

*AB*

Autumn Hill Books

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# Bhagavad Gita

translated from the Sanskrit by Mani Rao

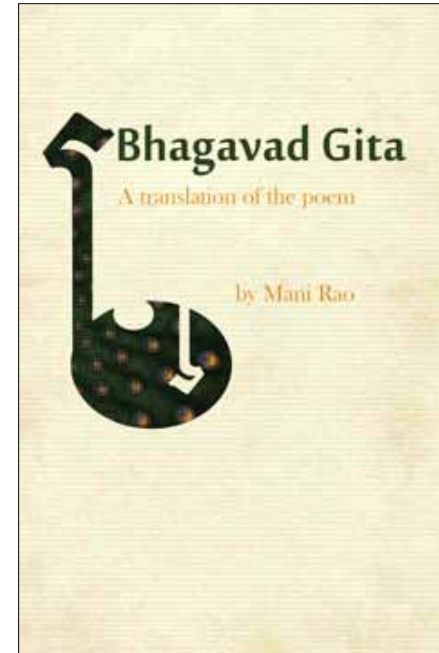
"The great virtue of The Bhagavad Gita is courage, and in her luminous new translation, Rao is courageous indeed. Her lines venture to keep pace with the original, stride for stride, revelation for revelation. As Wittgenstein wrote, 'courage is always original.' I can avow that Rao's is the first truly original version of this sacred text to appear in decades."

—Donald Revell

"Mani Rao has transformed the most famous spiritual poem in India to a multi-layered poem, giving shapes to multiple meanings and sounds to multiple forms. Just as Arjuna saw the universe in Krishna's mouth and like the endless tree, the tree of life, which reveals its roots above and leaves below, Mani Rao has shown us this universe, this endless life with its supporting philosophy, as a poem to be perceived directly, intuitively, cutting through reason and linearity to arrive at the underlying undying poetry and grace of this epic work."

—Frederick Smith

excerpt at: <http://exchanges.uiowa.edu/from-the-bhagavad-gita>



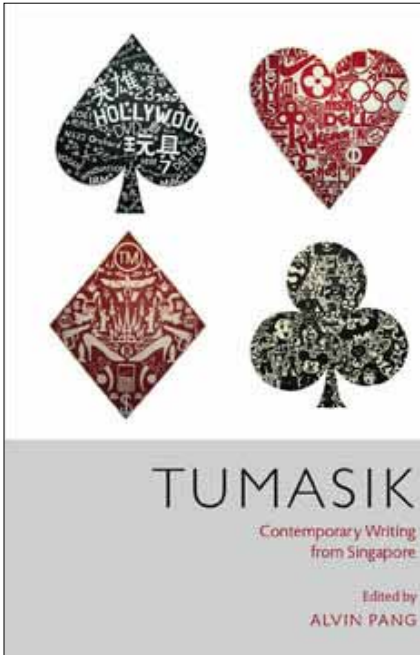
91<sup>ST</sup>  
M  
BOOKS

November 2010  
140 pgs. | \$11.95  
978-0-9843036-1-8

# Tumasik

contemporary writing from Singapore

edited by Alvin Pang



May 2010  
244 pgs. | \$14.95  
978-0-9843036-2-5

91<sup>ST</sup>  
M  
BOOKS

"The new nation-state of Singapore, with people largely from, or descended from people from elsewhere seemed to be writing itself into being. ... Here is art that comes from the creative subconscious of artists who are part of the collective unconscious of the nation."

—Peter Nazareth, from his introduction

"*Tumasik*, a singularly Singaporean collection with works that cut across generations, genres, styles and languages, is Pang's most ambitious and important anthology to date...what is amazing is the cohesiveness that Pang achieves with works that run the gamut from plays, stories and poems to novel excerpts, essays and creative non-fiction pieces."

—Kristina Tom, Review in QLRS Jan 2010

more information at: [www.autumnhillbooks.org/tumasik](http://www.autumnhillbooks.org/tumasik)

