

THE  TIMES

Fiction

The Silence of the Wave by Gianrico Carofiglio

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Admirers of Gianrico Carofiglio's four novels featuring the Bari lawyer Guido Guerrieri should know that *The Silence of the Wave* is not another one. It's very different, but just as absorbing and beautifully written, and a work of considerable subtlety and depth. Its main character, Roberto Marías, is a policeman, currently inactive because of his mental frailty. Once he'd been an adept undercover operative, a posting that ended unhappily. He now pays weekly visits to his psychiatrist in Rome during which, slowly, his telltale memories surface. During his period of treatment he meets Emma, a lively and attractive woman with her own problems. Their clumsy burgeoning friendship is conveyed with moving delicacy. The crimes that qualify the novel for the label crime fiction only emerge towards the end, a neat conclusion to highly satisfying read.