

# The Library At Night Alberto Manguel

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**Magic Land of Toys** Alberto Manguel 2006-11 More than 500 rare and beautiful toys from the renowned collection of Paris' Musie des Arts Dicoratifs are photographed by Pintado in tableaux of children's playrooms from 1870 to the present. These unearthly photographs alternate with text by Manguel that mingles the real and the imaginary, retelling both well-known and obscure children's stories.

**The Bookseller of Florence** Ross King 2021-04-06 The Renaissance in Florence conjures images of beautiful frescoes and elegant buildings—the dazzling handiwork of the city's skilled artists and architects. But equally important for the centuries to follow were geniuses of a different sort: Florence's manuscript hunters, scribes, scholars, and booksellers, who blew the dust off a thousand years of history and, through the discovery and diffusion of ancient knowledge, imagined a new and enlightened world. At the heart of this activity, which bestselling author Ross King relates in his exhilarating new book, was a remarkable man: Vespasiano da Bisticci. Born in 1422, he became what a friend called “the king of the world's booksellers.” At a time when all books were made by hand, over four decades Vespasiano produced

and sold many hundreds of volumes from his bookshop, which also became a gathering spot for debate and discussion. Besides repositories of ancient wisdom by the likes of Plato, Aristotle, and Quintilian, his books were works of art in their own right, copied by talented scribes and illuminated by the finest miniaturists. His clients included a roll-call of popes, kings, and princes across Europe who wished to burnish their reputations by founding magnificent libraries. Vespasiano reached the summit of his powers as Europe's most prolific merchant of knowledge when a new invention appeared: the printed book. By 1480, the king of the world's booksellers was swept away by this epic technological disruption, whereby cheaply produced books reached readers who never could have afforded one of Vespasiano's elegant manuscripts. A thrilling chronicle of intellectual ferment set against the dramatic political and religious turmoil of the era, Ross King's brilliant *The Bookseller of Florence* is also an ode to books and bookmaking that charts the world-changing shift from script to print through the life of an extraordinary man long lost to history—one of the true titans of the Renaissance.

With Borges Alberto Manguel 2006 "In Buenos Aires, 1964,

a blind writer approaches a sixteen-year-old bookstore clerk asking if he would be interested in a part-time job reading aloud." "The writer was Jorge Luis Borges, one of the world's finest literary minds; the boy was Alberto Manguel, who was later to become an internationally acclaimed author and bibliophile." "The young Manguel spent several years reading aloud and transcribing for the enigmatic Borges. Here he recalls this time with integrity and warmth, offering us an intimate and moving portrait of one of the great literary luminaries."--BOOK JACKET.

*The Library at Night* Alberto Manguel 2008-04-01 Inspired by the process of creating a library for his 15th-century home near the Loire, in France, Manguel, the acclaimed writer on books and reading, has taken up the subject of libraries in this captivating meditation on their meaning and significance.

**The Library at Night** Alberto Manguel 2005-09

**Curiosity** Alberto Manguel 2015-01-01 An eclectic history of human curiosity, a great feast of ideas, and a memoir of a reading life from an internationally celebrated reader and thinker Curiosity has been seen through the ages as the impulse that drives our knowledge forward and the temptation that leads us toward dangerous and forbidden waters. The question "Why?" has appeared under a multiplicity of guises and in vastly different contexts throughout the chapters of human history. Why does evil exist? What is beauty? How does language inform us? What defines our identity? What is our responsibility to the world? In Alberto Manguel's most personal book to date, the author tracks his own life of curiosity through the reading that has mapped his way. Manguel chooses as his guides a selection of writers who sparked his imagination. He dedicates each chapter to a single thinker, scientist, artist, or other figure who demonstrated in a fresh way how to ask "Why?" Leading us through a full gallery of inquisitives, among them Thomas Aquinas, David Hume, Lewis Carroll, Rachel Carson, Socrates, and, most importantly, Dante, Manguel affirms how deeply connected our curiosity is to the

readings that most astonish us, and how essential to the soaring of our own imaginations.

**Burning the Books** Richard Ovenden 2020-11-17 Libraries preserve the knowledge and ideas on which rights depend; no wonder they are so often attacked. Richard Ovenden tells the history of this deliberate destruction of knowledge--from library burnings to digital attacks and contemporary underfunding--and makes a passionate plea for the importance of these threatened institutions.

