
Varamo Cesar Aira

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Shantytown New Directions Publishing

“ Both a scathing and picaresque comedy, a biting and spicy concoction. Just like tequila. ” —Le Monde It ' s not easy being a cop in Mexico City. Meet Carlito, a police detective with a complicated life. A wife, a mistress, children by both. He resorts to money laundering and arms dealing to finance his police activity. The money for justice must be found somewhere. The corpse in the hotel room is that of a gringo with a weakness for blue movies. Carlito ' s maverick investigation leads him into a labyrinth of gang wars and corrupt politicians. Rolo Diez, born in Argentina, was imprisoned for two years during the military dictatorship. He now lives in Mexico City, where he works as a novelist and screenwriter.

How I Became a Nun Melville House

A nun falls in love with a wealthy landowner in this tale set in Spain. The romance begins when Sister Consuela is appointed mother superior of a convent and has to raise funds for a medical clinic. By the author of *The Truth About the Savolta Case*.

Journey by Moonlight Giramondo Publishing

A middle-class, directionless ox of a young man who helps the trash pickers of Buenos Aires's shantytown attracts the attention of a corrupt policeman who would use anyone including innocent kids to break a drug ring he believes is operating in the slum. By the author of *An Episode in the Life of a Landscape Painter*.

The Linden Tree Bitter Lemon Press

From the winner of the 2015 Man Booker International Prize

Severina New Directions Publishing

"Traveler of the Century" is a deeply philosophical novel, chock-full of discussions about philosophy, history, and literature with pillow

talk about love and translation. It is a book that looks to the past in order to have us reconsider our present.

The Miracle Cures of Dr. Aira New Directions Publishing

A delirious collection of short stories from the Latin American master of micro-fiction. A delirious collection of short stories from the Latin American master of microfiction, César Aira—the author of at least eighty novels, most of them barely one hundred pages long—*The Musical Brain & Other Stories* comprises twenty tales about oddballs, freaks, and loonies. Aira, with his fuga hacia adelante or "flight forward" into the unknown, gives us imponderables to ponder and bizarre and seemingly out-of-context plot lines, as well as thoughtful and passionate takes on everyday reality. The title story, first published in the *New Yorker*, is the creme de la creme of this exhilarating collection.

The Year of the Flood New Directions Publishing

The Dark Wet is the first collection of short stories by Jess Huon. Rich, lyrical and deeply felt, it explores the struggle towards a sense of self and belonging, expressed in three sequences of stories: that of Jed Harp, his lover Danny Hess, and his poet sister Alexandra; of Bell and Oliver, a couple moving between Melbourne and San Francisco; and of a young woman confronting religion and sex in a Christian community in India. Drawing on a rich range of settings, from the lush Top End of Australia, to the mountains of India, and vibrant urban centres, *The Dark Wet* is a brutally honest portrayal of

lives grasping at fluidity and transgression, and the possibility of redemption and change.

The Melancholy of Resistance

Bloomsbury Publishing USA

This highly acclaimed contemporary Argentinian novel is the first in Giramondo's Literature of the South series, featuring innovative fiction and non-fiction by writers of the southern hemisphere. It is translated from the Spanish by Australian translator Alice Whitmore. *All My Goodbyes* is a novel told in overlapping vignettes, which follow the travels of a young Argentinian woman across Europe (Málaga, Madrid, Heidelberg, Berlin) and back to Argentina (Buenos Aires, Patagonia) as she flees from situation to situation, job to job, and relationship to relationship. Within the complexity of the narrator's situation, a backstory emerges about a brutal murder in Patagonia which she may or may not be implicated in, but whether this is the cause of her flight is never entirely clear - she is driven as much by psychological concerns, her relationship with her father, uncertainty about her identity and purpose in life. The novella is, as the title suggests, a catalogue of goodbyes, the result of a decade-long cycle of self-inflicted alienation which the narrator, despite herself, seems fated to perpetuate. In its structure it recalls the rich Argentinian tradition of Cortazar and Borges; its language is by turns stark and elaborate, brutal in its economy and yet poetic in its imagery. 'She is a writer of montage, of narrative leaps, of what she calls 'a fragmentary way of seeing'. In her writing we sense at once a farewell and a recognition, a greeting and a rupturing.' — Esther Cross 'All My Goodbyes is one of those books that spins intensity out of brevity. A novel in which careful prose, coupled with an ample and precise vocabulary, coexists with

