

Ghosts Cesar Aira

Three novels by Cesar Aira combines three short novels by the cult Argentinian writer in one beautifully designed box set.

Irreverent, playful, provocative and prolific, Argentinian author Cesar Aira has written over seventy books and has been acknowledged internationally to be one of the most original and provocative authors in world literature. Collected here are three of his novellas, to be published for the very first time in the UK. In *Ghosts*, an immigrant worker's family are squatting on the haunted construction site of a luxury condominium building. All of the workmen and their families see the ghosts which float around the place, but one teenage girl's interest in them becomes so intense that her mother realizes her life is in the balance. *An Episode in the Life of a Landscape Painter* tells of a point in the

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

life of German painter Johann Moritz Rugendas, when he visits Latin America to paint its spectacular landscapes. There, a strange episode interrupts his trip and irreversibly marks him for life. And in *The Literary Conference*, a young translator called Cesar Aira travels to a literary conference, intent on world domination . . .

Praise for Cesar Aira: 'Once you've started reading Aira, you don't want to stop'

Roberto Bolaño 'Aira is firmly in the tradition of Jorge Luis Borges and W. G. Sebald'

Los Angeles Times Cesar Aira was born in Coronel Pringles, Argentina, in 1949, and has lived in Buenos Aires since 1967. One of the most prolific writers in Argentina, Aira has published more than seventy books.

CENTER FOR FICTION FIRST NOVEL PRIZE LONGLIST “A debut novel as impressive as they come. Tough, wily, dreamlike.” —Seattle Times A decade

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

after fleeing for his life, a man is pulled back to Argentina by an undying love. In 1976, Tomás Orilla is a medical student in Buenos Aires, where he has moved in hopes of reuniting with Isabel, a childhood crush. But the reckless passion that has long drawn him is leading Isabel ever deeper into the ranks of the insurgency fighting an increasingly oppressive regime. Tomás has always been willing to follow her anywhere, to do anything to prove himself. Yet what exactly is he proving, and at what cost to them both? It will be years before a summons back arrives for Tomás, now living as Thomas Shore in New York. It isn't a homecoming that awaits him, however, so much as an odyssey into the past, an encounter with the ghosts that lurk there, and a reckoning with the fatal gap between who he has become and who he once aspired to be. Raising profound questions about the

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

sometimes impossible choices we make in the name of love, Hades, Argentina is a gripping, ingeniously narrated literary debut.

A delirious collection of short stories from the Latin American master of micro-fiction. A delirious collection of short stories from the Latin American master of microfiction, César Aira—the author of at least eighty novels, most of them barely one hundred pages long—*The Musical Brain & Other Stories* comprises twenty tales about oddballs, freaks, and loonies. Aira, with his *fuga hacia adelante* or "flight forward" into the unknown, gives us imponderables to ponder and bizarre and seemingly out-of-context plot lines, as well as thoughtful and passionate takes on everyday reality. The title story, first published in the *New Yorker*, is the *creme de la creme* of this exhilarating collection. Was it a nightmare—the result of a bad

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

case of indigestion—or did something truly scary happen after dinner in the Argentine town of Coronel Pringles? One Saturday night a bankrupt bachelor in his sixties and his mother dine with a wealthy friend. They discuss their endlessly connected neighbors. They talk about a mysterious pit that opened up one day, and the old bricklayer who sometimes walked to the cemetery to cheer himself up. Anxious to show off his valuable antiques, the host shows his guests old windup toys and takes them to admire an enormous doll. Back at home, the bachelor decides to watch some late night TV before retiring. The news quickly takes a turn for the worse as, horrified, the newscaster finds herself reporting about the dead rising from their graves, leaving the cemetery, and sucking the blood of the living—all somehow, disturbingly reminiscent of the dinner party.

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

On Contemporary Art

False Calm

Professor Borges: A Course on English
Literature

The Hare

August

A compilation of the twenty-five lectures Borges gave in 1966 at the University of Buenos Aires, where he taught English literature.

Proof brings us quickly back to the West, where two punks, plus a new recruit ("Wannafuck?" is the opening line as the two punk lesbians accost the chubby and shy Marcia on a quiet street in Buenos Aires), take control of a local supermarket with dire consequences for the hostages.

