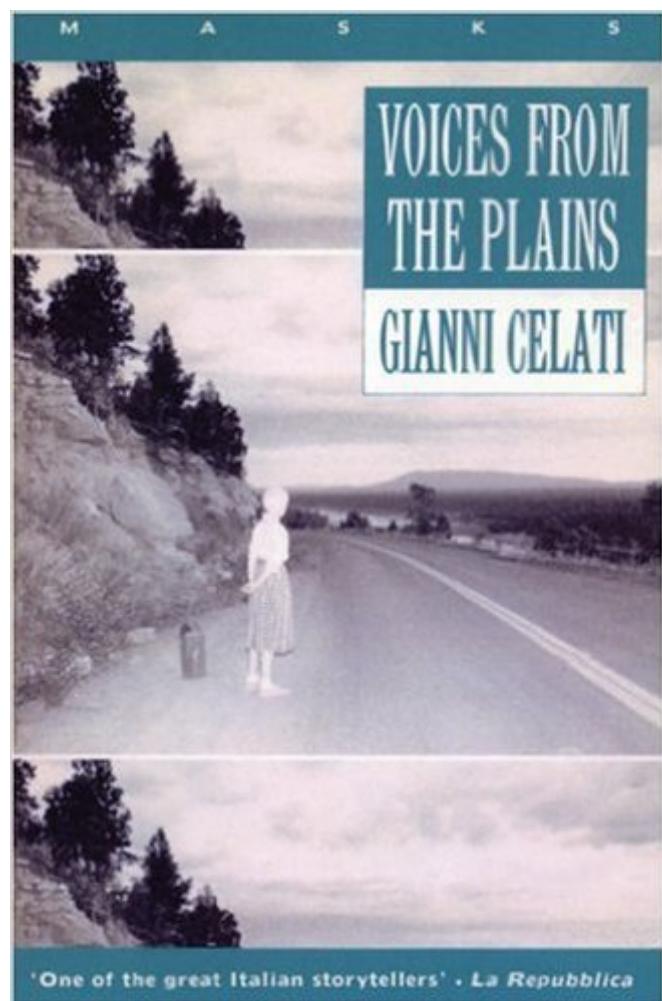


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Voices From The Plains



Synopsis

The narrator of these fictional tales has set off on a walk along the valley of the River Po. The stories of the people he meets are presented in a series of episodes and anecdotes, throughout which the landscape of the Po becomes the unifying focus of attention.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (6 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

tells me I bought this book back in 2001. I have to confess I'm not sure what inspired me, but it sat in a moving box until about 2 years ago. I was finally inspired to read it based on my own trip through the Po River Valley. Even in translation (fine work by Robert Lumley) these stories are arresting. I'm not sure I have the critical vocabulary to capture what really makes this work so special. There's something in the voice here that works to distance the reader from the landscape the people inhabit. A deceptively simple way of telling stories which allows the reader in, but doesn't hide the complexity of the narration. I was left with fierce admiration for the work, and the desire to read more by Celati. Unfortunately there doesn't seem to be much in print in translation. Do read it, if you can find it.

I had high expectations, but after a bit, reading seemed pointless. I guess this is part of the art here, I have no problem with that. But, to keep reading the same sort of banal details that don't lead anywhere, (again, I get that is part of the deal), I was hard not to lose interest. I slogged through the book, but did not enjoy most of it as I hoped.

"Voices from the Plains" is one of the most interesting and original narrative accomplishments of the last twenty years. Gianni Celati's poignant and disarming simplicity debunks all assumptions on modern life and leads us into a countryside populated by curiously urban loners. Around the human objects he observes, Celati creates an ideological void that compels us to the most honest considerations not really on them, but actually on ourselves.

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