



La Mano

By Pagliaro & Thirault

GRAPHIC NOVEL

Publisher : **Dargaud**

Genre : **Drama**, Romance

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PAGES

64



VOLUME

2



FORMAT

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RELEASE

28/09/2012

A group of young people, as close as the fingers on a hand, united by their leftist ideas, in the Italy of the Years of Lead... Falling in love, working for a cause, making terrible mistakes... Paris, today. Sandro is a doctor. In the news, they are talking about the death of a former member of an underground Italian movement : Pugno. Along with the Red Brigades, this group was part of the extreme-left terrorist circle that tore Italy with bloody violence during the Years of Lead. Guido immediately thinks of Raffaella... How could he have imagined that the lovely Raffaella of his teenage years would become the passionaria of that terrorist group? That Aristo would become one of its founding members ? And that Dino and Piero, two other childhood friends, would also become involved with this tragedy ? Sandro plunges into his memories of 45 years before... In 1965, 70 kilometers from Bologna, five

20-year-olds, friends since childhood, meet in a bistro in their village. Dina and Piero, who share their lives and their far-left ideas ; Aristo, the show-off with the explosive temper ; the quiet Raffaella ; and Sandro, who is more interested in the idea of healing the sick than by politics, and who is secretly in love with Raffaella. That night, Aristo proposes a « little act of proletarian justice » to punish one of the people who profit from the system. That action is the beginning of the group « la Mano, » « The Hand »... and changes the course of their lives forever. We follow their fortunes in politics and love in the

years that follow, in an Italy turned upside-down by political and social tensions, and by the escalating radicalization of certain groups of militants...A coming-of-age story, with a breath of romance and the atmosphere of a thriller. Through their hopes and their battles — right up to the hour when all utopias disappeared — this immersion in the 1960s and 1970s forces us to examine the question: what have our ideals become ?

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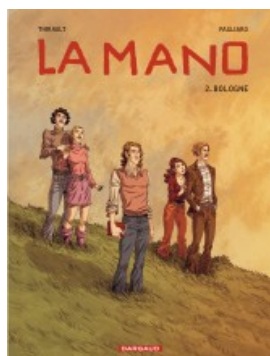
For further information, please write to:

Mediatoon Foreign rights,

57 rue Gaston Tessier

75019 Paris, FRANCE.

@ contact.mfr@mediatoon.com



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