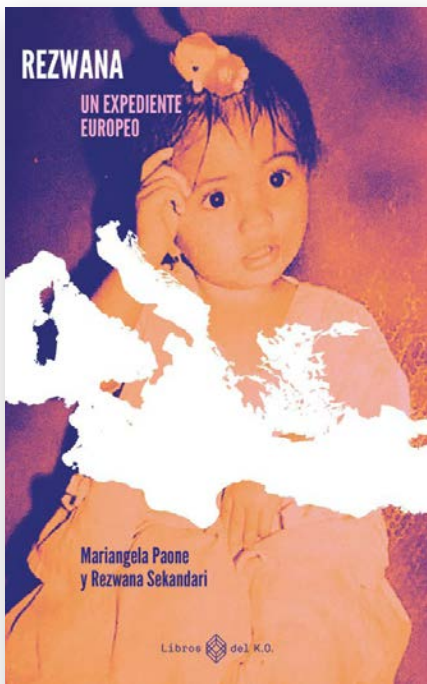


MARIANGELA PAONE & REZWANA

Mariangela was just 18 when she gained her first experience of working in a newsroom at a local newspaper in Calabria, the region of southern Italy where she grew up. After graduating in Rome, she specialized in international information, initially in Italy and then in Spain, arriving in 2008. Since 2016, her work has appeared in numerous outlets, both in Spain and abroad, including *Revista 5W*, *Jot Down*, *El Diario*, *El Confidencial*, *La Sexta* and *Cadena Ser*. She is Madrid correspondent for the Swiss-Italian radio and TV network RSI, and in Italy she has contributed to Skytg24, Internazionale and Domani, among others. She teaches journalism at Scuola Holden.



Rezwana tells the story of the blind bureaucracy that governs the European asylum system and represents the universal drama of thousands of families; it is the story of the hypocrisy of a continent that refuses to learn the lessons of the past. But it is also a story of love, of generosity, and of friendships that transcend borders.



Rezwana. A European dossier

Spain / 2023 / 168 pages / Investigative journalism / Territory: World / Primary publisher: Libros del KO / Sold: Italy (ADD Editore, forthcoming), Norway (Quintano Publishing, forthcoming)

Rezwana was a 13-year-old Afghan girl when the wooden boat on which she was travelling from Turkey to the Greek island of Lesbos sank with nearly three hundred people on board. She was saved by the harpoon of a group of fishermen. Her mother, father, two sisters and brother disappeared at sea. They are five of the 26,000 people who have died trying to cross the Mediterranean since 2014.

After passing through a refugee camp in Lesbos and three foster families in Athens, Rezwana managed to reach Sweden and was reunited with her great-aunt and cousins. In a few months, she learned the language, began to rebuild her life, and started to be happy. But when she turned 18, the Swedish authorities decided to send her back to Greece, the first country of arrival. For the bureaucracy, Rezwana's case was and is just another file.

Journalist Mariangela Paone recounted the tragedy of that shipwreck on 28 October 2015. Six years later, she met Rezwana in person in Athens. A friendship and a promise were born: together they would tell the story of Rezwana's family and they would try to find out where the remains were buried. They did not do this alone. Over the years they have woven a network of relationships that have helped them in a mission that seemed impossible: Greek lawyers, Norwegian activists, Spanish photojournalists, Syrian and Afghan refugees...

Rezwana is not only a travelogue, an album of memories, a story of friendship and investigative journalism, but also the humble and heroic story of all those anonymous people who, together, make the world a better place.

• Long synopsis in English and Italian available

• Italian full translation forthcoming