



The Story of a New Name: Neapolitan Novels, Book Two

By Elena Ferrante

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The Story of a New Name: Neapolitan Novels, Book Two By Elena Ferrante

Soon to be an HBO series, the follow-up to *My Brilliant Friend* in the *New York Times* bestselling Neapolitan quartet about two friends growing up in post-war Italy is a rich, intense, and generous-hearted family epic by Italy's most beloved and acclaimed writer, Elena Ferrante, "one of the great novelists of our time." (Roxana Robinson, *The New York Times*)

In *The Story of a New Name*, Lila has recently married and made her enterée into the family business; Elena, meanwhile, continues her studies and her exploration of the world beyond the neighborhood that she so often finds stifling. Love, jealousy, family, freedom, commitment, and above all friendship: these are signs under which both women live out this phase in their stories. Marriage appears to have imprisoned Lila, and the pressure to excel is at times too much for Elena. Yet the two young women share a complex and evolving bond that is central to their emotional lives and is a source of strength in the face of life's challenges. In these Neapolitan Novels, Elena Ferrante, the acclaimed author of *The Days of Abandonment*, gives readers a poignant and universal story about friendship and belonging.

Ferrante is one of the world's great storytellers. With the Neapolitan quartet she has given her readers an abundant, generous, and masterfully plotted page-turner that is also a stylish work of literary fiction destined to delight readers for many generations to come.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The second in a trilogy, book two rejoins narrator Elena Greco and her "brilliant friend" Lina Cerullo as they leave behind their claustrophobic Italian girlhood and enter the tumultuous world of young womanhood with all its accompanying love, loss, and confusion. Against the backdrop of 1960s/70s Naples, the previously inseparable girls embark on diverse paths. At 16, Lila has married the prosperous local grocer, Stefano Carraci, only to discover at their wedding reception that he has already betrayed her and damned their union. Conversely Elena has chosen education, a less traditional route to free her from the stultifying village life. Lina asks Elena to hide a box of notebooks from her husband. Instead, she dumps them in the river but not without first reading them. Ferrante masterfully combines Elena's recollections of events with Lila's point of view as documented in her notebooks to drive the narrative. The women's fraught relationship and shifting fortunes are the life forces of this poignant book.

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Ferrante continues the beautiful tale she started in *My Brilliant Friend* (2012) with this brilliant second book of a promised trilogy. At 16, best friends Elena and Lila are weary of their impoverished neighborhood and its crippling traditions, but while Lila seeks to alter these circumstances through an advantageous marriage, Elena strives to leave it behind by pursuing her education. When Lila's marriage fails to help her realize her goals, she becomes increasingly spiteful, and Elena, busy with an acceptance to college, grows critical of her progressively unpredictable friend. Once reliant on one another, the girls now find themselves occupying very different spheres in the rapidly changing landscape of 1970s Naples. As circumstances alternately draw them close and push them apart, they face difficult changes in the friendship that has always been their strongest source of love and support. Ferrante's writing is captivating and insightful. She delves deeply into the character of the girls' friendship, ushering them into womanhood with an honesty that is acutely personal. Her keen grasp of emotional nuances and minutiae evokes the work of D. H. Lawrence, and the richness of her storytelling is likely to please fans of Sara Gruen and Silvia Avallone. --Courtney Ophoff

Review

Praise for Elena Ferrante and *The Neapolitan Novels*

The United States

"Ferrante's novels are intensely, violently personal, and because of this they seem to dangle bristling key chains of confession before the unsuspecting reader." —**James Wood, *The New Yorker***

"One of the more nuanced portraits of feminine friendship in recent memory." —**Megan O'Grady, *Vogue***

"Amazing! *My Brilliant Friend* took my breath away. If I were president of the world I would make everyone read this book. It is so honest and right and opens up heart to so much. Reading Ferrante reminded me of that child-like excitement when you can't look up from the page, when your eyes seem to be popping from your head, when you think: I didn't know books could do this!" —**Elizabeth Strout, author of *Olive Kitteridge***

"I like the Italian writer, Elena Ferrante, a lot. I've been reading all her work and all about her." — **John**

Waters, actor and director

“Elena Ferrante may be the best contemporary novelist you’ve never heard of”—***The Economist***

“Ferrante’s freshness has nothing to do with fashion...it is imbued with the most haunting music of all, the echoes of literary history.” —***The New York Times Book Review***

“I am such a fan of Ferrante’s work, and have been for quite a while.” —**Jennifer Gilmore, author of *The Mothers***

