The things I’ve learned from taxi drivers would be enough to fill a book. They know a lot: they really do get around. I may know a lot about Antonioni that they don’t know. Or maybe they do even when they don’t. There are various ways of knowing by not-knowing. I know: it happens to me too.

The crônica, a literary genre peculiar to Brazilian newspapers, allows writers (or even soccer stars) to address a wide readership on any theme they like. Chatty, mystical, intimate, flirtatious, and revelatory, Clarice Lispector’s pieces for the Saturday edition of Rio’s leading paper, the Jornal do Brasil, from 1967 to 1973, take the forms of memories, essays, aphorisms, and serialized stories. Endlessly delightful, her insights make one sit up and think, whether about children or social ills or pets or society women or the business of writing or love. This new, large, and beautifully translated volume, Too Much of Life: The Complete Crônicas presents a new aspect of the great writer—at once off the cuff and spot on.

“In 1967, Brazil’s leading newspaper asked the avant-garde writer Lispector to write a weekly column on any topic she wished. For almost seven years, Lispector showed Brazilian readers just how vast and passionate her interests were… Indeed, these columns should establish her as being among the era’s most brilliant essayists. She is masterful, even reminiscent of Montaigne, in her ability to spin the mundane events of life into moments of clarity that reveal greater truths. Superb, wonderfully obsessed with exuberance and what it unlocks and reveals.” —PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

The great Brazilian writer CLARICE LISPECTOR (1920–1977) has been called “one of the hidden geniuses of the twentieth century” (Colm Tóibín), “a penetrating genius” (Donna Seaman, Booklist), and “one of the twentieth century’s most mysterious writers” (Orhan Pamuk). MARGARET JULL COSTA has won the Oxford-Weidenfeld Translation Prize four times, as well as the Premio Valle-Inclán, the International Dublin Literary Award, and the 2008 PEN Prize for best translation from any language for The Maias by Eça de Queirós (New Directions, 2007). ROBIN PATTERSON has translated works by José Luandino Vieira and José Luís Peixoto. With Margaret Jull Costa he has cotranslated Machado de Assis’s Collected Stories and The Posthumous Memoirs of Brás Cubas, along with other works. He lives in London.

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Evelio Rosero

Toño the Infallible

I was alone when someone pounded on my door. Who could it be?

So begins Toño the Infallible, Evelio Rosero’s gripping novel about an intense relationship between a writer and a sociopath. Visited by his friend (a kind of Colombian Rasputin) seemingly at the verge of death, the writer, Eri, looks back on the arc of both of their lives. Unique in both its tone and its structure, the novel takes us from their student days (school fights, playground revelations, and an unforgettable trip to the seaside) into their adult years, involving rumors of a hippie cult and a bizarre raucous theater exhibit of history’s most violent crimes. Toño uses his charm and wealth—as well as reputed magical powers—to manipulate others, but it isn’t until the end of the book that the devastating truth is revealed—and how true is it? Reminiscent of the fiction of Roberto Bolaño and the films of Alfonso Cuarón, this brilliant novel takes us into the heart of his country’s darkness, creating an unforgettable portrait of a society where humanity still endures, despite its brutality.

“Rosero’s prose, translated with lyricism by McLean and Meadowcroft, conveys the characters’ horrifying human nature with aplomb.”
—PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

“Rosero affirms unashamedly that literature can and should change social reality.” —ANTONIO UNGAR, BOMB

EVELIO ROSERO is one of Colombia’s most important living writers. The author of 37 books that have been translated into 12 languages, Rosero won the Tusquets Prize in 2006, the Foreign Fiction Prize in 2009, and Colombia’s National Literature Prize in 2014. He lives in Bogotá. VICTOR MEADOWCROFT lives in Brighton, England. He translates from the Spanish and Portuguese. ANNE McLEAN lives in Toronto and has translated the works of authors including Javier Cercas, Julio Cortázar, Juan Gabriel Vásquez, and Enrique Vila-Matas.
Kathryn Scanlan

Kick the Latch

About one woman’s fine, hard life at the racetrack, *Kick the Latch*—with its ruthless concision and artful mysteries—is lightning in a bottle.

Kathryn Scanlan’s *Kick the Latch* vividly captures the arc of one woman’s life at the racetrack—the flat land and ramshackle backstretch; the bad feelings and friction; the winner’s circle and the racetrack bar; the fancy suits and fancy boots; and the “particular language” of “grooms, jockeys, trainers, racing secretaries, stewards, pony people, hotwalkers, everybody”—with economy and integrity.

