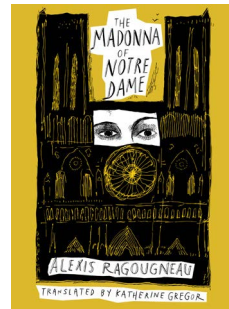
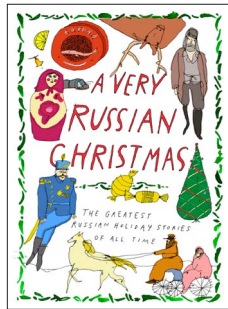
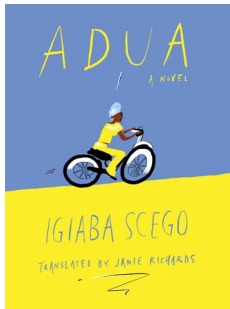
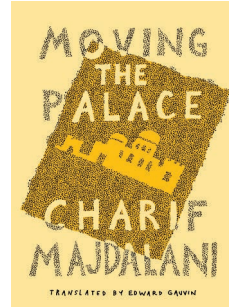
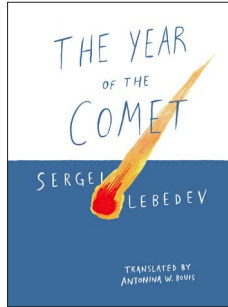
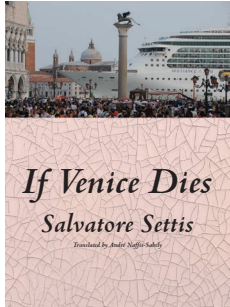




*New Vessel Press 2016-17*



New Vessel Press, founded in New York City in 2012, is an independent publishing house specializing in the translation of foreign literature into English.

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 New Vessel Press

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# *If Venice Dies*

*Salvatore Settis*

*Translated by André Naffis-Sahely*

## *If Venice Dies*

*by Salvatore Settis | Italy*

*Translated by André Naffis-Sahely*

*NONFICTION*

*September 2016*

*5 ¼ x 8 | 180 pp*

*Trade Paper \$16.95*

*978-1-939931-3-75*



“A chilling account of the slow agony of Venice ... richly documented and imbued with deep angst.”

—Philippe de Montebello, former director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art

“Anyone interested in learning what is really going on in Venice should read this book.”

—Donna Leon, author of *My Venice* and *Other Essays* and *Death at La Fenice*

“Settis shows how the tragedy of Venice could happen to any city which has a past. It’s a powerful polemic.”

—Richard Sennett, author of *The Fall of Public Man*, and Professor of Sociology, New York University and the London School of Economics

“This book valiantly shows why Venice—crossroads of civilization, art and commerce, eternal place of love—cannot be allowed to perish.”

—Diane von Furstenberg, Vice Chairman, Venetian Heritage Council

What is Venice worth? To whom does this urban treasure belong? This eloquent book by renowned art historian Salvatore Settis urgently poses these questions, igniting a new debate about the Pearl of the Adriatic and cultural patrimony at large. Venetians are increasingly abandoning their hometown—there’s now only one resident for every 140 visitors—and Venice’s fate has become emblematic of the future of historic cities everywhere as it capitulates to tourists and those who profit from them. In *If Venice Dies*, a fiery blend of history and cultural analysis, Settis argues that “hit-and-run” visitors are turning landmark urban settings into shopping malls and theme parks. This is a passionate plea to secure the soul of Venice, written with consummate authority, wide-ranging erudition and élan.

**Salvatore Settis** is an archaeologist and art historian and former director of the Getty Research Institute of Los Angeles. He heads the Louvre Museum’s Scientific Council and is the author of several books on art history.

*A passionate, eloquent plea to save the soul  
of one of the world’s greatest cities.*

THE YEAR

OF THE

COMET

SERGEI

LEBEDEV

TRANSLATED BY  
ANTONINA W. BOUIS

## Year of the Comet

by Sergei Lebedev | Russia

Translated by Antonina W. Bouis

FICTION

February 2017

5 1/4 x 8 | 275 pages

Trade Paper \$16.95

978-1-939931-41-2



From the author of **Oblivion**

“A clear poetic sensibility built to stand against the forces of erasure.”

—*The Wall Street Journal*

“Lebedev takes his place beside Solzhenitsyn and other great writers who have refused to abide by silence.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Lebedev has given the past a present and a presence.”

—Judy Dempsey, senior associate at Carnegie Europe and editor-in-chief of *Strategic Europe*

From the critically acclaimed author of *Oblivion* comes *Year of the Comet*, a story of a Russian boyhood and coming of age as the Soviet Union is on the brink of collapse. An idyllic childhood takes a sinister turn. Rumors of a serial killer haunt the neighborhood, families pack up and leave town without a word of warning, and the country begins to unravel. Policemen stand by as protesters overtake the streets, knowing that the once awe-inspiring symbols of power they wear on their helmets have become devoid of meaning. Lebedev depicts a vast empire coming apart at the seams, transforming a very public moment into something tender and personal, and writes with stunning beauty and shattering insight about childhood and the growing consciousness of a boy in the world.

**Sergei Lebedev** was born in Moscow in 1981 and worked for seven years on geological expeditions in Russia and Central Asia. *Oblivion*, his first novel, was published in 2016 by New Vessel Press, to great acclaim.

*A stunning novel about growing up in Russia on the brink of collapse, from the preeminent storyteller of his generation.*

MOVING

THE  
PALACE

CHARIF  
MAJDALANI

CHARIF

MAJDALANI

TRANSLATED BY EDWARD GAUVIN

## ***Moving the Palace***

by Charif Majdalani | Lebanon

Translated by Edward Gauvin

FICTION

Spring 2017

5 ¼ x 8 | 200 pp

Trade Paper \$17.95

978-1-939931-46-7



“An extraordinary book somewhere between adventure story, picaresque novel, fairytale and chronicle of a bygone era.”

—*Neue Zürcher Zeitung*

“The reader remains captivated long after having completed this epic and comic novel that allows one to perceive in the ineffable silence of the desert the attachment of a man to his homeland.”

—*Le Monde*

“Full of stirring epic images, trenchant anecdotes celebrating the virtues of movement ... Majdalani has a way of merging time and place that makes his writing convey the concerns of men, their illusions, the sounds of the desert and the rhythm of marches and halts.”

