

Nostalgia Mircea Cartarescu

Patchogue is a village on Long Island sixty miles from New York City. After a prologue of "facts" about Patchogue calling to mind the opening of Moby-Dick, Thomas McGonigle's acclaimed novel divides naturally into three parts: the going to, the being in, and the coming back from Patchogue by way of Bulgaria, Turkey, and Italy. The trip to and from assumes the contours of the oldest journey of all: the search for paradise, impelled by the disappointment of reality.

Approaching Romanian literature as world literature, this book is a critical-theoretical manifesto that places its object at the crossroads of empires, regions, and influences and draws conclusions whose relevance extends beyond the Romanian, Romance, and East European cultural systems. This "intersectional" revisiting of Romanian literature is organized into three parts. Opening with a fresh look at the literary ideology of Romania's "national poet," Mihai Eminescu, part I dwells primarily on literary-cultural history as process and discipline. Here, the focus is on cross-cultural mimesis, the role of strategic imitation in the production of a distinct

literature in modern Romania, and the shortcomings marking traditional literary historiography's handling of these issues. Part II examines the ethno-linguistic and territorial complexity of Romanian literatures or "Romanian literature in the plural." Part III takes up the trans-systemic rise of Romanian, Jewish Romanian, and Romanian-European avant-garde and modernism, Socialist Realism, exile and migr literature, and translation.

*The fall of communism in Eastern Europe in 1989 marked, in one famous formulation, the "end of history." In his apocalyptic novel *Coming from an Off-Key Time*, Bogdan Suceava satirizes the events in his native Romania since the violent end of the Ceausescu regime that fateful year.*

*Suceava uses three interrelated narratives to illustrate the destructive power of Romanian society's most powerful mythologies. He depicts madness of all kinds but especially religious beliefs and their perversion by all manner of outrageous sects. Here horror and humor reside impossibly in the same time and place, and readers experience the vertiginous feeling of living in the middle of a violent historical upheaval. Even as *Coming from an Off-Key Time**

suggests the influence of such writers as Mikhail Bulgakov, the fantastic satirist of the early Soviet Union, Suceava engages the complexities of a quickly changing country in search of its bearings and suspicious of its past. Bogdan Suceava is an associate professor of mathematics at California State University, Fullerton. One of Romanian literature's most promising and original young writers, he is the author of four novels, two books of short stories, and several collections of poems. Alistair Ian Blyth's previous translations include Filip Florian, Little Fingers (2009); Lucian Dan Teodorovici, Our Circus Presents (2009); and Catalin Avramescu's An Intellectual History of Cannibalism (2009).

The Prussian Officer and Other Stories is a collection of 12 stories by D.H. Lawrence. The title story of the collection begins as an army captain and his orderly are trudging along a German road. The captain sits high and proud on a horse while the orderly ambles along beside him. It soon becomes apparent why the orderly is in such a dire physical condition. The orderly is involved with a woman, and his captain does not approve of the relationship. The captain, who, as it turns out, is a sadist, is physically and

emotionally detached from women. He prevents the orderly from seeing his lover by beating him and abusing him every night. Eventually, the orderly experiences an emotion he has never felt before: hatred. Undone by the captain's injustices, the orderly plots revenge. The orderly successfully strangles his captain, but by the end of the fight, he collapses and dies as well.

A Spy in Amnesia

Blinding

The Matter of Desire

FEM

The Romanian

Julian Semilians poetry engenders itself in the crawl-spaces between language and proto-language, between his two languages, Romanian and English, between what might be translated and what never will, between poetries in an alert critical state.--Andrei Codrescu

This novel presents the thoughts of a dying man as he contemplates his life and the events leading to his death. Nikola Petkov, the head of the Agrarian Party and the last significant opposition leader to defy the Communist takeover of Bulgaria, was hung in 1947 after a show trial in Sofia. Thomas McGonigle records Petkov's last minutes, mixing history and fiction, biography and imagination, and in so doing

crafts a compelling testament to both a man and a country.

