

## Giovanni Verga Aiutamici

Jan Kozma's translation of *Marianna Sirca* is the near-literal rendering of a novel written by Grazia Deledda (1871-1936), the celebrated Italian author from Sardinia who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1926. Almost all of Deledda's stories treat the lives, loves, tragedies, and triumphs of the author's native land - the remote, isolated, and often forbidding island of Sardinia. This new translation includes an introduction that highlights the salient episodes of Grazia Deledda's life and which situates *Marianna Sirca* both literarily within the author's opera omnia and as part of the general literary trends of the early European twentieth century. Jan Kozma presents the homonymous protagonist, *Marianna Sirca*, as one of the great literary precursors of the liberated, independent, modern woman - an ironic twist, given the repressive culture in which *Marianna* lives. The translator also provides numerous explanatory foot-notes that elucidate particular arcane aspects of Sardinian life in the late nineteenth century. *Marianna Sirca* is a 30-year-old woman of inherited wealth who lives in Nuoro, Sardinia. Because of her strong will and sense of independence, *Marianna* is the family "black sheep" - refusing to be married off to a distant relative in a social arrangement of convenience. Instead *Marianna* becomes involved with *Simone Sole*, a younger man who was a servant in the *Sirca* household in his youth and who is now an outlaw - wanted for banditry. Against the will of her entire family, the lovers plan to marry, but at *Marianna's* insistence only after *Simone* "gets right with the law." The novel traces the story of these two emarginated lovers through various twists and turns, ending with a typical Deleddan flourish that leaves the reader with a real awareness of Sardinian, social mores, values, attitudes, and tradition.

"*The Fat Woodworker*" is a delightful story in the tradition of the Italian Renaissance "beffe," stories of practical, often cruel jokes. It is the tale of a prank engineered by the great Renaissance architect, *Filippo Brunelleschi* (1377-1446), played upon an unsuspecting (and perhaps less-than-brilliant) friend and woodworker named *Manetto*, in reprisal for the woodworker's social slight. While the prank is indeed cruel, it is so ingenious, and the victim is so comical, that the reader soon forgets the architect's - and the author's - malice and settles in for a delightful turn as part of the unfolding conspiracy set in motion by *Brunelleschi's* circle of friends. The tale brings the reader into the social world of Florence's craft- and tradespeople, its lawyers and judges, artists, architects and intellectuals and gives a vibrant sense of the city's close-knit social fabric, its packed streets and busy shops and offices. It is as much a portrait of the Renaissance city as of one very befuddled and delightful woodworker. *Robert and Valerie Martone* provide a solid contemporary translation that carries across the ironic distance of the original. They include an introduction to the story, its author and genre, and to the social and intellectual world of *Brunelleschi* and Renaissance Florence. Illustrated, introduction, bibliography. Fiction

*Anna Malvas* is taken in by her uncle *Paolo Veleno* and his family soon after she becomes an orphan. *Anna* enters their home as a child and grows into adulthood, falling in and out of love and eventually blossoming into a poised young woman. Along the way, Deledda's vivid descriptive narrative accompanies us as we discover the Sardinia of the late 19th-century. *Anna's* story is set around cameo-like vignettes interspersed with simple details - descriptions of a wedding dress and the scented white paper in which it is wrapped, the intricacies of *Richelieu* embroidery, the procedure for sun drying tomatoes - which enhance the fabric of the story. Throughout *Honest Souls*, *Anna's* story is imbued with folkloric zest, making the novel a valuable snapshot of the smalltown Sardinia of her day. Written in 1895, by Grazia Deledda, *Honest Souls* is an excellent example of the regional Italian fiction of its day. Deledda has a descriptivist's eye and she brings the unique flavours of Sardinia to the attention of the world. Grazia Deledda enjoyed international acclamation, winning the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1926."

*The Church of Solitude* tells the story of *Maria Concezione*, a young Sardinian seamstress living with breast cancer at the cusp of the twentieth century. Overwhelmed by the shame of her diagnosis, she decides that no one can know what has happened to her, but the heavy burden of this secrecy changes her life in dramatic ways and almost causes the destruction of several people in her life. This surprising novel paints the portrait of a woman facing the unknown with courage, faith, and self-reliance, and is the last and most autobiographical work of Grazia Deledda, who died of breast cancer in 1936, shortly after its publication. An afterword by the translator offers additional information on the author and examines the social and historical environment of that time.

Within four days, the date-tree had grown as tall as a woman, and out of it came a Fairy, who said to *ZeZolla*, "What do you wish for?" Before Perrault and the Brothers Grimm, *Basile* penned the first modern literary version of the *Cinderella* fairytale. It is the story of *ZeZolla*, the daughter of an Italian Prince, who is betrayed by her governess and forced to live the life of a servant—that is until the King announces a feast. With assistance from a date-tree given to her by the Fairies of Sardinia, *ZeZolla* is able to attend the feast and her life is forever changed. In addition, this book contains *The She-Bear*—a close variant of *The Cat Cinderella*, also from *Giambattista Basile's* *The Pentamerone*—for an English readership to enjoy. [Folklore Type: ATU-510: *Cinderella and Catskin* – A + B (Persecuted Heroine + Unnatural Love)]

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22 tales first pub. 1912 tell of the lives of peasants living in the mountainous region of Sardinia. Author won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1926.

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Featuring more than 400 full-color digital intraoperative photographs, this atlas is a comprehensive “how-to” guide to heart, lung, liver, kidney, and pancreas transplantation. It presents photographs and succinct descriptions of every step of each operation—including patient positioning, dissection and exposure, retraction, anatomic details, anastomoses, completion, and drain placement. Photographs have been taken from multiple angles, including directly overhead wherever possible. Anatomic and technical variations are illustrated by drawings. Coverage includes procurement and transplantation of cadaver organs, operations to obtain organs from living donors, and transplantation of living donor organs. The liver and kidney sections include pediatric transplantation.

Long before Elena Ferrante, there was Grazia Deledda, prolific writer whose characters typically face moral dilemmas, commit sin, and seek redemption. *The Flight into Egypt*, published less than a year before Deledda was awarded the Nobel prize for literature, delves into one man's attempt to atone for his decades-old sin by saving the most innocent of lives. Perhaps as proof that it's never too late to make a change and begin a new chapter in life, the story begins with Giuseppe De Nicola, who, after forty years' service as a primary school teacher, is planning to retire and leave his native Sardinia for the first time ever. He's been invited to come live in a small town on the Adriatic coast of the Italian peninsula with his long-estranged adopted son, his son's sickly wife, and their lively little daughter. The teacher's emotional state is described with allusions to the Biblical story of the flight into Egypt, which serves as an inspiration for the novel's title, and which also appears as the title of a small, hand-crafted needlework tapestry, one of the man's prized possessions. As Giuseppe settles into his new life, bonding with his daughter-in-law and granddaughter, details emerge about his own troubled past and his failed relationship with his son. When he stumbles upon sin in his new home, Giuseppe, a man of faith, comes to believe that God is presenting him an opportunity to atone for his past sins by saving an innocent soul now. Will his faith provide the requisite strength to do what must be done? A beautifully written novel featuring Deledda's straightforward, yet hauntingly elegant prose. A keen observer of both the human and natural worlds, she offers a timeless portrait of a time and place in equal parts achingly far away and deceptively close at hand. *The Flight into Egypt* is a story of redemption that lingers long after the book is finished. (Paperback edition coming soon.)

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