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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 Ambrogio 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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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**



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**

Angélica Gorodischer



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



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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 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**



DROWNED

Therese Bohman

Translated from the Swedish by Marlaine Delargy

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**

Uzma Aslam Khan



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.



Links We Like





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

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