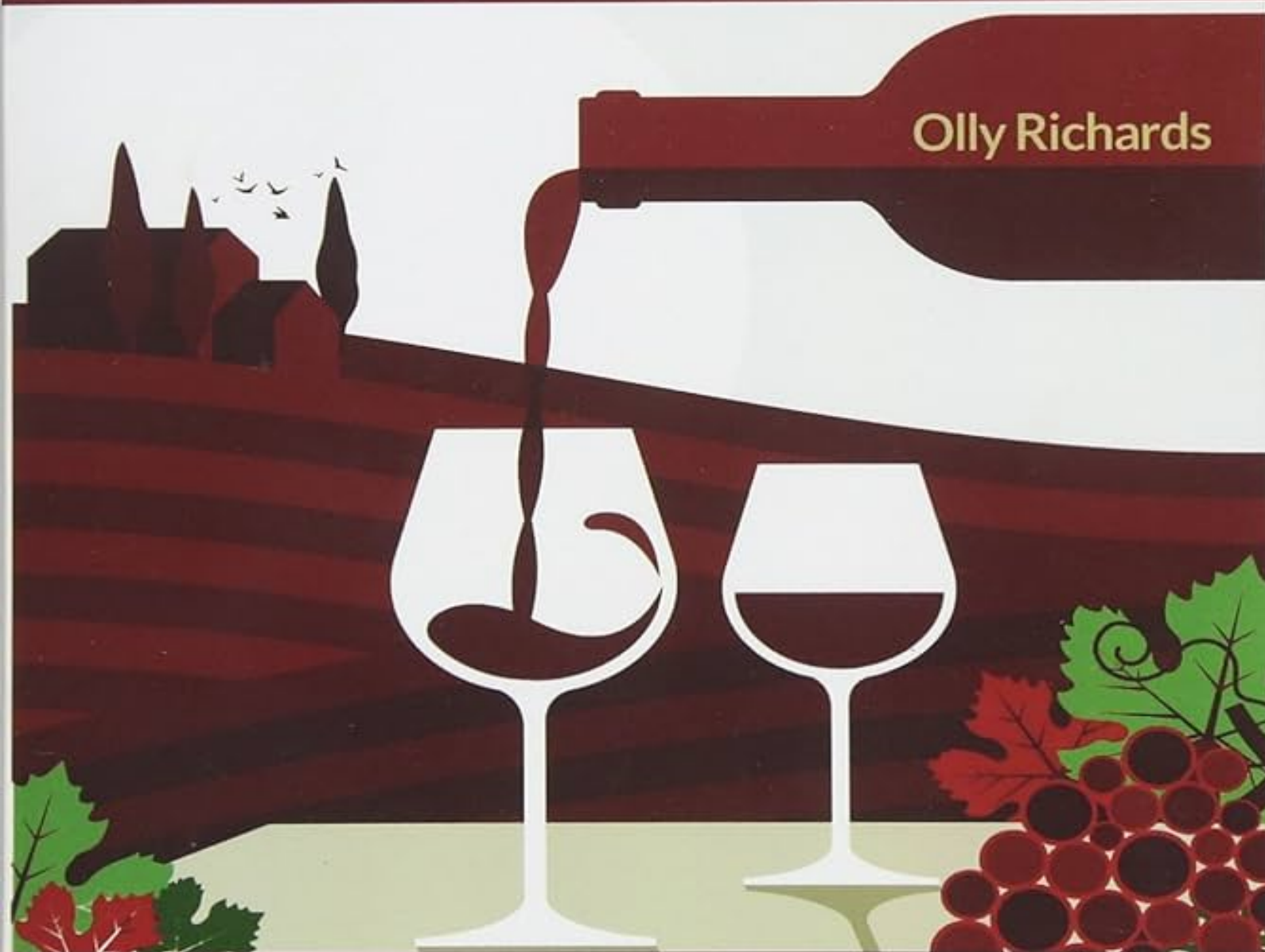


ITALIAN SHORT STORIES FOR BEGINNERS VOLUME 2

Olly Richards



8 More Unconventional Short Stories
to Grow Your Vocabulary and Learn
Italian the Fun Way!

ITALIAN SHORT STORIES FOR BEGINNERS VOLUME 2

8 *MORE* UNCONVENTIONAL SHORT
STORIES TO GROW YOUR VOCABULARY
AND LEARN ITALIAN THE FUN WAY!

OLLY RICHARDS

Copyright © 2016 Olly Richards Publishing

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law. For permission requests, write to the publisher:

Olly Richards Publishing
olly@iwillteachyoulanguage.com

Trademarked names appear throughout this book. Rather than use a trademark symbol with every occurrence of a trademarked name, names are used in an editorial fashion, with no intention of infringement of the respective owner's trademark.

