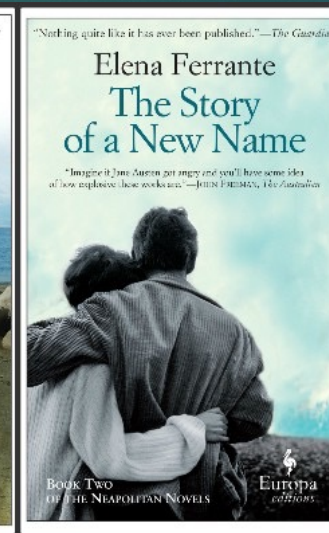
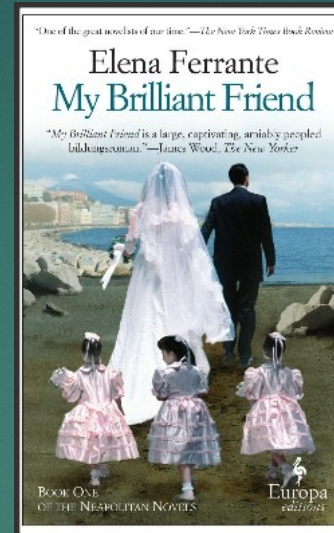
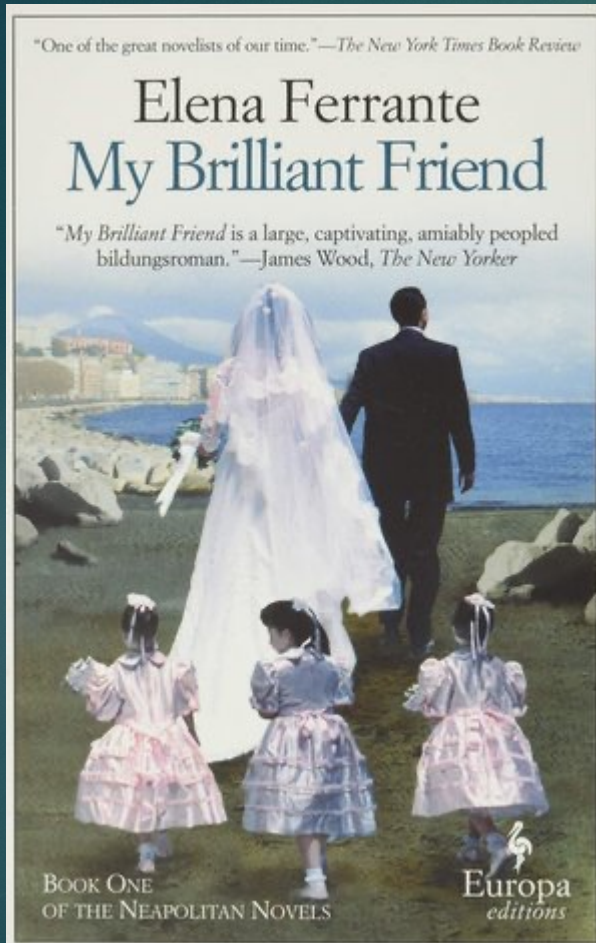


Elena Ferrante: *My Brilliant Friend* (2011)



Neapolitan Novels



HBO series

Naples 50's

How is the neighbourhood depicted?

How is Elena and Lila's childhood?



Stradone

Elena is known as the “good girl” and Lila as the “bad girl”

Describe their personality and their relationship

Are they both in the same socio-economic situation?

How do they path diverge in the story?

Lila & Lenù skip school

“I despite the rain, would have continued on the road, I felt far from everything and everyone, and distance—I discovered for the first time—extinguished in me every tie and every worry; Lila abruptly repented of her own plan, she had given up the sea, she had wanted to return to the confines of the neighborhood” (78–79)

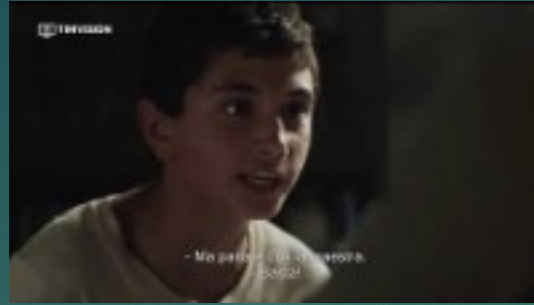


Lila & Lenù





Elena and her family about studying



Rino wants to help Lila with her studies



My Brilliant Friend

“What had to change... (117)
Lila about business

“During that period I felt strong... (163)
Lila hangs out with workers,
Elena with students

“Like me, she [Lila] too had been forbidden to offend not only Don Achille but also his family. It was like that. We didn’t know the origin of that fear-rancor-hatred-meekness that our parents displayed toward the Carraccis and transmitted to us, but it was there, it was a fact, like the neighborhood, its dirty-white houses, the fetid odor of the landings, the dust of the streets.” (51)

Don Achille is an important character in the first part.

Why is it?

How is he depicted?

What happened when Lila and Elena face him?

“I felt under the soles of my sandals objects that squeaked, glass, gravel, insects ... (56)

A thickset figure emerged from the shadows. He had a long torso, short legs, arms that hung to his knees, and a cigarette in his mouth; you could see the embers” (65)

“Men returned home embittered by their losses, by alcohol, by debts, by deadlines, by beatings ... (83)



Carracci Family

Dissolving the Margins: Before and after changes and continuities

"Thus, she returned to theme of *before* (...) anything you could name was before us (...)

Wanted to try to get out of the *before* (...)before us some ugly things happened: our fathers, some in one way, some in another, didn't behave well; from this moment, we take note of that and show that we children are better than they were." (164, 171)

"So Stefano had continued to go to work, without defending the honor of his fiancée... (273)

Elena to Lila: "I spoke of the before and the after, of the old generation and of ours, of how we were different..." (311)



Marcello Solara



Stefano Caracci



Nino Sarratore

What changes in the neighbourhood and their lives are depicted throughout the story?

How are the class, gender and language constraints play out in these changes?

“The death of Don Achille had slowly detached his threatening shadow from that place and from the whole family” (108)

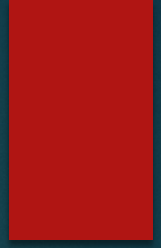
The Bar Solara expands and becomes “a well-stocked pastry shop ... which on Sunday was crowded with men, young and old, buying pastries for their families” (107)

“In other words, everything was quivering, arching upward as if to change its characteristics, not to be known by accumulated hatreds, tensions, ugliness, but rather, to show a new face” (109)



Fiat 1100





NYE dinner at Stefano's house page 172

"Stefano seemed convinced he could bring a new era of peace and well-being for the neighbourhood ... (249)

Lila and Stefano don't take revenge on Marcello Solara 272-273

Lila allows Marcello Solara in her wedding 311

Who's the brilliant friend?

How would the book be different if told from the point of view of Lila or another character?