“The women’s fraught relationship and shifting fortunes are the life forces of the poignant book”
—***Publisher’s Weekly***

“When I read [the Neapolitan novels] I find that I never want to stop. I feel vexed by the obstacles—my job, or acquaintances on the subway—that threaten to keep me apart from the books. I mourn separations (a year until the next one—how?). I am propelled by a ravenous will to keep going.” —**Molly Fischer, *The New Yorker***

“[Ferrante’s Neapolitan Novels] don’t merely offer a teeming vision of working-class Naples, with its cobblers and professors, communists and mobbed-up businessmen, womanizing poets and downtrodden wives; they present one of modern fiction’s richest portraits of a friendship.” —**John Powers, *Fresh Air, NPR***

“Elena Ferrante is one of the great novelists of our time. Her voice is passionate, her view sweeping and her gaze basilisk . . . In these bold, gorgeous, relentless novels, Ferrante traces the deep connections between the political and the domestic. This is a new version of the way we live now — one we need, one told brilliantly, by a woman.” —**Roxana Robinson, *The New York Times Book Review***

“An intoxicatingly furious portrait of enmeshed friends Lila and Elena, Bright and passionate girls from a raucous neighborhood in world-class Naples. Ferrante writes with such aggression and unnerving psychological insight about the messy complexity of female friendship that the real world can drop away when you’re reading her.” —***Entertainment Weekly***

“Ferrante seasons the prose with provocative perceptions not unlike the way Proust did.” —***Shelf Awareness***

“It would be difficult to find a deeper portrait of women’s friendship than the one in Ferrante’s Neapolitan novels, which unfold from the fifties to the twenty-first century to tell a single story with the possessive force of an origin myth.” —**Megan O’Grady, *Vogue***

“Ferrante’s writing is so unencumbered, so natural, and yet so lovely, brazen, and flush. The constancy of detail and the pacing that zips and skips then slows to a real-time crawl have an almost psychic effect, bringing you deeply into synchronicity with the discomforts and urgency of the characters’ emotions. Ferrante is unlike other writers—not because she’s innovative, but rather because she’s unselfconscious and brutally, diligently honest.” —**Minna Proctor, *Bookforum***

“Ferrante can do a woman’s interior dialogue like no one else, with a ferocity that is shockingly honest, unnervingly blunt.” —***Booklist***

“The truest evocation of a complex and lifelong friendship between women I’ve ever read.” —**Emily Gould, author of *Friendship***

“Elena Ferrante is the author of several remarkable, lucid, austere honest novels . . . My Brilliant Friend is a large, captivating, amiably peopled bildungsroman.” —**James Wood, *The New Yorker***

“Compelling, visceral and immediate . . . a riveting examination of power . . . The Neapolitan novels are a tour de force.” —**Jennifer Gilmore, *The Los Angeles Times***

“Those Who Leave and Those Who Stay surpasses the rapturous storytelling of the previous titles in the Neapolitan Novels.” —**Publishers Weekly (starred review)**

“Ferrante’s voice feels necessary. She is the Italian Alice Munro.” —**Mona Simpson, author of *Casebook and Anywhere But Here***

“Elena Ferrante will blow you away.” —**Alice Sebold, author of *The Lovely Bones***

“The Days of Abandonment is a powerful, heartrending novel.” —**Jhumpa Lahiri, Pulitzer-prize winning author of *The Lowland***

“The Neapolitan novel cycle is an unconditional masterpiece . . . I read all the books in a state of immersion; I was totally enthralled. There was nothing else I wanted to do except follow the lives of Lila and Lenù to the end.” —**Jhumpa Lahiri, Pulitzer-prize winning author of *The Lowland***

“Reading Ferrante reminded me of that child-like excitement when you can’t look up from the page, when your eyes seem to be popping from your head, when you think: I didn’t know books could do this!” —**Elizabeth Strout, Pulitzer-prize winning author of *The Burgess Boys***

“Elena Ferrante: the best angry woman writer ever!” —**John Waters, director**

“The feverish speculation about the identity of Elena Ferrante betrays an understandable failure of imagination: it seems impossible that right now somewhere someone sits in a room and draws up these books. Palatial and heartbreaking beyond measure, the Neapolitan novels seem less written than they do revealed. One simply surrenders. When the final volume appears—may that day never come!—they’re bound to be acknowledged as one of the most powerful works of art, in any medium, of our age.” —**Gideon Lewis-Kraus, author of *A Sense of Direction***