**A Reader on Reading** Alberto Manguel 2010-03-02 In this major collection of his essays, Alberto Manguel, whom George Steiner has called "the Casanova of reading," argues that the activity of reading, in its broadest sense, defines our species. "We come into the world intent on finding narrative in everything," writes Manguel, "landscape, the skies, the faces of others, the images and words that our species create." Reading our own lives and those of others, reading the societies we live in and those that lie beyond our borders, reading the worlds that lie between the covers of a book are the essence of A Reader on Reading. The thirty-nine essays in this volume explore the crafts of reading and writing, the identity granted to us by literature, the far-reaching shadow of Jorge Luis Borges, to whom Manguel read as a young man, and the links between politics and books and between books and our bodies. The powers of censorship and intellectual curiosity, the art of translation, and those "numinous memory palaces we call libraries" also figure in this remarkable collection. For Manguel and his readers, words, in spite of everything, lend coherence to the world and offer us "a few safe places, as real as paper and as bracing as ink," to grant us room and board in our passage.

*Mothers and Daughters* Alberto Manguel 1998-04 Turning his inspired anthologizing skills to a subject all readers can relate to, celebrated writer and editor Alberto Manguel offers an exceptional collection of complete short stories about the relationship between mothers and daughters. Contributors include Dorothy Allison, Daphne du Maurier, Carson McCullers, Katherine

Mansfield, Edith Wharton, Janet Frame, and others. Drawn to Enchant Timothy Garrett Young 2007-01-01 This volume presents over 200 selected original artworks from the collection of Betsy Beinecke Shirley, one of the great collectors of American children's literature. Shirley gathered an authoritative collection of books, original illustrations, manuscripts, as well as drawings and paintings from such children's classics as 'Treasure Island' and 'Eloise.' The artwork in Shirley's collection guides the reader on a tour through the stages of childhood reading, this volume begins with ABC's and nursery books. It continues through adventure stories, magazines, and more, then concludes with a miscellany section of odds and ends. The images demonstrate how children's books evolved, from the nation's first days of independence to modern times. Artists whose works are represented include many of the favorites, among them Ludwig Bemelmans, Maurice Sendak, A.B. Frost, Wanda Gag, Peter Newell, N.C. Wyeth, Tony Sarg, Robert Lawson, and Johnny Gruelle.

**Packing My Library** Alberto Manguel 2018-03-20 A best-selling author and world-renowned bibliophile meditates on his vast personal library and champions the vital role of all libraries In June 2015 Alberto Manguel prepared to leave his centuries-old village home in France's Loire Valley and reestablish himself in a one-bedroom apartment on Manhattan's Upper West Side. Packing up his enormous, 35,000+ volume personal library, choosing which books to keep, store, or cast out, Manguel found himself in deep reverie on the nature of relationships between books and readers, books and collectors, order and disorder, memory and reading. In this poignant and personal reevaluation of his life as a reader, the author illuminates the highly personal art of reading and affirms the vital role of public libraries. Manguel's musings range widely, from delightful reflections on the idiosyncrasies of book lovers to deeper analyses of historic and catastrophic book events, including the burning of ancient Alexandria's library and contemporary library lootings

at the hands of ISIS. With insight and passion, the author underscores the universal centrality of books and their unique importance to a democratic, civilized, and engaged society.

**A History of Reading** Alberto Manguel 2014-08-26 At one magical instant in your early childhood, the page of a book—that string of confused, alien ciphers—shivered into meaning, and at that moment, whole universes opened. You became, irrevocably, a reader. Noted essayist and editor Alberto Manguel moves from this essential moment to explore the six-thousand-year-old conversation between words and that hero without whom the book would be a lifeless object: the reader. Manguel brilliantly covers reading as seduction, as rebellion, and as obsession and goes on to trace the quirky and fascinating history of the reader's progress from clay tablet to scroll, codex to CD-ROM.

**Reading Pictures** Alberto Manguel 2003-11-03 The language in which we speak about art has become steadily more abstruse, though for thousands of years this was not the case. Today, we live in a kaleidoscopic new world of images. Is there a vocabulary we can learn in order to read these images? Is there something we can do so as not to remain passive when we flip through an illustrated book or wander through a gallery, or are there ways in which we can 'read' the stories within paintings, monumnets, buildings and sculptures? We say 'every picture tells a story', but does it? Taking a handful of extraordinary images - photographed, painted, built, sculpted - Alberto Manguel explores, with delight and erudition, how each one attempts to tell a story that we, the viewer, must decipher or invent. Whether delving into the love of life in the twentieth-century world of Joan Mitchell, or the brutal complexities of Picasso's treatment of his mistress; revisiting the riddles of the past in the fifteenth-century painting of Robert Campin, or exploring the heartrending life of 'the hairy girl' whose matted fur so astonished sixteenth-century Italy, he helps us to enjoy and explore the visual landscape we live in.

