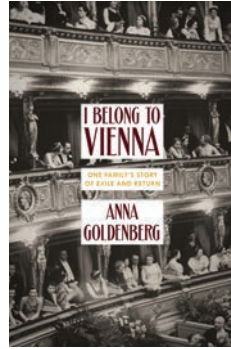
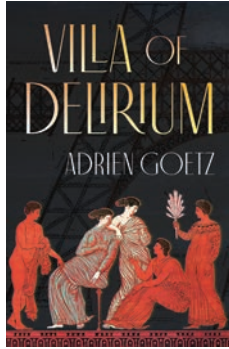




New Vessel Press 2019-20



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

By bringing readers foreign literature and narrative non-fiction, we offer captivating, thought-provoking works with beautifully designed covers and high production values. We scour the globe looking for the best stories, knowing that only about three percent of the books published in the United States each year are translations. That leaves a lot of great literature still to be discovered.

At New Vessel Press, we believe that knowledge of foreign cultures and literatures enriches our lives by offering passageways to understand and embrace the world. We regard literary translation as both craft and art, enabling us to traverse borders and open minds. We are committed to books that offer erudition and enjoyment, stimulate and scintillate, transform and transport.

And of course, what matters most is not where the authors hail from, or what language they write in. The most important thing is the quality of the work itself. And hence our name. We publish great books, just in a new vessel.

Our books have received a wide array of accolades, from *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal* to *The New Yorker* and *O, The Oprah Magazine*. We are confident that our 2019–20 offerings will continue to make their mark and look forward to bringing the world’s great literature to ever more readers.

 New Vessel Press

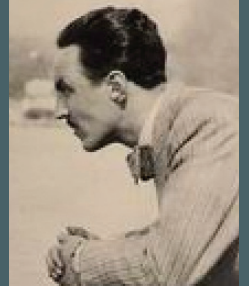
www.newvesselpress.com
info@newvesselpress.com

THE BISHOP'S BEDROOM

PIERO CHIARA

THE BISHOP'S BEDROOM

By Piero Chiara / Italy
Translated by Jill Foulston
FICTION
November 2019
5 ¼ x 8 • 151 pp
Trade Paper \$15.95
978-1-939931-74-0



“Piero Chiara’s novel is at once a murder mystery and a lyrical study of desire, greed, and deception. The ending is simply stunning.”

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

“For such a wicked and wanton novel, *The Bishop’s Bedroom* is as tightly-controlled and queasily suspenseful as the best of Patricia Highsmith. It seduced me from its atmospheric opening pages to its shocking and satisfying final act.”

—**Christopher Castellani**, author of *Leading Men*

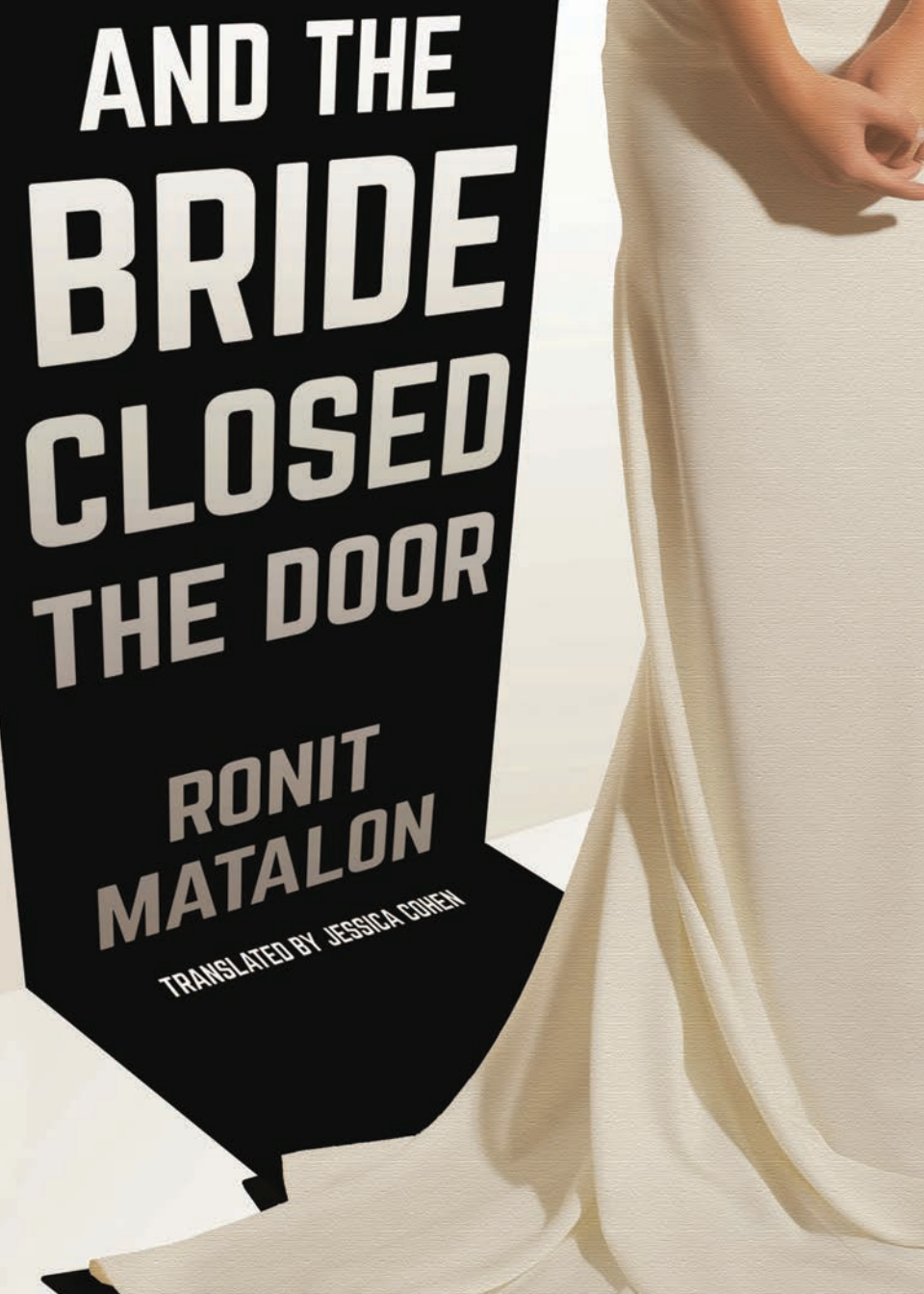
“Piero Chiara’s dark idyll of erotic entanglements in post-WWII Italy was a revelation to me: a character study of sinister power, a beautiful evocation of the dolce vita on Lake Maggiore, and an unnerving portrayal of the predatory sexual mores of another world that mirrors those of our own in the strangest, most unexpected ways.”

—**James Lasdun**, author of *The Fall Guy* and *Give Me Everything You Have*

Summer 1946. World War Two has just come to an end and there’s a yearning for renewal. A man in his thirties is sailing on Lake Maggiore in northern Italy, hoping to put off the inevitable return to work. Dropping anchor in a small, fashionable port, he meets the enigmatic owner of a nearby villa who invites him home for dinner with his older wife and beautiful widowed sister-in-law. The sailor is intrigued by the elegant mansion, staffed with servants and imbued with mystery, and stays in a room previously occupied by a now deceased bishop related to his host. The two men form an uneasy bond, recognizing in each other a shared taste for idling and erotic adventure. But tragedy puts an abrupt halt to their revels and shatters the tranquility of the villa.

Piero Chiara (1913–1986) was a leading Italian author of the 20th century whose work is marked by psychological depth and melancholy humor. *The Bishop’s Bedroom* is the most celebrated of his many acclaimed novels.

*A sultry, stylish psychological thriller
executed with supreme literary finesse.*



AND THE BRIDE CLOSED THE DOOR

RONIT
MATALON
TRANSLATED BY JESSICA COHEN

AND THE BRIDE CLOSED THE DOOR

By Ronit Matalon / Israel
Translated by Jessica Cohen
FICTION

October 2019
5 ¼ x 8 • 128 pp
Trade Paper \$15.95
978-1-939931-75-7



Photo © Irit Nishur

“Ronit Matalon was a giant of Israeli literature: not of the bombast of grand political statements, but rather a master of the private, the intimate, the ambivalent, the human.”
—Dara Horn, author of *Eternal Life*

“This brilliant novel makes the reader privy to the inner thoughts of a comically messy family. From there, bigger truths about personal life and the wider culture are exposed.”
—Bethany Ball, author of *What to Do About the Solomons*

“Refreshingly audacious and stirringly sophisticated, *And the Bride Closed the Door* presents the reader with a sharp-edged piece of social and feminist critique.”
—Ruby Namdar, author of *The Ruined House*

A young bride shuts herself up in a bedroom on her wedding day, refusing to get married. In this moving and humorous look at contemporary Israel, her family gathers outside the locked door, not knowing what to do. The only communication they receive from behind the door are scribbled notes, one a cryptic poem about a prodigal daughter returning home. The family tries an array of unusual tactics to ensure the wedding goes ahead, including calling in a psychologist specializing in brides who change their mind and a ladder truck from the Palestinian Authority electrical company. The harder they try to reach the defiant woman, the more her despairing groom becomes convinced her refusal should be respected. But what, exactly, ought to be respected? Is this merely a case of cold feet? A feminist statement? Or a mourning ritual?

