

# Olga Ravn

## My Work

- Translated from the Danish by Jennifer Russell and Sophia Hersi Smith
- Cover design by Joan Wong

**From the acclaimed author of *The Employees*, a radical, funny, and mercilessly honest novel about motherhood**

After giving birth, Anna is utterly lost. She and her family move to the unfamiliar, snowy city of Stockholm. Anxiety threatens to completely engulf the new mother, who obsessively devours online news and compulsively buys clothes she can't afford. To avoid sinking deeper into her depression, Anna forces herself to read and write.

*My Work* is a novel about the unique and fundamental experience of giving birth, mixing different literary forms—fiction, essay, poetry, memoir, and letters—to explore the relationship between motherhood, work, individuality, and literature.

"Olga Ravn writes dazzlingly about the work of motherhood and the work of writing. Reading Ravn's book, you run through the whole gamut of human emotion, as though you too were a new mother: tears, laughter, anger, fear, pain, frustration. This is powerful writing that's hard to put down." —**POLITIKEN**

Praise for *The Employees*:

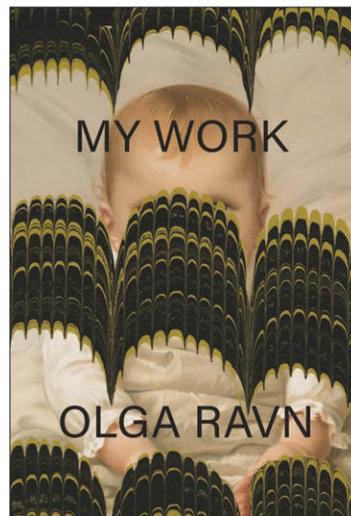
"This clever, endlessly thought-provoking novel catches something of our recursive search for the nature of consciousness; a question that answers itself, a voice in the darkness, an object moving through space."

—**JUSTINE JORDAN, THE GUARDIAN**

"Beautiful, sinister, gripping." —**MARK HADDON**

"Everything I'm looking for in a novel. I was obsessed from the first page to the last. A strange, beautiful, deeply intelligent and provocative investigation into humanity." —**MAX PORTER**

**OLGA RAVN** (born 1986) is a Danish novelist and poet. In collaboration with the Danish publisher Gyldendal she edited a selection of Tove Ditlevsen's writings that relaunched Ditlevsen readership worldwide. Her novel *The Employees* was shortlisted for the 2021 International Booker Prize. **SOPHIA HERSI SMITH** and **JENNIFER RUSSELL** are translators living in Copenhagen. Together, they have translated fiction and poetry by Danish writers such as Tove Ditlevsen, Marianne Larsen, and Raket Haslund-Gjerrild.



PBK NDP 1571

FICTION SEPTEMBER

5 x 8" 416pp

ISBN 978-0-8112-3471-9

EBK 978-0-8112-3472-6

24 CQ TERRITORY B

US \$18.95

ALSO BY OLGA RAVN:

*THE EMPLOYEES*  
978-0-8112-3135-0 • \$19.95

# Ida Vitale

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## Time Without Keys: Selected Poems

- Translated, with an afterword, by Sarah Pollack
- Bilingual
- Cover design by Tyler Comrie

**A landmark collection of poetry by one of Latin America's most important living writers**

*"Like this bird / that waits until the light dies / to begin singing, / I write in darkness, / when nothing shines / and calls out from the earth."*

The celebrated writer Álvaro Mutis envied new readers of Ida Vitale's poetry: "unexpected pleasures await them." *Time Without Keys: Selected Poems* is the first volume of Vitale's illustrious poetry to appear in the US. The selection spans seventy-five years and the wonders within abound—the skies over Montevideo, falconry, the saxifrage's bloom, gratitude for the alphabet and for summer—as do urgent questions about our relationship with the world. How does our perception of time shape history, as well as our social and political constructs? Vitale's poetic and human vitality have made her a storied figure in the Spanish language and beyond; her writing is revered for being classic and modern, precise and lucid, intellectually challenging and rich in tradition. This bilingual edition, presented in reverse chronological order, offers the reader a wide range of Vitale's most beloved poems as well as a wealth of recent work. The translator Sarah Pollack, Vitale's first translator into English, has written an informative afterword about Vitale's life and work.

