



## Il sorriso di Angelica

*Andrea Camilleri*

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### **Il sorriso di Angelica** Andrea Camilleri

Una banda di ladri ripulisce gli appartamenti di alcuni facoltosi professionisti di Vigàta. Le modalità dei furti si ripetono sempre uguali, quasi una sfida per il commissario Montalbano, anche perché il capo dell'organizzazione pare intenzionato a continuare ancora a lungo, senza timore di essere preso. A subire un furto in casa è anche Angelica Cosulich, «trintina» di bell'aspetto, da pochi mesi trasferita nella locale sede della Banca siculo-americana. A Montalbano, Angelica ricorda in modo impressionante l'eroina dell'Orlando Furioso, così come se l'era immaginata quando era sui banchi di scuola, e si strugge d'amore per lei; ed è proprio il poema dell'Ariosto a scandire i punti salenti dell'intera vicenda, che si snoda fantasiosa, emozionante, ironica, ricca di colpi di scena.

Quando però uno della banda viene trovato morto, la verità si fa più vicina.

### **Il sorriso di Angelica Details**

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## From Reader Review Il sorriso di Angelica for online ebook

### Nancy Oakes says

like a 3.5

As usual with these books, the focus in this story isn't so much on the crime or the crime solving, but instead on Inspector Salvo Montalbano and the people surrounding him. This one is a little more on the personal side, with less reference to the social, economic and political issues that Camilleri usually brings to his work.

Our beloved inspector is now just two years short of sixty, and as in the last few books, he continues to muse about aging and growing older throughout the novel. He's still with long-time girlfriend Livia, and as the story opens, she is at Marinella with him for a few days. As he's worrying about someone named Carlo she mentioned while talking in her sleep, and getting more upset by the moment, he is called to the scene of an odd burglary. The couple that was robbed had been at their seaside home, where they'd awakened at six a.m. only to discover that they'd been "knocked out with some sort of gas," while the burglars "had the run of the place." It was their anniversary, and they were entertaining each other at the time, so neither person heard any sort of break in. Among a long list of valuables taken from the seaside house, the thieves stole their car and then proceeded to rob their regular residence. The only people who knew that the couple were going to be away were fifteen of their friends. As things turn out, there had been another burglary, "an exact duplicate," just three days earlier - and it isn't too long before the same thing happens again. When Montalbano is called out on yet another, he meets the titular and beautiful Angelica, the victim and also the "spitting image" of a woman he used to lust over as a teen in Dore's illustrations of Ludovico Ariosto's 1516 work Orlando Furioso, a "poem about war and love and the romantic ideal of chivalry." After seeing her for the first time, he's immediately swept off his feet -- and definitely attracted. But even while he's mentally and physically lusting after his Angelica, as well as playing the role of her rescuer, there is still a number of crimes to solve -- including a murder -- and as an added distraction, the mastermind of the crimes is taunting the police. And of course, there's Livia.

While it's pretty funny to see Montalbano as a loopy, lovesick puppy completely smitten by this reincarnation of his teenage fantasies, and while Camilleri continues his long-standing tradition of inserting colorful characters into the mix, let me offer a word of warning here as far as the crime solving goes. I made the huge mistake of going to Sartarelli's notes in the back re the poem Orlando Furioso (a natural inclination), and twigged the entire plot all at once. Not the why of it, mind you, but trust me - if you read carefully, it's all there metaphorically speaking. I figured out much more than I should have at an early stage, and ended up being disappointed, an adjective I don't generally use when it comes to this series of books. And then there's this: I'm wondering if the author is getting a little tired -- this book just didn't seem to have the same oomph as his earlier Montalbano adventures that have been so lively up to this point. Still, it's a fun read, and in that vein I have to say that I probably haven't had so many good laughs with any other crime fiction series as I have with this one. Like I've said before, you don't read Camilleri's novels for the crime -- it's all about the characters.