a gracefully non-linear novelistic form.' – Eduardo Berti

Varamo (NE) New Directions Publishing

A new translation of the Guatemalan author whom Roberto Bolaño called "the most rigorous writer of my generation, the most transparent...the most luminous of all." "Right from the start I picked her for a thief, although that day she didn't take anything. . . . I knew she'd be back," the narrator/bookseller of Severina recalls in this novel's opening pages. Imagine a dark-haired book thief as alluring as she is dangerous. Imagine the mesmerized bookseller secretly tracking the volumes she steals, hoping for insight into her character, her motives, her love life. In Rodrigo Rey Rosa's hands, this tale of obsessive love is told with almost breathless precision and economy. The bookstore owner is soon entangled in Severina's mystery: seductive and peripatetic, of uncertain nationality, she steals books to actually read them and to share with her purported grandfather, Señor Blanco. In this unsettling exploration of the alienating and simultaneously liberating power of love, the bookseller's monotonous existence is rocked by the enigmatic Severina. As in a dream, the disoriented man finds that the thin border between rational and irrational is no longer reliable. Severina confirms Rey Rosa's privileged place in contemporary world literature.

Masterworks Of Latin American Short Fiction New Directions Publishing

Depicts buildings from twenty-two ranches in Argentina.

The Translator's Visibility New Directions Publishing

A cerebral and wildly funny story revolving around the incongruity of a gold Rolex watch spotted on a lowly goatherd's wrist. Daily conversations in outdoor cafés with cultured friends can help make reality a little more real. Unfortunately, however, during one such conversation, one man spots a gold Rolex watch on a TV soap opera's goatherd. This seemingly small absurdity sets off alarms: strange sensations of deception, distress, and incipient madness. The two men's uneasiness soon becomes a nightmare as the TV adventure

advances with a real-life plot – involving a mutant strain of killer algae – to take over the world! The Conversations, a reality within a fiction within a parallel reality, is hilariously funny and surprisingly touching.

The Last September New Directions Publishing

Birthday is among the very best of Aira—it will surprise readers new to his work, and will deeply satisfy his many fans. Before you know it you are no longer young, and by the way, while you were thinking about other things, the world was changing—and then, just as suddenly you realize that you are fifty years old. Aira had anticipated his fiftieth—a time when he would not so much recall years past as look forward to what lies ahead—but the birthday came and went without much ado. It was only months later, while having a somewhat banal conversation with his wife about the phases of the moon, that he realized how little he really knows about his life. In Birthday Aira searches for the events that were significant to him during his first fifty years. Between anecdotes, and memories, the author ponders the origins of his personal truths, and meditates on literature meant as much for the writer as for the reader, on ignorance, knowledge, and death. Finally, Birthday is a little sad, in a serene, crystal-clear kind of way, which makes it even more irresistible.

The Seamstress and the Wind Rizzoli International Publications

"Mis novelas parten de una idea, de algún tipo de juego intelectual, de algo que me parece prometedor y desafiante", admitió César Aira alguna vez. Ideas que, como es sabido, a menudo lindan con el disparate o lo inaudito. "Entre lo bueno y

lo nuevo, mil veces lo nuevo", es uno de sus lemas. No sorprende, así, que su obra celebre la invención y eche mano, como punto de partida, a casos o incidentes singulares, a veces nimios, otras veces decididamente inverosímiles. Bastan las primeras páginas de Varamo para entender de qué se trata este caso en particular: en 1923 un funcionario oscuro y casi kafkiano escribe en diez o doce horas un poema; el hecho es una prodigiosa "burbuja en su biografía" porque nunca antes había escrito ni se le había ocurrido un solo verso y tampoco ocurrirá después. El poema en cuestión es la obra maestra de la poesía moderna centroamericana: "El Canto del Niño Virgen". En un gesto muy digno de Aira, Varamo no corrige ni retoca su poema, que se publica en forma de libro días después. Lo que sigue es el "despliegue": el estudio de los hechos ocurridos desde el momento en que Varamo cobró su menudo sueldo, embolsó los billetes y notó que estos eran falsos hasta el momento en que puso punto final a su célebre poema. En otras palabras: "¿qué relación puede haber entre un par de billetes falsos y una obra maestra literaria?" Entre mentira y verdad, la acción de Varamo transcurre en un Panamá-fantasma. Emulando a Alfred Jarry, podría argüirse que Varamo "se sitúa en Panamá, o sea en Ninguna Parte". O decirse Todas Partes, con esa especie de universalidad que hay en todo fabulista y que, según se advierte aquí, también puede resultar más que propicia para un antifabulista irónico.