"Thank you Ida for being you, for your restrained and necessary poetry, for that Uruguayan memory that fills this cold apartment in Paris with birds."  
—**JULIO CORTÁZAR**

**IDA VITALE** was born in Montevideo, Uruguay in 1923. She is one of Latin America's most celebrated and respected poets. Vitale has published over thirty works of poetry, prose, and literary criticism, in addition to numerous translations. In Uruguay and Mexico, where she lived in exile, she was an important intellectual figure. In the late 1980s, Vitale settled in Austin, TX until her return to Montevideo in 2016, after the death of her husband. She is the fifth woman to win the Miguel de Cervantes Prize, the highest accolade in Spanish. Her awards include the National Prize in Uruguay, the Reina Sofia Prize, the Octavio Paz Prize, the Garcia Lorca Prize, and the Max Jacob Prize. In 2019, the BBC named her one of the world's 100 most influential women. **SARAH POLLACK** is a professor of Latin American literature and translation studies at the College of Staten Island and The Graduate Center, CUNY. She has also translated works by Juan Villoro, Silvia Eugenia Castellero, Fabio Morábito, Enrique Fierro, and Cristina Peri Rossi.



**PBK** **NDP 1572**

**POETRY** **SEPTEMBER**

**5 x 8"** **160pp**

**ISBN** **978-0-8112-3192-3**

**EBK** **978-0-8112-3193-0**

**48 CQ** **TERRITORY W**

**US \$18.95**

# Victor Heringer

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## The Love of Singular Men

- Translated from the Portuguese by James Young
- Cover design by Pablo Delcan

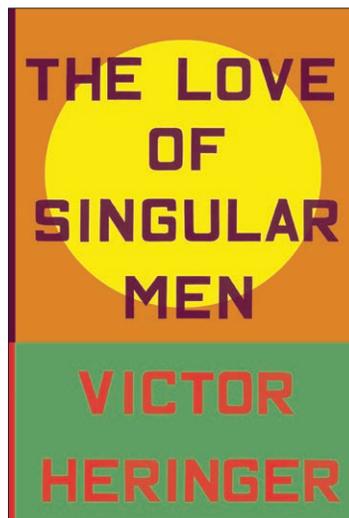
**The gripping English debut of the famous and hugely talented Brazilian writer Victor Heringer, who died tragically young**

In a Rio de Janeiro suburb in the 1970s, a family—the parents, their daughter, and crippled teenage son Camilo—take in an orphan named Cosme. The teen boys unexpectedly fall in love, but their intimate world is shattered when Cosme is killed by a neighbor in a brutal hate crime. Decades later, Camilo returns to his hometown, still haunted by this violence and the long shadow of Brazil's military dictatorship.

A fluid, queer coming-of-age story as well as an incisive and unforgiving exploration of Brazilian society and politics, Victor Heringer's moving novel is worthy of Machado de Assis.

"One of the best novels in recent years." —*ASYMPTOTE*

"Heringer had little time to live, but he marked an entire generation of writers and readers." —*O GLOBO*



<b>PBK</b>	<b>NDP 1573</b>
<b>FICTION</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>
<b>5 x 8"</b>	<b>144pp</b>
<b>ISBN</b>	<b>978-0-8112-3747-5</b>
<b>EBK</b>	<b>978-0-8112-3748-2</b>
<b>48 CQ</b>	<b>TERRITORY C</b>
<b>US \$15.95</b>	

**VICTOR HERINGER** (1988–2018) was born in Rio de Janeiro. He was a writer and multimedia artist, and his first poetry collection, *automatógrafo*, was published in 2011, followed by his debut novel *Glória*, which was awarded the 2013 Prêmio Jabuti. *The Love of Singular Men* was published by Companhia das Letras in 2016, and was shortlisted for the São Paulo Prize for Literature, the Rio Prize for Literature, and the Oceanos Prize. Heringer was included by *Forbes Brazil* in their "Under 30 in Literature" list in 2017. After his death, Companhia das Letras reissued all of his works and a complete anthology of his poems. **JAMES YOUNG** is a writer, translator, and editor from Belfast, Ireland.

