Record Nr. UNINA9910819918403321 Autore Khouma Pap Titolo I was an elephant salesman: adventures between Dakar, Paris, and Milan / / Pap Khouma; edited by Oreste Pivetta; translated by Rebecca Hopkins with a introduction by Graziella Parati Bloomington,: Indiana University Press, 2010 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-4416-6977-9 0-253-00460-8 1-282-81836-8 9786612818363 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (158 p.) Collana Global African voices Altri autori (Persone) PivettaOreste <1949-> Crockett-HopkinsRebecca 853/.914 Disciplina Soggetti Italian fiction Italian literature Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph Note generali Nota di contenuto Selling -- Illegal -- Africa -- Market in Abidjan -- Dakar-Riccione --Street-smart... beach-smart -- Italian money -- Paolo il nero -- Girls from Senegal -- Police . . . just joking! -- Germany via Paris -- Month in Paris -- Foreign legion -- From Paris to Riccione -- Car-house --Double Malaw -- Chief Laman -- Senegalese lunch -- Dresser in Piacenza -- End of ma -- Milanese chronicles -- Run on the beach --Dakar via Moscow -- Life in Senegal -- Tourist in Rome -- To catch a thief -- Lacoste -- Fights in the metro -- Changes -- Political accusations -- Children. A landmark bestseller in Italy, I Was an Elephant Salesman gives a name Sommario/riassunto and a face to the thousands of anonymous African street vendors in cities across Europe. Through the voice of a thinly veiled first-person narrator, Pap Khouma offers us a chilling, intimate, and often ironic glimpse into the life of an illegal immigrant. Khouma invents a life for himself as an itinerant trader of carved elephants, small ivories, and other "African" trinkets, struggling to maintain courage and dignity in

the face of despair and humiliation. Constantly on the run from the

authorities, he finds insight into the vicissitudes of law and politics, the constraints of citizenship, national borders, skin color, and the often paralyzing difficulties of obtaining basic human needs. His story reveals a contemporary Europe struggling to come to terms with its multiracial, multireligious, and multicultural identity.