Based on transcribed interviews with Sonia, a horse trainer, the novel investigates form and authenticity in a feat of synthesis reminiscent of Charles Reznikoff’s *Testimony*. As Scanlan puts it, “I wanted to preserve—amplify, exaggerate—Sonia’s idiosyncratic speech, her bluntness, her flair as a storyteller. I arrived at what you could call a composite portrait of a self.” Whittled down with a fiercely singular artistry, *Kick the Latch* bangs out of the starting gate and carries the reader on a careening joyride around the inside track.

“I have been following Kathryn Scanlan’s original voice for years. In her new venture—an unusually intimate, clear-eyed portrait of a tough and engaging woman conveyed in revelatory vignettes—every word is essential.”

—AMY HEMPEL

“Kathryn Scanlan has performed a magical act of empathic ventriloquy in *Kick the Latch*. This immediate, engrossing immersion in another life and world, so personally and passionately told, is compulsively readable.”

—LYDIA DAVIS

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Rosemary Tonks

The Bloater

A rediscovered literary classic, The Bloater is a rollicking hothouse novel where love and repulsion are two paths to the same abyss

Why do the only men I know carry wet umbrellas and say “Umm?” I’m being starved alive. Quick: the first bookshop for a copy of the Kama-Sutra.

Min works at the BBC as a sound engineer, and in theory she’s married, but her husband George is so invisible that she accidently turns the lights off even when he’s still in the room. Luckily, she has her friends and lovers to distract her: in Min’s self-lacerating, bracingly opinionated voice, life boils down to sex appeal—and of late she’s being courted by an internationally renowned opera singer whom she refers to as The Bloater (a swelled, salted herring). Disgusted by and attracted to him in equal measure, her dilemma—which reaches a hysterical, hilarious pitch—is whether to sleep with him or not.

Rosemary Tonks—the salt and pepper of the earth—is a writer who gets her claws into the reader with all the joy of a cat and a mouse. Vain and materialistic, tender and savage, narrated in brilliant, sparkling prose, The Bloater is the perfect snapshot of London in the 1960s.

“Uncommonly good.” —THE GUARDIAN

“Writing like this—a bit of Rhys, a bit of Knut Hamsun, a bit of Wyndham Lewis, a bit of Muriel Spark, overlaying the everlasting Shakespeare/Austen/Brontë/George Eliot marriage drama—is far too beautiful and accomplished to be kept off the shelf. It catches like nothing else the smogs, the rodentine genes, the murky post-War grays, the lurking sexual violence of London, between Hangover Square and Carnaby Street.”
—MICHAEL HOFMANN, POETRY MAGAZINE

“The Bloater delights us by its wit, relish, and new-minted metaphors.”
—DAILY TELEGRAPH

Hiroko Oyamada

Weasels in the Attic

*Translated from the Japanese by David Boyd*

From the acclaimed author of *The Hole* and *The Factory*, a thrilling and mysterious novel that explores fertility, masculinity, and marriage in contemporary Japan.

In three interconnected scenes, Hiroko Oyamada revisits the same set of characters at different junctures in their lives. In the back room of a pet store full of rare and exotic fish, old friends discuss dried shrimp and a strange new relationship. A couple who recently moved into a rustic home in the mountains discovers an unsettling solution to their weasel infestation. And a dinner party during a blizzard leads to a night in a room filled with aquariums and unpleasant dreams. Like Oyamada’s previous novels, *Weasels in the Attic* sets its sights on the overlooked aspects of contemporary Japanese society, and does so with a surreal sensibility that is entirely her own.

Praise for Hiroko Oyamada:

“Nothing feels fixed; everything in the book might be a hallucination.”
—Parul Sehgal, *The New York Times*

“Surreal and mesmerizing.”
—Hilary Leichter, *The New York Times*

“Horrific and scary, while at the same time affirming and beautiful.”
—*The New Republic*

Born in Hiroshima in 1983, HIROKO OYAMADA won the Shincho Prize for New Writers for *The Factory*, which was drawn from her experiences working as a temp at an automaker’s subsidiary. Her following novel, *The Hole*, won the Akutagawa Prize. DAVID BOYD is Assistant Professor of Japanese at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.
Osamu Dazai

No Longer Human

• Translated from the Japanese by Donald Keene

Now in a gift cloth edition, No Longer Human ponders profound alienation

Mine has been a life of much shame. I can’t even guess myself what it must be to live the life of a human being.

