

VERONICA GALLETTA NINA ON THE RIVERBANK

CLIENT: OTAGO LITERARY AGENCY

MATERIAL: FULL MS. IN ITALIAN (216 PP),
ENGLISH SAMPLE TRANSLATION

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An engineer on her first important project, Caterina (known as Nina to her friends) is in charge of the building of a riverbank in the north of Italy. Young and surrounded by an all-male crew, she is faced with constant difficulties: surveyors and council members' demands, technical hurdles, complaints from environmentalists, responsibility for her worker' safety – not to mention a love story gone awry and a troubled bond with her Sicilian homeland.

Caterina's whole life soon turns into a construction site drenched in fog, as if she's the one in need of some sort of riverbank in the first place. She is more and more tempted to resign from the job, but then people around her slowly stop to be defined only by their roles and begin to look like real persons – and while seasons and landscapes change, and the riverbank's construction draws to a close, Caterina's day of reckoning with her own ghosts forces her to live and learn before she can move on with her life.

Born in 1971, **VERONICA GALLETTA** worked as a mechanical engineer for many years. She is now focused exclusively on her writing.

In 2015 her unpublished novel *Le isole di Norman* was shortlisted for the Italo Calvino Literary Award, the most renowned and reliable Italian prize for aspiring writers, which launched the careers of Marcello Fois and Paola Mastrocola, amongst others.

Finally published in April 2020 by Italo Svevo (an imprint of Gaffi Editore), less than two months later *Le isole di Norman* won with unanimous vote the Premio Campiello Opera Prima, the most prestigious and important award in Italy for first novels and new authors.

The jury of Premio Campiello stated that «Veronica Galletta declares Ortigia' seaward geography a sanctuary of remembrance, brilliantly managing her topics of interest. The young protagonist, Elena, embarks on a restoration of her past with extreme inventiveness».

Previous winners of Premio Campiello are Paolo Giordano with *The Solitude of Prime Numbers* (translated into thirty languages), Silvia Avallone with *Steel*, Valeria Parrella, Alessandro Piperno and Marco Missiroli, to name a few.

PRAISE

«Veronica Galletta brilliantly uses the riverbank as a metaphor for the soul: the soul of a woman forced to battle with herself, with her life goals, and with a men's world. It's a story written with great care and awareness.» **La Lettura - Corriere della Sera**

«A novel about work, vulnerability and ghosts to be tamed.» **Marie Claire**