



Antonio Invernici
LA VALLE DEI CADAVERI

The Valley of Corpses

Commercial Thriller, pp. 470
 Newton Compton, February 2016

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LA VALLE DEI CADAVERI (The valley of corpses) by Antonio Invernici is a powerful commercial thriller. The plot unfolds around the brutal kidnapping of a young girl, Benedetta Mantero Radice, from an aristocratic family of Lecco. It is believed the girl might have fallen victim to a Facebook stalker. Detective Inspector Alberto Groppello, coordinating the investigation with his team, gradually discovers that behind the façade of local, well-to-do respectability, lies a secret underworld of parties and orgies with young girls. The novel also features three teenagers: Mauro and Federico and their girl friend Metz. They are spending their summer holidays in the village near the woodland where Benedetta's scooter is found. The youngsters believe they can solve the mystery before the police, given their familiarity with the woodland and its secrets, the abandoned houses and the peculiarities of all the locals, such as the unsettling presence of old Vittorino. The investigation soon becomes a test of courage for Mauro and Federico, a way to impress Metz and a necessary rite of passage. They realise they are no longer the young boys they had been up until the previous summer and that the idyllic solidarity of their childhood friendship is turning into something else. Will this dramatic encounter with evil protect them from the bad they each discover to have within? Rescuing Benedetta is something the detective inspector holds particularly close to his heart, it means more to him than simply carrying out his duty. Alberto is trying to rekindle a sense of hope in his partner Anna Giraldi, a former police officer who is suffering from severe depression following a horrendous case she had previously worked on in which her daughter had nearly been killed before her very eyes. The various threads of the story are interwoven and alternate with descriptions of the dramatic moments of the victim's imprisonment, her fear and her fight for survival. The constant switches of narrative point of view from that of the victim to that of the investigators and to that of the perpetrator, create a dramatic sense of suspense and urgency. *La Valle dei cadaveri* is a thriller written in a sharp cinematographic style, where the continuous changes in settings and narrative tones lead the way through the unexpected story developments at a pace that gives no respite and will keep the reader hooked until the very last page. Reminiscent of the best Carol O'Connell novels: it is a gripping and chilling page-turner.



Antonio Invernici lives and works in Milan. His first novel *La Quinta Vittima* (*The Fifth Victim*), was published by Baldini & Castoldi in 2011 and was appreciated by the press.

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