



The Round Dance

A Novel

by Carmine Abate
Translated by Michelangelo La Luna
Foreword by Francesco Altimari

DESCRIPTION

The village of Hora is a magical place that blurs the boundaries between a mythical past and the present. It is here that Costantino Avati grows alongside his impetuous and melancholic father, Francesco; his mother, Elena, who hides a secret torment; his two sisters, Orlandina and Lucrezia; and his grandfather Lissandro, the last custodian of an era and a world that are disappearing. As Costantino feels the pangs of first love with the intriguing Roman Isabella, he also discovers the romantic allure of his own village and its rich cultural heritage. In his first novel, acclaimed author Carmine Abate transforms his Italo-Albanian (Arbëresh) hometown of Carfizzi, Calabria, into a magical realist wonderland that rivals Gabriel García Márquez's *Macondo*. Inspired by the oral traditions of the old Albanian bards and incorporating the poetic local dialect, *The Round Dance* is a unique piece of multicultural literature that was named by the publishing house Mondadori as one of the one hundred greatest Italian novels of the twentieth century.

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AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

CARMINE ABATE is a prolific Italian author whose many books include the novels *Between Two Seas* and *The Homecoming Party* and the short story collection *The Wedding Banquet and Other Flavors*. His debut novel, *The Round Dance* (*Il ballo tondo*), won the ARGE ALP Readers' International Prize.

MICHELANGELO LA LUNA is a professor of Italian language and literature at the University of Rhode Island. He is the author of several books and articles on Italian and Italian-Albanian writers and poets, such as Carmine Abate, Luigi Capuana, Dante Alighieri, Girolamo De Rada, Dacia Maraini, and Pier Paolo Pasolini.

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