

Black Forest Bookshop List No. 1

International Ladies of Letters

Black Forest Bookshop

List No. 1 – International Ladies of Letters

I am pleased to announce the first list of Black Forest Bookshop. In this group of ten, you will see a book about a lone survivor in the mountain wilderness confined by an invisible wall. There is an important translation of early Mexican meta-fiction, and I've included a sweet reprint by a dynamic British author with an ever-growing reputation.

If you see something of interest, send an email to blackforestbookshop@gmail.com or check further listings through store link on homepage.

Terms

- All books are subject to prior sale.
- All books are used.
- All books are returnable for any reason within the first 10 days of sale. Buyer must pay return shipping and ensure the book is in equal condition as when it was received. Please notify as soon as possible so that the book can be made available to other customers.

Orders accepted through email on first come, first serve basis, or sold directly through ABE listing.

Payments accepted through PayPal and check (items shipped after check clearance), or through ABE.

Discounts available to dealers and institutions.

Shipping

Standard post: In the US only. \$5.00 for the first book, each additional item will be \$1 extra.

Priority post: In the US only. \$9.00 for the first book, each additional item will be \$5 extra.

International: Pricing varied based on weight and delivery expectancy – to be confirmed with customer before payment taken (estimate between \$22.50 - \$45.00)

With my enthusiastic thanks, please enjoy the list!

Black Forest Bookshop

Alan Kitchen

<https://blackforestbookshop.com>



W
O
M
E
N
S
V
O
I
C
E
S



Chukovskaya, Lydia

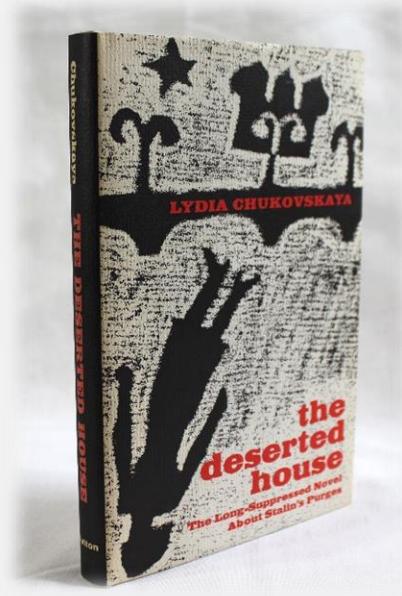
The Deserted House

Translated from the Russian by Aline B. Werth

New York: E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc, 1967. First US edition. Octavo. 144pp. White cloth over black cloth. Upper board blindstamped with title, original illustrated dust jacket (Angel Arnet). Faint rubbing to bottom of board edges, otherwise fine in fine dust jacket with minute shade of sunning to red spine text. Quite a beautiful copy of this important book.

Important because this is one of the only surviving books written about the Stalin purges during the late 30s. Hidden for years for fear of the political climate, the book had a circuitous publishing history, even being published under two different titles (better known as Sofia Petrovna). Said to be autobiographical, the book tells of a dedicated citizen who is drawn into the nightmare of political terror when fellow workers and her son are arrested and disappeared. Chukovskaya lived with the turmoil of losing her husband to this similar fate. Only published for Russian readers in 1988, this novel, this document, is an significant testimony to that dark period. Principled in her beliefs, Chukovskaya was a vocal supporter of dissident authors. This translation was later revised and published in 1988 under the original title of Sofia Petrovna.

"To keep it was dangerous, but to burn it was more than I could bring myself to do. I regarded it not so much as a story as a piece of evidence which it would be dishonorable to destroy." – Lydia Chukovskaya



SOLD

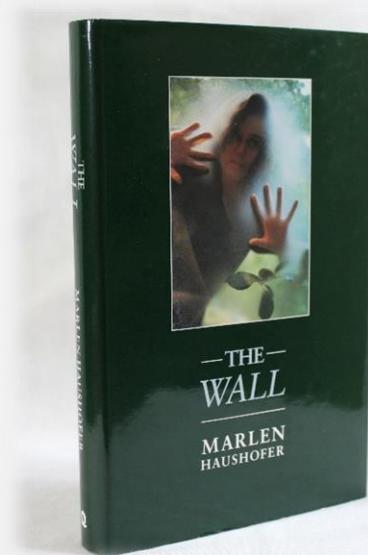
Haushofer, Marlen

The Wall

Translated from the German by Shaun Whiteside

Great Britain: Quartet Books, 1990. First British edition. Octavo. 244pp. Green publisher's cloth, spine stamped in silver. Fine in fine dust jacket.

Originally published in German in 1968. I first learned of this book through the 2012 film directed by Julian Polsler and starring Martina Gedeck. The story of a woman who is separated from her traveling group in the mountain with a dog as her companion. While exploring, she comes against an invisible wall and her life becomes one of isolation and survival. Primarily a take on the dystopian universe and survival much like that of Cormac McCarthy's The Road, the book is also an examination of the psychology of loneliness, a back-to-nature trope and a criticism of the modern world.

