



## The Shape of Water (Inspector Montalbano, Book 1)

By Andrea Camilleri

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**The Shape of Water (Inspector Montalbano, Book 1)** By Andrea Camilleri

***The Shape of Water* is the first book in the sly, witty, and engaging Inspector Montalbano mystery series with its sardonic take on Sicilian life**

Silvio Lupanello, a big-shot in Vigàta, is found dead in his car with his pants around his knees. The car happens to be parked in a part of town used by prostitutes and drug dealers, and as the news of his death spreads, the rumors begin. Enter Inspector Salvo Montalbano, Vigàta's most respected detective. With his characteristic mix of humor, cynicism, compassion, and love of good food, Montalbano battles against the powerful and corrupt who are determined to block his path to the real killer.

Andrea Camilleri's novels starring Inspector Montalbano have become an international sensation and have been translated from Italian into eight languages, ranging from Dutch to Japanese.

**A Voice in the Night** is the newest novel in the Montalbano series and is now available from Penguin Books.

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## **The Shape of Water (Inspector Montalbano, Book 1) By Andrea Camilleri Bibliography**

- Rank: #85925 in Books
- Brand: Andrea Camilleri
- Published on: 2005-05-31
- Released on: 2005-05-31
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.70" h x .61" w x 5.00" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 224 pages

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

Urbane Sicilian police inspector Salvo Montalbano, whose exploits have sold more than four million copies in Europe, makes his long overdue U.S. debut in this spare and spry English translation of the first novel in the series. When two garbage collectors find the body of local politician Silvio Luparello locked in his BMW with his pants down, in "the Pasture," the Vig...ta town dump frequented by whores and drug dealers, the coroner rules that Luparello died of natural causes, despite clear evidence to the contrary. Montalbano refuses to oblige his superiors who want a hasty close to the case, and it will take a corrupt lawyer's murder to break it open. The author's view of Sicily is the all-too-common one of a poor and backward place that many would like to see separated from the rest of Italy. Camilleri's strength lies in his gallery of eccentric characters: Signora Luparello, the victim's admirably cool widow; GegŠ, a pimp and old classmate of Montalbano's; Giosue Contino, an 82-year-old schoolteacher who shoots at people because he thinks his 80-year-old wife is cheating on him; and Anna Ferrara, Montalbano's attractive deputy, "who every now and then, for whatever reason, would try to seduce him." Even the two garbage men have Ph.D.s. The maverick Montalbano doesn't hesitate to destroy clues or extract money from a crook to help a child, but his wrapping up the case by telling rather than showing, while acceptable to European audiences, may disappoint action-oriented American fans.

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From [Booklist](#)

Camilleri's Inspector Montalbano series, making a belated first appearance in the U.S., has long been a staple of both Italian and German best-seller lists. It's easy to see why: Camilleri captures that special blend of lethargy, cynicism, and reluctant commitment that drives the best fictional Italian cops (e.g., Michael Dibdin's Aurelio Zen). Salvo Montalbano, police inspector in the small Sicilian town of Vigata, has a potentially explosive case on his plate: a local politician has been found dead in his car, apparently the victim of a heart attack. The position of the politician's pants (around his ankles) and the location of the car (parked in an abandoned field where prostitutes ply their trade) suggest that the victim may have died in flagrante delicto. Higher-ups want the embarrassing case closed quickly, but Montalbano smells a setup. Unlike many European cops dealing with the horrors of modernity, Montalbano is no melancholic brooder; rather, he puts a comic face on the noir world, sorting through multiple layers of corruption Sicilian style while still finding time to enjoy a good lunch. Keep the translations coming--and quickly. *Bill Ott*

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Review

### **Praise for Andrea Camilleri and the Montalbano Series**

"Camilleri's Inspector Montalbano mysteries might sell like hotcakes in Europe, but these world-weary crime stories were unknown here until the oversight was corrected (in Stephen Sartarelli's salty translation) by the welcome publication of *The Shape of Water*...This savagely funny police procedural...prove[s] that sardonic laughter is a sound that translates ever so smoothly into English."—*The New York Times Book Review*

"Hailing from the land of Umberto Eco and *La Cosa Nostra*, Montalbano can discuss a pointy-headed book like *Western Attitudes Toward Death* as unflinchingly as he can pore over crime-scene snuff photos. He throws together an extemporaneous lunch of shrimp with lemon and oil as gracefully as he dodges advances

from attractive women.”—*Los Angeles Times*

“[Camilleri’s mysteries] offer quirky characters, crisp dialogue, bright storytelling—and Salvo Montalbano, one of the most engaging protagonists in detective fiction...Montalbano is a delightful creation, an honest man on Sicily’s mean streets.”—*USA Today*

“Camilleri is as crafty and charming a writer as his protagonist is an investigator.”—*The Washington Post Book World*

“Like Mike Hammer or Sam Spade, Montalbano is the kind of guy who can’t stay out of trouble...Still, deftly and lovingly translated by Stephen Sartarelli, Camilleri makes it abundantly clear that under the gruff, sardonic exterior our inspector has a heart of gold, and that any outburst, fumbles, or threats are made only in the name of pursuing truth.”—*The Nation*

“Camilleri can do a character’s whole backstory in half a paragraph.”—*The New Yorker*

“Subtle, sardonic, and molto simpatico: Montalbano is the Latin re-creation of Philip Marlowe, working in a place that manages to be both more and less civilized than Chandler’s Los Angeles.”—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred)

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Richard Cassidy:**

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#### **Steven Kilgore:**

This *The Shape of Water* (Inspector Montalbano, Book 1) book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is usually information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. That *The Shape of Water* (Inspector Montalbano, Book 1) without we realize teach the one who reading it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't always be worry *The Shape of Water* (Inspector Montalbano, Book 1) can bring once you are and not make your handbag space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even telephone. This *The Shape of Water* (Inspector Montalbano, Book 1) having excellent arrangement in word and layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

**Shirley Martins:**

Reading a book to get new life style in this season; every people loves to read a book. When you learn a book you can get a wide range of benefit. When you read guides, you can improve your knowledge, mainly because book has a lot of information upon it. The information that you will get depend on what kinds of book that you have read. If you would like get information about your examine, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself read a fiction books, these kinds of us novel, comics, as well as soon. The The Shape of Water (Inspector Montalbano, Book 1) will give you new experience in reading a book.

**John Yates:**

Book is one of source of know-how. We can add our know-how from it. Not only for students but also native or citizen have to have book to know the up-date information of year to year. As we know those books have many advantages. Beside we all add our knowledge, can bring us to around the world. With the book The Shape of Water (Inspector Montalbano, Book 1) we can get more advantage. Don't someone to be creative people? Being creative person must prefer to read a book. Just choose the best book that ideal with your aim. Don't always be doubt to change your life with that book The Shape of Water (Inspector Montalbano, Book 1). You can more attractive than now.

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