one for the University of Wisconsin Press (The Wisconsin Project on American Writing.) During these years, he began to drift from his previous work in theory. Lentricchia's first non-scholarly book, *The Edge of Night*, was published in 1994, and he soon followed with his much-noted essay in *Lingua Franca*, "Last Will and Testament of an Ex-Literary Critic," his farewell to certain types of academic criticism and theory. Though he did not completely abandon literary comment, Lentricchia from then on devoted himself to fiction. To date, he has published 12 books of fiction.

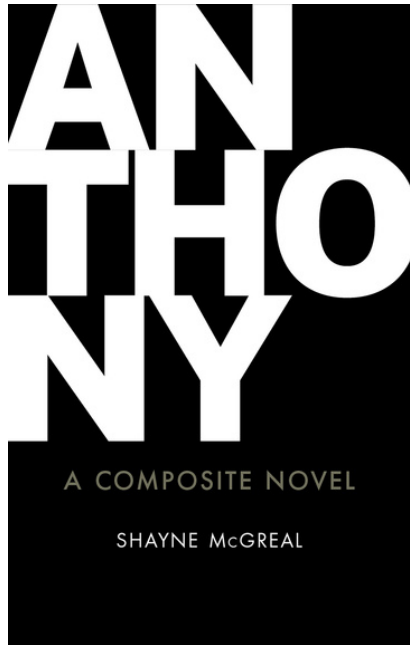
Keywords:

NYC; Manhattan; murder; crime; Covid; pandemic; revenge; thriller



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Fiction | Mental Health

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Anthony

A COMPOSITE NOVEL BY

Shayne McGreal



**A young aspiring filmmaker copes with anxiety disorder, OCD,
and clinical depression in this novel-in-stories.**

Following a stranger hoping he's a long-lost friend. Breaking into a relative's home to retrieve your antidepressants. Planning to get pregnant, getting pregnant, and trying to tell your husband you don't want the baby. Waiting all evening for your wife to compliment your appearance. Running a social experiment and getting blamed when a woman gets hit by a car. Getting fired after you're caught with your pants down at work. All these stories involve Anthony, a sensitive, insecure, mentally ill young man and aspiring filmmaker. The collection explores his experiences as he tries to cope with and overcome the fears driven by his obsessive compulsive disorder, anxiety disorder, and clinical depression.



Author Bio

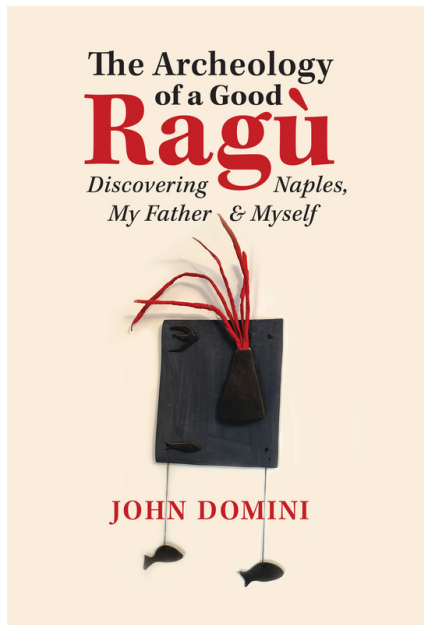
Shayne McGreal was born and raised in Hamilton (Dundas), Ontario and currently lives in Toronto with his wife and son. He tends to write about mental illness, masculinity, and violence, focusing on characters who are insecure, full of doubt, and desperate to control themselves and their surroundings. In addition to being a writer, Shayne works in post-production in the film and tv industry. *Anthony: A Composite Novel* is his first book.

Excerpt

They arrive at her place and Anthony knows she's going to ask again if he wants to come up. He really just wants to tell her how he's afraid of sex, afraid she will have something that will kill him, but he can't. Partly because of how she will then see him, but also because he doesn't want to offend her. Zara, please, you must know that I think everyone is diseased.

