

TWO LINES PRESS

WINTER/SPRING 2025

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THE VOICES OF ADRIANA

ELVIRA NAVARRO

Translated from Spanish by Christina MacSweeney

From the author of *Rabbit Island*, longlisted for the National Book Award, a thrilling fiction about the internet and the difficulty of knowing others. *The Voices of Adriana* combines the psychological acuity of Marguerite Duras with the creative possibility of *One Thousand and One Nights*.

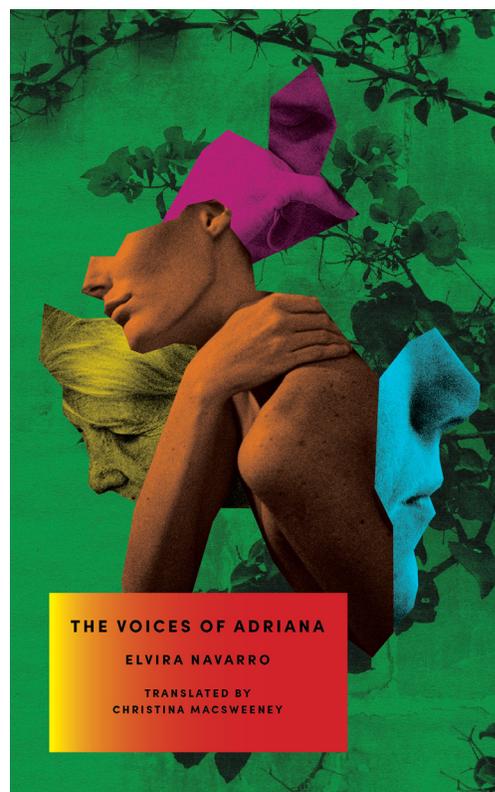
Adriana has become obsessed with her father's online dating. Recently widowed, he's on a self-destructive, manic search for a partner to accompany him through his twilight years. At the same time, Adriana's life as an isolated grad student feels unreal, and to fill the void of her mother's death, she begins writing, trying on different voices. She builds worlds from the online profiles of her father's latest flings, that is until more fundamental voices—those of her grandmother and mother—begin calling out to her in the night. *The Voices of Adriana*, the latest from Spanish writer Elvira Navarro, is an innovative novel about grief and how we might reanimate the voices of those we've lost, not as ghosts, but as living parts of ourselves.

"A precise and meticulous surgeon of the heart's most hidden emotions."

—Manuel Vilas, author of *Ordessa*

ELVIRA NAVARRO (Huelva, Spain, 1978) has published both novels and short stories. Her novel *A Working Woman*, which addresses the impact of the economic crisis on the contemporary female experience, has established her as a leading voice in Spanish literature. She has been the recipient of numerous significant accolades in Spain, including the Jaén Novel Prize and the Andalusian Critics' Prize. Her collection of short stories, *Rabbit Island*, was nominated for the 2021 National Book Award for Foreign Literature.

CHRISTINA MACSWEENEY has an MA in Literary Translation from the University of East Anglia. Her translation of Valeria Luiselli's *The Story of My Teeth* was awarded the 2016 Valle Inclán Translation Prize and also shortlisted for the Dublin Literary Award (2017). Her most recent translations include fiction and nonfiction works by Daniel Saldaña París, Elvira Navarro, Verónica Gerber Bicecci, Julián Herbert, Jazmina Barrera, and Karla Suárez.



Paperback	FEB 2025
Fiction	Novel
ISBN	9781949641738
eISBN	9781949641745
US \$17	Rights: US/CA
5" x 8"	200pp



Photo credit: Asís Ayerbe

UNUSUAL FRAGMENTS

JAPANESE STORIES

Composing a fuller picture of the literary era that produced Osamu Dazai and Kōbō Abe, *Unusual Fragments* foregrounds stories of alienation with surprising humor and imagination.

A young storm-chaser welcomes a jaded woman into the eye of a storm. The last man of a peculiar family, implausibly tiny in stature, attends a Mozart opera with his dedicated wife. A medical student coolly observes an adolescent boy as he contorts his body into violent positions. With tension and wit, the writers of *Unusual Fragments*, among them Nobuko Takagi, Yoshida Tomoko, and Inagaki Taruho, trace their taboo, feminist, bizarre themes to complicate what we think of as 20th-century Japanese literature. What's hiding just beneath the fiction of our perfectly ordered, happy lives? Something unusual. Something far more interesting.

FEATURING...