A three-year correspondence with the writer's muse/ex-lover, referred to as Imogen. Full of philosophical wanderings, erotic prose, and provocative thoughts on literature and life, A Spy in Amnesia chronicles one man's longing to shut out modern society and reside in a world of myth and desire; a secret agent whose assignment is to write his way back to a personal Eros. Various literary figures are summoned throughout the work, from the multi-spirited Borges to the lost-yet-found seeker Nietzsche to the absinthe-seasoned hell of Rimbaud, during the narrator's quest to not be Otarred and feathered by meaning.

What do Socrates, Hypatia, Giordano Bruno, Thomas More, and Jan Patocka have in common? First, they were all faced one day with the most difficult of choices: stay faithful to your ideas and die or renounce them and stay alive. Second, they all chose to die. Their spectacular deaths have become not only an integral part of their biographies, but are also inseparable from their work. A "death for ideas" is a piece of philosophical work in its own right; Socrates may have never written a line, but his death is one of the greatest philosophical best-sellers of all time. Dying for Ideas explores the limit-

situation in which philosophers find themselves when the only means of persuasion they can use is their own dying bodies and the public spectacle of their death. The book tells the story of the philosopher's encounter with death as seen from several angles: the tradition of philosophy as an art of living; the body as the site of self-transcending; death as a classical philosophical topic; taming death and self-fashioning; finally, the philosophers' scapegoating and their live performance of a martyr's death, followed by apotheosis and disappearance into myth. While rooted in the history of philosophy, Dying for Ideas is an exercise in breaking disciplinary boundaries. This is a book about Socrates and Heidegger, but also about Gandhi's "fasting unto death" and self-immolation; about Girard and Passolini, and self-fashioning and the art of the essay.

Romanian Literature as World Literature

Invisible Work

A Spider's History of Love

Poems

Recollections of Things to Come

The first translation into English of Celan's Romanian poems.

Widely regarded as the greatest Romanian novel of the twentieth century, Mateiu Caragiale 's Rakes of the Old Court (Craii de Curtea-Veche) follows four characters

through the bars and brothels of Bucharest. Guided by an amoral opportunist, the shadowy narrator and his two affluent friends drink and gamble their way through a city built on the ruins of crumbled castles and bygone empires. The novel 's shimmering, spectacular prose describes gripping vignettes of love, ambition, and decay. Originally published in 1929, *Rakes of the Old Court* is considered a jewel of Romanian modernism. Devoted "Mateists" have long read, memorized, and reenacted the novel, and after the Romanian Revolution, it became part of the high school curriculum. Now canonical, Mateiu 's work has been celebrated for its opulent literary style and enigmatic tone.

After his expulsion from Russia in 1974 for undermining the Communist regime, Solzhenitsyn wrote a secret record, while it was still fresh in his mind, of the courageous efforts of people who hid his writings and smuggled them to the West. Before the fall of Communism he could not have published *Invisible Allies* in conjunction with his memoir *The Oak and the Calf* without putting those friends in jeopardy. Now the facts may be revealed in this intimate account of the network of individuals who risked life and liberty to ensure that his works were concealed, circulated in "samizdat", and exported via illicit channels. These conspirators, often unknown to one another, shared a devotion to the dissident writer's work and a hatred of an oppressive regime of censorship and denunciation. The circle was varied enough to include scholars and fellow writers, and

also elderly babushkas who acted as couriers. With tenderness, respect and humour, Solzhenitsyn speaks of these partners in conspiracy: the women who typed copies of his works under the noses of prying neighbours; the journalists and diplomats who covertly carried microfilms across borders; the friends who hid various drafts of his works from the vigilance of the secret police.

