



August Heat

Andrea Camilleri , Stephen Sartarelli (Translator)

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When a colleague extends his summer vacation, Inspector Salvo Montalbano is forced to stay in Vigàta and endure the August heat. Montalbano's long-suffering girlfriend, Livia, joins him with a friend-husband and young son in tow to keep her company during these dog days of summer. But when the boy suddenly disappears into a narrow shaft hidden under the family's beach rental, Montalbano, in pursuit of the child, uncovers something terribly sinister. As the inspector spends the summer trying to solve this perplexing case, Livia refuses to answer his calls-and Montalbano is left to take a plunge that will affect the rest of his life. Fans of the Sicilian inspector as well as readers new to this increasingly popular series will enjoy following the melancholy but unflinchingly moral Montalbano as he undertakes one of the most shocking investigations of his career.

August Heat Details

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From Reader Review August Heat for online ebook

Arkajit Dey says

It's only July, but it was already really hot this afternoon so I picked this book up to commiserate with Montalbano as he suffered through the "August Heat" of a Sicilian Summer. A very quick, light read which I paired with an ice cold tea to ward off the California heat. The rapid fire dialogue and quick scene changes made it easy to rifle through the book in short order. But the heat must have fuddled my mind as well as Montalbano's since neither he nor I saw the end coming.

Elizabeth says

This is the first book I have read by Andrea Camilleri and it certainly has started a new love for his mysteries.

This series features Inspector Montalbano becoming involved in an intricate murder plot in Vigata Italy.

Besides the fascinating crime the author presents us with life in Italy in the Summer, the food and wine of the region and how the heat affects how Montalbano's lives his life.

The crime itself is fascinating and Montalbano discovers a very sinister plot of a house with a hidden addition..

Enough said, enjoy Camilleri's books

Trish says

Having just read one of the Martin Beck books, the reference to Montalbano reading ones of the same on page 115 of this August Heat made me appreciate that actually, there are a lot of similarities between the two series. Notably, the generally honest detective trying to do his job in spite of the social conditions around him, and backed up by a regular ensemble of other detectives. Albeit that the Montalbano books have a lot more dry humour to them. I wonder why I'd never made the connection before.

Emily says

Σε μια Βιγκ?τα που βρ?ζει τον Α?γουστο, ο αστυν?μος Μονταλμπ?νο καλε?ται να φιλοξεν?σει την αι?νια αρραβωνιαστικι? απ? τη Γ?νοβα και κ?ποιους φ?λους της οι οπο?οι νοικι?ζουν μια παραθαλ?σσια ?παυλη.

Πολ? γρ?γορα ?μωσ τους ξεφορτ?νεται με αφορμ? τα ανατριχιαστικ? ευρ?ματα στο κρυμμ?νο υπ?γειο του σπιτιο?. Μ?νει με την αφ?ρητη ζ?στη, τις γαστριμαργικ?ς β?λτες στην ταβ?ρνα του ?ντζο και ?ναν ανατ?λλοντα ?ρωτα στα 55 του.

Καλογραμμ?νο αλλ? λε?πει εκε?νο το χιο?μορ και οι γλαφυρ?ς περιγραφ?ς που συναντ?με σε ?λλα βιβλ?α του Καμιλλ?ρι. Ακ?μα και ο απαρ?μιλλος Καταρ? ε?ναι πολ? συμβατικ?ς. Και το τ?λος μελαγχολικ?.

Σε ?λα τα βιβλ?α του Καμιλλ?ρι υπ?ρχει π?ντα η ?ποψη του για ?να κοινωνικ? θ?μα. Στο βιβλ?ο αυτ? το κοινωνικ? σχ?λιο γ?νεται για τους πλο?σιους λευκο?ς που ταξιδε?ουν σε χ?ρες της Ασ?ας, ?πως η Τα?λ?νδη, προς ?γραν σεξουαλικ?ν εμπειρι?ν με παιδι?.

Δι?βάζε ο Ηρακλ?ς Στρο?γγης.

Elizabeth says

One of his absolute best!

Dave Riley says

Although I had seen the television version of this novel -- and I've watched all of the Montalbano TV series - it is not the same as experiencing Camilleri up close and first hand in another superb translation by Stephen Sartarelli.

So much of what you get from Montalbano is the thinking stuff that goes on in the written narrative and Salvo's head, such that the plot serves as a bridge to hold these musings aloft. The TV adaptations although excellent do not capture that rich and very Sicilian nuance nor the intricacies of the character interactions.