“THE HOLE IN THE SKY”

Nobuko Takagi, (b. 1946), tr. by Philip Price

“HUSBAND IN A BOX”

Tomoko Yoshida (b. 1934), tr. by Margaret Mitsutani

“THE FALSE MUSTACHE”

Taruho Inagaki (1900-1977), tr. by Jeffrey Angles

“HOT DAY”

Takako Takahashi (1932-2013), tr. by Brian Bergstrom

“CAGE OF SAND”

Taeko Kono (1926-2015), tr. by Lucy North

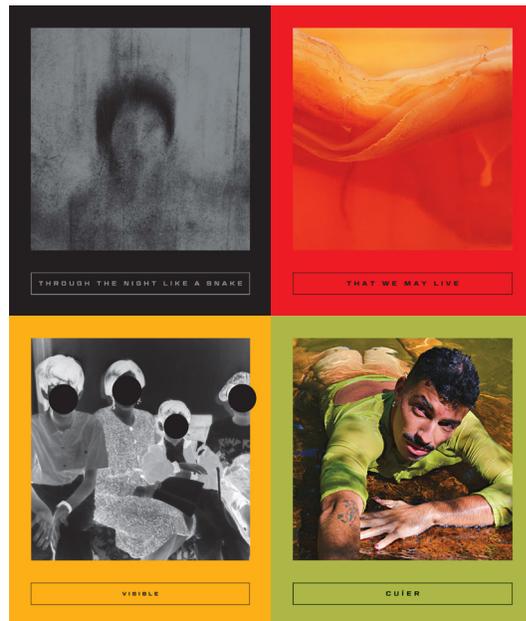


UNUSUAL FRAGMENTS

Paperback
Short Stories
ISBN
US \$17
6" x 7"

MARCH 2025
Anthology
9781949641752
Rights: US/CA
168pp

ALSO IN THE CALICO SERIES



MENDING BODIES

HON LAI CHU

Translated from Chinese by Jacqueline Leung

For readers of Ling Ma and Hiroko Oyamada, Hong Kong writer Hon Lai Chu's dystopian exploration of bodies, mythology, and late capitalism defies—and then reorients—reality.

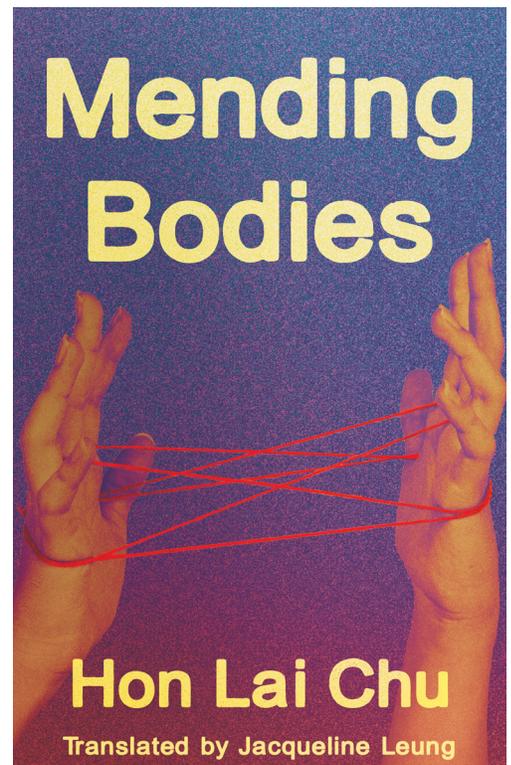
In dystopian Hong Kong, a new government program incentivizes physical conjunction between individuals through a painful and disruptive surgery, promising personal fulfillment and a reduced cost of living. Hon Lai Chu's unnamed narrator is broke and knee-deep in her dissertation on the subject, critical but increasingly unmoored by the implications—and the possibilities. Surely it is better for society to give up your autonomy if it means taking fewer resources, as the conjoined do, right?

Hon Lai Chu, one of the foremost writers working in Hong Kong today, sets her characters loose in a macabre reality animated by sketchy institutions and characters with elusive motivations. Politically and socially allegorical, *Mending Bodies*, translated by Jacqueline Leung, challenges our safe understandings of people, bodies, and governments.

“Dystopian... disturbing.”
—Asian Review of Books

HON LAI CHU was born and raised in Hong Kong, where she currently resides, and is the author of several novels, including *Mending Bodies* and *The Border of Centrifugation*, as well as a recent book of short stories, *Lost Caves*. With Dorothy Tse, she co-authored the 2012 short-story collection *A Dictionary of Two Cities*, which won the Hong Kong Book Prize in 2013. In 2004, she was awarded the Hong Kong Biennial Award for Chinese Literature (Fiction) for her short-story collection *Silent Creature*. Andrea Lingenfelter's English translation of Hon Lai Chu's *The Kite Family* was published in 2015.

JACQUELINE LEUNG is a writer and Chinese-to-English literary translator from Hong Kong. She is assistant editor for *The Offing* and translations editor for *Cicada*. She was previously assistant manager of the Hong Kong International Literary Festival. Her work has appeared in *Gulf Coast*, *Nashville Review*, *SAND Journal*, and the *Asian Review of Books*, among others. She holds an MA in English from University College London and a BA from the University of Hong Kong. Her translation of Hon Lai Chu's novel *Mending Bodies* is a winner of PEN Presents by the English PEN.



