

# Senselessness Horacio Castellanos Moya

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*Looking for Blackfellas' Point* New Directions Publishing

"She was an 18th century black Surinamese woman worth millions of dollars. But she sought the forbidden: to marry a white man. Why, when she already had so much?" "Elisabeth Samson's immense wealth puzzled many early historians who concluded that it could only have been the result of an inheritance from a master with whom she had lived and by whom she had been set free. After all, how could a woman during a period of slavery and institutionalised discrimination have accumulated so much wealth? And why, then, was she so eager to marry a white man in a time when whites established their own rules and standards for all? The novel is set in eighteenth-century Dutch Guiana (Suriname) where it was not unusual for a white man to solicit black women. Instead, we remain intrigued with this mysterious, fascinating, and intelligent black woman's dream of marrying a white man, in defiance of all norms and conventions, to gain the acceptance she craves in Dutch colonial society."--BOOK JACKET. **Slash and Burn** New Directions Publishing

Latin American noir at its finest. "[A] diverse collection of stories which reflect the harshness and also the brittle brilliance of life in Mexico City."--MostlyFiction Book Reviews Akashic Books's acclaimed series of original noir anthologies has set a high standard for portraying cities and their neighborhoods in all their dark and violent splendor. Now, "Mexico City Noir surpasses that standard with phantasmagorical tales of double-dealing, corruption,

violence and self-delusion . . . This collection is such a varied literary feast. Fans of Jorge Luis Borges will find surprises galore in the story 'Violeta Isn't Here Anymore.' The noir-ish maze that Myriam Laurini constructs with her flair for the shifting realities of 'magical realism' is dazzling enough, and then up pops Borges . . . "Peel back one layer and find something totally unexpected, these tales tell us again and again. As Eduardo Monteverde writes, 'the heart of Mexico City is made of mud and green rocks, and the God of Rain continues to cry over the whole country.' And standing on that ground, the 12 writers here find inspiration to die for" (Shelf Awareness). This anthology includes brand-new stories by Paco Ignacio Taibo II, Eugenio Aguirre, Eduardo Antonio Parra, Bernardo Fernández Belfrage, Óscar de la Borbolla, Rolo Díez, Victor Luiz González, F.G. Haghenbeck, Juan Hernández Luna, Myriam Laurini, Eduardo Monteverde, and Julia Rodríguez.

**False Calm** Metropolitan Books One of Argentina's 30,000 "disappeared," Alicia Partnoy was abducted from her home by secret police and taken to a concentration camp where she was tortured, and where most of the other prisoners were killed. Her writings were smuggled out of prison and published anonymously in human rights journals. *The Little School* is Alicia Partnoy's memoir of her disappearance and imprisonment in Argentina in the 1970s. Told in a series of tales that resound in memory like parables, *The Little School* is proof of the resilience of the human spirit and the healing powers

of art. This second edition features a revised introduction by the author and a preface by Julia Alvarez.

**On Heroes, Lizards and Passion** East African Publishers A genre-bending exploration of the ghost towns of Patagonia.

**Tinisima** Taylor & Francis Acclaimed Salvadoran author Moya's astounding debut in English has a peculiarly lighthearted, and in fact comic air even as it is tormented by the violence of history ("El Pais").

**A Dream Come True** Soho Press Set in a world five hundred years in the future, Welly and the wizard Merlin are forced to take on a new type of powerful magic in a highly complex and technical world after Welly's friend, Heather, is kidnapped by the sorceress Morgan LeFay. Reprint.

**Missionaries** New Directions Publishing For decades, Colombia was the 'narcostate'. Now travel to Colombia and South America is on the rise, and it's seen as one of the rising stars of the global economy. Where does the truth lie? Writer and journalist Tom Feiling, author of the acclaimed study of cocaine *The Candy Machine*, has journeyed throughout Colombia, down roads that were until recently too dangerous to travel, to paint a fresh picture of one of the world's most notorious and least-understood countries. He talks to former guerrilla fighters and their ex-captives; women whose sons were 'disappeared' by paramilitaries; the nomadic tribe who once thought they were the only people on earth and now charge \$10 for a photo; the Japanese 'emerald cowboy' who made a fortune from mining; and revels in the stories that countless ordinary Colombians tell. How did a land likened to paradise by the first conquistadores become a byword for hell on earth? Why is one of the world's most unequal nations also one of its happiest? How is it rebuilding itself after decades of violence, and how successful has the process been so far? Vital, shocking, often funny and never simplistic, *Short Walks from Bogota* unpicks the tangled fabric of Colombia, to create a stunning work of reportage, history and travel writing.