On a cold bright day, fifteen year old Adriana Dunea wakes up to find that her world has transformed overnight. Her parents irritate her, school is a bore and her body is changing in ways she does not understand. As the seasons turn, she grows into a beautiful young woman, forges new friendships and falls in and out of love. Yet her days spent dreaming of romance and listening to the latest gramophone records in her provincial town swiftly come to an end when the sudden opportunity arises to move to Bucharest. Seduced by the charms of the ‘ Little Paris of the East ’ , a chance encounter with the hot-headed composer Cello Viorin tests her attachment to her longstanding sweetheart, Gelu. In this witty, lyrical coming-of-age novel, Mihail Sebastian sensitively charts his heroine ’ s journey of self-awakening as she discovers the limits of her freedom and strives to shape her identity as a woman.

Cursed Bunny

Going to Patchogue

Dying for Ideas

The Town with Acacia Trees

Romanian Poems

Before becoming the most important Romanian novelist of his generation, Mircea Cărtărescu wrote poetry influenced by the "hallucinatory imagery" of Allen Ginsberg and distinguished by its Beat sensibility and humor. Cărtărescu was in his twenties in the 80s, and his word-slinging poems, with references to Bob Dylan and The Beatles, remain subversive gestures under the dictatorship of Nicolae Ceaușescu: "The West opened my eyes." A young man "overwhelmed by loneliness," charged with erotic, urban energy, and besotted with Natalie Wood, he observed the anonymous women on bicycles and at tram stops with "my hundred thousand eyes, crematoria windows of sparks, [which] set the fir trees ablaze and leave the mountain bald." Brimming with adolescent yearning, self-consciously "complicated," and unwilling to silence themselves, Cărtărescu's poems convey the nervous vibrancy of the younger generation living immediately before and after the fall of communism.

This remarkable first novel depicts life in the small Mexican town of Ixtepec during the grim days of the Revolution. The town tells its own story against a variegated background of political change, religious persecution, and social unrest. Elena Garro, who has also won a high reputation as a playwright, is a masterly storyteller. Although her plot is dramatically intense and suspenseful, the novel does not depend for its effectiveness on narrative continuity. It is a book of episodes, one that leaves the reader with a series of vivid impressions. The colors are bright, the smells pungent, the many characters clearly drawn in a few bold strokes.

Octavio Paz, the distinguished poet and critic, has written that it "is truly an extraordinary work, one of the most perfect creations in contemporary Latin American literature."

Written by the winner of IBBY's Best Book Award, Mohammad Hadi Mohammadi, *In the Meadow of Fantasies* is one girl's luminous escapade into a land of seven mysterious horses. A young girl with a physical disability gazes up at a mobile of spinning horses from her little pink bed in her room filled with leafy plants. As she watches them prance about, the tufted snout of a real live horse peeks through her bedroom door. Soon enough, our bright protagonist is off and cantering on an adventure with seven majestic horses. The first six are easily understood: their colors, dreams, families, and origins are described and accompanied with exquisite drawings. The seventh horse, however, is an enigmatic creature with no clear hue or history, a lack that is soon filled in by the loving offerings of the other ponies. A story about dreaming and about caring for others, *In the Meadow of Fantasies* will remind young readers of their own reveries and conjure new fantasies of friendly creatures in far off lands.

Available in English for the first time, Mihail Sebastian's classic 1934 novel delves into the mind of a Jewish student in Romania during the fraught years preceding World War II. This literary masterpiece revives the ideological debates of the interwar period through the journal of a Romanian Jewish student caught between anti-Semitism and Zionism. Although he endures persistent threats just to attend lectures,

he feels disconnected from his Jewish peers and questions whether their activism will be worth the cost. Spending his days walking the streets and his nights drinking and conversing with revolutionaries, zealots, and libertines, he remains isolated, even from the women he loves. From Bucharest to Paris, he strives to make peace with himself in an increasingly hostile world. For Two Thousand Years echoes Mihail Sebastian ' s struggles as the rise of fascism ended his career and turned his friends and colleagues against him. Born of the violence of relentless anti-Semitism, his searching, self-derisive work captures a defining moment in history and lights the way for generations to come—a prescient, heart-wrenching chronicle of resilience and despair, resistance and acceptance.