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### Ivonne Rovira says

In the novel *Thrones, Dominations*, jointly penned by the late Dorothy L. Sayers and Jill Paton Walsh, protagonist Harriet Vane, herself a mystery writer, states that, a mystery novel without a murder isn't worth reading. Andrea Camilleri, in *Angelica's Smile*, the 17th novel to feature Chief Inspector Salvo Montalbano, proves that dead wrong — if you'll pardon the pun! The Vigàta police are beset with a string of complicated

burglaries, and, while that may sound dull, it's anything but. The crafty mastermind of the burglary ring, dubbed "Mr. Z" by the wisecracking Montalbano, sends taunting letters to Montalbano and even attempts to get Montalbano into even worse trouble with Police Commissioner Bonetti-Alderighi, who already hates Montalbano.

At 58, Montalbano is feeling his age. For years, he has been faithful to his long-distance girlfriend Livia. But lately Montalbano has been much less — shall we say? — fastidious. Through the robberies, he meets the extremely beautiful and blonde Angelica Cosulich, who leaves Montalbano sorely tempted. Will Montalbano stay true? This interesting subplot provides yet another glimpse into the complicated police inspector.

This humorous and cleverly plotted novel — a mere 286 pages as a book or five-and-a-half hours as an Audible audiobook — will prove so riveting that you'll find yourself ducking your responsibilities in order to finish it off.

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### **James says**

When you read every book in a series as extended as this one it's a long term relationship where mutual flaws are forgiven the rosy glow of a reunited friendship. A young beautiful woman falls in love with a 58 year old chain smoking food obsessed detective sure why not. A series of burglaries with a rather obvious end each why not. The book delivers some marvellous misanthropy, the best coroner ever and the continued shenanigans of Italian civil service.

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### **Carmen says**

Las últimas novelas de Montalbano son tan parecidas entre sí que resultan indistinguibles y, por tanto, igualmente anodinas y olvidables.

La fórmula es siempre la misma: Montalbano hecho un mar de dudas, deprimido y enfadado a la vez por sentirse viejo (lleva así casi diez años, y aún no ha cumplido los sesenta); una investigación que no es sino un pretexto para enfrenar al comisario al hecho de que ya no es tan joven, es más torpe y razona lentamente, quizá deba jubilarse, etc. Sin embargo, su proveyada edad no parece impedirle resultar terriblemente atractivo para mujeres hermosísimas, mucho más jóvenes que él, que caen rendidas a sus pies. Si bien en algún caso la cosa llega a mayores, siempre hay un motivo idiota por el que la relación no cuaja. Generalmente, porque la chica está implicada en el caso.

El resto de los elementos se repiten más que el ajo: sueños pseudoproféticos o visionarios de Montalbano que le acaban dando la clave del caso. Fazio, el único verdadero policía que hace que esa comisaría salga adelante, secundando a su jefe en sus cruzadas al margen de la ley. Augello, desaparecido en combate; parece que Camilleri no sabe ya qué hacer con él. Livia, apareciendo y desapareciendo como el Guadiana entre brotes de histeria y celos. Catarella confundiendo nombres y abriendo puertas de golpe por 3.764.782ª vez (que alguien avise al autor de que ya no tiene la misma gracia). Trama delictiva más o menos de parvulitos. Cartas anónimas del criminal para desafiar al comisario (caray, Camilleri, que esto ya lo usaste en la inmediatamente anterior, disimula un poco, deja pasar al menos dos novelas). En fin, al menos en ésta no ha metido elementos de snuff movie torpona, como en "La búsqueda del tesoro", y se deja leer.

Vamos, que es lo de siempre...desde hace ya unos cuantos libros. Y no me vale que me digan que Montalbano y, por extensión, la novela policíaca, son así, sota, caballo y rey, y que no le pida peras al olmo,

porque es justo lo contrario. Yo a Camilleri le pido lo que me daba al principio: novelas bien construidas, ingeniosas, con tramas y subtramas en las que los personajes tenían más profundidad que un charco, humor, un retrato maravilloso de Sicilia, unos libros, en fin, que no serían El Quijote, pero no insultaban al lector. Eso le pedía a ese peral, las peras que siempre había dado. Y es él quien se empeña en darme unos higos pochos que le sobaban y, además, de mala gana.

