

Rights List 2016

Rita Carla Francesca Monticelli



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DESERTO ROSSO / RED DESERT



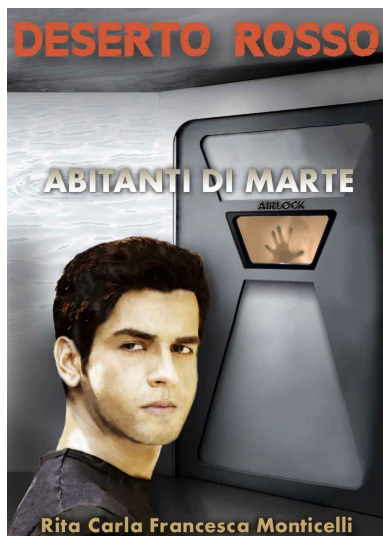
The science fiction series that takes you to Mars.

Hard science fiction/techno-thriller series.

The series includes four books: a novella and three novels. All books, except the final one, aren't self-conclusive and end with a cliff-hanger. For this reason foreign rights must be sold for the entire series.

The Red Desert series is currently available as e-book and in paperback in Italian (original language), both as individual books and as omnibus, and English (only individual books).

The series has been an Amazon and Kobo bestseller in Italy. The omnibus edition reached No. 1 in the Kindle Store on Amazon.it in November 2014.



Series description:

Thirty years after the Mars exploration mission 'Hera', whose crew died in mysterious circumstances, the ensuing political issues that slowed NASA's race to conquer space have finally ended. This time the five members of the new 'Isis' mission will not travel the 400 million kilometres for a short visit. This time they are destined to become the first colonisers of the Red Planet.

Among them is Swedish exobiologist Anna Persson, come to this adventure to start a new life away from Earth.

But Mars has got an incredible discovery in store for her, a key to a mystery hidden in the depths of Valles Marineris.



"Red Desert – Point of No Return" is a science fiction novella that allows the reader imagining themselves amongst the dust and rocks of Mars, in its enormous flatlands and insidious canyons, half way between the urgency to explore and the desire to survive. But it is also the story of a selfish woman who, at the same time, is lacking self-confidence.

Despite her controversial choices, she has stubbornly continued to go on, without regret, even risking her own life, in order to demonstrate to herself and others that her life was actually destined to have a bigger purpose. Her dark side slowly emerges by means of her memories, while she faces without fears the unknown of a cursed planet that somehow keeps taking away the lives of those trying to discover its secrets.

Filtered by her erratic emotions and her deeply rooted prejudices, the events are shown to the reader, involving them in an alternation of past and present by means of a gradual crescendo that drives them to an ending, from which the rest of the series will derive.



Books:

- #1 Red Desert - Point of No Return
(approx. 21,000 words in Italian)
- #2 Red Desert - People of Mars
(approx. 45,000 words in Italian)
- #3 Red Desert - Invisible Enemy
(approx. 74,000 words in Italian)
- #4 Red Desert - Back Home
(approx. 96,000 words in Italian)

The word count is a bit higher in the English versions.

The Red Desert series is part #1 in a larger science fiction saga titled Aurora.

More information (in Italian): www.desertorosso.net

Editorial reviews:

"Beautiful, introspecting, intense science fiction. In the end, the real planet to be explored is us."

- WIRED.it

"An engaging, credible, suspenseful narrative."

- Tom's Hardware Italy

Covers by:

Rita Carla Francesca Monticelli and Alberto Casu (only Point of No Return). Some original pictures are courtesy of NASA and ESA.

Foreign rights available:

E-book and printed editions: **all languages except English**, all territories.

Audiobook and other rights: **ALL languages** and territories.

IL MENTORE / THE MENTOR



**Twenty years ago Eric saved her.
Who will save him now?**

Crime thriller set in London involving a forensic squad from Scotland Yard.

This is the first book (approx. 56,000 words in Italian) in the Detective Eric Shaw Trilogy, but can also be read as standalone. Book #2 (Syndrome) was published in 2016 (see page 8) and book #3 (Beyond the Limit) is expected for 2017.

The main character is a chief forensics detective, Eric Shaw, who investigates a series of murders that seem related to a cold case involving a person he cares for.

The border between investigation and crime becomes blurred in a story whose purpose isn't exactly find the culprit, but rather observe how the main character decides to react to his findings.