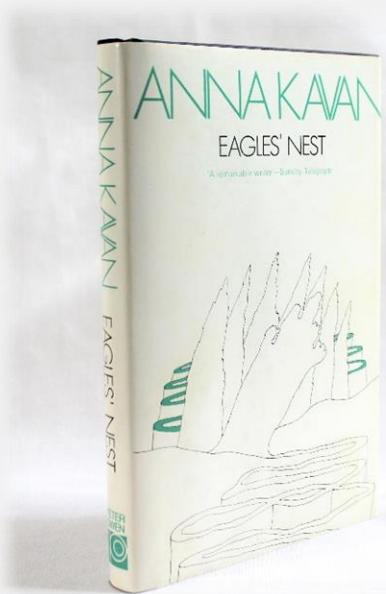


SOLD

Kavan, Anna

Eagle's Nest

London: Peter Owen, 1976. Reprint. Black publisher's cloth, spine stamped in silver. Duodecimo. 179pp. Small remainder star to bottom edge, otherwise fine in fine dust jacket.



First published in 1957, this is one of the excellent Peter Owen reprints. Their books so often have that perfect balance of size, paper, and jacket design. (This design by Keith Cunningham.) The narrator, brought low, is on a journey to the Eagle's Nest, where he travels through a strange landscape to meet his employer, has disturbing encounters with servants and locals, and experiences hallucinatory visions.

*Helen Emily Woods (who changed her name to Anna Kavan in 1939) wrote over ten books, which increasingly took on a darker and more fantastical tone. She was known for her genre-shifting, experimental fiction; she also wrote about drugs and addiction, dreams and mental instability. Her best-known work, *Ice*, has been recently reprinted by Penguin Classics.*

Admired by Anais Nin, J.G. Ballard, and Doris Lessing, this author deserves a closer reading.

"I can tell you about some women writers who truly are fantastic. One is Anna Kavan . . . she's caught in a haze and then a light, a little teeny light, come through. It could be a leopard, that light, or it could be a spot of blood. It could be anything. But she hooks onto that and spirals out. And she does it within the accessible rhythms of plot, and that's really exciting. She's not hung up with being a woman, she just keeps extending herself, keeps telescoping language and plot." - Patti Smith

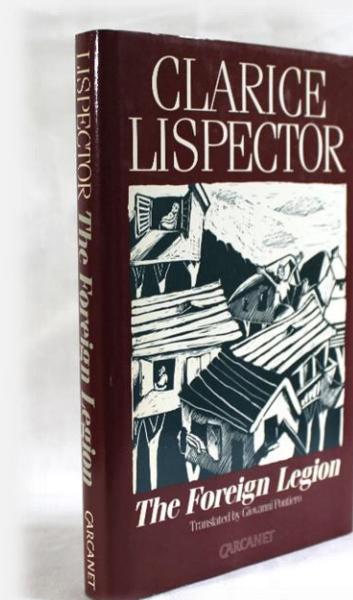
SOLD

Lispector, Clarice

The Foreign Legion

Translated from the Portuguese by Giovanni Pontiero

Manchester/New York: Carcanet, 1986. First English-language edition. Publisher's black cloth, spine stamped in gilt. Octavo. 219pp. Head of spine softly bumped, otherwise fine in near fine dust jacket with barely noticeable corresponding nudge and tiny superficial indentation at front spine edge (in photo). Small publisher's price sticker to front flap, which has offset a faint ring to front endpaper.



Lispector has seen an exciting resurgence recently due to the great effort of her biographer Benjamin Moser and the always admirable New Directions. This is an excellent copy from the early wave of translations issued by Carcanet. Herein are thirteen short stories and dozens of her short essays – known as *cronicas* – for the newspaper on Brazilian art and culture. She writes on: Paul Klee; Since one feels obliged to write...; Africa; Abstract and symbolic; Living jelly; Writing and prolonging time; and so many others.

SOLD

Lispector, Clarice

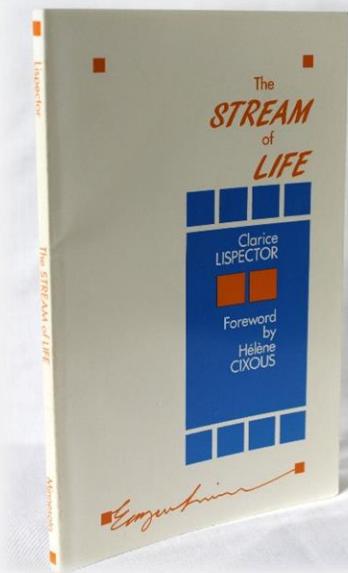
The Stream of Life

Translated from the Portuguese by Elizabeth Lowe and Earl Fitz

Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1989. First US printing. Trade paperback original. 79pp. Minor crimp to mid spine section which I believe is from original binding. Quite a minimal visual defect (does not affect use of book). Lower corner of cover slightly bumped, but again very minor. A very nice paperback that appears unread in the past 29 years.

