

Andrea Camilleri

Una lama di luce



Sellerio editore Palermo

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## Una lama di luce Andrea Camilleri

A Lampedusa sono sbarcati migliaia di tunisini e il ministro degli Interni che ha deciso di fare una ispezione nell'isola ha fatto sapere che farà tappa a Vigàta. Per questo Montalbano, che si vuole tenere il più lontano possibile, se ne va a visitare una mostra di pittura - Donghi, Morandi, Guttuso e Mafai - nella nuova galleria d'arte di Vigàta di proprietà di Maria Angela, Marian per gli amici. Scatta una immediata attrazione tra Marian e il commissario, e la cosa sembra davvero mettere in discussione il legame con Livia. Negli stessi giorni Salvatore Di Marta, proprietario di un supermercato, denuncia la rapina subita dalla moglie Loredana, sorpresa con una grossa somma che stava per versare a un bancomat. Loredana è stata anche violentata e quando qualche giorno dopo si scopre che l'antico fidanzato Carmelo Savastano è stato assassinato, è facile attribuire il furto a lui e l'omicidio a Di Marta. Ma troppe cose non tornano e Montalbano non è tipo da accontentarsi di facili spiegazioni, tanto più che il controllo dei telefoni di Loredana e della sua intima amica Valeria fa sorgere più di un dubbio. Camilleri ci ha abituato nei suoi gialli all'intrecciarsi di due storie che scorrono parallele per gran parte della narrazione e che si disgiungono per poi tornare ad avvatarsi. In questo romanzo le vicende che si combinano tra loro sono tre: il commercio di quadri nei quali è impegnata Marian, il traffico d'armi dei tunisini mentre nella loro patria è in corso la lotta di liberazione, la rapina subita da Loredana e l'omicidio che ne è seguito: quale sarà la direzione giusta per risolvere ogni cosa? Ma non è la sola sorpresa che *Una lama di luce* riserva. Ritroveremo, infatti, un personaggio dei primi romanzi, e non sarà una presenza di poco conto.

## Una lama di luce Details

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## From Reader Review Una lama di luce for online ebook

### Paul says

Blade of Light – Another Montalbano Winner

Once again the South Sicilian detective stars as the grumpy, food obsessed, administration dodging, crime fighter, and no one does it better in that area than Salvo Montalbano. Andrea Camilleri once again serves a wonderful plate of intrigue and crime, where nothing is as it seems, until Montalbano brings all the threads together at the end.

The book opens with Montalbano asleep and dreaming of a crime happening, in a field with a coffin in it, he feels it is a prophecy. This alone is going to set him off in to one of his moods that only good food and wine at Enzo's will solve.

A woman is assaulted and the takings from her husband's supermarket have been taken and she is too ashamed to report the matter to the police, but her husband does that for her. What follows is a murder, a cover up, a great actress, a strange affair and a nod to the island's mafia. Each clue looking completely divorced from each other or so it seems.

At the same time a poor farmer reports that someone has put a lock on one of his outbuildings that has been abandoned long ago. When Montalbano and his team arrive the door and lock have gone but there are clues all around, and he decides he should pass this investigation over to the anti-terrorist branch, even though he will be running a parallel investigation.

All the characters are involved, Fazio is the over efficient younger detective that seems to be pre-empting Salvo which is beginning to annoy him, Mimi is still the lothario for once will be put to good use. As usual Montalbano's love life is in turmoil, Livia is over in Genoa and is depressed over something, and he has found himself an art gallery owning lover. This lover infatuates Montalbano and takes over a lot of his thinking, but he does help her out with a matter in Milan.

As matters come to ahead, can Montalbano solve the crime of the mugging, and assault with the added death while sorting out his personal life. One thing that does happen is that at the end of the book Salvo takes ten days holiday as he closes one period of his life.

Blade of Light is yet another excellent book in the Inspector Montalbano series, which are such a pleasurable read and such a shame for it to end. Would I rather read the book or watch the DVD, read the book every time, as the book delivers so much more.

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### Jeanette says

Absence and voids revisited.

