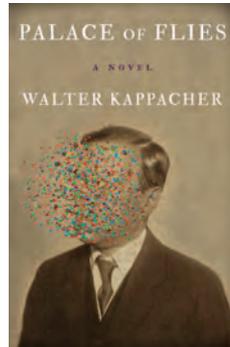




New Vessel Press 2021-22



New Vessel Press, founded in New York City in 2012, is an independent publishing house specializing in fiction and narrative nonfiction in translation.



In bringing books from other countries to English-speaking readers, 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 a small proportion 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 a multitude of 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.

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 New Vessel Press

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Distant

A MEMOIR

Fathers



TRANSLATED BY ANN GOLDSTEIN

Marina

Jarre

DISTANT FATHERS

By Marina Jarre / Italy

Translated by Ann Goldstein

NONFICTION

5 ¼ x 8 • 240 pp

Trade Paper \$16.95

978-1-939931-94-8



“This is a beautifully ingenious memoir, saturated in the history of the European 20th century, and made all the more compelling by Ann Goldstein’s luminous translation.”

—**Vivian Gornick**, author of *Fierce Attachments*

“Marina Jarre is an original, powerful and incisive writer . . . Her works—true, small-scale, essential masterpieces—have found passionate readers and critics and have an indisputable place in Italian literature of the past fifty years.”

—**Claudio Magris**, author of *Danube and Blameless*

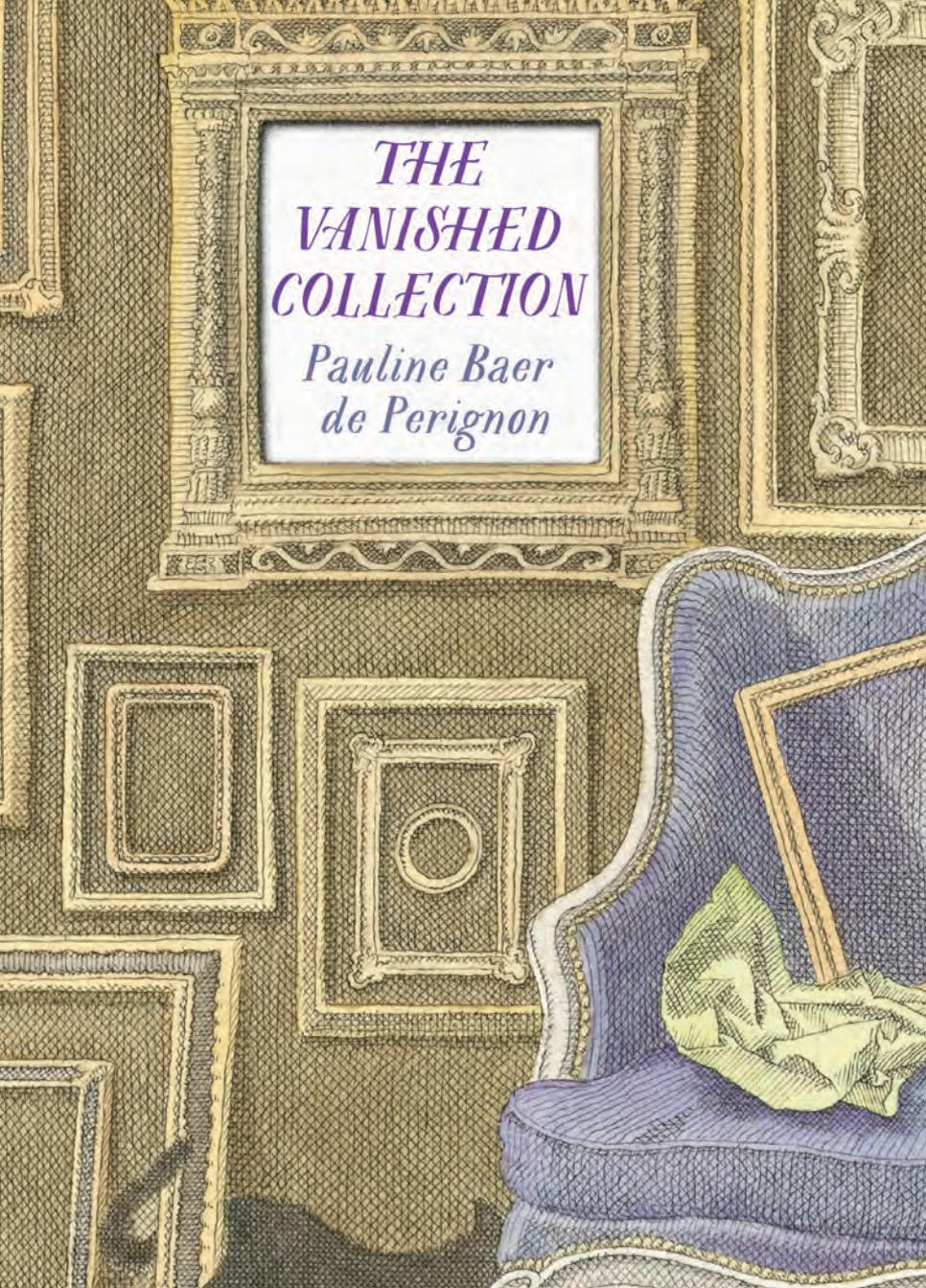
“Gems of language and ideas abound . . . Lyrical prowess . . . Haunting prose.”

—**Publishers Weekly**

This singular autobiography unfurls from author Marina Jarre’s native Latvia during the 1920s and ’30s and expands southward to the Italian countryside. In distinctive writing as poetic as it is precise, Jarre depicts an exceptionally multinational and complicated family: her elusive, handsome father—a Jew who perished in the Holocaust; her severe, cultured mother—an Italian Protestant who translated Russian literature; and her sister and Latvian grandparents. Jarre tells of her passage from childhood to adolescence, first as a linguistic minority in a Baltic nation and then in traumatic exile to Italy after her parents’ divorce. This memoir—likened to *Speak, Memory* by Vladimir Nabokov or Annie Ernaux’s *The Years* and now translated into English for the first time—probes questions of time, language, womanhood, belonging and estrangement, while asking what homeland can be for those who have none, or many more than one.

Marina Jarre was born in Riga, Latvia, in 1925, and lived in Italy from 1935 until her death at the age of 90 in 2016. Cultural identity, personal character, psychology, and autobiographical themes are central elements of her novels and stories.

A singular autobiography by a rediscovered Italian author that movingly probes questions of time, language, womanhood, belonging and estrangement.



THE VANISHED COLLECTION

Pauline Baer
de Perignon

THE VANISHED COLLECTION

By Pauline Baer de Perignon / France

Translated by Natasha Lehrer

NONFICTION

January 2022

5 ¼ x 8 • 290 pp

Trade Paper \$17.95

978-1-939931-98-6



Photo © Philippe Manass

“A charmingly told account of a woman’s quest to reconstruct her great-grandfather’s art collection . . . Profound and touching.”

