New Vessel Press 2023

10th Anniversary
New Vessel Press is an independent publishing house based in New York City that specializes 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.

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.

For a decade now, 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 2023 offerings will continue to make their mark and look forward to bringing the world’s great literature to ever more readers.
“In this very funny, wise and rueful novel, the cranky hero thrashes around in the coils of
guilt, atonement, desire and shame once he learns that a distant relative was a slave trader.
(There’s other bad stuff, not nearly so distant.) But really, he’s no more culpable than we
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Foreign Policy magazine columnist

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“Not only a hilarious satirical novel full of self-deprecation, but also a topical and very rel-
evant book, which cleverly ridicules the self-righteous and should finally place its author
alongside the most prominent writers.”
—Haaretz

A stellar novel rendered into a darkly comic, unforgettable narrative by International
Booker Prize-winning translator Jessica Cohen. An Israeli professor travels to a fictitious
West African nation to trace a slave-trading ancestor, only to be imprisoned there under a new
law barring successive generations from profiting off the proceeds of slavery. But before
departing from Tel Aviv, the protagonist falls in love with Lucile, a mysterious African
migrant worker who cleans his house. Entertaining and thought-provoking, this satire of
contemporary attitudes toward racism and the legacy of colonialism examines the global
refugee crisis, as well as the memory of transatlantic chattel slavery and the Holocaust. Is
the professor’s love of Africa merely a fashionable pose and is the book he is secretly writing
about his experiences there nothing but a contemporary version of the slave trade?

Agur Schiff, born in 1955 in Tel Aviv, has worked as a filmmaker and has published two
short story collections and six novels. Schiff, professor emeritus at the Bezalel Academy of
Art and Design in Jerusalem, has been awarded the Israeli Prime Minister’s Prize.

The protagonist of this satirical novel takes a journey to Africa that ends up as
an exploration of self-righteous racism and the collective responsibility to address it.
A PRESENT PAST: TITAN AND OTHER CHRONICLES
By Sergei Lebedev / Russia
Translated by Antonina W. Bouis
FICTION
April 2023
5 ¼ x 8 • 288 pp
Trade Paper $17.95 • 978-1954404-18-2

“A tour de force—exquisite and gripping, finely translated, fiction that pulls you into the beautiful and brutal service of imagining and understanding the human realities of modern Russia, a series of tales meticulously crafted and deeply imagined.”
—Philippe Sands, author of East West Street, The Ratline, and The Last Colony

EARLIER PRAISE FOR SERGEI LEBEDEV:
“Not since Alexander Solzhenitsyn has Russia had a writer as obsessed as Sergei Lebedev with that country’s history or the traces it has left on the collective consciousness . . . The best of Russia’s younger generation of writers.”
—The New York Review of Books

“It’s Dantean . . . as cold and stark as a glacial crevasse, but as beautiful as one, too, with a clear poetic sensibility built to stand against the forces of erasure.”
—The Wall Street Journal

The Soviet and post-Soviet world, with its untold multitude of crimes, is a natural breeding ground for ghost stories. No one writes them more movingly than Russian author Sergei Lebedev, who in this stunning volume probes a collective guilty conscience marked by otherworldliness and the denial of misdeeds. These eleven tales share a mystical topography in which the legacy of totalitarian regimes is ever-present—from Katyn to Chechnya, from the fragments of family history to the echoes of foot soldiers in Russia’s wars of aggression. In these stories, as in Lebedev’s acclaimed novels, the voices of things, places, animals, and people seek justice for a restless past, where steel claws scrape just beneath the surface and where the heredity of evil is uninterrupted, unacknowledged, unnamed.

Sergei Lebedev has been called the most important younger Russian author writing today, with novels translated into many languages. Untraceable, Oblivion, The Year of the Comet, and The Goose Fritz have been published to great acclaim in English by New Vessel Press.