One of the remarkable qualities of Bolaño's short stories is that they seem to tell what Bolaño called 'the

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

secret story', 'the one we'll never know'. The Return contains thirteen unforgettable tales bent on returning to haunt you, most of them appearing in English for the first time here. Wide-ranging, suggestive, and daring, a Bolaño story is just as likely to concern the unexpected fate of a beautiful ex-girlfriend, the history of a porn star or two embittered police detectives debating their favourite weapons: his plots go anywhere and everywhere and they always surprise. Consider the title piece: a young party animal collapses in a Parisian disco and dies on the dance floor; just as his soul is departing his body, it realizes strange doings are afoot - and what follows next defies the imagination (except Bolaño's own, of course).

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

Short fiction about a doctor who has a gift for making miracles and who is not deterred by his archenemy, Dr. Actyn, who is constantly trying to prove he is a charlatan.

Dinner

The Proof

Search History

**A Journey Through the Ghost
Towns of Patagonia**

Curriculum Vitae

From the groundbreaking author of *Beauty Salon*, *The Large Glass*, *Jacob the Mutant*, Mario Bellatin delivers a rousing, allegorical novel following the widowed keeper of a

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

mysterious garden. When art student Izu's teacher asks her to visit the famous collection of Mr. Murakami, she publishes a firm rebuttal to his curation. Instead of responding with fury, the rich man pursues her hand in marriage. When we meet her in the opening pages, Mrs. Murakami is watching the demolition of her now-dead husband's most prized part of the estate: his garden. The novel that follows takes

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

place in a strange, not-quite-real Japan of the author's imagination. But who, in fact, holds the role of author? As Mr. Murakami's garden is demolished, so too is the narrative's authenticity, leaving the reader to wonder: did this book's creator exist at all? Mario Bellatin has revolutionized the state of Latin American literature with his experimental, shocking novels. With this brand-new, highly anticipated

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

edition of Mrs.
Murakami's Garden from
lauded translator
Heather Cleary, readers
have access to a playful
modern classic that
transcends reality.

The best of contemporary
Argentine author Cecilia
Pavón's short stories.

Poet, writer and
translator Cecilia Pavón
emerged in the late
1990s as one of the most
prolific and central
figures of the young
Argentine literary
scene--the so-called
"Generation of the 90s":

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

artists and writers whose aesthetics and politics were an earnest response to the disastrous impact of American-exported neoliberal policies and the resulting economic crisis of 2001. Their publications were fragile--xeroxed, painted on cardboard--but their cultural impact, indelible. A cofounder of Buenos Aires's independent art space and publishing press Belleza y

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

Felicidad--where a whole generation of soon-to-be-famous Argentine artists showed for the first time--Pavón pioneered the use of "unpoetic" and intimate content, her verses often lifted from text messages or chatrooms, her tone often impish, yet brutally sincere. Fellow Argentine poet Marina Yuszczuk once wrote, "Pavón's writing is filled with minor illuminations and conjectures; her syntax is the syntax of commas,

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

'buts,' and disjunctives, thoughts and impressions organized into a current that flows, branches off, and stands still." In 2015, Pavón's first volume of collected poems, *A Hotel With My Name*, was published in English. Contemporary writers in the US, Australasia and Europe discovered a deep affinity with her work. Pavón's protagonists, Ariana Reines noted, "are absolute women, guileless dreamers,

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

saints in sneakers, on
sidewalks, in jail, in
Zara, on buses, in
nightclubs, in bed."

Translated by Pavón's
own poetic protégé Jacob
Steinberg, Little Joy
collects the best of
Pavón's short stories
written between
1999-2020, originally
published in three
volumes in Spanish.

A cerebral and wildly
funny story revolving
around the incongruity
of a gold Rolex watch
spotted on a lowly
goatherd's wrist Daily

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

conversations in outdoor cafés with cultured friends can help make reality a little more real. Unfortunately, however, during one such conversation, one man spots a gold Rolex watch on a TV soap opera's goatherd. This seemingly small absurdity sets off alarms: strange sensations of deception, distress, and incipient madness. The two men's uneasiness soon becomes a nightmare as the TV adventure advances with a real-life plot —

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

involving a mutant strain of killer algae – to take over the world! The Conversations, a reality within a fiction within a parallel reality, is hilariously funny and surprisingly touching.

