

Marcello Simoni (Comacchio, 1975), a former archeologist and librarian with a literature degree, has written numerous historical thrillers. His mediaeval noir *Il mercante di libri maledetti* won the Bancarella Prize in 2012. This Italian bestseller had an international appeal, as proved by the sale of translation rights in eighteen countries. Newton Compton would go on to publish the second and third installments of the 'merchant trilogy', *La biblioteca perduta dell'alchimista* and *Il labirinto ai confini del mondo*, as well as *L'isola dei monaci senza nome*, winner of the 2013 Lizza d'Oro Prize, and *La cattedrale dei morti*. 2014 saw the publication of the first chapter of a new "abbey" trilogy, *L'abbazia dei cento peccati*, followed by *L'abbazia dei cento delitti* (2015) and *L'abbazia dei cento inganni* (2016).