You have to embrace the journey, casually partaken as it may seem, and regret that it has to end at the novel's conclusion. With Montalbano the chronology nonetheless is important as you share the storyline and characters from book to book so that the microcosm of Vigata is built up in culture, cuisine, politics, stone and cement.

And with each outing, the character of Salvo Montalbano is deepened and enriched.

Fortunately I still have a few in the series to look forward to reading. There are 17 novels with maybe 3 still waiting to be published in English translation.

There is a very good review of Camilleri and his work here:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2006/...>

Tim Orfanos says

?σως το πιο υπερβολικ? και 'παραφορτωμ?νο' βιβλ?ο του Καμιλλ?ρι, το οπο?ο εν? ξεκιν? με ενδιαφ?ρον, θ?γοντας το πρ?βλημα των αυθα?ρετων σπιτι?ν στην Ιταλ?α καταλ?γει να μην μπορε? να πε?σει τον αναγν?στη για την αληθοφ?νεια της ιστορ?ας και τα κ?νητρα των δολοφονι?ν. Το 1ο μ?ρος περιλαμβ?νει π?ρα πολλ? και επιτηδευμ?να στοιχε?α θρ?λερ, ?να στοιχε?ο που δεν ε?ναι και το δυνατ?τερο σημει?ο του συγγραφ?α.

Το πιο, ?μως, αδ?ναμο σημει?ο του μυθιστορ?ματος ε?ναι κ?ποιες χιουμοριστικ?ς ατ?κες στο 2ο

μ?ρος που φα?νονται 'αμ?χανες', ?πως και το πολ? προβλ?ψιμο τ?λος που δημιουργε? αμφιβολ?ες στον αναγν?στη για τις επαγγελματικ?ς ικαν?τητες του Μονταλμπ?νο. Σ?μφωνα κα? με τον τ?τλο του βιβλ?ου, κατ?λληλο ως καλοκαιριν? αν?γνωσμα, αλλ? μ?χρι εκε?. Οι αναγν?στες που επιθυμο?ν ν? 'γνωρ?σουν' τον συγγραφέα, καλ? θ? ?ταν ν? ξεκιν?σουν με το 1ο βιβλ?ο της σειρ?ς 'Το σχ?μα του νερο?' και π?ει λ?γοντας.....

Βαθμολογ?α: 3,2/5 ? 6,4/10.

Jenn says

Another Montalbano mystery, another strange trip into this Sicilian world. This had an equally dark ending -- satisfying but with a deeply unpleasant, if predictable, twist -- to his earlier book, *The Shape of Water*, but it didn't really reach the same level of beauty that the other one did. Instead, it felt more like a traditional detective book, with Inspector Montalbano spending most of his time in conversation and collusion with his seeming second-in-command, Fazio, or in the thrall of the sister of the victim. Early players last only a few chapters; late players last only a few chapters. Montalbano is less developed, more a sketch. The best character in the book is the unrelenting heat of August, which influences every action.

DeAnna Knippling says

A young brat, the son of two of Livia's friends, disappears on vacation. In finding the kid, Montalbano opens up a bigger can of worms than he anticipated: a hidden house, a dead body wrapped in plastic, a corrupt building contractor...

This one shakes things up a bit. The normal Montalbano plot is that there are two cases that turn out to be interrelated by some weird connection. This is more of a noir plot, where the trail of clues leads deeper and deeper into a maze, until finally the center is reached. An interesting shakeup. I think this will end up being one of my favorites.

Note: I'm listening to this series on audio, which is freaking FANTASTIC. If you're not a mystery reader but want the perfect "short attention span" audiobooks, try these.

Michael says

Inspector Montalbano's girlfriend, Livia asks him to find a summer home for her best friend Laura and her 3 year old and her husband.

Montalbano has had to remain in Vigata in Sisily during August because of a complication with one of his colleagues.

He succeeds in finding a home in the beachside town of Pizzo. Once Luura, her husband Guido and son Bruno move in, the summer home becomes the rental from hell. The first morning, Laura wakes up to a cockroach infestation, the next day the kitchen floor is covered with mice and the following day Laura walks into the kitchen to find the one thing she cannot stand...spiders, spiders all over the kitchen.

By now the pest control people are old friends but on the following day Bruno disappears. Montalbano is called and locates the boy in a partially hidden apartment under the home. Then while inspecting the apartment, Montalbano finds a body of a young girl in a trunk.

