

As a small boy, Marcello got thrills from beheading flowers, squashing lizards and killing cats... graduating, in time, to murder.



To exercise his abnormality, he entrenches himself in conventions and dedicates himself, with unthinking zeal, to the Fascist cause. But all Marcello's old urges and self-doubts are reawakened when he is ordered to combine his Paris honeymoon with an undercover mission to destroy his old university tutor, now an anti-Fascist agitator...

Cover photograph by Harri Peccinotti