



Paolo Nelli
The Third Day
The First Case Of Commissar Colasette

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On Easter Friday Colle Ventoso, a small village in northern Italy, is shocked by the discovery of three bodies. Two are lying on the stairs of an apartment building: they are Tore, a thirty-year-old harrassed by creditors, and a beautiful blond boy called “the angel” because of the two wings drawn on his back. The third body – that of Ilde Ardenghi – is discovered in her apartment full of fine works of art.

The police commissioner Valerio Colasette is investigating. Probably due to his Southern Italian origins, he finds the rules and the authority of his bosses irritating and he keeps a resignation letter ready in his desk. He is not the only one investigating though: on the one hand Irene Iannone, who was Tore’s girlfriend when they were kids, driven by personal reasons and acting on pure intuition. On the other, Colasette – surly, often intolerant, yet capable of tuning in with his fellow villagers.

Colasette is flanked in the investigation by the brilliant inspector Maddalena Bercalli. Between the two, the collaboration soon takes the form of an unexpected intimacy. The two parallel investigations will inevitably meet on Easter day, demonstrating that in the houses of Colle Ventoso, as in the soul of the protagonists, nothing is ever as it seems. *The Third Day* is a literary noir that plays with the rules of the genre. Paolo Nelli transforms the village mystery into a dazzling investigation continually seeking the balance between good and evil.

Paolo Nelli, born in 1968, lives and works in London, where he teaches Italian language and culture at King’s College. He is one of the founders and organizers of the FILL - Festival of Italian Literature in London.

