



## Mantovani (Italian Edition)

*Mauro Leonardi*

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Massimo è un manager appartenente alla buona borghesia palermitana che, alle soglie dei sessantanni, avverte intorno a sé la calma piatta di una crisi esistenziale che investe sia il suo ruolo professionale, dove soffre il confronto con un collega sufficientemente giovane e cinico da farlo sentire inadeguato, sia la sua dimensione familiare, priva ormai di passione per Claudia, compagna disincantata e autosufficiente, e di reale interesse per i figli incompresi e incomprensibilmente sfuggenti.

Le note dell'orchestra Mantovani, che giungono a lui attraverso l'aria calda di un pomeriggio di luglio, sono l'occasione per conoscere un vicino di casa mai notato prima, il signor Ribaudò. "Fisico segaligno, più vicino agli ottanta che ai settanta, è certamente stato ai suoi tempi un bell'uomo, alto e magro, adesso un po' curvo. Pantaloni e camicia bianchi, cappello di paglia chiaro e scarpe un po' demodè, di quelle bicolori, tela e cuoio estive". Ribaudò, per la sua curiosa somiglianza con Sir Alec Guinness de "Il Ponte sul fiume Kwai", viene subito ribattezzato "il Colonnello".

Personaggio solitario e discreto, il Colonnello scioglie pian piano il gelo della sua riservatezza e lascia fluire, nel corso di incontri occasionali con Massimo, il racconto pacato dei suoi ricordi e, in particolare, di un amore profondo, mal corrisposto e mai dimenticato.

E' un fiume carsico, quello del Colonnello, intriso di una profonda nostalgia per quello che avrebbe potuto essere e di rammarico per quel che non è stato, nelle cui acque calme e profonde Massimo trova rifugio, intrecciando con quelli del Colonnello i propri ricordi di amori vissuti con lancinante intensità ma ormai dissolti in una pacifica normalità quotidiana.

In questo romanzo Mauro Leonardi affronta il tema della vecchiaia incombente ritraendola come una stagione della vita capace di sorprenderci con l'improvvisa cognizione che quelli che erano sembrati tormenti giovanili rappresentano, invece, l'essenza stessa di una felicità piena e inconsapevole.

Con "Mantovani", Mauro Leonardi ci consegna un romanzo atipico e splendido, dal quale è sorprendentemente bandita la tristezza.

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