Paperback
Fiction
ISBN
eISBN
US \$18
5" x 8"

APRIL 2025
Novel
9781949641769
9781949641776
Rights: US/CA
240pp



SLEEP PHASE

MOHAMED KHEIR

Translated from Arabic by Robin Moger

The story of a translator released from prison who wants little more than to resume his work, Kheir's latest is a tale of returning to a home you do not recognize, where forces of gentrification collide with the wounds of recent history.

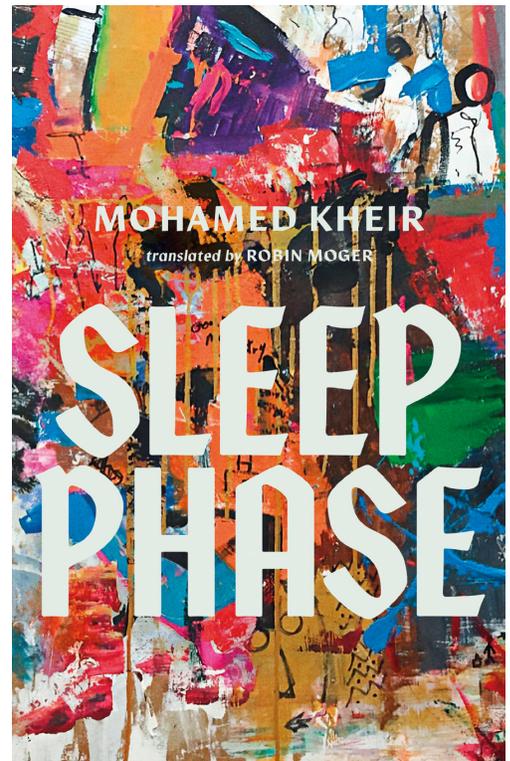
After seven years in prison, a translator named Warif is released to a changed Cairo. Freedom so far has been endless, inscrutable meetings with official-looking strangers, trying to get his job back. This new Cairo, busy with expats and bureaucrats, is proving disorienting: What is he supposed to make of these self-assured newcomers who are so certain of his obsolescence, his subjugation, his solitude? They seem happy to provide him with a salary, if he's willing to give up the work that gave his life meaning. As his encounters increasingly resemble interrogations and the futility of trying to escape the system set against him threatens to suffocate him, Warif escapes into the vivid colors of the city, looking deeper and deeper into the food, the people, the buildings, and the flowers, until what's real blurs into fantasy.

"A partly real, partly fantastical depiction of post-revolutionary Cairo and Alexandria...the fantastical in this novel feels as true to the Cairo of today as the parts that are lifted from life."

—Yasmine El Rashidi, *The New York Times*

MOHAMED KHEIR is a novelist, poet, short-story writer, journalist, and lyricist. His short-story collections *Remsh Al Ein* (2016) and *Afarit Al Radio* (2011) both received The Sawiris Cultural Award, and *Leil Khargi* (2001) was awarded the Egyptian Ministry of Culture Award for poetry.

ROBIN MOGER is a translator of Arabic to English currently based in Barcelona. His translations of prose and poetry have appeared in *Blackbox Manifold*, *The White Review*, *Tentacular*, *Asymptote*, and others. He has translated several novels and prose works into English including Iman Mersal's *Traces of Enayat* (Transit Books), Nael Eltoukhy's *The Women of Karantina* (AUC Press), and Youssef Rakha's *The Crocodiles* (7 Stories Press).



Paperback
Fiction
ISBN
eISBN
US \$18
5" x 8"

MAY 2025
Novel
9781949641783
9781949641790
Rights: US/CA
240pp



Photo credit: maha al turk

BACKLIGHT

PIRKKO SAISIO

Translated from Finnish by Mia Spangenberg

A brutally funny and inventive coming-of-age novel for fans of Tove Jansson and Eileen Myles, the final installment in Saisio's acclaimed trilogy affirms the Finnish literary icon as a literary stylist and rascal.

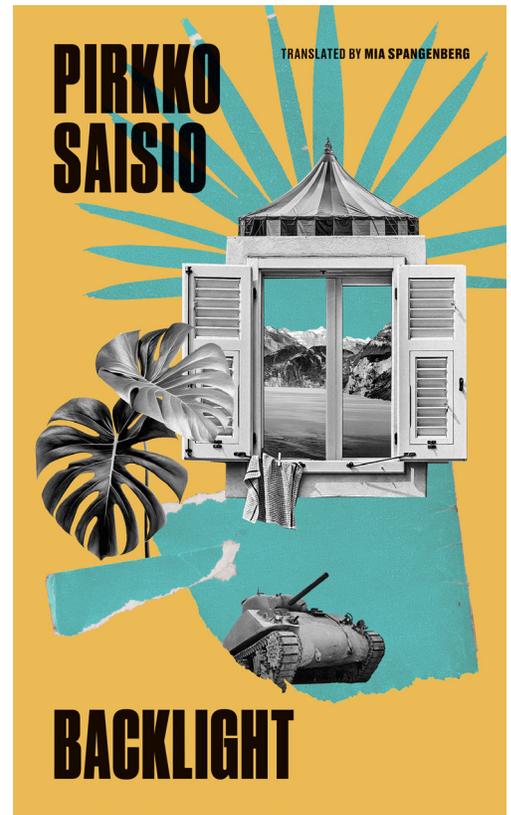
Pirkko Saisio, now a teenager, can't decide which she hates most, God, her father, or her growing breasts. Grandpa has moved into the room long promised to her, and Mother, overworked and distant, tries to keep the peace between her headstrong daughter and husband. When she's not escaping into her books, Pirkko has fun getting into trouble. That is until her Finnish teacher suggests she might have what it takes to be a real writer, but only if she is willing to work hard and make certain sacrifices.

