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Autore	Buonanno Milly
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Nota di contenuto	FrontCover; Title; Copyright; Contents; Dedication; Introduction; Invisible Italian TV drama; The structure of the book; 1. Building the Nation: The Origins of Italian TV Drama 1.; The words to say it; The domestic stage; Literary adaptation; Electronic library; The implication approach; The foreign sources of a national genre; Literature and history; 2. The Cinematic Turn and the Americanization of the Television Landscape; Keeping the cinema at bay; The cinematic turn; The rise of the miniseries; The flood of American imports; The Italian response to Dallas 3. The Political Career of a Popular Fiction: La Piovra (The Octopus: The Power of the Mafia)A phenomenon of popularity; Bond and beyond; An intertextual octopus; The origins of La Piovra's success; Mafia plots; Social melodrama; The fascination of the loser; Italian-style serial; Television event; The Mafia and politics; 4. A Place in the Sun: The First Italian Soap Opera; Escape from fiction; Turning point; The close encounter of local and global; An Italian sense of place; A seminal story; 5. Mimetic Heroes and Ironic Leaders: The Genesis and Evolution of Italian Police Drama The season of the detective storyStories from the sea; Stories from the soil; The funny detective; The hero is 'one of us'; A 'heritage' trilogy; Squads; The girls with a gun; Women on top; The merging of sailor's and peasant's storytelling; 6. In the Footsteps of La Piovra: Twenty

years of Mafia stories in Italian TV drama; Mob stories are always hot: a tour d'horizon; A 20-year cycle; The centrality of Cosa Nostra; Facts burst into fiction; Heroes and villains; A male-dominated genre and its exceptions; The Mafia is everywhere

7. Life Stories: A Heroic Enclave and the Rise of the Religious BiopicThe rebirth of the biopic; Anti-heroic society; The biography genre and the shifting definition of the fame; A heroic enclave; The Bible Project; A plural catholicism; 8. The Re-enactment of the Past and the Politics of Memory and Identity in Contemporary Drama; The temporal turn; Past and present; Television as historian; Divided, denied, shared memory; 'We are not like them'; Conclusion; The convocative power of the mainstream drama; Visibility for what?; References; Index; BackCover

Sommario/riassunto

Since its inception in the mid-1950s, the television drama has emerged as the dominant medium of contemporary storytelling in Italian society,