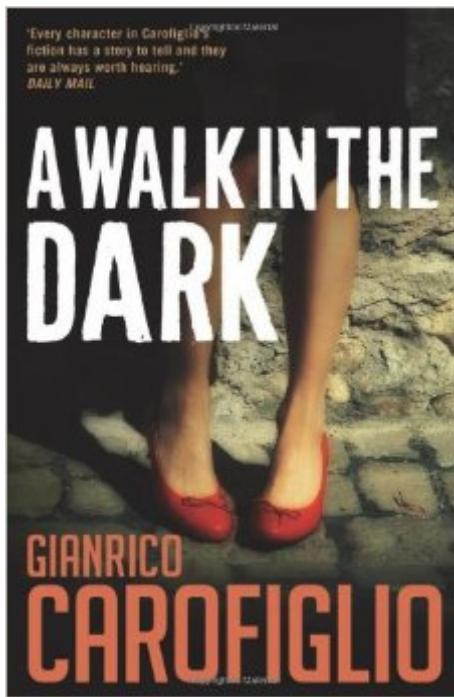


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A Walk In The Dark (Guido Guerrieri)



Synopsis

"Carofiglio writes crisp, ironical novels that are as much love stories and philosophical treatises as they are legal thrillers."¹ The New Yorker "Part legal thriller, part insight into a man fighting his own demons. Every character in Carofiglio's fiction has a story to tell and they are always worth hearing. As the author himself is an anti-mafia prosecutor, this powerfully affecting novel benefits from veracity as well as tight writing."² Daily Mail "A novel as much about human nature and the passage of time as it is about law-breaking. Crisp laconic sentences, subtle shifts in tone, and a seamless translation that should be commended."³ The Times Literary Supplement When Martina accuses her ex-boyfriend, the son of a powerful local judge, of assault and battery, no witnesses can be persuaded to testify on her behalf, and one lawyer after another refuses to represent her. Guido Guerrieri knows the case could bring his legal career to a premature, messy end, but he cannot resist the appeal of an apparently hopeless cause. Nor can he deny an attraction to Sister Claudia, the young woman in charge of the shelter where Martina is living. Claudia shares his love of martial arts and his virulent hatred of injustice. Gianrico Carofiglio was an anti-Mafia prosecutor in Bari, a port on the coast of Puglia, for many years, and is now a member of the Italian senate. He has sold over 2.5 million books of the Guerrieri series in Italy alone.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A Walk in the Dark Gianrico Carofiglio Bitter Lemon, Oct 2006, \$14.95 ISBN: 1904738176 In Bari, Italy, defense lawyer Avvocato Guido Guerrieri earns a living providing legal council to petty

criminals; his business depends on returning customers as most of his clients are repeat offenders. However, for whatever reason deep in his psyche, Guido has a soft spot for the underdog especially abused females so at times he will take on impossible cases. This is one of those times when Guerrieri turns champion because to his chagrin he is immediately attracted to Sister Claudia, director of Safe House, who asks him to help one of her volunteers now hiding at the shelter. The woman moved in with a wealthy Prince Charming who turned into an abusive beast. He beat her in public twice and in private several times. Because of his connections, the carabinieri, the police and a judge deny the woman's plea for protection from his harming her. Two lawyers have said no, but Guerrieri agrees to take on the case of protecting the ex girlfriend Martina Fumai, Sister Claudia and the shelter from Ernesto Scaianatico, son of a criminal appeals court judge. However, Guido will learn the hard way why his peers said no. This terrific legal thriller stars a fascinating protagonist who normally is indifferent and bumbling when it comes to his typical clients; however some cases fire up his inner gut turning him into a capable caring attorney and much more. Guido's two capers (see *INVOLUNTARY WITNESS*) are legal noirs as he struggles to insure his clients remain safe against powerful adversaries who use money and abuse of power to insure victory over justice. Gianrico Carofiglio provides a terrific Italian thriller.

This is tightly-plotted tale of underdog revenge with wonderful characters--Sister Claudia, please watch my back--in just 215 pages. I read it in a night, then re-read it a few days later to clear up some of the moral ambiguities, because everyone, even protagonist lawyer Guerrieri, has to work through some murk. I'm still thinking, but this is a police novel in the tradition of Simenon's Maigret novels and Duerrenmatt's *The Judge and His Hangman*. A terrific read.

This Italian mystery features attorney Guido Guerrieri. A young nun comes to him to ask him to take the case of a young woman who has been assaulted and stalked by her former boyfriend, a physician and son of a high-ranking judge. The attorney learns the horrifying details of the relationship and agrees to represent the young woman. Carofiglio writes with compassion of the attorney, his semi-live-in girlfriend, and the young victim and her friend and advocate, the nun. Don't be put off by the lurid cover. The novel is a compassionate analysis into child abuse, domestic abuse, and the Italian legal system. Highly recommended. If you like this one, you should also try *The Past Is a Foreign Country*, the best in the series IMO.

I am not talking about what takes place in this fascinating mystery novel but in the style and manner

in which it was written. In his first novel, "Involuntary Witness," I felt that the procedural courtroom sections were not integrated well into the story and were almost an aside to the development of characters. In this book nothing can be further from the truth and if truth be known the procedural part of the novel is its driving force. Almost any description of plot and characters would be a spoiler. With this in mind, the story is on the surface quite simple an abused woman brings charges against a stalking ex-boyfriend who is the son of a powerful local judge. Enough said. It is the interaction of the characters and the unique personalities which compelled me to read this novel twice, albeit after a hiatus of a year. The girl's lawyer Guido Guerrieri, is his same old cynical, irreverent self but galvanized into action by the almost mystical influence of a most combative (in every sense) nun, Sister Claudia. The victim Martina Fumai has a story to tell, but as the only witness to her assaults, and a mental history, leaves much to be desired according to Guido. Assistant Public Prosecutor Alessandra Mantovani, is a stunningly attractive and formidable ally until she is transferred to Sicily. Guido's paramour, Margherita, is a counterbalance to him. Those are the main characters but what Carofiglio does in a complex fan dance with their emotions and histories deliciously tortures the reader until the last page. I was particularly pleased with the inserted past history of child abuse interjected into the novel. These small sections seemed to be a cheap literary conceit of psycho-babble until the end of the book when, like Saul on the road to Tarsus, Carofiglio showed me the light. A master doing a masterful job and you will never look at a nun in the same way.

This is the second book about Avvocato (attorney) Guido Guerrieri and is even better than the first ("Involuntary Witness"). In this book, Guerrieri again takes on an impossible case, that of a young woman, Martina, who is suing her former boyfriend, the son of a prominent and powerful judge, for assault, battery and stalking. No one else will touch the case but Guerrieri will give it his best because of his disdain for the "old boy network" that is at the heart of Italy's legal system and his genuine belief that someone needs to stand up for this girl. It is a riveting book that read quickly and smoothly with a very likable hero in Guerrieri. It didn't hurt that there was strong sexual tension between Guerrieri and the martial arts expert nun who was protecting Martina. There is also a foreshadowing of problems in Guerrieri's relationship with his lady love, Margherita. This is an excellent second book and I have bought the next two books in the series for my Kindle. I look forward to many more books from this author.

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