Anne Carson

Antigonick

*Illustrated by Bianca Stone*

An illustrated new translation of Sophokles' *Antigone*

With text blocks hand-inked on the page by Anne Carson and her collaborator Robert Currie, *Antigonick* features translucent vellum pages with stunning drawings by Bianca Stone that overlay the text.

Anne Carson has published translations of the ancient Greek poets Sappho, Simonides, Aiskhylos, Sophokles and Euripides. *Antigonick* is her first attempt at making translation into a combined visual and textual experience. Sophokles' luminous and disturbing tragedy is here given an entirely fresh language and presentation. Thoroughly delightful.

“Reading Anne Carson is to experience a euphonyous, mystical sort of perplexity.”

–RICHARD BERNSTEIN, *THE NEW YORK TIMES*

“She is one of the few writers writing in English that I would read anything she wrote.”

–SUSAN SONTAG

“Carson is nothing less than brilliant—unfalteringly sharp in diction, audacious, and judicious in taking liberties.”

–PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

ANNE CARSON was born in Canada and teaches at New York University. She is the author of *Nox; Glass, Irony and God; The Autobiography of Red; The Beauty of the Husband; Decreation; Economy of the Unlost; Eros the Bittersweet; Grief Lessons; If Not, Winter; Men in the Off Hours*; and *Plainwater.*

BIANCA STONE, the author of *Someone Else’s Wedding Vows*, received her MFA from NYU in 2009 and is the editor of Monk Books.
Robert Walser

Thirty Poems

• Co-published in collaboration with the Christine Burgin Gallery
• Selected, translated from the German, and with a foreword by Christopher Middleton
• Illustrated

A deluxe edition of the Swiss master’s best poems.

In a small, exquisite clothbound format resembling the early Swiss and German editions of Walser’s work, Thirty Poems collects famed translator Christopher Middleton’s favorite poems from the more than five hundred Walser wrote. The illustrations range from an early poem in perfect copperplate handwriting, to one from a 1927 Czech-German newspaper, to a microscript.

“The magnificently humble. The enormously small. The meaningfully ridiculous. Robert Walser’s work often reads like a dazzling answer to the question, How immense can modesty be? If Emily Dickinson made cathedrals out of em dashes and capital letters and the angle of winter light, Walser accomplished the feat with, well, ladies’ feet and trousers and little emotive words like joy, uncapitalized…the two worked out in hoarded words a kindred kind of literature.”

–RIVKA GALCHEN, HARPER’S MAGAZINE

“The single most underrated writer of the 20th Century.”

–THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

Swiss writer ROBERT WALSER (1878-1956) has been called “unforgettable, heart-rending” (J. M. Coetzee), “a clairvoyant of the small” (W.G. Sebald), and “a bewitched genius” (Newsweek).

Distinguished poet and translator CHRISTOPHER MIDDLETON lives in Austin, Texas. His awards include the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize and the Schegel-Tieck Translation Prize.
Notes on the Mosquito: Selected Poems

• Translated from the Chinese by Lucas Klein
• Bilingual Edition

The internationally renowned Chinese poet’s first collection to appear in English.

“In the crevices of history, mosquitoes are everywhere,” Xi Chuan writes. Notes on the Mosquito introduces English readers to one of the most revered poets of contemporary China. Gaining recognition as a post-Misty poet in the late '80s, Xi Chuan was famous for his condensed, numinous lyricism, and for radiating classical Chinese influences as much as Western modernist traditions. After the crushing failure of Tiananmen Square and the death of two of his closest friends, he stopped writing for three years. He re-emerged transformed: he began writing meditative, expansive prose poems that dismantled the aestheticism and musicality of his previous self. Divided into two sections that hinge around this formal break, Notes on the Mosquito offers the greatest hits of a deeply engaging poet, whose work intertwines the mountains and roads of Xinjiang with insects and mythical beasts, ghosts and sacred spirits with chess and a Sanskrit inscription.

“In 1988, when he was twenty-five, Xi Chuan and some friends launched an unofficial literary journal, Tendency. At the time, he was translating Ezra Pound and Tomas Tranströmer, Czeslaw Milosz and Jorge Luis Borges, and his own writing suggests a corresponding sophistication and aesthetic range.”

