

"one day we will understand "

By Mattia Di Carlo

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A wealthy entrepreneur wants to build a football team from scratch. As a coach, he chooses an outcast of football now lost and as ex-convict players. There are all the premises for a total fiasco, yet something will really change in every member of the team, including the coach.

On 22 March 2019 I met and interviewed a former student from my school. His name is Mattia Di Carlo, born in 1997, and has a peculiarity: he wrote a book while he was still in high school. He began writing the novel during his second year of high school and, after at least four rewritings, the book was published in May of his fourth year. Mattia claims to have taken the time to study to write it and also admits that he was quite hesitant to write because he always tried to hide his ability in some way. His life, however, has remained unchanged since before the publication of the novel. When asked "do you miss high school?" a convinced "yes" responds. Today Mattia arranges as he can and unfortunately he has been unemployed for a week. However he continues to write, in fact now he is looking for a publisher for his new novel, of which unfortunately he has not spoken. Mattia explained to me how writing a book is not really a walk. You have to imagine your characters doing everything: from drinking a coffee to turning your thumbs. In the end we can almost not stand them anymore. Even weaving the right plot is not easy: the search for the appropriate words and the many necessary rewritings overlap with the need for information. Mattia, for example, was inspired by various news stories to write some chapters.

For my part, I found the novel complete and satisfying from several points of view. First of all it is the style used by Mattia: nice, playful, full of quotations from songs and other writers, perfect for reflecting and at the same time identifying with the story. Second point in favor is the message of the story: "it doesn't matter who you are or what happened to you. It doesn't matter what you are now. The important thing is that you try to change yourself for the better: this is the substantial difference between a champion and a loser "The champion is the one who tries, even if only partially able to achieve his/her goal but fully deserving the final result. The loser is the one who lets himself/herself be lived by the circumstances and does nothing to change his/her situation."

Another point in favor of the novel is the realistic nature of the protagonists. None of them is too stereotyped, none too false. They are all, from the first to the last, wonderfully and unfailingly human, with all the human weaknesses and uncertainties.

