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FICTION

STRAWBERRY MOON

The case of the hepatologist

BY MARCO MARINONI

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Nadja Russo is a young musicologist. In the deserted rooms of the old Ospedale Forlanini, Rome, she is setting up the equipment to produce the environment sounds effects she needs. As



she walks around the rooms, she notices an elastic net bag hanging from a hook in the ceiling. Inside it, there is a naked corpse: it is very likely he had been tortured, because the right hand is missing; after death, his bowels have been emptied. When police officers examine the scene, they discover a second corpse: it seems clear that the murderer has been following a precise ritual. Only the well-known criminologist Damiano Danti seems able to figure out the modus operandi of the serial killer. Like all serial killers, he has no intention to stop. As Damiano Danti follows the trail of murders, he is led into the womb of a dark, esoteric Rome; it hides secrets that, for some, had better not come into the open.

MARCO MARINONI (1974) is a musicologist teaching Electronic Music at the Conservatorio in Brescia. He is a video artist, a music composer, and writes crime novels. His books are classical detective stories with a noir atmosphere, and he gives particular attention to the psychology of the characters. He lives in Finale Ligure, Italy.