Eduardo Berti

Argentina, the Great Estancias New Directions Publishing

An early-twentieth-century classic – the turbulent, dreamlike story of a businessman torn between middle-class respectability and sensational bohemia "No one who

has read it has failed to love it." Central American poetry.

– Nicholas Lezard Mihály and Erzsi Unmistakably the work of César Aira, Varamo is about the day in the life of a hapless government employee who, after wandering around all night after being paid by the Ministry in counterfeit money, eventually writes the most celebrated masterwork of modern Central American poetry, *The Song of the Virgin Boy*. What is odd is that, at fifty years old, Varamo "hadn't previously written one sole verse, nor had it ever occurred to him to write one." Among other things, this novella is an ironic allegory of the poet's vocation and inspiration, the subtlety of artistic genius, and our need to give literature an historic, national, psychological, and aesthetic context. But Aira goes further still – converting the ironic allegory into a formidable parody of the expectations that all narrative texts generate – by laying out the pathos of a man who between one night and the following morning is touched by genius. Once again Aira surprises us with his unclassifiable fiction: original and enjoyable, worthy of many a thoughtful chuckle, Varamo invites the reader to become an accomplice in the author's irresistible game.

Traveler of the Century New Directions Publishing

Was it a nightmare—the result of a bad case of indigestion—or did something truly scary happen after dinner in the Argentine town of Coronel Pringles? One Saturday night a bankrupt bachelor in his sixties and his mother dine with a wealthy friend. They discuss their endlessly connected neighbors. They talk about a mysterious pit that opened up one day, and the old bricklayer who sometimes walked to the cemetery to cheer himself up. Anxious to show off his valuable antiques, the host shows his guests old windup toys and takes them to admire an enormous doll. Back at home, the bachelor decides to watch some late night TV before retiring. The news quickly takes a turn for the worse as, horrified, the newscaster finds herself reporting about the dead rising from their graves, leaving the cemetery, and sucking the blood of the living—all somehow, disturbingly reminiscent of the dinner party.

The Musical Brain: And Other Stories Pushkin Press Classics
A collection of F. Scott Fitzgerald's best drinking stories makes this the most intoxicating New Directions Pearl yet!

The Burning Elephant New Directions Publishing

The surprising, magnificent story of a Panamanian government employee who, one day, after a series of troubles, writes the celebrated masterwork of modern

novel dreamed its way through another. *Dinner* Giramondo Publishing
Ema The Captive, César Aira's second novel, is perhaps closest in style to his popular *An Episode in the Life of a Landscape Painter* and *The Hare* in nineteenth-century Argentina, Ema, a delicate woman of indeterminate origins, is captured by soldiers and taken, along with with her newborn babe, to live as a concubine in a crude fort on the very edges of civilization. The trip is appalling (deprivations and rapes prevail along the way), yet the real story commences once Ema arrives at the fort, where she takes on a succession of lovers among the soldiers and Indians, leading to a brave and grand entrepreneurial experiment. As is usual with Aira's work, the wonder of the book is in the details of customs, beauty, and language, and the curious, perplexing reality of human nature.

An Episode in the Life of a Landscape Painter Giramondo Publishing

Juli'n R'os's latest comic extravaganza is at once a serious literary excavation and a lecture as delivered by Groucho Marx on the subject of that great (and often imposing) cornerstone of world literature: James Joyce's "Ulysses." Every book is born out of an earlier book (or books), and much as Joyce's novel unraveled Homer scene by

scene, R'os's "The House of Ulysses" returns the favor, giving us the story of several bickering characters hoping to get to the bottom of Joyce's masterpiece (by force, if necessary), their conversation walking the line between a slapstick parody of the Joyce industry and a legitimate "guide for the perplexed." Focusing on each of Ulysses' characters, ideas, and references in turn, "The House of Ulysses" provides a playful, punning, ideal companion for the experienced Joycean and cautious Ulysses-procrastinator alike: one novel dreamed its way through another.

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