Keywords:

Doubt, control, masculinity, male body image, insecurity, violence, existential, purpose, fear of sex



Non-fiction | Memoir

PUB. DATE: May 1, 2021

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The Archeology of a Good Ragù: Discovering Naples, My Father & Myself

MEMOIR BY

John Domini



An inspiring and savory account of mid-life crisis

The comeback from midlife catastrophe has proven a winning basis for memoir, but none have featured a recovery like this. When failures both personal and professional laid John Domini low, and his father's death left mysteries unresolved, he went to the old man's hometown— Naples, Italy.

The ancient Mediterranean seaport remains rich in beauty and culture, but lately it's better known as the home of the vicious Camorra, a city with the garbage in the streets. Nonetheless, Domini loved the place. He hoped to relocate, and made extended visits year after year, living on the cheap. He savored Naples the way Elena Ferrante does, its agonies and its comforts, and as he unearthed local secrets, he brought family skeletons to light.



Author Bio

John Domini is the author of four novels, most recently *The Color Inside a Melon*, which was praised by the *Washington Post* as "sage," "spry," and "exceptionally well-turned"; and three books of stories, the latest, *MOVIEOLA!*, which won praise in *Vanity Fair* and *The Millions*. He has won awards in all genres, with fiction in *Paris Review* and non-fiction in the *New York Times*. Grants include an NEA Fellowship and an Iowa Major Artist Award. John has taught at Harvard, Northwestern, and elsewhere, and makes his home in Des Moines, with the science fiction writer Lettie Prell.

Keywords: travel; spirituality; Naples; Italy; Italian American; feel good; inspiring; self-help; healing; good life; memories; romance; integrity; mortality; middle age; midlife crisis; genealogy; fatherhood

From Sojourners to Citizens: Alberta's Italian History

NONFICTION BY

Adriana A. Davies



**Bringing to life the untold story of Italian immigrants in
Alberta from the 1880s to the present.**

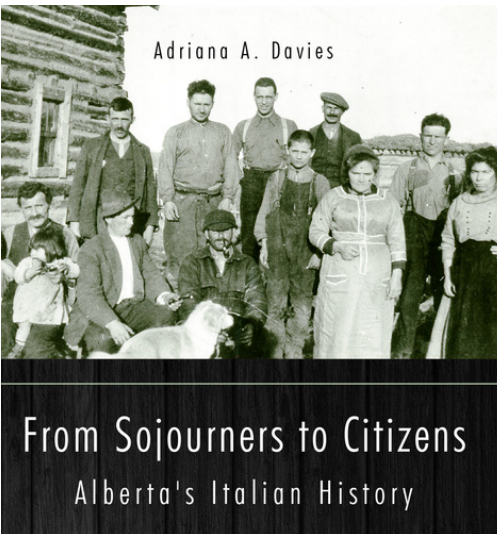
From Sojourners to Citizens: Alberta's Italian History places Italian immigrants in the narrative of province building from work on railways, mines and other industries to breaking the land for agriculture. Oral history excerpts allow the men, women and children to speak for themselves. What emerges is an unquenchable desire to make good, and overcome intolerable working conditions and discrimination, which culminated with enemy alien designation and internment during the Second World War. The book also provides an exploration of the impact of Government of Canada's multicultural policy on the process of assimilation for the post-war influx of immigrants. It offers a prototype of an immigrant community's movement from marginalization to the mainstream.



Author Bio

Adriana A. Davies's accomplishments include *From Realism to Abstraction: The Art of J. B. Taylor* (2014); *The Rise and Fall of Emilio Picariello* (2016); and the anthology *The Frontier of Patriotism: Alberta and the First World War* (2016). *From Sojourners to Citizens: Alberta's Italian History* (Guernica 2021) places Italian immigrants in the narrative of Canadian nation building.

