



**Valerio De Lorenzo**  
**Before They Arrive**  
 Novel

ISBN 979-12-80512-25-3 - 9791280512253

Format: 15 x 22 cm.

Length: 216 pages

First edition: October 2025

Weight: Kg. 0,350

Price: €. 18,00



*A historical crime novel set in Sicily on the eve of Garibaldi's landing, where a murder investigation collides with revolution, political conspiracy and a secret weapon that could change history.*

Category: Fiction

Genre: Historical Crime / Historical Mystery

Keywords / Tags

Crime – Giuseppe Garibaldi – Garibaldi's Redshirts – Italian Risorgimento – Kingdom of the Two Sicilies – Bourbon Police – Bourbons – Messina – Sicily – Secret Weapon – Assassins – Patriots – Revolutionaries – Murders – 19th-century Photography – Poisons

Synopsis

It is the night of 27 May 1860. The city of Messina lies asleep, waiting for Giuseppe Garibaldi to conquer Sicily. In the harbour, a horribly mutilated corpse is hauled from the water. Nearby lies the body of a beautiful young woman.

Assigned to investigate are Alfio Lax and Gabriele Sciarrone, inspectors of the police of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. They are friends divided by politics: one secretly sympathizes with the revolutionaries, the other despises them out of unwavering loyalty to the monarchy.

Tension escalates as retreating Bourbon troops pour into the city and wealthy families flee. Lax is determined to uncover the truth before the Garibaldians arrive and overturn everything. His investigation leads him to a ruthless criminal, a chain of suspicious deaths within the police and the military, a secret weapon endowed with extraordinary powers, and the disappearance of a valuable shipment.

Meanwhile, Sciarrone - attempting to capture the elusive patriot Giuseppe La Farina - finds himself entangled in revolutionary conspiracies and the schemes of a shadowy agent sent from Naples.

As the investigations grow increasingly complex, the protagonists are forced to question how deeply reality itself is shaped by illusion. When all truths finally emerge, they devastate lives and reveal a drama in which nothing is as it seems and ambition knows no limits.

A novel of intrigue, passion, and secrets, set in an era overwhelmed by the force of History.

Author Bio

**Valerio De Lorenzo**, born in Messina, lives in the hills surrounding Florence. He holds a degree in Law and has worked in the publishing industry for many years. In 2024 he published the historical novel *Memorie della città guerriera* (Memories of the Warrior City) and the noir novel *La seconda guerra di malavita* (The Underworld's Second War) (Edarc). In 2025 he published the noir novel *La Comparanza* (Brotherhood: A Sicilian Crime Tale) (Edarc).