—Lynn H. Nicholas, author of *The Rape of Europa*

“Pauline Baer de Perignon is a natural storyteller . . . Here is not only a riveting art world mystery, but an utterly personal, heartfelt, and extremely intelligent story of a woman doing everything she can to uncover the truths of her family.”

—Menachem Kaiser, author of *Plunder:
A Memoir of Family Property and Nazi Treasure*

“Beautifully evokes a vanished world that once stood at the crossroads between the heights of civilization and the depths of barbarism before being overwhelmed by the latter.”

—James Gardner, author of *The Louvre:
The Many Lives of the World’s Most Famous Museum*

It all started with a list of paintings. There, scribbled by a cousin she hadn’t seen for years, were the names of the masters whose works once belonged to her great-grandfather, Jules Strauss: Renoir, Monet, Degas, Tiepolo and more. Pauline Baer de Perignon knew little to nothing about Strauss, or about his vanished, precious art collection. But the list drove her on a frenzied trail of research in the archives of the Louvre and the Dresden museums, through Gestapo records, and to consult with Nobel laureate Patrick Modiano. What happened in 1942? And what became of the collection after Nazis seized her great-grandparents’ elegant Parisian apartment? The quest takes Pauline Baer de Perignon from the Occupation of France to the present day as she breaks the silence around the wrenching experiences her family never fully transmitted.

Pauline Baer de Perignon has co-authored film scripts and directed writing workshops in Paris where she lives. *The Vanished Collection* is her first book.

A Parisian memoir, written like a detective novel, about a quest into a forgotten past to achieve posthumous justice for a leading art collector and his descendants.

POLLAK'S ARM

Hans von Trotha



POLLAK'S ARM

By Hans von Trotha / Germany
Translated by Elisabeth Lauffer
FICTION

February 2022

5 ¼ x 8 • 140 pp

Trade Paper \$16.95

978-1-954404-00-7



Photo © Jan Diggfisch

“Hans von Trotha has composed a small jewel of a novel. Set as the Holocaust reaches Rome in October 1943, it quietly evokes an archaeologist’s reflections on a European life of scholarship and art. The result is physical death for him and his family. Yet this book offers vivid testimony of his words and actions in defense of humane culture against barbarism.”
—**R. J. B. Bosworth**, author of *Mussolini* and *The Oxford Handbook of Fascism*

“Intense and exciting.”

—**Salvatore Settis**, chairman of the Louvre Museum Scientific Council and author of *Laocoön* and *If Venice Dies*

“A book every traveler to Rome should put in their luggage.”

—*Märkische Oderzeitung*

October 16, 1943, inside the Vatican as darkness descends upon Rome. Having been alerted to the Nazi plan to round up the city’s Jewish population the next day, Monsignor M dispatches an envoy to a nearby palazzo to bring Ludwig Pollak and his family to safety within the papal premises. But Pollak shows himself in no hurry to leave his home and accept the eleventh-hour offer of refuge. Pollak’s visitor is obliged to take a seat and listen as he recounts his life story: how he studied archaeology in Prague, of his passion for Italy and Goethe, how he became a renowned antiquities dealer and advisor to great collectors like J.P. Morgan and the Austro-Hungarian emperor after his own Jewishness barred him from an academic career, and finally of his spectacular discovery of the missing arm from the majestic ancient sculpture of Laocöon. This stunning novel illuminates the chasm between civilization and barbarism by spotlighting a little-known figure devoted to knowledge and the power of artistic creation.

Hans von Trotha is a German historian, novelist and journalist who spent ten years as editorial director of the Nicolai publishing house in Berlin.

*Stimulating historical fiction for lovers of Rome and the world
of antiquity centered on one of the greatest masterpieces of all time.*

Of Saints and Miracles a novel by Manuel Astur

Translated from the Spanish
by Claire Wadie

OF SAINTS AND MIRACLES

By Manuel Astur / Spain
Translated by Claire Wadie
FICTION

June 2022
5 ¼ x 8 • 160 pp
Trade Paper \$16.95
978-1-954404-06-9



Photo © Manuel de Dios

“The author is calling out to a society that has lost its sense of direction, and the pages of his book trace a path back to innocence. I cannot describe the beauty of his prose without spoiling it.”

—*El Periódico*

“With a sensuous style that produces an almost physical effect, Astur plays with time, land and violence to weave together a plot that finds its logic in chaos like every real tragedy.”

—*ABC Cultural*

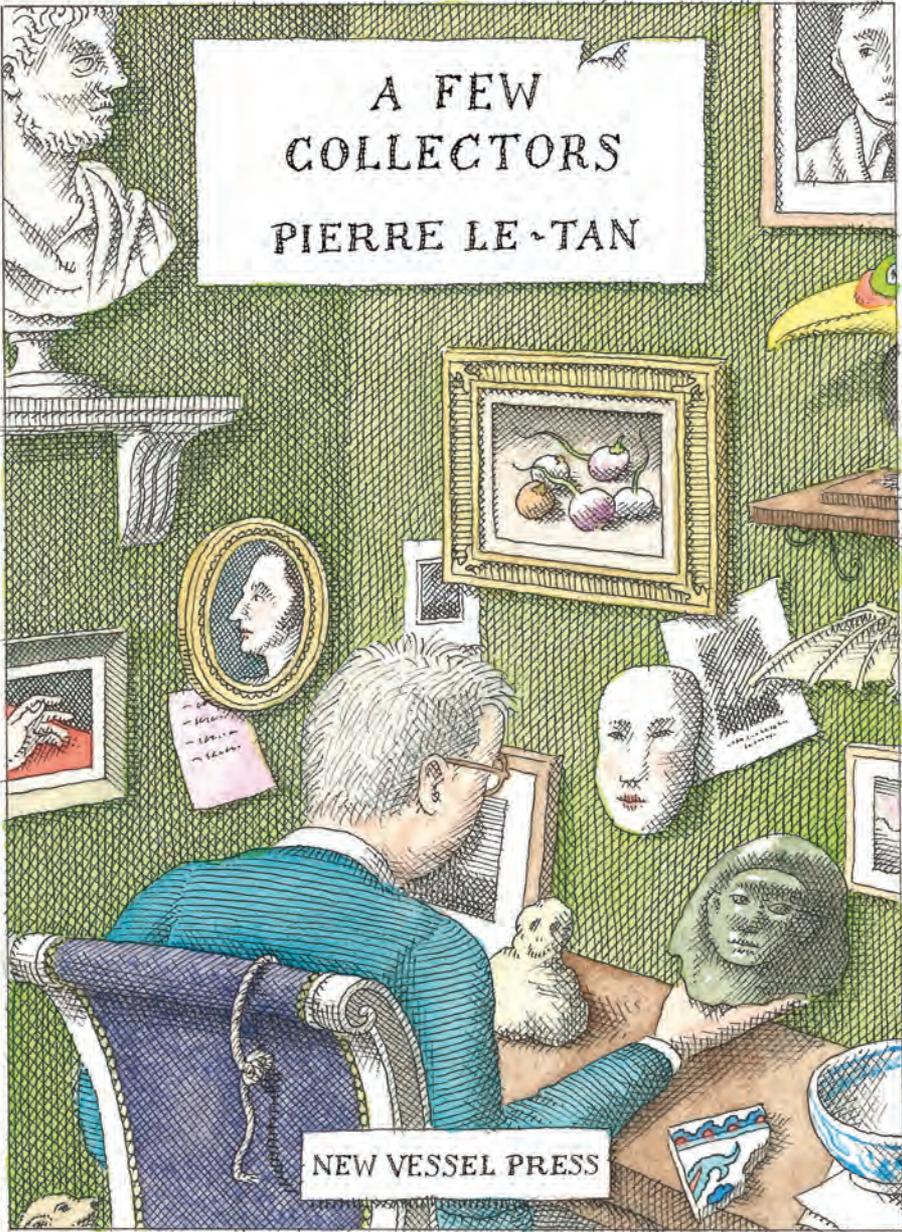
“Brutality and derision mixed with tenderness and innocence . . . It’s all a miracle.”

