Acknowledgements

Like so much of Italian public and political life, this is a work of fiction. It is however based to some extent on fact, and could not have been written without the help of many friends and contacts in Sicily and elsewhere, some of whom asked not to be named. I would particularly like to thank Dottore Domenico Percolla of the *Questura di Catania*, Karen Bass, Livia Borghese, Michael Burgoyne, Kirk Peterson, Jonathan Raban, Guido Ruotolo, Alexander Stille, and above all my wife Kathrine.

> Catania – Seattle – Rome February 1999