



Charco Press
Catalogue
Summer 2017



2017 COLLECTION



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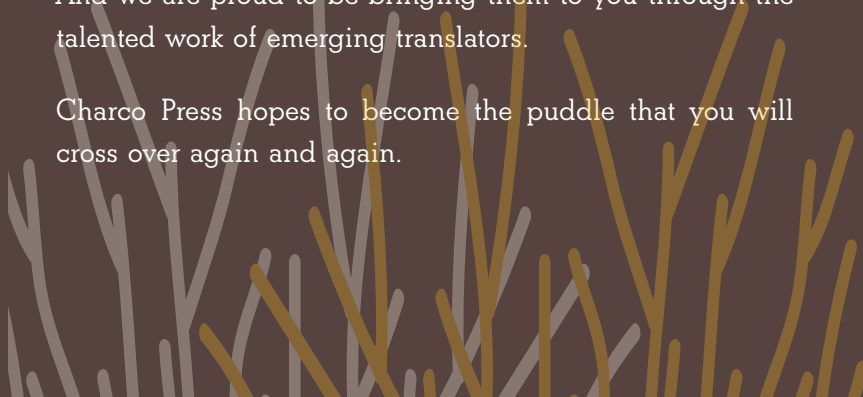
ABOUT

Charco means 'puddle' in Spanish. It is also a colloquialism used in some Latin American countries to refer to the Atlantic Ocean. Therefore, *cruzar el charco* means 'crossing the puddle' and is a way of referring to the idea of someone going overseas, or travelling between continents.

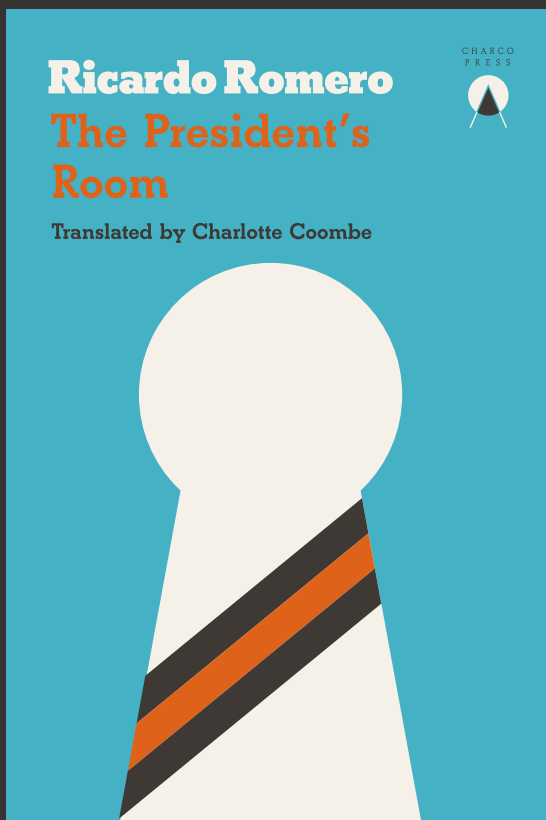
Charco Press focuses on finding outstanding contemporary Latin American literature and bringing it to readers in the English-speaking world. We aim to act as a cultural and linguistic bridge for you to be able to access a brand new world of fiction that has, until now, been missing from your reading list.

It is an exciting time to be discovering and reading Latin American literature given the vast and rich array of works coming out of this region, the diversity of voices. Charco Press is only able to represent a tiny amount – indeed, a small 'puddle' – compared to the ocean of talent that exists out there. We actively seek out those authors that are exemplary, that produce works that are not only entertaining, but also engaging and thought-provoking. And we are proud to be bringing them to you through the talented work of emerging translators.

Charco Press hopes to become the puddle that you will cross over again and again.



