

Mid-August, Rome has been deserted, Fabio Gracco is one of the few who has stayed behind to investigate on an awkward case of adultery...



Giuseppe Furno
The Goddess of Fortune
First title in the series
The Rome Chronicles
[La dea della fortuna]

Novel

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Giuseppe Furno, born in 1953 in Rome, where he lives. He is a successful screenwriter both for cinema and television. In 2013 Longanesi had published his critically acclaimed novel *Vetro* (Glass) – sold in Germany (Aufbau) and in France (Flammarion) which is a powerful historical fresco set in renaissance Venice with a large cast of characters. With this novel he won the Hemingway prize (2013) and other awards.

Silvia Sivieri, who commissioned Fabio Gracco, is an old flame of his while her husband, Nicola de Nicola, the adulterer, is a well-known politician, a rising star in the Liberal movement.

The evidence Fabio has gathered is red hot, to say the least, and very hard for Silvia to absorb. It could just end there with a big scene, perhaps even a scandal in the papers. But things go fatally wrong. That same woman, with whom Fabio is having an affair, is found dead in an ancient Roman well used for sacrifices. The victim is Carla Caggiani, a young archaeologist who had been working on the site of a temple dedicated to the Goddess of Fortune, in the basement of an ancient building in the centre of Rome. At first her death is considered an unfortunate accident, then the autopsy reveals that Carla was murdered.

Despite his despair, the Right Honourable Nicola de Nicola knows he must act quickly because the investigation will soon lead to him: he therefore turns to Fabio Gracco, who already knows so much about the whole story. Thus Gracco embarks on what is called a defence investigation. In a deliriously hot and empty Rome in August, it will be his responsibility to solve the case.