—*Le Matricule des Anges*

At the dawn of the 20th century, a young Lebanese adventurer leaves the Levant to explore the wilds of Africa, encountering an eccentric English colonel in Sudan and enlisting in his service. In this lush chronicle of far-flung adventure, the military recruit crosses paths with a compatriot who has dismantled a sumptuous palace in Tripoli and is transporting it across the continent on a camel caravan. The protagonist soon takes charge of this hoard of architectural fragments, ferrying the dismantled landmark through Sudan, Egypt and the Arabian Peninsula, where he meets T.E. Lawrence and Muslim pilgrims bound for Mecca, before he eventually returns to his native Beirut to reassemble the palace and his own life there.

**Charif Majdalani**, born in Lebanon in 1960, teaches French literature at the Université Saint-Joseph in Beirut. The original French version of *Moving the Palace* won the 2008 Francois-Mauriac Prize from the Académie Française as well as the Prix Tropiques.

*A captivating modern-day Odyssey by a masterful Lebanese author in the tradition of Bruce Chatwin and Paul Theroux.*

# ADUA

A NOVEL



IGIABA SCEGO

TRANSLATED BY JAMIE RICHARDS



## *Adua*

by Igiaba Scego | Italy  
Translated by Jamie Richards  
FICTION  
Spring 2017  
5 ¼ x 8 | 185 pp  
Trade Paper \$17.95  
978-1939931-45-0



“This book depicts the soul and the body of a daughter and a father, illuminating words that are used every day and swiftly emptied of meaning: migrants, diaspora, refugees, separation, hope, humiliation, death.”

—*Panorama*

“Igiaba Scego is an original voice who connects Italy’s present with its colonial past. *Adua* is an important novel that obliges the country to confront both memory and truth.”

—Amara Lakhous, author of *Clash of Civilizations Over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio*

*Adua*, an immigrant from Somalia to Italy, has lived in Rome for nearly forty years. She came seeking freedom from a strict father and an oppressive regime, but her dreams of becoming a film star ended in shame. Now that the civil war in Somalia is over, her homeland calls her. Yet *Adua* has a husband who needs her, a young man, also an immigrant, who braved a dangerous crossing of the Mediterranean Sea. When her father, who worked as an interpreter for Mussolini’s fascist regime, dies, *Adua* inherits the family home. She must decide whether to make the journey back to reclaim her material inheritance, but also how to take charge of her own story and build a future.

**Igiaba Scego** is an Italian novelist and journalist. She was born in Rome in 1974 to Somali parents who took refuge in Italy following a coup d’état in their native country, where her father served as foreign minister.

*A searing novel about a young immigrant woman’s dream of finding freedom in Rome and the bittersweet legacies of her African past.*



## *A Very Russian Christmas*

*The Greatest Russian Holiday Stories of All Time*

*Russia*

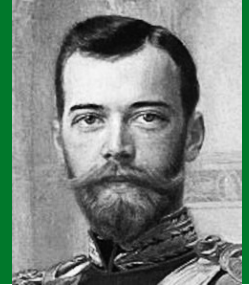
*FICTION*

*October 2016*

*7 x 10 | 160 pp*

*Trade Cloth \$21.95*

*978-1-939931-43-6*



Crimson ribbons and troubled souls, landowners yearning for love, peasants bent from labor, priests who raise a glass, and the salty joys of salmon and caviar. This is Russian Christmas celebrated in supreme pleasure and pain by the greatest of writers, running the gamut from sweet and reverent to twisted and uproarious, with many of the stories appearing in English for the first time. Dostoevsky brings stories of poverty and tragedy, Tolstoy inspires with his fable-like tales, Chekhov's insights into our melancholy woes are on full display, and Teffi puts a stethoscope to the heavy heart of a lonely child and her stuffed animal. Finally, Mikhail Zoshchenko recounts madcap anecdotes of New Year's trees and Christmas thieves. There is no shortage of vodka or wit on display in this volume packed with sentimental songs, footmen, whirling winds, solitary nights, snow drifts, and hopeful children.

*With stories by*

**Anton Chekhov**

**Fyodor Dostoevsky**

**Lev Tolstoy**

**Vladimir Korolenko**

**Maxim Gorky**

**Teffi**

**Mikhail Zoshchenko**

**Klaudia Lukashovich**

*With its wonderful variety and remarkable human touch, this story collection proves that Nobody Does Christmas Like the Russians.*



## *The Madonna of Notre Dame*

by Alexis Ragougneau | France

Translated by Katherine Gregor

FICTION

Winter 2017

5 ¼ x 8 | 200 pp

Trade Paper \$15.95

978-1-939931-3-99



“With vigorous writing, Alexis Ragougneau sweeps us away on a high-flying investigation.”

—*Le Monde*

“Thrilling until the last page, an unforgettable investigator, real life characters: The French crime novel has found its new pope.”

—*RTL Television*

“Alexis Ragougneau demonstrates indisputable talent and promise as a crime writer and novelist.”

—*Le Point*

“Impeccable drama and the characters are first-rate.”

—*L'Express*

Fifty thousand believers and photo-hungry tourists jam into Notre Dame Cathedral on August 15 to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption. At day's end, a stunningly beautiful young woman is found murdered inside the cathedral vestry. The autopsy reveals disturbing details. Police investigators and priests search for the killer as they discover other truths, as well, about guilt and redemption in this soaring Paris refuge for the lost, the damned, and the saved. The suspect is a disturbed young man obsessed with the Virgin Mary who spends days hallucinating in front of a Madonna. But someone knows another truth about the killer of the white-clad daughter of Algerian immigrants. This thrilling novel illuminates shadowy corners of the world's most famous cathedral, shedding light on good and evil with suspense, compassion and wry humor.

**Alexis Ragougneau** is a playwright, and *The Madonna of Notre Dame* is his first novel. He worked for several months in Notre Dame Cathedral helping monitor tourist crowds and knows well its infinite secrets and the forgotten souls who linger in its darkest corners.

*This murder mystery illuminates the shadowy corners of Notre Dame Cathedral, shedding light on good and evil with wry humor.*



# The 6:41 to PARIS

JEAN-PHILIPPE  
BLONDEL



TRANSLATED BY  
ALISON ANDERSON



## *The 6:41 to Paris*

by Jean-Philippe Blondel | France

Translated by Alison Anderson

FICTION

5 1/4 x 8 | 153 pp

Trade Paper \$14.95

978-1-939931-26-9



“A strong plot and a touching portrayal of how any of us might feel when unexpectedly confronted by the detritus of young love ... A timely reminder that the past is always waiting to ambush us.”

