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Celebrating Women Writers from Around the World

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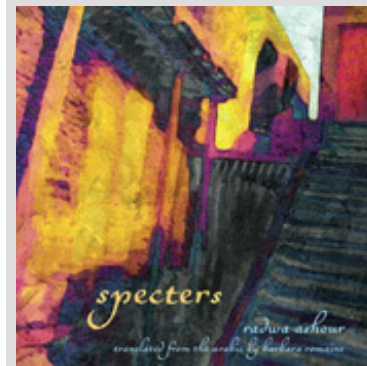
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Explore Africa! Click here to go to reviews of 20 great books written by African women.



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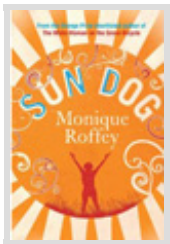
If you are enjoying what you see here in Belletrista, please

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...



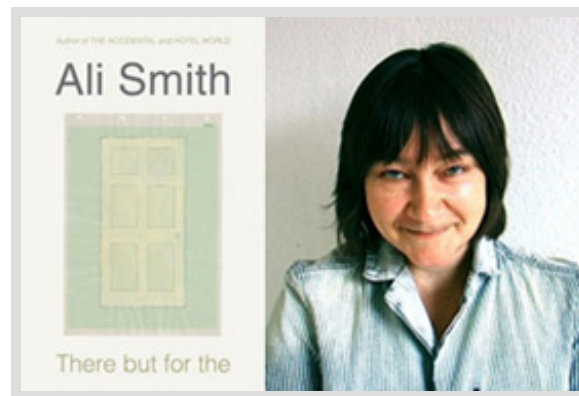
SUN DOG *Monica Roffey*

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

Ali Smith's *There But For the*



An extended review by Rachael Beale



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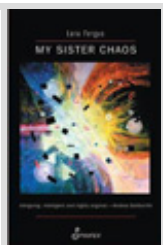
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MY SISTER CHAOS

Lara Fergus

This fine novel grows out of the tension between order and chaos. Civil war brings chaos to previously orderly lands, and maps bring order and a finite structure to an endlessly disordered world. Yet seeking perfect order in life can itself bring a sort of chaos. These tensions play out in the lives of two sisters, refugees from a country destroyed by war.

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Reviewed by **Michael W. Matthew**



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**



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**

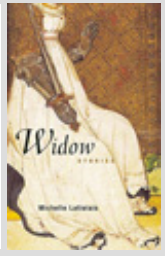
If Written By a Woman

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



WIDOW: STORIES

Michelle Latiolais

Michelle Latiolais has a rapacious love of words. She plays with them, rolls them around in her mouth, ruminates on their meanings and their origins, reads them backwards even, and links them to other words, constantly coming to different insights and enjoyment of the language.

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Reviewed by Akeela Gaibie Dawood

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