



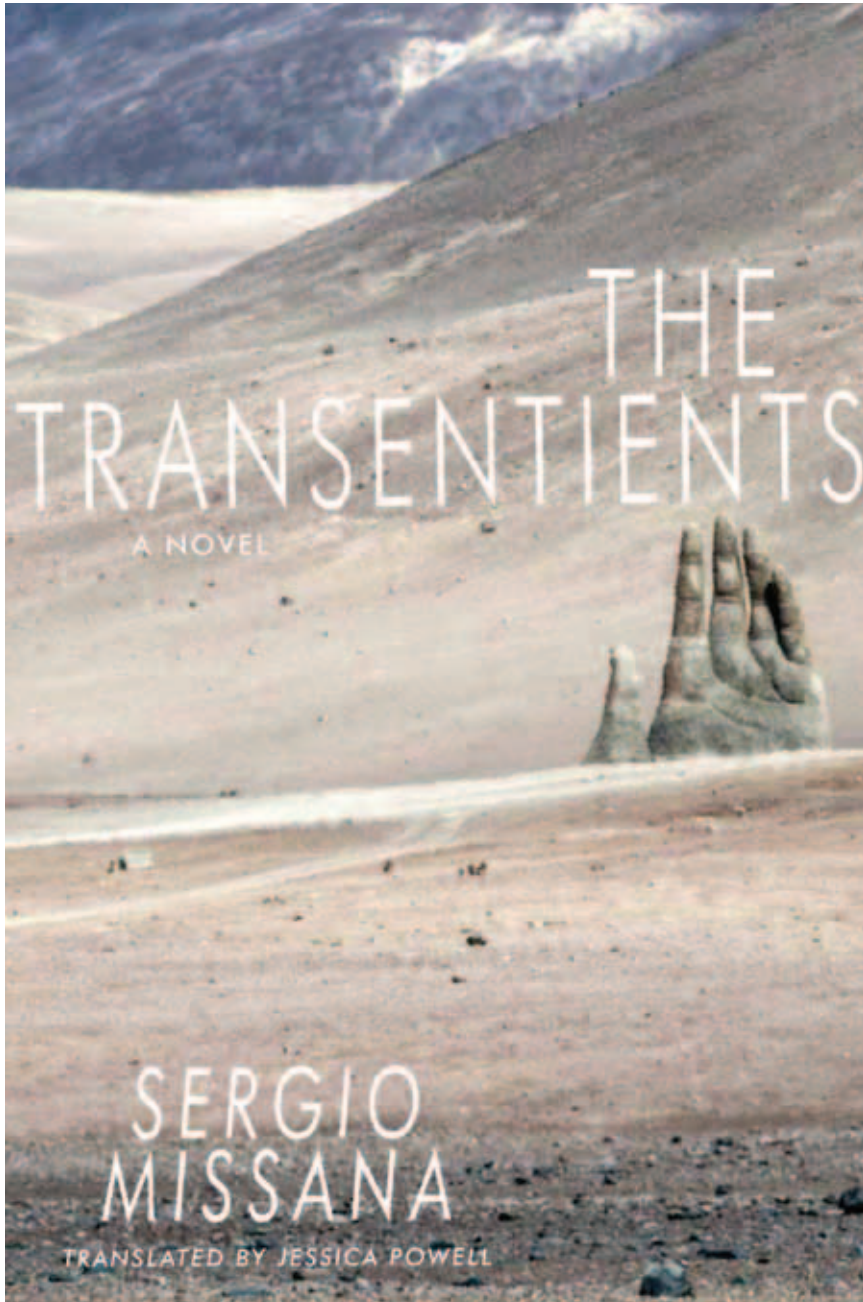
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## The Transients

*A Novel*

by Sergio Missana

*Translated from the Spanish by Jessica Powell*

Tomás Ugarte, an advertising executive in Santiago, Chile, is grappling with a mid-life crisis—turning forty, quitting his job and in the midst of a divorce—when he begins to experience inexplicable episodes of amnesia. Hoping to outrace this dilemma, he plans to travel abroad for a year and chart the second half of his life. Instead, he will journey into an unexpected, and very foreign territory, one where the boundary between the self and the other becomes dangerously interchangeable. Much like the works of Auster and Murakami, *The Transients* defies easy categorization: it is a genuinely disturbing psychological novel that borders on the uncanny. A bewitching puzzle-box with a propulsive plot, as well as a high-wire act of prose, at its core lies a metaphysical mystery that ensnares both the protagonist and the reader. Stretching from the streets of Santiago onto a treacherous escarpment in the Chilean Andes and to the hills of Valparaiso, and then careening out into the vast beckoning of the Atacama desert, *The Transients* traverses the porousness of reality . . . and the malleability of consciousness.