Years later, Pirkko spends the historic summer of 1968 working at a Swiss orphanage. The world is shifting around her, and to make matters even more complicated: she's homesick. At the orphanage no one understands her German, and away from home for the first time, she struggles to make sense of her suppressed queerness. In *Backlight*, the Finlandia Prize-winning author looks backward and inward, once again emerging, in Mia Spangenberg's sensitive translation, with an intimate portrait of a life lived in language.

**"A heady, surreal reading experience, full of linguistic magic that makes the world feel alive with possibility."
—David Vogel, Literati Bookstore**

PIRKKO SAISIO (b. 1949) studied drama and completed her actor's training in 1975. Her debut novel *The Course of Life* (*Elämänmeno*, 1975) won the J. H. Erkko Award. Saisio has been nominated for the Finlandia Prize seven times, winning it with *The Red Book of Farewells* (*Punainen erokirja*, 2003). She has, among other awards, received the Aleksis Kivi Prize and State Literature Award. Apart from novels, she has written numerous plays and scripts for film and television and is a well-known theatre director.

MIA SPANGENBERG translates from Finnish, Swedish, and German into English. Her work has been published in Finland and the UK and appeared in journals such as *LitHub* and *Asymptote*. She holds a Ph.D in Scandinavian studies from the University of Washington, Seattle, where she resides with her family.



Hardcover
Fiction
ISBN
eISBN
US \$23
5" x 8"

JUNE 2025
Novel
9781949641806
9781949641813
Rights: US/CA
280pp



Photo credit: Laura Malmivaara

LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR

PIRKKO SAISIO

Translated from Finnish by Mia Spangenberg

Part queer coming-of-age novel, part meditation on grief, *Lowest Common Denominator* is a rumination on family, desire, and finding your voice, told in Pirkko Saisio's fiercely distinctive style.

Writing in the wake of her father's death, the narrator of Pirkko Saisio's autofictional novel transports us to the 1950s Finland of her youth, where she navigates life as an only child of communist parents with her trademark wit and style. Convinced she will grow up to become a man, a young Saisio keeps trying and failing to meet the expectations of the adults around her. Each formative experience—featuring the Big Bad Wolf, raging fires, a bikini-clad circus announcer, tuberculosis-carrying mud pies, and Jesus Christ—drives her further and further from her family. Struggling to understand her place in the world around her, it's in language that she discovers a refuge and a way to be seen at last.

“Paints an Ernaux-esque picture of a fragmented childhood in post-war Finland.”

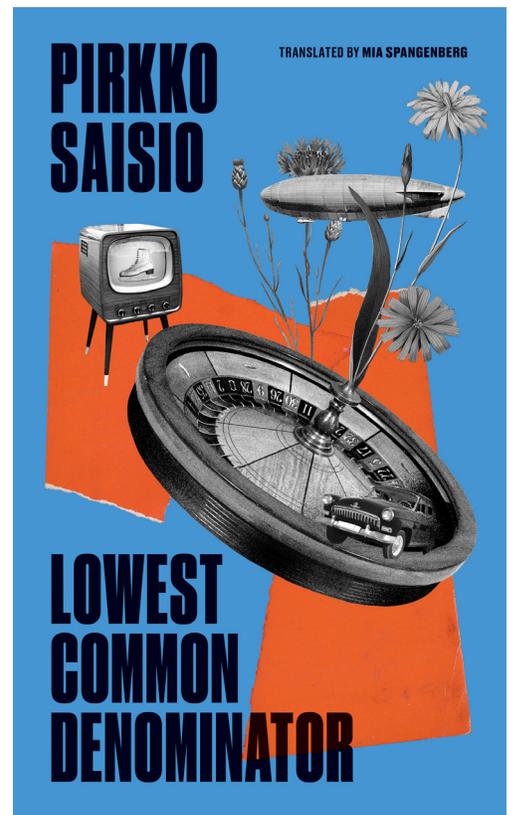
—Laurel Kane, *White Whale Bookstore*

“In Pirkko's Helsinki, the personal and political are not collapsed but interlinked, and revolution is closely tied with sensuality.”