This book was an Amazon bestseller in Italy for five months in 2014, thus getting its English translation rights being sold to Amazon Publishing ("The Mentor"). The English edition is an Amazon bestseller (October 2015) in Australia, the United Kingdom, and USA (reaching No. 1 in the Kindle Store in these three countries), and also in Germany (reaching No. 1 in foreign language e-books in the Kindle Store) and in Canada (reaching No. 3 in the Kindle Store).

Editorial reviews:

"The Italian thriller that conquers England and USA."

- La Repubblica

Book description:

Detective Eric Shaw, head of a forensics team at Scotland Yard, together with Murder Investigation Team Detective Miriam Leroux, is investigating the death of a previous offender, killed by two pistol shots: one at his neck, in a style recalling an unusual execution, but preceded by another shot at his groin, which seems having a more personal implication.

However, his attention at work is often distracted by criminologist Adele Pennington, a beautiful woman more than two decades his junior, by whom he realises he is attracted, though his feelings aren't returned.

Meanwhile, the details about a very similar crime are described in an anonymous blog, unbeknownst by the London police. The author of the blog signs herself Mina, like one of the victims in a case Shaw investigated many years ago.

Cover by:

Rita Carla Francesca Monticelli.

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L'ISOLA DI GAIA / THE ISLE OF GAIA



If all your life, all your memories, everything you are were just a deception?

Cyberpunk techno-thriller about transhumanism, perception of reality, and free will.

This book is currently available in Italian (approx. 135,000 words) and will be published in English in 2018.

The novel is part #2 in a larger science fiction saga titled Aurora, but it can also be read as first book in the saga.

More information (in Italian): www.desertorosso.net

In this book transhumanism and virtual reality are just tools to show, in a science fiction context, how the perception of reality can be falsified to the point that free will is nullified. The choices made by the characters, apparently free, are instead conditioned by the way their knowledge and the means with which they perceive the world surrounding them are

manipulated from outside.

This book was an Amazon bestseller in Italy in November-December 2014.

Book description:

In the twenty-second century our planet is facing the consequences of a sudden global, catastrophic event occurred a few years earlier, which deeply altered nations' and governments' priorities and gave a big spur towards a bigger technological development, with a special interest for conquering space.

The International Space Agency is now able to build sophisticated spacecraft to go beyond the borders of the solar system. However, what really prevents Mankind to travel towards other worlds is its own physical nature, perfected for living on Earth and unsuitable to face the extreme conditions of space for many years.

But English scientists Gabriel Asbury and his wife Elizabeth Caldwell have found a way to avoid this problem: improve Man.

Editorial reviews:

"The future as you have never imagined it."

- Tom's Hardware Italy

Cover by:

Rita Carla Francesca Monticelli. Earth picture is courtesy of NASA.

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Audiobook and other rights: **ALL languages** and territories.

AFFINITÀ D'INTENTI / KINDRED INTENTIONS



24 hours. 2 people. 1 target.

Action thriller set in London and surroundings, with a romantic suspense twist and some chick-lit irony. This book is a standalone (approx. 51,000 words in Italian).

Agent Amelia Jennings from the City of London Police is starting an investigation as undercover agent at a law firm, whose partners and associates are being murdered by a hired killer.

The story is narrated in only 24 hours during which Amelia is hunt by a killer squad in a proper descent to hell. But she isn't alone.

The story is shown to the reader by means of the main character's senses and thoughts. And through Amelia, they discover Mike, an enigmatic man, who makes her reconsider her conception of right and wrong.

This book was an Amazon bestseller in Italy in May 2015.
It is also available in English.

Book description:

It was 10 a.m. when undercover agent Amelia Jennings arrived at the law firm Goldberg & Associates for a job interview. Her mission was to investigate a series of murders involving some well-known lawyers in the City. Her target, an elusive hired killer who had been of interest to the police for months.

But her plan is doomed to fall apart before it even starts.

In less than twenty-four hours Amelia will be the prey in a man hunt and her destiny will become entwined with Mike Connor's.

Their intentions, apparently similar, may prove to be contrary, but the affinity binding them goes beyond what they think they know about each other.

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Audiobook and other rights: **ALL languages** and territories.

PER CASO / BY CHANCE



Know your enemy.

Science fiction thriller with a space opera atmosphere set in a distant future and planet.

This book is a standalone (approx. 56,000 words in Italian).

While investigating the destiny of the passengers and crew of an interstellar spaceship reappeared after being lost for decades, Viktor "Doc" Nemes gets acquainted with one of the Sirens, the local alien species on planet Thalass fighting against humans by means of acts of terrorism.