Upon its publication in Spanish, Carlos Fuentes called this novel one of the essential Latin American works of the new century. Now at last *The Transients* is available to an English-speaking audience, thanks in no small part to Jessica Powell's especially fine translation.

"Fortunately, neither Ugarte nor his author surrender to esotericism: those other lives are too sharp to be hallucinated and too imbricated with the "real" to be supernatural. . . . [Missana's] exact and detailed prose, and the steady hand that never loses the thread of a complex plot, are among the author's great achievements. But the greatest is that . . . as we read we fall into a cascade of reflected consciousness. . . ."—Carlos Franz, *El Mercurio*

The author of seven acclaimed novels, SERGIO MISSANA is a Chilean writer, journalist, scholar, editor, scriptwriter and environmental advocate. He is a professor of Latin American literature at the Stanford University Overseas Studies Program in Santiago, Chile, and Executive Director of the Climate Parliament.

After receiving degrees at Vassar and Stanford, JESSICA POWELL completed her Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese at UCSB. She has translated works by Neruda, Iturralde, Bioy Casares, and Ocampo, among other important Spanish language authors. She lives in Santa Barbara, California.

# Shadow Talk



TWENTY-FIVE NEW FAIRY TALES BY

ROBERT KELLY

with original drawings by

EMMA POLYAKOV

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## Shadow Talk by Robert Kelly

Illustrated by Emma Polyakov

As C. S. Lewis aptly reminds us, "Some day you will be old enough to start reading fairy tales again." And here they are: twenty-five new fairy tales for readers of all ages by a master fabulist and poet, accompanied by an equal number of original illustrations by a captivating artist, Emma Polyakov.

These tales possess such alluring titles as "The Fox and the Other Side," "The Priest's Peculiar Wife," "The Boy in the Camel," "The Leper's Touch," and "The Seal Wife." They employ suitably beguiling entities as well: spectral foxes, a telepathic ape and antelope, shadows that speak, an odd djinn, a puzzled king, an umbrella-loving serpent, protean elves, and other visions of the ultimate reality just beyond sight.



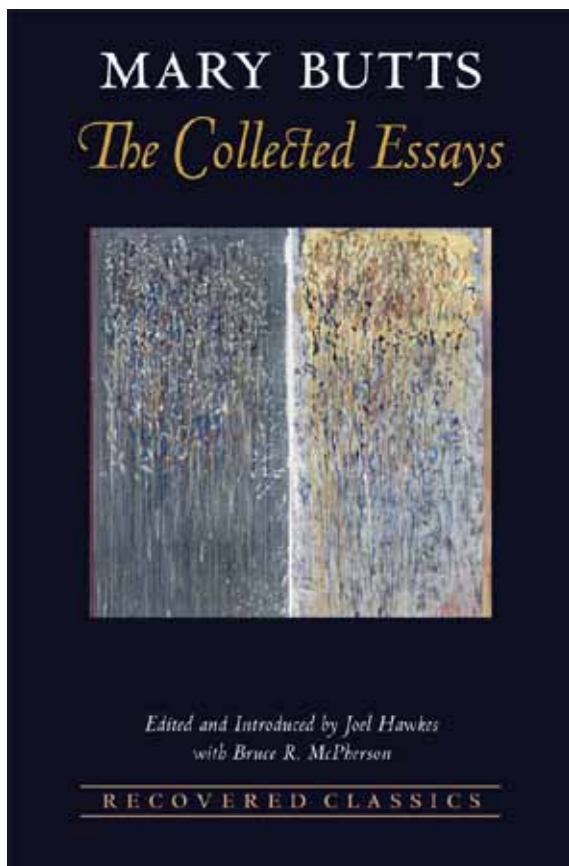
"After an inexplicable absence, how delicious to return to the fairy tale, that realm ruled by allure-ment, and discover a wealth of wonders: a rainbow that assures arousal, a boy who inhabits a camel, a butterfly shepherd who is also a cat! Prepare to be enchanted!" — Rikki Ducornet, author of *Brightfel-low* and *Trafik*

"*Shadow Talk* is full of deft, seemingly playful little fictions that quietly and covertly work their way under your skin. These twenty-five fairy tales bring Calvino's notion of lightness to the fairy tale genre. What results is something of a rein-vention of the form that only Robert Kelly could manage." — Brian Evenson, author of *Song for the Unraveling of the World*



The author himself remarks: "A story is the best gift we can give one another. A story can stay in mind or come to life again. When a story is simple enough it becomes a myth. Meanwhile I try to tell all the stories the mind tells me. And keep listening."