Three novels by Cesar Aira combines three short novels by the cult Argentinian writer in one beautifully designed box set. Irreverent, playful, provocative and prolific, Argentinian author Cesar Aira has written over seventy

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

books and has been acknowledged internationally to be one of the most original and provocative authors in world literature. Collected here are three of his novellas, to be published for the very first time in the UK. In Ghosts, an immigrant worker's family are squatting on the haunted construction site of a luxury condominium building. All of the workmen and their families see the ghosts which float around the

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

place, but one teenage girl's interest in them becomes so intense that her mother realizes her life is in the balance. An Episode in the Life of a Landscape Painter tells of a point in the life of German painter Johann Moritz Rugendas, when he visits Latin America to paint its spectacular landscapes. There, a strange episode interrupts his trip and irreversibly marks him for life. And in The Literary Conference, a young translator called

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

Cesar Aira travels to a literary conference, intent on world domination . . . Praise for Cesar Aira: 'Once you've started reading Aira, you don't want to stop' Roberto Bolaño 'Aira is firmly in the tradition of Jorge Luis Borges and W. G. Sebald' Los Angeles Times Cesar Aira was born in Coronel Pringles, Argentina, in 1949, and has lived in Buenos Aires since 1967. One of the most prolific writers in Argentina,

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

Aira has published more than seventy books.

An Episode in the Life of a Landscape Painter ;
The Literary Conference
At Night We Walk in
Circles

The Little Buddhist Monk
& The Proof

An Episode in the Life of a Landscape Painter
Three Novels by César
Aira

A genre-bending exploration of the ghost towns of Patagonia.

Narrative of childhood experience bristles with dramatic humor at each stage of growing up: a first ice cream, school, reading, games,

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

friendship. The novel begins in Aira's hometown, Coronel Pringles. As self-awareness grows, the story rushes forward in a torrent of anecdotes which transform a world of uneventful happiness into something else: the anecdote becomes adventure, and adventure, fable, and then legend. A middle-class, directionless ox of a young man who helps the trash pickers of Buenos Aires's shantytown attracts the attention of a corrupt policeman who would use anyone including innocent kids to break a drug ring he believes is operating in the slum. By the author of *An Episode in the Life of a Landscape Painter*. Original. A breathtaking, suspenseful story

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

of one man's obsessive search to find the truth of another man's downfall, from the author of *The King Is Always Above the People*, which was longlisted for the 2017 National Book Award for Fiction. Nelson's life is not turning out the way he hoped. His girlfriend is sleeping with another man, his brother has left their South American country, leaving Nelson to care for their widowed mother, and his acting career can't seem to get off the ground. That is, until he lands a starring role in a touring revival of *The Idiot President*, a legendary play by Nelson's hero, Henry Nunez, leader of the storied guerrilla theater troupe *Diciembre*. And

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

that's when the real trouble begins. The tour takes Nelson out of the shelter of the city and across a landscape he's never seen, which still bears the scars of the civil war. With each performance, Nelson grows closer to his fellow actors, becoming hopelessly entangled in their complicated lives, until, during one memorable performance, a long-buried betrayal surfaces to force the troupe into chaos. Nelson's fate is slowly revealed through the investigation of the narrator, a young man obsessed with Nelson's story—and perhaps closer to it than he lets on. In sharp, vivid, and beautiful prose, Alarcón delivers a compulsively readable

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

narrative and a provocative meditation on fate, identity, and the large consequences that can result from even our smallest choices.

Shantytown

The Linden Tree

A Novel

The Divorce

Ghosts

A delightful fictional account of the small town Ce'sar Aira grew up in—not so long ago A delightful fictional memoir about César Aira's small hometown. The narrator, born the same year and now living

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

in the same great city (Buenos Aires) as César Aira, could be the author himself.