Señor Camilleri, tiene usted una edad y una trayectoria en las que no tiene que demostrarle nada a nadie. Respete a su comisario, a sus lectores y a sí mismo y deje de ofrecernos esta mercancía averiada. Si no quiere o no puede darle a Montalbano un final digno, déjelo ya. No se ensañe. Creo que todos nos lo merecemos.

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### **Chris\_P says**

*Angelica's Smile* is a contemporary crime novel that reads like a classic. Few are the elements that betray the time the plot takes place.

It's not too good, not too bad. The prose is stripped of unnecessary descriptions and sticks to the point. Personally, I didn't mind since I found it suitable to the story. Development-wise, it's more or less flawless. The plot unravels in a flowing manner and the mystery is quite interesting. What I felt it lacked, was that little something that would allow the story to take off and carry you with it. It actually never left the ground and remained a decent, if a bit flat novel.

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### **Paul says**

Angelica's Smile – Sunny Montalabano Mystery

I have an admission I love Inspector Montalabano since I first saw the subtitled Italian series, to reading the books, while the bad guys get caught you are able to salivate at the meals and laugh with and at Montalabano. Like many Brits I discovered the joys of Andrea Camilleri's prose from those television episodes. The difference between the small screen and his books is the richness in the prose, the imagery of the beauty of Sicily oh and the food. Is it just me that likes to eat like Montalabano, the only thing the book does not have is the smells as it has everything else.

Angelica's smile is the seventeenth book in the Montalabano series and it is another brilliant book for the reader to enjoy. We are treated to Montalabano at his best; contemptuous of his colleagues and Italian bureaucracy and plagued by bumbling Catarella, but dogged and determined to investigate the crimes while falling in lust with the beautiful Angelica Cosulich a victim of one of the crimes.

Montalabano is awoken by Catarella's phone call to tell him there has been another 'buggery'; once he has worked out it means burglary he tries to pass it off to his colleagues who are otherwise engaged. Under duress he gets up and goes to the crime scene to one of Vigata's elite members of society. He finds that their other house as well as their Vigata house has been burgled and a list of expensive objects has been taken. One of the victims Angelica Cosulich is a beautiful woman who manages to dazzle Montalabano and make him feel young once again.

During the course of the investigation Montalabano is sure there is a connection between all the members of the elite that are being broken in to but he cannot see the link. Once he sees the link he is able to solve the

burglaries and bring the book to its conclusion. Not before we have been to Enzo's for quite a few excellent fish dishes and the food that his housekeeper cooks for him, especially his favourite Pasta ncasciata (baked pasta with aubergines, cheese and tomato sauce).

Angelica's smile is an alluring evocative mystery novel that has humour, a sense of despair and the encounters with the beauty of Sicily. There is none of the violence that one would normally associate with Sicily and their families who usually only ever remain nothing more than footnotes in the series.

Andrea Camilleri is one of Italy's most famous writers and it is a wonderful treat that his novels are translated in to English so that we too can enjoy his novel's. Even in a mystery novel we are treated to the beauty and depths of Sicily with which you want to visit and eat. There is humour on every page even when there is despair which is resplendent in Sicily. The Montalbano series is an evocative story of Sicily and its tortured past and present and Camilleri is the narrator who brings this to life. Stunning, wonderful and beautiful.

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### **Leslie says**

3.5\* for the book

I listened to the Grover Gardner audiobook, while periodically glancing at the Kindle edition's notes. Gardner is a marvellous narrator so I would give the audiobook edition a boost to 4\*.

This entry in the series had a bit less about Montalbano's food (which was a shame as I love that part). He is struggling with aging & as he is about my age I can sympathize with that. However, I thought that the mystery part was not one of Camilleri's better efforts. Not bad but not as engrossing or puzzling as in some of the previous books.

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### **James Hartley says**

Good fun.

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### **Helen French says**

It took me 17 books to realise that dear old Inspector Montalbano is simply a bit of a filthy old man who enjoys salivating over pretty young things who would never be interested in him if it wasn't for his position of power.

