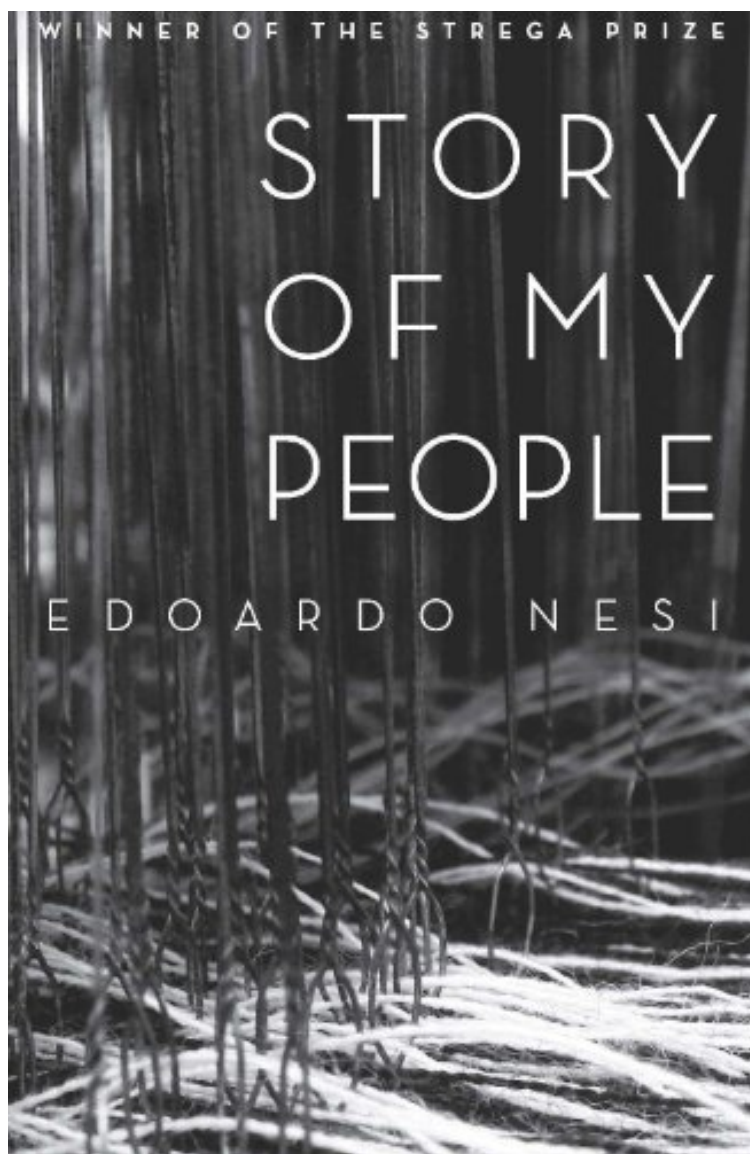


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# Story of My People



*Par Edoardo Nesi*  
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## Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurWinner of the 2011 Strega Prize, this blend of essay, social criticism, and memoir is a striking portrait of the effects of globalization on Italys declining economy.Starting from his familys textile factory in Prato, Tuscany, Edoardo Nesi examines the recent shifts in Italys manufacturing industry. Only one generation ago, Prato was a thriving industrial center that prided itself on craftsmanship and quality. But during the last decade, cheaply made goodsproduced overseas or in Italy by poorly paid immigrantssaturated the market, making it impossible for Italian companies to keep up. In 2004 his family was forced to sell the textile factory. How this could have happened? Nesi asks, and what are the wider repercussions of losing businesses like his familys, especially for Italian culture?Story of My People is a denouncement of big