—*The New York Times Sunday Book Review*

“Blondel conveys ... a shared, suspenseful dread that makes you want to turn every page at locomotive pace.”

—*The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

“Perfectly written and a remarkably suspenseful read ... An absorbing, intriguing, insightful book for all readers.”

—*Library Journal* (Starred review)

“A taut, suspenseful psychological journey from which there is no escape. *The 6:41 to Paris* shatters any illusions that acts of cruelty committed in our youth are of little consequence later in life. A gripping yarn for our time.”

— Kati Marton, author of *Paris: A Love Story*

Cécile, a stylish 47-year-old, has spent the weekend visiting her parents in a provincial town southeast of Paris. By early Monday morning, she's exhausted. These trips back home are always stressful and she settles into a train compartment with an empty seat beside her. But it's soon occupied by a man she instantly recognizes: Philippe Leduc, with whom she had a passionate affair that ended in her brutal humiliation 30 years ago. In the fraught hour and a half that ensues, their express train hurtles towards the French capital. Cécile and Philippe undertake their own face to face journey—In silence? What could they possibly say to one another?—with the reader gaining entrée to the most private of thoughts. This bestselling novel is a psychological thriller about past romance, with all its pain and promise.

**Jean-Philippe Blondel** was born in 1964 in Troyes, France where he lives as an author and English teacher. His novel *The 6:41 to Paris* has been a European bestseller.

*Brilliant psychological thriller constructed like an intensely intimate theater performance, a high-wire act of emotions on rails.*

# OBLIVION

SERGEI

LEBEDEV

TRANSLATED BY ANTONINA W. BOUIS

## *Oblivion*

by *Sergei Lebedev* | *Russia*

Translated by *Antonina W. Bouis*

FICTION

5 1/4 x 8 | 300 pp

Trade Paper \$15.95

978-1-939931-25-2



“Astonishing ... ingeniously structured around the progressive uncovering of memories of a difficult personal and national past ... with a visceral, at times almost unbearable, force.”

—*The Times Literary Supplement*

“A key novel for understanding today’s Russia ... Low in sentimentalism but high in feeling ... it rewards in rich surprises.”

—*The Globe and Mail*

“Lebedev’s debut novel evokes, in powerful poetic prose, the Soviet work camps of the Arctic north, posing a heartfelt challenge to those who prefer to forget.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

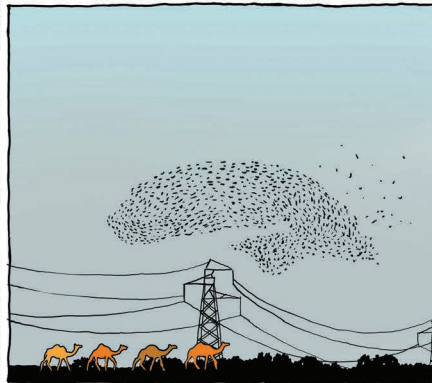
“A Dantean descent ... In a steely translation by Antonina W. Bouis, *Oblivion* is as cold and stark as a glacial crevasse, but as beautiful as one, too, with a clear poetic sensibility built to stand against the forces of erasure.”

—*The Wall Street Journal*

In this highly acclaimed novel that probes the legacy of the Soviet prison camp system, a young man travels to the vast wastelands of the Far North to uncover the truth about a shadowy neighbor who saved his life, and whom he knows only as Grandfather II. What he finds, among the forgotten mines and decrepit barracks of former gulags, is a world relegated to oblivion, where it is easier to ignore both the victims and the executioners than to come to terms with a terrible past. This disturbing tale evokes the great and ruined beauty of a land where man and machine worked in tandem with nature to destroy millions of lives during the Soviet century. Emerging from today’s Russia, where the ills of the past are being forcefully erased from public memory, this masterful novel represents an epic literary attempt to rescue history from the brink of oblivion.

**Sergei Lebedev** was born in Moscow in 1981 and worked for seven years on geological expeditions in northern Russia and Central Asia. Lebedev is a poet, essayist, and journalist whose work has been translated into many languages. His second novel, *Year of the Comet*, will be published by New Vessel Press in January 2017.

*This masterful novel represents an epic literary attempt to examine a very troubled Russia.*



**ANIMAL  
INTERNET**  
*Nature and the Digital Revolution*  
**Alexander Pschera**  
*Translated by Elisabeth Lauffer*



**Animal Internet**  
**Nature and the Digital Revolution**

by Alexander Pschera | Germany

Translated by Elisabeth Lauffer

NONFICTION

5 1/4 x 8 | 130 pp

Trade Paper \$14.95

978-1-939931-33-7



“This surprising book offers a great shout-out to the next phase in our relationship with non-human beings: our brand-newly emerging recognition that they, too, are individuals, leading individual lives.”

—Carl Safina, author of *Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel*, and *Song for the Blue Ocean*

“At last, a convincing explanation for why waldrapps are on Twitter and quolls on Facebook. In beautiful, philosophical prose, Alexander Pschera even explains why cats rule the Internet. The first book that brings nature and technology together with animals as individuals and streams of big data alike.”

—David Rothenberg, author of *Bug Music* and *Survival of the Beautiful*

“Charts the new digital frontier in the human-animal relationship. Gone are the days of an untouched natural world. We have entered wilderness 2.0 ... [An] intriguing book.”

—*The Washington Post*

More than 50,000 creatures around the globe—including whales, leopards, flamingoes, bats and snails—are being equipped with digital tracking devices. The data gathered and studied by major scientific institutes about their behavior will warn us about tsunamis, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, but also radically transform our relationship to the natural world. With a broad cultural and historical perspective, this book examines human ties with animals, from domestic pets to the soaring popularity of bird watching and kitten images on the web. Will millennia of exploration soon be reduced to experiencing wilderness via smartphone? Contrary to pessimistic fears, author Alexander Pschera sees the Internet as creating a historic opportunity for a new dialogue between man and nature.

**Alexander Pschera**, born in 1964, has published several books on the Internet and media. He studied German, music and philosophy at Heidelberg University. He lives near Munich where he writes for the German magazine *Cicero* as well as for German radio.

