



LOTUS FLOWERS

Manuela Chiarottino

Laura is a 32 girl ex-model from Turin. In the past, she has always conflicted with her body. Laura was constantly on a diet, and she used to make frequent comparisons with the figure of her mother, who died in an accident. She was forced to change her life completely -in love and work- after having found disease and enduring mastectomy. She now owns a small bookshop, feeling protected by her favourite novels. She is insecure, with no points of reference, scared to love again and to love herself. Ah-lai is a 90-year-old Chinese woman, born in a low-income family. Because her distinguish beauty, Ah-lai's mother wanted her to practice the Foot binding to guarantee her a good marriage and prosperous future. She got married to an older man, but she still lives on the memory of a single kiss with a young stranger. After the death of her husband, she followed her daughter in Italy, where she currently lives, alone. She is fond of her granddaughter Giuliana, a tattoo maker. Laura and Ah-lai meet and start seeing each other. Thanks to those meetings, Laura begins her path to personal growth and self-awareness. "Lotus Flowers" title is taken from the novel's opening lines: the blooming of the flower from the mud. Each of the two protagonists is watching the scene at home from a documentary. The lotus is a symbol of pureness and beauty. It can blossom in extreme conditions and even after years of calm. Therefore, it is a metaphor for resilience, brilliance beyond the mud of pain and difficulties, which threatens to tarnish and bury aspirations and dreams. The author is thriving, and her books have been published in Italy by famous publishing houses.

DETAILS

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Manuela Chiarottino was born near Turin, where she currently lives. She has won "2019 Verbania for Women" and "2019 Fondazione Marazza Children literature national Prize". She left the career as informatics to completely dedicate herself to the writing. She cultivates her passion productively, studying the different topics that concern the several shadows of feelings and relationships. Her publications include: *La bambina che annusava i libri* (More Stories, 2019), *La custode della seta* (Buendia Books, 2019), *Tutti i colori di Byron* (Buendia Books, 2018), winner of "Barbera da... Leggere 2018" Award, *Il gioco dei desideri* (Amarganta, 2018), *Cuori al galoppo* (Rizzoli 2016), *Il mio perfetto vestito portafortuna* (La Corte, 2016), *Ancora prima di incontrarti* (Rizzoli, 2015), and more.