business, corrupt politicians, the arrogance of economists, and cheap manufacturing. Its a must-read for anyone seeking insight into the financial crisis thats striking Europe today. Revue de presse" Edoardo Nesi has written a short memoir of great charm, for all its sadness a pleasure to read Mr. Nesis sense of loss will touch hearts much farther afield, wherever the Wests world-class industries have fallen to free trade and the Internet. The New York Times This unique bookpart memoir, part argument for the reformation of the global financial systemtumbles out of itself on the page, and reading it was an equally propulsive experience. It rhapsodizes and slaps its chest in true Italian style, makes frequent allusions with a disarming bluntness (to Machiavelli, to Richard Ford, to Paul Newman movies), and always has something to say. I finished and instantly went back to re-read certain pages. John Jeremiah Sullivan, author of Pulphead and writer for the New York Times Magazine Who would have thought that memoir and polemic could work together so well? A totally absorbing story, and a portrait of modern Italy. Sarah Bakewell, author of How to Live "A searing indictment of globalizations failures, and the inability of politicians and pundits to consider its impact on real lives...much of the book is sad, honest, and biting; overall it is an important work." Publishers Weekly "We all know that globalization has disrupted industries around the world, but we dont always connect disruption to the destruction of ways of lifethe social fabric that globalization can rend and tear. Story of My People, by Edoardo Nesi, a polemic fueled by grief and rage atthe devastating effect of globalization on the Italian textile industry, makes that connection tangible." Strategy+Business "At once a memoir, a requiem, and a work of social and literary criticism about the toll this shift took on his city and psyche...fiercely angry, conflicted, and often beautifully written." Bookforum Story of My People is one of those knockout punches that literature throws at the world every now and then Sandro Veronesi Story of My People is a well-told story but also an eloquent and pained wail about loss. Globalization has swallowed up the artisans, the families and the beautiful fabrics at the heart of Pratos weaving industry, and a world has unraveled like a skein of yarn. While Nesi clearly understands the economics and even the inevitability of this transition for Italys family manufacturers, he will not let this world disappear without describing it for the rest of us. A business and family can do everything right and still have everything go wrong. This is an important, poetic, and personal work of industrial history. Pietra Rivoli, author of The Travels of a T-shirt in the Global Economy A remarkable evocation of the vanished world of artisan capitalism in Tuscany, swept away by hurricane globalization. Why should this destruction be? asks the author and former owner of a small family textile business, in a mingled cry of pain and anger. Robert Skidelsky, author of How Much is Enough?: Money and the Good Life Nesi is one of the few writers that have succeeded in depicting the dark underbelly of globalism. Luciano Lanna, Secolo dItalia A beautiful and touching book Whether or not you agree with its message, it has one undeniable virtue: it makes you think. Giorgio Marabini, Sabato Sera Story of My People is a transcendent song, both epic and lyrical, on industrial and human labor. Antonio Pennacchi Do you know what I would do if I became leader of the Democratic Party? I would take this courageous book and turn it into a chapter of my political project. Story of My People is about the love of a people for its roots, a community for its land, and a city for its industry. Massimo Giannini "A tour de force that spares no one." Kirkus "...few have produced an account of globalizations effects as personal, poignant, and beautifully written as Edoardo Nesis Story of My People." New York Journal of Books "...thought provoking and beautifully written, and also heartbreaking..." Hudson Valley News "...now we have another classic by someone on the wrong end of history..." Finance Development "The story of Prato's demise is lyrically written and deeply moving." Finance Development "...an eloquent, emotion-laden, and, I think, essential addition to the globalization bookshelf....If I was a publisher, this is a book Id be proud to put out." Strategy+Business "From the 1950s to the 1980s, much of Italy was a charmed place, its beauty wreathed in wealth. Edoardo Nesis gracefully nostalgic memoir, Story of My People, is of that time You feel saddened for the narrator and his family, and what they have lost. You feel saddened with him too, as you recognise in yourself something of the same regret for a world not just an Italian one that is passing. The fact that this regret is thickly gilded with sentiment makes it no less poignant. Edoardo Nesi has mined his own memories, and thus touches ours...The Financial Times "The brilliance of this depressing story (winner of Italys Strega Prize) is Edoardo Nesis imaginative fusion of history and autobiography, infused with vignettes of the lives of individual workers who have suffered. Yes, this is also the authors account of how he became a successful writer. But most of all it is the depiction of an era that is just about over, at the end of its collapse." Counterpunch...an eloquent, angry, exquisitely written little book. A combination of memoir and cultural commentary. Emily St. John Mandel, author of The Lola Quartet and Last Night in Montreal "Story of My People is an angry, eloquent, and beautifully written book..." The Millions "[Story of My People] has

the driving force of a polemic but the wisdom of a novel, and is the only book about the global recession I'd recommend to anybody, though you need have no interest in the economy to pick it up. It is one of the best books I've read all year without question. "Library Reads" ...Nesi forms a sharp and timely indictment of runaway globalization, fast fashion, and big business. "Blouin Artinfo" [Nesi's] heartbreaking narrative describes a struggling country that is just as fascinating and rich as the Italy advertised through the tourism industry, and much more real. "Triquarterly" [T]he single best book about globalization in long time. [Story of my People] takes the abstract implications of globalization and reduces it to a very personal level. "Publishing Perspectives" [A]n unfamiliar mix of memoir and the politics of business...worth reading for anyone who likes good writing and wants a deeper understanding of either contemporary Europe or global business. Book News Presentation de l'diteur Winner of the 2011 Strega Prize, this blend of essay, social criticism, and memoir is a striking portrait of the effects of globalization on Italy's declining economy. Starting from his family's textile factory in Prato, Tuscany, Edoardo Nesi examines the recent shifts in Italy's manufacturing industry. Only one generation ago, Prato was a thriving industrial center that prided itself on craftsmanship and quality. But during the last decade, cheaply made goods produced overseas or in Italy by poorly paid immigrants saturated the market, making it impossible for Italian companies to keep up. In 2004 his family was forced to sell the textile factory. How this could have happened? Nesi asks, and what are the wider repercussions of losing businesses like his family's, especially for Italian culture? Story of My People is a denouncement of big business, corrupt politicians, the arrogance of economists, and cheap manufacturing. It's a must-read for anyone seeking insight into the financial crisis that's striking Europe today.