A Novel

Text Classics

The Forget-Me-Not Sonata

The Dangerous Lives of the Philosophers

In the Meadow of Fantasies

A classic escape nightmare, Chasing Homer is sped on not only by Krasznahorkai's signature velocity, but also by a unique musical score and intense illustrations In this thrilling chase narrative, a hunted being escapes certain death at breakneck speed—careening through Europe, heading blindly South. Faster and faster, escaping the assassins, our protagonist flies forward, blending into crowds, adjusting to terrains,

hopping on and off ferries, always desperately trying to stay a step ahead of certain death: the past did not exist, only what was current existed—a prisoner of the instant, rushing into this instant, an instant that had no continuation ...

Krasznahorkai—celebrated for the exhilarating energy of his prose—outdoes himself in Chasing Homer. And this unique collaboration boasts beautiful full-color paintings by Max Neumann and—reaching out of the book proper—the wildly percussive music of Szilveszter Miklós scored for each chapter (to be accessed by the reader via QR codes).

THE NUMBER ONE BESTSELLING AUTHOR

'Just promise me one thing . . . Have the courage to follow your heart' Buenos Aires, 1948. Audrey Garnet lives a sheltered life in the exclusive Argentinian community of Hurlingham. That is, until Cecil and Louis Forrester arrive, travelling from England to make their fortunes. Admired by all for her beauty and grace, Audrey quickly catches the eyes of both brothers, but it is talented-but-troubled outsider Louis with his musical flair whom she is drawn to most. Cecil, however, is a better match - a decorated war hero who has charmed the entire community, including Audrey's parents, forcing Audrey to keep her true feelings a

secret. But when a family tragedy rocks Audrey's world, she is faced with a terrible dilemma: must she do her duty to her family, or will she finally be able to follow her heart? *PRAISE FOR SANTA MONTEFIORE*** 'Nobody does epic romance like Santa Montefiore' JOJO MOYES 'An enchanting read overflowing with deliciously poignant moments' DINAH JEFFERIES on Songs of Love and War 'Santa Montefiore hits the spot for my like few other writers' SARRA MANNING 'One of our personal favourites' THE TIMES on The Last Secret of the Deverills 'Accomplished and poetic' Daily Mail 'Santa Montefiore is a marvel' Sunday Express**

Winner of the 2004 Prix de Flore—one of France's most distinguished literary prizes—a wildly romantic, true-life love story “History follows a trail of sputtering desire, often calling upon the delusions of lovers to generate the sparks. If it weren't for us, the world would suffer from a dismal lack of stories,” writes Bruce Benderson in this brutally candid memoir. “What astonishes and intrigues is Benderson's way of recounting, in the sweetest possible voice, things that are considered shocking,” wrote Le Monde. What's so shocking? It's not just Benderson's job translating Céline Dion's saccharine autobiography, which he admits

is driving him mad; but his unrequited love for an impoverished Romanian in “cheap club-kid platforms with dollar signs in his squinting eyes,” whom he meets while on a journalism assignment in Eastern Europe. Rather than retreat, Benderson absorbs everything he can about Romanian culture and discovers an uncanny similarity between his own obsession for the Romanian (named Romulus) and the disastrous love affair of King Carol II, the last king of Romania (1893-1953). Throughout, Benderson—“absolutely free of bitterness, nastiness, or any desire to protect himself,” wrote *Le Monde*—is sustained by little white codeine pills, a poetic self-awareness, a sense of humor, and an unwavering belief in the perfect romance, even as wild dogs chase him down Romanian streets.

