Dacia Maraini is one of the most important writers and intellectuals in Italy today. Her first novel, "La vacanza" ("The Vacation") was published in 1962, and the second, "L’età del malere" ("The age of discontent") won the International Formentor Prize. Among her other translated works are: "Memorie di una ladra" 1973 ("Memoirs of a Female Thief"); "Donna in guerra" 1975 ("Woman at War"); "Lettere a Marina" 1981 ("Letters to Marina"); "Il treno per Helsinki" 1984 ("The Train"); "Isolina" (1985); "La lunga vita di Marianna Ucria" 1990 ("The Silent Duchess") Premio Campiello for "La lunga vita di Marianna Ucria" and Premio Strega in 1999.; "Viaggiando con passo di volpe", 1983-1991 ("Traveling in the Gait of a Fox"). Her most recent works include "Bagheria" (1993), a narrative memoir on Sicily, and "Cercando Emma" 1994 ("Searching for Emma") a study on Flaubert’s creation of Emma Bovary. While continuing to publish novels and poetry, she co-founded the Teatro del Porcospino in the 1960's and established the feminist experimental theatre La Maddalena in Rome, in 1973. The American literary magazine Aphra-serially published her play "Manifesto" in 1972-73. Some of her plays, "Mary Stuart," and "I sogni di Clitennestra" ("The Dreams of Clytemnestra") Dialogo di una prostituta con il suo cliente" ("Dialogue between a Prostitute and her Client"), have been performed in many theaters abroad. MARaini has written screenplays for such directors as Pier Paolo Pasolini, Marco Ferreri, Carlo Di Palma, and Margarethe Von Trotta. She continues to be active in feminist causes and as a commentator on politics and society, especially in columns for newspapers and weeklies. Her articles have appeared regularly in such publications as Corriere della Sera, La Stampa, L’Unità, Paese Sera. Her last success is the collections of short stories called "Buio", which won the most prestigious italian literary prize: the Premio Strega, in 1999.