



BIBLIOASIS
Catalogue

FALL
2010



Combat Camera

A.J. Somerset

Winner of the 2009-2010 Metcalf-Rooke Award

The most alarming development now confronting Zane was his suddenly frangible reality. Even his routine moments had become fraught with risk. Suppose, for example, a glint of sunlight was to catch the crack traversing his grime-smearred windshield; a disturbance as trivial as this could inexplicably fracture the entire tableau, could set fragments of his past tilting and sliding through his mind like pieces of coloured glass in a broken kaleidoscope. Things finally come to rest in a jagged landscape of unwelcome memories, and then where in hell are you?

On checking his rear-view mirror, Zane might find his back seat now occupied by Liberian child soldiers, their eyes glassy with drugs, their small hands grasping hand-me-down Russian assault rifles approximately four sizes too large. A West African horizon might replace outer Mississauga's industrial wasteland, under the same dissipated sun. A dead man, installing himself uninvited in the passenger seat, might speak. Panic rushes in, sweat popping from cold pores, the sour taste of bile and adrenalin, pain in the gut.

—from *Combat Camera*

Combat Camera by A.J. Somerset is that very rare thing, a really superbly realized Canadian novel. It concerns Lucas Zane, a celebrated photographer who has burned out emotionally after covering battles in most of the wars of the late twentieth century. He has come to the end in Toronto, drunk, hallucinatory, all ambition fled. He earns the rent by taking photographs for Richard Barker, an impresario of shoestring-budget pornographic movies. On the set he meets “Melissa” and the novel explores their involvement.

After a horrific assault, Zane tries to rescue Melissa and bring her back home to Vancouver, while trying to mount a comeback by constructing a photo-essay about “Melissa’s” life. Zane’s reflections on camera angles, available light, film stock and shutter speeds – all the by now obsolete technology of his years of fame – form a hymn to the beauty of art. Though Zane himself would deny that.

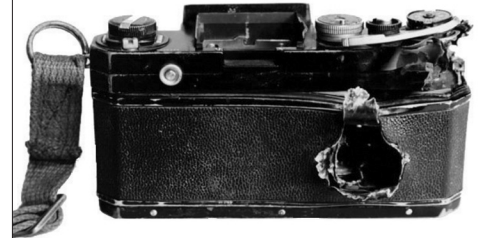
But the power of the book lies in its voice, a voice that is restless, ceaseless, meandering, tragic, sometimes very funny, a mind and a voice that maintain an almost hypnotic grip on the reader.

“Combat Camera is one of the finest Canadian novels I have ever read.”

—John Metcalf

A.J. Somerset has been a soldier, a technical writer, a programmer, and a freelance photographer. His non-fiction has appeared in numerous outdoor magazines in Canada and the United States, and his articles have been translated into French and Japanese.

COMBAT CAMERA



A.J. SOMERSET

Novel
September

978-1-897231-92-0
5.25 x 8.25 | PAPER | 304 PAGES
\$19.95

978-1-926845-00-5
SIGNED HARDCOVER
LIMITED EDITION OF 30
(Price To Be Determined)

MARKETING PLANS

- 100+ ARC printing
- co-op available
- online trailer
- pre-publication interviews/excerpts in *CNQ*, *The New Quarterly*, *Maisonneuve*, elsewhere
- readings in London, Toronto (TINARS), Windsor, Guelph, Ottawa, Montreal, elsewhere
- advertising in *Globe & Mail*, *Walrus*, *The New Quarterly*, *National Post*, library wholesaler catalogues, elsewhere
- posters and bookmarks, more to follow...

Light Lifting

Alexander MacLeod

This was the day after Mike Tyson bit off Evander Holyfield's ear. You remember that. It was a moment in history – not like Kennedy or the planes flying into the World Trade Centre – not up at that level. This was something much lower, more like Ben Johnson, back when his eyes were that thick, yellow colour and he tested positive in Seoul after breaking the world-record in the hundred. You might not know exactly where you were standing or exactly what you were doing when you first heard about Tyson or about Ben, but when the news came down, I bet it stuck with you. When Tyson bit off Holyfield's ear, that cut right through the everyday clutter.