It is well known that Jorge Luis Borges was a translator, but this has been considered a curious minor aspect of his literary achievement. Few have been aware of the number of texts he translated, the importance he attached to this activity, or the extent to which the translated works inform his own stories and poems. Between the age of ten, when he translated Oscar Wilde, and the end of his life, when he prepared a Spanish version of the *Prose Edda*, Borges transformed the work of Poe,

Kafka, Hesse, Kipling, Melville, Gide, Faulkner, Whitman, Woolf, Chesterton, and many others. In a multitude of essays, lectures, and interviews Borges analyzed the versions of others and developed an engaging view about translation. He held that a translation can improve an original, that contradictory renderings of the same work can be equally valid, and that an original can be unfaithful to a translation. Borges's bold habits as translator and his views on translation had a decisive impact on his creative process. Translation is also a recurrent motif in Borges's stories. In "The Immortal," for example, a character who has lived for many centuries regains knowledge of poems he had authored, and almost forgotten, by way of modern translations. Many of Borges's fictions include actual or imagined translations, and some of his most important characters are translators. In "Pierre Menard, author of the Quixote," Borges's character is a respected Symbolist poet, but also a translator, and the narrator insists that Menard's masterpiece-his "invisible work"-adds unsuspected layers of meaning to Cervantes's Don Quixote. George Steiner cites this short story as "the most acute, most concentrated commentary anyone has offered on the business of translation." In an age where many

discussions of translation revolve around the dichotomy faithful/unfaithful, this book will surprise and delight even Borges's closest readers and critics.

Why We Love Women

The Book of Whispers

Coming from an Off-Key Time

The Prussian Officer and Other Stories

The Rehearsals

The No. 1 New York Times Bestseller Jess Walter's Beautiful Ruins is a gorgeous, glamorous novel set in 1960s Italy and a modern Hollywood studio. The story begins in 1962.

Somewhere on a rocky patch of the sun-drenched Italian coastline a young innkeeper, chest-deep in daydreams, looks out over the incandescent waters of the Ligurian Sea and views an apparition: a beautiful woman, a vision in white, approaching him on a boat. She is an American starlet, he soon learns, and she is dying. And the story begins again today, half a world away in Hollywood, when an elderly Italian man shows up on a movie studio's back lot searching for the woman he last saw at his hotel fifty years before.

Gloriously inventive, funny, tender and constantly surprising, Beautiful Ruins is a novel full of fabulous and yet very flawed people, all of them striving towards another sort of life, a future that is both delightful and yet, tantalizingly, seems just out of reach. 'Magic...A monument to crazy love with a deeply romantic heart' New York Times 'A novel shot in sparkly Technicolor' Booklist 'Hilarious and compelling' Esquire

A harrowing account of the Armenian Genocide documented through the stories of those who managed to survive and

descendants who refuse to forget The grandchild of Armenians who escaped widespread massacres during the Ottoman Empire a century ago, Varujan Vosganian grew up in Romania hearing firsthand accounts of those who had witnessed horrific killings, burned villages, and massive deportations. In this moving chronicle of the Armenian people's almost unimaginable tragedy, the author transforms true events into a work of fiction firmly grounded in survivor testimonies and historical documentation. Across Syrian desert refugee camps, Russian tundra, and Romanian villages, the book chronicles individual lives destroyed by ideological and authoritarian oppression. But this novel tells an even wider human story. Evocative of all the great sufferings that afflicted the twentieth century--world war, concentration camps, common graves, statelessness, and others--this book belongs to all peoples whose voices have been lost. Hailed for its documentary value and sensitive authenticity, Vosganian's work has become an international phenomenon.

This modern classic of global feminist literature, the only novel by one of Romania's most heralded poets, styled as a long letter addressed to the man who is about to leave her, the woman meanders through a cosmic retelling of her life from childhood to adulthood with visionary language and visceral detail. Like a contemporary Scheherazade, she spins tales to hold him captivated, from the small incidents of their lives together to the intimate narrative of her relationship to womanhood. Through a dreamlike thread of strange images and passing characters, her stories invite the reader into a fantastical vision of love, loss, and femininity.