Foreword by Helene Cixous. English translation of her 1973 Agua Viva.

*"It's with such intense joy. It's such an hallelujah.
"Hallelujah," I shout, an hallelujah that fuses with the
darkest human howl of the pain of separation but is a
shout of diabolical happiness. Because nobody holds me
back anymore."* [and that is how one enters the *Stream of Life*]



SOLD

Rodoreda, Merce

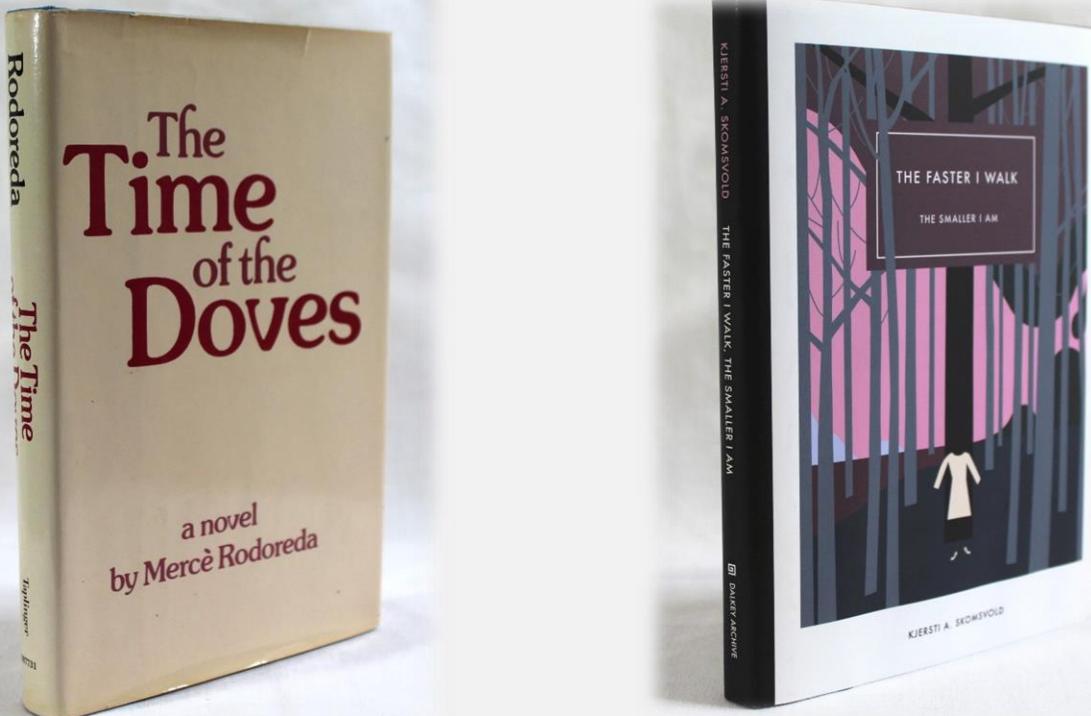
The Time of the Doves

Translated from the Catalan by David H. Rosenthal

New York: Taplinger, 1980. First US edition. Blue cloth over beige paper-covered boards. Octavo. 201pp. One page with soft five-inch corner crease, otherwise fine. In a very good, price-clipped dust jacket with minor sunning to spine and a short closed tear to front panel.

One of the giants of Catalan letters, and this is considered by many her greatest book. At the end of the Spanish Civil War, Rodoreda went into exile, not writing again until 1957. This book belongs to her post exile period, written in 1962, and relates the story of a young woman who becomes forged into a survivor through the trials of the Spanish Civil War and the loss of her husband. Translated into over 30 languages, featured in Harold Bloom's The Western Canon and called by Gabriel Garcia Marquez,

"The most beautiful novel published in Spain since the Civil War."



SOLD

Skomsvold, Kjersti

The Faster I Walk, The Smaller I Am

Translated from the Norwegian by Kerri A. Pierce

Champaign: Dalkey Archive Press, 2011. First English-language edition. Duodecimo. 147pp. Charcoal publisher's cloth, spine stamped in silver. Fine in fine dust jacket.

Winner of the Tarjei Vesaas First Book prize in 2009, this is another entry in the already deep and impressive Dalkey catalog. Also, a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Pick, this title gained early accolades. From the publisher's jacket: Is it really possible for a woman to disappear so completely that the world won't notice her passing? [the book] is an ironic twist on the notion that life "must be lived to the fullest." This line is what caught my attention. In a society of ever-increasing obsession with sharing and public persona, what does the other side of that perspective hold. There is much disconnect in the "connected age," much loneliness and isolation. I wonder if most fall in this camp. What does an attempt at connection look like?

