

Massimo Carlotto (Padua, 1956), made headlines in 1976 when, as a 19-year-old militant of the left-wing Lotta Continua movement, he was accused of murder. Acquitted after a first trial and later convicted, Carlotto fled to Mexico but was captured three years later by the police and extradited to Italy. That conviction caused a scandal, with intellectuals of the caliber of Jorge Amado taking Carlotto's defense. In 1993, he was finally granted a pardon by the Italian President. Carlotto's novels have been translated in many languages and inspired screen adaptations, plays, graphic novels and radio plays, starting with his novel *Il fuggiasco* [*The Fugitive*] in 2003 (directed by Andrea Manni and starring Daniele Liotti, English title *Runaway*), about his time as a fugitive. His best-known character is 'the Alligator', a.k.a. private detective Marco Buratti, who first appeared in Carlotto's 1995 novel *La verità dell'Alligatore*. In 1997 Carlotto published *Le irregolari: Buenos Aires horror tour*, another autobiographical novel about the Argentinian dictatorship in the late 1970s and the tragedy of the *desaparecidos*. It drew on the first-hand reports of Estela Carlotto, the founder of the Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo. Carlotto's 2001 novel *Arrivederci amore ciao* [*The Goodbye Kiss*] was turned into a film by the same name by Michele Soavi five years later. His *Jimmy della collina* (2002) was also adapted for the screen [English title *Jimmy on the Hill*, by Enrico Pau in 2006. In 2013, Carlotto teamed up with Marco Videtta to co-write a new series of four novels entitled *Le vendicatrici: Ksenia; Eva; Sara: Il prezzo della verità*; and *Luz: Solo per amore*. In 2002 his novel *Il maestro di nodi* [*The Master of Knots*] won the Giorgio Scerbanenco Prize. Four years later, Carlotto's novel *Nordest* was shortlisted for the Bancarella Prize.