Oftentimes the connections, obligation or purpose of the past brings us back to that place which then becomes our particular "set" for connection or "home". This is darker than the normal Camilleri, but our

Sicilian detective/philosopher finds "la dolce vita" regardless. And of course his cases' answers, as well.

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### **Roman Clodia says**

When so many series run out of energy, Camilleri keeps this one going - for me, he's an always reliable author: witty, clever, sly, big-hearted and with the ability to inject a shot of tragedy which we never see coming till it hits us in our guts.

For most of this book this feels like one of the more light-hearted adventures - but even here we have Camilleri's insertion of indignation at the 'welcome' camps for refugees. There's a theme of romantic and sexual relationships that threads lightly through the plot - and I like that this is so clear-sighted and unapologetic about infidelity, whether Mimi's casual use of his sexual charisma in the context of the investigation or Montalbano's more fraught feelings for yet another beautiful woman...

And at the end we have a classic Camilleri trick that is both unexpected and yet also flagged beautifully from the very start - a virtuoso piece of mis-direction and emotional weight that gives such heart to all these books. Brilliant!

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### **Ivonne Rovira says**

As sometimes happens in Andrea Camilleri's Salvo Montalbano series, *A Beam of Light*, the serie's 19th novel, begins with a dream — a dream that will prove prophetic in many ways. Police *Commissario* Salvatore Montalbano meets the pretty and personable owner of an art gallery, the first ever in the sleepy village of Vigàta. The once faithful Montalbano has grown more and more likely to stray as he has aged, and here he falls head over heels for the lovely Marian. Is his decades-long (albeit long-distance) relationship with Livia doomed?

Meanwhile, Chief Inspector Montalbano and the Vigàta police are investigating some strange goings-on at an isolated farmstead and also a very curious strong-armed robbery. Montalbano realizes there's a lot more than meets the eye in both cases. To tell anymore would be to spoil this wry, clever mystery, which is loaded with humor and pathos as well as lots of twists.

With the aid of his clever police department — Sergeant Giuseppe Fazio, Officer Galluzzo, Vice *Commissario* (and consummate ladies' man) Domenico "Mimi" Augello, and the hilarious, Malapropism-prone Officer Agatino Catarella —wraps up three mysteries very nicely. But *A Beam of Light*, despite the title, is a very dark novel, full of regrets. Longtime Salvo fans will enjoy *A Beam of Light* more than those new to the Sicilian police chief inspector/philosopher.

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### **Nancy Oakes says**

More about the book soon. I got it in the mail yesterday, and after finishing up another book, I started and finished this one last night. I was going to save it for my upcoming vacation, but I couldn't wait that long.

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### Rosalba says

“Caterè, me la levi una curiosità?”

“All’ordini, dottori.”

“Tu l’acconosci ‘u latino?”

“Certamenti, dottori”

Montalbano s’imparpagliò, aloccuto. Era pirsuaso che Catarella avissi fatto a malappena la scola d’obbligo.  
“L’hai studiato?”

“Studiato, studiato propriamente studiato nonsi, ma ci pozzo diri che l’acconoscio bono”

Montalbano era sempre cchiù ‘ngiarmato.

“E come facisti?”

“Ad acconoscirlo?”

“Sì”

“Mi lo prisintò un vicino di casa”

“Ma a cu?”

“Al raggiuneri Vincenzo Camastra chiamato ‘u latino”

Il sorriso tornò sulle labbra del commissario. Meglio accusì, tutto rientrava nella normalità.

Un sorriso l’ho fatto anch’io, non soltanto Montalbano, sempre più solo e in crisi di mezz’età, diviso fra le incomprensioni con Livia e il fascino che esercitano su di lui le giovani e bellissime donne che, guarda caso, gli capitano sempre sotto mano. Un vero rubacuori. Nel complesso il romanzo è bello, mi è piaciuto e il finale, seppur triste, lascia sperare in un cambiamento più rassicurante per il nostro instabile e tormentato cinquantenne.