**Luisa in Realityland** New Star Books Claribel Alegria combines poetry, fiction, and historical narrative about her early childhood in Santa Ana, El Salvador.

The Free Negress Elisabeth Archipelago Argentina, the dictators are on trial, but corruption and violence are still rampant. A crime novel by a former guerrillero.

The Art of Political Murder Abrams A Rainmaker Translation Grant Winner from the Black Mountain Institute: Senselessness, acclaimed Salvadoran author Horacio Castellanos Moya's astounding debut in English, explores horror with hilarity and electrifying panache. A boozing, sex-obsessed writer finds himself employed by the Catholic Church (an institution he loathes) to proofread a 1,100 page report on the army's massacre and torture of thousands of indigenous villagers a decade earlier, including the testimonies of the survivors. The writer's job is to tidy it up: he rants, "that was what my work was all about, cleaning up and giving a manicure to the Catholic hands that were piously getting ready to squeeze the balls of the military tiger." Mesmerized by the strange Vallejo-like poetry of the Indians' phrases ("the houses they were sad because no people were inside them"), the increasingly agitated and frightened writer is endangered twice over: by the spell the strangely beautiful heart-rending voices exert over his tenuous sanity, and by real danger—after all, the murderers are the very generals who still run this unnamed Latin American country.

**Partitions** New Directions Publishing Francisco Goldman's widely-acclaimed retelling of the Bishop Gerardi murder case, now reissued with a new epilogue marking the release of George Clooney's production of the HBO documentary film based on Goldman's account. Known in Guatemala as "The Crime of the Century," the Bishop Gerardi murder case, with its unexpectedly outlandish scenarios and sensational developments, confounded observers and generated extraordinary controversy. When it was first published, *The Art of Political Murder* exposed a cover-up of the crime and helped change Guatemala's destiny as it emerged from decades of civil war. In the years since, major players in the case have been imprisoned, including the president of Guatemala, and one of the key suspects was murdered while in prison, along with thirteen others. Now reissued with a new epilogue to account for these recent events and their far-reaching repercussions, this is an unmissable new edition of this "extremely important book." (Salman Rushdie).

*Senselessness* New Directions

Publishing

A beguiling, short and yet sweeping prose-poem, *Afternoon Raag* is the account of a young Bengali man studying at Oxford University and caught in complicated love triangle. His loneliness and melancholy sharpen his memories of home, which come back to haunt him in vivid, sensory detail. Intensely moving, superbly written, *Afternoon Raag* is a testimony to the clash of the old and the new; arrivals and departures. With an introduction by James Wood

**The Revolutionaries Try Again** Vintage This fictionalized account of the life of Tina Modotti is a fascinating story of the complex woman caught up in the social and political turbulence of the pre-World War II era. *The Dream of My Return* New Directions Publishing

"Seven short stories vividly depicting different facets of Belize's reality. From the country's rural areas to New York City, we accompany Belizean women and men as they go through the joys and hardships of life. Zoila Ellis demonstrates a definite ability to perceive and reproduce situations and characters, heightening the emotional impact of everyday events and rendering them into fine literature"--Page 4 of cover

*The Projectionist* Biblioasis

As El Salvador returns to peace after more than a decade of civil war, Eduardo Sosa, an unemployed sociologist, becomes fascinated by a homeless man who lives in a beat-up yellow Chevrolet Assuming his identity, Sosa unleashes a reign of terror on San Salvador with his snake accomplices. A macabre high-speed romp, in which violence and comedy become almost indistinguishable.