# Anne Serre

## A Leopard-Skin Hat

- Translated from the French by Mark Hutchinson
- Cover design by Joan Wong

**A quintessential early novel about an intense friendship, by the winner of the 2020 Prix Goncourt de la nouvelle**

*A Leopard-Skin Hat* may be the French writer Anne Serre's most moving novel yet. Hailed in *Le Point* as a "masterpiece of simplicity, emotion and elegance," it is the story of an intense friendship between "the Narrator" and his close childhood friend, Fanny, who suffers from profound psychological disorders. A series of short scenes paints the portrait of a strong-willed and tormented young woman battling many demons, and of the narrator's loving and anguished attachment to her. Anne Serre poignantly depicts the bewildering back and forth between hope and despair involved in such a relationship, while playfully calling into question the very form of the novel. Written in the aftermath of the death of the author's little sister, *A Leopard-Skin Hat* is both the celebration of a tragically foreshortened life and a valedictory farewell, written in Anne Serre's signature style.

Praise for Anne Serre:

"Genuinely original—and, often, very quietly so."  
—**PARUL SEHGAL, THE NEW YORK TIMES**

"Wry, unconventional." —**THE NEW YORKER**

"Putting down one of Anne Serre's books is like coming up for air."  
—**LUCIE ELVEN, LONDON REVIEW OF BOOKS**



**PBK** **NDP 1574**

**FICTION** **SEPTEMBER**

**4½ x 7¼"** **112pp**

**ISBN** **978-0-8112-3451-1**

**EBK** **978-0-8112-3452-8**

**48 CQ** **TERRITORY A**

**US \$15.95**

ALSO BY ANNE SERRE:

*THE GOVERNESSES*  
978-0-8112-2807-7 • \$12.95

*THE BEGINNERS*  
978-0-8112-3031-5 • \$14.95

The author of fourteen books, **ANNE SERRE** was born in 1960. Her work has been acclaimed here as "hypnotic, enchanting" (*Publishers Weekly*), "tight and fabulist" (*Full Stop*), and "strange and beguiling" (*Kirkus*). **MARK HUTCHINSON**'s many translations include René Char's *Hypnos: Notes from the French Resistance* and *The Inventors and Other Poems*.

# Mathias Énard

## The Annual Banquet of the Gravediggers' Guild

- Translated from the French by Frank Wynne
- Cover design by John Gall

**From the winner of the Prix Goncourt, an exciting new comic masterwork rooted in the French countryside**

To research his thesis on contemporary agrarian life, anthropology student David Mazon moves from Paris to La Pierre-Saint-Christophe, a village in the marshlands of western France. Determined to understand the essence of the local culture, the intrepid young scholar scurries around restlessly on his moped to interview residents.

But what David doesn't yet know is that here, in this seemingly ordinary place, once the stage for wars and revolutions, Death leads a dance: when one thing perishes, the Wheel of Life recycles its soul and hurls it back into the world as microbe, human, or wild animal, sometimes in the past, sometimes in the future. And once a year, Death and the living observe a temporary truce during a gargantuan three-day feast where gravediggers gorge themselves on food, drink, and language ...

Brimming with Mathias Énard's characteristic wit and encyclopedic brilliance, *The Annual Banquet of the Gravediggers' Guild* is a riotous novel where the edges between past and present are constantly dissolving against a Rabelaisian backdrop of excess.

Praise for Mathias Énard:

"All of Énard's books share the hope of transposing prose into the empyrean of pure sound, where words can never correspond to stable meanings. He's the composer of a discomposing age."

—**JOSHUA COHEN, THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW**

"Énard fuses recollection and scholarly digression into a swirling, hypnotic, stream-of-consciousness narration."

—**SAM SACKS, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**

**MATHIAS ÉNARD** is the author of *Compass* (winner of the Prix Goncourt, the Leipzig Prize, and the Premio von Rezzori, and shortlisted for the Booker International Prize), *Tell Them of Battles, Kings, and Elephants*, *Zone*, and *Street of Thieves*. **FRANK WYNNE** has translated works by Michel Houellebecq, Claude Lanzmann, Boualem Sansal, Virginie Despentes, Jean-Baptiste Del Amo, and many others.