The actual book is much the same as all the others: his colleagues have the same hilarious foibles as ever; the inspector worries about his faculties diminishing and takes long walks/eats everything/takes a dip in the ocean to recover. Until, at last, the solution to the crime falls into his head.

It's entertaining and easy to read but for the first time I thought ehrrrrrr, don't cheat on your partner. Don't let your eyes wander to women who by all rights would not be interested in you if it wasn't for the fact you're an Inspector. Montalbano, just say no.

I'm not sure if I want to read any more, though I think I've already purchased the next couple along.

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### **Ginny\_1807 says**

Niente di apprezzabile in questa scialba avventura di Montalbano, ma soltanto una ovvietà di contenuti ed una ripetitività di motivi e di temi che finiscono per annoiare chi già conosce lo scrittore nelle sue prove più riuscite. Perfino il linguaggio caratteristico di questi romanzi, che tanto risultava vivace e innovativo nelle sue prime apparizioni, qui si rivela stanco, vuoto, quasi un patetico espediente virtuosistico volto a mascherare la sostanziale inconsistenza dell'insieme.

Personaggi scontati, che col passare del tempo non hanno subito alcuna evoluzione, se non verso penose velleità senili; situazioni, dialoghi e gag già serviti e digeriti in tutte le salse; pranzi e cene e libagioni e manicaretti regionali imbanditi al solo scopo di riempire le pause di un'azione già di per sé piuttosto statica. Per non parlare della forzatura delle citazioni dall'Orlando furioso, quanto mai artificiose e raffazzonate con l'unico scopo di inventare un nobile pretesto per una storia insulsa. Delusione totale.

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### **John says**

Years ago, when I first heard that HBO decided that Detroit was a setting for a series featuring a male (heterosexual) prostitute, I thought "*There?* They've got to be kidding!" But, perhaps, they were onto something after all ...

We learn in this book that the main character, Angelica, keeps a love nest (let's say) for just such individuals in rural Sicily (as opposed to say, Rome or Florence). Following up on the burglary to her flat, Salvo asks if she's had any altercations lately, to which she responds, "Yes, one fellow demanded twice what I was willing to pay." Dear readers, she ends up getting Salvo for free. I know (first hand!) about testosterone clouding judgment and such, but getting involved with a suspect, half his age, was still a bit much. Then again, in an earlier book I believe he more-or-less ordered the married Fazio (whose son is his godson) to sleep with a suspect (more than once). I'm no prude, but this is all very strange, causing me to wonder about where the author is coming from. For what it's worth, Fazio seems to have almost a "bromance" crush on Salvo. I get him mixed up a bit with Augello (who is absent in this book), but I believe it was Fazio who saved Salvo's life earlier, as he'd been stalking ... I mean following him, so was on hand to call for help at a crucial moment.

I have finally come to the realization that Salvo and Livia will never be together, because ... he wants a female pal/mother figure; moreover, in a catty way he *enjoys* pitting Livia and his housekeeper Adelina against each other. Speaking of Adelina, I'm amazed she can cook those meals as well as clean house - she ought to making as much as Salvo! Back to Livia, she comes to visit him in most books, and I believe there's been mention of (rare, occasional) visits by him to her. But, no mention of their doing anything together, such as traveling to other countries, going to a play or movie, etc. They chat on the phone, they visit, they have sex, and they eat. Ho Hum.

I'm left wondering if Camilleri is such a loner that he can't give Salvo a life (you know, friends), because he doesn't know how? Don't get me wrong, I like stories for their setting, the food, the guys, etc. But, Salvo needs a therapist; I'm surprised Livia hasn't brought that up.

So, my blunt appraisal: read it for a Salvo fix, which you'll get, but on the merits I found I could've lived

without it.

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### **Richard says**

The silver lining of reduced mobility of a painful back condition is the need to sit upright and rest up which allows me to read. No better book to read than an Inspector Montalbano mystery. Angelica's Smile is the seventeenth in the series that remains strong and original addressing crime in modern day Sicily.

The detective shares many of my traits. A love of food, a delight in books and the need for a coffee in the morning. He is of a similar age and is thinking about his advancing years and future retirement.