The information in this book is distributed on an "as is" basis, without warranty. Although every precaution has been taken in the preparation of this work, neither the author nor the publisher shall have any liability to any person or entity with respect to any loss or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the information contained in this book.

Italian Short Stories for Beginners Volume 2: 8 More Unconventional Short Stories to Grow Your Vocabulary and Learn Italian the Fun Way!

ISBN-978-1535278904

ISBN-1535278900

Free Masterclass:
How To Read Effectively In A Foreign Language

As a special thank you for investing in this book, I invite you to attend a FREE online workshop. You'll learn my advanced techniques for effective reading, so you can make the most of these stories.

To register for the workshop, simply visit:

<http://iwillteachyoualanguage.com/readingmasterclass>

Other Books In This Series

French Short Stories For Beginners

German Short Stories For Beginners

Italian Short Stories For Beginners

Italian Short Stories For Beginners Volume 2

Russian Short Stories For Beginners

Spanish Short Stories For Beginners

Spanish Short Stories For Beginners Volume 2

English Short Stories For Intermediate Learners

Italian Short Stories For Intermediate Learners

Spanish Short Stories For Intermediate Learners

This title is also available as an audiobook

For more information visit:

<http://iwillteachyoulanguage.com/amazon>

Preface

In many ways, *Italian Short Stories For Beginners* is the book I wish I had when I started learning Italian. As a lover of books, I was often frustrated by a lack of material that was not only suitable for me as a beginner, but also engaging and interesting to read. In short, books that would help me learn Italian and leave me wanting more.

Shortly after publication, *Italian Short Stories For Beginners* became an international bestseller. I soon began receiving emails asking for a second volume. It is, therefore, with great pleasure that I present Volume Two of these unconventional short stories.

Inside, you will find eight captivating new stories which follow the format of the first volume, with short chapters, helpful vocabulary lists, and regular plot summaries. For those of you who own Volume One, you will also notice the introductory material on reading techniques has been kept the same, for the benefit of new readers.

It has been great fun creating *Italian Short Stories For Beginners Volume Two*, and I hope you enjoy it just as much as the first!

Introduction

This book is a collection of eight unconventional and entertaining short stories in Italian. Written especially for beginners and low-intermediate learners, equivalent to A1-A2 on the [Common European Framework of Reference](#), they offer a rich and enjoyable way of improving your Italian and growing your vocabulary.

Reading is one of the most effective ways to improve your Italian, but it can be difficult to find suitable reading material. When you are just starting out, most books are too difficult to understand, contain vocabulary far above your level, and are so lengthy that you can soon find yourself getting overwhelmed and giving up.

If you recognise these problems then this book is for you. From science fiction and fantasy to crime and thrillers, there is something for everyone. As you dive into these eight unique and well-crafted tales, you will quickly forget that you are reading in a foreign language and find yourself engrossed in a captivating world of Italian.

The learning support features in the stories give you access to help when you need it. With English definitions of difficult words, regular recaps of the plot to help you follow along, and multiple-choice questions for you to check important details of the story, you will quickly absorb large amounts of natural Italian and find yourself improving at a fast pace.

Perhaps you are new to Italian and looking for an entertaining challenge. Or maybe you have been learning for a while and simply want to enjoy reading whilst growing your vocabulary. Either way, this book is the biggest step forward you will take in your Italian this year.

So sit back and relax. It's time to let your imagination run wild and be transported into a magical Italian world of fun, mystery, and intrigue!

Table of Contents

Preface

Introduction

About the Stories

How to Read Effectively

The Six-Step Reading Process

1. Il castello

2. Il cuoco

3. Robot

4. Storia di guerra

5. Rock

6. Il commerciante

7. Esploratori

8. La costa

Thanks for Reading!

More from Olly

About the Stories

A sense of achievement and a feeling of progress are essential when reading in a foreign language. Without these, there is little motivation to keep reading. The stories in this book have been designed with this firmly in mind.

First and foremost, each story has been kept to a manageable length and broken down into short chapters. This gives you the satisfaction of being able to finish reading what you have begun, and come back the next day wanting more! It also reduces the extent to which you feel overwhelmed by how much you have left to learn when starting to learn Italian.