*In the wake of the Internet’s profound impact on society, an exploration of how a new digital revolution will transform human ties with the natural world.*



## *The Last Supper*

### *The Plight of Christians in Arab Lands*

by Klaus Wivel | Denmark

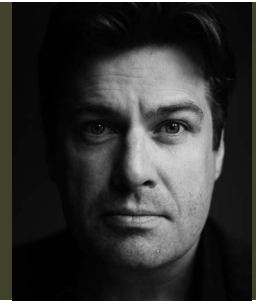
Translated by Mark Kline

NONFICTION

5 1/4 x 8 | 250 pp

Trade Paper \$16.95

978-1-939931-34-4



“More than any other recent book, this work sets out with absolute clarity and sometimes uncomfortable honesty the intolerable reality of life for Christians in the Middle East today . . . a deeply intelligent picture of the situation, without cheap polemic or axe-grinding, this is a very important survey indeed.”

—Former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge University

“Klaus Wivel’s report on the persecuted Christians of the Arab world is vivid, precise, morally astute, heartbreaking, and infuriating.”

—Paul Berman, author of *Terror and Liberalism* and *The Flight of the Intellectuals*

“With a reporter’s fair and dispassionate eye, Klaus Wivel has taken a necessary journey through Christianity’s ancient and vanishing homeland. He has returned with a clear-headed assessment of the threats facing not only Christians, but other embattled minorities in the larger Middle East, where the plural fabric is unraveling.”

—Eliza Griswold, author of *The Tenth Parallel: Dispatches from the Fault Line Between Christianity and Islam*

In 2013, alarmed by scant attention paid to the hardships endured by the 7.5 million Christians in the Middle East, journalist Klaus Wivel traveled to Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, and the Palestinian territories on a quest to learn more about their fate. He found an oppressed minority, constantly under threat of death and humiliation, increasingly desperate in the face of rising Islamic extremism and without hope that their situation will improve, or that anyone will come to their aid. Wivel spoke with priests whose churches have been burned, citizens who feel like strangers in their own countries, and entire communities whose only hope for survival may be fleeing into exile. With the increase of religious violence in the past few years, this book is a prescient and unsettling account of a severely beleaguered religious group living, so it seems, on borrowed time. Wivel asks, Why have we not done more to protect these people?

**Klaus Wivel** is a Danish journalist who has been the New York correspondent for *Weekendavisen*, one of Denmark’s most prestigious newspapers. He has written on a wide range of topics, with a focus on Israel-Palestine and the Middle East.

*A journey through the Middle East, investigating the often-overlooked plight of the beleaguered Christian minority living there.*

# THE LAST SUPPER

*The Plight of Christians in Arab Lands*

KLAUS WIVEL

*Translated by Mark Kline*

# THE LAST WEYNFELDT



MARTIN SUTER TRANSLATED BY  
STEPH MORRIS

## *The Last Weynfeldt*

by Martin Suter | Switzerland

Translated by Steph Morris

FICTION

5 ¼ x 8 | 300 pp

Trade Paper \$14.95

978-1-939931-27-6



"Stylish, well-crafted and precisely engineered ... like joyously discovering a long-buried treasure ... As it ticks along resolutely from one surprising development to the next, this book touches on themes of mortality and redemption, the age-old question of finding the formula for living a good life."

—*Winnipeg Free Press*

"A sophisticated and urbane novel with a swanky, dapper European setting that is as much Poe and Chandler as Hitchcock and Truffaut. This is a page-turner all its own. You'll want to reread it as soon as you get to the last page."

—André Aciman, author of *Out of Egypt* and *Call Me by Your Name*

"Swift, edgy ... What distinguishes this work is the air of slightly faded existential elegance, which sets off the modern setting splendidly ... Great for sophisticated suspense fans."

—*Library Journal* (Starred review)

Adrian Weynfeldt is an art expert in an international auction house, a bachelor in his mid-fifties living in a grand Zurich apartment filled with costly paintings and antiques. Always correct and well-mannered, he's given up on love until one night—entirely out of character for him—Weynfeldt decides to take home a ravishing but unaccountable young woman. The next morning, he finds her outside on his balcony threatening to jump. Weynfeldt talks her down and soon finds himself falling for this damaged but alluring beauty, and his buttoned-up existence comes unraveled. As their two lives become entangled, Weynfeldt gets embroiled in an art forgery scheme that threatens to destroy everything he and his prominent family have stood for. This refined page-turner moves behind elegant bourgeois facades into darker recesses of the heart.

**Martin Suter**, born in Zurich in 1948, is a novelist and screenwriter. He has written a dozen novels, many of them best-sellers in Europe and translated into 32 languages. Suter lives with his family in Zurich.

*A refined page-turner about the international art market that probes the darker recesses of the heart.*

# ALEXANDRIAN SUMMER

INTRODUCTION BY ANDRÉ ACIMAN

TRANSLATED BY  
YARDENNE  
GREENSPAN

YITZHAK  
GORMEZANO  
GOREN

## *Alexandrian Summer*

by Yitzhak Gormezano Goren | Israel

Translated by Yardenne Greenspan

With an Introduction by André Aciman

FICTION

5 ¼ x 8 | 170 pp

Trade Paper \$15.99

978-1-939931-20-7



“Engaging and varied ... a refreshing and nuanced portrayal of the Jewish diaspora in Egypt.”  
—*Times Literary Supplement*

“Densely layered ... a love letter to the lush paradise of Alexandria.”  
—*Moment Magazine*

“Helps show why postwar Alexandria inspires nostalgia and avidity in seemingly everyone who knew it ... The result is what summer reading should be: fast, carefree, visceral, and incipiently lubricious.”  
—*The New Yorker*

“Alexandria, a lush paradise by the sea, comes to antic, full-bodied life ... Readers will be transported.”  
—*Publishers Weekly*

*Alexandrian Summer* is the story of two Jewish families living their frenzied last days in the doomed cosmopolitan social whirl of Alexandria just before fleeing Egypt for Israel in 1951. The conventions of the Egyptian upper-middle class are laid bare in this dazzling novel, which exposes startling sexual hypocrisies and portrays a now vanished polyglot world of horse racing, seaside promenades and elegant nightclubs. Hamdi-Ali senior is an old-time patriarch with more than a dash of strong Turkish blood. His strapping elder son, a promising horse jockey, can't afford sexual frustration, as it leads him to overeat and imperil his career, but the woman he lusts after won't let him get beyond undoing a few buttons. Victor, the younger son, takes his pleasure with other boys. But the true heroine of the story—richly evoked in a pungent upstairs/downstairs mix—is the raucous, seductive city of Alexandria itself. Published in Hebrew in 1978, *Alexandrian Summer* appears now in translation for the first time.