Beginning with his parents—an enigmatic handsome black father who gathered linden flowers for his sleep-inducing tea and an irrational, crippled mother of European descent—the narrator catalogs memories of his childhood: his friends, his peculiar first job, his many gossiping neighbors, and the landscape and

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

architecture of the provinces. The Linden Tree beautifully brings back to life that period in Argentina when the poor, under the guiding hand of Eva Perón, aspired to a newly created middle class. As it moves from anecdote to anecdote, this charming short novella—touching, funny, and sometimes surreal—invites the reader to visit the source of Aira's extraordinary imagination.

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

Translated into English for the first time, *On Contemporary Art*, a speech by the renowned novelist César Aira, was delivered at a 2010 colloquium in Madrid dedicated to bridging the gap between writing and the visual arts. On Aira's dizzying and dazzling path, everything comes under question—from reproducibility of artworks to the value of the written word itself. In the end, Aira leaves us stranded on the

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

bridge between writing and art that he set out to construct in the first place, flailing as we try to make sense of where we stand. Aira's *On Contemporary Art* exemplifies what the ekphrasis series is dedicated to doing—exploring the space in which words give meaning to objects, and objects shape our words. Like the great writers Walter Benjamin and Hermann Broch before him, Aira operates in the space between

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

fiction and essay writing, art and analysis. Pursuing questions about reproducibility, art making, and limits of language, Aira's unique voice adds new insights to the essential conversations that continue to inform our understanding of art. Drawing on real historical documents but infused with the intensity of imagination, sly humor, and intellectual fire for which award-winning

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

author Rivka Galchen's writing is known, *Everyone Knows Your Mother Is a Witch* is a tale for our time—the story of how a community becomes implicated in collective aggression and hysterical fear. The year is 1619, in the German duchy of Württemberg. Plague is spreading. The Thirty Years War has begun, and fear and suspicion are in the air throughout the Holy Roman Empire. In the small town of Leonberg, Katherina

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

Kepler is accused of being a witch. An illiterate widow, Katherina is known by her neighbors for her herbal remedies and the success of her children, including her eldest, Johannes, who is the Imperial Mathematician and renowned author of the laws of planetary motion. It's enough to make anyone jealous, and Katherina has done herself no favors by being out and about and in everyone's business. So when the deranged and

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

insipid Ursula Reinbold (or as Katherina calls her, the Werewolf) accuses Katherina of offering her a bitter, witchy drink that has made her ill, Katherina is in trouble. Her scientist son must turn his attention from the music of the spheres to the job of defending his mother. Facing the threat of financial ruin, torture, and even execution, Katherina tells her side of the story to her friend and next-door neighbor

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

Simon, a reclusive widower imperiled by his own secrets. Provocative and entertaining, Galchen's bold new novel touchingly illuminates a society, and a family, undone by superstition, the state, and the mortal convulsions of history.

Ghosts
New Directions
Publishing

Mrs. Murakami's Garden
Haunted Houses

Three Streets
Artforum

Ema the Captive

Emilia parses through the five years

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

since her best friend's suicide in this self-deprecating examination of grief and loss."

Search History oscillates between a wild cyberdog chase and lunch-date monologues as Eugene Lim deconstructs grieving and storytelling with uncanny juxtapositions and subversive satire. Frank Exit is dead—or is he? While eavesdropping on two women discussing a dog-sitting gig over lunch, a bereft friend comes to a shocking realization: Frank has been reincarnated as a dog! This epiphany launches a series of adventures—interlaced with digressions about AI-generated fiction, virtual reality, Asian American identity in the arts, and lost

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

parents—as an unlikely cast of accomplices and enemies pursues the mysterious canine. In elliptical, propulsive prose, Search History plumbs the depths of personal and collective consciousness, questioning what we consume, how we grieve, and the stories we tell ourselves. The Divorce tells about a man who takes a vacation from Providence, R.I. in early December to avoid conflicts with his newly divorced wife and small daughter. He travels to Buenos Aires and there, one afternoon, he encounters a series of the most magical coincidences. While sitting at an outdoor café, absorbed in conversation with a talented video artist, a young man with a bicycle is