‘ In the line of Kafka’s tradition,
Romero creates a *fresco* that
questions our reality... ’



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July 2017 • c100pp

B format paperback • £8.99

Literary Fiction

THE PRESIDENT'S ROOM

Ricardo Romero

Translated by Charlotte Coombe

In a nameless, homogenised suburb every house has a room reserved for the president. No one knows when or why this came to be. It is simply how things are, and no one appears to question or contradict this spatial disposition. The room is kept ordered and clean, and nobody is allowed to use it. It is solely for him, the president. But what if he never comes? Everything is kept vague, so vague that we begin to wonder if even the narrator can be trusted....

Romero was born in the province of Entre Ríos, in northern Argentina, in 1976. He studied literature at university and has been living in Buenos Aires since 2002. Between 2003 and 2006 he directed the literary journal *Oliverio* and between 2006 and 2010 he was one of the members of the 'The Lethal Quintet' with which he published two books. He has published a book of short stories as well as six novels including *Historia de Roque Rey* (Roque Rey's Tale, 2014). *The President's Room* (2015) is his latest novel and the first one to be published in English.



DIE, MY LOVE

Ariana Harwicz

Translated by Sarah Moses and Carolina Orloff

In a forgotten patch of French countryside, a woman is battling her demons – embracing exclusion yet wanting to belong, craving freedom whilst feeling trapped, yearning for family life but at the same time wanting to burn the entire house down. Given surprising leeway by her family for her increasingly erratic behaviour, she nevertheless feels ever more stifled and repressed. Motherhood, womanhood, the banality of love, the terrors of desire, the inexplicable brutality of ‘another person carrying your heart forever’ – *Die, My Love* faces all this with a raw intensity. It’s not a question of *if* a breaking point will be reached, but rather when and how violent a form will it take?

Compared to Virginia Woolf, Nathalie Sarraute, and Sylvia Plath, Ariana Harwicz (Buenos Aires, 1977) is one of the most radical figures in contemporary Argentinian literature. Her prose is characterized by its violence, eroticism, irony and direct criticism to the clichés



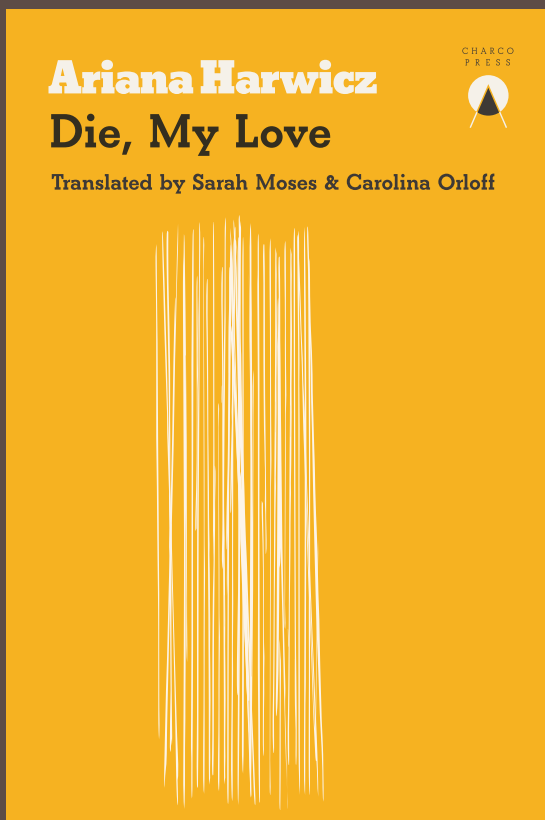
surrounding the notions of the family and conventional relationships. Her first novel, *Die, My Love* received rave reviews and was named best novel of 2012 by daily *La Nación*. It is currently being adapted for theatre in Argentina and Israel, and has just been reedited by Mardulce (Argentina). It is the first of an ‘involuntary’ trilogy, followed by *La débil mental* (Feeble-minded, 2014) and *Precoz* (Precocious, 2015).

‘*Die, My Love* (...) blows the cobwebs off the literary world.’

