



Miriam Moss

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## IBBY Italia

November 15, 2018

Visiting the IBBY Italia Camp on the island of Lampedusa was an extraordinary experience. Thank you to everyone at the *Biblioteca di Lampedusa per bambini e ragazzi* for making me so welcome and allowing me to share their special space.



The library is a real achievement, a bright, creative dynamo in the heart of the town. I'm full of admiration for what the librarians and the volunteers achieve there.



## OVERVIEW

Oct/Nov 2018

**Working in the Library on the island of Lampedusa**

October 2018

**The Royal Society of Literature's VS Pritchett Prize**

Sept 15th 2018

**Banbury Literary Live**

**The Society of Authors Reading for Pleasure Award**

Sept 2017 - April 2018

**Writing and school visits**

July 17th

**West Cork Literary Festival**

June 17th

**Empowering Authors Conference**

June 13th

**Empathy Day**

March 31st

**Jewish Book Council review of Girl on a Plane**

March 27th 2017

**North Herts Schools Book Award**

March 13th 2017



## Fish Short Story Competition

January 26th 2017

**Thiththagalla School, Sri Lanka**

January 10th 2017

**Chailey School Girl on a Plane Presentation and workshop**

December: Netley Marsh

**Empathy workshops**

November: Girl on a Plane

**Crossroadreview, US**

October 21st: Girl on a Plane

Nominated for the **2017 CILIP**

**Carnegie Medal.**

September 22nd:

**Roedean School Girl on a Plane Presentation**

Sept 21st: Girl on a Plane

**Teenreads review, USA**

Sept 20th: Girl on a Plane review

**Center for Children's Books, USA**

Sept 19th: Girl on a Plane

**Booklist Review, USA**

September 13th 2016:

**US edition of Girl On A Plane published**

August 13th: Girl on a Plane

**Edinburgh Festival Event, UK**

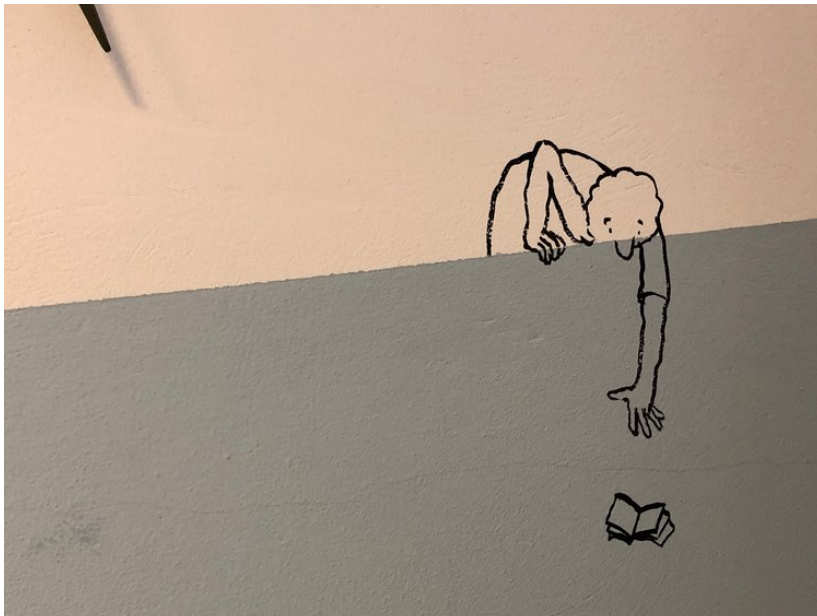
August issue: Girl on a Plane Review **VOYA Magazine, USA**

July 8th: Girl on a Plane review **School Library Journal, USA**

June 4th 2016: Girl on a Plane

**Hay Festival event, UK**

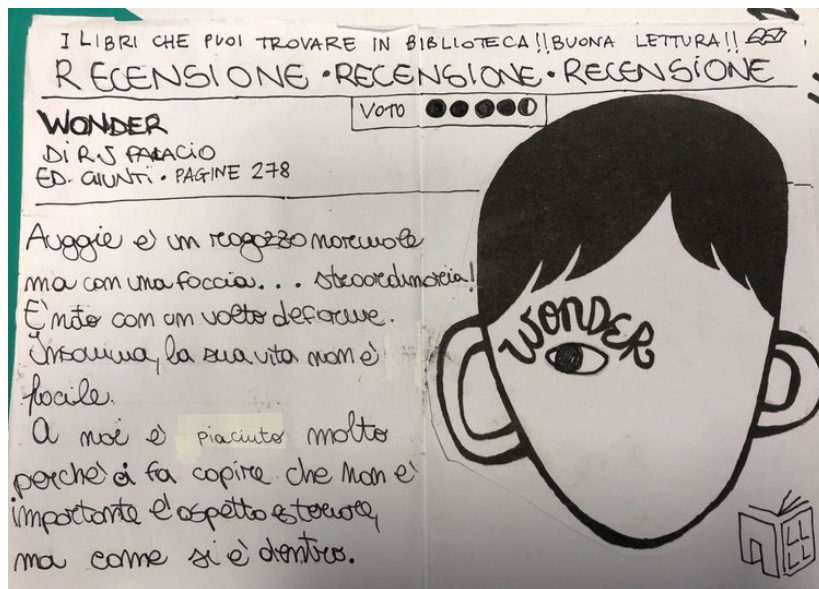
When I arrive I'm challenged *not* to be busy, *not* to perform as usual, but to observe, to learn instead. And I do. I see experienced practitioners slow everything down to a mindful observance that is entirely focused on each and every visitor. I read some wonderful picture books and use silent books (those without pictures) that make such sense in a community that doesn't speak a common language.