**PBK** **NDP 1575**

**FICTION** **OCTOBER**

**5 x 8"** **432pp**

**ISBN** **978-0-8112-3129-9**

**EBK** **978-0-8112-3130-5**

**24 CQ** **TERRITORY C**

**US \$19.95**

ALSO BY MATHIAS ÉNARD:

*TELL THEM OF BATTLES, KINGS,  
AND ELEPHANTS*  
978-0-8112-2894-7 • \$14.95

*COMPASS*  
978-0-8112-2747-6 • \$18.95

# Rosemary Tonks

## The Halt During the Chase

• Cover design by Jamie Keenan

**Finally back in print, a remarkable, hilarious coming-of-age novel from the cult classic writer Rosemary Tonks**

Sophie—a clever and charming young woman—is trying to get out from under her mother’s thumb. She’s in love with her childhood friend Philip (pragmatic, attractive, a bit of a bore), but she often worries that she loves him too much for her own good, and that he might only be another thumb to crawl under.

Both a sincere bildungsroman of Sophie’s attempt to seize a life for herself and a comic masterpiece with cutting observations and asides, *The Halt During the Chase* is flutteringly alive as it discusses different forms of love, adulthood (“Isn’t buying new lampshades a form of slow death?”), marriage, insecurity, and stifling British snobbery and classism. Sophie’s voice, fueled by Tonks’s acidic narration, evolves from thrashing about in various traps into a triumphant, croaky-throated liberation song.

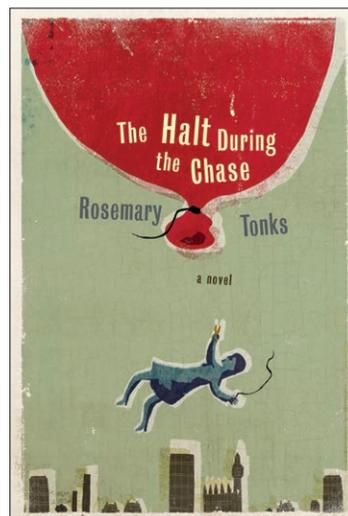
Praise for Rosemary Tonks:

“For Tonks, love is its own thing, separate from both sex and its inverse, marriage, a dreaded vulnerability that could strike at any moment if one enjoys life a little too much.” —**AUDREY WOLLEN, *THE NEW YORKER***

“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***

“Tonks is adept at catching a joy or a grief as it flies, and along with her butterfly net she carries a killing-bottle.” —**THE GUARDIAN**

**ROSEMARY TONKS** (1928–2014) published two poetry collections and six novels, and wrote for *The Observer*, *The Times*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The New Statesman*, and *Encounter*. She also presented poetry programs for the BBC. In the 1970s, Tonks disappeared after a religious conversion, and, having decided that her books were the work of the Devil, set about destroying any copies she could find.



**PBK** **NDP 1576**

**FICTION** **OCTOBER**

**5 x 8"** **160pp**

**ISBN** **978-0-8112-3745-1**

**EBK** **978-0-8112-3746-8**

**48 CQ** **TERRITORY C**

**US \$17.95**

ALSO BY ROSEMARY TONKS:

*THE BLOATER*  
978-0-8112-3456-6 • \$15.95

# Catullus

## The Love Poems of Catullus

- *Gift edition*
- *Edited by Tynan Kogane*
- *Cover design by Marian Bantjes*

**Among the most cherished love poems ever written, Catullus's brilliant, everlasting verses are collected here in a marvelous mix of English translations**