The linguistic content of the stories is as rich and as varied as possible, whilst remaining accessible for lower-level learners. Each story belongs to a different genre in order to keep you entertained, and there are plenty of dialogues throughout, giving you lots of useful spoken Italian words and phrases to learn. There is even a deliberate mix of tenses from one story to the next, so that you get exposure to common verbs in a mixture of past, present and future verb forms. This makes you a more versatile and confident user of Italian, able to understand a variety of situations without getting lost.

Many books for language learners include English translations for the entire story, known as parallel texts. Although these can be popular, parallel texts have the major disadvantage of providing an "easy option". Learners inevitably find themselves relying on the English translation and avoiding the "struggle" with the original Italian text that is necessary in order to improve. Consequently, instead of including a parallel text, *Italian Short Stories for Beginners Volume 2* supports the reader with a number of learning aids that have been built directly into the stories.

Firstly, difficult words have been bolded and their definitions given in English at the end of each chapter. This avoids the need to consult a dictionary in the middle of the story, which is cumbersome and interrupts your reading. Secondly, there are regular summaries of the plot to help you follow the story and make sure you haven't missed anything important.

Lastly, each chapter comes with its own set of comprehension questions to test your understanding of key events and encourage you to read in more detail.

Italian Short Stories for Beginners Volume 2 has been written to give you all the support you need, so that you can focus on the all-important tasks of reading, learning and having fun!

How to Read Effectively

Reading is a complex skill, and in our mother tongue we employ a variety of micro-skills to help us read. For example, we might *skim* a particular passage in order to understand the gist. Or we might *scan* through multiple pages of a train timetable looking for a particular time or place. If I lent you an Agatha Christie novel, you would breeze through the pages fairly quickly. On the other hand, if I gave you a contract to sign, you would likely read every word in great detail.

However, when it comes to reading in a foreign language, research suggests that we abandon most of these reading skills. Instead of using a mixture of micro-skills to help us understand a difficult text, we simply start at the beginning and try to understand every single word. Inevitably, we come across unknown or difficult words and quickly get frustrated with our lack of understanding.

Providing that you recognise this, however, you can adopt a few simple strategies that will help you turn frustration into opportunity and make the most of your reading experience!

* * *

You've picked up this book because you like the idea of learning Italian with short stories. But why? What are the benefits of learning Italian with stories, as opposed to with a textbook? Understanding this will help you determine your approach to reading.

One of the main benefits of reading stories is that you gain exposure to large amounts of natural Italian. This kind of reading for pleasure is commonly known as *extensive reading*. This is very different from how you might read Italian in a textbook. Your textbook contains short dialogues, which you read in detail with the aim of understanding every word. This is known as *intensive reading*.

To put it another way, while textbooks provide grammar rules and lists of vocabulary for you to learn, stories show you natural language *in use*. Both approaches have value and are an important part of a balanced

approach to language learning. This book, however, provides opportunities for extensive reading. Read enough, and you'll quickly build up an innate understanding of how Italian works - very different from a theoretical understanding pieced together from rules and abstract examples (which is what you often get from textbooks).

Now, in order to take full advantage of the benefits of extensive reading, you have to actually read a large enough volume in the first place! Reading a couple of pages here and there may teach you a few new words, but won't be enough to make a real impact on the overall level of your Italian. With this in mind, here is the thought process that I recommend you have when approaching reading the short stories in this book, in order to learn the most from them:

1. Enjoyment and a sense of achievement when reading is vitally important because it keeps you coming back for more
2. The more you read, the more you learn
3. The best way to enjoy reading stories, and to feel that sense of achievement, is by reading the story from beginning to end
4. Consequently, reaching the end of a story is the most important thing... more important than understanding every word in it!

This brings us to the single most important point of this section: **You must accept that you won't understand everything you read in a story.**

This is completely normal and to be expected. The fact that you don't know a word or understand a sentence doesn't mean that you're "stupid" or "not good enough". It means you're engaged in the process of learning Italian, just like everybody else.

So what should you do when you don't understand a word? Here are a few ideas:

1. Look at the word and see if it is familiar in any way. If English is your mother tongue, there are often elements of Italian vocabulary that will be familiar to you. Take a guess - you might surprise yourself!
2. Re-read the sentence that contains the unknown word a number of times over. Using the context of that sentence, and the rest of the story, try to guess what the unknown word might mean. This takes practice, but is often easier than you think!

3. Make a note of the word in a notebook, and check the meaning later
4. Sometimes, you might find a verb that you know, conjugated in an unfamiliar way. For example:

parlare - to speak

parleranno - they will speak

parlassi - I would speak (subjunctive)

You may not be familiar with this particular verb form, or not understand why it is being used in this case, and that may frustrate you. But is it absolutely necessary for you to know this right now? Can you still understand the gist of what's going on? Usually, if you have managed to recognise the main verb, that is enough. Instead of getting frustrated, simply notice how the verb is being used, and then carry on reading!