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

thoroughly drenched by a downpour of water seemingly from rain caught the night before in the overhead awning. The video artist knows the cyclist, who knew a mad hermetic sculptor, whose family used to take the Hindu God Krishna for walks in the neighborhood. More meetings, more whimsical and clever stories continue to weave reality with the absurd until the final, brilliant, wonderful, cataclysmic ending. Ema The Captive, César Aira's second novel, is perhaps closest in style to his popular An Episode in the Life of a Landscape Painter and The Hare In nineteenth-century Argentina, Ema, a delicate woman of indeterminate origins, is captured by

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

soldiers and taken, along with with her newborn babe, to live as a concubine in a crude fort on the very edges of civilization. The trip is appalling (deprivations and rapes prevail along the way), yet the real story commences once Ema arrives at the fort, where she takes on a succession of lovers among the soldiers and Indians, leading to a brave and grand entrepreneurial experiment. As is usual with Aira's work, the wonder of the book is in the details of customs, beauty, and language, and the curious, perplexing reality of human nature.

The Return

Birthday

The Conversations

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

Miles from Nowhere

The Seamstress and the Wind

"Ghosts revolves around an immigrant worker's family squatting on the haunted construction site of a luxury condominium building. All of the workmen and their wives and children see the ghosts, who literally hang around the place, but one teenage girl becomes the most curious. Her questions about the ghosts get so intense that her mother in a chilling splitsecond realizes her daughter's life hangs in the balance
Yoko Tawada--winner of last year's National Book Award--presents three terrific new ghost stories, each named after a street in Berlin

Haunting and transcendently twisted, this English-language debut from a Cuban literary star is a tale of race, magic, belief, and fate
The Stuart family moves

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

*to a marginal neighborhood of Cienfuegos, a city on the southern coast of Cuba. Arturo Stuart, a charismatic, visionary preacher, discovers soon after arriving that God has given him a mission: to build a temple that surpasses any before seen in Cuba, and to make of Cienfuegos a new Jerusalem. In a neighborhood that roils with passions and conflicts, at the foot of a cathedral that rises higher day by day, there grows a generation marked by violence, cruelty, and extreme selfishness. This generation will carry these traits beyond the borders of the neighborhood, the city, and the country, unable to escape the shadow of the unfinished cathedral. Told by a chorus of narrators—including gossips, gangsters, a ghost, and a serial killer—who flirt, lie, argue, and finish one another's stories, Marcial Gala's *The Black Cathedral* is a darkly comic*

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

indictment of modern Cuba, gritty and realistic but laced with magic. It is a portrait of what remains when dreams of utopia have withered away.

“When I was between the ages of five and eight, my sister and I slept in a large attic bedroom. At nightfall the room was filled with gypsies who glided around in clusters. They wore colorful thin flowing dresses and rummaged greedily through my drawers and books as if they would steal everything. I lay in bed as stiff as a board, trying to will myself invisible, praying they would not notice me looking . . . Daylight obliterated the gypsies, rendering them as thoroughly insubstantial as they had been real in the dark. I had a vague understanding that my vision was private, so I never told my family what I saw.” So began Corinne May Botz’s fascination with the invisible, a phenomenon that has profoundly

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

influenced her approach to photography in style and subject matter. For more than ten years, she searched for ghost stories in buildings across the United States. She ventured into these haunted places with both camera and tape recorder in hand; her photographs, accompanied by first-person narratives, reveal a rare glimpse into American interiors, both physical and psychological. This book includes more than eighty haunted buildings, from the legendary to the ordinary, including Edgar Allan Poe's house in Baltimore, a New Jersey tavern, and a Massachusetts farmhouse, a log cabin in Kentucky, and a number of private residences. The text includes ghost stories told to the author by those who lived through the moving rugs, creaking floors, apparitions, disappearing—and reappearing—objects, cries in the night, mysteriously burning

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

*candles, and other unexplained
occurrences.*

Selected Stories

How I Became a Nun

The Miracle Cures of Dr. Aira

The Musical Brain: And Other Stories

Call Me Zebra

*When a Mapuche chief
suddenly goes missing, a
British naturalist is
asked to find him in the
vast Argentine pampas
Clarke, a nineteenth-
century English
naturalist, roams the
pampas in search of that
most elusive and rare
animal: the Legibrerian
hare, whose defining
quality seems to be its*