—ROBERT HASS, THE BELIEVER

“Xi Chuan is one of the most influential poets in contemporary China.”

—POETRY INTERNATIONAL WEB

XI CHUAN, born in 1963 in Xuzhou, Jiangsu province, is a poet, essayist, and translator. He currently teaches classical Chinese literature at the Central Academy for Fine Arts. His numerous prizes include the Modern Chinese Poetry Award (1994), the national Lu Xun Prize for Literature (2001), and the Zhuang Zhongwen Prize for Literature (2003).

LUCAS KLEIN is a writer, translator, and editor of Cipher-Journal.com. He is Assistant Professor in the Department of Chinese, Translation, and Linguistics at the City University of Hong Kong.
Kenneth Rexroth

Rexroth in the Sierra

- Edited, with an introduction and notes, by Kim Stanley Robinson
- Includes a map, photos, and woodcuts by Tom Killian
- Also includes an essay by Carter Scholz

Nature writings by one of America’s greatest poets, written out of a deep experience of the Sierras.

Over the course of his life, Kenneth Rexroth wrote about the Sierra Nevada better than anyone. Progressive in terms of environmental ethics and comparable to the writings of Emerson, Thoreau, Aldo Leopold, Annie Dillard, and Gary Snyder, Rexroth’s poetry and prose described the way Californians have always experienced and loved the High Sierra. Contained in this marvelous collection are transcendent nature poems, as well as prose selections from his memoir An Autobiographical Novel, newspaper columns, published and unpublished WPA guidebooks, and correspondence. Famed science-fiction writer Kim Stanley Robinson has compiled a gift for lovers of mountains and poetry both. This volume also contains Robinson's introduction and notes, photographs of Rexroth, a map of Rexroth’s travels, and an amazing astronomical analysis of Rexroth’s poems by the fiction writer Carter Scholz.

“Rexroth sees the eternal in an instant.”
—THE NATION

“Rexroth seems to know what is under every stone before he looks.”
—CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

“Nothing stands still in this poetry: the wind blows the trees, the lake water ripples and the ever-present road runs in and out of the hills.”
—AMERICAN POETRY REVIEW

KENNETH REXROTH (1905-1982), poet, critic, and translator, is regarded as a central figure of the San Francisco Renaissance and is among the first American poets to explore traditional Japanese forms such as the haiku.

KIM STANLEY ROBINSON, an American science-fiction writer whose work delves into ecological themes, is the author of the award-winning Mars trilogy.

NEW DIRECTIONS
Roberto Bolaño

The Secret of Evil

• Translated from the Spanish by Chris Andrews

A collection that gathers everything Bolaño was working on before his untimely death.

A North American journalist in Paris is woken at 4 a.m. by a mysterious caller with urgent information. For V. S. Naipaul the prevalence of sodomy in Argentina is a symptom of the nation’s political ills. Daniela de Montecristo (familiar to readers of Nazi Literature in the Americas and 2666) recounts the loss of her virginity. Arturo Belano returns to Mexico City and meets the last disciples of Ulises Lima, who play in a band called The Asshole of Morelos. Belano’s son Gerónimo disappears in Berlin during the Days of Chaos in 2005. Memories of a return to the native land. Argentine writers as gangsters. Zombie schlock as allegory...

The various pieces in the posthumous Secret of Evil extend the intricate, single web that is the work of Roberto Bolaño.

“Bolaño has joined the immortals.”
-THE WASHINGTON POST

“One of those rare writers who write for a future time. We have only begun to appreciate his strange, oblique genius.”
-JOHN BANVILLE

“A once-in-a-blue-moon rhapsodic reading experience.”
-JONATHAN LETHEM, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Author of By Night in Chile and 2666, ROBERTO BOLAÑO (1953-2003) was born in Chile, and later lived in Mexico, Paris, and Spain. His many awards include the Premio Herralde de Novela, the Premio Rómulo Gallegos, and The National Book Critics Circle Award. “It’s no exaggeration to call Bolaño a genius” (The Washington Post).

Poet and translator CHRIS ANDREWS has won both the TLS Valle-Inclán Prize and a PEN Translation Fund Award for his New Directions translations of Roberto Bolaño.
The Passion According to G.H.

