

**BOTTEGA
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dentro le letterature di frontiera

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Federica Marzi

MY HOME ELSEWHERE

Federica Marzi debuts with a mature and balanced novel. Her novel arouses anticipation and curiosity in the reader right to the last page.

Italo Calvino Prize, mention

YOU SHOULD READ IT BECAUSE...

- it has the courage to cover the two most painful and important topics of a crucial geographical area in the 20th century: the Istrian question and the war in the former Yugoslavia
- in her intimate narrative debut, Marzi outlines the portrait of two extraordinary female figures
- one of the main characters of the novel is Trieste, emblematic border city, land of landings and dramatic departures

 **Tags:** Frontier; Bildungsroman; Trieste; Istrian Exodus; Bosnian War.

Amila, born in Zvornik, Eastern Bosnia, lives in Trieste, the city where she fled from the war as a child. She is a university student who feels and lives as an Italian despite not having formal citizenship. Norina, born in Buie d'Istria/Buje, now Croatia, is an elderly woman who arrived as a refugee in Trieste following the handover of her hometown to Yugoslavia. Although she has returned to her homeland, she has never been able to feel at home anywhere.

The two women meet during a summer. That same summer, Simon, Norina's beloved Australian nephew, arrives at the old isolated Norina's house in the Karst, in search of his family origins and in particular to investigate the disappearance of a man called Franco.

It is a novel about a great youthful love, the rivalry between two elderly sisters divided forever by emigration, the rediscovery of one's roots and the possibility of always thinking of a new beginning.



Book Data

Pages: 272**Published:** 15th September 2021**Book available in:** Italian**Rights:** BEE, world wide**Rights sold:** Croatia, United States

Press review available on demand

ISBN 979-12-80219-22-0



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**RIGHTS
SOLD****Moj dom negdje drugdje**

translated by Lorena Monica Kmet

Sandorf (Croatia) 2023

My home somewhere else

translated by Jim Hicks

Sandorf passage (USA) 2024



Federica Marzi

MY HOME ELSEWHERE

Reviews

“ Emigrating is like getting into a psychological labyrinth. To emigrate to escape a war is like ending up in a maze with narrow, angular corners and constant cross-references of dazzling mirrors.

A journey of generations that leads to multiculturalism, at best, rarely to interculturalism. Federica Marzi knows the feeling of feeling different in a country that is the one you lived in after fleeing from your own, she calls it ‘*stranieritudine*’, ‘foreignness’, and breaks it down into ‘strangeness’ and righteousness. Her book ‘My Home Elsewhere’ is a stage, a refreshment point in the slow marathon that leads those uprooted to find themselves again.

Or, at least, to try. **Francesco di Filippo**

“ Lately, when I read Italian literature, I look for narratives that are somewhat peripheral. In the broad sense of the term, with the aim of going beyond the usual imaginary of Italy. Federica Marzi’s *My Home Elsewhere* corresponds to this idea in many ways.

It is peripheral because it comes from the Eastern border, from Trieste and Istria, and stretches as far as Bosnia. It travels back and forth through lands linked by shared destinies that are nevertheless scarcely or not at all visited in the literature of our country.

It is peripheral because all but one of the characters are not bourgeois, are not settled and are not navel-gazing.

They come from peasant families, migrants, and people on the run.

It is peripheral because of the language that runs through it. A rich, beautiful Italian, sensitive to the words of nature and enriched with languages that we don’t usually meet. Triestine dialect, Istrian dialects, Serbo-Croatian.

It is peripheral with pride because it does not pretend to concern us all, nor is it yet another unbearable self-story sold as fiction.

It is elsewhere, as the title says, and I feel like saying ‘finally’.

Salvatore Greco



FEDERICA MARZI was born in Trieste, to a Slovenian father and an Istrian mother.

Her unpublished collection of short stories *East-North-East* was nominated for the 2009 Calvino Prize by the Readers’ Committee. In 2016 she was awarded the First Prize at the International Literary Competition *Lapis Histriae* at 27th edition at Forum Tomizza with the tale *Crepe (Cracks)*.

She lives in Trieste where she teaches German language in middle and high school.