

5 Italian Mystery Novels

Learn Italian by Reading - Quick Reference Guide (B1-B2)

Book Title	Author	Level	Why Perfect for Learners	TV Series
L'allieva (The Student)	Alessia Gazzola	B1-B2 ■■■	- Fresh, modern language - Lively dialogues - Medical terms in context - First-person narration - Light humor	■ Yes (RaiPlay)
Il suggeritore (The Prompter)	Donato Carrisi	B1-B2 ■■■■	- Direct, cinematic style - Fast-paced thriller - Crime vocabulary - Short chapters - Intense emotions	■ No
Testimone inconsapevole (Involuntary Witness)	Gianrico Carofiglio	B1-B2 ■■■	- Precise legal language - Balanced structure - Legal vocabulary - Social themes - Justice system insights	■ No
I bastardi di Pizzofalcone (The Bastards of Pizzofalcone)	Maurizio de Giovanni	B2 ■■■■	- Realistic, colloquial - Neapolitan expressions - Regional variants - Authentic dialogues - Southern culture	■ Yes (RaiPlay)
La briscola in cinque (BarLume Mysteries)	Marco Malvaldi	B1 ■■	- Irony and lightness - Brilliant dialogues - Everyday Italian - Idiomatic expressions - Tuscan humor	■ Yes (Sky/JustWatch)

■ Quick Reading Tips:

- 1. Don't look up every word** – Understand from context
- 2. Read aloud** – Practice pronunciation (10 min/day)
- 3. Keep a notebook** – Write new expressions and idioms
- 4. Don't rush** – Even 5-10 pages daily is great progress
- 5. Watch TV series** – Reinforce learning with adaptations

■ Difficulty Level Legend:

■■ = Easier (B1) | ■■■ = Moderate (B1-B2) | ■■■■ = Challenging (B2)