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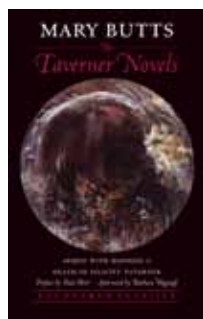
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## The Collected Essays of Mary Butts

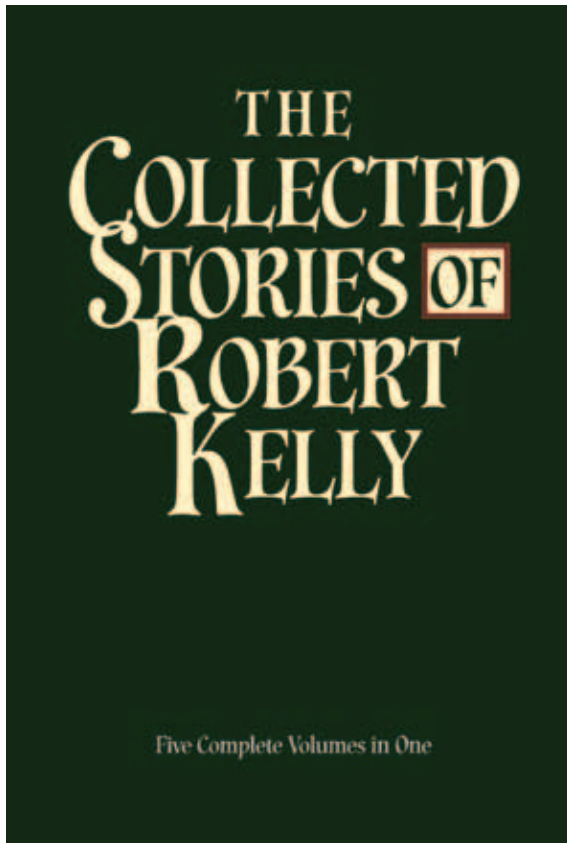
Edited and Introduced by Joel Hawkes

*The Collected Essays* is the latest addition to our ongoing project of bringing almost all of Mary Butts's writings into print, and follows our well-received release of *The Complete Stories* in 2014.

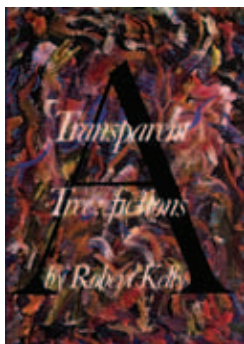
The eleven essays and 117 literary reviews gathered in this new book were mostly written by Butts between 1932 and 1937, the most productive period of her foreshortened career. The variety and depth of subjects is little short of remarkable, ranging from classical history and literature to popular fiction (historical, mystery, ghost stories), from modern history (French and English) to Eastern religion, and from the American Depression to gardening. She wrote first for *The Bookman*, essentially a trade journal, but soon was engaged to write reviews and essays for other prominent journals and newspapers — *The Sunday Times*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Spectator*, *The Manchester Guardian*, *The London Mercury*, *Time and Tide*, *Week-End Review*, *John O'London Weekly*, *The Adelphi*, *Everyman*, and even *Crime*. Moreover, "reviews" is a misnomer for most of Butts's shorter pieces, since her approach is conversational and opinionated, and sprinkled with fascinating asides. A eulogistic note in *Time and Tide* read: "[though] her natural abundance sometimes made her a misleading guide to other people's intentions, the depth of her knowledge and the essential truth of her vision gave a special value to her judgments even when she appeared to be going off at an unlikely tangent. She touched nothing that she did not in some way enrich."

By the time of her premature death in 1937, her creative work had gained a formidable reputation. Hailed for brave originality and stylistic panache, her many stories, novels, and poems were mentioned in comparison with Katherine Mansfield, D. H. Lawrence, and T. S. Eliot. Her career was championed variously by Ezra Pound, Robert McAlmon, Ford Madox Ford, Charles Williams, Evelyn Waugh and May Sinclair. Over the last several decades there has been a resurgence of interest in Mary Butts, and, after being "lost" for more than 60 years, her work has joined her contemporaries H.D., Djuna Barnes, Virginia Woolf, and Mina Loy in the pantheon of literary Modernism.