A much-awaited new book by acclaimed Russian novelist Sergei Lebedev, using spectral tales to uncover buried truths about his country’s totalitarian past.
THE WORDS THAT REMAIN

By Stênio Gardel / Brazil
Translated by Bruna Dantas Lobato
FICTION
January 2023
5 ¼ x 8 • 160 pp
Trade Paper $16.95
978-1-954404-12-0

“Auspicious debut . . . This wistful novel introduces a worthy new voice.”
—Publishers Weekly

“Disarmingly tender and feverishly sad, Gardel’s love story is a delirium of a novel that reminds its readers of an uncomfortable truth: that even a life of regret can be a beautiful one.”
—Patrick Nathan, author of Some Hell

“An LGBTQ+ novel from Brazil, The Words That Remain is about the damage that brutality, illiteracy and widespread homophobia do to self-love and happiness; it also illustrates the resilience of wanting to love and to be loved and accepted by oneself.”
—Foreword Reviews

A letter has beckoned to Raimundo since he received it over fifty years ago from his youthful passion, handsome Cicero. But having grown up in an impoverished area of Brazil where the demands of manual labor thwarted his becoming literate, Raimundo has long been unable to read. As young men, he and Cicero fell in love, only to have Raimundo’s father brutally beat his son when he discovered their affair. Even after Raimundo succeeds in making a life for himself in the big city, he continues to be haunted by this secret missive full of longing from the distant past. Now at age seventy-one, he at last acquires a true education and the ability to access the letter. Exploring Brazil’s little-known hinterland as well its urban haunts, this is a sweeping novel of repression, violence, and shame, along with their flip side: survival, endurance, and the ultimate triumph of an unforgettable figure on society’s margins. The Words That Remain explores the universal power of the written word and language, and how they affect all our relationships.

Stênio Gardel was born in 1980 in the rural northeast of Brazil. The Words That Remain is his first novel.

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An ode to the French café as a magical place of encounter and anonymity, home to a vivid fresco of intertwined destinies movingly portrayed.

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 acclaimed in the United States and across Europe.

At a classic café in the French provinces, anonymity, chance encounters, and traumatic pasts collide against the muted background of global instability. Jean-Philippe Blondel, author of the bestselling The 6:41 to Paris, presents a moving fresco of intertwined destinies portrayed with humor, insight, and tenderness. In the span of twenty-four hours, a medley of characters retrace the fading patterns of their lives after a long disruption from Covid. A mother and son realize their vast differences, a man takes tea with a childhood friend he had covertly fallen for, and a woman crosses paths with the ex who abandoned her in Australia. Amidst it all, the café swirls like a kaleidoscope, bringing together customers, waiters, and owners past and present. Within its walls and on its terrace, they examine the threads of their existence, laying bare their inner selves, their failed dreams, and their hopes for the uncertain future that awaits us all.

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Return to Latvia

11

“Return to Latvia is a masterful collage-like work that is part travelogue, part memoir, part ruminative essay—she looks for traces of her murdered father whom she never bid farewell. Jarre visits the former Jewish ghetto of Riga and its southern forest, where tens of thousands were slaughtered in a 1941 mass execution by Nazi death squads with active participation by Latvian collaborators. Here she attempts to reconcile herself with her past, or at least to heal the wounds of a truncated childhood. Piecing together documents and memories, Return to Latvia explores immense guilt, repression, and the complicity of Latvians in the massacres of their Jewish neighbors, highlighting vast Holocaust atrocities that occurred outside the confines of death camps and in plain view.

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 newly rediscovered Italian author returns to her Baltic homeland to understand the massacre of Jews that consumed the father she lost in childhood.
“Serves up heaping portions of yearning, passion, alienation, and regret, and establishes Dana Shem-Ur as one of the rising stars of the new Israeli literature.”
—Joshua Cohen, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of The Netanyahus

“In unfailingly elegant prose, Where I Am . . . is a funny and poignant novel, strikingly resonant with the condition of foreignness plaguing so many around the world.”
—Eva Illouz, author of Why Love Hurts and The End of Love

“A formidable, stirring, and beautifully written novel, spectacular in its ability to penetrate the souls of its characters, juggling love, power dynamics, and staggeringly human ambitions while offering an ironic examination of the social and cultural codes of our time.”
—Nir Baram, author of World Shadow and Good People

A piercing novel about the experience of a life abroad in a cultural setting not one’s own: Reut is an Israeli translator in Paris with a French husband and their child. But she feels isolated and misunderstood, resulting in a sense of estrangement that explodes at a festive dinner party with affluent, intellectual friends. During the sumptuous meal, she sits on the edge of her chair, alert and navigating a tangle of cultural codes with which she’s never been fully at ease. Will she escape the alienation that accompanies her everywhere? Where I Am, Dana Shem-Ur’s virtuoso debut, blends comedy and travelogue to examine a woman’s attitudes about belonging to a man, to a culture, to a language. This intimate, heartbreaking book portrays a profoundly human yearning to stop everything, to lay down one’s head, and to feel—if only for a moment—at home.