Ronit Matalon (1959–2017) was the author of nine novels and a liberal social activist. The daughter of Egyptian immigrants to Israel, she worked as a journalist for the newspaper *Haaretz* and reported from the West Bank and Gaza. *And the Bride Closed the Door* was awarded Israel’s prestigious Brenner Prize the day before Matalon’s death at age 58.

A provocative and entertaining wedding day drama about contemporary Israel and the chaotic ups and downs of love everywhere.

VILLA OF DELIRIUM

ADRIEN GOETZ



VILLA OF DELIRIUM

By Adrien Goetz / France

Translated by Natasha Lehr

FICTION

May 2020

6 x 8.5 • 350 pp

Hardcover \$25.95

978-1-939931-80-1



Photo © J.F. Pige

“With a fascinating but never stifling erudition, Goetz delves into the background of this almost divine edifice . . . weaving a magnificent and educational novel.”

—David Foenkinos, author of *Delicacy*

“One of the charms of the book is the back and forth between the Belle Époque in which the villa arose and the Greece of yesterday from which it originates.”

—*Le Figaro Littéraire*

“Succeeds in weaving together erudition, humor and intrigue; a triple pleasure for the reader.”

—*Magazine Littéraire*

Along the French Riviera in the early 1900s, an illustrious family in thrall to classical antiquity builds a fabulous villa—a replica of a Greek palace, complete with marble columns, furniture of exotic woods and frescoes depicting mythological gods. The Reinachs—related to other wealthy Jews like the Rothschilds and the Ephrussis—attempt to recreate “a pure beauty” lost to modernity and fill it with pleasure and knowledge. The narrator of this brilliant novel calls the imposing house on the Côte d’Azur “an act of delirium, above all an optimistic act, proof that one could reset time as one could reset a clock and resist the outside world.” The story of the villa and its glamorous inhabitants is recounted by the son of a servant from a nearby estate belonging to Gustave Eiffel, designer of the Paris tower. As a youth, the son is adopted by the Reinachs, initiated into the era of Socrates and instructed in classical Greek. He joins a family pilgrimage to Athens, falls in love with a married woman, and outlives the Nazi confiscation of the house and the deportation to death camps of Reinach grandchildren.

Adrien Goetz is a novelist who teaches art history at the Sorbonne in Paris. He is editor of *Grande Galerie*, the quarterly magazine of the Louvre Museum.

*A novel about humanity’s quest for perfection;
a Greek epic for the modern era.*



I BELONG TO VIENNA

ONE FAMILY'S STORY
OF EXILE AND RETURN

ANNA
GOLDENBERG

I BELONG TO VIENNA

By Anna Goldenberg / Austria

Translated by Alta L. Price

NONFICTION

June 2020

6 x 8.5 • 200 pp

Hardcover \$24.95

978-1-939931-84-9



Photo © manuscript / Dentelle

“Goldenberg has written a big, important, quiet and disturbing book. It is ruthless and precise, honest and inquisitive, showing the bright side of a family’s fate as well as the dark.”
—*Falter*

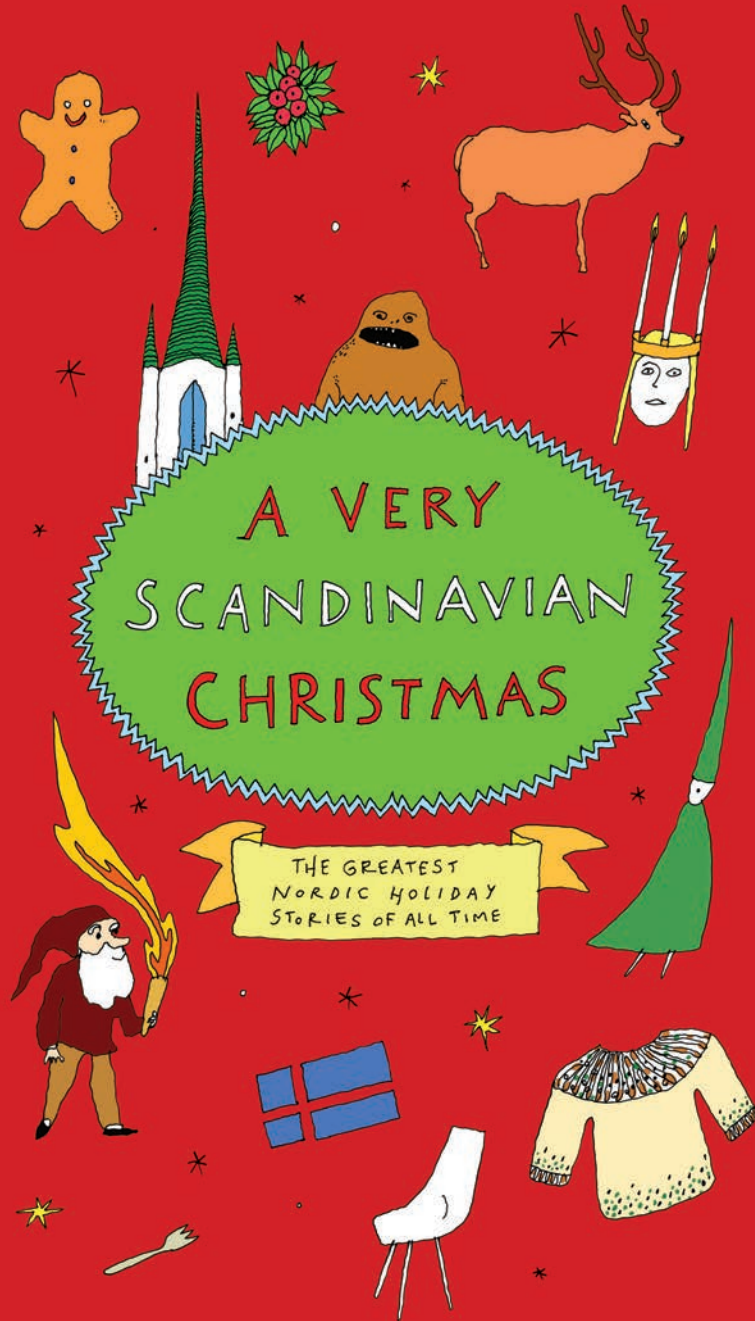
“A kaleidoscopic picture of the varied perceptions of the oncoming Holocaust and how the Jewish population of Vienna responded to its events and risks.”
—*Die Zeit*

“Goldenberg reveals the mechanisms by which people were initially deprived of their rights, then their property, and finally their lives—the processes necessary for dehumanization.”
—*Der Standard*

In autumn 1942, Anna Goldenberg’s great-grandparents and one of their sons are deported to the Theresienstadt concentration camp. Hans, their elder son, survives by hiding in an apartment in the middle of Nazi-controlled Vienna. But this is no Anne Frank-like existence; teenage Hans passes time in the municipal library and buys standing room tickets to the Vienna State Opera. Hans never sees his family again. Goldenberg reconstructs this unique story in magnificent reportage. She also portrays Vienna’s undying allure—although they tried living in the United States after World War Two, both grandparents eventually returned to the Austrian capital. The author, too, has returned to her native Vienna after studying and working in New York, and her fierce attachment to her birthplace enlivens her engrossing biographical history.

Anna Goldenberg, born in 1989 in Vienna, studied psychology at the University of Cambridge and journalism at Columbia University. She worked at *The Forward* in New York before returning to Vienna where she now writes as a freelance journalist.

A probing tale of heroism, identity and belonging, marked by a surprising freshness as a new generation comes to terms with history’s darkest era.



A VERY SCANDINAVIAN CHRISTMAS

The Greatest Nordic Holiday Stories of All Time

Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden

FICTION

September 2019

7 x 10 • 140 pp

Paper over Board \$22.95

978-1-939931-76-4



**Hans Christian Andersen, Karl Ove Knausgaard, Selma Lagerlöf,
August Strindberg, Hjalmar Söderberg, Ingvar Ambjørnsen, and Others**

Our fourth book in the very popular Very Christmas Series, this collection brings together the best Scandinavian holiday stories including classics by Hans Christian Andersen of Denmark; Nobel Prize winner Selma Lagerlöf, August Strindberg and Hjalmar Söderberg of Sweden; as well as the popular contemporary Norwegian authors Karl Ove Knausgaard and Ingvar Ambjørnsen. These Nordic tales—coming from the very region where so much of traditional Christmas imagery originates—convey a festive and contemplative spirit laden with lingonberries, elks, gnomes, Sami trolls, candles, church spires, gingerbread, and aquavit in abundance. A smorgasbord of unexpected literary gifts that make up a vibrant, elegant hardcover volume sure to provide plenty of pleasure and *hygge*, that specifically Scandinavian blend of coziness and contentment.