Portraying himself as a failure, the protagonist of Osamu Dazai’s No Longer Human narrates a seemingly normal life even while he feels himself incapable of understanding human beings. His attempts to reconcile himself to the world around him begin in early childhood, continue through high school, where he becomes a “clown” to mask his alienation, and eventually lead to a failed suicide attempt as an adult. Without sentimentality, he records the casual cruelties of life and its fleeting moments of human connection and tenderness. Still one of the ten bestselling books in Japan, No Longer Human is an important and unforgettable modern classic: “The struggle of the individual to fit into a normalizing society remains just as relevant today as it was at the time of writing.” (The Japan Times)

“From the point of view of wholesome common sense, Dazai’s writings may be regarded as the soliloquies of a deviant.” —YASUNARI KAWABATA

“No Longer Human is his masterpiece, though all his work is worthy. Dazai was an aristocratic tramp, a self-described delinquent, yet he wrote with the forbearance of a fasting scribe.” —PATTI SMITH

OSAMU DAZAI (1909–1948) was born into a powerful landowning family of Northern Japan. A brilliant student, he entered the French Department of Tokyo University in 1930, but later boasted that in the five years before he left without a degree he had never attended a lecture. Dazai was famous for confronting head-on the social and moral crises of postwar Japan: he committed suicide by throwing himself into Tokyo’s Tamagawa Reservoir. His body was found on what would have been his 39th birthday. DONALD KEENE, the author of dozens of books in both English and Japanese as well as the famed translator of Dazai, Kawabata, and Mishima, was the first non-Japanese to receive the Yomiuri Prize for Literature.
Osamu Dazai

The Setting Sun

Translated from the Japanese by Donald Keene

Now in a beautiful gift cloth edition, a masterpiece of postwar Japanese literature

This powerful novel of a nation in social and moral crisis was first published by New Directions in 1956. Set in the early postwar years, The Setting Sun probes the destructive effects of war and the transition from a feudal Japan to an industrial society. The influence of Osamu Dazai’s novel has made “people of the setting sun” a permanent part of the Japanese language, and his heroine, Kazuko, a young aristocrat who deliberately abandons her class, a symbol of the anomie which pervades so much of the modern world.

“Dazai offers something permanent and beautiful.”
—THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

“I like Dazai a lot.” —WONG KAR-WAI

“What I despise about Dazai is that he exposes precisely those things in myself that I most want to hide.” —YUKIO MISHIMA

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H. D.

HERmione

This autobiographical novel by the Imagist poet H. D. (1886–1961) is a rare and hallucinatory treasure. In writing HERmione, H. D. returned to a year in her life that was "peculiarly blighted." She was in her early twenties—"a disappointment to her father, an odd duckling to her mother, an importunate, overgrown, unincarnated entity that had no place." She had failed at Bryn Mawr, she felt hemmed in by her family, and she did not yet know what she was going to do with her life. The return from Europe of the wild-haired George Lowndes (Ezra Pound) expanded her horizons but threatened her sense of self. An intense new friendship with Fayne Rabb (Frances Josepha Gregg), an odd girl, brought an atmosphere that made our heroine's hold on everyday reality more tenuous. As Francesca Wade writes in her new introduction, "HERmione is H. D.'s rejoinder to mythic authority: her portrait of an artist groping her way slowly towards self-expression ends with her sexuality and artistic powers awoken, ready to name herself so all the world might know who she is."

"She showed a way to penetrate mystery; which means, not to flood the darkness with light so that darkness is destroyed, but to enter into darkness, mystery, so that it is experienced." —DESIREE LEVERTOV

"The work of an imagination that incorporates boldly the modern consciousness and aesthetic and the traditional, psychoanalytic realism and hermetic visionary experience of a passionate life in its old age." —ROBERT DUNCAN

A feminist icon as well as a major twentieth-century poet, H. D. (the pen name of Hilda Doolittle, 1886–1961) wrote several volumes of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction and was an exquisite translator of classical Greek drama. FRANCESCA WADE is the author of Square Haunting (2020).
Alexander Lernet-Holenia

Baron Bagge

• Translated from the German by Richard & Clara Winston
• With a new introduction by Patti Smith
• Afterword with letters from Stefan Zweig

This astonishing short novel concerns the unfathomable, otherworldly experiences of an aristocratic young cavalry officer in WWI

A novel of love and valor, war and stupidity, life and death (as well as what may lay beyond our mortal coils), Baron Bagge concerns a young Austrian cavalry lieutenant in the Carpathian mountains at the beginning of WWI. The baron leads a desperate charge across a bridge to meet the Russian forces, following the orders of his mentally unstable commander:

“We were soon to have proof of his unreliability… But perhaps it is not right to place the blame on him. Perhaps his foolishness was merely the instrument of fate, and the disaster into which he led his squadron, the slaughter of so many men and horses, took place in order that something which could no longer happen within the realm of the living—because it was too late—could happen after life.” And, swaying in a kind of fugue, the baron wanders off the bridge into unknown realms, where—mesmerized by Lernet-Holenia’s phosphorescent style—the reader joins his waking dream.