“Ferrante tackles girlhood and friendship with amazing force.” —**Gwyneth Paltrow, actor**

*“Elena Ferrante’s *The Story of a New Name*. Book two in her Naples trilogy. Two words: Read it.”* —**Ann Hood, writer (from Twitter)**

“Ferrante continues to imbue this growing saga with great magic.” —**Booklist (starred review)**

“One of Italy’s best contemporary novelists.”? —**The Seattle Times**

“Ferrante’s emotional and carnal candor are so potent.” —**Janet Maslin, *The New York Times***

“Elena Ferrante’s gutsy and compulsively readable new novel, the first of a quartet, is a terrific entry point

for Americans unfamiliar with the famously reclusive writer, whose go-for-broke tales of women's shadow selves—those ambivalent mothers and seething divorcées too complex or unseemly for polite society (and most literary fiction, for that matter)—shimmer with Balzacian human detail and subtle psychological suspense . . . The Neapolitan novels offer one of the more nuanced portraits of feminine friendship in recent memory—from the make-up and break-up quarrels of young girls to the way in which we carefully define ourselves against each other as teens—Ferrante wisely balances her memoir-like emotional authenticity with a wry sociological understanding of a society on the verge of dramatic change.” —**Megan O’Grady, *Vogue***

“My Brilliant Friend is a sweeping family-centered epic that encompasses issues of loyalty, love, and a transforming Europe. This gorgeous novel should bring a host of new readers to one of Italy’s most acclaimed authors.” —**The Barnes and Noble Review**

“Ferrante draws an indelible picture of the city’s mean streets and the poverty, violence and sameness of lives lived in the same place forever . . . She is a fierce writer.” —**Shelf Awareness**

“Ferrante transforms the love, separation and reunion of two poor urban girls into the general tragedy of their city.” —**The New York Times**

“Beautifully translated by Ann Goldstein . . . Ferrante writes with a ferocious, intimate urgency that is a celebration of anger. Ferrante is terribly good with anger, a very specific sort of wrath harbored by women, who are so often not allowed to give voice to it. We are angry, a lot of the time, at the position we’re in—whether it’s as wife, daughter, mother, friend—and I can think of no other woman writing who is so swift and gorgeous in this rage, so bracingly fearless in mining fury.” —**Susanna Sonnenberg, *The San Francisco Chronicle***

“Everyone should read anything with Ferrante’s name on it.” —**The Boston Globe**

*“The through-line in all of Ferrante’s investigations, for me, is nothing less than one long, mind-and-heart-shredding howl for the history of women (not only Neapolitan women), and its implicit *j’accuse* . . . Ferrante’s effect, critics agree, is inarguable. ‘Intensely, violently personal’ and ‘brutal directness, familial torment’ is how James Wood ventures to categorize her—descriptions that seem mild after you’ve encountered the work.”* —**Joan Frank, *The San Francisco Chronicle***

“Lila, mercurial, unsparing, and, at the end of this first episode in a planned trilogy from Ferrante, seemingly capable of starting a full-scale neighborhood war, is a memorable character.” —**Publishers Weekly**

“An engrossing, wildly original contemporary epic about the demonic power of human (and particularly female) creativity checked by the forces of history and society.” —**The Los Angeles Review of Books**

“Ferrante’s own writing has no limits, is willing to take every thought forward to its most radical conclusion and backwards to its most radical birthing.” —**The New Yorker**

The United Kingdom

“The Story of a New Name, like its predecessor, is fiction of the very highest order.” —**Independent on Sunday**

“My Brilliant Friend, translated by Ann Goldstein, is stunning: an intense, forensic exploration of the friendship between Lila and the story’s narrator, Elena. Ferrante’s evocation of the working-class district of Naples where Elena and Lila first meet as two wiry eight-year-olds is cinematic in the density of its detail.”—***The Times Literary Supplement***

“This is a story about friendship as a mass of roiling currents—love, envy, pity, spite, dependency and Schadenfreude coiling around one another, tricky to untangle.”—***Intelligent Life***

“Elena Ferrante may be the best contemporary novelist you have never heard of. The Italian author has written six lavishly praised novels. But she writes under a pseudonym and will not offer herself for public consumption. Her characters likewise defy convention . . . Her prose is crystal, and her storytelling both visceral and compelling.”—***The Economist***

