

DIEGO BASTIANUTTI

FINDING MY SHADOW: A JOURNEY OF SELF-DISCOVERY

Finding my Shadow is the deeply personal autobiography of Diego Bastianutti, a prize-winning poet and artist based in Vancouver. The book traces the author's long and difficult journey across many borders, both physical and emotional, as a young boy twice uprooted from his Italian homeland, as a refugee in Italy who is then transplanted as a D.P. (Displaced Person) to the USA, and finally as a student, teacher, vice-consul, and life partner in Canada. Bastianutti's fragmented life leaves him with few if any memories. Unsure about his own identity, he creates a Persona, but it's a fiction that casts no shadow. Thanks to a special person and three amazing friends he will finally be able to find his shadow and reclaim his identity.

In *Finding my Shadow*, Diego Bastianutti explores the complicated issues of displacement and identity with intelligence and lyricism. He recounts his journey from child exile and scorned outsider to esteemed poet and nomad, as he both finds and helps create the far-flung Giuliano-Dalmata community.

CATERINA EDWARDS, author of *Finding Rosa. A Mother with Alzheimer's, a Daughter in Search of the Past*

For those who have gone into exile, a return home is almost impossible. In this book Diego Bastianutti narrates his long and complex search, as an exile from Fiume and an immigrant in North America, for his disrupted self. The story of his life thus becomes the collective portrait of a dispersed people in search of a place and an identity.

ROSANNA TURCINOVICH GIURICIN, *La Voce di Fiume*

In this story of exile, migration, and endless returns, Diego Bastianutti is a modern pilgrim who crosses seas, looks for a place of origin, and learns to relinquish it. In this journey of self-discovery, he invites us to revisit the cultural, social, and emotional foundations that anchor and dislodge, reassure and unsettle, with steadfast devotion to love and friendship.

SANDRA PARMEGANI, *University of Guelph*

Diego Bastianutti recounts his extraordinary life as an artist, refugee, and intellectual. In so doing, he also tells the story of the Julian-Dalmatian exile after World War Two. Bastianutti's autobiography is a book about both a poet and a people, and a valuable contribution to the history of Italians in North America.

HENRY VEGGIAN, *University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill*

DIEGO BASTIANUTTI has published seven collections of poetry in Italian and English and the award-winning translation of a major selection of Giuseppe Ungaretti's works. He is the winner of the 2008 International Literary Prize Umberto Saba (Trieste) and was a finalist for the F.G. Bressani Literary Prize (2009) awarded by the Association of Italian Canadian Writers.

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