“Brilliant, extra stylish, excellently written and fearsomely gripping.”
—THE LONDON TIMES

“A rare and special pleasure—your Baron Bagge is a masterpiece! It is positively magical the way dream and reality glide seamlessly into one another, creating a realm of visionary luminescence, a visual plenitude whose color derives from fever and coursing blood: in this flawless chef d’oeuvre, every word and every sentence rests lightly right where it belongs. Truly you wrote this unforgettable novella in a state of grace.”
—STEFAN ZWEIG

The greatest novelist of the netherworld darkness stretching on beyond death, ALEXANDER LERNET-HOLENIA (1897–1976) was born into the aristocracy of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. His novels have been acclaimed for their “dauntless panache: fast-moving, cleverly convoluted, terrific” (Eileen Battersby, Irish Times). The prominent 20th-century American translators RICHARD & CLARA WINSTON, born in New York and educated at Brooklyn College, won several awards (the American Book Award and the PEN Translation Prize) for their translations of Thomas Mann, Franz Kafka, Hannah Arendt, Albert Speer, and Hermann Hesse.
Romain Gary

The Life Before Us

• Translated from the French by Ralph Manheim
• Afterword by James Laughlin

Now back in print, this heartbreaking novel by Romain Gary has inspired two movies, including the Netflix feature The Life Ahead

Momo has been one of the ever-changing ragbag of whores’ children at Madame Rosa’s boarding house in Paris ever since he can remember. But when the check that pays for his keep no longer arrives and as Madame Rosa becomes too ill to climb the stairs to their apartment, he determines to support her any way he can. This sensitive, slightly macabre love story between Momo and Madame Rosa has a supporting cast of transvestites, pimps, and witch doctors from Paris’s immigrant slum, Belleville. Profoundly moving, The Life Before Us won France’s premier literary prize, the Prix Goncourt.

“A tour de force on several levels.”
—JOHN L. HESS, THE NEW YORK TIMES

“Blissful: in Gary’s hands fiction itself is a form of resistance.”
—THE GUARDIAN

“Epic and energetic.” —BBC

ROMAIN GARY (1914–1980) was born Roman Kacew in Vilnius to a family of Lithuanian Jews. He changed his name when he fled occupied France to fight the Nazis as an RAF pilot. Using several different pen names throughout his life, Gary was the only writer to have received the Prix Goncourt twice. Also a diplomat and a filmmaker, Gary was married to the American actress Jean Seberg. He died in Paris in 1980 from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. RALPH MANHEIM (1907–1992) was an American translator of German and French literature. His first major work was translating Hitler’s Mein Kampf into English. Manheim won many awards in his lifetime, including a MacArthur genius grant, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a National Book Award. JAMES LAUGHLIN (1936–1997), publisher, poet, and essayist, was founder of New Directions.
Hilton Als

My Pinup

Marrying the memoir and essay forms while exploring desire, Prince, and racism, Hilton Als’s My Pinup expands and delivers love

In this brilliant two-part memoir, the Pulitzer Prize–winning writer Hilton Als distills into one cocktail the deep and potent complexities of love and of loss, of Prince and of power, of desire and of race. It’s delicious and it’s got the kick of a mule, especially as Als swirls into his mix the downtown queer nightclub scene, the AIDS crisis, Prince’s ass in his tight little pants, an ill-fated peach pie, Dorothy Parker, and his desire for true love.

Always surprising and stealthily—even painfully—moving, Als plumbs longing: “I inched closer to him as he danced to you, Prince. But already he was you, Prince, in my mind. He had the same coloring, and the same loneliness I wanted to fill with my admiration. I couldn’t love him enough. We were colored boys together. There is not enough of that in the world, Prince—but you know that. Still, when other people see that kind of fraternity they want to kill it. But we were so committed to each other, we never could work out what that violence meant. There was so much love between us. Why didn’t anyone want us to share it?”