—*La Razón*

This mesmerizing novel opens with a fratricide in a beautiful if impoverished region of northern Spain. The perpetrator, Marcelino, lives alone in his parental home where he recalls having doted on his baby brother and sought to protect their mother from their father’s drunken rages. Author Manuel Astur’s poetic language and seamless blend of lyricism with the grotesque renders this book a treasure for the reader that includes the mother’s bewitching tales about the sun and the moon, an invisible horse-drawn carriage of death, and her own childhood and ill-fated marriage. Glimpses into other villagers’ lives reveal a community that joins together to slaughter pigs for feasts and to confront a mysterious plague of white worms. The mountainous green of rural Asturias is as much of a character as these residents, from whom Marcelino flees to the wild peaks after his brother’s slaying, becoming a cult hero as he evades authorities.

Manuel Astur is a Spanish author and journalist. He has written novels and collections of short stories and poetry and teaches literature at the Escuela de Letras de Gijón.

A sensuous, astonishing portrayal of an outcast’s struggle to survive in a chaotic world of tragedy and magical splendor.



A FEW
COLLECTORS
PIERRE LE-TAN

NEW VESSEL PRESS

A FEW COLLECTORS

By Pierre Le-Tan / France

Translated by Michael Z. Wise

NONFICTION

April 2022

6 x 9 • 128 pp

Paper over Board \$24.95

978-1-954404-04-5



Photo © Philippe Marais

“Pierre Le-Tan reminds us that once upon a time works of art reflected the deepest feelings of their owners. I longed to stay in his charmed and delightfully wicked world of eccentric collectors intent on finding beauty in both the humblest and grandest of objects.”

—Michael Findlay, author of *The Value of Art: Money, Power, Beauty*

“I savored *A Few Collectors* with unmitigated pleasure . . . Calm narration, soothing atmosphere. Le-Tan’s writing . . . manages to casually reveal to us that the madness of accumulation, of ownership and of exhibiting can sometimes conceal grace.”

—Pierre Assouline, author of *An Artful Life: A Biography of D. H. Kahnweiler*

“Pierre Le-Tan was an indefatigable collector who in these pages—as in life—created a dazzling world, profoundly personal, that combined surrealism, romanticism and his encyclopedic knowledge of the decorative arts.”

—Reed and Delphine Krakoff, Tiffany & Co. chief artistic officer and interior designer

Parisian illustrator Pierre Le-Tan summons up his memories of inveterate art collectors in this unusual volume. He evokes fascinating or troubled figures through an array of charming and curious tales. With seventy of his distinctive pen and ink drawings—many in vibrant color with meticulous cross-hatching—*A Few Collectors* recounts remarkable encounters in Paris, on the Côte d’Azur, North Africa, London and New York, where Le-Tan’s subjects have amassed a range of treasures. Some chapters involve famed art world figures like former Louvre Museum director Pierre Rosenberg. Others are insolvent aristocrats, princes of film and fashion, expatriate dandies and flat-out obsessive eccentrics. Le-Tan devotes perhaps his finest chapter to himself.

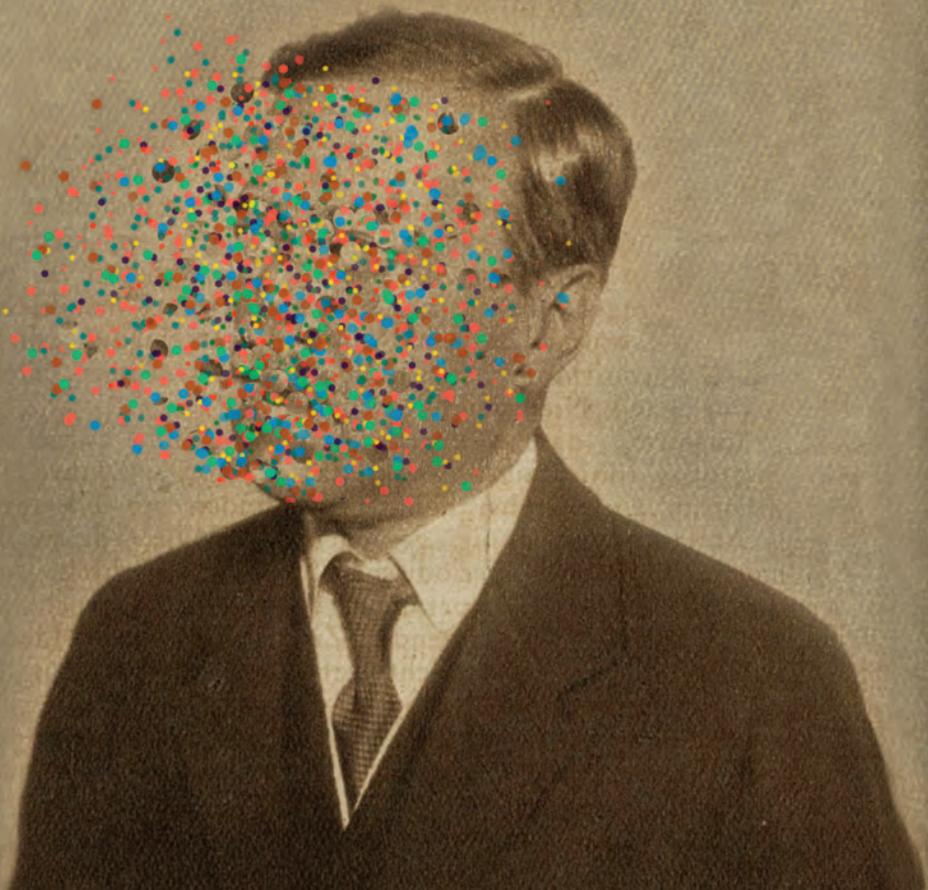
Pierre Le-Tan was an internationally renowned French illustrator who designed whimsical and stylish covers for *The New Yorker* and other magazines, as well as book covers for works by his friend Nobel laureate Patrick Modiano.

An utterly charming book of dazzling illustrations and intriguing tales about the often eccentric mindset of inveterate art collectors.