Samanta Schweblin

AUTHOR OF THE MAN BOOKER INTERNATIONAL

SHORTLISTED *FEVER DREAM*



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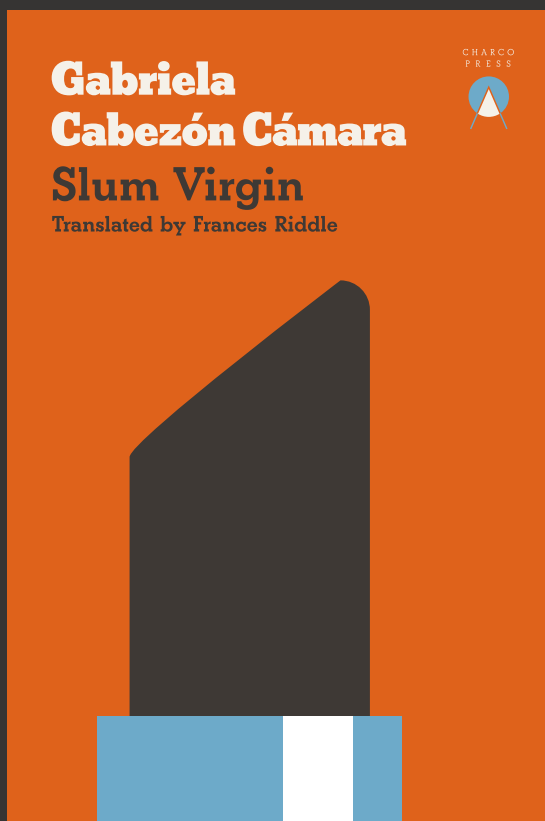
Literary Fiction

‘*Slum Virgin* is pure dynamite.’

Andrés Neuman

AUTHOR OF *TRAVELLER OF THE CENTURY*

& *TALKING TO OURSELVES*



ISBN: 978-1-9997227-0-8

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July 2017 • c130pp

B format paperback • £9.99

Literary Fiction

SLUM VIRGIN

Gabriela Cabezón Cámara

Translated by Frances Riddle

The slums of Buenos Aires, the government, the mafia, the Virgin Mary, corrupt police officers, prostitutes, transvestites, thieves, drug dealers, cumbia music and debauchery all combine in this sweeping novel deemed to be a 'revelation for contemporary literature'. *Slum Virgin* tells the larger-than-life story of Cleopatra, a transvestite who renounces prostitution after the Virgin Mary appears before her. Following the divine messages she receives, Cleo takes charge of the shantytown she lives in, transforming it into a tiny utopia. Ambitious journalist Quity knows she's found the story of the year when she hears about it, but her life is changed forever once she steps into the shantytown and finds herself irrevocably seduced by the captivating subject of her article.

Slum Virgin (2009) is the debut novel by Cabezón Cámara (Buenos Aires, 1968). It was shortlisted for the Silverio Cañada Memorial Prize (Spain) and chosen Book of the Year by Rolling Stone (Argentina). She has written *Le viste la cara a Dios* (You've Seen God's Face, 2011), which also appeared as a graphic novel (2013), and was awarded the Argentine Senate's Alfredo Palacios Prize for its contribution to the fight against human trafficking. She has published two other novels and a book of short stories. In 2013 she was writer in residence at UC Berkeley, where she also taught. She is one of the founders of the NiUnaMenos ("Not One Less") movement against gender violence.



FIREFLIES

Luis Sagasti

Translated by Fionn Petch

How do we even begin to narrate the history of the world? Where do we start, and where do we end? *Fireflies* is Sagasti's bold and original attempt to answer these questions. Taking an eclectic array of influences and personalities from modern history, he teases out events that at first glance seem random and insignificant and proceeds to weave them together masterfully, entertaining as he enlightens. Joseph Beuys, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, Stanley Kubrick, Neil Armstrong, Ludwig Wittgenstein, the Beatles, Japanese poets, Brazilian priests and Russian cosmonauts all make an appearance, and Sagasti finds common threads to bind their stories together.