JOEL HAWKES is an English scholar of Modernism who teaches in Canada at the University of Victoria, BC. His research is particularly concerned with the physical, cultural and imaginative spaces we create and inhabit, and their ritual nature. He is also the editor of a volume of essays titled *Mary Butts: Conflicts, Contradictions, and Feminist Reconstructions*, which is forthcoming in 2022 from Bloomsbury Press.



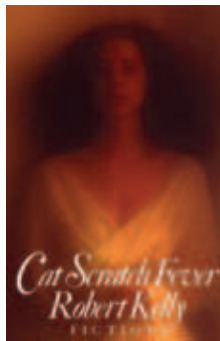
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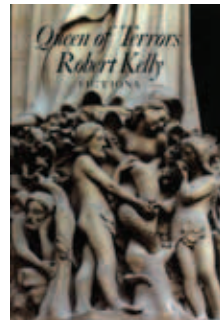
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“A lyrical prose style that mixes eroticism and erudition, a focus on the act of perception and on the presentation of sensory stimuli and sexual impulses in highly charged images, a sense of shock, wonder and utter bewilderment that human consciousness exists at all...”

—Larry McCaffery, *New York Times Book Review*

“A craftsman who shares our intimate thoughts and knows how to glance along with us at the chambers of our imagination.... Profound lessons in the art of knowing how the imagination takes hold of the ordinary world.”

—Marilyn Moss, *Review of Contemporary Fiction*

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—Norman Weinstein, *Los Angeles Reader*

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“What Kelly offers above all, in the tradition of all great poetic visionaries, is the way he unleashes the reader’s own power of second sight—the power we all have...of recognizing the universe in a single object or moment.”

—John Strausbaugh, *City Paper*

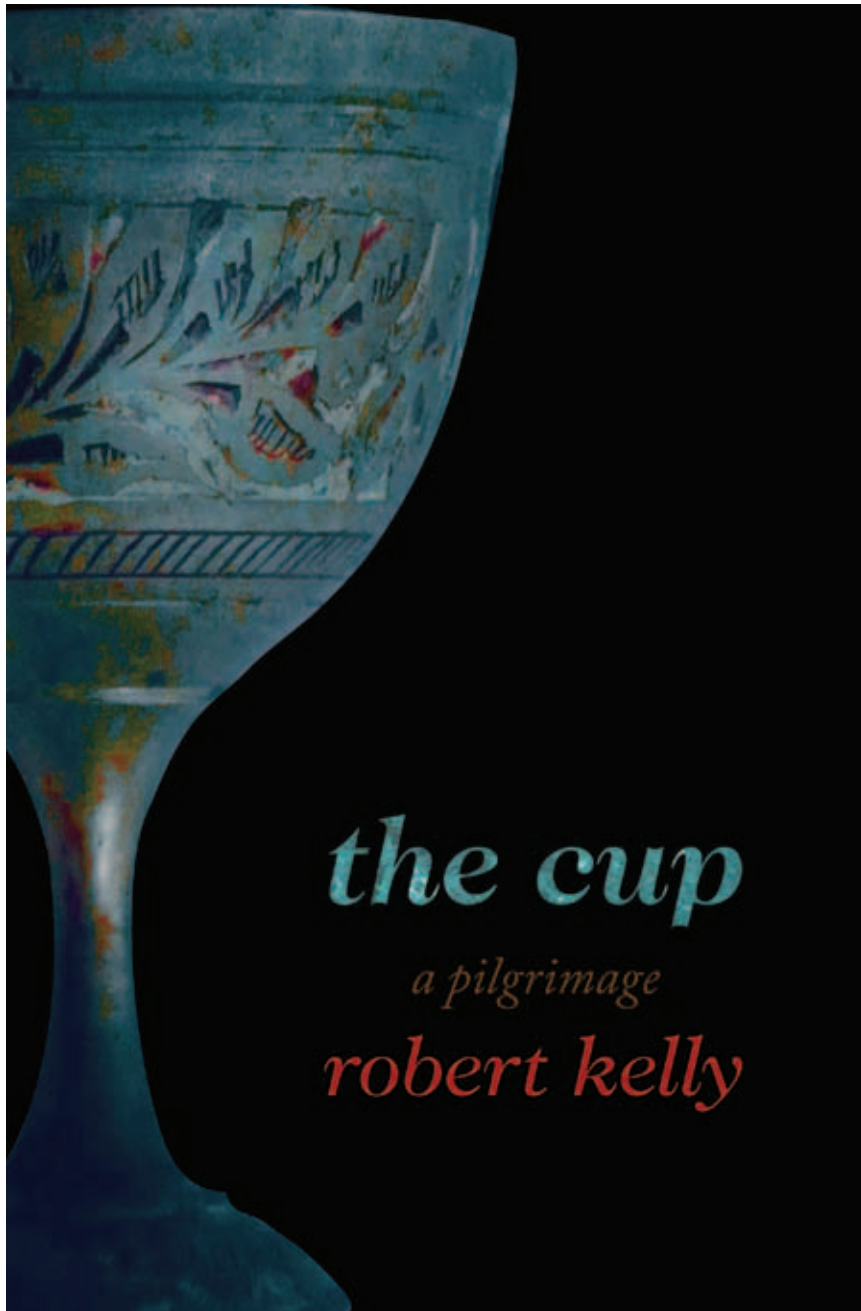
“The quality of those dazzling, structured, receding arches seen in old abbeys, which entice the mind away into spaces of light, air, and stone.”

