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LONDON BOOK FAIR 2014 AND BACKLIST

MASSIMILIANO SANTAROSSA

IL MALE (Evil) Out November 6th

Evil is a change of course in the production of Santarossa. Setting aside the realism that characterized his earlier work, this new novel is dreamlike, metaphysical, tells of different planes of reality and existence, though in the end it always comes back to describe the people and the era in which we live, the crisis, suffering, and he evokes the Prince of Darkness in person: Lucifer, noticing the lack of new damned souls, decides to go up from the underworld to the world. In a journey through abandoned suburbs, places of perdition and decadent cities, Lucifer takes over six fragile souls, defeated cursed. The prince of darkness without ever intervening, without ever appearing, will experience evil on earth from the eyes and the body of a series of destitute human beings. A frightening portrait of a shattered society. Atrocities, enslavement to money, violence, evil, seen by a dreamy, distant yet versed gaze. Lucifer observes, the carousel does not stop, evil deeds are always made, and there is almost never any repentance.

VIAGGIO NELLA NOTTE (Journey into the night) longlisted Campiello Prize 2013

A visionary but absolutely realistic span of the minutes and hours of the last day of a young man who is a victim of utter pain and is choosing to commit suicide. An existential journey in the most remote Italian suburbia, disfigured and devoured by industrial warehouses, crumbling skyscrapers and half-abandoned fields full of greasy foam, and trees that seem to scream silently towards a metallic sky, and torn up streets where even the tarmac seems to have lost its texture. The young hero of the novel, walking through his life's landmarks, faces recurring memories without ever backing up; the remembrance of what his favourite places had been, the vision of so many lost friends, the hard work in the factory, and in the end the moments of his ultimate choice. The ultimate trip, with no return, into the outskirts of the soul, the symbol of the disintegration of land and spirit in today's Italy. From a writer who is already a cult of the new Italian realism, here is a novel, with no escape, where the storyline and the original writing take the reader on an striking literary journey. A journey into the night of our life.

"Journey into the Night by Massimiliano Santarossa is a hypnotic, powerful novel. Read this book, make sure you get it before it is out, look for it, ask for it, copy it, steal it. This is not literature, this is the history of literature. And when literature has the powerful voice of a curse and the gentle voice of a classic, well, this book will change your life." (Gian Paolo Serino)

Mirella IOLY

ANTONIA (May 2013) 345 p.

Antonia was born in Coquimbo, the Corsair Drake Bay, and she grew up in poverty, in a family dominated "by a mixture of religion and sex" and the carelessness of the charismatic patriarch José Antonio. She married Ricardo, they lived firsthand the quake of the Pinochet coup, and fled to Italy and then Canada to create a new life leaving behind everything, starting from the rest of the Luco family: her husband, a painter, and hedonistic playboy, childish and capricious; Manuela, her only restless daughter, which reacts making very wrong choices, i.e. marrying a mysterious shyster who gets her pregnant and refuses to recognize the child; Enriqua, her mother, catholic and generous, who lives and consumes his life in the double work of home and restaurant; José Antonio, elusive and philandering father, chronically unable of responsibility; José Manuel, her brother of Antonia, who moves to Australia, forgetting the rest of the family. Antonia is a stubborn woman, maybe not "loud and proud" as her mother Enriqua, but certainly hostile to compromise with the men of his family, scattered to the ends of the globe and still very unresolved. At her side now she has George,

"the Canadian husband", guardian angel and a staple that Antonia could not do without. But in her introspective journey on the couch of her shrink, Dr. Ray, memories resurface like fish in a poisoned lake, undermining her present certainties. It will turn out that Antonia's life is based on secrets, on ancient beliefs that are false, on deeply rooted untold grudges. "Antonia" is an oceanic novel, fragmented as the human psyche; its pages are a canvas of passion and betrayal, melancholy and everyday joys, confessions, and infinite humanity. But in the end we can only tell different versions of facts, and this is Antonia's.

Daniele ZITO

LA TRISTEZZA DI UN RIPORTO (The sadness of a comb-over) October 2013

Ugly and devastated by a horrible comb-over, Antonio Torrecamonica finds himself leading a life that others have chosen for him. He jails himself spending all his days locked in a smalltown bookshop, with books that he does not read, customers who haunt him and memories that stifle him. His only entertainment every now and then is to blow up some of his competitors' bookshop, preferably a large one. But it is only a runaway pleasure, after which the bookseller continues to be a beast in a cage: the underworld uses him for its traffics, the police chases him, the past keeps him shackled to his everyday prison made of readers, unread books and debts. Until one day he picks up one of those books that he cannot stand and starts flipping through it, finding a pleasure now considered lost. This small daily gesture will kick off the long flight of Mr. Torrecamonica to freedom. He will find many obstacles: Chief officer Serracavallo, Don Petrine, the Milanese, the Deputy, and reality itself, treacherous like never before. The book is the story of this escape, a vortex of misunderstandings and madness that will have as its inevitable apex the most eclectic terroristic/cultural attack of all times. Cranky, sexist, dazed and dreamy, Antonio Torrecamonica is half Bartleby and half Marcovaldo, an unforgettable character who moves in a prose rife with quotations and references, strong as a hurricane. This book is a profound meditation on freedom, a tribute to Literature, an endless joke, and much more.