Writer,
lecturer and art critic,
Sagasti was born in Bahía Blanca,
Argentina in 1963. He graduated in
History at the Universidad Nacional
del Sur where he now teaches. From
1995 to 2003 he was Curator at
the Museum of Contemporary Art,
Bahía Blanca, authoring numerous art
catalogues for exhibitions. Including
Fireflies (known in Spanish as *Bellas Artes*,
2011), he has published four novels. He
has also written a book of essays *Perdidos
en el espacio* (Lost in Space, 2011). His
most recent novel, *Una ofrenda musical* (A
Musical Offering) came out in early 2017.

‘*Fireflies* is a fabulous book by an extraordinary writer...’

Martín Kohan



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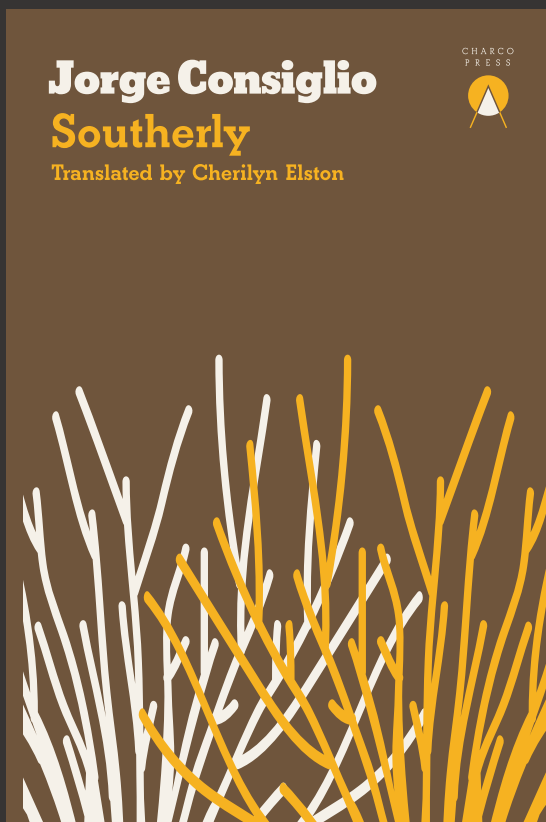
July 2017 • c110pp

B format paperback • £8.99

Literary Fiction

‘Consiglio’s stories take your
breath away...’

Silvina Frieria



ISBN: 978-1-9997227-6-0

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July 2017 • c110pp

B format paperback • £9.99

Literary Fiction (short stories)

SOUTHERLY

Jorge Consiglio

Translated by Cherilyn Elston

On the eve of an important battle, a colonel is visited in his tent by an indigenous woman with a message to pass on. A man sets about renovating the house of his childhood, and starts to feel that he might be rebuilding his own life in the process. At a private clinic to treat the morbidly obese, a caregiver has issues of her own...

Acclaimed writer and poet Jorge Consiglio presents a universe of seemingly unrelated tales, linked perhaps by a certain rhythm in the prose or subtle dimensions of violence and perversion. These are stories of immigration, marginality, history, intimacy and obsession which are masterful and deeply touching, domestic yet universal. They each present their own distinctive view of the world through the lives of their respective characters and the profound transformations they undergo. Depictions of how even the most innocent detail can become a threat.

Jorge Consiglio was born in Buenos Aires in 1962. He has published four novels: *El bien* (The Good, 2003), *Gramática de la sombra* (Grammar of the Shadows, 2007), *Pequeñas intenciones* (Small Intentions, 2011) and *Hospital Posadas* (2015). They have all been awarded prizes in Argentina and in Spain. He has also published three collections of short stories, including *Southerly* (known in Spanish as *Villa del Parque*, 2016), and five books of poems.



OUR TRANSLATORS

We consider our translators to be a critical part of the equation. They are the conduits bringing our authors' voices to you, and it is their interpretation, their attention to the nuances, that makes the difference. We select contemporary translators, to give our authors a modern voice. Charco Press is doing things differently in this regard, stepping away from the mainstream, and bringing in emerging talent from the margins.

2018 & BEYOND...

Venezuela, Brazil, Uruguay, Peru, Colombia... Charco Press has plans to bring you outstanding works by some of the rising stars of literature from these countries, and beyond. More fantastic authors that you've probably never heard of...

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