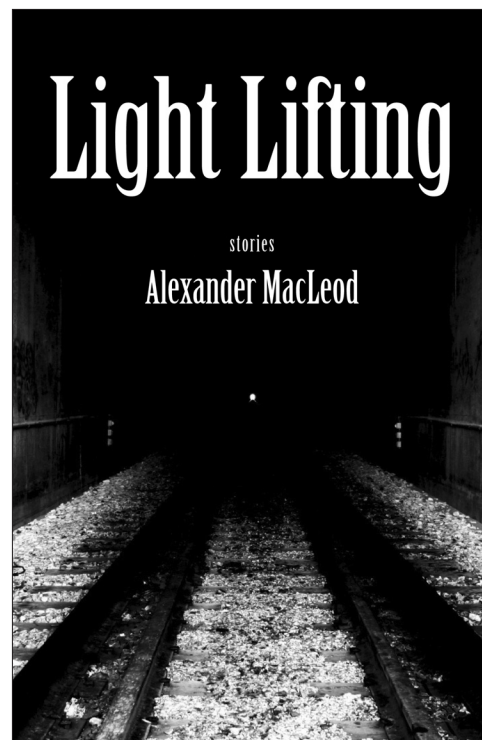
—from 'Miracle Mile'

Two long-distance runners race a cargo train through a rat-infested tunnel underneath the Detroit River. A pre-adolescent drug store bicycle courier crosses a forbidden threshold in an attempt to save a life, only to risk his own. A young swimmer conquers her fear of water only to discover she's caught in far more dangerous currents.

In *Light Lifting*, Alexander MacLeod's long-awaited first collection of short stories, the author offers us a suite of darkly urban and unflinching elegies for a city and community on the brink. Anger and violence simmer just beneath the surface and often boil over, resulting in both tragedy and tragedy barely averted. But as bleak as these stories sometimes are, there is also hope, beauty and understanding.

Alexander MacLeod's stories are as disturbing, compelling and true as any currently being written in this or any country.

Alexander MacLeod was born in Inverness, Cape Breton and raised in Windsor, Ontario. His award-winning stories have appeared in many of the leading Canadian and American journals and have been selected for *The Journey Prize Anthology*. He holds degrees from the University of Windsor, the University of Notre Dame, and McGill. He currently lives in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia and teaches at Saint Mary's University in Halifax.



Short Fiction

September

978-1-897231-94-4

5.25 x 8.25 | PAPER | 224 PAGES

\$19.95

978-1-926845-01-2

SIGNED HARDCOVER

LIMITED EDITION OF 30

(Price To Be Determined)

MARKETING PLANS

- 100+ ARC printing
- readings in Windsor, London, Guelph, Eden Mills, Toronto, Ottawa, Peterborough, Montreal, Halifax, Dartmouth, through Cape Breton; likely Vancouver, Winnipeg, elsewhere
- advertising in *Globe & Mail*, *Halifax Chronicle Herald*, *The New Quarterly*, *CNQ*, *Bookninja*, wholesaler catalogues, *The Coast*, *Atlantic Books Today*, elsewhere
- co-op available
- posters and bookmarks
- more to follow...

The Pigeon Wars of Damascus

Marius Kociejowski

A pigeon fancier said to me, 'If you want to understand the Middle East, just look at my birds.' It was approaching evening and on a rooftop in Damascus, several miles from its ancient centre, amid minarets and satellite dishes, the cooing of Waseem's pigeons, sixty or seventy of them, mingled oddly with the electronically amplified cry of a muezzin in the near distance. Waseem scowled the scowl of one who feigns to despise what he loves. 'They are brutes,' he said, 'just like the Americans are brutes.'

—from *The Pigeon Wars of Damascus*

So begins Marius Kociejowski's excellent *The Pigeon Wars of Damascus*. Five years have passed since the author's last visit to Syria, the subject of his now-classic *The Street Philosopher and the Holy Fool*, and he now finds Syria a much darker and more troubled place. To make matters worse, Abed and Sulayman, the street philosopher and holy fool of his previous travelogue, are estranged, and only manage a short-lived and shaky truce to please their English friend.