Dana Shem-Ur lived in Paris for three years and obtained a master’s degree in philosophy from the École Normale Supérieure. She is a Ph.D. candidate in history at Tel Aviv University who translates from French, Italian, and Chinese into Hebrew.
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, adamantine 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

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.

“The terrifying list of Russia’s use of lethal poisons against its critics has inspired acclaimed author Sergei Lebedev’s novel. At its center is a ruthless chemist, Professor Kalitin, obsessed with developing an absolutely deadly, undetectable and untraceable poison for which there is no antidote. But Kalitin becomes consumed by guilt over countless deaths from his Faustian pact to create the ultimate venom. From Nazi labs, Stalinist plots, and the Chechen Wars, to present-day Russia, Lebedev probes the ethical responsibilities of scientists supplying modern tyrants and autocrats with ever newer instruments of retribution, destruction, and control.”
—The New York Times

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

The terrifying list of Russia’s use of lethal poisons against its critics has inspired acclaimed author Sergei Lebedev’s novel. At its center is a ruthless chemist, Professor Kalitin, obsessed with developing an absolutely deadly, undetectable and untraceable poison for which there is no antidote. But Kalitin becomes consumed by guilt over countless deaths from his Faustian pact to create the ultimate venom. From Nazi labs, Stalinist plots, and the Chechen Wars, to present-day Russia, Lebedev probes the ethical responsibilities of scientists supplying modern tyrants and autocrats with ever newer instruments of retribution, destruction, and control.

“A thriller dipped in poison . . . Shares some of le Carré’s fascination with secret worlds and the nature of evil.”
—The New York Times
THE VANISHED COLLECTION
By Pauline Baer de Perignon / France • Translated by Natasha Lehrer
NONFICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 256 pp
Trade Paper $17.95 • 978-1-939931-94-8

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?

“Engrossing . . . The book reads like a detective story.”
—The Washington Post

A FEW COLLECTORS
By Pierre Le-Tan / France • Translated by Michael Z. Wise
NONFICTION • 6 x 9 • 128 pp
Paper over Board $24.95 • 978-1-954404-06-9

An utterly charming book by beloved Parisian artist Pierre Le-Tan, filled with dazzling illustrations and intriguing tales about often eccentric art collectors. Le-Tan, known for designing New Yorker magazine covers and collaborations with fashion houses, summons up memories of inveterate collectors in this lavishly illustrated volume. He evokes fascinating, sometimes troubled figures through insightful and curious portraits. With seventy of his distinctive pen and ink drawings—in vibrant color with meticulous cross-hatching—A Few Collectors opens a window onto the vast or minuscule world created by collectors out of a mix of extravagance and obstinacy.

“Funny and whimsical. There are wonderful asides . . . It is also poignant.”
—The New York Times

DISTANT FATHERS
By Marina Jarre / Italy • Translated by Ann Goldstein
NONFICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 240 pp
Trade Paper $16.95 • 978-1-939931-97-9

This singular autobiography unfurls from author Marina Jarre’s native Latvia during the 1920s and ’30s and expands southward to Italy. 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. She probes time, language, womanhood, belonging, and estrangement, while asking what homeland can be for those who have none, or many more than one.

“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

OF SAINTS AND MIRACLES
By Manuel Astur / Spain • Translated by Claire Wadie
FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 160 pp
Trade Paper $16.95 • 978-1-954404-06-9

A breathtaking literary crime novel about family conflict in the Spanish countryside. Author Manuel Astur interweaves family tales and fables about the sun and the moon, about death and love, and offers glimpses into the lives of other villagers and the history of their community. Astur’s poetic language and seamless blend of lyricism with the grotesque renders this book a treasure for the reader. Of Saints and Miracles is a sensuous portrayal of an outcast’s struggle to survive in a chaotic world of both tragedy and magical splendor.

“Poetic and magical . . . Astur’s language is meticulous and vivid.”
—Asymptote
POLLAK’S ARM
By Hans von Trotha / Germany • Translated by Elisabeth Lauffer
FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 160 pp
Trade Paper $16.95 • 978-1-939931-92-4

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 Pollak defers accepting refuge and instead recounts how he became a renowned antiquities dealer and advisor to great collectors like J. P. Morgan and the Austro-Hungarian emperor and his spectacular discovery of the missing arm from the ancient sculpture of Laocoon and his sons. This novel illuminates the chasm between civilization and barbarism by spotlighting a now little-known figure devoted to knowledge and the power of artistic creation.