Also Available

A Very French Christmas 978-1-939931-50-4

A Very Russian Christmas 978-1-939931-43-6

A Very Italian Christmas 978-1-939931-62-7

A festive continuation of the very popular Very Christmas story collection from the very region where much traditional holiday imagery originates.



THE DRIVE

YAIR ASSULIN

TRANSLATED BY JESSICA COHEN

THE DRIVE

By Yair Assulin / Israel

Translated by Jessica Cohen

FICTION

April 2020

5.25 x 8 • 120 pp

Paperback \$15.95

978-1-939931-82-5



“Assulin’s novel is impressive in its breadth. His hero, like Joseph Heller’s Yossarian in *Catch-22*, is a young man struggling to make sense of the world and himself amid the surreal madness of war.”

—Donald Margulies, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Dinner With Friends*

“*The Drive* is raw, poignant, tense, terse, and brutally honest. We see, hear and feel a soldier’s soul shredding until all he has left is the wish to die. This book shatters ideals and illusions about glorious and patriotic military service.”

—Edward Tick, author of *War and the Soul* and *Warrior’s Return*

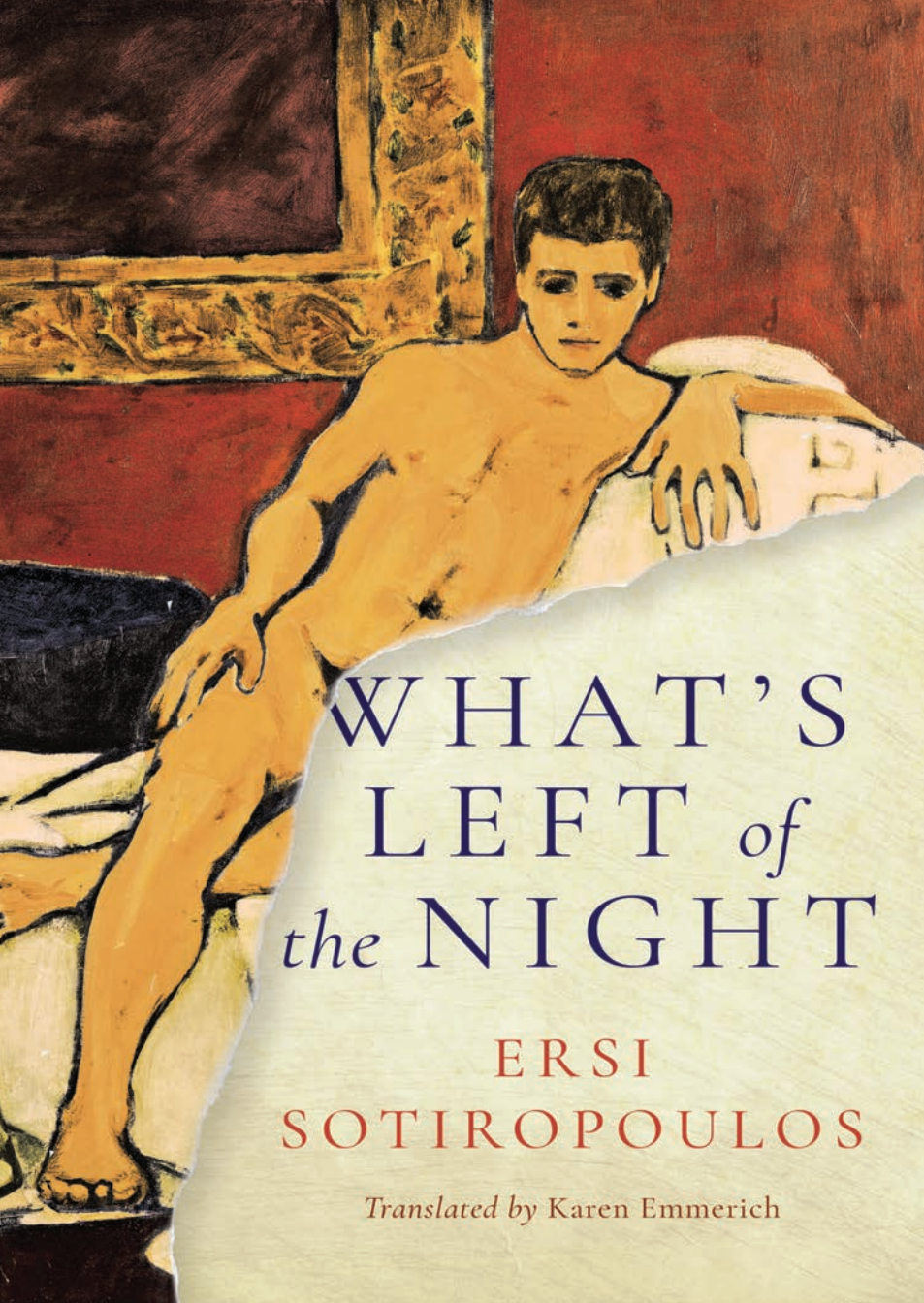
“A touching, gut-wrenching work. It is astounding and troubling at the same time.”

—Makor Rishon

This searing novel tells the journey of a young Israeli soldier at the breaking point, unable to continue carrying out his military service, yet terrified of the consequences of leaving the army. As the soldier and his father embark on a lengthy drive to meet with a military psychiatrist, Yair Assulin penetrates the torn world of the hero, whose journey is not just that of a young man facing a crucial dilemma, but a tour of the soul and depths of Israeli society and of those everywhere who resist regimentation and violence. Weary of being forced to be part of a larger collective, can one fulfill a yearning for an existence free of politics, the news cycle and the imperative of perpetual battle-readiness—without risking the respect of those we love most?

Yair Assulin, born in 1986, studied philosophy and history at the Hebrew University. *The Drive* won Israel’s Ministry of Culture Prize and the Sapir Prize for debut fiction. He writes a weekly column in the newspaper *Haaretz*.

A compelling story of an urgent personal quest to reconcile duty, expectations and individual instinct.



WHAT'S LEFT OF THE NIGHT

By Ersi Sotiropoulos / Greece

Translated by Karen Emmerich

FICTION

5 ¼ x 8 • 290 pp

Trade Paper \$16.95

978-1-939931-61-0



“A perfect book.”

—**Edmund White**, author of *A Boy's Own Story*

“The novel is as sensual as it is erudite, a stirring intimate exploration of the private, earthy place where creation commences.”

—*The Wall Street Journal*

“A remarkable novel . . . both a radiant work of the imagination and a fitting tribute to the greatest Greek poet of the twentieth century.”

—*The Times Literary Supplement*

In June 1897, the young Constantine Cavafy arrives in Paris on the last stop of a long European tour, a trip that will deeply shape his future. With this lyrical novel, tinged with hallucinatory eroticism, celebrated Greek author Ersi Sotiropoulos depicts Cavafy in the midst of a journey of self-discovery across a continent on the brink of massive change. He is by turns exhilarated and tormented by his homosexuality; the Greek-Turkish War has ended in Greece's defeat and humiliation; France is torn by the Dreyfus Affair, and Cavafy's native Alexandria has surrendered to the indolent rhythms of the East. A stunning portrait of a budding author—before he became C.P. Cavafy, one of the 20th century's greatest poets—that illuminates the complex relationship of art, life, and the erotic desires that trigger creativity.

Ersi Sotiropoulos has received some of Greece's, and Europe's, most prominent literary awards, including the Greek National Literature Prize, the Book Critics' Award, and the 2017 Prix Méditerranée for *What's Left of the Night*.

A spellbinding novel based on the visit to Paris by C.P. Cavafy, one of the twentieth century's greatest writers, filled with lyrical observations and infused with erotic desire.



S L E E P L E S S
N I G H T

a novel

M A R G R I E T D E M O O R

SLEEPLESS NIGHT

By Margriet de Moor / The Netherlands

Translated by David Doherty

FICTION

5 ¼ x 8 • 122 pp

Trade Paper \$16.95

978-1-939931-69-6



Photo © John Foley/Opale Language

“A subtle, enigmatic, and beautiful elegy to a husband and marriage that ends in tragedy . . . There are layers of meaning here, which with adroit subtlety De Moor lets readers puzzle for themselves.”

—**Claire Fuller**, author of *Swimming Lessons* and *Bitter Orange*

“Compact, haunting, and lovely . . . it is unhurried and assured; no word is wasted . . . In both its rich and unapologetic descriptions of domesticity and frank attitude toward sex . . . the book is a treatise on one individual’s womanhood.”

