

INTRODUCTION to "LA TERRA DEGLI ALTRI" (THE EARTH OF OTHERS)

"I started writing this novel in late summer 1983. I was twenty-three years old and I remember how fascinated I was by reading a science fiction saga (which I do not name for copyright reasons). However, although I was thrilled with that story, I was very disappointed with its somewhat hasty conclusion. Driven solely by enthusiasm, I decided to make an equally imaginative novel of mine that would retain, as far as possible, the literary fluidity of the work that captivated me. I had already written some short stories but I never thought of trying my hand at over four hundred and fifty folders and, considering the avalanche of ideas and their continuous variations, I realized that the amount of work magnified without control. I immediately understood that I was embarking on an arduous, almost impossible undertaking that I could perhaps have tackled only with more time available and greater skills and experience. Instead, blissful unconsciousness! It seems that the difficulties sharpen the ingenuity and I imagine this was precisely the ingredient that ignited the trigger of the challenge in me. I completed the novel. It was ready to publish, but life's events left it in a drawer.

At the end of 2019, I reread the manuscript, finding it still compelling and full of surreal atmospheres and I decide to publish it. I considered the aspects of the drafting that today could be defined as "naive" in the perspective of three last decades of literature and cinematography, but I appreciated the freshness and fluidity of the story, and I decided to propose it in its entirety, without stylistic cuts, as I wrote it then.

The story begins with the return to Planet Earth of the five main characters, who live this new experience according to their culture and different points of view. The intention of the novel is mine, like the contents, completely free from the reading that had given me the initial impulse. In these pages, the hero is depicted with his splendid values close to utopia and the antihero, with all his obsessions and pathetic weaknesses. A surprising mix of action, feeling and passion; a return to the romantic part of ourselves that lives somewhere, out of time. The return is therefore that of common origins, to reality, before using the internet, where only pen and paper could shape our dreams. A real return to Planet Earth, which "ours" is not ... and perhaps never was.

As often happens in my stories, nothing is ever taken for granted and coincidences play for the most part the decisive role. A journey backwards that is like a return to the romantic part of ourselves, which lives somewhere, out of time."

Ambra Mattioli