



Talking Book Center
1 Churchville Avenue
Staunton, VA 24401
540-885-6215

Global Reading: Italy

DB28257 The Late Mattia Pascal by Luigi Pirandello (fiction)

A poverty-stricken librarian who is defrauded of a family inheritance and runs away. Shortly afterward he reads in a newspaper that the body of a drowned man has been identified as himself. With his new freedom he begins life all over again. 1904 (1934 Nobel laureate in Literature)

DB106409 The Lost Daughter by Elena Ferrante (family fiction)

Leda takes a vacation alone for the first time in years after her two adult daughters leave home. She meets Nina, a young mother, on the beach. After Nina confides a dark secret, one seemingly trivial occurrence leads to events that could destroy Nina's family. Unrated. 2008.

DB91127 Trick by Demenico Starnone (family, contemporary)

Famed illustrator Daniele returns to his childhood home in Naples to look after his grandson, Mario, while the boy's parents attend a conference. Four-year-old Mario is a handful, and being in his old home brings back memories for Daniele. Strong language. 2018.

DB19739 The Name Of The Rose by Umberto Eco (historical mystery)

A combination of religious heresy and a string of murders in a medieval Italian monastery brings Brother William onto the scene to rout out both the infidels and the perpetrator of the crimes. All of this revolves around secrets hidden in the abbey library, although what the mystery is remains elusive. Bestseller 1983.

DB30589 The Divine Comedy by Dante Alighieri (classical poetry)

Dante's classic epic poem in its entirety. Dante describes being lost in a frightening forest, meeting the poet Virgil, and being conducted by Virgil through the Inferno, purgatory, and paradise. 1321.

DB13373 The Adventures Of Pinocchio by Carlo Collodi (fantasy)

A little wooden puppet who can talk, think, and feel as a normal boy has a giant curiosity that leads him into exciting and unexpected adventures. And every time he tells a lie, his nose grows and grows! 1883.

DB89588 Leonardo da Vinci by Walter Isaacson (biography)

Author chronicles the life of the iconic Renaissance man, Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519). Examines his early life in Vinci, artistic pursuits, patronage from leading Italian Renaissance families, engineering projects, investigations into human anatomy, and more. 2017.

DB102846 Without Ever Reaching The Summit: A Journey by Paolo Cognetti (travel)

Recounting of a 2017 expedition to Nepal in order to travel through the valleys of the Dolpo to explore and document life in the mountains. Reflects on his life growing up in the Alps and burgeoning self-discovery. Unrated. 2020.

DB67703 The Essential Writings Of Machiavelli by Niccolò Machiavelli (classics)

Selected writings of Florentine politician Niccolò Machiavelli (1468-1527), in which he expounds his philosophy on government and power. Includes The Prince, The Mandrake--a satire--excerpts from The Art of War and The Discourses, and essays about Pisa, French people, Germany, and the ruling Medici. 2007.

DB94030 The Eternal City: A History Of Rome by Ferdinand Addis (history)

Traces the history of Rome through key events, including its mythic founding, the murder of Caesar, the coronation of Charlemagne, the painting of the Sistine Chapel, Galileo's trial, Mussolini's march on the city, the Occupy riots of 2011, and more. 2018.