SOLD

Tulli, Magdalena

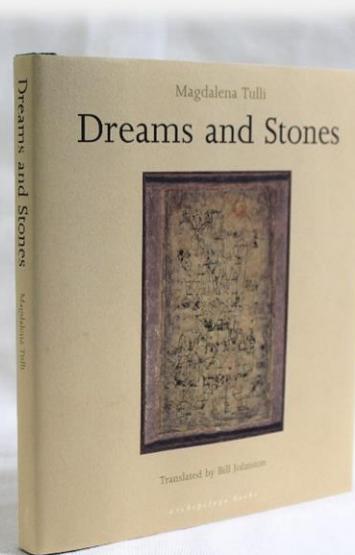
Dreams and Stones

Translated from the Polish by Bill Johnston

New York: Archipelago Books, 2004. First English-language edition. Square duodecimo. 110pp. Forest-green cloth over cream paper covered boards. Spine stamped in cream. Fine in fine dust jacket.

The first book by Tulli and the first to be translated, Dreams and Stones won the prestigious Koscielski Foundation Prize in Poland in 1995. This novel about the rebuilding of a city after the destruction of World War II has earned her prose comparisons to Bruno Schulz.

SOLD

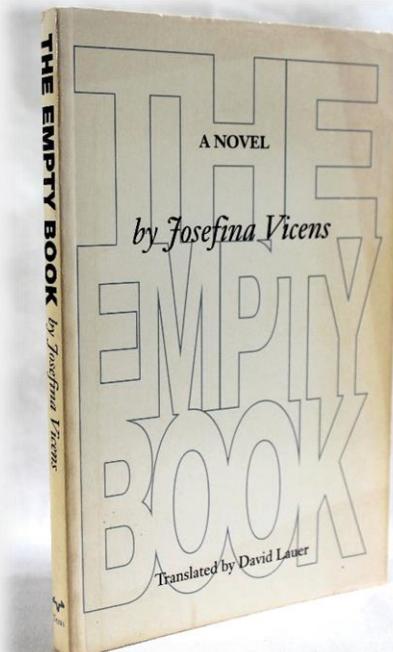


Vicens, Josefina

The Empty Book

Translated from the Spanish by David Lauer

Austin: University of Texas Press, 1992. First English-language edition. Trade paperback original. 123pp. Near fine with faint toning and a touch of edgewear. The toning quite less apparent when handling the book – really a nice copy!



Preface by Octavio Paz. Winner of the prestigious Xavier Villaurrutia prize. Written in 1958, The Empty Book is the first novel in Mexico to play with narrative tropes to comment on narrative. For various reasons, including poor handling by the publisher and the exclusion of women, this book did not catch the hold that books require to become accepted classics. Only after Mexican metafiction has taken off, was this work acknowledged as a beginning point. This is a beautiful, understated book about writing, the writing process, and identity.

To those who live in silence, I dedicate these pages, silently. – Josephina Vicens

SOLD

THIS BOOK DESERVES TO BE REPUBLISHED

Yourcenar, Marguerite

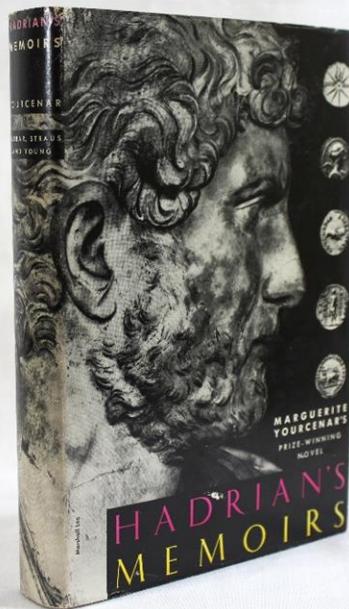
Memoirs of Hadrian

Translated from the French by Grace Frick

New York: Farrar, Straus and Young, 1954. First US edition. Octavo. 313pp. Grey cloth; black spine box stamped in gilt. Near fine with strip of sunning to heel of spine and barely noticeable discoloration to lower edge of front board. In a very good dust jacket minor wear to spine tips and front edge. Tiny abrasion to front panel, with not text affected (please see photo). Priced \$4.00. Date of 1955 to title page. Copyright page states 1954.

One of the modern classics of historical fiction, Memoirs won the Prix Femina-Vacaresco in 1952. Recognized for its psychological and philosophical approach, coupled with the vigorous underlying research, this one seems to always gain new readers.

SOLD



WOMEN'S WORDS

The Time of the Doves

a novel
by Mercè Rodoreda