“As is one of the most consistently unpredictable and surprising essayists out there, an author who confounds our expectations virtually every time he writes: Magnificent.” —DAVID L. ULIN, LOS ANGELES TIMES

“As is a fine, piercing observer and interpreter, a writer of lashing exactitude and veracity.” —DONNA SEAMAN, BOOKLIST

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The Pulitzer Prize–winner HILTON ALS has been hailed as “exhilarating and audacious” (San Francisco Chronicle), “spectacular” (Bookforum), and “thoroughly wise” (Library Journal). He is a staff writer at The New Yorker and an Associate Professor at Columbia University School of the Arts. He lives in New York City.
Bernadette Mayer

Milkweed Smithereens

A career-spanning bouquet of poems by the peerless and inimitable Bernadette Mayer

Milkweed Smithereens gathers lively, wickedly smart, intimate, and indelible Bernadette Mayer poems: the volume ranges from brand-new nature poems, pastiches, sequences, epigrams, and excerpts from her Covid Diary and Second World of Nature to early poems and sonnets found in the attic or rooted out in the UC San Diego archive. The world of nature and the pandemic loom large, as in her “The Lobelias of Fear”:

…but how will we, still alive, socialize in the winter? wrapped in bear skins we’ll sit around pot-bellied stoves eating the lobelias of fear left over from desperation, last summer’s woodland sunflowers and bee balm remind us of black cherries eaten in a hurry while the yard grows in the moonlight shrinking like a salary …

“Mayer writes the kind of nonsense that makes sense, and sense that is nonsense: I can’t think of a better centering device in these topsy-turvy times.”
—DANIEL WENGER, THE NEW YORKER

“A poet of extraordinary inventiveness, erotic energy and challenge, and ironic intelligence.”
—MICHAEL PALMER

“A consummate poet: would that all genius were as generous.”
—ROBERT CREELEY

BERNADETTE MAYER was born in Brooklyn, NY, in 1945. A most prolific poet, her first book was published when she was twenty-three years old. For many years Mayer lived and worked on Manhattan’s Lower East Side. She was the Director of St. Mark’s Poetry Project from 1980 to 1984. Now, many texts later she continues to write progressive poetry from her home in East Nassau, New York. Mayer has received grants, fellowships, and awards from: the Guggenheim Foundation, PEN American Center, Foundation for Contemporary Performing Art, the NEA, the Academy of American Poets, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters. New Directions has published seven of her books and Siglio Press recently reissued her landmark work Memory in full color.

NEW DIRECTIONS

-12-
László Krasznahorkai

A Mountain to the North, a Lake to the South, Paths to the West, a River to the East

• Translated from the Hungarian by Ottilie Mulzet

A quiet, poetic, and exquisitely gorgeous novel describing a wandering mythic figure in a Kyoto monastery, by the National Book Award winner

The grandson of Prince Genji lives outside of space and time and wanders the grounds of an old monastery in Kyoto. The monastery, too, is timeless: a place of prayer and deliverance, with barely a trace of any human presence. The wanderer is searching for a garden that has long captivated him: “he continually saw the garden in his mind’s eye without being able to touch its existence.”

This exquisitely beautiful novel by National Book Award–winner László Krasznahorkai—perhaps his most serene and poetic work—describes a search for the unobtainable and the riches to be discovered along the way. Despite the difficulties in finding the garden, the reader is closely introduced to the construction processes of the monastery (described in poetic detail) as well as the geological and biological processes of the surrounding area (the underground layers revealed beneath a bed of moss, the travels of cypress-tree seeds on the wind, feral foxes and stray dogs meandering outside the monastery’s walls), making this an unforgettable meditation on nature, life, history, and being.

“The universality of Krasznahorkai’s vision rivals that of Gogol’s Dead Souls and far surpasses all the lesser concerns of contemporary writing.” —W. G. SEBALD

“The Hungarian master of the apocalypse.” —SUSAN SONTAG

“A vision of painstaking beauty.” —NPR

“One of the most mysterious artists now at work.” —COLM TÓIBÍN

Winner of the 2015 Man Booker International Prize and the 2019 National Book Award, LÁSZLÓ KRASZNAHORKAI was born in Gyula, Hungary. In the New York Review of Books, Adam Thirlwell proclaimed that “Krasznahorkai has come up with his own original forms—there is nothing else like them in contemporary literature.” OTTILIE MULZET received the Best Translated Book Award in 2014 for her translation of Krasznahorkai’s Seiobo There Below and the National Book Award for Translated Literature in 2019 for Baron Wenckheim’s Homecoming.
Dylan Thomas

A Child’s Christmas in Wales

• Illustrations by Ellen Raskin

The classic Christmas tale, now available again in its beloved original format

This gem of lyric prose has enchanted both young and old for over half a century and is now a modern classic. Dylan Thomas (1914–1953), one of the greatest poets and storytellers of the twentieth century, captures a child’s-eye view and an adult’s fond memories of a magical time of presents, aunts and uncles, the frozen sea, and in the best of circumstances, newly fallen snow.

