



The English-Speaking Union
Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center

Clash of Civilizations Over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio
The author will present his book, followed by a film screening.

Friday, May 15 1 PM Garden Lounge

Amara Lakhous is a member of the ESU’s Andrew Romay New Immigrant Center. He came to the ESU to improve his English and learn about resources available to recent New Yorkers. Amara is a writer who holds a degree in philosophy from the University of Algiers and another in cultural anthropology from *La Sapienza*, University of Rome.



Clash of Civilizations Over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio (2008) is Amara’s award-winning novel, translated from the Italian by Ann Goldstein (editor at *The New Yorker*.)

About the book: *A small, culturally mixed community living in an apartment building in the center of Rome is thrown into disarray when one of the neighbors is murdered. An investigation ensues, and as each of the victim’s neighbors is questioned, the reader is offered an all-access pass into the most colorful neighborhood in contemporary Rome. Each character takes his or her turn center-stage, “giving evidence,” recounting his or her story: the dramas of immigration, the daily equivocations of immigrants, the fears and misunderstandings of a life spent on society’s margins, abused by mainstream culture’s fears, indifference, preconceptions and insensitivity. What emerges is a touching story that is common to us all, whether we live in Rome or in Los Angeles.*

Please read Chapter 5 (pp. 67-71) from the book before May 15. Copies of the chapter are available at the ESU front desk and can be emailed on request. The book is available in bookstores and at online retailers.

After the book discussion we will screen a film based on the book (in Italian, with English subtitles.)

Join us for this exciting event and support our member Amara, before he goes off to Cornell University this fall!

Please email Diandra Kalish to register for the event: dkalish@esuus.org

More information about the author: <http://www.amaralakhous.com>



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF THE UNITED STATES

144 East 39th Street, New York, NY 10016

Tel: 212-818-1200 Fax: 212-867-4177 email: toren@esuus.org website: www.esu-arnic.org