5. If all the other steps fail, or you simply "have to know" the meaning of a particular word, you can simply turn to the end of the chapter and look it up in the vocabulary list. However, this should be your last resort.

The previous four steps in this list are designed to do something very important: to train you to handle reading independently and without help. The more you can develop this skill, the better able you'll be to read. And, of course, the more you can read, the more you'll learn.

Remember that the purpose of reading is not to understand every word in the story, as you might be expected to in a textbook. The purpose of reading is to enjoy the story for what it is. Therefore if you don't understand a word, and you can't guess what the word means from the context, simply try to keep reading. Learning to be content with a certain amount of ambiguity whilst reading a foreign language is a powerful skill to have, because you become an independent and resilient learner.

The Six-Step Reading Process

1. Read the first chapter of the story all the way through. Your aim is simply to reach the end of the chapter. Therefore, do not stop to look up words and do not worry if there are things you do not understand. Simply try to follow the plot.
2. When you reach the end of the chapter, read the short summary of the plot to see if you have understood what has happened. If you find this too difficult, do not worry.
3. Go back and read the same chapter again. If you like, you can read in more detail than before, but otherwise simply read it through one more time.
4. At the end of the chapter, read the summary again, and then try to answer the comprehension questions to check your understanding of key events. If you do not get them all correct, do not worry.
5. By this point, you should start to have some understanding of the main events of the chapter. If you wish, continue to re-read the chapter, using the vocabulary list to check unknown words and phrases. You may need to do this a few times until you feel confident. This is normal, and with each reading you will gradually build your understanding.
6. Otherwise, you should feel free to move on to the next chapter and enjoy the rest of the story at your own pace, just as you would any other book.

At every stage of the process, there will inevitably be words and phrases you do not understand or cannot remember. Instead of worrying, try to focus instead on everything that you *have* understood, and congratulate yourself for everything you have done so far.

Most of the benefit you derive from this book will come from reading each story through from beginning to end. Only once you have completed a story in its entirety should you go back and begin the process of studying the language from the story in more depth.

Annessi ad ogni capitolo

- Riassunto
- Vocabolario
- Domande a risposta multipla
- Soluzioni

Appendices to each chapter

- Summary
- Vocabulary
- Multiple-choice questions
- Answers

RACCONTI

1. Il castello

Capitolo 1 – Il detective

Questa storia racconta il caso più importante del detective Morgan. Il detective Morgan era un uomo molto alto e **forte**. Aveva i capelli neri e un po' lunghi. Il lavoro principale del detective era quello di **risolvere crimini**, ma spesso si occupava anche di altro. Lavorava da molti anni come detective, cercando di risolvere **i reati**. Viveva in una città **abbastanza isolata**. Era una cittadina che **contava pochi abitanti**, eppure c'erano sempre dei casi da risolvere.

Il detective iniziava sempre a lavorare alle otto del mattino. Un martedì si alzò dal letto e andò in cucina **per fare colazione**. Preparò il caffè con un nuovo tipo di **miscela** che aveva comprato nel negozio **all'angolo**. Il negozio aveva aperto da poco e vendeva prodotti **stranieri**. Morgan amava provare nuovi sapori e per questo **faceva la spesa lì**.

Aprì **la credenza** e prese **una tazzina** per il caffè. Poi aprì il frigo, prese il latte e ne versò un poco nel caffè. Quindi si sedette al tavolo della cucina. Mentre beveva il caffè leggeva **il giornale**. Non c'era niente di interessante, come sempre. Le notizie del **quotidiano** della città erano noiose. **Dopo aver sfogliato** diverse pagine, finalmente trovò qualcosa che lo incuriosì:

–Wow! – **esclamò** Morgan con il giornale ancora in mano – Questo è incredibile!

Morgan continuò a leggere. Era un articolo che gli interessava. Parlava del castello che si trovava **fuori città**. Il castello era molto antico. **Il proprietario** del castello si chiamava Harrison ed era un uomo con tantissimo denaro.

–**Non ci posso credere!** – esclamò Morgan mentre leggeva l'articolo.

L'articolo diceva che nel castello era successo qualcosa. Era accaduto **qualcosa di brutto**. Non aveva ancora finito di leggere l'articolo, **né** di bere il caffè, quando **squillò il telefono** di casa.

Morgan si alzò per rispondere, era il suo **capo**.

- Buongiorno, Morgan.
- Buongiorno, capo. Che notizie ci sono?
- Ho bisogno che tu venga in ufficio.
- È successo qualcosa?