Camilleri writes an amusing tale, it's not Peter Falk in TV's Columbo but the manner in which the author describes Montalbano putting up with the extreme heat and his dealings with suspects who may have strong Mafia connections is very well done. I smiled throughout the dandy tale.

Recommended.

Effie says

B.R.A.C.E. 2018 ?να βιβλ?ο που διαδραματ?ζεται κ?που που π?ντα ?θελες να επισκεφτε?ς

4+

Andreas Schmidt says

Sempre il solito Camilleri

Camilleri è un buon romanziere, anche se per inciso mi domando come si riesca a tradurlo in inglese (non oso immaginare il "lost in translation" dal siciliano all'inglese). Anche se alla fine ogni romanzo è sempre lo stesso, il personaggio di Montalbano è diventato leggenda, con la sua donna Livia che rompe i cabasisi per ogni minchiata che succede (in questo romanzo perché Montalbano le aveva "promesso" che non ci sarebbero stati omicidi in agosto) con lo stereotipo dell'irrazionalità femminile. Il solito cadavere, la solita fimmina e lo sciauro che appresso si porta; ogni tanto se ne esce con qualcosa di "paranormale" (qui per esempio la gemella che ha delle "visioni" di ciò che è accaduto all'altra, e via scorrendo). Il solito romanzo di Camilleri. Niente di più.

Xenia Germei says

Αστυνομικ?, αστυνομικ? και με πολυ δ?ση Ν?του....Πολιτικ?, Μαφ?α, αγ?πη, βια, διαφθορ? και ?νας Επιθεωρητ?ς χαρμα...(ειδικ? ?ταν τρ?ει αυτα τα εξαιρετικ? πιατα...). ΥΓ ?χει μουνστ?κι και μ?λλον φιλ?ει υπ?ροχα...Ξεκινήστε με ?να και θα τα διαβ?σετε ολα!

Dagio_maya says

“Voliva annarci prima, ma quanno niscì dalla porta di casa vinni assugliato da una tali vampata di caluri che sinni trasì nuovamente 'n casa. Si spogliò, inchì la vasca da bagno d'acqua fridda e ci stetti dintra un'orata.”

Questo focoso romanzo di Camilleri è consigliato per le letture autunnali/invernali. E' dunque estate tra queste pagine e il caldo imperversa senza pietà per nessuno.

Un bambino sparisce nella villetta di vacanza degli amici di Livia dando avvio mistero da risolvere. Sullo sfondo la pesante scenografia delle logiche mafiose, dell'abusivismo e dello sfruttamento degli immigrati nei cantieri.

Tanta carne al fuoco (" *Foco diavolisco è!*") per passare piacevolmente in lettura qualche "orata".

Ritrovo Montalbano dopo circa vent'anni ed è con piacere riscoprire che non ci sono tradimenti di sorta: Vigàta è sempre lì con Fazio, il mitico Catarella (*di pirsona pirsonalmente*) e la trattoria da Enzo; Marinella pure con la nota casa del commissario proprio vicino al mare, la solita verandina e poi i piatti speciali di Adelinache invadono i ripiani del frigorifero...

Non fa tanto piacere ritrovare l'*antartica* Livia: é un vero peccato che Montalbano non abbia trovato di meglio!

Insomma tutto appare immutato.

Poi scopro, però, che gli anni non sono passati solo per me.

E se entrerete in questa vampa scoprirete che Montalbano certamente non cede ma qualcosa scricchiola:

" Mi capita che sono addivintato vecchio - pinsò amaro il commissario - e voglio arrivare presto a concludere un'indagine che mi pisa."

Lyn Elliott says

I whizzed through this in about three hours enjoying an easy read. By chance the only other book i can remember reading in this series was the first one, just a week ago. The Montalbano character hadn't fully taken shape in the first book, but he has here and he feels a bit over-worked to me. And the secondary police characters seem to have become more stereotypes, perhaps as a consequence of the television series. Perhaps writerly fatigue set in with the endless repetition of the enervating effects of high summer heat in Sicily. Some parts of the story telling were unbelievable - like the lack of a fan anywhere in the police station or any one's home. If you live in a climate where summer heat goes over 40 degrees C, you have fans around somewhere to haul out when the heat goes up. It's not just a short term demand with an acute lack of supply. Do I sound a bit grumpy? It's just been 38degrees here and is going to be around the 40s for the rest of the week. And this is only mid December. It is an El Niño year and we know it will be a bad summer. So the fans are out of storage and the hot weather daily regime of closing and opening windows and doors is well and truly underway.