—**Kirkus Reviews**

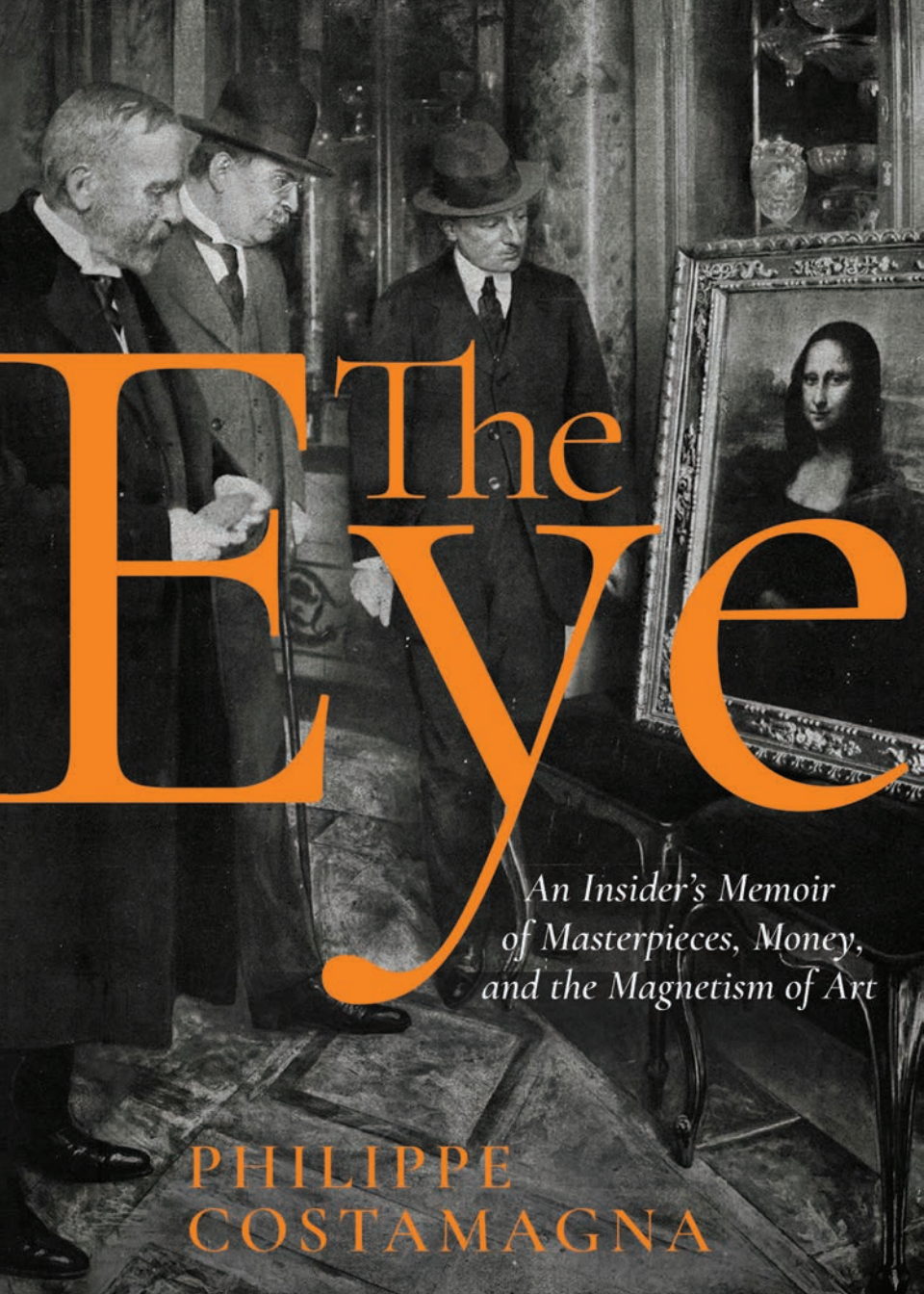
“Poignant . . . delivers insightful ruminations on marriage, love, love lost, and the unsolved mysteries lurking underneath the surface of everyday lives . . . *Sleepless Night* is a meditative novel where the seemingly mundane reveals itself to be the harbinger of profound insights.”

—**Foreword Reviews**

A woman gets up in the middle of a wintry night and starts baking a Bundt cake while her lover sleeps upstairs. When it’s time for her to take the cake out of the oven, we have read a tale of romance and death. The narrator of this novel was widowed years ago and is trying to find new passion. But the memory of her deceased husband and a shameful incident still holds her in its grasp. Why did he do it? Margriet de Moor, master storyteller and one of Europe’s foremost novelists, recounts a gripping love story about endings and demise, rage and jealousy, knowledge and ambiguity—and the possibility of a fresh start.

Margriet de Moor had a career as a classical singer before making her fiction debut in 1988. She has written many novels including *The Virtuoso*, *The Kreuzer Sonata*, *The Storm* and *The Duke of Egypt*. Her work has been translated into twenty-four languages.

The grande dame of Dutch literature recounts a story of romance and death while a cake is baked in the middle of the night.



The Eye

An Insider's Memoir
of Masterpieces, Money,
and the Magnetism of Art

PHILIPPE
COSTAMAGNA

THE EYE

An Insider's Memoir of Masterpieces, Money, and the Magnetism of Art

By Philippe Costamagna / France

Translated by Frank Wynne

NONFICTION

6 x 9 • 270 pp

Hardcover \$26.95 • 978-1-939931-58-0



Photo © 2016, J.P. Page-Ginsert

“Exhilarating and informative . . . Mr. Costamagna is catholic in his enthusiasm and is open to the new. He tells delicious stories.”

—*The Wall Street Journal*

“An informative yet gripping and seductively gossipy memoir . . . pulls back the curtain on connoisseurship at its most powerful.”

—*The Financial Times*

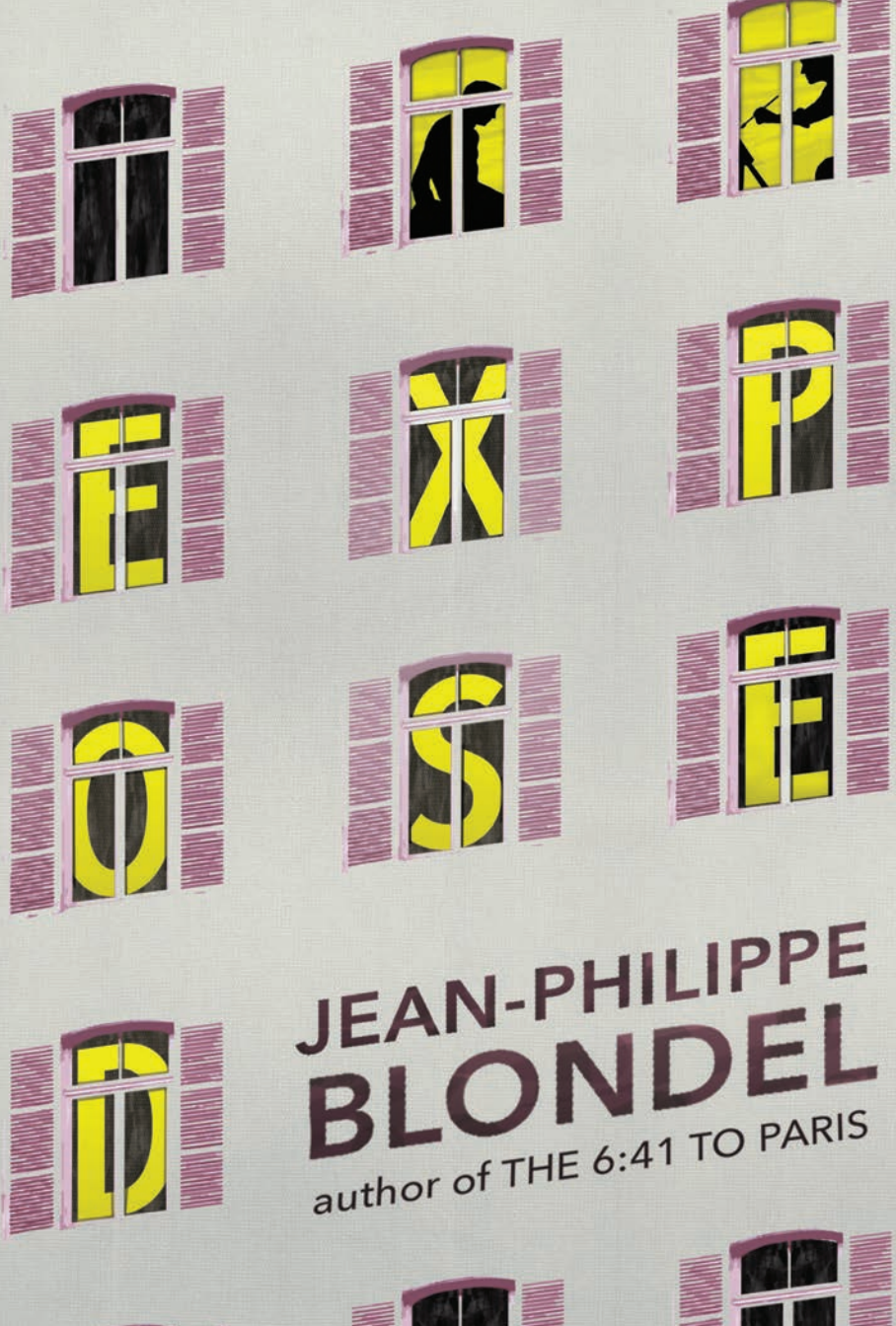
“Page-turner . . . Lifting the veil on the shadowy world of art insiders, Costamagna delivers an entertaining reflection on the dealers, devotees, and decision makers who define the art market.”