Keywords: Italian; Canada; Alberta; Italian Canadian; history; Canadian history; heritage; Italy; immigration; Italian diaspora; Italian immigrants; Government of Canada; multiculturalism; government policy; immigration policy; community; marginalization; workers' rights; discrimination; internment; employment; agriculture; industry; railways; mining; oral history; generations



Nonfiction | Italian-Canadian

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**Literary Criticism |
Nonfiction**

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Pasquale Verdicchio: Essays on His Works

NONFICTION BY

Ed. by Antonio D'Alfonso



**Addressing the themes of immigration, migration, and history in
Pasquale Verdicchio's poetry and scholarship.**

Giuliana Gardellini, Joseph Pivato, Anna Zampieri Pan, Diego Bastianutti, Carmelo Militano, Leonardo Buonomo, Kenneth Scambray, Laura E. Ruberto, and Antonio D'Alfonso discuss Verdicchio's unconventional forms and contents that reveal the difficulties of being considered a marginalized ethnic voice in North American culture. Not conforming to conventional poetic models, Verdicchio writes poetry that presents itself as a puzzle in which for decades he demonstrates the role that politics, history, and culture play in self-analytical writing. The immigrant (or defined as such by conventional terminology) offers as his central theme a "moving" cultural landscape that he must personally inhabit from the moment he leaves his native home. The ever-changing persona in Verdicchio's texts defies linguistic and literary constraints. Verdicchio challenges the conventional role that nostalgia plays in ethnic poetry and contributes in a daring manner to how view immigrant and post-immigrant studies.



About the Editor

Poet, novelist, essayist, translator, **Antonio D'Alfonso** has published more than fifty books (including translations) and has made three feature films. He is the founder of Guernica Editions which he managed for thirty-three years before passing it on to new owners in 2010. He moved to Toronto in 1991. For his writings, he won the Trillium Award, the Bressani Award, and the New York Independent Film Award for his film, *Bruco*. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Toronto. In 2016, he received a Honorary Doctorate from Athabasca University. His new film, *TATA (Daddy)*, was released in July 2020. *The Two-Headed Man: Collected Poems 1970-2020* was published in July 2020.

Keywords: Italian; Canada; Italian Canadian; history; literature; Italy; literary criticism; ethnic voices; marginalization; immigration; poetry; poet.



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Anita Aloisio

BASILICATA SECRETS

A Culinary Journey



Memoir | Culinary Travel

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Basilica Secrets:

A Culinary Journey

COOKBOOK AND TRAVEL MEMOIR BY

Anita Aloisio



Food for thought: Reviving the need for human connection

The author, Anita Aloisio, uncovers culinary secrets as she travels the Basilicata region of Italy. Along the way, she meets villagers, five-star chefs and amateur cooks who offer to recreate and share specialty dishes and recipes. Anita and her team witness how the very soul of the southern Italian way of being is reflected in every dish. They are touched not only by the smells and sounds emanating from the kitchens, but by the authentic dedication and passion the chefs and cooks demonstrate. Each segment of this culinary journey encapsulates a deeply-rooted sensation of family, love and affection, reviving the need for human connection, which transcends any borders when expressed through the selfless sharing of a meal.



Praise for *Basilicata Secrets*

Learning to cook isn't just about knives, timing and technique. It's about who you are, where you were born and how you deal with the world around you. A good cook brings his or her life to the table. This is where you share and savour an honest meal, skilfully prepared with fresh humble ingredients and a lot of love. *Basilicata Secrets* is that rare breed of cookbook that is written with candour and bravado. It is intimate, profound and soulful. Anita Aloisio is a talented author. She beautifully captures the essence and voice of the people of Basilicata, taking the readers on a culinary journey by sharing their traditional recipes, their life stories, and by illustrating how such principles shape the heart and soul.

—**Maria Loggia, Founder of Tavola Mia Cooking School in Hudson, Quebec**

Keywords: culinary; travel; memoir; Italy; recipes; Basilicata; amateur cook; professional chef; cooking; cookbook; culture; Europe; family; Italian food; regional



Poetry | Women

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This Way Home

SELECTED & NEW POETRY BY

Gianna Patriarca



**The record of a woman's attempt to put the past behind her
and face the everyday life of the present.**

This book contains selections from Gianna Patriarca's previously published poetry books, as well as a number of new poems. It is a collection written by a woman in a time when the support and the encouragement was as limited as visibility. In many ways it is a collection of verses written as an act of survival and acknowledgement of existence.