The camp is perfect for those who are happy not knowing what might unfold in the day ahead. For me, there are some magic moments. A family of four stand in the doorway, the father encouraging his wife and two small daughters inside. The mother sits down at one of the children's tables and adjusts her headscarf. Her six-year old daughter clings to her mother's dress sobbing, a picture of abject terror. I'm sitting nearby with a book open on my lap. The mother tries to calm her daughter and, as she begins to quieten she looks around. Her eyes light upon a balloon hanging from the ceiling. I

touch her arm gently, and look at the balloon. She hesitates, doesn't know whether to trust me. Then she nods. I stand and quietly put out my hand. She slips hers into it. We collect the balloon. She takes it to her mother, who says something I can't understand to her. The little girl looks at me, approaches and places a small kiss on my cheek. I offer her my picture book. She takes it, sits down and starts to turn the pages. Later that day, she waves to me in the street. She's back in the library the following day.

Later, a 13 year-old boy, one of the young librarians, shows me the book review he's written. It's in the monthly magazine he makes with three friends.



There's a poem he's written in it too. I read it out loud. It's very good. He tells me soon he's going to the *Scientifico Lyceo*, the secondary school in Palermo on the mainland, where he'll have to board.

I visit the primary school nearby - one of the three schools on the island - and take part in two workshops on gender and identity.



May 16th: Girl on a Plane  
**Shortlisted - Historical Association's 2016 Young Quills Award**

April 25 - 29th:  
**Sharjah Book Festival**

March 5-12th:  
**Hornbill School, Brunei**

March 18th: Girl on a Plane  
**Armadillo Review**

February 8th: Girl on a Plane  
**Shortlisted- Portsmouth Book Award**

February 3rd: Girl on a Plane  
**Longlisted - Branford Boase Award**

January 20th: Girl on a Plane  
talk at **Cadogan Hall**

November 22nd:  
**Banbury Literary Live Festival**

November 18th: Reading  
**Supporting Europe's Refugees**

November 4th: story reading  
**CBeebies TV**

October 28: blog  
**CWIG Conference**

October 8: Revealed!  
**US book cover**

October 4: interactive workshop  
**Henley Literary Festival**

October: Review  
**Viva Lewes**

September 28: podcast  
**Love Lewes**

September 14/15/16: interview



**BBC Radio Sussex and Surrey**

September 12: interview

**BBC World Service**

September 9: Regional

interviews - **BBC Live Radio**

**Lancashire and Oxford**

September 8: Interview

**BBC TV South-East Today**

September 6: Presentation

**Society of Author's**

**Conference**

September 5: Interview replay

**Weekend Woman's Hour,**

September 4: 5-star **review -**

**Books for Keeps**

September 3: **Girl on a Plane**

**published!**

September 2: Exclusive extract

**THE INDEPENDENT**

September 1: Live interview

**Woman's Hour**

August 30: Interview

**The Sunday Times**

Girl on a Plane review

**THE INDEPENDENT**

Girl on a Plane 5-star review

**Bookbag**

I listen to talks in the library in the evenings in Italian, two by the renowned anthropologist Marco Amie and another that makes a fascinating comparison between the experiences of immigration on the islands of Lampedusa and Lesbos in Greece.

When I have time, I read the island's history, and am moved by its story. I explore the port...



visit the turtle hospital...



and am shocked by the amount of plastic recovered from so many of their stomachs.



I listen to a heart-breaking talk at the cemetery and visit many unmarked graves belonging to hundreds of