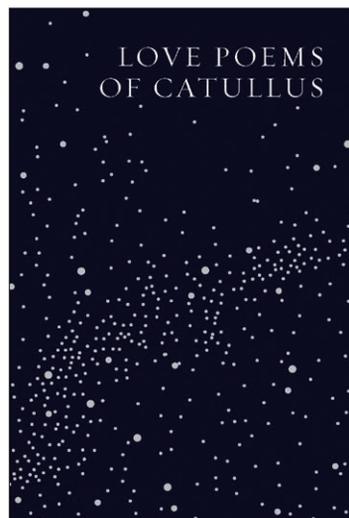
Catullus was undoubtedly one of the most intimate, witty, vivid, and tender poets of antiquity. Perhaps his greatest gift was his ability to truthfully reveal the fleeting instants of his bare psyche: moments of erotic passion, of scorn and jealousy, of heartfelt devotion, of consuming love. The cycle of poems to his love, "Lesbia," have entranced poets and translators across the centuries, enriching many different traditions in English-language poetry.

This anthology of Catullus's love poems showcases translations from many New Directions authors, including James Laughlin, Bernadette Mayer, Muriel Spark, and Louis and Celia Zukofsky, as well as beloved timeless translations, like those of Ben Jonson and Christopher Marlowe. Also included are several newly commissioned translations from contemporary poets and writers.

"Catullus wrote the loveliest of lovely things—and also the loathesomest."  
—**ROBERT FROST**

"Catullus could rub words so hard / together their friction burned a / heat that warms / us now 2000 years away." —**JAMES LAUGHLIN**

**GAIUS VALERIUS CATULLUS** was a Latin poet of the late Roman Republic. His poems—116 in total survive—have been admired by and used as a reference point for countless other writers and artists, including Petrarch, Andrew Marvell, John Milton, William Wordsworth, W. B. Yeats, W. H. Auden, T. S. Eliot, Virginia Woolf, Cy Twombly, and Anne Carson.



**PBK W/ FLAPS** **NDP 1577**

**POETRY** **OCTOBER**

**4½ x 7"** **80pp**

**ISBN** **978-0-8112-3749-9**

**48 CQ** **TERRITORY W**

**US \$13.95**

# Clarice Lispector

## The Hour of the Star

- Translated from the Portuguese by Benjamin Moser
- Introduction by Colm Tóibín
- Cover design by Paul Sahre

**The Hour of the Star, the devastating, best-selling final novel by Brazil's greatest writer, now with a beautiful new cover design by Paul Sahre**

In the ravishing new translation by Benjamin Moser, Clarice Lispector's *The Hour of the Star*—"her finest book" (*The Nation*)—is narrated by the cosmopolitan Rodrigo S. M., who tells the story of Macabéa, one of life's unfortunates. Living in the slums of Rio and barely scraping by as a typist, Macabéa loves movies, hot dogs, Coca-Cola, and her rat of a boyfriend; she wishes to be like Marilyn Monroe, but she is underfed, unattractive, and unloved. Rodrigo recoils from her wretchedness, and yet he cannot avoid the realization that for all her outward misery, Macabéa is inwardly free. She doesn't seem to know how unhappy she should be. Lispector employs her pathetic heroine against her urbane, empty narrator—edge of despair to edge of despair—and, working them like a pair of scissors, she cuts away our preconceived notions (about poverty, identity, and love) to get at the true mystery of life.

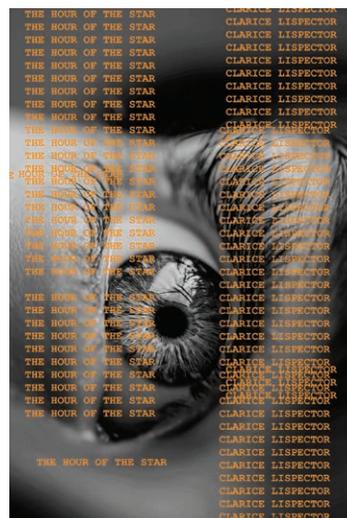
"This new translation of *The Hour of the Star* reveals the mesmerizing force of the revitalized modernist's Rio-set tale of a young naïf who, along with the piquantly intrusive narrator, challenges the reader's notions of identity, storytelling, and love." —**MEGAN O'GRADY, VOGUE**

"We now finally have a translation worthy of Clarice Lispector's inimitable style. Go out and buy it." —**THE GUARDIAN**