—James Polk, *Woodstock Times*

“Mystical glimpses of a rich inner world.” — *Kirkus Reviews*

“With *The Logic of the World, and Other Fictions*, [Kelly] brings a collection of short stories touching on countless themes of the world and countless settings ranging from the metaphysical to the fantastic to the realistic.

—*The Midwest Book Review*



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## The Cup

A Pilgrimage  
by Robert Kelly

*The Cup* is a lyrical narrative poem in 91 sections about two young Americans following an ancient pilgrimage route, their explorations interwoven with legends of the Holy Grail.

"*The Cup* is a new island poem from Robert Kelly, consanguine with *Seaspel*, though *The Loom*, in its way, is as near an ancestor. Here is a *newer testament*, that of a plainspoken pilgrim, a quiet man guided by an even quieter man, until a woman comes along who knows the score, the dharma, the way through the fire exit, that very small difference, oneself. *The Cup* may be Kelly's deepest image and holds all he (all *it*, all *He*) knows of words and their deeds, women and their oceans, love and its deliverance through that most religious mystery, the yet unwritten book. Read it, my friend, though, as in dream, *nothing happens. It takes its time in you.*" — Billie Chernicoff, author of *Bronze* and *Amoretti*

"Robert Kelly gives the Holy Grail an origin and destination I myself never heard of, in this intense little epic of the Eternal Quest that somehow (mercifully?) is always only just a taste."

—Peter Lamborn Wilson, author of *Atlantis Manifesto*

In addition to many books of poetry and essays, ROBERT KELLY has published five collections of short fiction (all from McPherson & Co.); a book of plays (*Oedipus After Colonus*); and several novels (most recently *The Work of the Heart*). New poetry books include: *Calls*; *The Secret Name of Now*; and *Reasons to Resist*. A large collection of his essays, *A Voice Full of Cities*, has recently been matched by *A City Full of Voices*, studies of his work by many writers. He teaches in the Written Arts Program at Bard College.



**Renato!***A Novel*

by Eugene Mirabelli

*Introduction by Douglas Glover***Winner — 2021 Silver IPPY for Literary Fiction**

“This multi-generational Italian-American saga is nothing short of spectacular! . . . Beautiful, hot-blooded, *Renato!* is a reminder that though the world may change as well as our respective places in it, love will ground us, should we choose to embrace it. . . . Like his protagonist, at age ninety Mr. Mirabelli has persevered through the years and the publication of this book is nothing less than what appears to be the culmination of a lifetime spent burnishing words to smooth perfection. Embrace Mr. Mirabelli’s captivating work and prepare to be richly rewarded.