A Bolivian-American political scientist teaching at an

upstate New York university, Pedro becomes embroiled in a torid illicit affair with a beautiful graduate student, before returning to Bolivia to seek the truth about his father's mysterious past. Original.

The Classic Novel

Story of an Obsession

Distant Transit

Final Exam

Transgender Organ Grinder

Published in 1927, this psychological thriller captured the imagination of Romanian readers. Puiu, an aristocrat, murders his wife. To avoid a public trial and prison sentence, his father commits him to a mental asylum.

Part visceral dream-memoir, part fictive journey through a hallucinatory Bucharest, Mircea Cărtărescu's Blinding was one of the most widely heralded literary sensations in contemporary Romania, and a bestseller from the day of its release. Riddled with hidden passageways, mesmerizing tapestries, and whispering butterflies, Blinding takes us on a mystical trip into the protagonist's childhood, his memories of hospitalization as a teenager, the prehistory of his family, a traveling circus, Secret police, zombie armies, American fighter pilots, the underground jazz scene of New Orleans, and the installation of the communist regime. This kaleidoscopic world

is both eerily familiar and profoundly new. Readers of *Blinding* will emerge from this strange pilgrimage shaken, and entirely transformed.

Esther Prescott has seen little of life outside her wealthy family's Rose Bay mansion, until flashy Stan Peterson comes roaring up the drive in his huge American car and barges into her life. Within a fortnight they are living in his Kings Cross flat. Moody and erratic, proud of his well-bred wife yet bitterly resentful of her privilege, Stan is involved with his former girlfriend and a series of shady business deals. Esther, innocent and desperate to please him, must endure his controlling ways. This story of a troubled and obsessive marriage, set against the backdrop of postwar Sydney, is devastating. First published in 1957, *Down in the City* announced Elizabeth Harrower as a major Australian writer. Elizabeth Harrower was born in Sydney in 1928. Her first novel *Down in the City* was published in 1957, and was followed by *The Long Prospect* a year later. In 1959 she began working for the ABC and as a book reviewer for the *Sydney Morning Herald*. In 1960 she published *The Catherine Wheel*, the story of an Australian law student in London, her only novel not set in Sydney. *The Watch Tower* appeared in 1966. Her work is

austere, intelligent, ruthless in its perceptions about men and women. She was admired by many of her contemporaries, including Patrick White and Christina Stead, and is without doubt among the most important writers of the postwar period in Australia. Elizabeth Harrower lives in Sydney.

textpublishing.com.au 'Down in the City marked the arrival of one of the sharpest authors of psychological fiction in Australian literature. Many of the things that happen in the novel are unpleasant, but are rendered with such intensity and psychological insight that the experience of reading about them is thrilling.' Australian 'a triumph from Text's project to recover forgotten Australian literature. Doused in melancholy and written from an accessible yet unnerving third-person perspective, Harrower's debut is a light read with weighty resonance.' Readings Bookshop From Julie Flett, the beloved author and illustrator of Birdsong, comes a joyous new book about playtime for babies, toddlers, and kids up to age 7. Animals and kids love to play! This wonderful book celebrates playtime and the connection between children and the natural world. Beautiful illustrations show: birds who chase and chirp! bears who wiggle and wobble! whales

who swim and squirt! owls who peek and peep! and a diverse group of kids who love to do the same, shouting: We play too! / kimêtawânaw mîna At the end of the book, animals and children gently fall asleep after a fun day of playing outside, making this book a great bedtime story. A beautiful ode to the animals and humans we share our world with, We All Play belongs on every bookshelf. This book also includes: A glossary of Cree words for wild animals in the book A pronunciation guide and link to audio pronunciation recordings Praise for Julie Flett’s previous book, Birdsong: An American Indian Youth Literature Honor Title A 2020 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Honor Title A Best Book of 2019 in Publishers Weekly, School Library Journal, Kirkus Reviews, and Horn Book. “Cree-Métis author/illustrator Julie Flett's smooth and lyrical words and gorgeous... images truly capture the warmth and solidarity of the female protagonists in this tender intergenerational friendship story.”—The Horn Book “Emotionally stunning.”—Kirkus Reviews (Starred Review) “Simple and profound, this tender story is a reminder that finding a new friend can make a new place feel like home. Highly recommended for purchase.”—School Library Journal (Starred Review) “Flett’s subtle, sensitive