PALACE OF FLIES

A NOVEL

WALTER KAPPACHER



PALACE OF FLIES

By Walter Kappacher / Austria

Translated by Georg Bauer

FICTION

May 2022

5 ¼ x 8 • 170 pp

Trade Paper \$16.95

978-1-954404-02-1



Photo © Lukas Beck

“A masterpiece of contemporary story-telling.”

—*Der Standard*

“Walter Kappacher . . . is the most serious author I know. And at the same time there’s the paradox that it’s a seriousness that’s lightly worn.”

—**Peter Handke, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature**

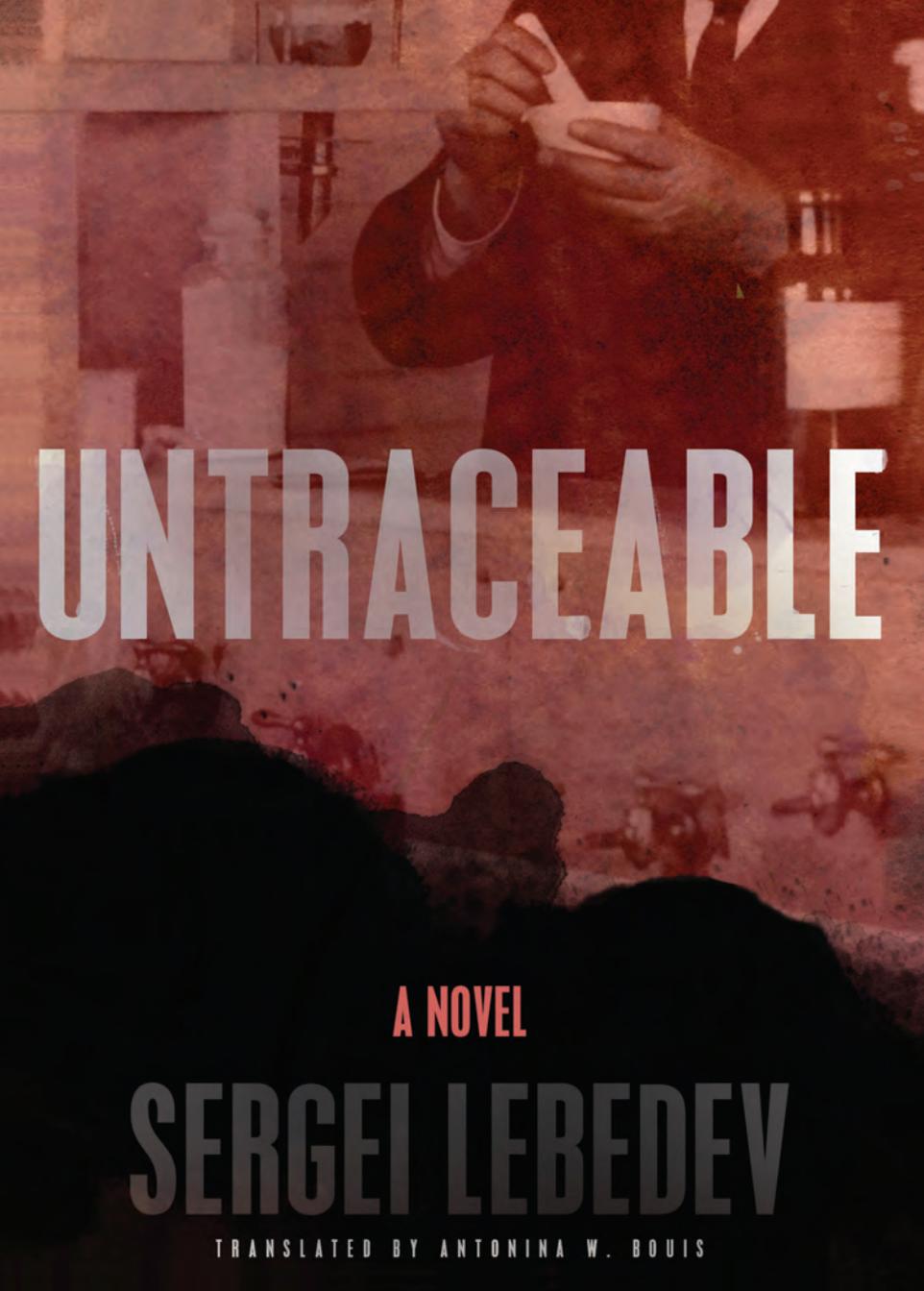
“A magically beautiful book about an artist, a gentle reflection upon the melancholy of aging and the unsettling sensation that the world must gradually disappear.”

—*Frankfurter Neue Presse*

This absorbing, sensitive novel portrays a famed author in a moment of crisis: an aging Hugo von Hofmannsthal returns to a summer resort outside of Salzburg that he visited as a child. But in the spa town where he once thrilled to the joys of youth, he now feels unproductive and uninspired, adrift in the modern world born after World War One. Over ten days in 1924 in a ramshackle inn that has been renamed the Grand Hotel, Hofmannsthal fruitlessly attempts to complete a play he’s long been wrestling with. The writer is plagued by feelings of loneliness and failure that echo in a buzz of inner monologues, imaginary conversations and nostalgic memories of relationships with glittering cultural figures. *Palace of Flies* conjures up an individual state of distress and disruption at a time of fundamental societal transformation that speaks eloquently to our own age.

Walter Kappacher, born in 1938, is an Austrian novelist who has won many German language literary awards including the prestigious Georg Büchner Prize. He has written short stories, novels as well as radio and screenplays, and lives near Salzburg.

An absorbing portrayal of a famed author in crisis, revealing a state of personal upheaval at a time of profound societal change that speaks eloquently to our own.



UNTRACEABLE

A NOVEL

SERGEI LEBEDEV

TRANSLATED BY ANTONINA W. BOUIS

UNTRACEABLE

By Sergei Lebedev / Russia

Translated by Antonina W. Bouis

FICTION

6 x 8 ½ • 242 pp

Hardcover \$22.95

978-1-939931-90-0



“A thriller dipped in poison . . . Shares some of le Carré’s fascination with secret worlds and the nature of evil.”

—*The New York Times*

“A taut spy thriller with Gothic flourishes . . . It offers not only a compelling reworking of real-life events, but an insight into the psychological effects of poisoning, literal and metaphorical, in Russia and beyond.”

—*The Economist*

“Intensely topical . . . The impetus of Mr. Lebedev’s steel-tipped prose, translated by Antonina W. Bouis, is to counteract erasure. The deadly poison created by the defected chemist . . . is dangerous because it leaves no trace in its victims. The absence of evidence makes accounts from the living, such as this courageous novel, all the more significant.”

—*The Wall Street Journal*

The terrifying, expanding list of Russia’s use of lethal poisons against its critics has inspired Sergei Lebedev’s latest novel. At its center is a ruthless chemist named Professor Kalitin, obsessed with developing a deadly and untraceable poison for which there is no antidote. When the Soviet Union collapses, he defects and is given a new identity in Western Europe but Russian agents are sent to silence him with his own undetectable venom. From Nazi labs, Stalinist plots and the Chechen Wars, to present-day Russia, Lebedev probes the ethical responsibilities of scientists supplying modern tyrants with ever newer instruments of retribution, destruction and control.