— *Literary Features Syndicate*

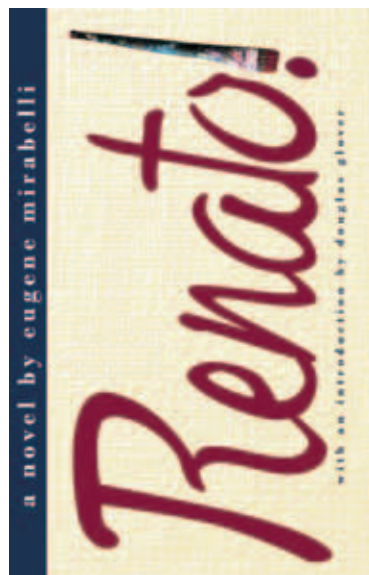
“*Renato!* is “a bittersweet, beautiful story that merits wide attention . . . [and] speaks wisely to life’s truths.”— *Kirkus Reviews*

“Mirabelli has reinvented the peculiarly Italian, extravagantly melodramatic and often comic vision—the opera—in the novel form.... He is a master of montage, sudden narrative breaks, interwoven plots and themes.... This truly is a wise and comforting book, funny and sad, wonderfully intelligent...”— Douglas Glover

“A major canvas...The real and the surreal blend together seamlessly; the love affair endures.”—Nicholas Delbanco, author of *Why Writing Matters*

“A blazing magnum opus” —*Publishers Weekly*

“For anyone who loves the work of James Salter or William Trevor, Eugene Mirabelli is another writer to treasure.”—Elizabeth Hand

***An Albany City Library “Literary Legend” for 2021***

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**The Heat Death of the Universe  
and Other Stories, by Pamela Zoline***With the original introduction by Thomas M. Disch*

Every so often a first book captures the attention of a broad spectrum of readers, draws extraordinary praise from critics, and catapults the author overnight into an established presence. That happened with this book in 1988, and it continues to occupy a special position. In these three novellas and two short stories we are taken from the ontological recesses of Sarah Boyle’s kitchen into an encyclopaedic cure for insomnia, and then find recounted what must surely be the most catastrophic (and hilarious) genealogy in modern fiction. Along the way, as the cultural detritus of Western Civ seeps in between the quotidian cracks, Zoline never loses sight of life’s personal dimensions.

“Nuclear war, obesity, failed marriages, kidnapped children — threats of destruction haunt Ms. Zoline’s imagination. She attacks those fears in fiction that revitalizes the labels ‘post-modern’ and ‘feminist,’ by lacing her work with a healthy dose of fantasy that links her to Angela Carter, her nearest literary sibling.” — *New York Times Book Review*

“The work of a seasoned writer who makes us see the world in a brand new way.”

— *Philadelphia Inquirer*

“Such are the marvelous qualities of her writing that a number of literary fads could come and go, but *The Heat Death of the Universe* would live on.”—*LOCUS*

“Weird, challenging, distinctive, jolting: a polymathic product of fine writing, mordant commentary, and subtle thinking.” — *Kirkus Reviews*

“Her stories are vastly different, yet imagery and detailed approach tie them together as if with colored threads.” — *Library Journal*

“Very strange and very enjoyable.” — *Booklist*



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# The Sky Weeps for Me

## A Nicaraguan Noir

### by Sergio Ramirez

Translated by Leland H. Chambers

In post-revolutionary Nicaragua, the Chief of Intelligence in the Office of Drug Investigations, Dolores Morales, takes a call from his counterpart, Deputy Inspector Dixon, who alerts him that a large luxury yacht is grounded and abandoned on the Caribbean coast. It appears to be a simple case of drug smuggling. But when Morales opens the scanty evidence package there's only a bloody T-shirt and a singed paperback book...until Doña Sofía, the office janitor, asks "Have that book's pages been checked over yet?" and a woman's business card falls out. Through a maze of deception, corruption, and murders, the irrepressible Doña Sofía joins the two inspectors as sidekick in their race to learn why the boat was scuttled and where the bodies are buried. Soon enough the trio suspect that a Cali drug cartel capo known as Pinocchio, along with Caupolicán, one of their Sandinista comrades from long ago, may be masterminding an international conspiracy.



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*The Sky Weeps for Me* offers a host of memorable characters drawn from every stratum of Nicaraguan society — rich and poor, working class and professional, along with scheming politicians, shady casino operators, and tent revivalists. All are caught up in a relentless drama that bit by bit exposes what happens when revolutionary leaders turn into reactionaries, and how no one is entirely innocent in a country struggling to hold onto the last shreds of its ideals.

"The local color, and especially the feel — particularly of the aging (former-) revolutionary generation, in a nation that hasn't managed to live up to the ideals they once fought for — are the novel's biggest selling point. *The Sky Weeps for Me* . . . captures and conveys . . . only a slice of contemporary Nicaragua, but a fairly solid and deep one."—*The Complete Review*



Sergio Ramirez  
*Divine Punishment*  
A Novel  
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