—*Town & Country Magazine*

It's a rare and secret profession, comprising a few dozen people around the world equipped with a mysterious mixture of knowledge and innate sensibility. Summoned to Swiss bank vaults, Fifth Avenue apartments and Tokyo storerooms, they are entrusted by collectors, dealers and museums to decide if a coveted picture is real or fake and to determine if it was painted by Leonardo da Vinci or Raphael. *The Eye* lifts the veil on the rarified world of connoisseurs devoted to the authentication and discovery of Old Master art works. This is an art adventure story and a memoir all in one, written by a leading expert on the Renaissance whose métier is a high-stakes detective game involving massive amounts of money and frenetic activity in the service of the art market and scholarship alike. It's also an eloquent argument for the enduring value of visual creativity, told with passion, brilliance and surprising candor.

Philippe Costamagna is a specialist in 16th-century Italian painting and director of the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Ajaccio, Corsica. He is the author of a book on the Florentine Renaissance painter Pontormo.

An art adventure story that exposes readers to a secret, high-stakes profession involving masterpieces, massive amounts of money, and an intense love of painting.



EXPOSED

By Jean-Philippe Blondel / France

Translated by Alison Anderson

FICTION

5 ¼ x 8 • 157 pp

Trade Paper \$16.95

978-1-939931-67-2



“Captivating . . . The novel flies by with gentle humor, but it also poses complex questions about the meaning of art and sexuality, and offers an elegiac look at late middle age . . . Irresistible, and the story’s fundamental kindness sets it apart.”

—*Publishers Weekly* (Starred Review)

“A short philosophical novel about art, time, and memory . . . A subtle and at times radiant read.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“A novel of tender, shy wisdom whose characters remind each other that memory lives in the body, loosened like knots by the right touch. *Exposed* reconciles old age to its theme of regret. It is, however, Blondel’s true talent that we embrace that regret—not only as an opportunity for joy, but as a polestar to guide us places we’d never have gone without it.”

—Patrick Nathan, author of *Some Hell*

A French teacher on the verge of retirement is invited to a glittering opening that showcases the artwork of his former student, who has since become a celebrated painter. This unexpected encounter leads to the older man posing for his portrait. Possibly in the nude. Such personal exposure at close range entails a strange and troubling pact between artist and sitter that prompts both to reevaluate their lives. Blondel, author of the hugely popular novel *The 6:41 to Paris*, evokes an intimacy of dangerous intensity in a tale marked by profound nostalgia and a reckoning with the past that allows its two characters to move ahead in to the future.

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.

A dangerous intimacy emerges between a French teacher and a former student who has achieved art world celebrity; the painting of a portrait upturns both their lives.

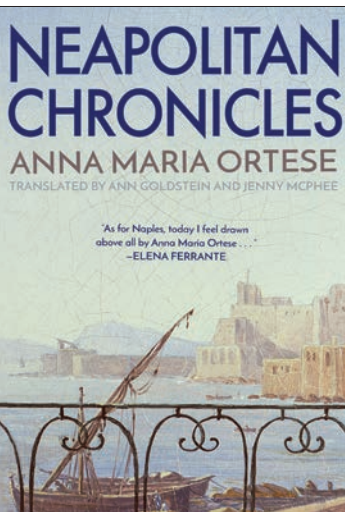


THE 6:41 TO PARIS

by Jean-Philippe Blondel / France • Translated by Alison Anderson
 FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 153 pp
 Trade Paper \$14.95 • 978-1-939931-26-9

Cécile, a stylish 47-year-old, has spent the weekend visiting her parents outside Paris. By early Monday morning, she's exhausted. These trips back home are stressful and she settles into a train compartment with an empty seat beside her. But it's soon occupied by a man she recognizes as Philippe Leduc, with whom she had a passionate affair that ended in her humiliation 30 years ago. In the fraught hour and a half that ensues, Cécile and Philippe hurtle toward the French capital. A psychological thriller about past romance, with all its pain and promise.

"A strong plot and a touching portrayal of how any of us might feel when unexpectedly confronted by the detritus of young love . . . *The 6:41 to Paris* is a timely reminder that the past is always waiting to ambush us."
 —*The New York Times Sunday Book Review*



NEAPOLITAN CHRONICLES

By Anna Maria Ortese / Italy
 Translated by Ann Goldstein and Jenny McPhee • FICTION
 5 ¼ x 8 • 200 pp • Trade Paper \$16.95 • 978-1-939931-51-1

A classic of European literature, this superb collection of fiction and reportage is set in Italy's most vibrant and turbulent metropolis—Naples—in the immediate aftermath of World War Two. These writings helped inspire Elena Ferrante's best-selling novels and she has expressed deep admiration for Ortese who was also championed by Italo Calvino. The powerful portrait of Naples is a stunning literary companion to the great neorealist films of the era by directors Vittorio de Sica and Roberto Rossellini.

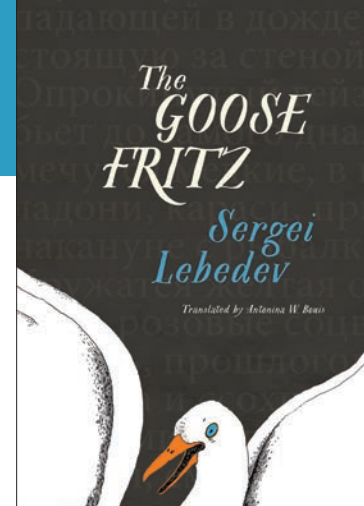
"Anna Maria Ortese is a writer of exceptional prowess and force. The stories collected in this volume, which reverberate with Chekhovian energy and melancholy, are revered in Italy by writers and readers alike."
 —**Jhumpa Lahiri, author of *The Lowland***

THE GOOSE FRITZ

By Sergei Lebedev / Russia • Translated by Antonina W. Bouis
 FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 322 pp
 Trade Paper \$17.95 • 978-1-939931-64-1

This revelatory novel tells the story of a young Russian, the sole survivor of a once numerous clan of German origin, who delves relentlessly into the unresolved past. His ancestor migrated in the 1830s to the Russian Empire to practice alternative medicine and subsequent generations live through centuries of turmoil during which none can escape their adoptive country's cruel fate. *The Goose Fritz* illuminates both personal and political history in a passion-filled family saga about an often confounding country that has long fascinated the world.

"Outstanding . . . Lebedev muses in Tolstoyan fashion about 'the energy flow of history,' by which the actions of distant ancestors can fix the destinies of people hundreds of years later . . . a translation of determined, adamant beauty."
 —*The Wall Street Journal*

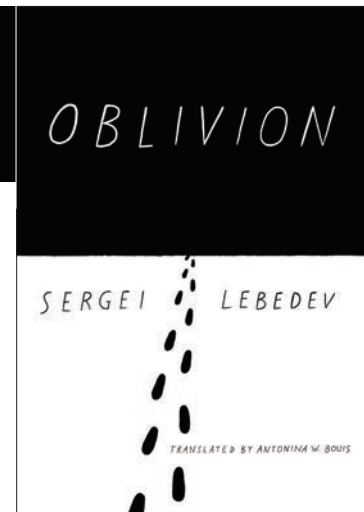


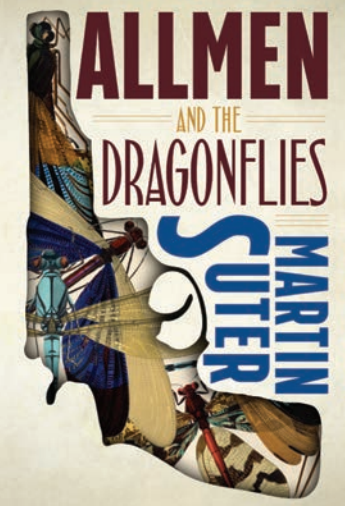
OBLIVION

by Sergei Lebedev / Russia • Translated by Antonina W. Bouis
 FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 290 pp
 Trade Paper \$15.95 • 978-1-939931-25-2

In one of the first 21st century Russian novels to probe 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. 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.