Sergei Lebedev has been called the most important younger Russian author writing today. His other books—*Oblivion*, *The Year of the Comet* and *The Goose Fritz*—have been published in English to great acclaim by New Vessel Press.

A psychological thriller about the historical trajectories of evil as the Kremlin sought to develop the ultimate venom to retaliate against its critics.

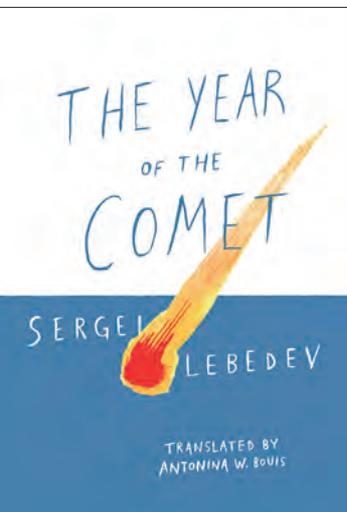


THE GOOSE FRITZ

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*



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.

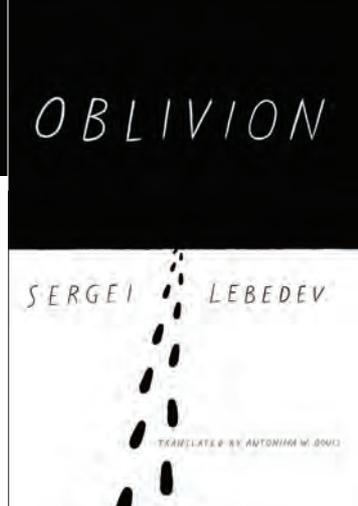
“Examines the psychological trauma Stalinism continues to unleash...Antonina W. Bouis has translated the best of Soviet and post-Soviet writings...and the ease with which she renders Mr. Lebedev’s prose creates the illusion that both his novels were originally written in English.”
—*The Wall Street Journal*

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*

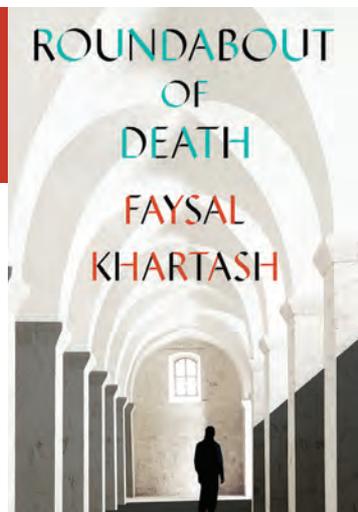


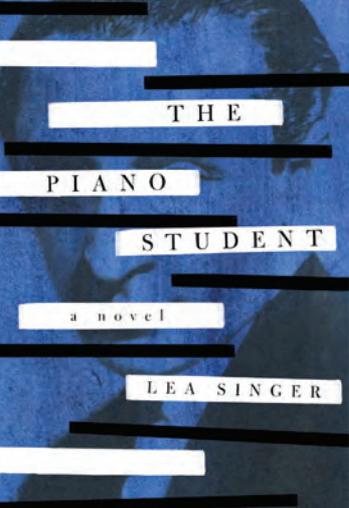
ROUNDAABOUT OF DEATH

By Faysal Khartash / Syria • Translated by Max Weiss
FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 176 pp
Trade Paper \$16.95 • 978-1-939931-92-4

Set in Aleppo in 2012, when everyday life was metronomically punctuated by bombing, *Roundabout of Death* offers powerful witness to the violence that obliterated the ancient city’s rich layers of history, its neighborhoods and medieval and Ottoman landmarks. The novel is told from the perspective of an ordinary man, a schoolteacher of Arabic for whom even daily errands become life-threatening tasks. The novel, a literary edifice erected as an unflinching response to the erasure of a once great city, speaks eloquently of the fragmentation of human existence and the calamities of war.

“Potent . . . intimate, humorous and compelling . . . One of the best Syrian novelists of his generation and one of the most exciting writers to emerge from the region since the Arab Spring.”
—*The Times Literary Supplement*





THE PIANO STUDENT

By Lea Singer / Germany • Translated by Elisabeth Lauffer
FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 230 pp
Trade Paper \$16.95 • 978-1-939931-86-3

A novel about regret, secrecy, and music, involving an affair between one of the 20th century's most celebrated pianists, Vladimir Horowitz, and his young male student, Nico Kaufmann, in the late 1930s. As Europe hurtles toward political catastrophe and Horowitz ascends to the pinnacle of artistic achievement, the great pianist hides his illicit passion from his wife Wanda, daughter of the renowned conductor Arturo Toscanini. It's a riveting and sensitive tale of musical perfection, love, and longing denied, with multiple historical layers and insights into artistic creativity.

"Explosively passionate, this story of forbidden love and unmet potential is . . . for anyone who's ever felt the ineffable power of music."

—Aja Gabel, author of *The Ensemble*



THE BISHOP'S BEDROOM

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

Summer 1946. World War Two has ended 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 fashionable port, he meets the enigmatic owner of a nearby villa who invites him home for dinner with his wife and widowed sister-in-law. The men form an uneasy bond, recognizing 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'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*

AND THE BRIDE CLOSED THE DOOR

By Ronit Matalon / Israel • Translated by Jessica Cohen
FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 128 pp
Trade Paper \$15.95 • 978-1-939931-75-7

A young bride shuts herself up on her wedding day, refusing to get married. In this moving and comic look at today's Israel, her family gathers outside the locked door, not knowing what to do. The bride's mother lost a younger daughter in unclear circumstances. Her grandmother is hard of hearing, yet seems to understand her better than anyone. A male cousin who likes to wear women's clothes clings to his grandmother like a little boy. Does this provocative, entertaining novel portray just a case of cold feet?

"Virtuosic . . . The lightness of Matalon's tale belies its heft. In prose that is both abrupt and tender, she skewers the hydraulics of family and the insensitivities of those who think themselves exquisitely sensitive . . . Matalon . . . indicts us all."

—*The New York Times*



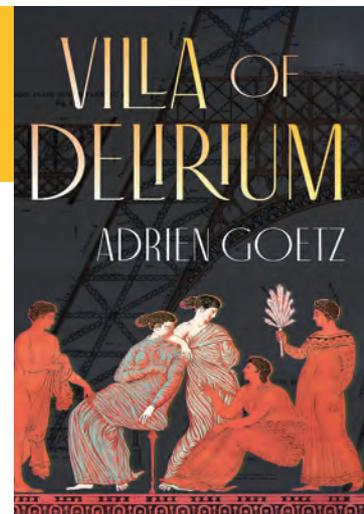
VILLA OF DELIRIUM

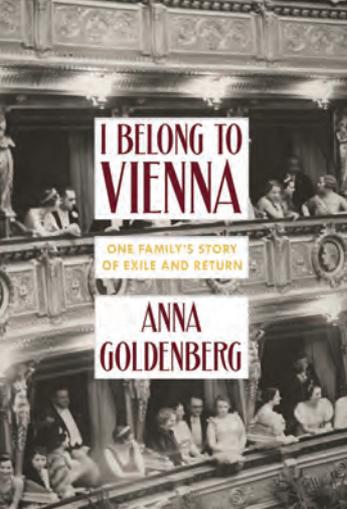
By Adrien Goetz / France • Translated by Natasha Lebrer
FICTION • 6 x 8 ½ • 321 pp
Hardcover \$26.95 • 978-1-939931-80-1

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, proof that one could reset time as one could reset a clock and resist the outside world.