“Ferrante is an expert above all at the rhythm of plotting: certain feuds and oppositions are kept simmering and in abeyance for years, so that a particular confrontation – a particular scene – can be many hundreds of pages in coming, but when it arrives seems at once shocking and inevitable.”—***The Independent***

Italy

“Those Who Leave and Those Who Stay evokes the vital flux of a heartbeat, of blood flowing through our veins.”—***La Repubblica***

“We don’t know who she is, but it doesn’t matter. Ferrante’s books are entralling self-contained monoliths that do not seek friendship but demand silent, fervid admiration from her passionate readers . . . The thing most real in these novels is the intense, almost osmotic relationship that unites Elena and Lila, the two girls from a neighborhood in Naples who are the peerless protagonists of the Neapolitan novels.”—***Famiglia Cristiana***

“Today it is near impossible to find writers capable of bringing smells, tastes, feelings, and contradictory passions to their pages. Elena Ferrante, alone, seems able to do it. There is no writer better suited to composing the great Italian novel of her generation, her country, and her time than she.”—***Il Manifesto***

“Elena Ferrante is a very great novelist . . . In a world often held prisoner to minimalism, her writing is extremely powerful, earthy, and audacious.”—***Francesca Marciano, author of The Other Language***

“Regardless of who is behind the name Elena Ferrante, the mysterious pseudonym used by the author of the Neapolitan novels, two things are certain: she is a woman and she knows how to describe Naples like nobody else. She does so with a style that recalls an enchanted spider web with its expressive power and the wizardry with which it creates an entire world.”—***Huffington Post (Italy)***

“A marvel that is without limits and beyond genre.”—***Il Salvagente***

“Elena Ferrante is proving that literature can cure our present ills; it can cure the spirit by operating as an antidote to the nervous attempts we make to see ourselves reflected in the present-day of a country that is increasingly repellent.”—***Il Mattino***

“My Brilliant Friend flows from the soul like an eruption from Mount Vesuvio.”—***La Repubblica***

Australia

“No one has a voice quite like Ferrante’s. Her gritty, ruthlessly frank novels roar off the page with a barbed fury, like an attack that is also a defense . . . Ferrante’s fictions are fierce, unsentimental glimpses at the way a woman is constantly under threat, her identity submerged in marriage, eclipsed by motherhood, mythologised by desire. Imagine if Jane Austen got angry and you’ll have some idea of how explosive these works are.”—**John Freeman, The Australian**

“One of the most astounding—and mysterious—contemporary Italian novelists available in translation, Elena Ferrante unfolds the tumultuous inner lives of women in her thrillingly menacing stories of lost love, negligent mothers and unfulfilled desires.”—**The Age**

“Ferrante bewitches with her tiny, intricately drawn world . . . My Brilliant Friend journeys fearlessly into some of that murkier psychological territory where questions of individual identity are inextricable from circumstance and the ever-changing identities of others.”—**The Melbourne Review**

“The Neapolitan novels move far from contrivance, logic or respectability to ask uncomfortable questions about how we live, how we love, how we singe an existence in a deeply flawed world that expects pretty acquiescence from its women. In all their beauty, their ugliness, their devotion and deceit, these girls enchant and repulse, like life, like our very selves.”—**The Sydney Morning Herald**

“The best thing I’ve read this year, far and away, would be Elena Ferrante...I just think she puts most other writing at the moment in the shade. She’s marvelous. I like her so much I’m now doing something I only do when I really love the writer: I’m only allowing myself two pages a day.”—**Richard Flanagan, author of Book prize finalist, The Narrow Road to the Deep North**

Spain

“Elena Ferrante’s female characters are genuine works of art . . . It is clear that her novel is the child of Italian neorealism and an abiding fascination with scene.”—**El País**

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jesse Nance:

Now a day individuals who Living in the era everywhere everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources within it can be true or not require people to be aware of each info they get. How many people to be smart in acquiring any information nowadays? Of course the answer is reading a book. Examining a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information mainly this The Story of a New Name: Neapolitan Novels, Book Two book because this book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred % guarantees there is no doubt in it as you know.

Kathryn Hill:

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Nolan Russell:

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Harvey Lee:

Is it you who having spare time subsequently spend it whole day by means of watching television programs or just lying down on the bed? Do you need something new? This The Story of a New Name: Neapolitan Novels, Book Two can be the solution, oh how comes? The new book you know. You are and so out of date, spending your time by reading in this brand new era is common not a geek activity. So what these ebooks have than the others?

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