story delicately traces filaments of growth and loss through intergenerational friendship, art making, and changing moons and seasons.”—Publishers Weekly (Starred Review)

Rakes of the Old Court

Beautiful Ruins

Adventures In Immediate Irrreality

Ciuleandra

Borges and Translation

A translation of the leading Romanian writer's 1989 debut novel consists of five stand-alone chapters that are linked together through imaginative explorations of such themes as humankind's primordial myth-making, the origins of the universe, and an apocalyptic Bucharest tenement district during the years of communist dictatorship. Original.

"Written in 1935 at the height of Czech Surrealism but not published until 1945, Valerie and Her Week of Wonders is a bizarre erotic fantasy of a young girl's maturation into womanhood. Drawing on Matthew Lewis's *The Monk*, Sade's *Justine*, K. H. Macha's *May*, and Murnau's *Nosferatu* as well as the form and language of the pulp serial novel, Nezval has constructed a lyrical, menacing dream of sexual awakening involving a vampire with a taste for chicken blood, changelings, a lecherous priest, a malicious grandmother desiring her lost youth, and an androgynous merging of brother with sister. Part fairy tale, part Gothic horror, the novel is a meditation on youth and age, sexuality and death - an exploration of the grotesque that juxtaposes high and low genres with shifting registers of language and moods, thus placing it squarely in the tradition of the Czech avant-garde."--BOOK JACKET.

Cursed Bunny is a genre-defying collection of short stories by

Korean author Bora Chung. Blurring the lines between magical realism, horror, and science-fiction, Chung uses elements of the fantastic and surreal to address the very real horrors and cruelties of patriarchy and capitalism in modern society. Anton Hur ' s translation skilfully captures the way Chung ' s prose effortlessly glides from being terrifying to wryly humorous. Winner of a PEN/Heim Grant.

One of Julio Cortázar's great early novels. 'Anyone who doesn't read Cortázar is doomed.'--Pablo Neruda In its characters, themes, and preoccupations, *Final Exam* prefigures Cortázar's later fictions, including *Blow-Up* and his masterpiece, *Hopscotch*. Written in 1950 (just before the fall of Perón's government), it is Cortázar's allegorical, bitter, and melancholy farewell to an Argentina from which he was about to be permanently self-exiled. (Cortázar moved to Paris the following year.) The setting of *Final Exam* is a surreal Buenos Aires, dark and eerie, where a strange fog has enveloped the city to everyone's bewilderment. Juan and Clara, two students, meet up with their friends Andrés and Stella, as well as a journalist friend they call 'the chronicler.' Juan and Clara are getting ready to take their final exams, but instead of preparing, they wander the city with their friends, encounter strange happenings in the squares and ponder life in cafés. All the while, they are trailed by the mysterious Abel. With its daring typography, its shifts in rhythm as well as in the wildly veering directions of its characters' thoughts and speech, *Final Exam* breaks new ground in the territory of stream-of-consciousness narrative techniques. It is considered one of Cortázar's best works.

For Two Thousand Years

Down in the City

We All Play

Chasing Homer

The Corpse Dream of N. Petkov

This exciting new collection celebrates the richness and variety of the Spanish short story, from the nineteenth century to the present day. Featuring over fifty stories selected by revered translator Margaret Jull Costa, it blends old favourites and hidden gems - many of which have never before been translated into English - and introduces readers to surprising new voices as well as giants of Spanish literary culture, from Emilia Pardo Bazán and Leopoldo Alas, through Mercè Rodoreda and Manuel Rivas, to Ana Maria Matute and Javier Marías. Brimming with romance, horror, history, farce, strangeness and beauty, and showcasing alluring hairdressers, war defectors, vampiric mothers, and talismanic mandrake roots, the daring and entertaining assortment of tales in *The Penguin Book of Spanish Short Stories* will be a treasure trove for readers.