Kociejowski is a metaphysical journalist in search of echoes rather than analogies, hints as opposed to verities, and who discovers once again among the outcasts at the periphery of Damascene society – for the outcast is, to a degree, made of the very thing that rejects him – a way to understand the clashes and challenges and changes refashioning both Syria and the Middle East as a whole. Beautifully written, *The Pigeon Wars of Damascus* is essential reading for anyone who wishes a deeper and truer understanding of the Middle East and the political and economic pressures currently refashioning it, and reminds us once again of the deeper purpose of travel: to absorb and understand the spirit of a place, and to return changed.

Praise for *The Street Philosopher and the Holy Fool*:

"Destined to become a travel classic . . ."

—Adam Thorpe, *Times Literary Supplement*

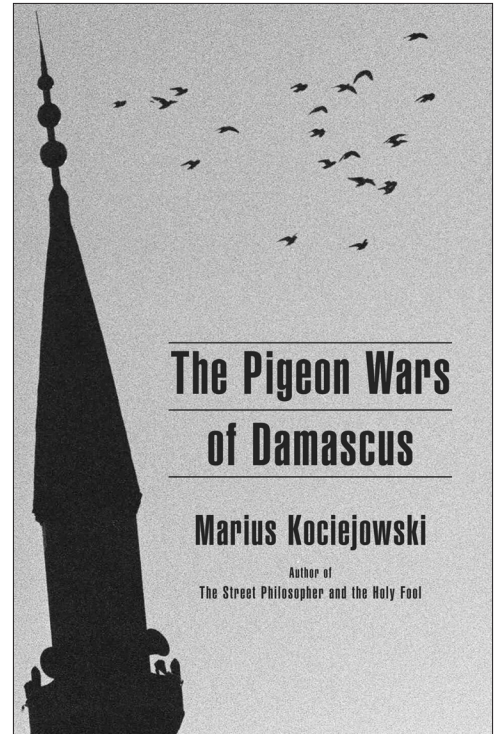
"Kociejowski's book presents a challenge to western civilization. It challenges the cult of logic and reason . . . [and] offers a wonderful experience to those . . . seeking a balance between mind and heart."

—*Books in Canada*

"The book indicates what a remarkable writer Kociejowski has become."

—*PN Review*

Marius Kociejowski was born and raised in Canada, and now lives in England. A poet, essayist and travel writer, he is the author of four collections of poetry, *The Street Philosopher and the Holy Fool*, and is the editor of *Syria Through Writers' Eyes*. He lives and works as a bookseller in London.



Travel

September

978-1-897231-97-5

5.5 X 8.5 | HARDCOVER | 304 PAGES

\$27.95

978-1-926845-02-9

SIGNED HARDCOVER

LIMITED EDITION OF 30

(Price To Be Determined)

MARKETING PLANS

- 100+ ARC mailing
- launches in Montreal, Toronto, elsewhere
- advertising in the *Globe & Mail*, *Literary Review of Canada*, *Geist*, *Walrus*, elsewhere
- posters and bookmarks
- online video trailer
- co-op available
- more to follow...

Sunrise in the Eyes of the Snowman

Goran Simic

Sunrise in the Eyes of the Snowman, the latest collection by Bosnian expat Goran Simic, is as much a departure as it is a continuance. In this book, we find the world-renowned poet visiting familiar themes in fresh ways. Not only is Simic now writing in English, but many of these poems also embrace the constraints of rhyming quatrains. Simic seems to comment on this in one of those poems, “Walking Backwards”: “When I asked the old frames to embrace me freshly cast, / I was walking backwards. And I was dead wrong.” But what we have here is a middle-aged poet rising like a phoenix from the ashes of his past, moving forward with power and precision, forging new frames and speaking, as always, with an exiled voice as doubtful as it is authoritative.

Advance Review:

“Goran Simic’s voice comes to us from a severe elsewhere,
and we’re lucky to have him now in English.”

—Ken Babstock, *Books in Canada*

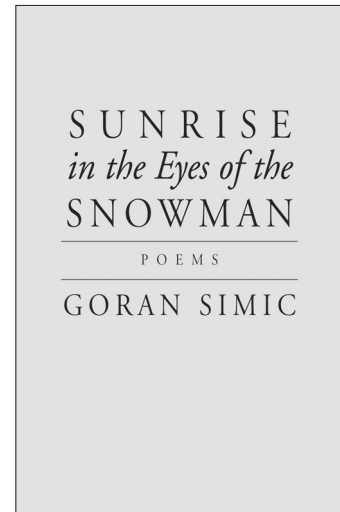
Goran Simic is the author of fourteen books, including three translated into English: *Immigrant Blues*, (Brick, 2003), *From Sarajevo, With Sorrow* (Biblioasis, 2005), and *Yesterday’s People* (Biblioasis, 2005). Born in Bosnia, he lives and writes in Toronto.

