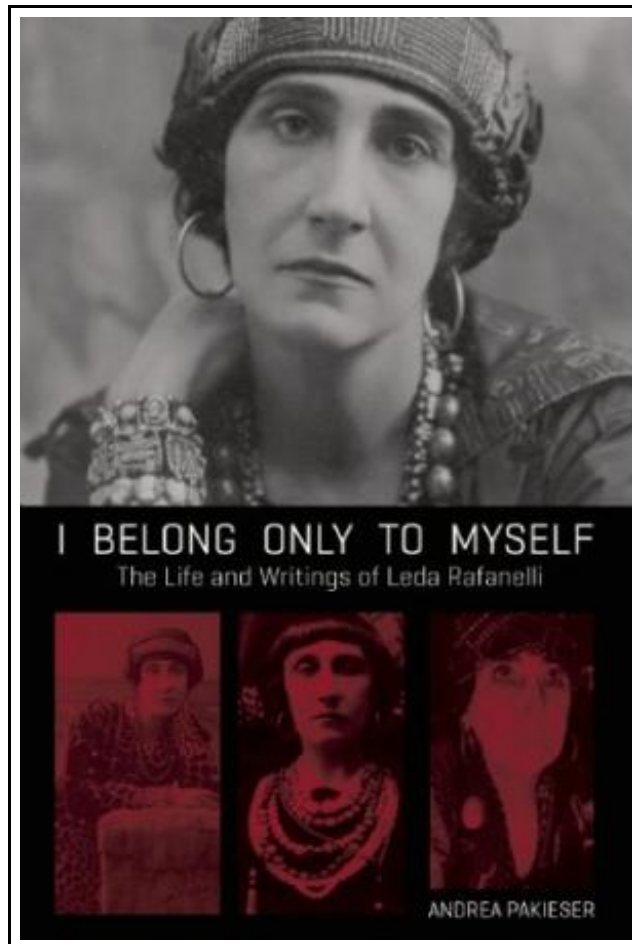


## I Belong Only to Myself: The Life and Writings of Leda Rafanelli



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***(Audra Hodkiewicz)***

## I BELONG ONLY TO MYSELF: THE LIFE AND WRITINGS OF LEDA RAFANELLI



AK Press, United Kingdom, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 208 x 140 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Leda Rafanelli (18801971) was one of the most prolific propagandists in early twentieth century Italy. She began working as a typesetter in her teens, and went on to found and run several publishing houses. Her own body of work included scores of novels, pamphlets, short stories, children s books, essays, and poems. A comrade of Benito Mussolini before he was a fascist, she converted to both anarchism and Islam at the age of twenty, a combination characteristic of her iconoclastic approach to life and politics. Rafanelli developed her own uniquely social form of individualist anarchism, which shunned the egoist trappings of the times, and practiced a deeply personal form of Islam even as she denounced religion. She countered both patriarchy and bourgeois feminism with femininity, a concept that predates some similar tenets of radical feminism by many decades. As some anarchists fell in with Marinetti and futurism s often reactionary bravado, Rafanelli boldly declared herself a Passist. Weaving excerpts from Rafanelli s novels, poems, and essays (presented here for the first time in English translation) with extensive biographical research, Andrea Pakieser traces a biographical path through the waves of strikes and insurrections that accompanied the shaky foundation of the Italian nation; the evolution and offshoots of the anarchist movement as it mixed and blended with syndicalism and egoist currents; and the chaos and insecurity brought by fascism and global war. Withdrawing from public life after WWII, Leda embarked on a new career as a palm and card reader, while working on writing biographical sketches of her anarchist comrades and continuing to invent her personal and unorthodox forms of freedom. Andrea Pakieser is a writer, researcher, and translator.



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