Born in rural Italy, Patriarca was taken to Canada at an early age and raised in Toronto. Today her voice is a distinct and vital one that sounds above the mumblings of the city's large Italian population.

Patriarca writes poems about her background and about her ongoing attempt to escape from it and yet to embrace it in terms of her identity and individuality. She writes about these matters in a direct and heartfelt way. Love and affection, anger and pique are characteristic emotions and moods. Expressions of these feelings are moderated by a sympathetic nature, a warmhearted humor, and a willingness to assimilate the slights and cruelties of the world.

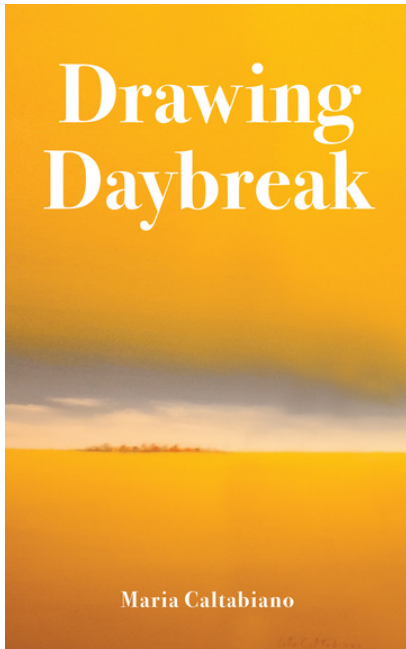


Author Bio

Gianna Patriarca is an award-winning author of 8 books of poetry, a children's book and a collection of short fiction. Her work is extensively anthologized, adapted for Canada Stage and CBC radio drama. Her books appear on the course list of universities in Canada, USA and Italy and is featured in numerous documentaries. *Italian Women and Other Tragedies* is in its 4th printing and has been translated into Italian. Her collection of short fiction *All My Fallen Angelas* (Inanna Publications, 2016) will soon be translated into Italian. *To the Men Who Write Goodbye Letters* was published by Inanna Publications in the fall of 2020. A children's story will be published in 2022 with Second Story Press. Gianna is currently working on her novel *The Sicilian's Bride*.

Keywords:

Italian; heritage; immigration; culture; Ontario; memory; place; poetry; women; feminism; women poets; marginalization; identity; Italian Canadian



Poetry | Canadian

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Drawing Daybreak

A POETRY COLLECTION BY

Maria Caltabiano



*Introspective poetry healing from grief
of the loss of a partner to cancer.*

Maria Caltabiano's poems are the result of years of ponderings and musings about life after losing her husband to cancer. They paint moments that clung to her and begged expression. Most try to work through the sadness and introspection that accompanies loss and mourning. But they also depict a healing process that imposes a new perspective as one embarks on an unknown road: the fears, the guilt, the joys. Nature figures prominently as a teacher and a source of solace. A sanctum away from a troubled world, be it the inner world, or the outer one of politics, religion, and human relationships.