"Reading Lispector is like being handed a world on fire." —**JUAN VIDAL, NPR**

"Clarice Lispector left behind an astounding body of work that has no real corollary inside literature or outside it." —**RACHEL KUSHNER, BOOKFORUM**

**CLARICE LISPECTOR** (1920–1977), the greatest Brazilian writer of the twentieth century, has been called "a penetrating genius" (Donna Seaman, *Booklist*), "a truly remarkable writer" (Jonathan Franzen), and "one of the twentieth century's most mysterious writers" (Orhan Pamuk). General editor of the new translations of Clarice Lispector's complete works at New Directions, **BENJAMIN MOSER** is the author of *Why This World: The Biography of Clarice Lispector*, and *Sontag: Her Life and Work*, which was awarded the Pulitzer Prize. His new book, *The Upside-Down World: Meetings with the Dutch Masters*, will be published in October. **COLM TÓIBÍN**, the author of *Brooklyn* and *The Master*, has won the Costa Book Award and the Dublin IMPAC Prize.



**PBK** **NDP 1578**

**FICTION** **OCTOBER**

**5 x 8"** **96pp**

**ISBN** **978-0-8112-3753-6**

**EBK** **978-0-8112-3099-5**

**48 CQ** **TERRITORY A**

**US \$13.95**

# Clarice Lispector

## The Apple in the Dark

- Translated from the Portuguese by Benjamin Moser
- With a new afterword by Clarice Lispector's son, Paulo Gurgel Valente
- Cover design by Paul Sahre

**With “the best one” (as Clarice Lispector called *The Apple in the Dark*, her famously intense 1961 novel), New Directions now concludes its ambitious program of retranslating all her fiction**

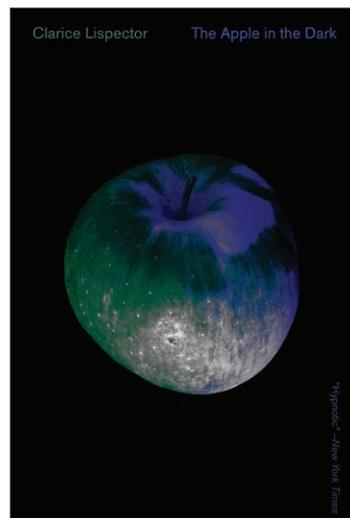
“It’s the best one,” Clarice Lispector remarked on the occasion of the publication of *The Apple in the Dark*: “I can’t define it, how it is, I can only say that it’s much better constructed than the previous ones.” A book in three chapters, with three central characters, *The Apple in the Dark* is in fact highly sculpted, while being chiefly a metaphysical book, and in this stunning new translation, the novel’s mysteries and allegories glow with a fresh scintillating light.

Martim, fleeing from a murder he believes he committed, plunges into the dark nocturnal jungle: stumbling along, in a state of both fear and wonder, eventually he comes to a remote, quiet ranch and finds work with the two women who own it. The women are tranquil enough before his arrival, but are affected by his radical mystery. Soaked through with Martim’s inner night (his soul is in the darkness where everything is created), the novel vibrates with his perpetual searching state of vigil. Often he feels close to an epiphany: “for the first time he was present in the moment in which whatever is happening is happening.” Yet such flashes flicker out, so he’s ever on the watch for “life to take on the dimensions of a destiny.”

In an interview, Lispector once said: “I am Martim.” As she puts it in *The Apple in the Dark*: “All I’ve got is hunger. And that unstable way of grasping an apple in the dark—without letting it fall.”

“*The Apple in the Dark* is a retelling, a reversal, a recasting of the creation myth: a very unlikely bestseller, it’s very, very different from anything else she ever wrote. If you put it between *The Besieged City*, which comes before it, and *The Passion According to G. H.*, which comes after, you’ll see just how radically experimental she was: how little she repeated herself, how she ‘made it new’ every single time.” —**BENJAMIN MOSER**

“Lispector—like Beckett, or, to a degree, Kafka—strips language to the bone, in search of some kind of metaphysical core or nucleus. Her laconic, almost aphoristic syntax is, at times, full of a brutal sense of humor and at times disquieting. Lispector is one of those rare writers who can simply tell a story.” —**VALERIA LUISELLI, PUBLISHERS WEEKLY (STARRED)**



