

## Kiklop Ranko Marinkovic

In a Kafkaesque novel set in a fictional Western nation, husbands, wives and lovers are entwined in complicated, often tortuous relationships as they, stepping in and out of each other's fantasies, explore the deepest realms of human desire. Original.

The first full-length novel by Chinese author Can Xue to appear in English *Five Spice Street* tells the story of a street in an unnamed city whose inhabitants speculate on the life of a mysterious Madam X. The novel interweaves their endless suppositions into a work that is at once political parable and surreal fantasia. Some think X is 50 years old; others that she is 22. Some believe she has occult powers and has thereby enslaved the young men of the street; others think she is a clever trickster playing mind games with the common people. Who is Madam X? How has she brought the good people of Five Spice Street to their knees either in worship or in exasperation? The unknown narrator takes no sides in the endless interplay of visions, arguments, and opinions. The investigation rages, as the street becomes a Walpurgisnacht of speculations, fantasies, and prejudices. Madam X is a vehicle whereby the people bare their souls, through whom they reveal themselves even as they try to penetrate the mystery of her extraordinary powers. *Five Spice Street* is one of the most astonishing novels of the past twenty years. Exploring the collective consciousness of this little street of ordinary people, Can Xue penetrates the deepest existential anxieties of the present day—whether in China or in the West—where the inevitable impermanence of identity struggles with the narrative within which identity must compose itself.

James Joyce is now widely considered the most influential writer of the twentieth century. His name and his most important works appeared again and again in fin-de-millennium surveys. This is the case not only in the English-speaking world, but also in many European literatures. Joyce's influence is most pronounced in French, German and Italian literatures, where translations of most of his works appeared during his life-time and where he had a clear impact on his fellow-writers. In other countries and cultures, his influence took more time to register, sometimes after the war in the fifties and sixties, and sometimes only in the final decade of the century. This was the case in most of the languages of Eastern Europe, where the translation of Joyce's work could only begin after the collapse of the Soviet Union in the 1990s. This book contains two volumes. Series Editor: Dr Elinor Shaffer FBA, Institute of Germanic & Romance Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London Contributors to the volume include: Sonja Basic (University of Zagreb) Eric Bulson, (Columbia University) Astradur Eysteinnsson (University of Reykjavik) Kalina Filipova (University of Sofia) Marta Goldmann (University of Budapest) Jakob Greve (University of Copenhagen) Manana Khergiani (New York) Teresa Iribarren (University of Barcelona) Onno R. Kusters and Ron Hoffman (The Netherlands) Alberto Lázaro (University of Alcalá, Madrid) Marisol Morales Ladrón (University of Alcalá, Madrid) Maria Filomena Louro (University of Minho, Portugal) Tina Mahkota (University of Ljubljana) John McCourt (University of Trieste) Patrick O'Neill (Queen's University, Canada) Adrian Otoiu (North University of Baia Mare, Rumania) Miltos Pehlivanos (Aristotle University, Greece) Aleš Pogacnik (Slovenia) Jina Politi (Aristotle University, Greece) Steen Klitgård Povlsen (University of Aarhus) H.K. Riikonen (University of Helsinki) Frank Sewell (University of Ulster) Sam Slote (University of Buffalo) Per Svenson (Sweden) Emily Tall (University of Buffalo) Björn Tysdahl (University of Oslo) Tomo Virk (University of Ljubljana) Jolanta W. Wawrzycka (Radford University) Robert Weninger (Oxford Brookes University) Wolfgang Wicht (University of Potsdam) Serenella Zanotti (University of Rome)

In his semiautobiographical novel, *Cyclops*, Croatian writer Ranko Marinkovic recounts the adventures of young theater critic Melkior Tresic, an archetypal antihero who decides to starve himself to avoid fighting in the front lines of World War II. As he wanders the streets of Zagreb in a near-hallucinatory state of paranoia and malnourishment, Melkior encounters a colorful circus of characters—fortune-tellers, shamans, actors, prostitutes, bohemians, and café intellectuals—all living in a fragile dream of a society about to be changed forever. A seminal work of postwar Eastern European literature, *Cyclops* reveals a little-known perspective on World War II from within the former Yugoslavia, one that has never before been available to an English-speaking audience. Vlada Stojiljkovic's able translation, improved by Ellen Elias-Bursac's insightful editing, preserves the striking brilliance of this riotously funny and densely allusive text. Along Melkior's journey *Cyclops* satirizes both the delusions of the righteous military officials who feed the national bloodlust as well as the wayward intellectuals who believe themselves to be above the unpleasant realities of international conflict. Through Stojiljkovic's clear-eyed translation, Melkior's peregrinations reveal how history happens and how the individual consciousness is swept up in the tide of political events, and this is accomplished in a mode that will resonate with readers of Charles Simic, Aleksandr Hemon, and Kundera.