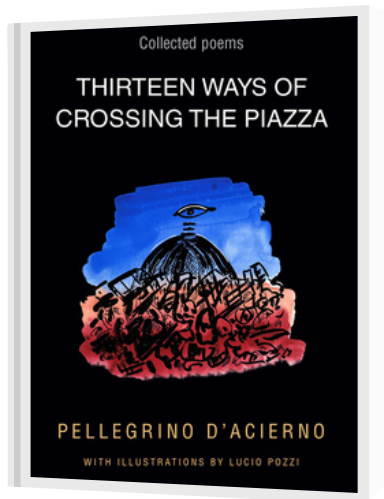
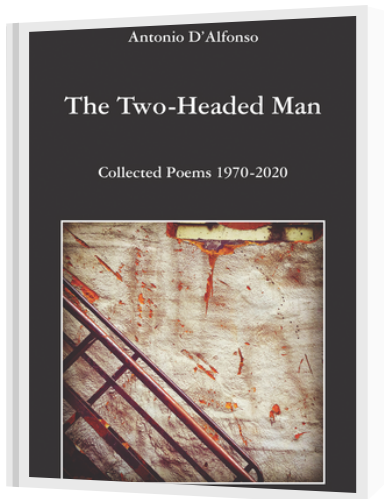
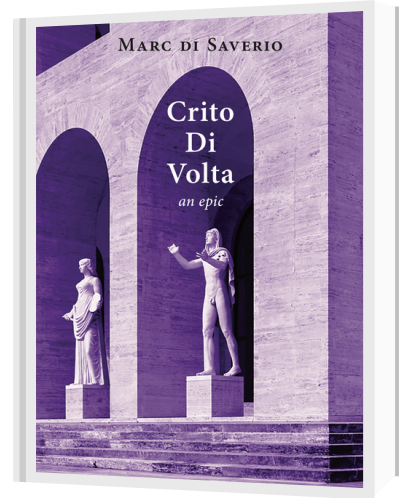
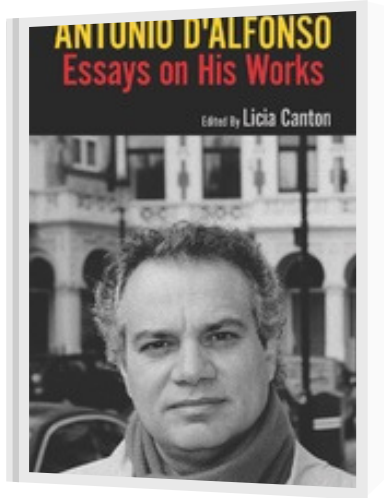
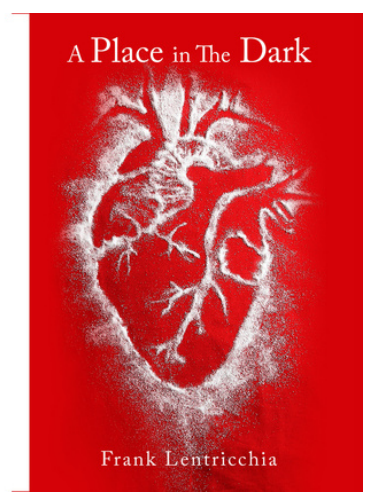
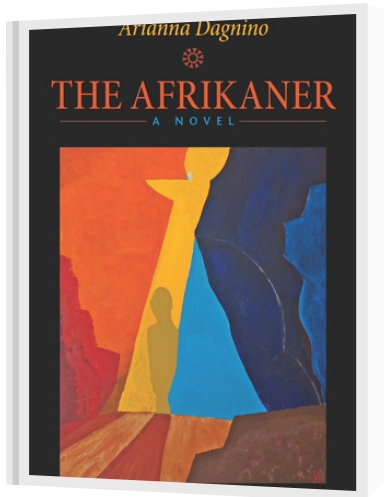
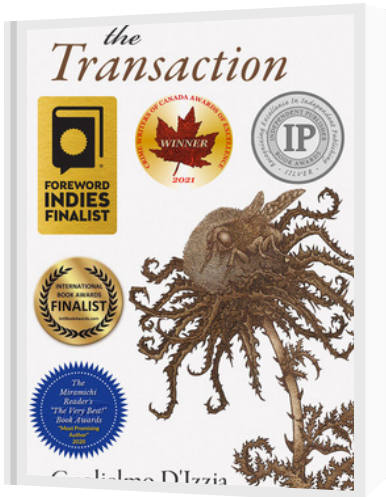
Author Bio

