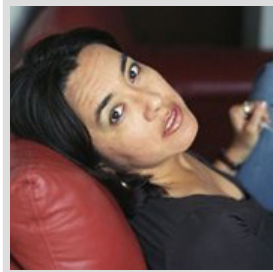


Celebrating Women Writers from Around the World

Belletrista

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Caitlin Fehir interviews Cristina Rivera-Garza, Winner of the 2009 Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz Prize.



16 Reviews of Classic and Contemporary Latin American & Brazilian Novels!



Ceri Evans reports from the recent International PEN "Free the Word!" event in London.

Welcome, readers, to the most dazzling issue of Belletrista thus far! In this issue, we feature more great books, and the women who write them, than in any of our previous issues.

This time we've included an exciting Latin American theme so, in addition to the 17 regular book reviews, we also present you with 16 reviews of classic and contemporary Latin American literature written by women. To tie in with this theme, we have a fabulous interview with Mexico's Cristina Rivera-Garza and a special "Trio"—a review of three works by Brazil's internationally acclaimed Clarice Lispector. And there's more: dystopian fiction, an interview with the remarkable Nawal el Saadawi, a reportback of the recent International PEN event, 62 books in the New and Notable section, and a brand new section highlighting the winners and nominees of recent global literary awards.

It's jam-packed with exciting finds on our part. Here's hoping you'll find wonderful and inspiring things within. Enjoy!

Reviews

Click on 'Reviews' to see the full list of this issue's reviews...

AN ELEGY FOR EASTERLY
Petina Gappah

Closing Escape Hatches and Emerging Humor

Belletrista - Issue 5

May/June 2010

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Our Belle bag is traveling! Can you tell where our bag is?

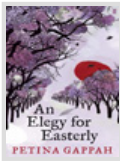


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This debut collection of short stories from Petina Gappah was the winner of the 2009 Guardian First Book Award, and was shortlisted for the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award, two of the more prestigious literary prizes. Gappah was born in Zimbabwe....

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Reviewed by Darryl Morris



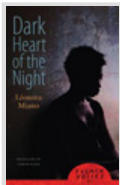
SYMPHONY IN WHITE
Adriana Lisboa

Translated from the Portuguese by Sarah White

Symphony in White is a tale of two sisters. Clarice and Maria Inês, daughters of Afonso and Octacilia Olimpio, came of age in Brazil in the 1960s and 1970s during the period of military dictatorship. Lisboa does not directly comment upon the political situation in Brazil during that time, but the political repression is mirrored in the stifling atmosphere of the Olimpio family and the secrets they keep.

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Reviewed by Jane Anderson Jones



DARK HEART OF THE NIGHT
Léonora Miano

Translated from the French by Tamsin Black

Few English translations can have had such an awkward birth as that of Léonora Miano's slim novel, written in 2005 in French as *L'intérieur de la Nuit*. The University of Nebraska Press made the laudable decision to publish an English translation of this work by one of the most promising young francophone African writers around; however....

[READ MORE](#)

Reviewed by Andy Barnes



THE CHALK CIRCLE MAN
Fred Vargas

Translated from the French by Siân Reynolds

Unusual, unorthodox, and uncanny is how I might sum up the detective we are introduced to in Fred Vargas's first "Commissaire Adamsberg" mystery. And if you are a seasoned reader of detective fiction, this novel—this detective—may cause you to question the very reasons you read in this genre.

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Reviewed by Kate Morgan



Jean Hughes Raber looks at post-millennium dystopian novels by women.

Trio: Clarice Lispector



Rachel Hayes reviews three books by the internationally acclaimed Brazilian author.

Listening to Nawal el Saadawi



Coming from the International PEN "Free the Word!" festival, Charlotte Simpson introduces us to Egyptian writer, psychiatrist and political activist Nawal el Saadawi.

Awards & Nominations

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AUNT RÉZIA AND THE SPIRITS: AND OTHER STORIES

Yanick Lahens

Translated from the French by Betty Wilson

It's always good to be reminded of the diversity of talent from places that the rest of the world focuses on only in the most troubled times. Even before this year's terrible earthquake, Haiti was a by-word for poverty and violence. This anthology of short stories by Yanick Lahens, a first English translation for one of Haiti's foremost short story writers, is a timely reminder that the country has so much more to offer the world.

[READ MORE](#)

Reviewed by Andy Barnes



Looking for a great book to read? Here we present some of the recent award-winning or award-nominated books by women writers from around the world.