Artforum Coffee House Press

A wry, propulsive, visceral collection of stories about the afterlives of utopia -- imagined and real -- from the author of the Writers' Trust Prize-winning *Siege 13*. Fleeing communist Budapest by air balloon, a wrestler tries to reinvent himself in Canada. On a formal invitation from the Party's General Secretary, a Belgian bureaucrat "defects" to communist Hungary, chasing the dream of a better world. Meanwhile, a provocateur filmmaker drinks and blasts his way to a final, celluloid confrontation with fascism, while an enfant terrible philosopher works on his prophetic, posthumously panned masterpiece, *Dyschrony*. These are among the decadent and absurd characters who hover around the promise and failure of utopia across the pages of *Ghost Geographies*. Crossing the porous borders of fact and

fiction, the reinforced ones of the communist East and the capitalist-democratic West, and the literary ones between Bolaño, Sebald, and Kundera, these new stories confirm that, in the words of the *Washington Post*, Tamas Doboz's "approaches to telling stories, and his commitment not only to provoke thought but to entertain, constitute a virtuoso performance."

Mad World Book\*hug Press

"Hilarious... This book charmed my socks off." —Patricia O'Conner, *New York Times Book Review* Mary Norris has spent more than three decades working in *The New Yorker's* renowned copy department, helping to maintain its celebrated high standards. In *Between You & Me*, she brings her vast experience with grammar and usage, her good cheer and irreverence, and her finely sharpened pencils to help the rest of us in a boisterous language book as full of life as it is of practical advice. Named a Best Book of the Year by NPR, Amazon, *Wall Street Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Kirkus*, and *Library Journal*.

*Revulsion: Thomas Bernhard in San Salvador* New Directions Publishing

With pitch-perfect, pitch-black humor, this saga refracts through one family's struggles a whole country's nightmare. The tyrant of the book is the actual pro-Nazi mystic Maximiliano Hernández Martínez, known as the Warlock, who came to power in El Salvador in 1932. An attempted coup in April of 1944 failed, but a general strike in May finally forced him out of office. The book takes place during that tumultuous month between the coup and the strike. With her husband a political prisoner and her son fleeing for his life, wealthy Haydée Aragon takes matters into her own hands. Events ricochet from one near-disaster to the next.--Publisher's description.

By Night in Chile Grove Press

This interdisciplinary book explores human rights in the Americas from multiple perspectives and fields. Taking 1492 as a point of departure, the text explores Eurocentric historiographies of human rights and offer a more complete understanding of the genealogy of the human rights discourse and its many manifestations in the Americas. The essays use a variety of approaches to reveal the larger contexts from which they emerge, providing a cross-sectional view of subjects, countries, methodologies and foci explicitly dedicated toward understanding historical factors and circumstances that have shaped human rights nationally and

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internationally within the Americas. The chapters explore diverse cultural, philosophical, political and literary expressions where human rights discourses circulate across the continent taking into consideration issues such as race, class, gender, genealogy and nationality. While acknowledging the ongoing centrality of the nation, the volume promotes a shift in the study of the Americas as a dynamic transnational space of conflict, domination, resistance, negotiation, complicity, accommodation, dialogue, and solidarity where individuals, nations, peoples, institutions, and intellectual and political movements share struggles, experiences, and imaginaries. It will be of interest to all scholars and students of InterAmerican studies and those from all disciplines interested in Human Rights.

*Mexico City Noir* New Directions  
Publishing

A man of failing reputation, Toss Raymond lives alone by the South Saskatchewan River, near the drought-ruined farm town of Mayford. It's the summer of 1988, a year since Toss's marriage went south, and he made a public spectacle of himself by thrashing the neighbour who he wrongly thought had cuckolded him. Now, as he finishes what might be his last year as a high school teacher and the school board gathers grounds for his dismissal, Toss has taken up with two newcomers in town, and neither association is likely to help him appear any more upright. Here in his "summer of sobering first anniversaries," in a place under siege from both drought and his friend Dewey's dark inventions, Toss must decide what he will remain true to: his troublesome desire to follow his heart and his imagination, or his idea of "home" — unhistoried, dying, and likely to leave no trace. A dense, rich, and entirely rewarding novel, *The Projectionist* is original, moving, and surprisingly funny.