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*Celebrating Women Writers from Around the World*

# Belletrista

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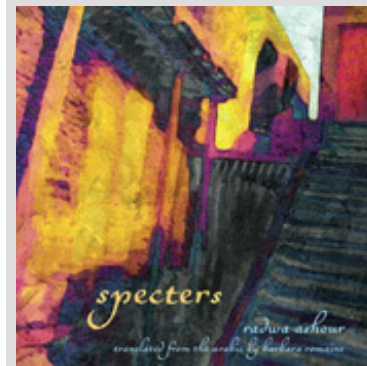
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Explore Africa! Click here to go to reviews of 20 great books written by African women.



We interview Najat El-Hachmi, author of *The Last Patriarch*.



*Specters* by Egyptian author Radwa Ashour, Chapter One

## **Belletrista - Issue 12**

July/August 2011

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If you are enjoying what you see here in Belletrista, please

With this issue Belletrista is marking her second birthday! Over the past two years, all of us here at Belletrista have enjoyed bringing to you a diversity of women writers from around the world, so that we might celebrate together the richness and variety of their literature.

In this issue, we are featuring a special section of twenty reviews of books by women from Africa. While not an exhaustive selection, it's an excellent introduction to women's writing from a vast and varied continent. In keeping with our African theme, we have an exclusive interview with Moroccan/Catalan author Najat El-Hachmi, and an excerpt from Egyptian author Radwa Ashour's latest book to be translated into English. Of course, you'll also find our usual review section of interesting books from around the world, and our largest ever New & Notable section, packed with fine books for your reading pleasure. Whether you are a regular to these pages or a newcomer, thank you for being a Belletrista reader!

## Reviews

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



### HOTEL BOSPHORUS

*Esmahan Aykol*

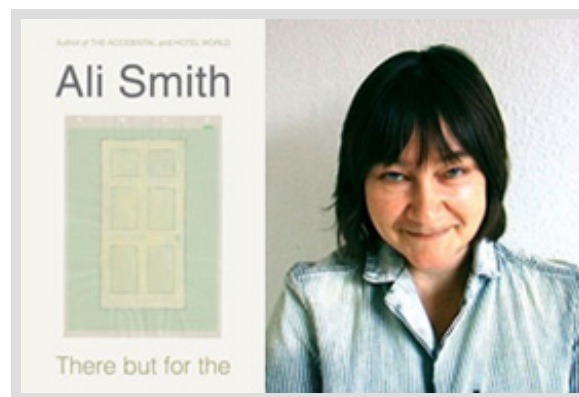
*Translated from the Turkish by Ruth Whitehouse*

Kati Hirschel is a young German bookseller who loves living in Istanbul and running a shop that specializes in mysteries and crime novels. She enjoys spending time with her Turkish friends, and her life ...

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Reviewed by Maggie Oldendorf

## Ali Smith's *There But For the*



An extended review by Rachael Beale



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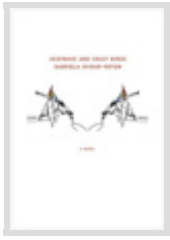
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## **HEATWAVE AND CRAZY BIRDS**

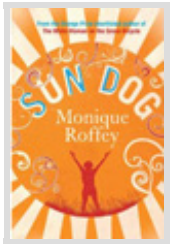
**Gavriela Avigur-Rolem**

*Translated from the Hebrew by Dalya Bilu*

*Heatwave and Crazy Birds* is a dense and complex, but ultimately rewarding book about one woman's search for 'her' Israel. Rich with historical references but rooted firmly in the present, it is a bittersweet examination of the Israeli people's relationship with the land they live on and the problems it faces.

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**Reviewed by Andy Barnes**



## **SUN DOG**

**Monica Roffey**

Glorious colours riotously abound in Monique Roffey's first novel: 'deep purples, maroons, reds and oranges'. It is set in a delicatessen cum cafe in Shepherd's Bush, London where large, ungainly August Chalmin presides over culinary riches.

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**Reviewed by Chris Mills**



## **SMUGGLED**

**Christina Shea**

This is a story about getting lost and being found. It begins in the perfect time and place for a tale of identity stolen, transformed and rediscovered: 1943, in the midst of the Holocaust. You might think you can imagine what comes next, but that's unlikely. The story is surprising yet realistic, one that has not been told often enough. What happened to the Holocaust survivors who ended up trapped behind the Iron Curtain...

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**Reviewed by Kathleen Ambroggi**

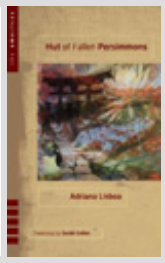
## **If Written By a Woman**

Visit our new Belletrista blog!

### **The Caine Prize for African Writing 2011 – shortlist announced**

The shortlist for this year's Caine Prize has just been announced and three women are in the running for the prestigious award. This is always an exciting time of year – the Prize is a great way to discover short stories by excellent writers. Lucky for us, the Prize's website links to a copy of ...

**Read the Rest**



## **THE HUT OF FALLEN PERSIMMONS**

***Adriana Lisboa***

*Translated from the Portuguese by Sarah Green*

It is interesting to read a book that you are certain will be a love story—though you aren't sure whether happy or ill-fated, requited or unrequited—only to find yourself perpetually poised, waiting for that romance to start. Haruki, an illustrator of books, and Celina, an embroidery artist, meet by chance on a subway in Rio de Janeiro.

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**Reviewed by Tad Deffler**

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