<b>PBK</b>	<b>NDP 1579</b>
<b>FICTION</b>	<b>OCTOBER</b>
<b>5 x 8"</b>	<b>384pp</b>
<b>ISBN</b>	<b>978-0-8112-2675-2</b>
<b>EBK</b>	<b>978-0-8112-2676-9</b>
<b>36 CQ</b>	<b>TERRITORY A</b>
<b>US \$19.95</b>	

ALSO BY CLARICE LISPECTOR:

*COMPLETE STORIES*  
978-0-8112-2793-3 • \$21.95

*ÁGUA VIVA*  
978-0-8112-1990-7 • \$14.95

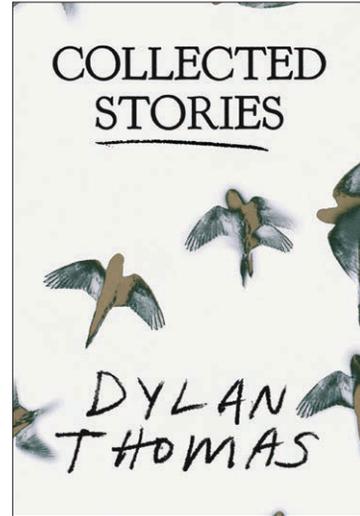
*NEAR TO THE WILD HEART*  
978-0-8112-2002-6 • \$15.95

# Dylan Thomas

## Collected Stories

• Cover design by Rodrigo Corral

**Dylan Thomas's magisterial stories all in one volume, available in a beautiful new paperback edition**



This gathering of all Dylan Thomas's stories—ranging chronologically from the dark, almost surrealistic tales of Thomas's youth to such gloriously rumbustious celebrations of life as "A Child's Christmas in Wales" and "Adventures in the Skin Trade"—charts the progress of "The Rimbaud of Cwmdonkin Drive" toward his mastery of the comic idiom. Here, too, are stories originally written for radio and television and, in a short appendix, the schoolboy pieces first published in the *Swansea Grammar School Magazine*. A high point of the collection is Thomas's "Portrait of the Artist as a Young Dog," a vivid collage of memories from his Swansea childhood that combines the lyricism of his poetry with the sparkle and sly humor of *Under Milk Wood*. Also here is the fiction from *Quite Early One Morning*, a collection planned by Thomas shortly before his death.

Altogether there are more than forty stories, providing a rich and varied literary feast and showing Dylan Thomas in all his intriguing variety—somber fantasist, joyous word-spinner, and irrepressible comedian of smalltown Wales.

"Thomas meant much to me and my generation, he is still singing in his chains like the sea—a force driving the flowers." —**SEAMUS HEANEY**

"His prose, his images, his stories all pulsate with life, with a beat and a variety that captivate, invigorate, and clarify." —**LOS ANGELES TIMES**

**DYLAN THOMAS**, born in Swansea in 1914, is perhaps Wales' best-known writer, widely considered to be one of the major poets of the 20th century: many of his greatest poems, such as "Fern Hill" and "Do not go gentle into that good night" are beloved and widely studied. As well as poetry, Dylan Thomas wrote numerous short stories and scripts for film and radio—none more popular than his radio play *Under Milk Wood*. He led a fascinating and tempestuous life, which ended all too soon in 1953 when he collapsed and died in New York City shortly after his 39th birthday.

<b>PBK</b>	<b>NDP 1580</b>
<b>FICTION</b>	<b>NOVEMBER</b>
<b>5 x 8½"</b>	<b>384pp</b>
<b>ISBN</b>	<b>978-0-8112-3752-9</b>
<b>48 CQ</b>	<b>TERRITORY A</b>
<b>US \$24.95</b>	

ALSO BY DYLAN THOMAS:

*THE COLLECTED POEMS OF DYLAN THOMAS*  
978-0-8112-1881-8 • \$16.95

*UNDER MILK WOOD*  
978-0-8112-2993-7 • \$14.95

*A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES*  
978-0-8112-2622-6 • \$11.95