Such a confrontation becomes a clash between irreconcilable civilisations, yet in spite of the differences two individuals separated from their group of origin will find a way to appreciate each other.

But mutual appreciation may not be enough to become trust.

This book was an Amazon bestseller in Italy in December 2015.

Book description:

On Thalass, the war between the human colony and the local species of the Sirens has reached an impasse. Reduced in number because of the technological superiority of those that they call invaders, the alien creatures have taken refuge in the Archipelago TX, in a remote region of the single, huge ocean enveloping the planet, but they haven't stopped fighting.

Amongst the officers of the Defence Corps, specialised in thwarting the terrorist attacks of the Sirens, is a doctor known by everybody with his nom de guerre, Doc. As he is returning together with his partner from a patrol on one of the islands belonging to the Sirens' dominion, Doc finds by chance the wreck of an interstellar spaceship designated to the transport of new colonisers, which disappeared several years ago in mysterious circumstances.

The investigation to reveal the events that drove the dramatic fate of the crew and passengers of the Chance will get Doc very close to one of his enemies. He will try to understand, get to know this Siren and even find some common ground with her.

But will two enemies ever be able to trust each other completely?

Editorial reviews:

"You could do nothing but enjoy a nice adventure, or you can focus on the various food for thought on the nature of the human being."

- Tom's Hardware Italy

Cover by:

Rita Carla Francesca Monticelli. The blue planet is a mosaic of photos courtesy of NASA/JPL.

Foreign rights available:

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Audiobook and other rights: **ALL languages** and territories.

SINDROME / SYNDROME



What is that distinguishes dedication from obsession?

Crime thriller set in London involving a forensics squad from Scotland Yard.

This is the second book (approx. 80,000 words in Italian) in the Detective Eric Shaw Trilogy. Book #1 is *The Mentor* (see page 4) and book #3 (*Beyond the Limit*) is expected for 2017.

Twenty-one months after forensics detective Eric Shaw has discovered that the serial killer nicknamed 'Black Death' is a person he cares for, his squad and Detective Miriam Leroux from a Murder Investigation Team of Scotland Yard are dealing with two investigations. The first one is about two drug dealers tortured and killed. The second is about a possible case of Münchausen Syndrome by Proxy, involving a hospitalised child.

At the same time the novel develops the dilemma with which *The Mentor* ended. Eric is unable to consider the crimes of her pupil as completely wrong, because when she was a

child she'd witnessed the slaughter of her family.

Editorial reviews:

"A crime thriller with psychological implications that makes the reader identify with the dilemma suffered by its protagonist."

- La Nuova Sardegna

Book description:

While investigating the murder of two previous offenders connected to a notorious drug trafficker from London, who evaded from the transport van that was taking him back to HM Prison Coldingley after a judicial hearing, the Scotland Yard forensics squad headed by Detective Chief Inspector Eric Shaw becomes involved in the case of a nurse accusing a mother to be responsible of a series of violent feverish attacks affecting her own ten-year-old son, Jimmy. The woman would worsen the conditions of her child to draw the attention and the compassion of the health workers in the hospital.

Eric learns about this by chance, because the paediatrician looking after the young patient, Catherine Foulger, is an old flame of his, who he is dating again in the hope to put some order in his life after discovering the identity of the serial killer nicknamed 'Black Death'.

But his former partner, Adele Pennington, still working as criminologist at the Forensic Science Service, hasn't really accepted this new relationship.

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Audiobook and other rights: **ALL languages** and territories.

OPHIR. CODICE VIVENTE / OPHIR. LIVING CODE



CUSy is the AI managing the Martian habitats. CUSy vigils on the people of Mars, ensures their well-being, controls the systems that keep them alive. But who controls CUSy?

Science fiction techno-thriller about Mars exploration and Artificial Intelligence.

This novel (approx. 135,000 words in Italian) is part #3 in a larger science fiction saga titled Aurora; it is the chronological sequel of the Red Desert series.

More information (in Italian): www.desertorosso.net

This novel blends hard science fiction, which is based on current scientific knowledge and their possible exploitation in the near future, with a techno-thriller focused on the topic of artificial intelligence. As the narrative unfolds between the dust of Mars and the Moon, and the hyper-technological metropolises of our planet, the reader will closely get to know the character of CUSy, a software able to reason on

their own, learn, make their own choices, and evolve. And they will be placed in front of a dilemma: what would happen if at some point something as complex ceases to be simply a tool?

This book was an Amazon bestseller in Italy in November-December 2016.