All This Could Be Yours

Joshua Trotter

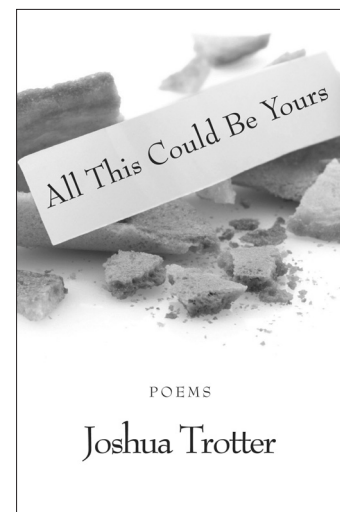
Like the promise of its title, *All This Could Be Yours* is full of elusive gifts. Joshua Trotter’s debut collection is a metaphysical hall of windows that seem to be mirrors and mirrors presenting themselves as windows. Trotter’s poems – which could be the bastard love-children of Stevens and Frost – refract, reflect and deflect with canny puns and rhymes, the rigour of their forms belying the rogue trickster twists of cockeyed logic they take and the po-faced near-sense in which they speak. Don’t be fooled into thinking these poems glib: Trotter is often most serious precisely at his most blithe; his poems are always thought-full. Full of “intemperate winds / blown thinking from the ledge, through the gap // between the frame and what it haunts for us,” they resist the intelligence, almost successfully, as Stevens said a poem should.

A long-time resident of Peterborough, **Joshua Trotter** recently moved to Montreal. He is the author of one previous chapbook.



Poetry
September

978-1-897231-93-7
5 X 8 | PAPER | 80 PAGES
\$18.95



Poetry
September

978-1-897231-96-8
5 X 8 | PAPER | 80 PAGES
\$18.95

Lost Luggage

Salvatore Ala

Journeys and interrupted journeys are a well established theme in literature. Gustave Von Aschenbach's fateful journey back to Venice and his death began with lost luggage. So also with Salvatore Ala's new collection of poems – his third. Lost luggage and the efforts to find the things of this world retrieved and redeemed are central to Ala's poems. In his new book he presents a unique group of poems about the world of soccer: "The Goalkeeper," "Pelé," "The Soccer Ball," and others, show Ala's openness and refusal to accept the sterility of modern trends. *Lost Luggage* has many examples of his unique sense of style, his particular blend of candidness and depth. A rare commodity today.

"This is a collection to be cherished."

—Eugene McNamara

Salvatore Ala was born in 1959 in Windsor, Ontario. *Lost Luggage* is his third book of poetry. His first book, *Clay of the Maker*, appeared in 1998; his second, *Straight Razor and Other Poems*, in 2004. He has also published five broadsides of his work. His poems have appeared in journals and anthologies. He studied philosophy and literature, has worked at various jobs, and continues to live in Windsor with his wife and children.

God's Plenty

A Study of Hugh Hood's Short Fiction

W. J. Keith

The first title in the Biblioasis Studies in Short Fiction series, W. J. Keith's *God's Plenty* is the first book to explore the eccentric range of that master of stylistic felicity, Hugh Hood. He was primarily interested in exploring the numerous kinds of story that appealed to him, in experimenting with form, style, and nuance to find the way of telling a particular story most effectively. His ideal reader is one prepared to be flexible, open to fresh approaches, and above all sensitive to the sounds and rhythms as well as the precise meanings of his carefully chosen words. Though a master stylist, Hugh Hood, unlike most other Canadian stylists, was not averse to writing a story that has something to say, and Keith's study looks at the strong convictions and Catholic allegorizing perspective which playfully informed so much of his work.

Above all, Keith's work, as is this series, is a call to remember the work of one of the most important short story writers in Canadian history, to look at his work anew.