Lispector's most shocking novel.

The Passion According to G.H., Clarice Lispector's mystical novel of 1964, concerns a well-to-do Rio sculptress, G.H., who enters her maid's room, sees a cockroach crawling out of the wardrobe, and, panicking, slams the door — crushing the cockroach — and then watches it die. At the end of the novel, at the height of a spiritual crisis, comes the most famous and most genuinely shocking scene in Brazilian literature...

Lispector wrote that of all her works this novel was the one that "best corresponded to her demands as a writer."

She is quite a thing to discover indeed."
— THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

"A penetrating genius."
— DONNA SEAMAN, BOOKLIST

Author of The Next Country, IDRA NOVEY has received awards from the NEA, the PEN Translation Fund, and the Lannan Foundation.

CAETANO VELOSO is one of Brazil's foremost musicians and political activist.

CLARICE LISPECTOR (1920-1977) is widely recognized as Brazil's greatest writer, "an elusive genius" (Vogue), "the premiere Latin American prose writer" (New York Times), and "a literary magician" (Publisher's Weekly).
Clarice Lispector

A Breath of Life

• A New Translation from the Portuguese by Johnny Lorenz

In English for the first time.

A mystical dialogue between a male author (a thinly disguised Clarice Lispector) and his/her creation, a woman named Angela, this posthumous work has never before been translated. Lispector did not even live to see it published.

At her death, a mountain of fragments remained to be “structured” by Olga Borelli. These fragments form a dialogue between a god-like author who infuses the breath of life into his creation: the speaking, breathing, dying creation herself, Angela Pralini. The work’s almost occult appeal arises from the perception that if Angela dies, Clarice will have to die as well. And she did.

“One of the twentieth century’s most mysterious writers in all her vibrant colors.”

—ORHAN PAMUK

The son of Brazilian immigrants, JOHNNY LORENZ teaches at Montclair State University and received a Fulbright for his work in Brazilian literature.

PBK ORIGINAL (NDP 1222)

FICTION                           MAY
5 X 8”                   144 PAGES


48 CQ               TERRITORY A

US $14.95           CAN $16.00

Series editor BENJAMIN MOSER, who contributes afterwords for all four of these new translations, is the author of Why This World: A Biography of Clarice Lispector, due out in paperback from Oxford University Press in May 2012. He also just completed a new translation of Lispector’s The Hour of the Star (see p.11).

All four covers together, available as a poster.
www.ndbooks.com
Near to the Wild Heart, published in Rio de Janeiro in 1943, introduced Brazil to what one writer called “Hurricane Clarice”: a twenty-three-year-old girl who wrote her first book in a tiny rented room and then baptized it with a title taken from Joyce: “He was alone, unheeded, near to the wild heart of life.”

The book was an unprecedented sensation — the discovery of a genius. Narrative epiphanies and interior monologue frame the life of Joana, from her middle-class childhood through her unhappy marriage and its dissolution to transcendence, when she proclaims: “I shall arise as strong and comely as a young colt.”

“Lispector is one of the hidden geniuses of twentieth century literature, in the same league as Flann O’Brien, Borges and Pessoa…utterly original and brilliant, haunting and disturbing.”

—COLM TÓIBÍN

“A truly remarkable writer.”
—JONATHAN FRANZEN

ALISON ENTREKIN has translated a number of works by Brazilian and Portuguese authors into English, including City of God by Paulo Lins and Budapest by Chico Buarque.
Clarice Lispector

Água Viva

• A New Translation from the Portuguese by Stefan Tobler

Lispector at her most philosophically radical.

A meditation on the nature of life and time, Água Viva (1973) shows Lispector discovering a new means of writing about herself, more deeply transforming her individual experience into a universal poetry. In a body of work as emotionally powerful, formally innovative, and philosophically profound as Clarice Lispector’s, Água Viva stands out as a particular triumph.

“Brilliant and unclassifiable… Glamorous, cultured, moody, Lispector is an emblematic twentieth-century artist who belongs in the same pantheon as Kafka and Joyce.”

—EDMUND WHITE

Born in Belem, Brazil, in 1974, STEFAN TOBLER is a translator from Portuguese and German. He won English PEN’s Writers in Translation prize.

