

# The Book of Morfeo

Stefano Benni

In *The Book of Morfeo* (originally published as *La traccia dell'angelo*) best-selling Italian author Stefano Benni uses his unique blend of magical realism and satire to tell the tale of Morfeo, a victim of a freak accident at the age of eight, who finds himself, as an adult, addicted to prescription drugs through a combination of hurried doctors and predatory drug companies. Benni uses Morfeo's plight to, as one critic put it, deliver "a vibrant condemnation of the power of the pharmaceutical companies and their pursuit of profit by flooding the market with addictive products."

Benni's satirical pen fills Morfeo's world with outrageous, bizarre characters, including "Bad Angels" who have rebelled against God out of pity for mankind and who will be instrumental in Morfeo's eventual salvation. Through them, Benni explores the question of good and evil and how we engage with that question in our daily lives. This novella, which has been called "literary cognac," is a passionate and moving story about love, struggle, rebellion and redemption. It is being published in English for the first time.

## PRAISE

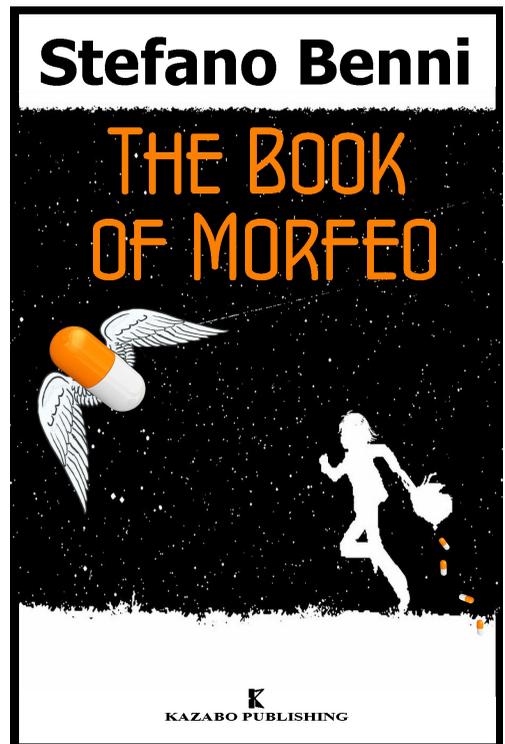
"A powerful, poignant book" *La Repubblica*

"The best Benni in recent years" *RAI News*

"Offers salvation at the edge of the abyss." *La Stampa*

"A varied universe, narrated in surreal colors, that takes us by the hand and leads us to an unexpected conclusion." *L'Almanacco della Scienza*

Stefano Benni (born 1947), a satirical writer, poet, and journalist, is widely considered to be Italy's greatest living literary author. He has sold 2.5 million copies of his books in Italy (equivalent to about 13.5 million copies in the U.S. market) and has been translated into 32 languages.



## FICTION/LITERARY

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