Cartarescu brings together twenty short stories that he wrote for *ELLE* magazine. The protagonist of every story is female, but they are not individual portraits of women - it is a group portrait of womanhood.

Often called "the Kafka of Romania," Max Blecher died young but not before creating this incandescent novel. *Adventures in Immediate Irreality*, the masterwork of the Romanian writer Max Blecher, vividly paints the crises of "irreality" that plagued him in his youth: eerie and unsettling mirages wherein he would glimpse future events. In gliding chapters that move with a peculiar

dream logic of their own, this memoiristic novel sketches the tremulous, frightening, and exhilarating awakenings of a young man. Shifting viewpoints, magic realism, and narrative mastery are all integral parts of Nostalgia, Romanian author and perennial Nobel Prize favorite Mircea Cartarescu's masterpiece. The book is comprised of five unrelated stories: "The Roulette Player," in which a desperately unlucky man manages to amass a fortune by taking part in dangerous games of Russian roulette; "Mentardy" narrates the travails of a prepubescent messiah who loses his powers with the advent of his sexuality; "The Twins," a brave exploration of youthful rage; "REM," in which a middle-aged woman falls in love with a university student in a nightmarish Bucharest; and "The Architect," in which a man who cannot silence his car horn becomes obsessed with sound—an obsession that will have cosmic consequences. Readers eager to acquaint themselves with one of the most important voices in modern European literature will not want to miss this sophisticated, haunting collection of stories. Puntos de vista variables, el realismo mágico y la maestría narrativa son facetas íntegras de Nostalgia, la obra maestra del autor rumano y favorito perenne para el Premio Nobel, Mircea Cartarescu. El libro consta de cinco cuentos no relacionados: "El ruletista," en el que un hombre al que nunca le ha sonreído la suerte

hace fortuna participando en letales sesiones de ruleta rusa; "El Mendébil," el cual narra los infortunios de un mesías impúber que pierde sus poderes mágicos con el advenimiento de su propia sexualidad; "Los gemelos," una bizarra exploración de la ira juvenil; "REM," en el cual una mujer de mediana edad se enamora de un estudiante de instituto en una Bucarest pesadillesca; y "El arquitecto," en el cual un hombre que no logra silenciar el claxon de su coche se obsesiona con el sonido—una obsesión que tendrá consecuencias cósmicas. El lector interesado en conocer a una de las voces más importantes de la literatura europea moderna no se querrá perder esta sofisticada, inolvidable colección de historias.

The Penguin Book of Spanish Short Stories

Invisible Allies

Valerie and Her Week of Wonders

A Gothic Novel

Nostalgia

From a groundbreaking Slovenian-Austrian poet comes an evocative, captivating collection on searching for home in a landscape burdened with violent history. At its core, Distant Transit is an ode to survival, building a monument to traditions and lives lost. Infused with movement, Maja Haderlap's Distant Transit traverses Slovenia's scenic landscape and violent history, searching for a sense of place within its ever-shifting

boundaries. Avoiding traditional forms and pronounced rhythms, Haderlap unleashes a flow of evocative, captivating passages whose power lies in their associative richness and precision of expression, vividly conjuring Slovenia's natural world--its rolling meadows, snow-capped alps, and sparkling Adriatic coast. Belonging to the Slovene ethnic minority and its inherited, transgenerational trauma, Haderlap explores the burden of history and the prolonged aftershock of conflict--warm, lavish pastoral passages conceal dark memories, and musings on the way language can create and dissolve borders reveal a deep longing for a sense of home.