Karen says

It's hard not to sympathise with Montalbano about the heat. Especially as I sit here trying to write this note on a 38°C day. With a worse one to come. It's something that was really particularly marked in this book - the way the heat became a part of the story, just as the sense of place, and character is so very strong. You could see Montalbano and his colleagues slogging out an investigation in the dreadful heat. You could sympathise with him when the holiday house from hell reared its ugly head, and you definitely could understand how he might be tempted by the twin-sister of the murder victim, no matter how wrong it seems.

At the heart of the book is another tightly constructed plot with aspects of the political and the Mafia built in,

but not in a manner overwhelming. This isn't a story about the Mafia's control, rather it's a story about the possible outcomes, the idea that some people might be protected as a result of their connections. And it's a story, as always, about Montalbano's dogged pursuit of the truth. To the detriment of a lot around him. Except his meals of course. Some things are sacrosanct.

<http://www.austcrimefiction.org/revie...>

Tony says

Camilleri, Andrea. AUGUST HEAT. (2006; U.S. 2006). *****. This is another in the marvelous Inspector Montalbano series of crime novels. They are unlike any other crime novels you will likely read. In his novels, Camilleri deals more with peoples' reaction to crime than to the crime itself. The fact that he is based in Sicily makes the action more exotic, but also provides some insight into the unique personality of the people there. Sicilians rule themselves through respect for customs, but also are aware that many, if not most things are beyond their control. In this episode, the body of a young girl is found in a trunk secreted in a basement of a house – a basement that should not have existed because approval of such a basement was not granted to either the owner or the builder. The lower level was discovered by accident. The owner of the house was a German who was now dead, and the house was being rented as a summer home to a young family – friends of Montalbano and his girlfriend. There are a bunch of obvious suspects, but it finally gets narrowed down to one man. Unfortunately, this man has ties to both Mafia parties in the region and is friends with all the major officials of the ruling parties. How will Montalbano bring enough evidence to bear to bring about a conviction when the cards are all stacked against him? Read on. Through clever moves involving deception and some real police work, he finally gets his man, but not in the way he would have liked. Camilleri continues to write some of the best police procedurals going. I hope they continue to keep translating them. Highly recommended.

Calzean says

The first quarter of this book saw the good Inspector finding a summer rental house of a friend of his girlfriend, then discovering a dead body in the rented house. The story didn't really grab me, but the ending involving the revenge of a femme fatale saved the book.

John says

In Sicily, a small boy disappears from the home his parents have rented for the vacation. Family friend Inspector Salvo Montalbano goes searching for him and finds him hidden in a secret underground apartment beneath the house. (Apparently this is done in many Sicilian houses to get around building regulations. You 'fess up later, pay a modest sum, uncover the illegal bottom story, and you have a house with one more story than you'd have been permitted at the outset.) Also in the secret apartment is a trunk with the body of a murdered girl in it.

Quite soon Montalbano and his men determine that the victim was 16-year-old Rina, who lived nearby and disappeared six years ago. Identifying her killer should, on the face of it, be a relatively simple matter, but it's hugely complicated by both the passage of time and the Mafia-related corruption of Sicilian politics.

Complicating Montalbano's own personal life is the fact that his girlfriend, Livia, is out of touch on a boat trip with a male cousin while Rina's very lovely identical twin sister, Adriana, is keen to insert herself into the case and, improbably given their disparity of ages, Montalbano's bed.

I laugh as much as anyone else about the current trope in crime fiction whereby boozy middle-aged detectives find themselves mobbed by gorgeous babes half their age and twice as willing. From the above paragraph you might be led to think that this strand of *August Heat* falls into that trap. It doesn't. (view spoiler)

Like the other Montalbano novels I've come across, this is a tremendously entertaining, fast read; all credit to translator Stephen Sartarelli that this should be so. Part of the plot depends on the police, six years ago, not doing something thunderingly obvious as they investigated Rina's disappearance, but this little glitch didn't distract me. All in all, highly recommended.

David Highton says

Another great story in the Montalbano series, so well written the heat nearly steams off the page. Montalbano has to solve a murder when a body is discovered six years after being left in a trunk. Wry humour throughout the story with a little twist at the end.