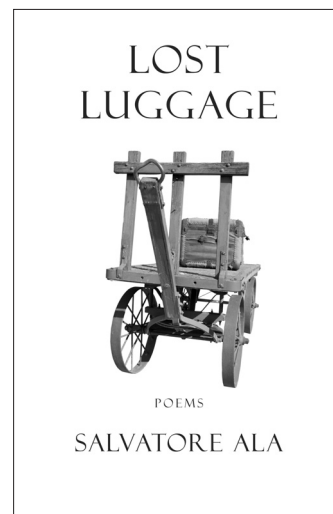
"My work demands to be read silently and with close attention by mature men and women . . . and a single reading won't do."

—Hugh Hood

"Hood's stories are easy to read but sometimes difficult to understand."

—Kent Thompson

W. J. Keith, FRSC, is Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Toronto. He is the author of numerous books and articles on Canadian and English literature, including *A Canadian Odyssey* on Hood's 12-volume novel-series.



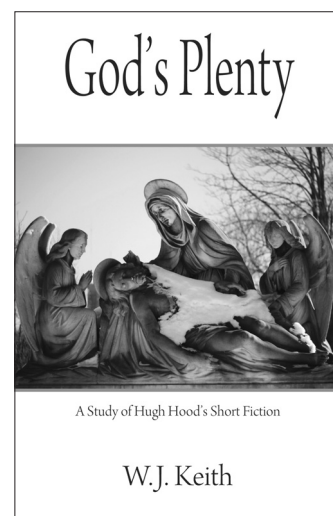
Poetry

October

978-1-897231-95-1

5 X 8 | PAPER | 80 PAGES

\$17.95



Literary Criticism

November

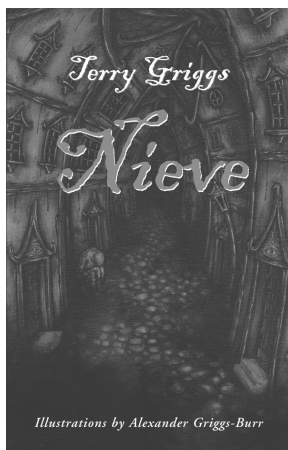
978-1-897231-99-9

5.25 X 8.25 | PAPER | 250 PAGES

\$27.95

Reminiscent of Neil Gaiman's Coraline and Michael Ende's Momo . . . Terry Griggs' genuinely creepy new YA novel will thrill young readers while giving their parents nightmares.

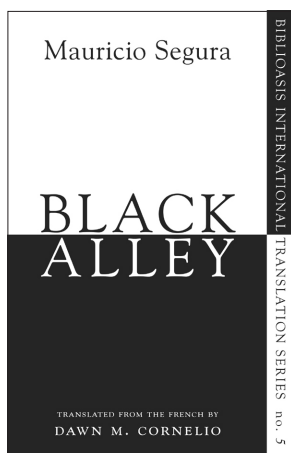
—Quill & Quire



Nieve

A Young Adult/Fantasy Novel by
Terry Griggs
Illustrated by Alexander Griggs-Burr

PAPER / 978-1-897231-87-6
\$14.95



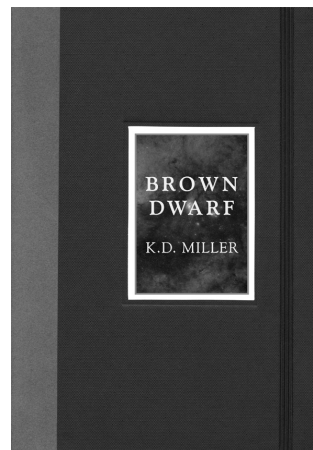
Black Alley

A Novel by
Mauricio Segura
Translated from the French by Dawn M. Cornelio

PAPER / 978-1-897231-90-6
\$19.95

Miller superbly captures the abject cruelty and loneliness of adolescence. Brenda's alternating excitement and misery is rendered with haunting precision, sometimes recalling the youthful feverishness of Stephen King's novella 'The Body.'