Also Available from New Directions

The Hour of the Star

Published in November 2011 in a vivid, radical new translation by series editor Benjamin Moser, and with a new introduction by novelist Colm Tóibín.

ISBN: 978-0-8112-1949-5  •  $12.95
EBOOK: 978-0-8112-1960-0  •  $12.95
On Christian Contemplation

A compendium of spiritual guidance in a beautiful special edition.

“Every moment and every event in every man’s life on Earth plants something in his soul,” wrote Thomas Merton. A Trappist monk, Merton was both a poet and a theologian who pondered monastic life. He was praised for his meditations and conversations with God, as well as interfaith dialogue, tolerance, and non-violent activism during the Civil Rights Movement and Vietnam War. On Christian Contemplation, edited by Merton scholar Paul Pearson, is a collection of the great monk’s work, compiled into a gift-size edition. With poems, reflections, and social commentary, this is the perfect book to nurture the spirit of faith and duty guided by one of the twentieth century’s leading voices of theology and social justice.

“Thomas Merton really is someone we can look up to.”

—HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA

“Merton’s wisdom literature has taken me into the ultimate cause of things.”

—SUE MONK KIDD, AUTHOR OF THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES

“Like Walt Whitman, Merton contained multitudes,”

—KATHLEEN NORRIS, AUTHOR OF THE CLOISTER WALK

THOMAS MERTON (1915–1968) was one of the most prolific and influential spiritual writers of the 20th century. A monk, poet, and social activist, Merton wrote numerous books, including his monumental autobiography, The Seven Storey Mountain.

Scholar DR. PAUL PEARSON is the director and archivist at Bellarmine University’s Thomas Merton Center in Louisville, Kentucky.
Thomas Merton

On Eastern Meditation

_A New Directions Gift Book
• Edited by Bonnie Thurston_

A great introduction to the religions of the East by a monk from the West.

Merton’s biographer, George Woodcock, once wrote that “almost from the beginning of his monastic career, Thomas Merton tentatively began to discover the great Asian religions of Buddhism and Taoism.” Merton, a longtime social justice advocate, first approached Eastern theology as an admirer of Gandhi’s beliefs on non-violence. Through Gandhi, Merton came to know the great Hindu text the _Bhagavad Gita_ and in time came to have dialogues with the Dalai Lama and Taoist leader D. T. Suzuki. Merton then became deeply interested in Chuang Tzu and Zen thought. _On Eastern Meditation_, edited by Bonnie Thurston (author of _Merton and Buddhism_), gathers the best of his Eastern theological writings into a gorgeously designed gift book edition.

“Merton is an artist, a Zen.”

_THICH NHAT HANH_

“Thomas Merton is the saintly man who caused the Dalai Lama to come to admire Christianity as the equal to his beloved Buddhism.”

_ROBERT THURMAN_

“One of the most engaging features of Merton’s mind and sensibility is his feeling for what is authentic and pure, even when it occurs outside the house of Latin Catholicism.”

_THE NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS_

THOMAS MERTON (1915–1968) entered the Cistercian Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky and was ordained Father M. Louis in 1949. During the 1960s, he was increasingly drawn into a dialogue between Eastern and Western religions.

Scholar and poet, BONNIE THURSTON is a founding member and past president of the International Thomas Merton Society. She is an ordained minister of the Christian Church.

_ALSO BY THOMAS MERTON:_

_**GANDHI ON NON-VIOLENCE**
978-0-8112-1689-9 • $13.95

_**THE WAY OF CHUANG TZU**
978-0-8112-1965-5 • $11.95_
Robert Walser

The Walk

A New Directions Pearl

• Translated from the German, with an Introduction, by Susan Bernofsky

Walser’s alternate, preferred version of his most famous tale.

