

# Belletrista



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Roma Tearne: Weaving the Political and the Personal. Joyce Nickel gives us an in-depth look at the Sri Lankan author and her work.



Julie Wakeman-Linn: Kathleen Ambrogi reviews her novel *Chasing the Leopard Finding the Lion*, and talks with the author.



Sefi Atta's bold new novel is about more than African identity. . . Read chapter one of *A Bit of Difference*.

## Belletrista - Issue 18

The end of 2012

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## Reviews

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### MASTER OF THE GRASS

*Nina Gabrielyan*

*Translated from the Russian by Kathleen Cook et al*

*Master of the Grass* is a well-translated collection of one eponymous novella and six short stories by Nina Gabrielyan, a Russian writer of Armenian descent. Motifs of mirrors and dreams run through these stories, and the narratives themselves are more or less dream-like, the boundary between the sleeping and the waking world kept close and permeable...

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Reviewed by **Tim Jones**

### THREE STRONG WOMEN

*Marie NDiaye*

*Translated from the French by John Fletcher*

## Angélica Gorodischer



The noted and versatile Argentinian author has a newly translated novel forthcoming in February. Read an excerpt of *Trafalgar*.



## Uzma Aslam Khan

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*Three Strong Women* concerns the lives of three women of Senegalese descent, each of whom faces a personal crisis. The stories are set in modern day Senegal or in France, the former colonizer of that West African country...

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Reviewed by Darryl Morris



**MATESHIP WITH BIRDS**

*Carrie Tiffany*

Harry is a dairy farmer who has lost his wife to the charms of a local bird watcher. He has no children and lives alone, with a pile of women's journals, his routines and his thoughts, which often turn to the young family living next door.

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Reviewed by Judy Lim



**THE TENANTS OF THE HÔTEL BIRON**

*Laura Marello*

Laura Marello's creative exploration of the Hôtel Biron in Paris between 1908 and 1912 is an historical novel, an art history, a collection of essays and an epistolary novel. She takes as her starting point the fact that during these years an extraordinary collection of artists resided in apartments above sculptor Auguste Rodin's studio, in what is today the Rodin Museum...

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Reviewed by Kathleen Ambrogi



**THE MURDER OF HALLAND**

*Pia Juul*

*Translated from the Danish by Martin Aitken*

With a glut of Scandinavian crime fiction entering English translation it would be easy to overlook Pia Juul's *The Murder of Halland*. However, Juul is one of Denmark's most celebrated literary writers, and her foray into 'Scandi Crime' is a surprising subversion of the genre, rather than an attempt to jump on a bandwagon.

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Reviewed by Andy Barnes

**THE SOMETIMES LAKE**

*Sandy Bonny*

The stories in *The Sometimes Lake* reflect Sandy Bonny's passion for science. Whether



A tribute to the nomadic peoples in the mountains of Pakistan and its border neighbors, Uzma's new novel *Thinner Than Skin* is also a love story. Read an excerpt.



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the character is a teacher working with disadvantaged indigenous children in Canada's far north...

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**Reviewed by Joyce Nickel**

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