"Terrific."

—Edmund de Waal, author of *The Hare with Amber Eyes* and *Letters to Camondo*





I BELONG TO VIENNA

By Anna Goldenberg / Austria • Translated by Alta L. Price
NONFICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 207 pp
Trade Paper \$16.95 • 978-1-939931-84-9

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

"An intimate account of a courageous family whose rich life in Vienna unravels into a struggle for survival. A suspenseful story of bravery, dignity, and the love of a city that withstands its bleakest chapter."

—Anne-Marie O'Connor, author of *The Lady in Gold*



THE DRIVE

By Yair Assulin / Israel • Translated by Jessica Cohen
FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 130 pp
Trade Paper \$15.95 • 978-1-939931-82-5

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 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.

"*The Drive* represents a new landmark in Israeli fiction . . . Israel's own *The Catcher in the Rye*."

—*The Los Angeles Review of Books*

WHAT'S LEFT OF THE NIGHT

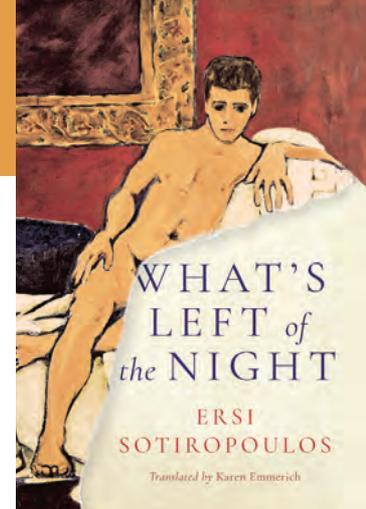
By Ersi Sotiropoulos / Greece • Translated by Karen Emmerich
FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 260 pp
Trade Paper \$16.95 • 978-1-939931-61-0

WINNER OF THE 2019 NATIONAL TRANSLATION AWARD

The young Constantine Cavafy arrives in Paris in 1897 on the last stop of a European tour, a trip that will push him toward his poetic inclination. With this lyrical novel, tinged with a hallucinatory eroticism, Ersi Sotiropoulos depicts Cavafy in the midst of a journey of self-discovery across a continent on the brink of change. A stunning portrait of a budding author—before he became one of the 20th century's greatest poets—that illuminates the relationship of art, life, and the erotic desires that trigger creativity.

"A perfect book."

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



SLEEPLESS NIGHT

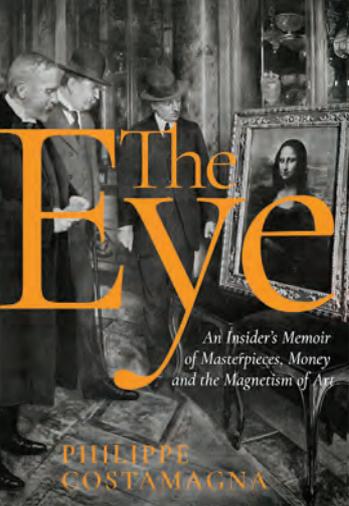
By Margriet de Moor / The Netherlands
Translated by David Doherty • FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 122 pp
Trade Paper \$15.95 • 978-1-939931-69-6

A woman gets up in the middle of a wintry night and starts baking a Bundt cake as 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 novel's narrator was widowed years ago and is trying to find new passion. But the memory of her deceased husband and a shameful incident holds her in its grasp. Margriet de Moor, one of Europe's foremost novelists, recounts a gripping story about endings and demise—and the possibility of a fresh start.

"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*





THE EYE

By Philippe Costamagna / France • Translated by Frank Wynne
 NONFICTION • 6 x 8 ½ • 256 pp
 Hardcover \$24.95 • 978-1-939931-58-0

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 artworks. An art adventure story and a memoir in one, and also an eloquent argument for the enduring value of visual creativity, told with passion and surprising candor.

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

—*The Wall Street Journal*



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

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.

"Art, love and longing, the French way. Blondel's book... is the genuine article: an emotionally taut portrayal of late-in-life, post-marriage drift."

—*The New York Times*

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 Book Review*



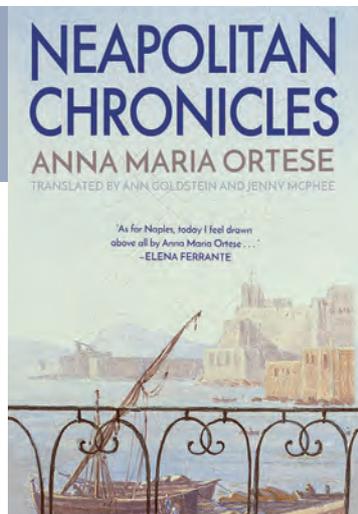
NEAPOLITAN CHRONICLES

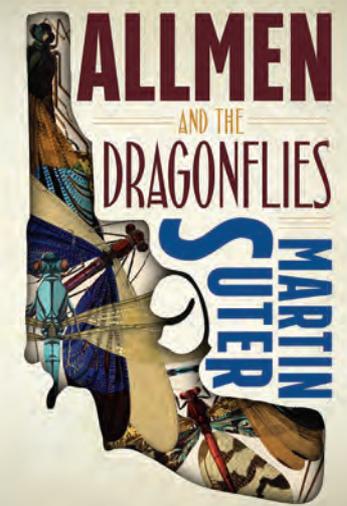
By Anna Maria Ortese / Italy
 Translated by Ann Goldstein and Jenny McPhee • FICTION
 5 ¼ x 8 • 200 pp • Trade Paper \$16.95 • 978-1-939931-51-1

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***





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.