**Yitzhak Gormezano Goren** was born in Alexandria, Egypt, in 1941 and immigrated to Israel as a child. He is a playwright and novelist. Goren studied English and French literature at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv University. In 1982, he cofounded the Bimat Kedem Theater.

*Love, lust, and the convulsions of history surge through this dazzling novel about a now vanished cosmopolitan world.*

# I CALLED HIM NECKTIE

MILENA MICHIKO FLAŠAR



TRANSLATED BY SHEILA DICKIE



“The best of the best from this year’s bountiful harvest of uncommonly strong offerings ... Deeply original.”

—*O, The Oprah Magazine*

“The quiet reflection of this jewel of a novel is revelatory, redemptive and hypnotic until the last word.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

Twenty-year-old Taguchi Hiro has spent the last two years of his life living as a hikikomori—a shut-in who never leaves his room and has no human interaction—in his parents’ home in Tokyo. As Hiro tentatively decides to reenter the world, he spends his days observing life around him from a park bench. Gradually he makes friends with Ohara Tetsu, a middle-aged salaryman who has lost his job but can’t bring himself to tell his wife, and shows up every day in a suit and tie to pass the time on a nearby bench. As Hiro and Tetsu cautiously open up to each other, they discover in their sadness a common bond. Regrets and disappointments, as well as hopes and dreams, come to the surface until both find the strength to somehow give a new start to their lives. This beautiful novel is moving, unforgettable, and full of surprises. The reader turns the last page feeling that a small triumph has occurred.



**Milena Michiko Flašar** was born in 1980, the daughter of a Japanese mother and an Austrian father. She lives in Vienna. *I Called Him Necktie* won the 2012 Austrian Alpha Literature Prize.

## *I Called Him Necktie*

by Milena Michiko Flašar | Austria

Translated by Sheila Dickie

FICTION

5 ¼ x 8 | 129 pp

Trade Paper \$15.99

978-1-939931-14-6

## *Guys Like Me*

by Dominique Fabre | France

Translated by Howard Curtis

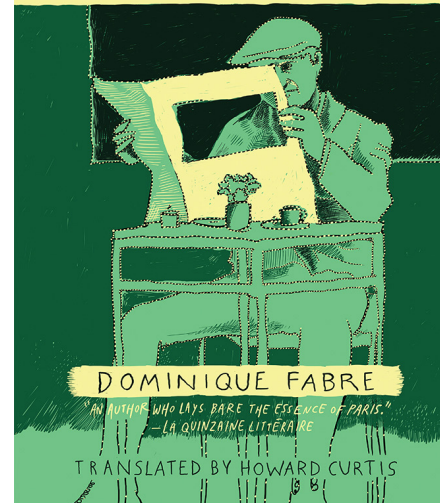
FICTION

5 ¼ x 8 | 144 pp

Trade Paper \$15.99

978-1-939931-15-3

# GUYS LIKE ME



“Fabre’s unexpectedly touching novel has a laugh of its own behind its low-key, smoothly translated narrative voice ... The city it evokes isn’t the Paris of tourists but of local people.”

—*The New York Times*

“Fabre speaks to us of luck and misfortune, of the accidents that make a man or defeat him. He talks about our ordinary disappointments and our small moments of calm. Fabre is the discreet megaphone of the man in the crowd.”

—*Elle*

Dominique Fabre, born in Paris and a life-long resident of the city, exposes the shadowy, anonymous lives of many who inhabit the French capital. In this quiet, subdued tale, a middle-aged office worker, divorced and alienated from his only son, meets up with two childhood friends who are similarly adrift, without passions or prospects. He’s looking for a second act to his mournful life, seeking the harbor of love and a true connection with his son. Set in palpably real Paris streets that feel miles away from the City of Light, *Guys Like Me* is a stirring novel of regret and absence, yet not without a glimmer of hope.



**Dominique Fabre**, born in 1960, writes about people living on society’s margins. He is a lifelong resident of Paris. His previous novel, *The Waitress Was New*, was also translated into English.



“Mairal’s quickening prose moves from the ordinary to the opulent and back again without skipping a beat. *The Missing Year of Juan Salviatierra* will surely leave some readers thinking of Henry James’s tragicomic accounts of the artist’s life.”  
 —**Jed Perl, *The New Republic***

“Pedro Mairal isn’t your old college literature professor’s idea of an Argentine novelist.”  
 —***The Los Angeles Times***

At age nine, Juan Salviatierra became mute following a horse riding accident. At twenty, he began secretly painting a series of long rolls of canvas, minutely detailing six decades of life in his village on Argentina’s river frontier with Uruguay. After the death of Salviatierra, his sons return to the village from Buenos Aires to deal with their inheritance: a shed packed with canvases stretching over two miles in length, depicting personal and communal history. Museum curators come calling to acquire this strange, gargantuan artwork but an essential one of its rolls is missing. A search that illuminates the links between art and life ensues, as an intrigue of family secrets buried in the past cast their shadows on the present.



**Pedro Mairal**, born in Buenos Aires in 1970, is one of the most exciting Argentine novelists of his generation. In 2007 he was included in the Bogotá 39, which named the best Latin American authors.

