



MASSIMO BAISTROCCHI

THE CASTLE AND ITS LOVERS

IL CASTELLO E I SUOI AMANTI

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Mystery, passion and adventure, mingled together in a novel that will keep readers spellbound till the last page

In a fluid and easy style, the book reconstructs an engaging story from actual events, filled with dramatic turns, passionate loves and adventurous lives. Schwerinsburg is an old castle, built in Namibia in the early twentieth century by German troops, sent by the mother country to defend the colonies from attacks by local tribes. Eighty years later, an Italian archeologist is called there to unravel the mysteries of the ancient mansion, enlarged and renovated by its new owners, and to discover a secret passage. After an endless search, eventually bringing to light forgotten things and people, events take an unexpected turn.

“We reached the Internet Café and found Annaleen sitting waiting for us at a solitary table, sipping a roiboos pensively. [...] I don’t know if I’ll be able to give you any information of interest. When my parents bought Schwerinsburg, I was a little girl and because of me, they told me afterwards, they had to sell it... It’s probably true, it was because of me, as living in the castle had become a nightmare for me [...]. For some time now I’ve been better, I’ve got over that unease, to the point where I can talk freely and tell you about it... but, please, don’t interrupt me, don’t ask questions, wait until my story is finished, as I don’t want to get stalled. I know me, I’m still quite insecure about this whole story, although it was many years ago and I’m better now, but if I stop I might not be able to carry on...”

Born in Japan in 1942, **Massimo Baistrocchi** graduated in Political Science at the Catholic University of Milan. His father’s diplomatic career took him to Argentina, Brazil, Egypt and France. Following in his father’s footsteps, he also became a diplomat, holding important positions at the Italian Embassy in Washington and Moscow. A former Consul General of Italy in Hong Kong, he was appointed Italy’s Ambassador to Ghana, Togo and Namibia and, from 2001 to 2004, President of the Inter-Departmental Commission for the Recovery of Works of Art. He has been Italy’s Ambassador to Nigeria and Benin since 2006. A journalist and writer, with a particular interest in ethnology and archeology, he is also a photographer and a painter, and his works have been shown in several one-man and collective exhibitions both in Italy and abroad.