"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*





ALLMEN AND THE DRAGONFLIES

By Martin Suter / Switzerland • Translated by Steph Morris
FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 195 pp
Trade Paper \$16.95 • 978-1-939931-57-3

A thrilling art heist escapade infused with European high culture and luxury that doesn't shy away from the darker side of human nature. This is the first of a series of fast-paced detective novels devoted to a memorable gentleman thief who with his trusted sidekick Carlos creates an investigative firm to recover missing precious objects.

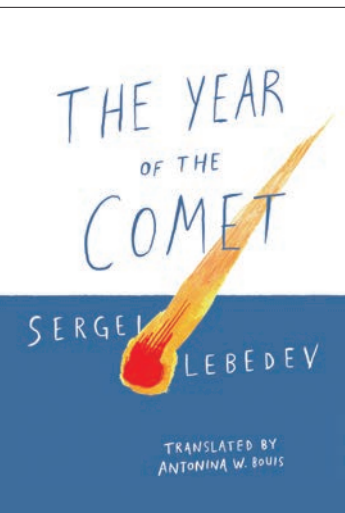
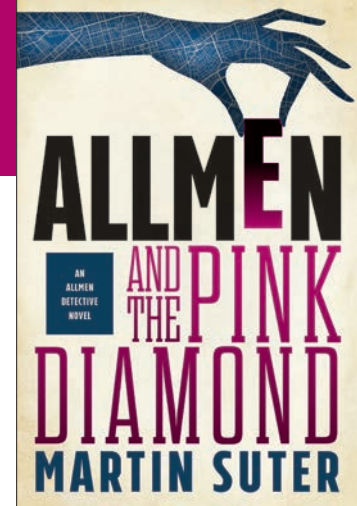
"In the honorable vein of elegant, gentleman thieves, comes Allmen, the colorful protagonist of Suter's beautifully observed, deliciously fun novel, which draws the reader along through a brightly glazed world, disguising a loving character study in the packaging of an art heist."
—Noah Charney, author of *The Art Thief* and *The Art of Forgery*

ALLMEN AND THE PINK DIAMOND

By Martin Suter / Switzerland • Translated by Steph Morris
FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 180 pp
Trade Paper \$16.95 • 978-1-939931-63-4

An unimaginably valuable pink diamond has gone missing and a mysterious Russian residing in Switzerland is suspected of having made off with the treasured jewel. But the investigative duo of Johann Friedrich von Allmen and his Guatemalan butler Carlos are on the case. Their search leads from London to Zurich to a grand hotel on the Baltic coast. Amorous adventures and diverting mishaps litter the path through a world of European high culture and luxury, with hard-knuckle forays into global financial markets and high tech moves to manipulate them.

"Delightfully quirky and original, it feels like a Golden Age detective novel transposed, wonderfully, into the 21st century."
—Peter James, author of *Dead Simple* and *Dead Man's Time*



THE YEAR OF THE COMET

By Sergei Lebedev / Russia • Translated by Antonina W. Bouis
FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 275 pp
Trade Paper \$16.95 • 978-1-939931-41-2

From the critically acclaimed author of *Oblivion* comes *The Year of the Comet*, a story of a Russian boyhood and coming of age as the Soviet Union is on the brink of collapse. Sergei 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.

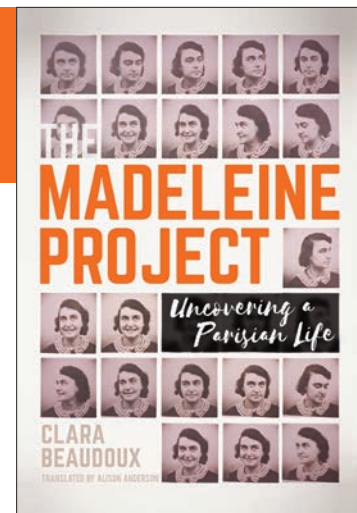
"Examines the psychological trauma Stalinism continues to unleash . . . Antonina W. Bouis has translated the best of Soviet and post-Soviet writings . . . and the ease with which she renders Mr. Lebedev's prose creates the illusion that both his novels were originally written in English."
—*The Wall Street Journal*

THE MADELEINE PROJECT

By Clara Beaudoux / France • Translated by Alison Anderson
NONFICTION • 5 ½ x 8 ½ • 285 pp • Trade Paper with Color
Photographs \$23.95 • 978-1-939931-49-8

A young woman moves into a Paris apartment and discovers a storage room filled with the belongings of the previous owner, a certain Madeleine who died in her late nineties, and whose treasured possessions nobody seems to want. In an audacious act of journalism driven by personal curiosity and humane tenderness, Clara Beaudoux embarks on *The Madeleine Project*, documenting what she finds on Twitter with text and photographs, introducing the world to an unsung 20th century figure.

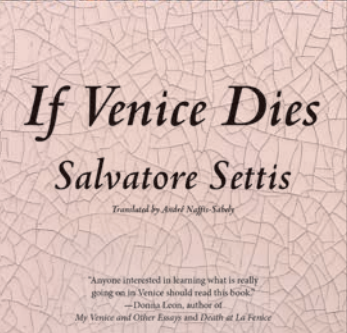
"This extraordinary little book touched me deeply. Part graphic novel, part literary archeology, the author slowly unpacks a dusty cellar, and brings her subject to life . . . Who would have guessed Twitter could be so poetic."
—Elizabeth Bard, author of *Lunch in Paris*





IF VENICE DIES

By Salvatore Settis • Translated by André Naffis-Sabely
NONFICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 180 pp
Trade Paper \$16.95 • 978-1-939931-37-5



What is Venice worth? To whom does this urban treasure belong? This eloquent book by internationally renowned art historian Salvatore Settis urgently poses these questions, igniting a new debate about the Queen 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 fragile fate has become emblematic of the future of historic cities everywhere as it capitulates to tourists and those who profit from them. This is a passionate plea, written with consummate authority, wide-ranging erudition and élan.

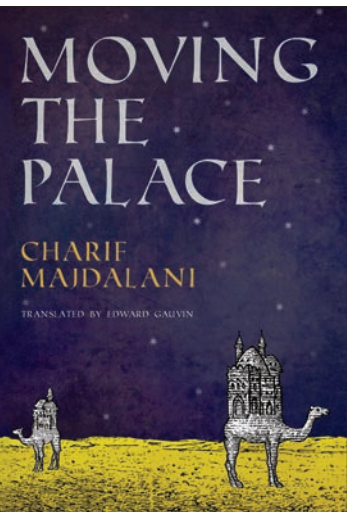
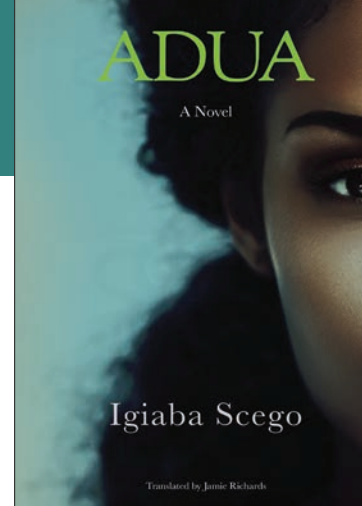
"Anyone interested in learning what is really going on in Venice should read this book."
—Donna Leon, author of *My Venice and Other Essays and Death at La Fenice*

ADUA

By Igiaba Scego • Translated by Jamie Richards
FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 185 pp
Trade Paper \$16.95 • 978-1939931-45-0

Adua, an immigrant from Somalia to Italy, has lived in Rome for nearly forty years. She came to escape a strict father and an oppressive regime, but her hopes of becoming a film star ended in shame. Now that the civil war in Somalia is over, her homeland beckons. A searing novel about a young immigrant woman's dream of freedom and the bittersweet legacies of her past.

"The Italian-born daughter of Somali parents, Scego . . . writes with forthright simplicity and unblinking honesty . . . Bearing witness through fiction, Scego's 'Adua' gives urgent voice to the silent caught between shifting loyalties, abusive power, and nations at war."
—*The Christian Science Monitor*



MOVING THE PALACE

By Charif Majdalani • Translated by Edward Gauvin
FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 200 pp
Trade Paper \$16.95 • 978-1-939931-46-7

A young Lebanese explorer leaves the Levant for 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. Along the way, he encounters skeptic sheikhs, suspicious tribal leaders, bountiful feasts, pilgrims bound for Mecca and T.E. Lawrence in a tent. This is a captivating modern-day *Odyssey* in the tradition of Bruce Chatwin and Paul Theroux.

"A Middle Eastern heart-of-darkness tale that flows like a dream . . . crackling with razor-sharp humor."
—*The New York Times*

THE MADONNA OF NOTRE DAME

by Alexis Ragouneau / France • Translated by Katherine Gregor
FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 200 pp
Trade Paper \$15.95 • 978-1-939931-39-9

Fifty thousand people jam into Notre Dame Cathedral to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption. The next morning, a beautiful young woman clothed in white kneels at prayer in a cathedral side chapel. But when someone accidentally bumps against her, her body collapses. She has been murdered. 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.