When Miroslav Krleža traveled through Russia for six months between the end of 1924 and the beginning of 1925, the celebrated Croatian writer was there to figure out what it all meant. The sprawling country was still coming to terms with the events of the 1917 revolution and reeling from Lenin's death in January 1924. During this period of profound political and social transition, Krleža opened his senses to train stations, cities, and villages and collected wildly different Russian perspectives on their collective moment in history. Krleža's impressionistic reportage of mass demonstrations and jubilant Orthodox Easter celebrations is informed by his preoccupation with the political, social, and psychological complexities of his environment. The result is a masterfully crafted modernist travelogue that resonates today as much as it did when first published in 1926.

*Cyclops*

Rich in local color and sentiment, this story follows Dada, who returns to her home town on the Adriatic coast in order to unravel the mystery of her brother Daniel's death. Daniel, although

young, smart, and popular, threw himself under a train in mysterious circumstances a few years earlier. In her search for clues, Dada meets an array of eccentric characters and succumbs to the charms of the young gigolo Angelo, who is a part of a film crew shooting a Western on the nearby "prairie." Slowly and painfully she discovers all there is to know about her brother's death, and how Angelo was caught up in it. In her debut novel, Savicevic transposes the genre of a traditional Western drama onto the contemporary world, challenging the heroes of childhood and questioning what constitutes heroism today. Her shabby seaside hometown provides the perfect backdrop for this tale of loss and redemption, redolent of transient glamour and unrealized small-town dreams.

The Historical Dictionary of Croatia, Second Edition, describes the history of Croatia and illuminates the reasons the Croats have for establishing an independent state. Substantially updated and expanded, this second edition now includes both the whole reign of President Tudman and the first years of the Racan government. The political situation and prominent figures as well as an overview of the economic evolution and the legal infrastructure have been brought up to date and cover current events.

A Croatian writer records her impressions of American culture, and critiques the shallowness of America's cultural obsessions as it clearly views the current barbarism of Balkan politics

A major scholarly collection of international research on the reception of James Joyce in Europe

This is the first American publication of three works by one of Eastern Europe's most original and inventive writers. Dubravka Ugresic's *In the Jaws of Life and Other Stories* collects two short novels and a group of short stories grounded in fact and informed by fancy. The title novel, *Steffie Speck in the Jaws of Life*, charts the life of a typist for a lonely hearts column. Laid out like a sewing pattern, with instructions, diagrams, and helpful hints in the margin, it juxtaposes the cliches and trite advice of stereotypical women's magazines and popular culture with the genuine despair of the marginalized heroine. The short stories collected in *Life is a Fairy Tale (Metaterxies)* draw on the author's academic background to produce wickedly funny parodies and droll pastiches of such writers as Daniil Kharms and Gogol. Whether depicting the anonymous lives of small characters in big cities or rewriting great works from a distinctly irreverent perspective, Ugresic is fresh, entertaining, and consistently surprising.

#### DELETED

Now available in a single volume paperback, this advanced reference resource for the novel and novel theory offers authoritative accounts of the history, terminology, and genre of the novel, in over 140 articles of 500-7,000 words. Entries explore the history and tradition of the novel in different areas of the world; formal elements of the novel (story, plot, character, narrator); technical aspects of the genre (such as realism, narrative structure and style); subgenres, including the bildungsroman and the graphic novel; theoretical problems, such as definitions of the novel; book history; and the novel's relationship to other arts and disciplines. The Encyclopedia is arranged in A-Z format and features entries from an international cast of over 140 scholars, overseen by an advisory board of 37 leading specialists in the field, making this the most authoritative reference resource available on the novel. This essential reference, now available in an easy-to-use, fully indexed single volume paperback, will be a vital addition to the libraries of literature students and scholars everywhere.

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Includes entries for maps and atlases.

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"Zagreb's noirish underbelly comes from a new nation familiar with both war and war crimes. Mr. Sršen's handpicked selections are anything but ordinary." —New York Journal of Books Eastern European history is filled with noir-ish and harrowing tales, and Zagreb, the capital city of Croatia, certainly has its fill. Layers of trauma from its war years, soccer hooliganism, and a shadowy Balkan underground all contribute to the city's transient and inconstant character. Editor Ivan Sršen has curated a diverse, powerful, and dramatic group of stories that offer tremendous insight into the perspectives of contemporary Croatians. *Zagreb Noir* features translated stories by: Ivan Vidi?, Josip Novakovich, Andrea Žigi?-Dolenec, Robert Periši?, Mima Simi?, Pero Kvesi?, Nada Gaši?, Zoran Pili?, Ružica Gašperov, Darko Miloši?, Nora Verde, Ivan Sršen, Neven Ušumovi?, and Darko Macan. "Zagreb, Croatia—its culture and its touchstones—will be terra incognita for many U.S. readers . . . Notable is Nora Verde's 'She-Warrior,' in which a young woman's carefully planned anarchist activities are smacked down by a triple helping of reality." —Publishers Weekly "The stories shed light on a sickness that stirs within society's boundaries. Readers will easily glean that this sickness is not exclusive to Zagreb. Sršen reveals the ugly truth about human nature that burrows under the surface in war-torn countries." —The Examiner (San Francisco)

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