“Enthralling... A great read.”
—Philippe de Montebello, former director, Metropolitan Museum of Art

ROUNDABOUT OF DEATH
By Faysal Khartash / Syria • Translated by Max Weiss
FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 176 pp
Trade Paper $16.95 • 978-1-939931-86-3

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

PALACE OF FLIES
By Walter Kappacher / Austria • Translated by Georg Bauer
FICTION • 5 ¼ x 8 • 160 pp
Trade Paper $16.95 • 978-1-954404-02-1

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. 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.

“One of those rare biographical novels that bring a whole world to life in a way that lingers in memory.”
—Jay Parini, author of Borges and Me

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 inefiable power of music.”
—Aja Gabel, author of The Ensemble
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... indict us all.”
—The New York Times

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 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

VILLA OF DELIRIUM
By Adrien Goetz / France • Translated by Natasha Lehrer
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
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

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

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

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
**NEapolitan Chronicles**

By Anna Maria Ortese / Italy
Translated by Ann Goldstein and Jenny McPhee • FICTION
5 ¾ 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*

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**THE 6:41 TO PARIS**

By Jean-Philippe Blondel / France
Translated by Alison Anderson • FICTION • 5 ¾ x 8 • 153 pp
Trade Paper $14.95 • 978-1-939931-27-6

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*

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**The Last Weynfeldt**

By Martin Suter / Switzerland • Translated by Steph Morris
FICTION • 5 ¾ 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)
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 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-Sahely
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

26

27
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.

—The Washington Post

THE MADONNA OF NOTRE DAME
by Alexis Ragougeau / 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

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 skeptical 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

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
**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 teeter 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

**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

**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
DOMINIQUE FABRE

By Dominique Fabre / France • Translated by Howard Curtis
FICTION • 5 ⅛ 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

THE MISSING YEAR OF JUAN SALVATIERRA

By Pedro Mairal / Argentina • Translated by Nick Caistor
FICTION • 5 ⅛ 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

KILLING THE SECOND DOG

By Marek Hlasko / Poland • Translated by Tomasz Mirkowicz
With an Introduction by Lesley Chamberlain • FICTION
5 ⅛ x 8 • 138 pp • Trade Paper $15.99 • 978-1-939931-11-5

Robert and Jacob are down-and-out Polish con men living in Israel in the 1960s. They’re tough, desperate men adrift in the nasty underworld of Tel Aviv planning to scam an American widow visiting the country. Marek Hlasko’s writing combines brutal realism with smoky, hardboiled dialogue in a bleak world where violence is the norm and love is often only an act.

SOME DAY

By Shemi Zarhin / Israel
Translated by Yardenne Greenspan
FICTION • 5 ⅛ x 8 • 451 pp
Trade Paper $21.95 • 978-1-939931-05-4

On the shores of Israel’s Sea of Galilee lies Tiberias, bursting with sexuality and longing for love. The air is saturated with smells of cooking and passion. Young Shlomi, a remarkable culinary talent, has fallen for a neighbor with suicidal tendencies. Some Day is a gripping family saga. Shemi Zarhin’s hypnotic writing renders a painfully delicious vision of individual lives behind Israel’s larger national story.

COCAINCE

By Pitigrilli / Italy • Translated by Eric Mosbacher
With an Afterword by Alexander Stille • FICTION
5 ⅛ x 8 • 258 pp
Trade Paper $16.49 • 978-1-939931-09-2

Elegant, witty, and wicked, Pitigrilli’s classic novel was first published in Italian in 1921 and charts the comedy and tragedy of a young man’s downfall in Paris and the lure of a bygone era. The novel’s descriptions of sex and drug use prompted church authorities to place it on a list of forbidden books. Cocaine retains its venom even today.
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

Moldovan writer Vladimir Lorchenkov tells the story of a group of villagers and their tragicomic efforts, against all odds and at any cost, to emigrate from Europe’s most impoverished nation to Italy. This is a book with wild imagination and heartbreaking honesty. Like great satirists from Voltaire to Gogol to Vonnegut, Lorchenkov makes use of the grotesque to both horrify us and help us laugh.