"A twisted and riveting story . . . highly original."
—*The Toronto Star*



THE LAST WEYNFELDT



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

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 and gets embroiled in an art forgery scheme that threatens his buttoned up existence. This refined page-turner moves behind elegant bourgeois facades into darker recesses of the heart.

“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.”

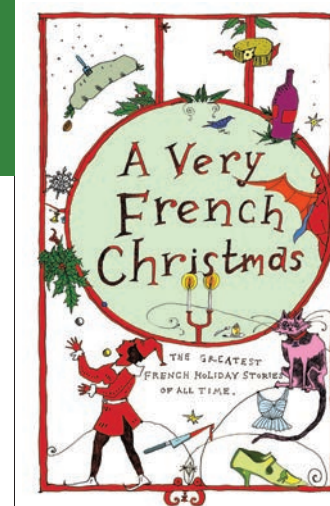
—*Library Journal* (Starred Review)

A VERY FRENCH CHRISTMAS

France • FICTION
 7 x 10 • 162 pp
 Paper over Board \$22.95 • 978-1-939931-50-4

A continuation of the very popular Very Christmas Series, this is an elegant and vibrant collection featuring classics by Guy de Maupassant and Alphonse Daudet, plus stories by the esteemed twentieth century author Irène Némirovsky and contemporary writers Dominique Fabre and Jean-Philippe Blondel. With a holiday spirit conveyed through sparkling Paris streets, opulent feasts, wandering orphans, oysters, bonbons, flickering desire, and more than a little wine, this collection encapsulates the holiday spirit and proves that the French have mastered Christmas.

This is Christmas *à la française*—delicious, intense and unexpected, proving that Nobody Does Christmas Like the French.



A VERY RUSSIAN CHRISTMAS

Russia • FICTION
 7 x 10 • 160 pp
 Paper over Board \$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, including Dostoevsky, Chekhov, Tolstoy and Teffi. 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.

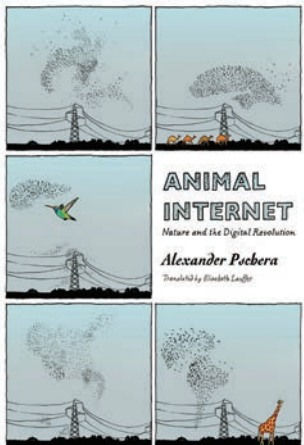
With its wonderful variety and remarkable human touch, this story collection proves that Nobody Does Christmas Like the Russians.

A VERY ITALIAN CHRISTMAS

The Greatest Italian Holiday Stories of All Time
 Italy • FICTION • 7 x 10 • 150 pp
 Paper over Board \$22.95 • 978-1-939931-62-7

This volume brings together the best Italian Christmas stories of all time in an elegant and vibrant collection featuring classic tales and contemporary works. With writing that dates from the Renaissance to the present day, from Boccaccio to Pirandello, as well as Anna Maria Ortese, Natalia Ginzburg and Nobel laureate Grazia Deledda, this choice selection delights and intrigues. These literary gems are filled with ancient churches, trains whistling through the countryside, steaming tureens, plates piled high with pasta, High Mass, dashed hopes, golden crucifixes, flowing wine, shimmering gifts and plenty of style. Like everything the Italians do, this is Christmas with its very own verve and flair, the perfect literary complement to a *Buon Natale italiano*.





ANIMAL INTERNET

By Alexander Pschera / Germany
 Translated by Elisabeth Lauffer
 NONFICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 209 pp
 Trade Paper \$14.95 • 978-1939931-33-7

A bestial Brave New World is on the horizon: Tens of thousands of creatures around the globe—including whales, leopards, flamingoes, bats, and snails—are being equipped with digital tracking devices. The data about their behavior will warn us about tsunamis and earthquakes, but also radically transform our relationship to the natural world. Contrary to pessimistic fears, author Alexander Pschera sees the Internet as creating a historic opportunity for a new dialogue between man and nature.

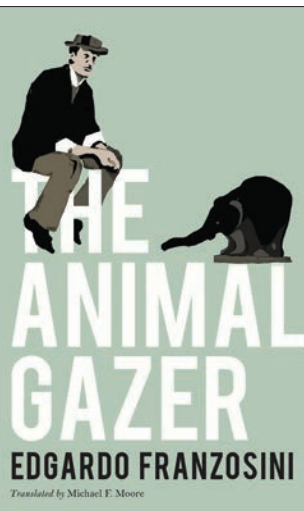
“Charts the new digital frontier in the human-animal relationship [An] intriguing book.”
 —*The Washington Post*

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

This 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 sexual hypocrisies and portrays a vanished polyglot world of horse racing, seaside promenades and nightclubs.

“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*



THE ANIMAL GAZER

By Edgardo Franzosini / Italy • Translated by Michael F. Moore
 FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 128 pp
 Trade Paper \$16.95 • 978-1-939931-52-8

A hypnotic novel inspired by the strange and fascinating life of sculptor Rembrandt Bugatti, brother of the fabled automaker. Bugatti becomes increasingly obsessed with zoo animals as he and Europe teetered on brink of World War I. He obsessively observes and sculpts the baboons, giraffes and panthers in the zoos of Paris and Antwerp, finding empathy with their plight, identifying with their life in captivity. Edgardo Franzosini recreates the young artist's life with intense lyricism, passion and sensitivity.

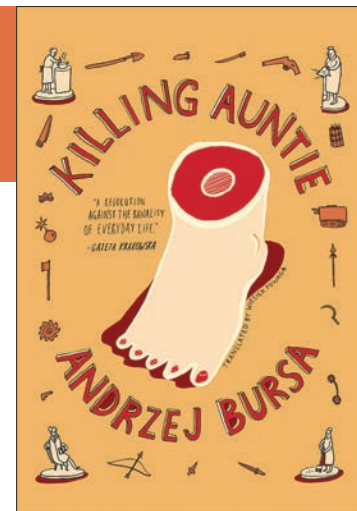
“There’s more to Italian fiction than Elena Ferrante . . . Limpid, laser-sharp prose . . . It’s difficult not to love the eccentric, fragile Rembrandt Bugatti and suffer alongside him.”
 —*The New York Times Book Review*

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

A young university student named Jurek, with no particular ambitions or talents, finds himself with nothing to do. After his doting aunt asks the young man to perform a small chore, he decides to kill her for no good reason other than, perhaps, boredom. This short comedic masterpiece combines elements of Dostoevsky, Sartre, Kafka, and Heller, coming together to produce an unforgettable tale of murder and—just maybe—redemption.

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



I CALLED HIM NECKTIE

MILENA MICHIKO FLAŠAR



TRANSLATED BY SHEILA DICKIE



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

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 from a park bench. Gradually he makes friends with Ohara Tetsu, a salaryman who has lost his job. The two discover in their sadness a common bond. This beautiful novel is moving, unforgettable, and full of surprises.

"The best of the best from this year's bountiful harvest of uncommonly strong offerings . . . Deeply original."

—O, *The Oprah Magazine*

THE MISSING YEAR OF JUAN SALVATIERRA

by Pedro Mairal / Argentina • Translated by Nick Caistor

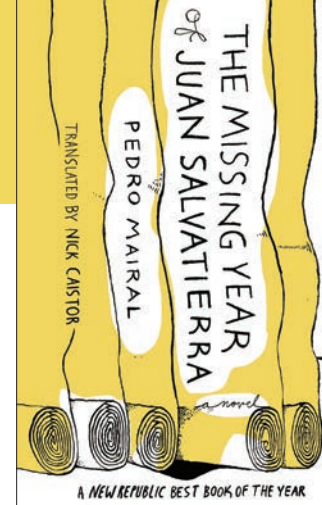
FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 118 pp

Trade Paper \$15.49 • 978-1-939931-07-8

At the age of nine, Juan Salvatierra became mute following a horse riding accident. At twenty, he began secretly painting a series of canvases on which he detailed six decades of life in his village on Argentina's frontier with Uruguay. After his death, his sons return to deal with their inheritance: a shed packed with rolls over two miles long. But an essential roll is missing. A search ensues that illuminates links between art and life, with past family secrets casting their shadows on the present.

"Pedro Mairal isn't your old college literature professor's idea of an Argentine novelist."

—*The Los Angeles Times*



GUYS LIKE ME



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

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. 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, a stirring novel of regret and absence, yet not without a glimmer of hope.