# The Moon Over the Mountain

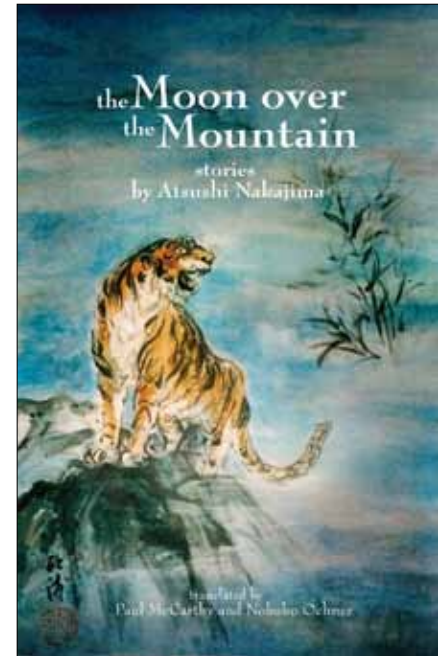
## stories by Atsushi Nakajima

translated from the Japanese by Paul McCarthy & Nobuko Ochner

*The Moon Over the Mountain* is a collection of nine short stories by the Japanese author Atsushi Nakajima. Something of a cult figure in Japan, where fans hold an annual festival in his honor, Nakajima is considered a master of a sub-genre of Japanese fictional works that take Ancient China as their subject, with stories based on folk tales, legends, and historical figures. Nakajima's stories first appeared in Japanese periodicals in 1942 and 1943, promising a potentially rich and long career, given his extensive knowledge and skills. He died tragically of pneumonia complicated by severe asthma on the island of Palau in 1942. In masterful translations by Paul McCarthy and Nobuko Ochner, these are the first of his works to appear in English.

This translation has been generously supported by the Japanese Literature Publishing Project.

excerpt at: [www.apublicspace.org/back\\_issues/issue\\_8/li\\_ling](http://www.apublicspace.org/back_issues/issue_8/li_ling)

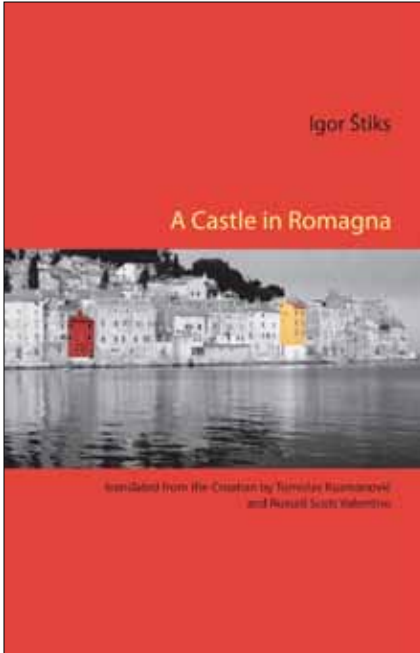


December 2010  
180 pgs. | \$15.95  
978-0-9827466-0-8

# A Castle in Romagna

a novel by Igor Stiks

translated from the Croatian by Tomislav Kuzmanovic & Russell Scott Valentino



In eleven tightly woven chapters that alternate between Renaissance Italy and Tito's Yugoslavia, this novel weaves a double spiral of love intrigue and betrayal at one and the same time. Here it is Rimini, 1535, and the Croatian island of Rab, 1948, just days after Tito's momentous break with Stalin. Lives and fates are intertwined, history repeats itself, nostalgia for home is bittersweet and undying.

*Dvorac u Romagni (A Castle in Romagna)*, published by Durieux in Zagreb, was awarded the Croatian prize for best first novel in 2000.

Selected as the 2005 Best of Literature pick by ReccasReads.

Nominated for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Prize in 2006.

more information at: [www.autumnhillbooks.org/romagna](http://www.autumnhillbooks.org/romagna)

June 2005

103 pgs. | \$12.95

978-0-9754444-0-5

# Foreign Words

a novel by Vassilis Alexakis

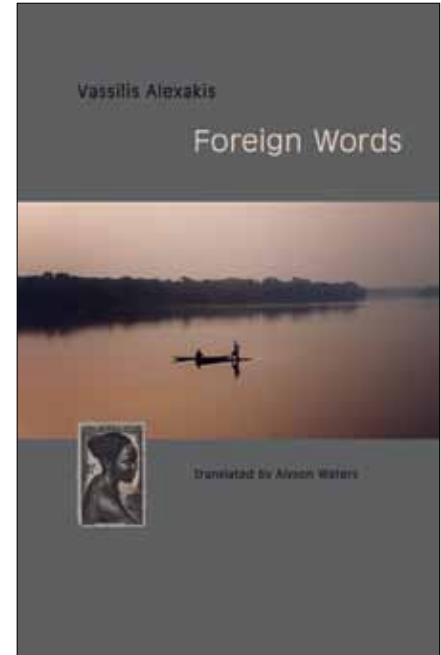
translated from the French by Alyson Waters

*Foreign Words* is a profound meditation on language and loss, on the language of loss, and on the power and magic of words — their power to change the way we see ourselves, their magic to renew our lives after hardship. The story is filled with delicate suspense and emotional honesty. The telling is humorous, subtly ironic, tender.