—Niina Pollari, *Los Angeles Review of Books*

PIRKKO SAISIO (b. 1949) studied drama and completed her actor's training in 1975. Her debut novel *The Course of Life* (Elämänmeno, 1975) won the J. H. Erkko Award. Saisio has been nominated for the Finlandia Prize seven times, winning it with *The Red Book of Farewells* (Punainen erokirja, 2003). She has, among other awards, received the Aleksis Kivi Prize and State Literature Award. Apart from novels, she has written numerous plays and scripts for film and television and is a well-known theatre director.

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Hardcover

NOV 2024

Fiction

Novel

ISBN

9781949641714

eISBN

9781949641721

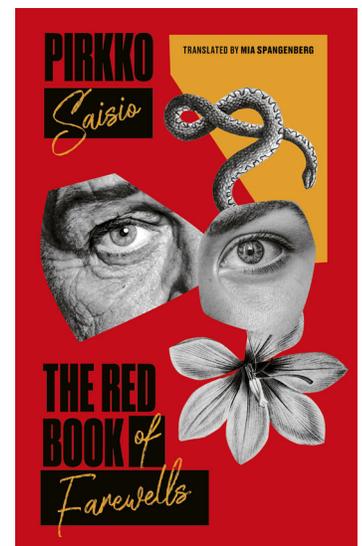
US \$21.95

Rights: US/CA

5" x 8"

312pp

ALSO BY PIRKKO SAISIO



IXELLES

JOHANNES ANYURU

Translated from Swedish by Nichola Smalley

With an introduction by Omar El Akkad

A thrilling literary novel about the inescapability of the past and the power of fiction for fans of Percival Everett and Colson Whitehead.

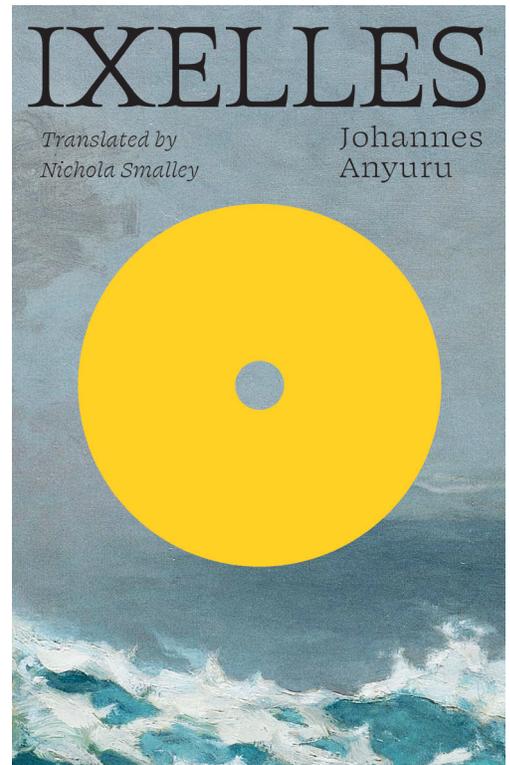
Ruth lives comfortably with her son, Em, in a house by the sea. She has a well-paying job at the Agency, a firm that creates elaborate fictions to shape public opinion. Their lives weren't always like this. Ruth had to get Em out of Antwerp's hopeless postal code Twenty-Seveny, the neglected neighborhood where Em's father, Mio, was murdered when she was still pregnant. A new assignment forces her to return to the place she once called home, and she'll need to convince old friends and family—the only people in her life who connect her to her past—to remain silent as the government demolishes it all. Amid this upheaval, Ruth discovers a golden CD with a voice on it claiming to be Mio. He is in a place called the Nothingness Section, which may be an island or just another piece of fiction. In Anyuru's story of stories, are there any tales where Mio can end up with Ruth, raising his son by the sea?

“A multilayered novel blending mystery, San Francisco, and politics in an uneasily multicultural Europe... part Borges, part Stieg Larsson.”

—Kirkus Reviews

JOHANNES ANYURU is a poet, novelist, and playwright. He debuted in 2003 with the critically acclaimed collection of poems *Only The Gods Are New. They Will Drown in Their Mothers' Tears* was awarded the August Prize and film rights have been acquired by Momento Film. Anyuru's work has been likened to a mix between Nobel Laureate Thomas Tranströmer and a hip-hop MC.

NICHOLA SMALLEY is a translator and lover of Swedish and Norwegian literature. She is also a publicist at And Other Stories and an escaped academic—in 2014 she finished her PhD exploring the use of contemporary urban vernaculars in Swedish and UK rap and literature at UCL. Her translations range from *Jogo Bonito* by Henrik Brandão Jönsson (Yellow Jersey Press), a Swedish book about Brazilian football, to the latest novel by Norwegian superstar Jostein Gaarder, *An Unreliable Man* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson).