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

ability to fly. The local Indians, pointing skyward, report recent sightings of the hare but then ask Clarke to help them search for their missing chief as well. On further investigation Clarke finds more than meets the eye: in the Mapuche and Voroga languages every word has at least two meanings. Witty, very ironic, and with all the usual Airian digressive magic, The Hare offers subtle reflections on love, Victorian-era

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

*colonialism, and the
many ambiguities of
language.*

*Two completely different
stories by the
inimitable César Aira
The Little Buddhist Monk
is a story of Asian
invention gone wild, as
a diminutive Korean
Buddhist monk acts as a
tour guide to an
increasingly distraught
French couple on a
working vacation in the
Far East. Proof brings
us quickly back to the
West, where two punks,
plus a new recruit*

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

("Wannafuck?" is the opening line as the two punk lesbians accost the chubby and shy Marcia on a quiet street in Buenos Aires), take control of a local supermarket with dire consequences for the hostages. These two Aira works are as different as night and day. Nevertheless, sex, identity, and modern day economics figure deeply in both of these fast-paced, edgy fictions. Birthday is among the very best of Aira—it will surprise readers

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

new to his work, and will deeply satisfy his many fans Before you know it you are no longer young, and by the way, while you were thinking about other things, the world was changing—and then, just as suddenly you realize that you are fifty years old. Aira had anticipated his fiftieth—a time when he would not so much recall years past as look forward to what lies ahead—but the birthday came and went without

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

much ado. It was only months later, while having a somewhat banal conversation with his wife about the phases of the moon, that he realized how little he really knows about his life. In Birthday Aira searches for the events that were significant to him during his first fifty years. Between anecdotes ,and memories, the author ponders the origins of his personal truths, and meditates on literature meant as much for the writer as for

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar Aira

*the reader, on
ignorance, knowledge,
and death. Finally,
Birthday is a little
sad, in a serene,
crystal-clear kind of
way, which makes it even
more irresistible.*

*Fleeing her 1980s Bronx
family home in the wake
of her unfaithful
father's abandonment and
her mother's mental
illness, Korean teen
Joon struggles through
an adolescence marked by
homeless shelters,
addiction, and demeaning
jobs. A first novel.*

File Type PDF Ghosts Cesar
Aira

40,000 first printing.

Varamo

Hades, Argentina

The Black Cathedral

Everyone Knows Your

Mother Is a Witch

*As he runs wildly amok,
Aira captures childhood's
treasures — the reality of
the fable and the delirium
of invention — in this
hilariously funny book.*

*The Seamstress and the
Wind is a deliciously
laugh-out-loud-funny
novel. A seamstress who
is sewing a wedding dress
for the pregnant local art*

teacher fears that her son, while playing in a big semitruck, has been accidentally kidnapped and driven off to Patagonia. Completely unhinged, she calls a local taxi to follow the semi in hot pursuit. When her husband finds out what's happened, he takes off after wife and child. They race not only to the end of the world, but to adventures in desire — where the wild Southern wind falls in love with the seamstress, and a monster child takes

up with the truck driver. Interspersed are Aira's musings about memory and childhood, and his hometown of Coronel Pringles, with a compelling view of the hard lot of this working-class town, situated not far from Buenos Aires. The surprising, magnificent story of a Panamanian government employee who, one day, after a series of troubles, writes the celebrated masterwork of modern Central American poetry. Unmistakably the work of

César Aira, Varamo is about the day in the life of a hapless government employee who, after wandering around all night after being paid by the Ministry in counterfeit money, eventually writes the most celebrated masterwork of modern Central American poetry, The Song of the Virgin Boy. What is odd is that, at fifty years old, Varamo “hadn’t previously written one sole verse, nor had it ever occurred to him to write one.” Among other

things, this novella is an ironic allegory of the poet's vocation and inspiration, the subtlety of artistic genius, and our need to give literature an historic, national, psychological, and aesthetic context. But Aira goes further still — converting the ironic allegory into a formidable parody of the expectations that all narrative texts generate — by laying out the pathos of a man who between one night and the following morning is

touched by genius. Once again Aira surprises us with his unclassifiable fiction: original and enjoyable, worthy of many a thoughtful chuckle, Varamo invites the reader to become an accomplice in the author's irresistible game.