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### Paola says

Confesso che a me se Salvo la piantasse la Livia, ecco sarei anche contenta. Mi identifico con l’Adelina che non la sopporta e c’ha ragione. Poi però non è che la Marian qua mi piacesse di più, se proprio ha da innamorarsi e lascia la Livia bhé ne preferirei una un po’ più “normale” con qualche difetto caratteriale e perché no, vista l’età del Montalbano, anche fisico, nel senso che sempre e soltanto bellonecoscialungaeintelligentic, gli appendono le braccia al collo e gli finiscono nel letto in un vidiri svidiri? Insomma anche il nostro caro Salvo non è che sarà tanto un bel vedere all’alba dei 60 neh!  
Ah e l’intreccio giallo non è per niente male.

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### Leslie says

3.5\*

While the mystery was OK, it was the things happening in Montalbano's personal life that made this 19th book in the series really worth reading.

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## Skip says

The book's description says: "In time for Andrea Camilleri's ninetieth birthday, the nineteenth installment of his irresistible New York Times–bestselling Inspector Montalbano Mystery series" but that's just for Americans, as this was originally published in Italian in 2012. In this latest one, Montalbano has two cases to solve: the robbery of a young trophy wife with a jealous husband, and an odd occurrence on a isolated farm, where weapons may have been stashed. As always, the focus is on Montalbano's personal life, especially the ending. Here, he hooks up with the lovely Marian, an art dealer, who falls for him, but has to go make a deal with an unsavory type, and his ongoing rocky, now boring, telephone relationship with Livia. His usual supporting cast at the precinct and local eatery are present, and translator Sartarelli's ability to capture Caterella's colorful speech, full of malapropisms and mispronunciations of names, continues unparalleled in the annals of translation excellence.

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## Νατ?σσα says

Ο αγαπημ?νος Μολνταμπ?νο μεγαλ?νει. Ξενοκοιτ?ζει περιστασιακ?, αλλ? επιστρ?φει στην μ?νιμη αγαπημ?νη του, ξεκαθαρ?ζει μυστ?ρια που κανε?ς ?λλος δεν θα μπορο?σε, κ?νοντας συνειρμο?ς απ?στευτους και συνδι?ζοντας γεγον?τα, τρ?ει π?ντα υπ?ροχα και ωριμ?ζει.

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## Richard says

It is always a joy to read the latest Inspector Montalbano mystery, Blade of Light is a delight even though the story is familiar from the successful Italian TV series.

Andrea Camilleri has so much fun with his ageing detective; a lover of good food and an eye for a beautiful woman, our hero finds himself torn between Livia his longstanding girlfriend and Marian a passionate lover who sets his heart racing.

Meanwhile there is a crime to solve where his pre-occupation with his love life nearly costs him a result. Full of the richness is Sicilian life, familiar characters and offbeat humour these books are fun to read with a puzzle to solve at their heart. The characters are believable and shown in all their weakness.

At times you wonder if Camilleri is having fun at his own protagonist, writing a pastiche of a Montalbano novel but the whole reading experience is wonderful.

"Do you have any idea why anyone might want to leave a coffin in your field?"

"If I had any ideas like that, I'd start writing novels"

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## Simonetta says

### Quattro e mezzo per il finale.

Finalmente si muove qualcosa. Finalmente Camilleri ci ha restituito un Montalbano che non è soltanto godibile, ma anche pieno di passione e umanità che ultimamente erano un po' appannate.

Mi domando se qualcuno, dopo questo episodio, se la sentirà ancora di liquidare Livia esclusivamente come donna antipatica e inadatta al commissario. Ho sempre pensato che una donna diversa non avrebbe mai

potuto sopportare uno come Montalbano per tanti anni, che la sua "antipatia" ha una profondità da non sottovalutare, e che a volte dietro un apparente cattivo carattere si cela soltanto la forza di essere se stessi e di non mostrare troppa indulgenza nei confronti dei difetti delle persone che amiamo. La forza vera sta nel capire quando questa indulgenza è opportuna o necessaria e quando no, e nella consapevolezza che l'altro comprende e apprezza questa caratteristica perché ne riconosce il valore.

Una grande protagonista di questo episodio è proprio Livia e la dignità del suo dolore; sta al commissario decidere se questo la legherà indissolubilmente a lui o la allontanerà per sempre.