WHO IS MARTHA?
By Marjana Gaponenko / Germany
Translated by Arabella Spencer • FICTION
5 ¼ x 8 • 230 pp

In this rollicking novel, 96-year-old ornithologist Luka Levadski forgoes treatment for lung cancer and moves from Ukraine to Vienna to make a grand exit in a luxury suite at the Hotel Imperial. This gloriousy written tale, in which Levadski feels “his heart pounding at the portals of his brain,” mixes piquant wit with lofty musings about life, friendship, aging, and death.

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 scant attention paid to hardships endured by 7.5 million Christians in the Middle East, journalist Klaus Wivel traveled to Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, and Palestinian territories to learn more about their fate. He found an oppressed minority, constantly under threat of death and humiliation, increasingly desperate in the face of Islamic extremism. Wivel asks, Why have we not done more to protect these people?

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

Fanny von Arnstein came to Vienna in 1776 as an 18-year-old bride. She married a financier to the Austro-Hungarian imperial court, and hosted a splendid salon that attracted leading figures of her day. Spiel’s elegant biography provides a vivid portrait of a brave, passionate woman who advocated for the rights and acceptance of Jews and illuminates a key era in European cultural and social history.
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 MEXICAN CHRISTMAS
Mexico • FICTION • 7 x 10 • 140 pp
Paper over Board $25.95 • 978-1-954404-08-3
A celebration of the Mexican Yuletide spirit with spellbinding work by Mexico’s most important writers, including Carlos Fuentes, best-selling Laura Esquivel, and other contemporary favorites like Amparo Dávila, Sandra Cisneros, Fabio Morábito, and Carmen Boullosa, as well as fresh translations of classics by Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Amado Nervo, and Ignacio Manuel Altamirano.

A VERY SCANDINAVIAN CHRISTMAS
Scandinavia • FICTION • 7 x 10 • 140 pp
Paper over Board $24.95 • 978-1-939931-76-4
This volume 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 acclaimed contemporary Norwegian authors Karl Ove Knausgaard and Vigdis Hjorth.

A VERY RUSSIAN CHRISTMAS
Russia • FICTION • 7 x 10 • 160 pp
Paper over Board $24.95 • 978-1-939931-83-0
Running the gamut from sweet and reverent to twisted and uproarious, this is an anthology that will satisfy every reader. Works by Fyodor Dostoevsky, Lev Tolstoy, Anton Chekov, Klavdia Lukashevich, Mikhail Zoshchenko, Teffi, and more.

A VERY FRENCH CHRISTMAS
France • FICTION • 7 x 10 • 142 pp
Paper over Board $24.95 • 978-1-939931-50-4
The best French Christmas stories of all time in an elegant and vibrant volume 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.

A VERY GERMAN CHRISTMAS
Austria, Switzerland, and Germany • FICTION • 7 x 10 • 140 pp
Paper over Board $24.95 • 978-1-939931-88-7
Holiday stories from Austria, Switzerland, and Germany: You’ll find classic works by the Brothers Grimm, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Heinrich Heine, Thomas Mann, Rainer Maria Rilke, Hermann Hesse, Joseph Roth, and Arthur Schnitzler, as well as more recent tales by writers like Heinrich Böll, Peter Stamm, and Martin Suter.

A VERY ITALIAN CHRISTMAS
Italy • FICTION • 7 x 10 • 150 pp
Paper over Board $24.95 • 978-1-939931-62-7
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 Italian choice selection delights and intrigues.

ONE FOR EACH NIGHT
FICTION • 7 x 10 • 140 pp
Paper over Board $25.95 • 978-1-954404-46-4
This rich medley of stories, poems, and other writings features evocations of Chanukah by classic and contemporary authors including Sholom Aleichem, Nobel laureates S. Y. Agnon and Elie Wiesel, I. L. Peretz, Emma Lazarus, Theodor Herzl, Mark Strand, A. B. Yehoshua, Emma Green, Joanna Rakoff, and Rebecca Newberger Goldstein.
NEW VESSEL PRESS BOOKS
are distributed to the trade by

Consortium Book Sales & Distribution
34 Thirteenth Avenue NE, Suite 101
Minneapolis, MN 55413-1007
1-866-400-5351
ips@ingramcontent.com

Covers by Beth Steidle, Liana Finck, and Alban Fischer
Catalogue by Beth Steidle with Rita Lascaro