A pseudo-biographical “stroll” through town and countryside rife with philosophical musings, The Walk has been hailed as the masterpiece of Walser’s short prose. Walking features heavily in his writing, but nowhere else is it as elegantly considered. Without walking, “I would be dead,” Walser explains, “and my profession, which I love passionately, would be destroyed. Because it is on walks that the lore of nature and the lore of the country are revealed, charming and graceful, to the sense and eyes of the observant walker.” The Walk was the first piece of Walser’s work to appear in English, and the only one translated before his death. However, Walser heavily revised his most famous novella, altering nearly every sentence, rendering the baroque tone of his tale into something more spare. An introduction by translator Susan Bernofsky explains the history of The Walk, and the differences between its two versions.

PBK ORIGINAL (NDP 1231)

FICTION JUNE

4.5 X 7” 80 PAGES


48 CQ TERRITORY A

US $9.95 CAN $10.99

“The Walk remains the best starting point for experiencing Walser’s unique genius.”

-THE QUARTERLY CONVERSATION

“One of the most profound products of modern literature.”

-WALTER BENJAMIN

“Incredibly interesting and beautiful.”

-JOHN ASHBERY

Swiss writer ROBERT WALSER (1878–1956), one of the major European writers of the early twentieth century, worked a variety of odd jobs before writing as many as seven novels and more than a thousand stories. Forcibly hospitalized in 1933, he spent the final twenty-three years of his life in an institution.

Prize-winning translator SUSAN BERNOFSKY has translated numerous works by Robert Walser including The Microscripts, The Tanners, and The Assistant. She is currently at work on a biography of Robert Walser.
Roberto Bolaño

Antwerp

A New Directions Pearl
• Translated from the Spanish by Natasha Wimmer

Bolaño’s radical first novel makes its paperback debut as a New Directions Pearl.

Written when he was only twenty-seven, Antwerp can be viewed as the Big Bang of Roberto Bolaño’s fictional universe. This novel presents the genesis of Bolaño’s enterprise in prose; all the elements are here, highly compressed, at the moment when his talent explodes. From this springboard—which Bolaño chose to publish in 2002, twenty years after he’d written it (“and even that I can’t be certain of”)—as if testing out a high dive, he would plunge into the unexplored depths of the modern novel.

Voices speak from a dream, from a nightmare, from passersby, from an omniscient narrator, from “Roberto Bolaño.” Antwerp’s fractured narration in fifty-four sections moves in multiple directions and cuts to the bone.

“The only novel that doesn’t embarrass me is Antwerp.”

—ROBERTO BOLAÑO

“Never less than mesmerizing.”

—THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

“Antwerp is a total avant-garde freakout, and has to be among the most linguistically beautiful things Bolaño wrote.”

—GARTH RISK HALLBERG, THE MILLIONS

ROBERTO BOLAÑO (1953–2003) has been acclaimed as “funny, furious, and frightening” (The London TLS) and “literature’s new patron saint” (Sam Anderson, New York Magazine).

NATASHA WIMMER’s translation of Roberto Bolaño’s 2666 won the National Book Award’s Best Novel of the Year as well as the PEN Prize.
Delmore Schwartz

In Dreams Begin Responsibilities & Other Stories

• Foreword by Lou Reed
• Edited by James Atlas
• Afterwords by James Atlas & Irving Howe


Now with an exciting new preface by rock musician Lou Reed (Delmore Schwartz's student at Syracuse), In Dreams Begin Responsibilities collects eight of Schwartz's finest delineations of New York's intellectuals in the 1930s and 1940s. As no other writer can, Schwartz captures the speech, the generational conflicts, the mocking self-analysis of educated, ambitious, Depression-stymied young people at odds with their immigrant parents. This is the unique American dilemma Irving Howe described as “that interesting point where intellectual children of immigrant Jews are finding their way into the larger world while casting uneasy, rueful glances over their backs.” Afterwords by James Atlas and Irving Howe place the stories in their historical and cultural setting.

“Delmore Schwartz catapults past the fickleness of mere reputation (that posture and position that Lionel Trilling defined as characterizing a ‘figure’) into something close to legend.”

—CYNTHIA OZICK

“Nostalgic odes to the city are everywhere, but the best thing ever written on the subject is In Dreams Begin Responsibilities.”

—THE VILLAGE VOICE

DELMORE SCHWARTZ (1913-1966) was born and raised in Brooklyn. One of America’s greatest poets and short-story writers, Schwartz contributed “In Dreams Begin Responsibilities” to the first issue of Partisan Review in 1937. Schwartz taught at Syracuse, Princeton, and Kenyon College, and received the Bollingen Prize in 1959. After a difficult period of alcoholism and depression, he died of a heart attack in 1966.