### ***The Missing Year of Juan Salviatierra***

by *Pedro Mairal* | Argentina  
 Translated by *Nick Caistor*  
 FICTION  
 5 ¼ x 8 | 118 pp  
 Trade Paper \$15.49  
 978-1-939931-07-8

“Spokesman for those who were angry and beat ... turbulent, temperamental and tortured.”  
 —***The New York Times***

“Hlasko’s story comes off the page at you like a pit bull.”  
 —***The Washington Post***

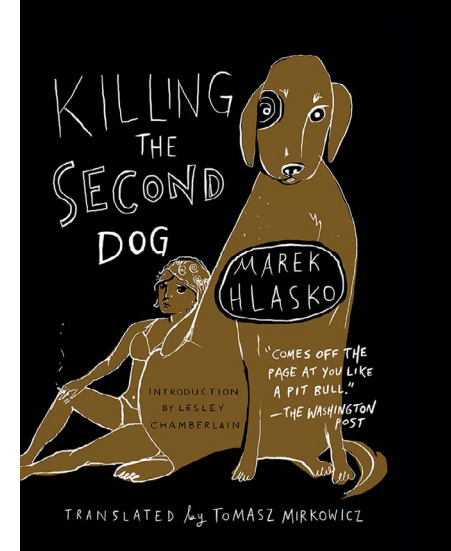
Robert and Jacob are down-and-out Polish con men living in Israel in the 1950s. They’re planning to run a scam on an American widow visiting the country. Robert, who masterminds the scheme, and Jacob, who acts it out, are tough, desperate men, adrift in the nasty underworld of Tel Aviv. Robert arranges for Jacob to run into the woman, whose heart is open; the men are hoping her wallet is too. What follows is a story of love, deception, cruelty and shame, as Jacob pretends to fall in love with her. It’s not just Jacob who’s performing a role; nearly all the characters are actors in an ugly story, complete with parts for murder and suicide. Hlasko’s writing combines brutal realism with smoky, hardboiled dialogue, in a bleak world where violence is the norm and love is often only an act.

### ***Killing the Second Dog***

by *Marek Hlasko* | Poland  
 Translated by *Tomasz Mirkowicz*  
 With an Introduction by *Lesley Chamberlain*  
 FICTION | *Rebel Lit Series*  
 5 ¼ x 8 | 138 pp  
 Trade Paper \$15.99  
 978-1-939931-11-5



**Marek Hlasko**, known as the James Dean of Eastern Europe, was exiled from Communist Poland and spent his life wandering the globe. He died in 1969 of an overdose of alcohol and sleeping pills in Wiesbaden, Germany.





# Some Day



SHEMI ZARHIN

TRANSLATED BY YARDENNE GREENSPAN

“Ardent, salty, whimsical, steamy, absurd ...  
A wallop to the reader.”

—*Ploughshares*

“A surreal story of twisted fates, with food  
in Israel saturating every page. Compelling  
and haunting, there is an addictive  
bitterness to Shemi Zarhin’s writing.”

—*Joan Nathan, author of  
The Foods of Israel Today  
and Jewish Cooking in America*

On the shores of Israel’s Sea of Galilee lies the city of Tiberias, a place bursting with sexuality and longing for love. The air is saturated with smells of cooking and passion. Young Shlomi, who develops a remarkable culinary talent, has fallen for Ella, the strange neighbor with suicidal tendencies; his little brother Hilik obsessively collects words in a notebook. In the wild, selfish but magical grown-up world that swirls around them, a mother with a poet’s soul mourns the deaths of literary giants while her handsome husband cheats on her both at home and abroad. *Some Day* is a gripping family saga. Zarhin’s hypnotic writing renders a painfully delicious vision of individual lives behind Israel’s larger national story.



**Shemi Zarhin**, born in Tiberias in 1961, is a novelist, film director and screenwriter who has created some of the most critically-acclaimed and award-winning films in the history of Israeli cinema.

## Some Day

by *Shemi Zarhin* | *Israel*  
Translated by *Yardenne Greenspan*  
FICTION  
5 1/4 x 8 | 451 pp  
Trade Paper \$16.99  
ISBN 978-1-939931-05-4

“*Cocaine* is a brilliant black comedy  
that belongs on the same shelf as  
Evelyn Waugh’s *Vile Bodies* and Dawn  
Powell’s *The Wicked Pavilion*. Pitigrilli  
is an acidic aphorist and a wicked  
observer of social folly.”

—*Jay McInerney, author of  
Bright Lights, Big City  
and Brightness Falls*

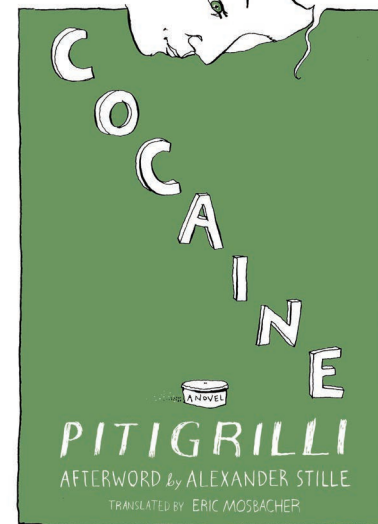
“Pitigrilli was an enjoyable writer—spicy  
and rapid—like lightning.”

—*Umberto Eco*

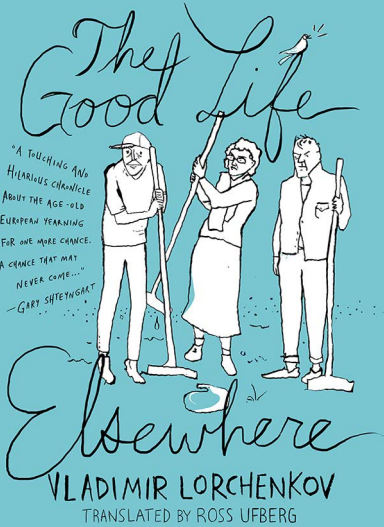
Paris in the 1920s—dizzy and decadent. Where a young man can make a fortune with his wits ... unless he is led into temptation. *Cocaine*’s dandified hero Tito Arnaudi invents lurid scandals and gruesome deaths, and sells these stories to the newspapers. But his own life becomes even more outrageous than his press reports when he acquires three demanding mistresses. Elegant, witty and wicked, Pitigrilli’s classic novel was first published in Italian in 1921 and charts the comedy and tragedy of a young man’s downfall and the lure of a bygone era. The novel’s descriptions of sex and drug use prompted church authorities to place it on a list of forbidden books. *Cocaine* retains its venom even today.

## Cocaine

by *Pitigrilli* | *Italy*  
Translated by *Eric Mosbacher*  
With an Afterword by *Alexander Stille*  
FICTION  
5 1/4 x 8 | 258 pp  
Trade Paper \$16.49  
978-1-939931-09-2



**Pitigrilli** was the pen name of Dino Segre, born in Turin in 1893. He worked as a foreign correspondent in Paris during the 1920s, and became equally celebrated and notorious for a series of audacious and subversive books. He died in 1975.