The reader journeys through time and space with the narrator as he travels from his home in Paris, to Greece where he grew up and where his father has just died, to the Central African Republic, where he undertakes the study of Sango. As he discovers what drew him to study Sango, and we with him, a world of new experiences emerges, and the old experiences of this world take on new light, new meaning.

*Foreign Words* was selected as a 2006 Book of the Year Award by Fore-Word Magazine, and nominated for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Prize for 2007.

excerpt at: [www.autumnhillbooks.org/foreign](http://www.autumnhillbooks.org/foreign)

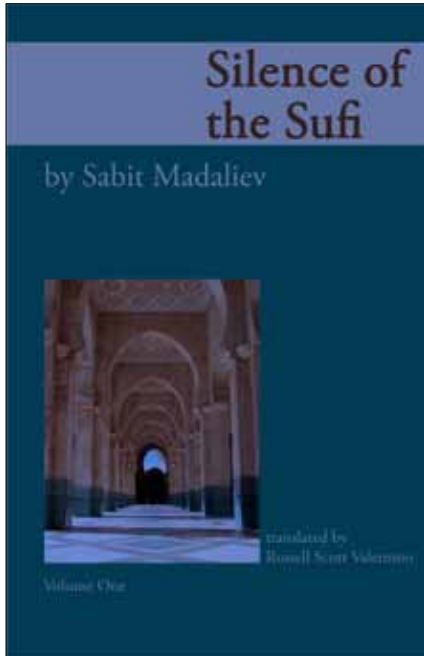


April 2006  
228 pgs. | \$16.95  
978-0-9754444-1-2

# The Silence of the Sufi

a spiritual autobiography by Sabit Madaliev

translated from the Russian by Russell Scott Valentino



Through vignettes on teachers and brief stories, this book examines the Zen-like spiritual practices of Central Asian Sufism, providing a personal account of the seeker's own entry into the traditions of the Naqshbandiya of Uzbekistan. Part history, part religious treatise, part autobiography, The Silence of the Sufi seeks to preserve, explore, validate, and record through its discreet segments — "On Listening Attentively," "On Gentle Words," "On Proper Posture." This is Sufi Islam as practiced in Central Asia across the centuries and today. Sufism's core ideas of intoxicating love, absence of self, and divine and human purpose find expression in every sentence.

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A seeker said to Zu'n-nun, "Most of all in the world I want to enter the path of Truth."

Zu'n-nun answered, "You can join our caravan only on two conditions. First, you must do what you do not wish to do. Second, you will not be allowed to do what you wish. 'Wanting' itself is what stands between man and the path of Truth."

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excerpt at: [www.autumnhillbooks.org/sufi](http://www.autumnhillbooks.org/sufi)

December 2006  
164 pgs. | \$14.95  
978-0975444429

# The Death of the Little Match Girl

a novel by Zoran Ferić

translated from the Croatian by Tomislav Kuzmanovic

Set in a fairytale-like atmosphere on the Adriatic island Rab, *The Death of the Little Match Girl* begins with the tragic scene of a little girl's funeral only to transform into an eerie investigation of the murder of a prostitute nicknamed "the little match girl." The story's fantastical settings, bizarre exchanges, dark humor, and deep sarcasm reflect the absurd grotesqueness of the war raging on the mainland, and the despair of a country that seems to have lost its bearings in space and time.

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**W**ords started coming from the woman's mouth. It wasn't the high-pitched voice of a child anymore but seemed more like a man's. Or the hoarse voice of a woman imitating male speech.

"Have you committed those foul deeds?"

She kept laughing. More blood came from her mouth.

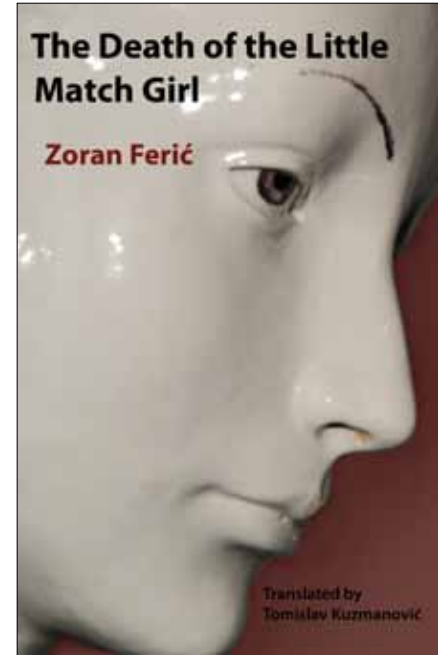
"Have you done what you say you did?"