Paperback

OCT 2024

Fiction

Novel

ISBN

9781949641691

eISBN

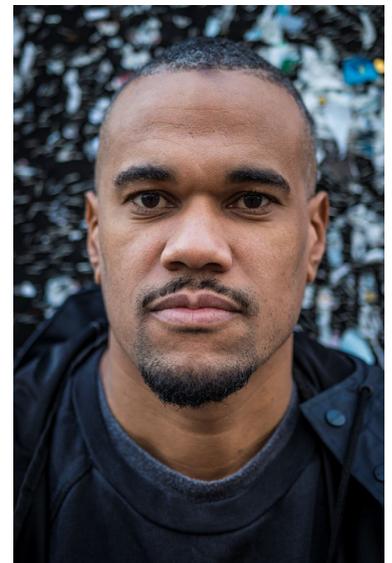
9781949641707

US \$20

Rights: US/CA

5" x 8"

468pp



CIGARETTES UNTIL TOMORROW

ROMANIAN POETRY

Along the eastern edge of Europe, Romania's vibrant poetry perches on the Black Sea.

In *Cigarettes Until Tomorrow*, eight Romanian poets use black humor and searing contemporary language to make everyday scenes profound. Tanks invade while soccer games go down to the last minute. There are lonely cemeteries and urine-soaked sheets and endless Instagram reels. The resulting collection is a stunning portrait of all our lives in the 21st century: the boredom, the outrage, and the ecstasy.

“There are poems here I would print, fold, and tuck into every English-speaking pocket... To dare to imagine a space outside the ruling dogmas is what poetry risks at its best.”
—Alina Stefanescu

FEATURING...

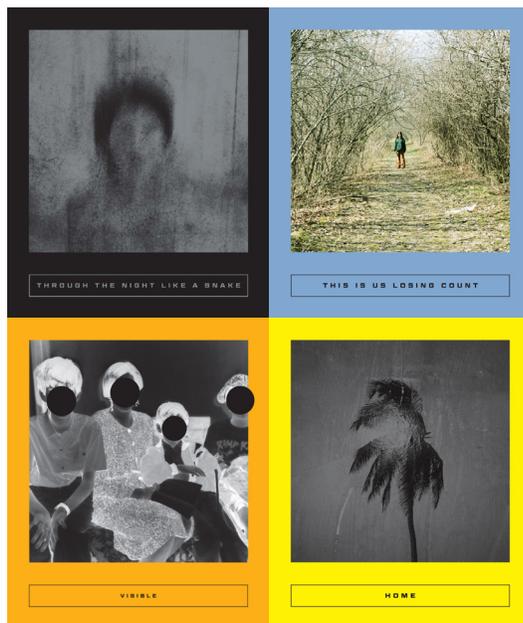
MONI STĂNILĂ, tr. by Sean Cotter
ELENA VLĂDĂREANU, tr. by Iris Nuțu
CONSTANTIN ACOSMEI, tr. by Gene Tanta
EMIL-IULIAN SUDE, tr. by Diana Manole
ADELA GRECEANU, tr. by Monica Cure
IOAN FLORA, tr. by Adam J. Sorkin
& Andreea Iulia Scridon
ANASTASIA GAVRILOVICI, tr. by Gabi Reigh
NORA IUGA, tr. by Diana Manole



Paperback
Poetry
ISBN
US \$16.95
6" x 7"

SEPT 2024
Anthology
9781949641684
Rights: US/CA
120pp

ALSO IN THE CALICO SERIES



CELEBRATION

DAMIR KARAKAŠ

Translated from Croatian by Ellen Elias-Bursac

With *Celebration*, Croatian journalist and novelist Damir Karakaš relays an epic in village miniature: the story of a father, a son, a farm, and a nation's descent into fascism.

Mijo, a soldier in the Nazi-allied Ustaša force, has returned to his village at the end of the war. He's hiding in a hole in the woods, watching as the soldiers who want him dead return again and again to his house, disturbing his wife and children at all hours of the day. If he can just wait long enough, he naively believes, the atrocities of the war and his own involvement in it will be forgotten, and he can have what he really wants: a quiet life farming his land with his family. *Celebration*, translated by the incomparable Ellen Elias-Bursac, traces a dark path—from hapless individual to world-changing catastrophe—in search of a way to break the cycle of political violence.

"Harrowing... An unsettling look at one man's moral drift."

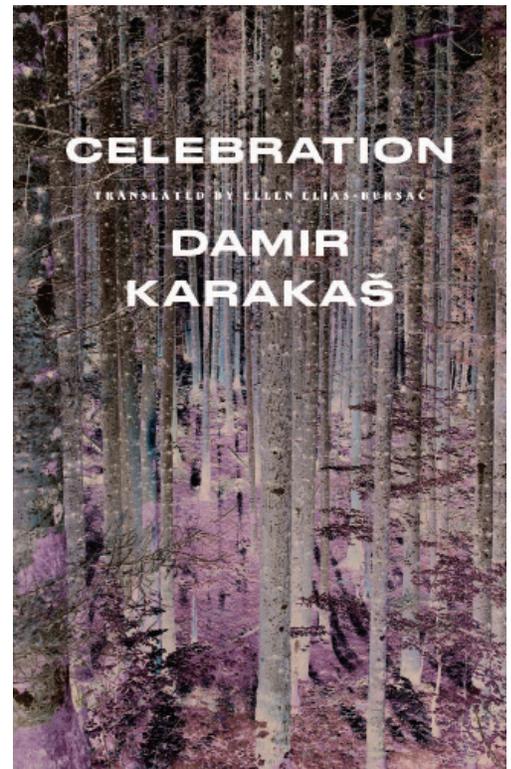
—*Kirkus Reviews*

"I held my breath for all 118 pages of this illuminating, transformative book."