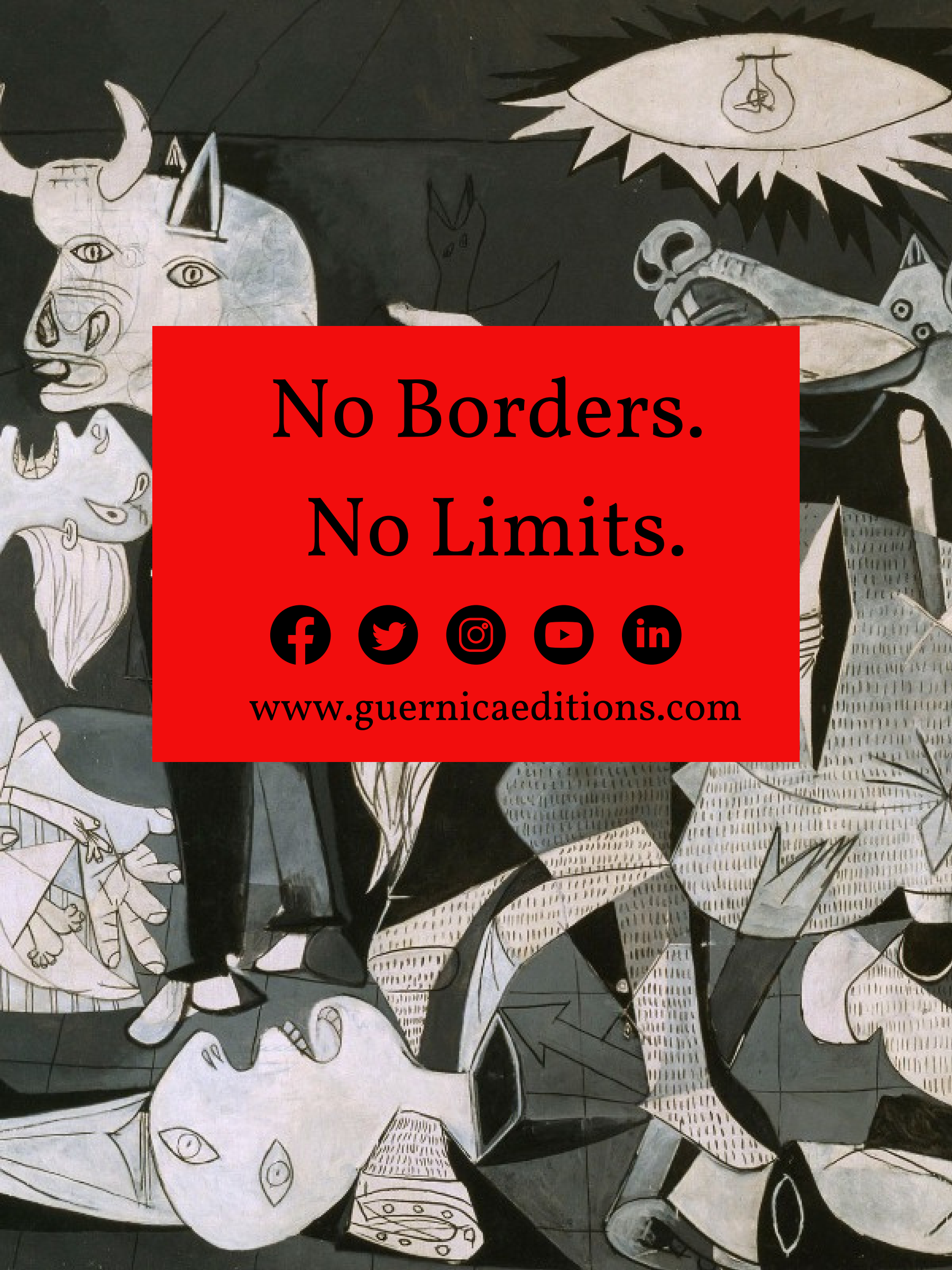
Born in Benevento, Italy, **Maria Montuori Caltabiano** immigrated to Canada with her parents when she was a child. A graduate of Concordia University, she worked as a teacher, magazine editor, and journalist for CBC Radio Canada International. *Drawing Daybreak* is her first poetry collection. Maria now lives and writes in Montreal.

Keywords:

elegy; sadness; joy; celebration; memory; introspection; loss; mourning; art; nature; solace; sanctum; immigration; immigrant; struggle; grief; widower; widowhood; death; loss; tragedy; derailment; healing

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