"Against God, our Savior, and his mother the Blessed Virgin?"

"Shove God up your ass, you butthole of a butthole!"

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excerpt at: [www.autumnhillbooks.org/little\\_match\\_girl](http://www.autumnhillbooks.org/little_match_girl)

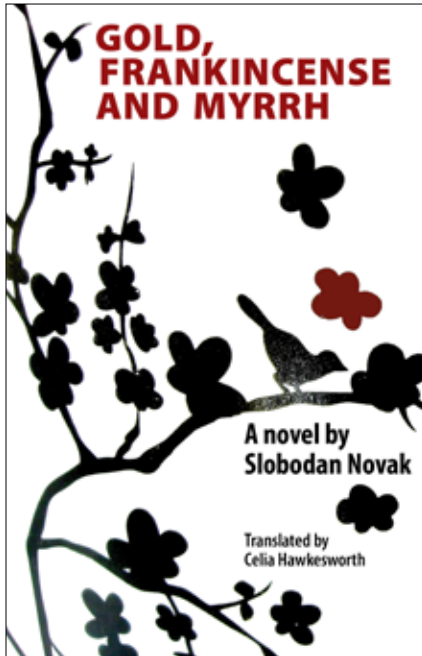


November 2007  
196 pgs. | \$16.95  
978-0-9754444-5-0

# Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh

a novel by Slobodan Novak

translated from the Croatian by Celia Hawkesworth



Dispossessed of her vast property on the island of Rab by the Communist authorities of Yugoslavia, 100-year-old Madonna lies on her death bed.

In the finely honed lyrical prose of a mid-20th-century master, Slobodan Novak explores family, religion, the individual, the state, duty, memory, and love in a manner reminiscent of Chekhov, Beckett, Borges and Kis.

On its release in 1968, *Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh* received every major literary award available in the Yugoslavia of its day, including the Matice Hrvatska Prize for the best book of prose, the Vladimir Nazor Prize, the Nin Prize for the best novel, and the Vecernji List Critics' Prize. It has subsequently gone through nine editions in Croatia and been translated into six languages around the world. It has also been adapted to the stage (in 1974) and the screen (in 1971).

excerpt at: [www.autumnhillbooks.org/gold\\_frankincense](http://www.autumnhillbooks.org/gold_frankincense)

October 2007

271 pgs. | \$16.95

978-0-9754444-6-7

# Anima Mundi

a novel by Susanna Tamaro

translated from the Italian by Cinzia Sartini Blum & Russell Scott Valentino

"A thinking man's book!"

—Paul Ingram

Selected for a 2007 Book of the Year Award by ForeWord magazine.

The Italian publisher (Rizzoli) describes the book like this:

"Fire is the thought that burns in the mind of Walter, an adolescent raised amid the silence of a family without love. Fire is the voice of Andrea, who is much more than a friend to him, he is his internal voice, his window on the world. It is their friendship that gives Walter the courage to leave behind the little town of his birth, make his way to Rome, and create a life for himself. Earth is the changeable soil of the capital, the chaos and complexity of the city, a little corner of seeming paradise, prelude to uncontrollable emptiness of body and soul. Wind is a letter from his friend and teacher after an absence of ten years. Walter discovers the journey of a friend in despair, as crystalline certainties slipped away."

excerpt at: [www.autumnhillbooks.org/anima\\_mundi](http://www.autumnhillbooks.org/anima_mundi)

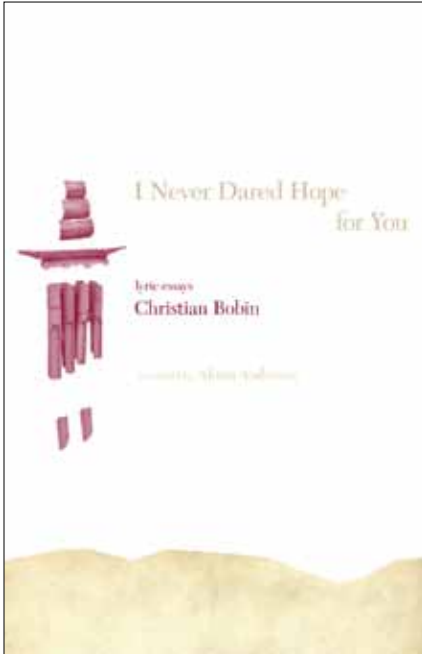


December 2007  
295 pgs. | \$16.95  
978-0-9754444-4-3

# I Never Dared Hope For You

lyric essays by Christain Bobin

translated from the French by Alison Anderson



In these eleven contemplative sketches Christian Bobin reflects upon time, attention, solitude, companionship, and grace. Amid the increasingly mediated and sensationalist literature of our day, here is a quiet yet powerful plea for sanity, simplicity, and a return to basic things.