Book description:

It's been a few years since the contacts between Mars and Earth resumed, during which the settlers have turned Ophir into a small town. Despite the support from the International Space Agency has so far been crucial and in return the latter has obtained new technologies developed by the Martians, the mutual distrust is still the biggest obstacle for their common project of conquering space.

During a mission in the Mare Ingenii, located on the far side of the Moon, Hassan Qabbani finds out the hard way that on Earth there are people who would like to completely abandon the Red Planet and are ready to any action in order to slow down the Aurora program.

On Mars, however, Melissa Diaz is pursuing an alternative plan to get closer to the agency, despite being hundreds of millions of kilometres away, and in the meantime she has identified a strategy to isolate, among the various strains of bacteria spread into groundwater, those that may still contain the genes of the lost code capable of giving resistance to permanent magnetic fields.

The research will led her to a long journey, with her partner Nicholas, through the endless red desert of Mars, while the partial isolation from the collective will push her to explore the equally mysterious human nature that, day by day, more and more imposes its influence on her.

But the young leader may not be the only sentient entity on the planet committed to explore their own nature.

Editorial reviews:

"Return to the red desert of Mars, and beware of the AI!"

- Tom's Hardware Italy

Cover by:

Rita Carla Francesca Monticelli. The Mars landscape is a photo courtesy of NASA/JPL-Caltech/MSSS. The arctic aurora is a photo courtesy of US Air Force/Senior Airman Joshua Strang.

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Audiobook and other rights: **ALL languages** and territories.

Upcoming books

OLTRE IL LIMITE / BEYOND THE LIMIT - *21 May 2017*

(crime thriller, Detective Eric Shaw Trilogy #3)

SIRIUS. IN CADUTA LIBERA / SIRIUS. FREE FALLING - *30 November 2018*

(hard science fiction / techno-thriller, The Aurora Saga #4)

AURORA - *30 November 2020*

(space opera / techno-thriller, The Aurora Saga #5)

More books in 2017-2020 to be announced.

About the author

Rita Carla Francesca Monticelli is an Italian science fiction and thriller author.

She has lived in Cagliari (Sardinia, Italy) since 1993, earning a degree in biology and working as a writer, scientific and literary translator, and freelance web copywriter. In the past she also worked as researcher, tutor and professor's assistant in the field of ecology at "Dipartimento di Biologia Animale ed Ecologia" of the University of Cagliari.

As a cinema addict, she started by writing screenplays and fan fictions inspired by the movies.

She writes original fiction since 2009.

Between 2012-2013 she wrote and published a hard science fiction series set on Mars and titled "Deserto rosso".

The whole "Deserto rosso" series, which includes four books, was also published as omnibus in December 2013 (ebook and paperback) and hit No. 1 on the Italian Kindle Store in November 2014.

"Deserto rosso" was published in English, with the title "Red Desert", between 2014 and 2015.

The first book of the series is "Red Desert - Point of No Return"; the second is "Red Desert - People of Mars"; the third is "Red Desert - Invisible Enemy"; and the final book is "Red Desert - Back Home".

She also authored two crime thrillers included in the Detective Eric Shaw trilogy, titled "Il mentore" (2014) and "Sindrome" (2016), an action thriller titled "Affinità d'intenti" (2015), and three more science fiction novels titled "L'isola di Gaia" (2014), "Per caso" (2015), and "Ophir. Codice vivente" (2016).

"Il mentore" was published in English by AmazonCrossing with the title "The Mentor" on 1 November 2015.

"Affinità d'intenti" was published in English with the title "Kindred Intentions" on 26 April 2016.

All her books have been Amazon bestsellers in Italy so far. "The Mentor" is an Amazon bestseller in USA.

She's also a podcaster at FantascientifiCast, an Italian podcast about science fiction, an Italian Representative of Mars Initiative, and a member of the International Thriller Writers organization. She's often a guest both in Italy and abroad during book fairs, including Salone Internazionale del Libro di Torino (Turin Book Fair), Frankfurter Buchmesse (Frankfurt Book Fair) and Più Libri Più Liberi (Rome Book Fair), local publishing events, university conventions as well as classes (University of Insubria), where she gives speeches or conducts workshops about self-publishing and genre fiction writing.

As a science fiction and Star Wars fan, she is known in the Italian online community by her nickname, Anakina.

The official international website of Rita Carla Francesca Monticelli is www.anakina.eu.

Her official Italian website is www.anakina.net.

Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rita_Carla_Francesca_Monticelli