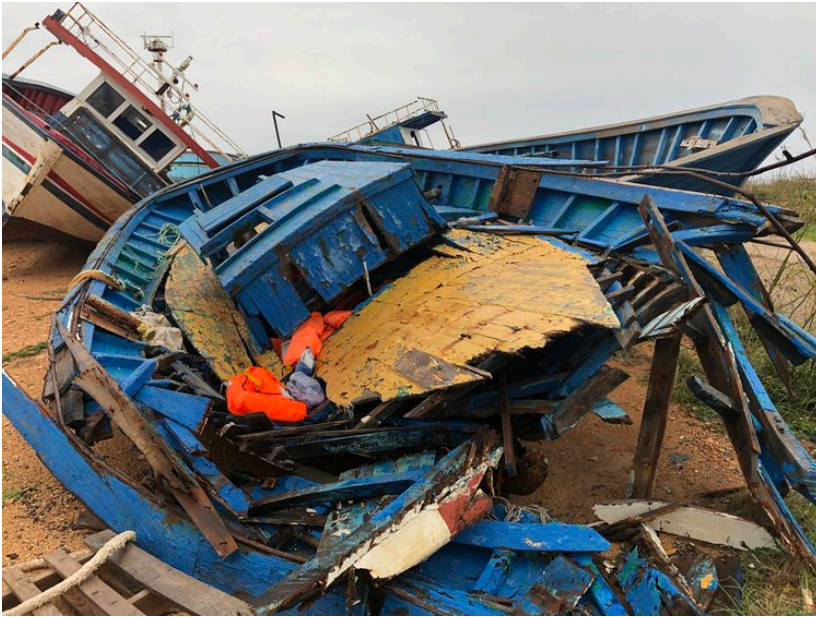
drowned refugees that didn't make it alive across the Mediterranean.



I visit the boat graveyard...



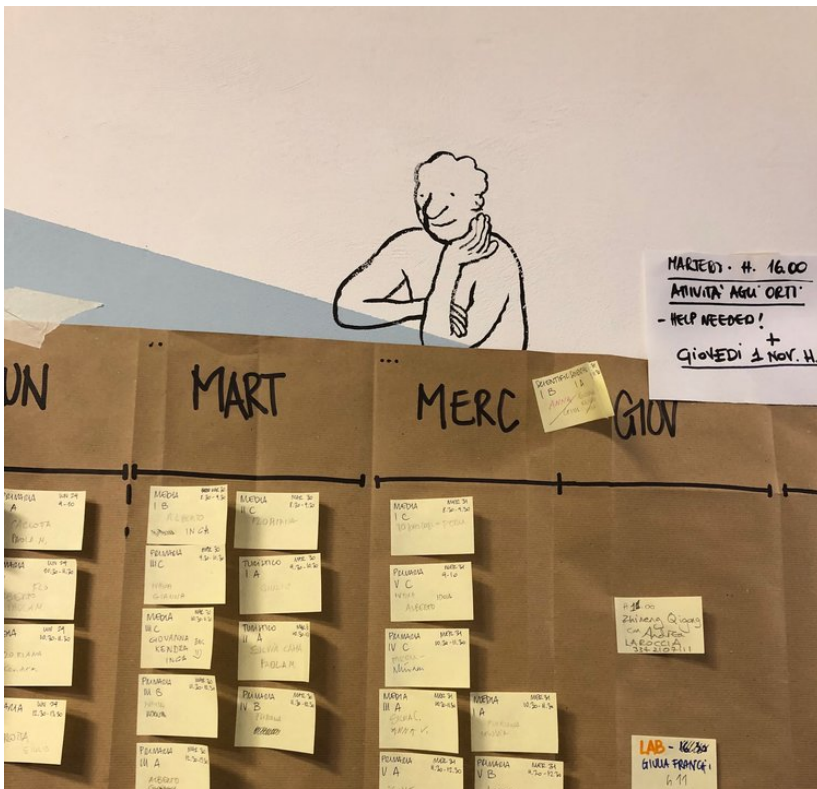
where boats are labelled with the date and the number of people who perished on them. Many have never been identified.

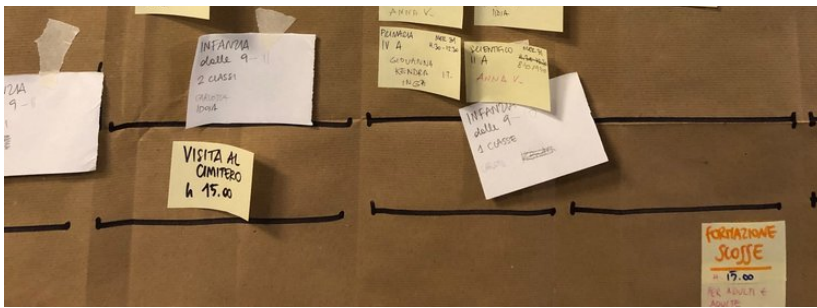


The heavy rain that falls during my visit seems immaterial, as the air from the sea is as soft as silk.

It's a very intense, very concentrated experience - and a remarkably gentle one too.

One not easily forgotten.





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## Working in the IBBY Library on Lampedusa

October 24, 2018

I'm taking part in the International IBBY Camp (29th Oct - Nov 3rd) working in the Library on Lampedusa Island, both with those who volunteer all the year round in the Library and those who find it the first real place of culture and welcome in their journey across the Mediterranean.

More later ....

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## The Royal Society of Literature, 2018 VS Pritchett Short Story Prize

October 24, 2018

Delighted to hear that my latest short story, 'Cathy' has been longlisted for the 2018 V.S. Pritchett Short Story Prize - from over 700 entries!

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July 11, 2018