—*Emily Tarr, Thank You Books*

DAMIR KARAKAŠ was born in 1967 in the village of Plašćica, Lika, a Croatian region known for strong winters, wolves, and world inventor Nikola Tesla. Karakaš is one of the most respected writers in Croatia and the former Yugoslavia, and is the winner of prestigious domestic and international literary awards. He has published seven novels, three short-story collections, and a travelog. His novels have been translated into ten languages, including the first translation of Croatian literature into Arabic. He is the father of three daughters and currently lives in Zagreb.

ELLEN ELIAS-BURSAĆ translates fiction and nonfiction from the Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin, and Serbian. In 2006 the novel *Götz and Meyer* by David Albahari in her translation from the Serbian was given the National Translation Award. She is a past president of the American Literary Translators Association.



Paperback	SEPT 2024
Fiction	Novel
ISBN	9781949641660
eISBN	9781949641677
US \$17.00	Rights: US/CA
4.5" x 7"	118pp



Photo credit: Robert Gojević

THE BACKLIST

AIDT, NAJA MARIE — *Baboon*, translated from Danish by Denise Newman

ISBN: 9781931883382 • eISBN: 9781931883412

ANYURU, JOHANNES — *They Will Drown in Their Mothers' Tears*, translated from Swedish by Saksia Vogel

ISBN: 9781931883894 • eISBN: 9781931883900

BARRERA, JAZMINA — *Cross-Stitch*, translated from Spanish by Christina MacSweeney

ISBN: 9781949641653 • eISBN: 9781949641547

BARRERA, JAZMINA — *Linea Nigra*, translated from Spanish by Christina MacSweeney

ISBN: 9781949641585 • eISBN: 9781949641318

BARRERA, JAZMINA — *On Lighthouses*, translated from Spanish by Christina MacSweeney

ISBN: 9781949641011 • eISBN: 9781949641028

BOUM, HEMLEY — *Days Come and Go*, translated from French by NChanji Njamnsi

ISBN: 9781949641356 • eISBN: 9781949641363

CARVALHO, MARIA JUDITE DE — *Empty Wardrobes*, translated from Portuguese by Margaret Jull Costa

ISBN: 9781949641219 • eISBN: 9781949641226

CARVALHO, MARIA JUDITE DE — *So Many People, Mariana*, translated from Portuguese by Margaret Jull Costa

ISBN: 9781949641516 • eISBN: 9781949641523

DIMKOVSKA, LIDIJA — *A Spare Life*, translated from Macedonian by Christina E. Kramer

ISBN: 9781931883559 • eISBN: 9781931883573

ELIMGER, DOROTHEE — *Out of the Sugar Factory*, translated from German by Megan Ewing

ISBN: 9781949641400 • eISBN: 9781949641417

FELLOUS, COLETTE — *This Tilting World*, translated from French by Sophie Lewis

ISBN: 9781931883948 • eISBN: 9781931883955

GISLER, REBECCA — *About Uncle*, translated from French by Jordan Stump

ISBN: 9781949641554 • eISBN: 9781949641561

HILBIG, WOLFGANG — *The Females*, translated from German by Isabel Fargo Cole

ISBN: 9781931883764 • eISBN: 9781931883771

HILBIG, WOLFGANG — *The Interim*, translated from German by Isabel Fargo Cole

ISBN: 9781949641233 • eISBN: 9781949641240

HILBIG, WOLFGANG — *Old Rendering Plant*, translated from German by Isabel Fargo Cole

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HILBIG, WOLFGANG — *The Sleep of the Righteous*, translated from German by Isabel Fargo Cole

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HILBIG, WOLFGANG — *Tidings of the Trees*, translated from German by Isabel Fargo Cole

ISBN: 9781931883726 • eISBN: 9781931883733

HILBIG, WOLFGANG — *Under the Neomoon*, translated from German by Isabel Fargo Cole

ISBN: 9781949641622 • eISBN: 9781949641639

HO SOK FONG — *Lake Like a Mirror*, translated from Chinese by Natascha Bruce

ISBN: 9781931883986 • eISBN: 9781931883993

KHEIR, MOHAMED — *Slipping*, translated from Arabic by Robin Moger

ISBN: 9781949641165 • eISBN: 9781949641172

KIM SAGWA — *b, Book, and Me*, translated from Korean by Sunhee Jeong

ISBN: 9781931883962 • eISBN: 9781931883979

KIM SAGWA — *Mina*, translated from Korean by Bruce and Ju-Chan Fulton

ISBN: 9781931883740 • eISBN: 9781931883757

LITTELL, JONATHAN — *The Fata Morgana Books*, translated from French by Charlotte Mandell