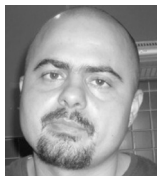


“Outstanding ... darkly hilarious.”  
—*The Wall Street Journal*

“A touching and hilarious chronicle about the age-old European yearning for one more chance. A chance that may never come ...”

—**Gary Shteyngart**, author of  
*Little Failure* and  
*Super Sad True Love Story*

Moldovan writer Vladimir Lorchenkov tells the story of a group of villagers and their tragicomic efforts, against all odds and at any cost, to emigrate from Europe’s most impoverished nation to Italy for work. This is a book with wild imagination and heartbreaking honesty, grim appraisals alongside optimistic commentary about the nature of human striving. In this uproarious tale, an Orthodox priest is deserted by his wife for an art-dealing atheist; a rookie curling team makes it to an international competition; a mechanic redesigns his tractor for travel by air and sea; and thousands of villagers take to the road on a modern-day religious crusade to make it to the promised land of Italy. It is not often that stories from forgotten countries such as Moldova reach us in the English-speaking world. A country where 25 percent of its population works abroad, where remittances make up nearly 40 percent of the GDP, where alcohol consumption per capita is the highest in the world, and which has the lowest per capita income in all of Europe—this is a country that surely has its problems. But, as Lorchenkov vividly shows, it’s a country whose residents don’t easily give up.



**Vladimir Lorchenkov** was born in Chisinau, Moldova, the son of a Soviet army officer, in 1979. He is a laureate of the 2003 Debut Prize, one of Russia’s highest honors given to young writers, the Russia Prize in 2008, and was short-listed for the National Bestseller Prize in 2012.

## *The Good Life Elsewhere*

by Vladimir Lorchenkov | Moldova  
Translated by Ross Ufberg  
FICTION

5 ¼ x 8 | 204 pp  
Trade Paper \$14.99  
ISBN 978-1-939931-01-6

## *On the Run with Mary*

by Jonathan Barrow | England  
FICTION

5 ¼ x 8 | 129 pp  
Trade Paper \$14.95  
978-1-939931-24-5

“A masterpiece by a young genius, fated to die shortly after he had completed it.”

—**A.N. Wilson**, author of  
*Victoria: A Life* and  
*Tolstoy: A Biography*

“Dementedly cheerful ... a rollicking catalogue of sex, violence, and acts of cartoonish cruelty, Barrow’s novel is a schoolboy’s happy nightmare writ large; readers may find it impossible to look away.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

Shining moments of tender beauty punctuate this story of a youth on the run after escaping from an elite English boarding school. At London’s Euston Station, the narrator meets a talking dachshund named Mary and together they’re off on escapades through posh Mayfair streets and jaunts in a Rolls-Royce. But the youth soon realizes that the seemingly sweet dog is a handful: an alcoholic, nymphomaniac, drug-addicted mess who can’t stay out of pubs or off the dance floor. In a world of abusive headmasters and other predators, the youth discovers that true friends are never needed more than on the mean streets of 1960s London, as he tries to save his beloved Mary from herself. *On the Run with Mary* mirrors the horrors and the joys of the terrible 20th century. Jonathan Barrow’s original drawings accompany the text.

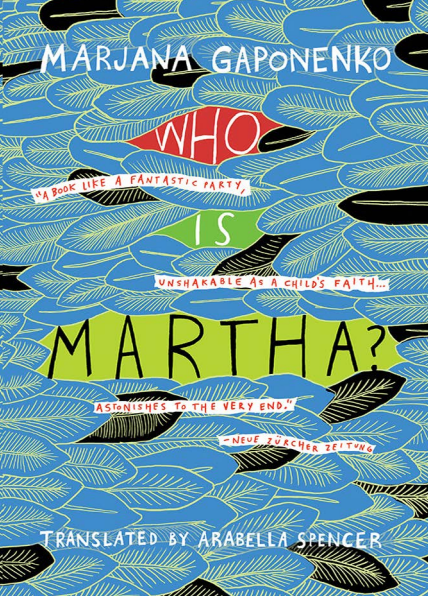
ON THE RUN WITH MARY



JONATHAN BARROW



**Jonathan Barrow** was born in 1947, north of London. His promising career as a writer and artist was cut short when he was killed at age twenty-two in a car crash alongside his fiancée, two weeks before their wedding. The manuscript of this book was discovered in Barrow’s office drawer the day after his death.



“Hilarious, beautiful and compassionate ... exquisitely rendered.”

—*World Literature Today*

“A deeply compassionate meditation on one man’s life and its impending finality. Amusingly digressive and philosophically rich.”

—*Rain Taxi*

In this rollicking novel, 96-year-old ornithologist Luka Levadski foregoes treatment for lung cancer and moves from Ukraine to Vienna to make a grand exit in a luxury suite at the Hotel Imperial. He reflects on his past while indulging in Viennese cakes and savoring music in a gilded concert hall. Levadski was born in 1914, the same year that Martha—the last of the now-extinct passenger pigeons—died. Levadski himself has an acute sense of being the last of a species. He may have devoted much of his existence to studying birds, but now he befriends a hotel butler and another elderly guest, who also doesn’t have much time left, to share in the lively escapades of his final days. This gloriously written tale, in which Levadski feels “his heart pounding at the portals of his brain,” mixes piquant wit with lofty musings about life, friendship, aging and death.



**Marjana Gaponenko** was born in 1981 in Odessa, Ukraine. She fell in love with the German language as a young girl, and began writing in German when she was sixteen. She lives in Vienna and Mainz.

### *Who is Martha?*

by Marjana Gaponenko | Germany

Translated by Arabella Spencer

FICTION

5 ¼ x 8 | 230 pp

Trade Paper \$16.99

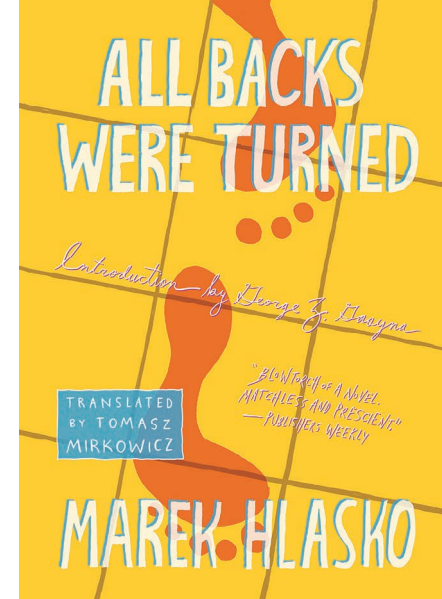
978-1-939931-13-9

“Hlasko was an original. His novels were fearless, his vision unsparing, and decades later, his darkly brilliant work has lost none of its power to unsettle. He achieved what few other writers ever have: he turned the literary landscape into a much more interesting place than it was when he found it.”