An Israeli best-seller inspired by elements from the author's life follows a youth's escape from the Holocaust and years in an orphanage to his adult experiences with family life and studies of Japanese Buddhism.

Original.

One man's obsession with Artforum magazine takes us on a hilarious journey to the ultimate meaning of the very creation of art. Artforum is certainly one of César Aira's most charming, quirky, and funny books to date.

Consisting of a series of interrelated stories about his compulsion to collect Artforum magazine, this is not about art so much as it is about passionate obsession. At first we follow our hapless collector from magazine

***shops to used bookstores
hunting for copies of
Artforum. A friend alerts
him to a copy somewhere
and he obsesses about
actually going to get
it—will the shop be open,
will the copy already be
sold? Finally he takes out
a subscription, but then it
never comes, so he
hounds the mailman.
There's the day his stash
of Artforums gets rained
on, but only one absorbs
the water. And
interspersed is a wacky
chapter about the
mystery of the broken***

*clothespins. "How weird."
"How crazy."*

Little Joy

The most unsettling and stunning of Aira's short novels published by New Directions. "On a building site of a new, luxury apartment building, visitors looked up at the strange, irregular form of the water tank that crowned the edifice, and the big parabolic dish that would supply television images to all the floors. On the edge of the dish, a sharp metallic edge on which no bird

would have dared to perch, three completely naked men were sitting, with their faces turned up to the midday sun; no one saw them, of course." — from Ghosts Ghosts is about a construction worker's family squatting on a building site. They all see large and handsome ghosts around their quarters, but the teenage daughter is the most curious. Her questions about them become more and more heartfelt until the story reaches a critical, chilling

moment when the mother realizes that her daughter's life hangs in the balance.

From an award-winning young author, a novel following a feisty heroine's quest to reclaim her past through the power of literature--even as she navigates the murkier mysteries of love. Zebra is the last in a line of anarchists, atheists, and autodidacts. When war came, her family didn't fight; they took refuge in books. Now alone and in exile, Zebra

leaves New York for Barcelona, retracing the journey she and her father made from Iran to the United States years ago. Books are Zebra's only companions--until she meets Ludo. Their connection is magnetic; their time together fraught. Zebra overwhelms him with her complex literary theories, her concern with death, and her obsession with history. He thinks she's unhinged; she thinks he's pedantic. Neither are wrong; neither can let the

other go. They push and pull their way across the Mediterranean, wondering with each turn if their love, or lust, can free Zebra from her past. An adventure tale, a love story, and a paean to the power of language and literature starring a heroine as quirky as Don Quixote, as introspective as Virginia Woolf, as whip-smart as Miranda July, and as spirited as Frances Ha, Call Me Zebra will establish Van der Vliet Oloomi as an author "on the verge of developing a

whole new literature movement" (Bustle). An astounding novel from Argentina that is a meditation on the beautiful and the grotesque in nature, the art of landscape painting, and one experience in a man's life that became a lightning rod for inspiration. An Episode in the Life of a Landscape Painter is the story of a moment in the life of the German artist Johan Moritz Rugendas (1802-1858). Greatly admired as a master

landscape painter, he was advised by Alexander von Humboldt to travel West from Europe to record the spectacular landscapes of Chile, Argentina, and Mexico. Rugendas did in fact become one of the best of the nineteenth-century European painters to venture into Latin America. However this is not a biography of Rugendas. This work of fiction weaves an almost surreal history around the secret objective behind Rugendas' trips to America: to visit

Argentina in order to achieve in art the "physiognomic totality" of von Humboldt's scientific vision of the whole. Rugendas is convinced that only in the mysterious vastness of the immense plains will he find true inspiration. A brief and dramatic visit to Mendoza gives him the chance to fulfill his dream. From there he travels straight out onto the pampas, praying for that impossible moment, which would come only at an immense price

**almost monstrously
exorbitant price that
would ultimately
challenge his drawing and
force him to create a new
way of making art. A
strange episode that he
could not avoid absorbing
savagely into his own
body interrupts the trip
and irreversibly and
explosively marks him for
life.**