



Publication date: **25th May 2023**

Category: **Non-Fiction**

BIC: **FA, FYT**

Print RRP: **£15.99**

Print ISBN: **978-1-913109-20-2**

Paperback: **198 x 129mm**

Extent: **544 pages**

E-book RRP: **£6.99**

Reviews:

'In this strikingly lucid and compassionate novel, Igiaba Scego uses her formidable talents to remind us that the so-called forgotten histories of Black women cannot be silenced forever. *The Colour Line* is a love story, and it is an ode to sisterhood. It is also a testament to the possibilities of liberation that rest in every act against injustice, and in every moment of artistic creation' **Maaza Mengiste**

'In its reckoning with racism and colonialism. *The Colour Line* explores the potential for artists to reclaim line and colour in the name of justice' **Selby Wynn Schwartz**

'An intense and evocative book about the lasting traumas of racial injustice, the healing power of creativity, and the importance of representation in history. *The Colour Line* is a love letter to Black female artists who are all too often erased from history.'

Ruth Ben-Ghiat

The Colour Line

Igiaba Scego

Translated by John Cullen and Gregory Conti

Keynote:

Inspired by true events, this gorgeous, haunting novel intertwines the lives of two Black female artists more than a century apart.

Description:

It was the middle of the nineteenth century when Lafanu Brown audaciously decided to become an artist. The daughter of a Native American woman and an African-Haitian man, Lafanu had the rare opportunity to study, travel, and follow her dreams, thanks to her indomitable spirit, but not without facing intolerance and violence. Now, in 1887, living in Rome as one of the city's most established painters, she is ready to tell her fiancé about her difficult life, which began in a poor family forty years earlier.

In 2019, an Italian art curator of Somali origin is desperately trying to bring to Europe her younger cousin, who is only sixteen and has already tried to reach Italy on a long, treacherous journey. While organizing an art exhibition that will combine the paintings of Lafanu Brown with the artworks of young migrants, the curator becomes obsessed with the life and secrets of the nineteenth-century painter.

Weaving together these two vibrant voices, Igiaba Scego has crafted a powerful exploration of what it means to be a woman, and particularly a Black woman, in a foreign country, yesterday and today.

Sales Points:

- Throws a powerful light on what it means to be a black woman artist today and yesterday
- Author in UK for publication and festival appearances
- First UK publication of a rising star of Italian writing

Author Biography:

Igiaba Scego was born in Rome to a family of Somali ancestry. She holds a PhD in education on postcolonial subjects and has done extensive academic work in Italy and around the world. The Italian edition of *The Colour Line* won the Premio Napoli. Her previous novels include *Beyond Babylon* (2019) and *Adua* (2017).

Publisher:

HopeRoad

Email: info@hoperoadpublishing.com

Tel: 020 7370 5367

Twitter: @hoperoadpublish

Website: www.hoperoadpublishing.com

Distribution:

NBN International

10 Thornberry Road, Plymouth, PL6 7PP

Tel: +44 (0)1752 202301

Sales:

Inpress Ltd

Milburn House, Dean Street

Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 1LF

Contact: Jane Pike (jane@inpressbooks.co.uk)