Tatsuhiko Ishii

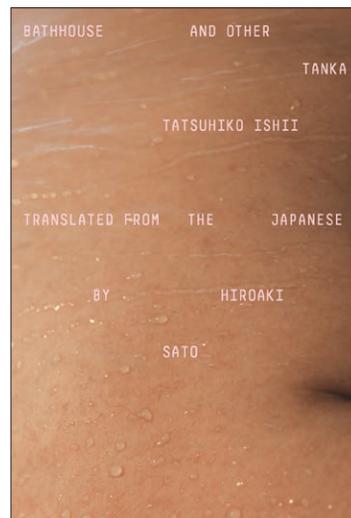
## Bathhouse and Other Tanka

- Translated from the Japanese by Hiroaki Sato
- Cover design by Oliver Munday

**The first US publication by the legendary tanka master of love, homoerotic desire, and destruction**

“Only when a man becomes all naked do you know the shades of his life as an existential being,” writes Tatsuhiko Ishii in his sensuous, exhilarating new collection of poetry *Bathhouse and Other Tanka*. For many decades now, Ishii has turned the classical poetic form of the tanka into its own innovative contemporary tradition. What was originally a five line 5-7-5-7-7-syllable verse form Ishii writes in one line, constructing his poems out of sequential one-line tankas, as if Basho and Lorca bathed together under the moon. In moving elegies to Yukio Mishima and Genji (the Shining Prince), tributes to Ezra Pound and Claude Lorrain, as well as to the volcanoes Popocatepetl and Mount Fuji, Ishii’s poetry resonates with a mix of philosophical lyricism, inquisitive exuberance, and homoerotic desire. “The ocean plane shines in the sun,” he writes in one poem in the aftermath of 9/11. “From now on every place will be a battlefield, sure.” In one sequence, we glimpse Proust through a photograph by Paul Nadar, in another clipping pubic hair and washing a horse become a rumination about *real poetry*. Ishii pens songs of momentary love and flames of lust, of mankind’s self-destruction and the self mirrored in the seven deadly sins. No other poet today can write about sniffing a young man in Tokyo or Tasmanian oysters like Ishii does with such majesty. Hiroaki Sato, the bestselling author of *On Haiku*, has been translating Ishii for over thirty years and captures the rhythmic pulse and turn of his “Poetry ... harmful, a dream. Even the world, finally, due to poetry, liquefies ...”

**TATSUHIKO ISHII**, poet and essayist, was born in Yokohama, Japan in 1952. For much of his life, he worked as a journalist for one of Japan’s largest newspapers and book publishers, *The Asahi Shimbun*, covering cultural affairs locally and abroad, while also working for their editorial, advertising, and production departments. At age twenty he won the New Poet’s Prize in Japan, and in 1997 he received an Asian Cultural Council grant to spend several months in the United States to research gay culture. Ishii has published a dozen collections of tanka since 1982, one edition of which appeared in France in 2012. **HIROAKI SATO** is a translator of Japanese poetry and prose, classical and modern, who has won a PEN Translation Prize and two Japanese-U.S. Friendship Commission translation prizes. A newspaper and magazine columnist for forty years, particularly for *The Japan Times*, he is also a book reviewer and contributes essays to many publications. His nonfiction book *On Haiku* (“a treasure”—*Books on Asia*) and his translation of Sakutaro Hagiwara’s *The Iceland* are both published by New Directions. He is also the author of the recent *A Bridge of Words: Views across America and Japan*.



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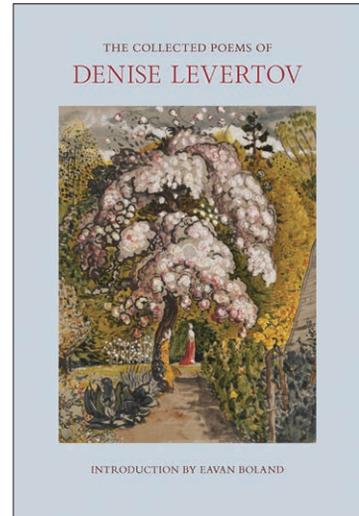
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