The guitarist and principal songwriter for The Velvet Underground, LOU REED has enjoyed a long and successful solo career. His book of photographs, New York, was published in 2008.


IRVING HOWE was a literary and social critic, as well as a prominent member in the Democratic Socialists of America party.
Enrique Vila-Matas

Dublinesque

• Translated from the Spanish by Anne McLean and Rosalind Harvey

One night, a renowned and now retired literary publisher has a vivid dream that takes place in Dublin, a city he's never visited. The central scene of the dream is a funeral in the era of Ulysses. The publisher would give anything to know if an unidentified character in his dream is the great author he always wanted to meet, or the ghostly angel who abandoned him during childhood. As the days go by, he will come to understand that his vision of the end of an era was prophetic.

Enrique Vila-Matas traces a journey that connects the worlds of Joyce and Beckett, revealing the difficulties faced by literary authors, publishers, and good readers in a society where literature is losing influence. A robust work, Dublinesque is a masterwork of irony, humor, and erudition by one of Spain's most celebrated living authors.

"Mr. Vila-Matas shows that the reasons for (and the consequences of) not writing fiction can, in a funny way, be almost as rich and complicated as fiction itself."

—THE ECONOMIST

"Perfect. Beautiful. Wistful. There is no hint of irony in these words of praise for Bartleby & Co."

—THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

ENRIQUE VILA-MATAS (born 1931 in Barcelona) is one of Spain's most prominent writers. Author of Bartleby & Co., Montano's Malady, and Never Any End to Paris, he has received Europe's most prestigious awards and been translated into twenty-seven languages.

ANNE McLEAN has translated the works of Javier Cercas, Julio Cortázar, Carmen Martín Gaite, Ignacio Padilla, and Evelio Rosero.

ROSALIND HARVEY is translator in residence at London's Free Word Centre. Her translation of Juan Villalobo's Down the Rabbit Hole was longlisted for the Guardian First Book Award.
**Tribute to Freud**

*New Introduction by Adam Phillips*
*Afterword by Norman Holmes Pearson*

A classic of American literature, now with a new introduction by iconic author and psychotherapist Adam Phillips.

“My bat-like thought-wings would beat painfully in that sudden searchlight,” H.D. writes in *Tribute to Freud*, her moving memoir. Compelled by historical as well as personal crises, H.D. underwent therapy with Freud during 1933–34, as the streets of Vienna were littered with tokens dropped like confetti on the city stating “Hitler gives work,” “Hitler gives bread.” Having endured World War I, she was now gathering her resources to face the cataclysm she knew was approaching. The first part of the book, “Writing on the Wall,” was composed some ten years after H.D.’s stay in Vienna; the second part, “Advent,” is a journal she kept during her analysis. Revealed here in the poet's crystal shard-like words and in Freud’s own letters (which comprise an appendix) is a remarkably tender and human portrait of the legendary Doctor in the twilight of his life. Time double backs on itself, mingling past, present, and future in a visionary weave of dream, memory, and reflections.

“A warm and revealing portrait of H.D.’s mentor and friend.”

—PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

“The book, with its appropriate title, is surely the most delightful and precious appreciation of Freud’s personality ever likely to be written. Only a fine creative artist could have written it...I can only say that I envy anyone who has not read it, and that it will live as the most enchanting ornament of all the Freudian biographical literature.”

—ERNSTE JONES, AUTHOR OF *THE LIFE AND WORK OF SIGMUND FREUD*

H.D. (the pen name of Hilda Doolittle) was born in the Moravian community of Bethlehem, PA in 1886. A major twentieth century poet with “an ear more subtle than Pound’s, Moore’s, or Yeats’s” as Marie Ponsot writes, she was the author of several volumes of poetry, fiction, essays, and memoirs.

ADAM PHILLIPS, whom John Banville called “one of the finest prose stylists in the language, an Emerson of our time,” was born in 1954 in Cardiff, Wales. A child psychotherapist, he is the author of *On Balance* and *The Beast in the Nursery.*