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### **Elaine Tomasso says**

Salvo Montalbano is back on the case with a couple of puzzles to solve - the shack with the new door and a theft. Loredana Di Marta is attacked and robbed outside a night bank but the acts strangely - he kisses her and takes €16 000 but not her jewellery. In the other mystery a landowner reports that a new door has been put on an old shack on his land but when Montalbano gets there it has been removed. With his customary elan Montalbano solves the robbery and makes a significant contribution to the door case despite being banned from investigating. His customary wit is missing because he has women trouble, Livia isn't feeling well and he is preoccupied with Marian, an art dealer he has fallen in love with but who promptly disappeared to Milan on business.

Blade Of Light is another hugely entertaining read, made possible by Stephen Sartarelli's immaculate translation. It has humour, a simple but clever plot and some sadness at the end. It is, however, Montalbano's character and its contradictions which drive the novel. He is grumpy, short tempered, zany at times, smart and self absorbed but always comes out a winner as the end of the novel proves.

The novel is full of sunlight and food and brings Sicily to life. It makes it such a warm read on a cold, winter night.

I really enjoyed Blade Of Light and have no hesitation in recommending it as a good read.

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### **Angelica Koumara says**

Ακ?μα ?να υπ?ροχο μυθιστ?ρημα με τον Επιθεωρητ? Μονταλμπ?νο. Βασισμ?νος ?χι στα ψυχρ? γεγον?τα ?πως ο Σ?ρλοκ Χολμς, αλλ? στις γν?σεις του για την ανθρ?πινη φ?ση και το ?νστικτ? του, ο Σ?λβιο λ?νει ακ?μα και τον ποιο δ?σκολό γρ?φο. Β?βαια στη προσωπικ? του ζω?, ?πως ?λοι μας, κ?νει λ?θη, πληγ?νει και πληγ?νετε και αυτ? τον κ?νει ακ?μα πιο συμπαθητικ? για τον αναγν?στη.

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### **Nanosynergy says**

Three cases are investigated in this book. The older husband of a very young wife reports that his wife has been assaulted and the bank deposit she was carrying stolen. In investigating, it appears all is not as reported and the case is more complicated. Tunisians are suspected of smuggling arms. And Montalbano's new young 'love' interest may be dealing with art thieves

Fully in mid-life crisis, ageing Inspector Montalbano meets the young, beautiful art gallery owner Marian.

Once again, despite his long-time (over 25 years), long-distance relationship with Livia, he starts a relationship with Marian. He lies to Livia in their regular phone calls and considers ending his relationship with Livia. In his obsession over this new love interest, he finds himself forgetful and absentminded. In the meantime, Livia has gone into a depression which she claims has nothing to do with their rocky relationship. She describes it as a feeling of deep loss.

A book for fans. Would recommend those new to the series start with the first books in the series.

Mediocre addition to the series, but added a star for the moving scene about the death of Francois. Francois is the orphaned Tunisian boy who comes into their lives in *The Snack Thief* whom Livia wants to adopt and loved like her own son, but Montalbano refused. Perhaps, because of this refusal Montalbano muses, Francois has grown into an angry young man, broken off contact and disappeared. At age 25, neither Livia nor Montalbano knew where Francois was.

"It was he [Francois] who recognized you that day when he was hiding out in the hayloft. He was watching you through a pair of binoculars. *The beam of light that had struck him square in the eyes.* In confused fashion, Montalbano began to understand but refused to accept it. He couldn't move. Sposito nudged him gently towards the coffin. Be brave, he said. The inspector bent down, gripped the linen between his thumb and index finger, and pulled it out a little further. Now he could see the letters F and M intertwined. His legs began to give out; he fell to his knees. F.M.: Francois Moussa. He'd had those initials embroidered himself on six shirts he'd given to Francois as a present for his twenty-first birthday. It was the last time he'd embraced him. Would you like to see him? Sposito asked softly, whispering in his ear. No. *He would rather his last contact with Francois remain the beam of light that had brought them together again for a fraction of a second.*" .... Through his death, Francois bound him to Livia and Livia to him even more than if they were married."

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