

Belletrista

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Reviews



IN THE SHADOW OF THE BANYAN
Vaddey Ratner

Imagine that you are a five-year-old princess of the Cambodian monarchy, living a life of luxury, surrounded by love and a large family. Then imagine that one day your family is violently jettisoned into the countryside with the rest of the urban population, and everything you know is destroyed.

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Reviewed by **Lisa Sanders**



THE ART FORGER
B. A. Shapiro

I am sometimes masochistic in my reading choices. I chain myself to complex literary tomes through which I may trudge dutifully but not always joyfully. Those books pay a great dividend, so I don't regret my efforts, but there are ...

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Reviewed by **Kathleen Ambrogio**



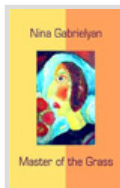
THE THIRD DAY
Chochana Boukhobza

Translated from the French by Alison Anderson

Distinguished cellist Elisheva and her protégée Rachel arrive in Jerusalem for a three-day visit. The culmination of their sojourn will be a concert performance featuring Rachel as the soloist. On that same day, the third day, Elisheva plans to assassinate The Butcher of Majdanek, her torturer during World War II.

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Reviewed by **Amanda Meale**



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



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**



PEDRA CANGA
Tereza Albués

Translated from the Portuguese by Clifford E. Landers

Pedra Canga, the eponymous fictional village, lies in a remote part of Brazil. It is dominated by the Mangueiral, a stone estate separated from the village by walls topped with barbed wire and broken glass on three sides, and the Saranzal River full of snakes and alligators on the fourth.

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Reviewed by **Jean Hughes Raber**



THE FORRESTS
Emily Perkins

Frank and Lee move their family of four children from New York to Auckland. Frank is an unrecognized artist from a background of wealth and entitlement, but in New Zealand the family is barely surviving.

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Reviewed by **Judy Lim**



THE UNLIKELY PILGRIMAGE OF HAROLD FRY
Rachel Joyce

One day Harold Fry, a retiree getting on in years, sets off to post a letter of condolence to a former friend, Queenie Hennessey, who is dying of cancer. He hasn't seen her in twenty years and can manage only, "I'm sorry." At the first letter box, he decides ...

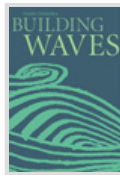
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Reviewed by **Tad Deffler**

boundary between the sleeping and the waking world kept close and permeable...

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Reviewed by **Tim Jones**



BUILDING WAVES

Taeko Tomioka

Translated from the Japanese by Louise Heal Kawai

First published in Japan almost thirty years ago and now translated into English this year, *Building Waves* is a fictional and highly symbolic look at the social changes washing over Japan in the early 1980s. These changes include women moving out of their traditional roles...

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Reviewed by **Joyce Nickel**



THE TENANTS OF THE HÔTEL BIRON

Laura Marella

Laura Marella'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**



NEW ISLANDS AND OTHER STORIES

María Luisa Bombal

Translated from the Spanish by Richard and Lucia Cunningham

There is consensus that María Luisa Bombal is amongst the Latin American literary stars. Says Jorge Luis Borges in the preface to this slim volume of short stories: "...In Santiago, Chile, Buenos Aires, in Caracas or Lima, when they name the best names, María Luisa Bombal is never missing from the list."

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Reviewed by **Akeela Gaibie-Dawood**

DROWNED

Therese Bohman

Translated from the Swedish by Marlaine Delargy



THREE STRONG WOMEN

Marie NDiaye

Translated from the French by John Fletcher

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**



THE SOMETIMES LAKE

Sandy Bonny

The stories in *The Sometimes Lake* reflect Sandy Bonny's passion for science. Whether the character is a teacher working with disadvantaged indigenous children in Canada's far north...

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Reviewed by **Joyce Nickel**



FAREWELL: A MANSION IN OCCUPIED ISTANBUL

Ayse Kulin

Translated from the Turkish by Kenneth J. Dakan

Like the story of the blind men and an elephant, the answer to the question, "What type of book is this?" will depend greatly upon your perspective. Some might describe *Farewell* as an adventure set during the Turkish War of Independence. Kamal is a radical supporter of ...

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Reviewed by **Tad Deffler**



DAUGHTER OF SILENCE

Manuela Fingueret

Translated from the Spanish by Darrell B. Lockhart

A caste of murderers. The Nazis gassed, starved, humiliated. Here they insult, torture, rape. Caste of murderers....Am I here or there?

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Reviewed by **Andy Barnes**






It's high summer, and student Marina decides to take refuge from her lacklustre university studies and her dead-end relationship at her sister Stella's home in the Swedish countryside.

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Reviewed by Rachel Hayes

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