ISBN: 9781931883344 • eISBN: 9781931883351

LLORET, BRUNO — *Nancy*, translated from Spanish by Ellen Jones

ISBN: 9781949641127 • eISBN: 9781949641134

MARTÍNEZ, LAYLA — *Woodworm*, translated from Spanish by Sophie Hughes & Annie McDermott

ISBN: 9781949641592 • eISBN: 9781949641608

NAVARRO, ELVIRA — *Rabbit Island*, translated from Spanish by Christina MacSweeney

ISBN: 9781949641097 • eISBN: 9781949641103

NAVARRO, ELVIRA — *A Working Woman*, translated from Spanish by Christina MacSweeney

ISBN: 9781931883658 • eISBN: 9781931883665

NDIAYE, MARIE — *All My Friends*, translated from French by Jordan Stump

ISBN: 9781931883238 • eISBN: 9781931883245

NDIAYE, MARIE — *My Heart Hemmed In*, translated from French by Jordan Stump

ISBN: 9781931883627 • eISBN: 9781931883634

NDIAYE, MARIE — *Self-Portrait in Green (Anniversary Edition)*, translated from French by Jordan Stump

ISBN: 9781949641486 • eISBN: 9781949641639

NDIAYE, MARIE — *That Time of Year*, translated from French by Jordan Stump

ISBN: 9781949641493 • eISBN: 9781931883429

NOLL, JOÃO GILBERTO — *Atlantic Hotel*, translated from Portuguese by Edgar Garbelotto

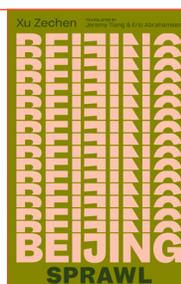
ISBN: 9781931883603 • eISBN: 9781931883610

NOLL, JOÃO GILBERTO — *Harmada*, translated from Portuguese by Edgar Garbelotto

ISBN: 9781949641059 • eISBN: 9781949641066



“Wonderfully bizarre and ceaselessly creepy...[a] terrific debut.”
—*The New York Times*



“These stories subtly pierce through ordinary life’s pitfalls to reveal something dreamlike and mythological lurking below.”
—Fernando A. Flores

NOLL, JOÃO GILBERTO — *Hugs and Cuddles*, translated from Portuguese by Edgar Garbelotto
ISBN: 9781949641387 • eISBN: 9781949641394

NOLL, JOÃO GILBERTO — *Lord*, translated from Portuguese by Edgar Garbelotto
ISBN: 9781931883795 • eISBN: 9781931883818

NOLL, JOÃO GILBERTO — *Quiet Creature on the Corner*, translated from Portuguese by Edgar Garbelotto
ISBN: 9781931883511 • eISBN: 9781931883535

ONO, MASATUSGU — *At the Edge of the Woods*, translated from Japanese by Juliet Winters Carpenter
ISBN: 9781949641288 • eISBN: 9781949641295

ONO, MASATUSGU — *Echo on the Bay*, translated from Japanese by Angus Turvill
ISBN: 9781949641035 • eISBN: 9781949641042

ONO, MASATUSGU — *Lion Cross Point*, translated from Japanese by Angus Turvill
ISBN: 9781931883702 • eISBN: 9781931883719

PIMWANA, DUANWAD — *Bright*, translated from Thai by Mui Poopoksakul
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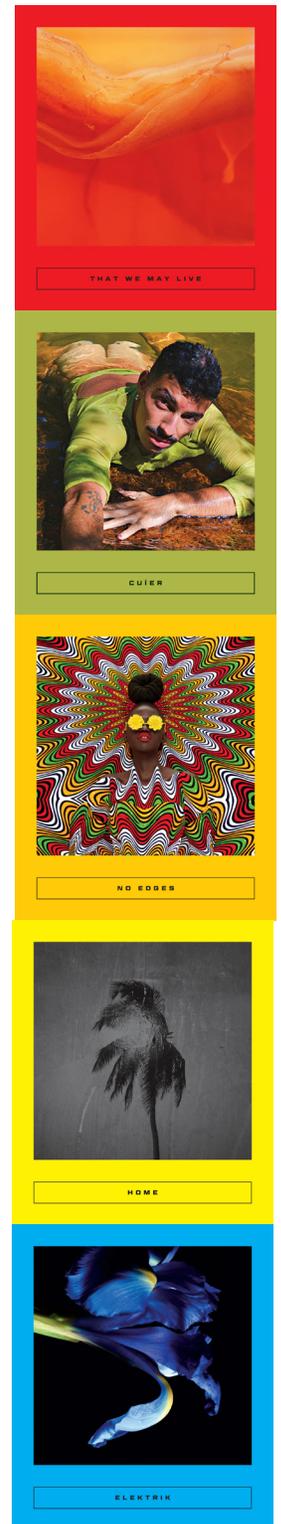
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