Where we differ is clearer for others to see; I admit that he is more desirable to women, but in my defense he is Italian.

This is a cracking good book where a mastermind appears to be getting the better of Montalbano through a series of burglaries which leave him clueless and in danger of public ridicule, hence his thoughts of retirement. However, in the course of the investigation he meets an attractive woman. She seems initially to make him regress to a besotted teenager and the story is about his struggle to understand himself as much as it is to solve the crime. This insight by Andrea Camilleri into his main character is what gives this set of books their humanity and realistic edge. Sufficient to take you out of your own reality and into a world where you taste the food and feel the chill of the sea as the Inspector dives into the water.

The greatest compliment I can pay these books is that where they have been translated into a TV series; the episode of this story is so faithful to its original format that you wonder what came first. The fact is, the writing is so vivid and imaginative that the words form pictures that last long after the final page.

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### **Valetta says**

Mah, che dire... a mio modestissimo parere Camilleri ne ha piene la tasche di Montalbano e fatica a nascondere. Si sfoga come può, riversando la sua impagabile ironia nei numerosi siparietti comici di Catarella e nei salaci scambi di battute tra Montalbano e Augello, Fazio o di Dr Pasquano ma del suo ispettore non sa bene cosa farsene, tanto che a volte mi sembra lo maltratti proprio, riducendolo ad una macchietta.

Tra gli acciacchi dell'età, la costante amarezza e la sfilza di ventenni belle che più belle non si può a cui Montalbano non può far altro che morire dietro, l'impressione generale è che Camilleri voglia un po' mettere in ridicolo il suo ispettore che, ottenebrato dal fatto che il sangue gli è definitivamente sceso dal cervello alle parti basse, non si accorge di ciò che il lettore aveva capito già a pagina dieci.

La trama non è male, più curata del romanzo precedente ma comunque con un sapore di già sentito e una conclusione un po' raffazonata, si salva nel complesso grazie al solito stile mordace e ai dialoghi brillanti.

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### **Sandra says**

Il sorriso di Angelica, bella "trintina" che al primo sguardo ricorda al commissario in maniera impressionante l'eroina dell'Orlando Furioso come lui la ricorda quando era studente e guardava di trafugo le illustrazioni del Dorè, illumina il mondo circostante. E Montalbano si dimostra debole e indifeso nei suoi confronti. Un Montalbano che invecchiando sembra tornare un adolescente alla sua prima infatuazione fatta di batticuore e vertigini. Ciò avrebbe potuto costituire un diversivo nelle vicende che si snodano con gli stessi personaggi (mancano Mimì Augello e la svedese Ingrid in questa nuova storia), che oramai conosciamo e di cui prevediamo ogni battuta: la solita Livia isterica e antipatica, il solito Catarella sgrammaticato e travisatore

simpatico di nomi e cognomi, il solito Fazio con la mania dell'anagrafe, il solito trattore Enzo che cucina ottimi manicaretti...Ma a me il Montalbano sessualmente ammaliato dalla bella di turno non è piaciuto. Inoltre la storia gialla -l'indagine riguarda una serie di furti perfettamente organizzati e realizzati- non mi ha coinvolto nè convinto a fondo, alcuni particolari sono ripetuti dal precedente romanzo (le lettere anonime), il finale era parzialmente prevedibile. Ho avvertito poi, soprattutto nella parte finale, un'atmosfera malinconica come una cappa pesante che gravava nell'aria. Questa volta Camilleri mi ha deluso

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## Diogenis Papadopoulos says

Ο Camilleri είναι απ' τους αγαπημένους μου και τα αστυνομικά του μυθιστορήματα είναι ?,τι πρέπει για το καλοκαίρι, γιατί είναι αν?λαφρα, ?χουν σασπ?νς και μεσογειακά ταμπεραμέντο. "Το χαμ?γελο της Αντζ?λικά" δεν ξεφε?γει απ' την συνταγή. Αλλά? για τις τελευτα?ες δυο τρεις γραμμ?ς του βιβλ?ου, θα μπορούσα να του β?λω και 4 ...

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