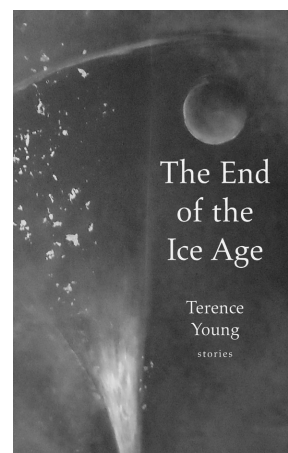
—Quill & Quire



Brown Dwarf

A Novel by
K.D. Miller

PAPER / 978-1-897231-88-3
\$17.95



The End of the Ice Age

Short Fiction by
Terence Young

PAPER / 978-1-897231-91-3
\$19.95

Klausen

Andreas Maier

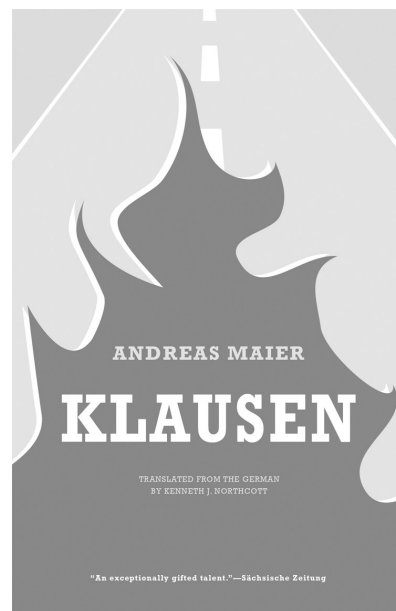
Translated from the German by Kenneth J. Northcott

Nobody knows exactly what happened in the small town of Klausen, or rather, everyone knows: a bomb went off on the autobahn, or at a shack near the autobahn, or someone was shooting at the town from a bridge; it all stems from a fight over measuring noise pollution on the town square, or it was the work of eco-terrorists, or *Italians*.

In *Klausen*, Andreas Maier has taken Thomas Bernhard's method – the nested indirect speech, the repetition, the endless paragraph – and pointed it at an entire town. A town where one confusion leads to the next, where everyone is living in a fog of rumor, but where everyone claims to know exactly what's going on, even if they've changed their story several times.

Andreas Maier was born in Bad Nauheim in 1967. He has won the Ernst Willner Prize, the Jürgen Ponto Foundation's Literary Support Prize and the Aspekte Literary Prize for his first novel, *Wäldchestag*.

Kenneth J. Northcott is a professor emeritus of German at the University of Chicago. He has translated many books, among them Thomas Bernhard's *The Voice Imitator*, *Histrionics*, and *Three Novellas*.



Novel

August

978-1-934824-16-0

5.5 X 8.5 | PAPER | 142 PAGES

\$14.95

To Hell with Cronjé

Ingrid Winterbach

Translated from the Afrikaans by Elsa Silke

Two scientists, Reitz Steyn and Ben Maritz, find themselves in a “transit camp for those temporarily and permanently unfit for battle” during the Boer War. Captured on suspicion of desertion and treason they are forced to await the judgment of a General Bergh, unsure whether they are to be conscripted into Bergh's commando, allowed to continue their mission, or executed for treason. . . .

A South African *Heart of Darkness*, Ingrid Winterbach's *To Hell with Cronjé* is a poetic exploration of friendship and camaraderie, an eerie reflection of the futility of war, and a thought-provoking re-examination of the founding moments of the South African nation.

Ingrid Winterbach has won South Africa's M-Net Prize, Old Mutual Literary Prize, the University of Johannesburg Prize for Creative Writing, and the W.A. Hofmeyr Prize. *To Hell with Cronjé* won the 2004 Hertzog Prize, an honor she shares with the novelists Breyten Breytenbach and Etienne Leroux.

Elsa Silke translates from Afrikaans and was the winner of the 2006 South African Translator's Institute/Via Afrika Prize for her translation of Karel Schoeman's *This Life*.



Novel

September

978-1-934824-30-6

5.5 X 8.5 | PAPER | 238 PAGES

\$15.95

The Ambassador

Bragi Ólafsson

Translated from the Icelandic by Lytton Smith

Sturla Jón Jónsson, the fifty-something building superintendent and sometimes poet, has been invited to a poetry festival in Vilnius, Lithuania, appointed, as he sees it, as the official representative of the people of Iceland to the field of poetry. His latest poetry collection, published on the eve of his trip to Vilnius, is about to cause some controversy in his home country, however – Sturla may have stolen the poems from his long-dead cousin Jónas.