“Enchanting.” —CHICAGO TRIBUNE

“The language is enchanting and the poetry shines with an unearthly radiance.” —THE NEW YORK TIMES

“A merrier and more pungent celebration of the season for family reading aloud has not been written in our time.” —THE NATION

“Surely this Christmas story ranks among the great experiences of the language.” —HARPER’S MAGAZINE

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ALSO BY DYLAN THOMAS

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The reputation of the Welsh poet DYLAN THOMAS (1914–1953) as one of the greatest poets of the twentieth century has not waned in the fifty years since his death. His work, noted for its lush metaphors, musicality, and playfulness within traditional forms, was largely responsible for modernizing poetic verse. Thomas also wrote captivating short stories, a novella, several screenplays, and radio plays, as well as his delightful stage play Under Milk Wood—all infused with his passion for the English language and his enduring love of Wales.
Featuring Anne Carson

Anne Carson

H of H Playbook

_H of H Playbook_ is an explosion of thought, in drawings and language, about a Greek tragedy called Herakles by the 5th-century BC poet Euripides. In myth Herakles is an embodiment of manly violence who returns home after years of making war on enemies and monsters (his famous “Labors of Herakles”) to find he cannot adapt himself to a life of peacetime domesticity. He goes berserk and murders his whole family. Suicide is his next idea. Amazingly, this does not happen. Due to the intervention of his friend Theseus, Herakles comes to believe he is not, after all, indelibly stained by his own crimes, nor is his life without value. It remains for the reader to judge this redemptive outcome.

“A facsimile of Carson’s own personal playbook, _H of H_ is a performance of thought, one that speaks not only to the heroic past but to the tragic present.”
—CASEY CEP, _THE NEW YORKER_

Rosanna Bruno & Anne Carson

The Trojan Women

Here is a new comic-book version of Euripides’s classic _The Trojan Women_, which follows the fates of Hekabe, Andromache, and Kassandra after Troy has been sacked and all its men killed. This collaboration between the visual artist Rosanna Bruno and the poet and classicist Anne Carson attempts to give a genuine representation of how human beings are affected by warfare. Therefore, all the characters take the form of animals (except Kassandra, whose mind is in another world).

“A loose, peculiar, and deeply affecting adaptation of the antiwar tragedy by Euripides.”
—HILLARY CHUTE, _THE NEW YORK TIMES_, BEST GRAPHIC NOVELS OF 2021
Featuring László Krasznahorkai

László Krasznahorkai

Chasing Homer

* Translated from the Hungarian by John Batki

In this thrilling chase narrative, a hunted being escapes certain death at breakneck speed—careening through Europe, heading blindly South … Krasznahorkai—celebrated for the exhilarating energy of his prose—outdoes himself in Chasing Homer. And this unique collaboration boasts beautiful full-color paintings by Max Neumann and—reaching out of the book proper—the wildly percussive music of Szilveszter Miklós scored for each chapter (to be accessed by the reader via QR codes).

“The Hungarian iconoclast's vision of spiritual terror is now available in surround sound.” —SAM SACKS, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

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László Krasznahorkai

Baron Wenckheim’s Homecoming

* Translated from the Hungarian by Ottilie Mulzet

WINNER OF THE 2019 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FOR TRANSLATED LITERATURE

Set in contemporary times, Baron Wenckheim’s Homecoming tells the story of a Prince Myshkin–like figure, Baron Béla Wenckheim, who returns at the end of his life to his provincial Hungarian hometown. Having escaped from his many casino debts in Buenos Aires, where he was living in exile, he longs to be reunited with his high-school sweetheart Marika. Confusions abound, and what follows is an endless storm of gossip, con men, and local politicians, vividly evoking the small town’s alternately drab and absurd existence.

“Krasznahorkai's headlong comedy of obsession and wonderful squalor set in small-town Hungary. Majestic.” —NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

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