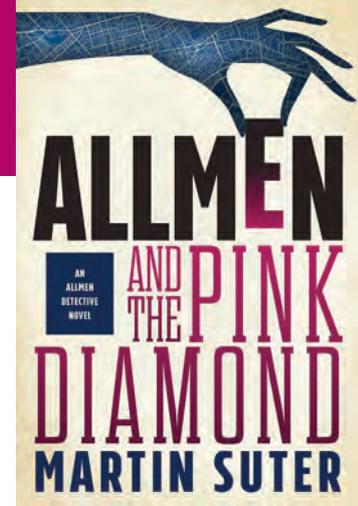
"In the honorable vein of elegant, gentleman thieves, comes Allmen, the colorful protagonist of Suter's beautifully observed, deliciously fun novel, which draws the reader along through a brightly glazed world, disguising a loving character study in the packaging of an art heist."
—Noah Charney, author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

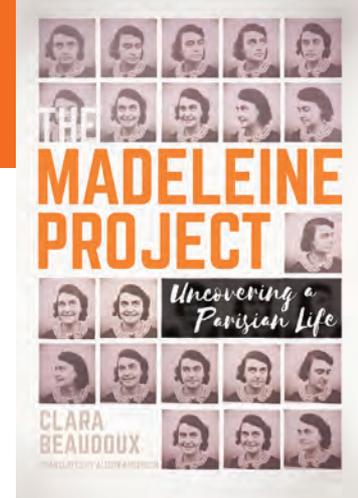
"Swift, edgy . . . What distinguishes this work is the air of slightly faded existential elegance, which sets off the modern setting splendidly . . . Great for sophisticated suspense fans."
—*Library Journal* (Starred Review)

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.

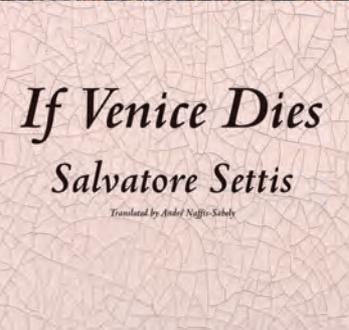
"This extraordinary little book touched me deeply. Part graphic novel, part literary archeology, the author slowly unpacks a dusty cellar, and brings her subject to life . . . Who would have guessed Twitter could be so poetic."
—Elizabeth Bard, author of *Lunch in Paris*





IF VENICE DIES

By Salvatore Settis / Italy • 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 / Italy • 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.

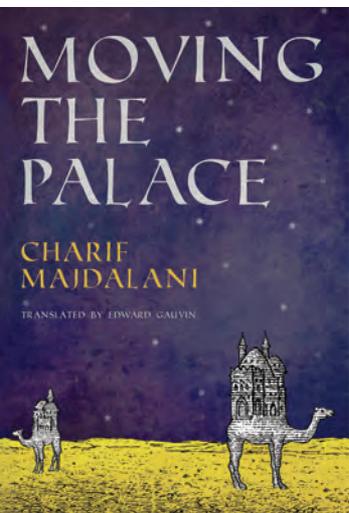
"The Italian-born daughter of Somali parents, Scego . . . writes with forthright simplicity and unblinking honesty . . . Bearing witness through fiction, Scego's 'Adua' gives urgent voice to the silent caught between shifting loyalties, abusive power, and nations at war."

—*The Christian Science Monitor*



MOVING THE PALACE

By Charif Majdalani / Lebanon • 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*

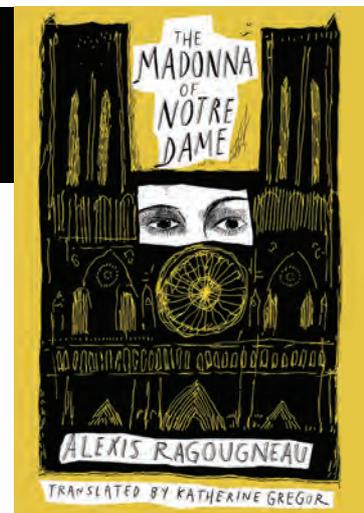
THE MADONNA OF NOTRE DAME

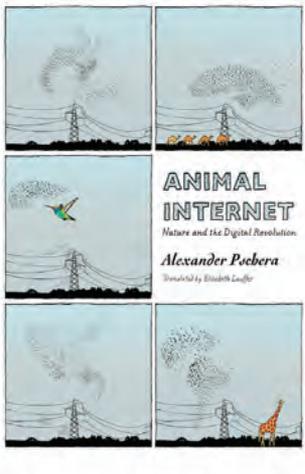
by Alexis Ragougneau / France • Translated by Katherine Gregor
FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 200 pp
Trade Paper \$15.95 • 978-1-939931-39-9

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*





ANIMAL INTERNET

By Alexander Pschera / Germany

Translated by Elisabeth Lauffer

NONFICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 209 pp

Trade Paper \$14.95 • 978-1-939931-33-7

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

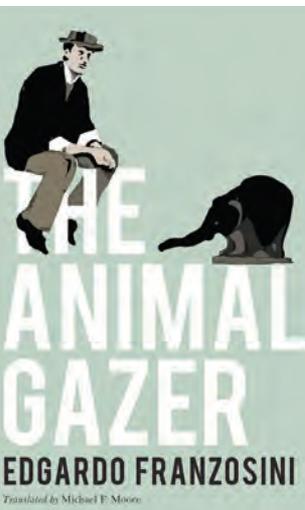
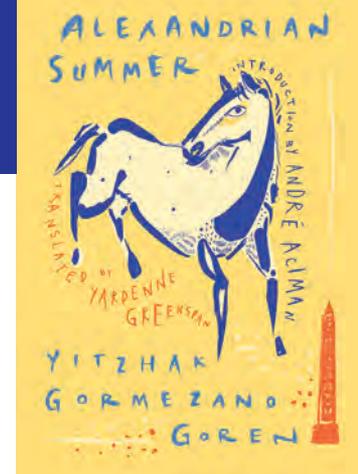
With an Introduction by André Aciman • FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8

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

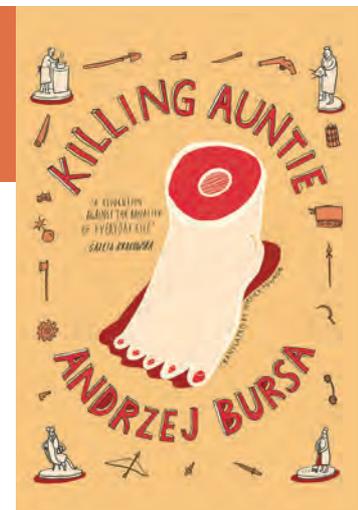
FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 120 pp

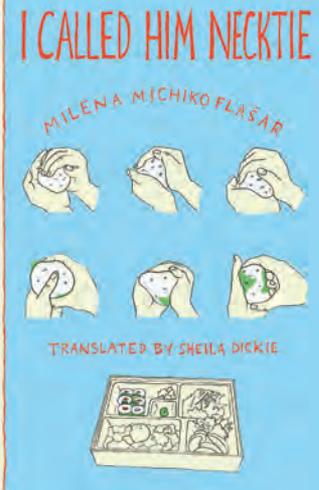
Trade Paper \$12.99 • 978-1-939931-21-4

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

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

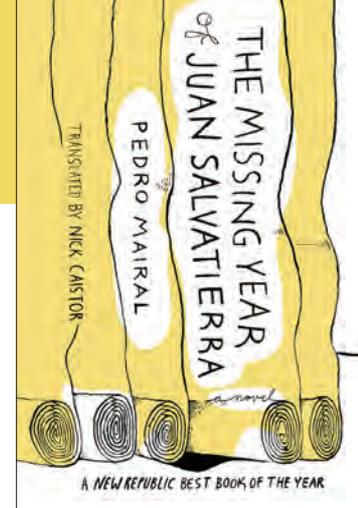
FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 118 pp