—**Emily St. John Mandel**, author of *Station Eleven*, *Last Night in Montreal* and *The Singer’s Gun*

“Blowtorch of a novel ... matchless and prescient.”

—*Publishers Weekly*



In this novel of breathtaking tension and sweltering love, two desperate friends on the edge of the law—one of them tough and gutsy, the other small and scared—travel to the southern Israeli city of Eilat to find work. There, Dov Ben Dov, the handsome native Israeli with a reputation for causing trouble, and Israel, his sidekick, stay with Ben Dov’s recently married younger brother, Little Dov, who has enough trouble of his own. Local toughs are encroaching on Little Dov’s business, and he enlists his older brother to drive them away. It doesn’t help that a beautiful German widow named Ursula is rooming next door. What follows is a story of passion, deception, violence, and betrayal, all conveyed in hardboiled prose reminiscent of Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler, with a cinematic style that would make Bogart and Brando green with envy.



**Marek Hlasko**, known as the James Dean of Eastern Europe, was exiled from Communist Poland and spent his life wandering the globe. He died in 1969 of an overdose of alcohol and sleeping pills in Wiesbaden, Germany.

### *All Backs Were Turned*

by Marek Hlasko | Poland

Translated by Tomasz Mirkowicz

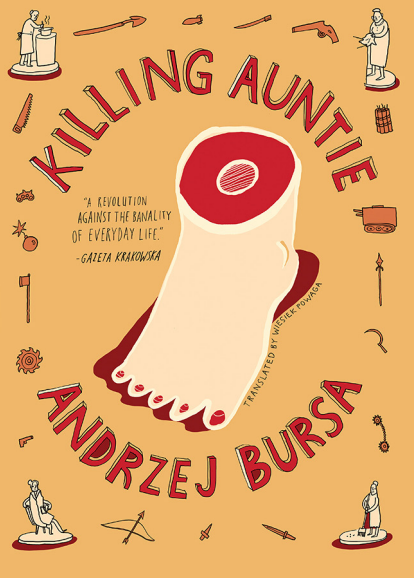
With an Introduction by George Z. Gasyina

FICTION | Rebel Lit Series

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Trade Paper \$15.99

978-1-939931-12-2




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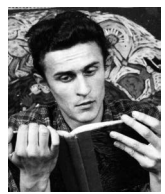
“Deliciously wicked ... readers will also find plenty to enjoy (one sequence of unwitting cannibalism is particularly memorable).”  
 —*Publishers Weekly*

“Fast-moving and witty in style and tone, this novel is one not soon forgotten.”  
 —*World Literature Today*

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A university student named Jurek, with no particular ambitions or talents, finds himself with nothing to do. After his dotting aunt asks the young man to perform a small chore, he decides to kill her for no good reason other than, perhaps, boredom. *Killing Auntie* follows Jurek as he seeks to dispose of the corpse—a task more difficult than one might imagine—and then falls in love with a girl he meets on a train. Can he tell her what he’s done? Will that ruin everything?

“I’m convinced—simply—that we are all guilty,” says Jurek, and his adventures with nearsighted relatives, false-toothed grandmothers, meat grinders, and love-making lynxes shed light on how an entire society becomes involved in the murder and disposal of dear old Auntie. This is a short comedic masterpiece that combines elements of Dostoevsky, Sartre, Kafka, and Heller, coming together in the end to produce an unforgettable tale of murder and—just maybe—redemption.



**Andrzej Bursa** was born in 1932 in Krakow, Poland, and died twenty-five years later of a heart attack. In his brief lifetime he composed some of the most original Polish writing of the 20th century. *Killing Auntie* is his only novel. His brilliant career and tragic early death established him as a cult figure among restless and disenchanted youth.

***Killing Auntie***  
 by Andrzej Bursa | Poland  
 Translated by Wiesiek Powaga  
 FICTION | Rebel Lit Series  
 5 ¼ x 8 | 120 pp  
 Trade Paper \$12.99  
 978-1-939931-21-4

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***Fanny Von Arnstein***  
 Daughter of the Enlightenment  
 by Hilde Spiel | Austria  
 Translated by Christine Shuttleworth  
 With an Introduction by Michael Z. Wise  
 BIOGRAPHY  
 6 x 9 | 347 pp  
 Trade Paper \$18.99  
 978-1-939931-03-0




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“Hilde Spiel provides both a finely drawn portrait of a defining figure of her era and also of the times themselves.”  
 —**John Kornblum,**  
 former U.S. Ambassador to Germany

“An elegant edition ... fascinating ... We must be grateful to have this biography.”  
 —*The Jewish Review of Books*

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In 1776 Fanny von Arnstein, the daughter of the Jewish master of the royal mint in Berlin, came to Vienna as an 18-year-old bride, bringing with her the intellectual sharpness and vitality of her birthplace. In her youth, she was influenced by the philosopher Moses Mendelssohn, a family friend who spearheaded the emancipation of German Jewry. She married a financier to the Austro-Hungarian imperial court, and in 1798 her husband became the first unconverted Jew in Austria to be granted the title of baron. Soon Fanny hosted an ever more splendid salon which attracted the leading figures of her day, including Madame de Staël, the Duke of Wellington, Lord Nelson, his lover Lady Hamilton and the young Arthur Schopenhauer.

Spiel’s elegantly written and carefully researched biography not only provides a vivid portrait of a brave and passionate woman who advocated for the rights and acceptance of Jews but illuminates a central era in European cultural and social history.



**Hilde Spiel** was born in Vienna but left for England in 1936 amid rising anti-Semitism. She returned after World War Two and had a distinguished career as a cultural correspondent for the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, *The Guardian* and *The New Statesman*. Spiel wrote novels, works of cultural history and criticism, and translated the works of British writers including W.H. Auden and Virginia Woolf.



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