Morgan chiese se era successo qualcosa perché di solito era una città tranquilla e se il capo lo chiamava così presto doveva esserci un motivo. L'articolo sul giornale parlava di un fatto importante e la chiamata del suo capo **doveva avere a che vedere con** questo.

- Sì, Morgan. Sai quello che è successo?
- No, non lo so.
- Hai letto l'articolo sul giornale sul castello di Harrison?
- Sì, ho letto qualcosa.
- Ho bisogno che tu venga subito in ufficio. **Di corsa!**
- OK, arrivo!

Morgan chiuse il telefono e prese **il cappotto**. Il cappotto era nero e lungo, quasi fino ai piedi. Gli piaceva perché lo copriva bene quando d'inverno faceva molto freddo. Uscì di casa e salì in macchina. **Mise in moto** l'auto e si diresse in ufficio.

L'ufficio si trovava dall'altra parte della città, lontano da dove abitava lui. Era in una zona un po' più centrale, con più gente, ma pur sempre in una zona tranquilla. Morgan arrivò a destinazione, **scese dalla macchina** e andò verso la porta d'ingresso. Lì davanti c'era **un addetto alla sicurezza**. La guardia salutò il detective.

- Buongiorno, detective. Ben arrivato.
- Grazie, buongiorno! – rispose Morgan.

Il detective entrò nell'edificio. Al suo interno, la gente sembrava **nervosa**. Lavoravano tutti di corsa. Di sicuro era successo qualcosa.

Morgan salì le scale e superò diversi uffici. Alla fine del corridoio vide la porta del suo ufficio e la raggiunse. Sulla porta c'era **una placca** con il suo nome. Stava per entrare, ma il suo capo lo vide e urlò:

- Morgan, qui!
- Il suo capo voleva che il detective andasse da lui.
- Siediti – gli ordinò il suo capo.

Morgan si sedette sulla sedia davanti alla **scrivania** del capo. Il suo

capo iniziò a parlare:

–Dunque... Intanto buongiorno. Parliamo subito della situazione.

–Che situazione? – chiese il detective.

–Quelli del giornale hanno scritto un articolo, però non sanno quello che sta succedendo davvero.

–E lei lo sa, capo?

–Sì, per questo ti ho fatto venire in ufficio.

Il detective notò che il suo capo era abbastanza preoccupato, però Morgan non fece domande. Continuò semplicemente ad ascoltare.

–Allora, di che si tratta, capo? È qualcosa di grave?

–Sì. Harrison è tornato al castello.

Morgan si mise a pensare. Questa non era una cosa strana. Era un fatto normale. Non comune, ma normale. Harrison a volte tornava al castello e trascorrevà lì qualche giorno. Poi ripartiva e lasciava il castello chiuso per molto tempo.

–Ma capo, non è una cosa così strana.

–Sì, infatti questo è normale.

–Quindi? Non capisco.

–Ogni volta che Harrison torna al castello, riparte sempre dopo una settimana. Ma è ancora lì.

Il detective Morgan **non ci trovava nulla di strano** in questo. Perché mai tutto questo mistero?

–Continuo a non capire.

Uno dei custodi era andato lì per la solita manutenzione ma ha– sentito delle **grida** spaventose provenire dal castello. Così è scappato via prima di entrare.

–Grida?

–Sì, detective. Sicuramente erano grida di Harrison. È successo o sta succedendo qualcosa al castello. Non sappiamo bene cosa ma di sicuro non si tratta di niente di buono.

–Se hanno sentito gridare, sicuramente non deve essere nulla di buono!

–Proprio così, detective. E voglio che tu vada al castello a investigare.

–Perché io?

–Sei il nostro miglior detective. Voglio che tu vada al castello e che risolva il caso. Fa' molta attenzione, potresti trovare una situazione pericolosa.

Il detective Morgan non aveva **paura**. Era un uomo molto coraggioso e preparato per ogni tipo di situazione. Il capo continuò a parlare.

–Mettiti in macchina e raggiungi il castello prima che si faccia notte. Trova Harrison e torna qui. Vogliamo sapere quello che sta succedendo laggiù.

–Va bene. **C'è altro**, capo?

–Nient'altro. È tutto. Prendi la pistola e ripeto: stai molto attento.

–Stia tranquillo, lo farò.

Morgan si alzò dalla sedia e **si congedò**. Uscì dall'ufficio e poi dall'edificio, quindi salì in macchina. Indossava il cappotto anche in macchina. Mise in moto e partì in direzione del bosco. Prese l'autostrada che portava al castello.