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

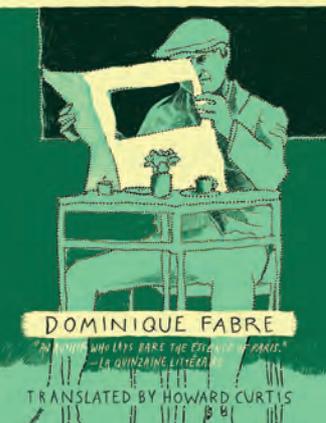
At the age of nine, Juan Salvatierra became mute following a horse riding accident. At twenty, he began secretly painting a series of canvases on which he detailed six decades of life in his village on Argentina's frontier with Uruguay. After his death, his sons return to deal with their inheritance: 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

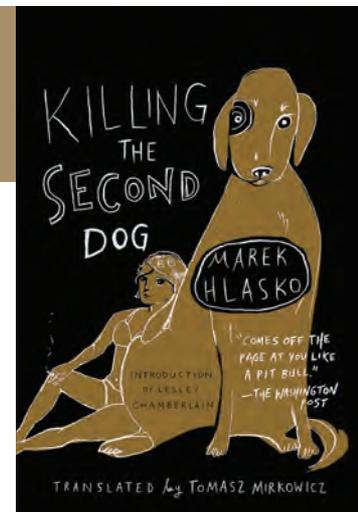
With an Introduction by Lesley Chamberlain • FICTION

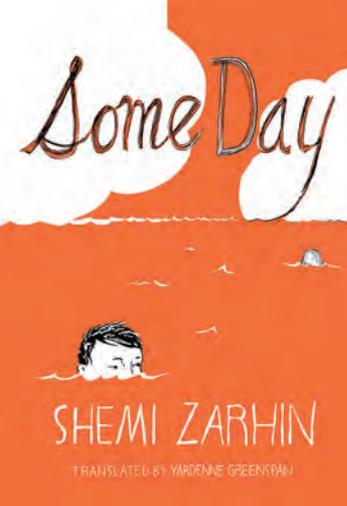
5 ¼ x 8 • 138 pp • Trade Paper \$15.99 • 978-1-939931-11-5

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.

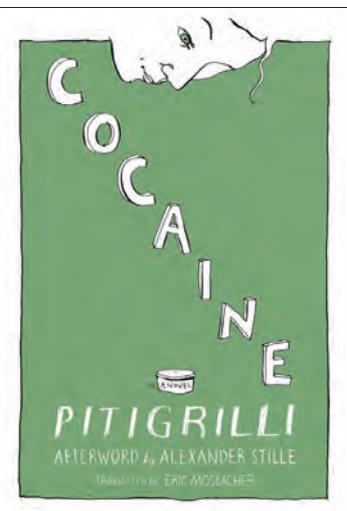
"A masterpiece by a young genius, fated to die shortly after he had completed it."

—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*

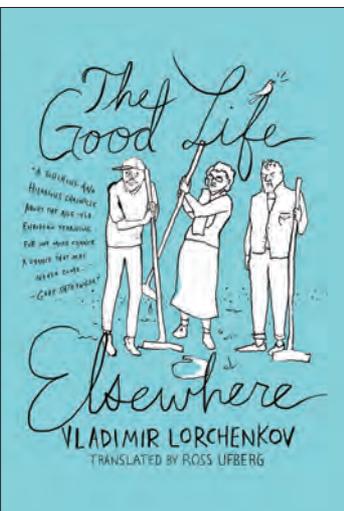
THE GOOD LIFE ELSEWHERE

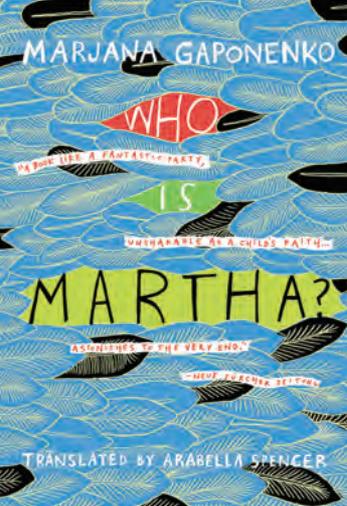
By Vladimir Lorchenkov / Moldova
 Translated by Ross Ufberg
 FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 204 pp
 Trade Paper \$14.99 • 978-1-939931-01-6

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 Lorchenkov 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*

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 Rowan Williams



ALL BACKS WERE TURNED

By Marek Hlasko / Poland • Translated by Tomasz Mirkowicz
With an Introduction by George Z. Gasyina
FICTION • 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*

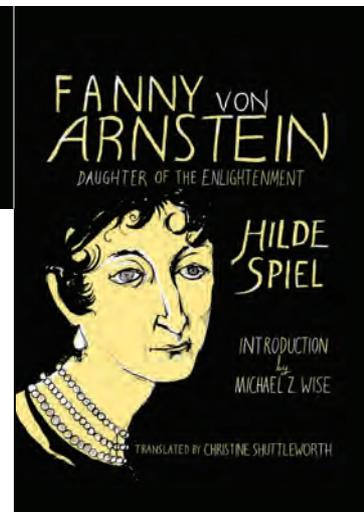
FANNY VON ARNSTEIN

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

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*





A VERY IRISH CHRISTMAS

Ireland • FICTION

7 x 10 • 160 pp

Paper over Board \$24.95 • 978-1-939931-96-2

The sixth volume in our popular *Very Christmas* series, this collection transports readers to the Emerald Isle with stories and poems sure to bring holiday cheer. The anthology is packed with wondrous works by James Joyce, Elizabeth Bowen, W. B. Yeats, Anne Enright, William Trevor, Colm Tóibín, Bernard MacLaverty and many more.

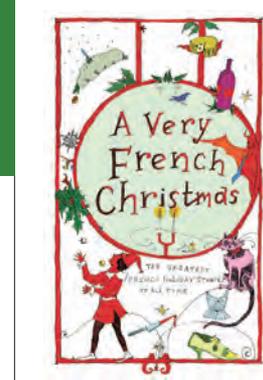
A VERY FRENCH CHRISTMAS

France • FICTION

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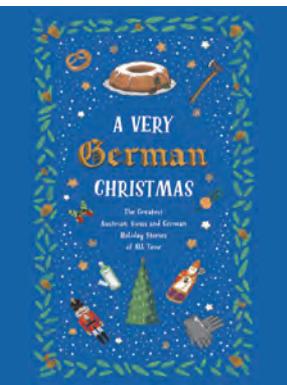
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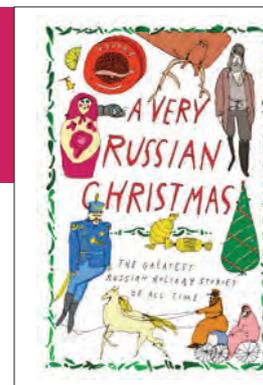
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