

Senselessness

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A Rainmaker Translation Grant Winner from the Black Mountain Institute: *Senselessness*, acclaimed Salvadoran author Horacio Castellanos Moya's astounding debut in English, explores horror with hilarity and electrifying panache.

A boozing, sex-obsessed writer finds himself employed by the Catholic Church (an institution he loathes) to proofread a 1,100 page report on the army's massacre and torture of thousands of indigenous villagers a decade earlier, including the testimonies of the survivors. The writer's job is to tidy it up: he rants, "that was what my work was all about, cleaning up and giving a manicure to the Catholic hands that were piously getting ready to squeeze the balls of the military tiger." Mesmerized by the strange Vallejo-like poetry of the Indians' phrases ("the houses they were sad because no people were inside them"), the increasingly agitated and frightened writer is endangered twice over: by the spell the strangely beautiful heart-rending voices exert over his tenuous sanity, and by real danger—after all, the murderers are the very generals who still run this unnamed Latin American country.

This masterwork...recently translated seamlessly into English...is an arresting read.

Horacio Castellanos Moya

was born 1957 in Honduras. He has lived in San Salvador, Canada, Costa Rica, Mexico (where he spent ten years as a journalist, editor, and political analyst), Spain, and Germany. In 1988 he won the National Novel Prize from Central American University for his first novel. His work has been published and translated in England, Germany, El Salvador and Costa Rica. He has published ten novels and is now living in exile as part of the City of Asylum project in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

KATHERINE SILVER

is an award-winning literary translator and the codirector of the Banff International Literary Translation Centre (BILTC). Her translations include works by César Aira, Horacio Castellanos Moya, José Emilio Pacheco, Elena Poniatowska, Jorge Franco, and Martín Adán, among others.

Other Books

The British Homoeopathic Review,

"... . Some hospitals have 300,000 out-patients in the course of a year, and on a calculation being made it turned out ... is the establishment, in order to repair a most unaccountable and glaring deficiency in the practice of medicine ..."