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She is dirty. Even clean she is dirty. She is covered in gold and excrement, sin children and saucepans. She is omnipotent. She is like a greasy, dirty queen who has nothing left to govern, as she has already invaded everywhere, has already contaminated everything with her intrinsic filth. No one can resist her. She reigns by virtue of an eternal yearning for the depths, for the black hole of time. In prison she is like a tranquilizer. In certain psychiatric hospitals she is always on duty. It is in such places that she is most in her element: no one looks at her, no one listens to her, they let her waffle on in her corner, they place before her those they no longer know what to do with.

—from “Evil”

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excerpt at: [www.autumnhillbooks.org/never\\_dared\\_hope](http://www.autumnhillbooks.org/never_dared_hope)

January 2010

101 pgs. | \$12.95

978-0-9754444-9-8

# Laundry

a novel by Suzane Adam

translated from the Hebrew by Becka McKay

Introspective Ildiko reveals past events that have been secret for years. She revisits her childhood in a small, far-flung village in Transylvania that left their mark on her entire life. Only now, after her immigration to Israel and the process of growing up and adapting, do the repressed nightmares from the past return and threaten to destroy the bonds of love and security she has built. As her story unfolds—and with it, the parallel stories of her family—we come to understand the mysterious, violent event that begins this gripping, fast-paced novel, and to see how Ildiko's story has come full circle. *Laundry* is a psychological thriller driven by characters whose lives were shaped by the Holocaust.

excerpt at: <http://wordswithoutborders.org/article/from-laundry/>

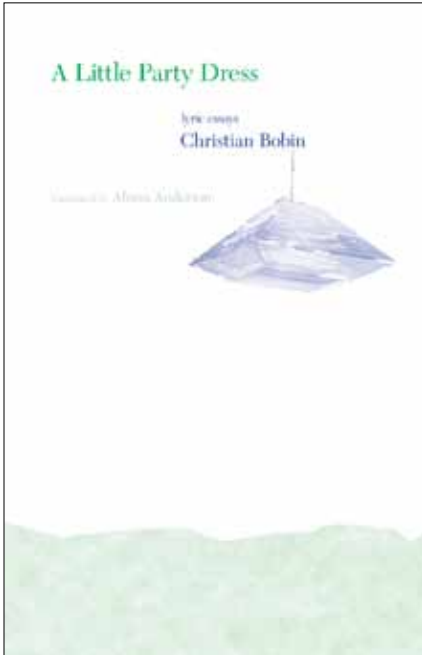


November 2008  
290 pgs. | \$16.95  
978-0-9754444-7-4

# A Little Party Dress

lyric essays by Christian Bobin

translated from the French by Alison Anderson



Childhood, the pleasures of reading, loss and joy are among the discoveries in this collection of nine lyric essays. In fusing of memoir, short story, and reflective essay, with the spiritual exposé of modern life, Bobin's meditative prose examines spirituality, living mindfully, and the joy of the written word.

**Y**ou who travel little, you who never travel: still, there comes the odd day when you happen to take a train. At the station there are lots of businessmen. You can spot them from a distance, by their missing faces. The same man in dozens of copies. The same young man, old in his words, embalmed in his future. You look at them somewhat fearfully, the way as a child you used to look at the dried-up old people with their somber voices. The train pulls in. It's one of those express trains invented by these businessmen, for their personal convenience. There is a straight light of light-colored carriages. There is a clutch of cold wind that flattens fields and empties them of their furrows, their accents, their nerves. These are fields deserted by gazes, by men, by beasts: lowly clumps of earth tossed to the dogs of speed.

—from "Promised Land"

excerpt at: [www.autumnhillbooks.org/little\\_party\\_dress](http://www.autumnhillbooks.org/little_party_dress)

December 2009  
77 pgs. | \$10.95  
978-0-9754444-8-1

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