Then there's Sturla's new overcoat, the first expensive item of clothing he has ever purchased, which causes him no end of trouble. And the article he wrote for a literary journal, which points out the stupidity of literary festivals and declares the end of his career as a poet. Sturla has a lot to deal with, and that's not counting his estranged wife and their five children, nor the increasingly bizarre experiences and characters he's forced to confront at the festival in Vilnius . . .

Bragi Ólafsson's *The Ambassador* is a quirky novel that's filled with insightful and wry observations about aging, family, love, and the mysteries of the hazelnut.

Bragi Ólafsson was born in Reykjavik, played bass with Bjork's Sugarcubes, and is the author of several books of poetry, short fiction and four novels, including *The Ambassador*, a finalist for the 2008 Nordic Literature Prize.

Novel / **October**

5.5 x 8.5 | PAPER | 300 PAGES

978-1-934824-13-9 | \$14.95

The Sixty-Five Years of Washington

Juan José Saer

Translated from the Spanish by Steve Dolph

First published in 1985, in the middle of what would become a thirty-year exile, Juan José Saer's *The Sixty-Five Years of Washington* concerns the Argentina of the sixties, a place on the edge of utter collapse. Military coups are common. Inflation is skyrocketing. Four years before, a group of Peronist militants was rounded up and executed by the government. Mass demonstrations and strikes are growing more frequent, as are bombings. Within another four years the country will have plunged into one of the bloodiest civil wars in the history of Latin America.

Ángel Leto and an engineer nicknamed The Mathematician, two young men from the coastal city of Rosario, walk twenty-one blocks together one morning in October. They recall the story of a birthday party neither attended. Despite their resistance, the past draws them back and the future away. One day soon The

Mathematician will disappear into exile after his wife's assassination; Leto will vanish into the guerrilla underground. What connects them to each other and to this place, their memory, is disfigured by trauma, by flight, and fear.

In *The Sixty-Five Years of Washington*, Saer weaves an intricate narrative of a disappeared place, rich in detail, in sadness and absence, held together by the fragile, momentary connection of a single conversation on the central avenue of a coastal city one October morning.

One of the most important Argentine novelists of the last fifty years, **Juan José Saer** was the author of more than 30 books. He died of lung cancer at the age of 67 in 2005.

Novel / **November**

5.5 x 8.5 | PAPER | 250 PAGES

978-1-934824-20-7 | \$13.95

Zone

Mathias Énard

Translated from the French by Charlotte Mandell

Francis Servain Mirkovic, a French-born Croat who has been working for the French Intelligence Services for fifteen years, is traveling by train from Milan to Rome. He's carrying a briefcase whose contents he's selling to a representative from the Vatican; the briefcase contains a wealth of information about the violent history of the Zone – the lands of the Mediterranean basin, Spain, Algeria, Lebanon, Italy, that have become Mirkovic's specialty.

Over the course of a single night, Mirkovic visits the sites of these tragedies in his memory and recalls the damage that his own participation in that violence – as a soldier fighting for Croatia during the Balkan Wars – has wreaked in his own life. Mirkovic hopes that this night will be his last in the Zone, that this journey will expiate his sins, and that he can disappear with Sashka, the only woman he hasn't abandoned, forever . . .

One of the truly original books of the decade – and written as a single, hypnotic, propulsive, physically irresistible sentence – Mathias Énard's *Zone* provides an extraordinary and panoramic view of the turmoil that has long deviled the shores of the Mediterranean.

Born in 1972, **Mathias Énard** studied Persian and Arabic and spent long periods in the Middle East. A professor of Arabic at the University of Barcelona, he won the Prix des Cinq Continents de la Francophonie and the Prix Edmée de la Rochefoucault for his first novel, *La perfection du tir*. He has been awarded many prizes for *Zone*, including the Prix du Livre Inter and the Prix Décembre.

Novel / **December**

5.5 x 8.5 | PAPER | 570 PAGES

978-1-934824-26-9 | \$15.95

NON-FICTION

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MEMOIR/BIPOLAR DISORDER 978-1-897231-48-7 PAPER \$19.95
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FICTION

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