"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*

KILLING THE SECOND DOG

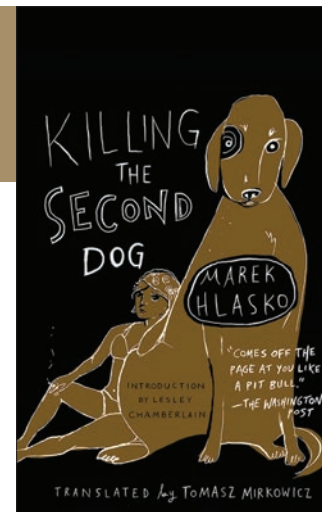
by Marek Hlasko / Poland • Translated by Tomasz Mirkowicz

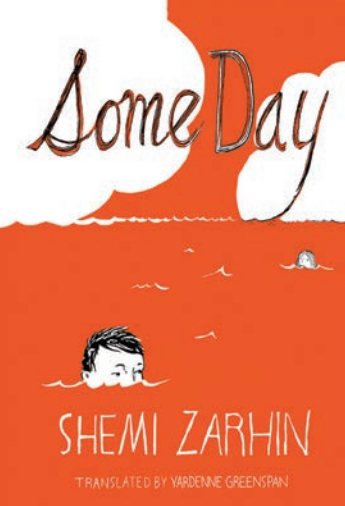
With an Introduction by Lesley Chamberlain • FICTION • Rebel Lit Series • 5 ¼ x 8 • 138 pp • Trade Paper \$15.99 • 978-1-939931-11-5

Two down-and-out Polish con men living in Israel in the 1950s scam an American widow visiting the country. Robert, who masterminds the scheme, and Jacob, who acts it out, are tough, desperate men, exiled from their native land and adrift in the hot, nasty underworld of Tel Aviv. Robert arranges for Jacob to run into the widow who has enough trouble with her young son to keep her occupied all day. What follows is a story of romance, deception, cruelty and shame. Hlasko's writing combines brutal realism with smoky, hard-boiled dialogue, in a bleak world where violence is the norm and love is often only an act.

"Hlasko's story comes off the page at you like a pit bull."

—*The Washington Post*





SOME DAY

by Shemi Zarhin / Israel • Translated by Yardenne Greenspan
 FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 451 pp
 Trade Paper \$21.95 • 978-1-939931-05-4

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. *Some Day* is a gripping family saga, a sensual and emotional feast that plays out over decades. This is an enchanting tale about tragic fates that disrupt families and break our hearts. Zarhin's hypnotic writing renders a painfully delicious vision of individual lives behind Israel's larger national story.

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

—*Ploughshares*

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

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. *On the Run with Mary* mirrors the horrors and the joys of the terrible 20th century.

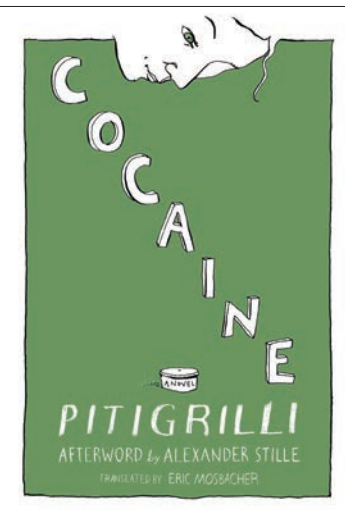
"A masterpiece by a young genius, fated to die shortly after he had completed it."

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

ON THE RUN WITH MARY



JONATHAN BARROW



COCAINE

by Pitigrilli / Italy • Translated by Eric Mosbacher
 With an Afterword by Alexander Stille • FICTION
 5 ¼ x 8 • 258 pp
 Trade Paper \$16.49 • 978-1-939931-09-2

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 when he acquires three demanding mistresses. Elegant, witty and wicked, Pitigrilli's classic novel was first published in Italian in 1921 and retains its venom even today.

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

—*Umberto Eco*

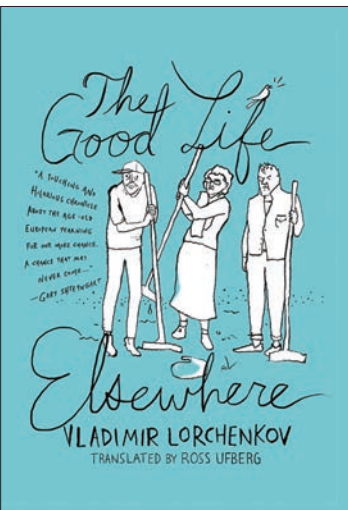
THE GOOD LIFE ELSEWHERE

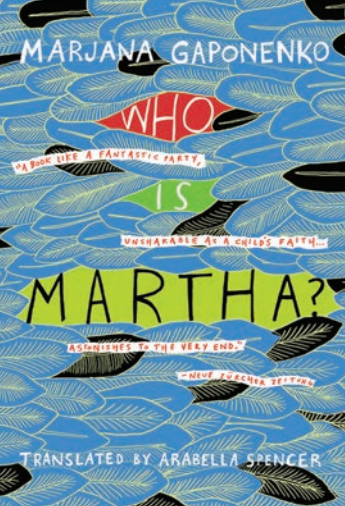
by Vladimir Lorchonkov / Moldova
 Translated by Ross Ufberg
 FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 204 pp
 Trade Paper \$14.99 • 978-1-939931-01-6

The very funny—and very sad—story of a group of villagers and their tragicomic efforts to emigrate from Europe's most impoverished nation to Italy for work. An Orthodox priest is deserted by his wife for an art-dealing atheist; 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 Italian Promised Land. A country where 25 percent of its population works abroad, remittances make up nearly 40 percent of GDP, and alcohol consumption per capita is the world's highest—Moldova surely has its problems. But, as Lorchonkov vividly shows, it's also a country whose residents don't give up easily.

"Outstanding . . . darkly hilarious."

—*The Wall Street Journal*





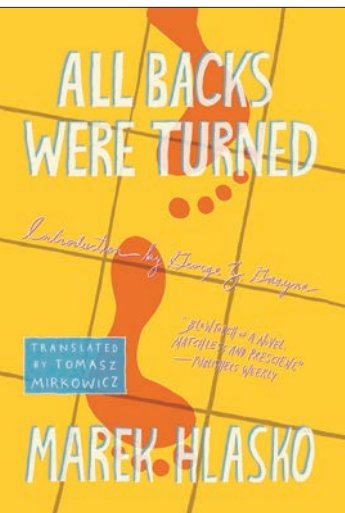
WHO IS MARTHA?

by Marjana Gaponenko / Germany
Translated by Arabella Spencer • FICTION
5 ¼ x 8 • 230 pp
Trade Paper \$16.99 • 978-1-939931-13-9

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. This gloriously written tale mixes piquant wit with lofty musings about life, friendship, aging and death.

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

—*World Literature Today*



ALL BACKS WERE TURNED

by Marek Hlasko / Poland • Translated by Tomasz Mirkowicz
With an Introduction by George Z. Gasyra
FICTION / Rebel Lit Series • 5 ¼ x 8 • 150 pp
Trade Paper \$15.99 • 978-1-939931-12-2

Two desperate friends—on the edge of the law—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 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 is rooming next door. A story of passion, deception, violence, and betrayal, conveyed in hard-boiled prose reminiscent of Hammett and Chandler.

“Blowtorch of a novel . . . matchless and prescient.”
—*Publishers Weekly*

THE LAST SUPPER

The Plight of Christians in Arab Lands

by Klaus Wivel / Denmark • Translated by Mark Kline
NONFICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 250 pp
Trade Paper \$16.95 • 978-1-939931-34-4

Alarmed by the oppression of 7.5 million Christians in the Middle East, journalist Klaus Wivel traveled to Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, and the Palestinian territories to learn about their fate. He found a minority under threat of death and humiliation, desperate in the face of rising Islamic extremism and without hope their situation will improve. An 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?

“Deeply intelligent.”

—*Former Archbishop of Canterbury*



FANNY VON ARNSTEIN

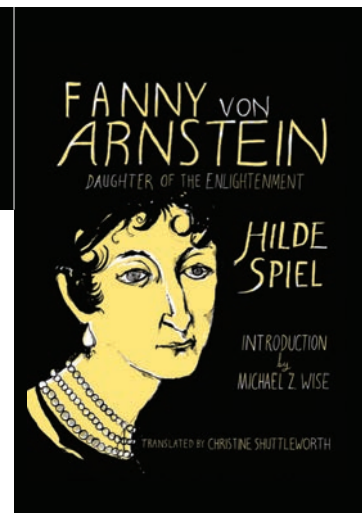
Daughter of the Enlightenment

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 • ISBN 978-1-939931-03-0

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. She married a financier to the Austro-Hungarian imperial court, and hosted an ever more splendid salon which attracted luminaries of the day. Spiel’s elegantly written and carefully researched biography provides a vivid portrait of a passionate woman who advocated for the rights of Jews, and illuminates a central era in European cultural and social history.

“An elegant edition . . . fascinating . . . We must be grateful to have this biography.”

—*The Jewish Review of Books*





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