**Shadow Libraries** Joe Karaganis 2018-05-04 How students get the materials they need as opportunities for higher education expand but funding shrinks. From the top down, Shadow Libraries explores the institutions that shape the provision of educational materials, from the formal sector of universities and publishers to the broadly informal ones organized by faculty, copy shops, student unions, and students themselves. It looks at the history of policy battles over access to education in the post-World War II era and at the narrower versions that have played out in relation to research and textbooks, from library policies to book subsidies to, more recently, the several "open" publication models that have emerged in the higher education sector. From the bottom up, Shadow Libraries explores how, simply, students get the materials they need. It maps the ubiquitous practice of photocopying and what are—in many cases—the more marginal ones of buying books, visiting libraries, and downloading from unauthorized sources. It looks at the informal networks that emerge in many contexts to share materials, from face-to-face student networks to Facebook groups, and at the processes that lead to the consolidation of some of those efforts into more organized archives that circulate offline and sometimes online—the shadow libraries of the title. If Alexandra Elbakyan's Sci-Hub is the largest of these efforts to date, the more characteristic part of her story is the prologue: the personal struggle to participate in global scientific and educational communities, and the recourse to a wide array of ad hoc strategies and networks when formal, authorized means are lacking. If Elbakyan's story has struck a chord, it is in part because it brings this contradiction in the academic project into sharp relief—universalist in principle and unequal in practice. Shadow Libraries is a study of that tension in the digital era. Contributors Balázs Bodó, Laura Czerniewicz, Mirosław Filiciak, Mariana Fossatti, Jorge Gemetto, Eve Gray, Evelin Heidel, Joe Karaganis, Lawrence Liang, Pedro Mizukami, Jhessica Reia, Alek Tarkowski

A Universal History of the Destruction of Books Fernando Báez 2008 Examines the many reasons and motivations for the destruction of books throughout history, citing specific acts from the smashing of ancient Sumerian tablets to the looting of libraries in post-war Iraq.

The Figure in the Carpet Henry James 1919

**The Library at Night** Alberto Manguel 2011-07-27 In the tradition of A History of Reading, this book is an account of Manguel's astonishment at the variety, beauty and persistence of our efforts to shape the world and our lives, most notably through something almost as old as reading itself: libraries. The Library at Night begins with the design and construction of Alberto Manguel's own library at his house in western France - a process that raises puzzling questions about his past and his reading habits, as well as broader ones about the nature of categories, catalogues, architecture and identity. Thematically organized and beautifully illustrated, this book considers libraries as treasure troves and architectural spaces; it looks on them as autobiographies of their owners and as statements of national identity. It examines small personal libraries and libraries that started as philanthropic ventures, and analyzes the unending promise - and defects - of virtual ones. It compares different methods of categorization (and what they imply) and libraries that have built up by chance as opposed to by conscious direction. In part this is because this is about the library at night, not during the day: this book takes in what happens after the lights go out, when the world is sleeping, when books become the rightful owners of the library and the reader is the interloper. Then all daytime order is upended: one book calls to another across the shelves, and new alliances are created across time and space. And so, as well as the best design for a reading room and the makeup of Robinson Crusoe's library, this book dwells on more "nocturnal" subjects: fictional libraries like those carried by Count Dracula and Frankenstein's monster; shadow libraries of lost and censored books; imaginary libraries of books not yet

written. *The Library at Night* is a fascinating voyage through the mind of one of our most beloved men of letters. It is an invitation into his memory and vast knowledge of books and civilizations, and throughout – though mostly implicitly – it is also a passionate defence of literacy, of the unique pleasures of reading, of the importance of the book. As much as anything else, *The Library at Night* reminds us of what a library stands for: the possibility of illumination, of a better path for our society and for us as individuals. That hope too, at the close, is replaced by something that fits this personal and eclectic book even better: something more fragile, and evanescent than illumination, though just as important.

**Going Ashore** Mavis Gallant 2010-04-06 One of the world's great short-story writers emerges with a selection of stories from her past, a trove of hidden treasures. Mavis Gallant moved from Montreal to Paris in 1950 to write short stories for a living. Since then she has continued to write, producing a remarkable body of work. In 1993, Robertson Davies said: "She has written many short stories. My calculation suggests that she has written in this form at least the equivalent of twenty novels." Many of her stories have been anthologized, notably in the 1996 classic *Selected Stories*, from which hundreds of pages had to be cut for reasons of length. These "embarrassment of riches" stories are restored in this collection, along with many other neglected treasures from her past. Arranged in the order in which they appeared, they shed light on people living through most of the second half of the 20th century. More important, they show one of the greatest short-story writers of our time at work, delineating a series of worlds with dramatic flair, dazzlingly precise language, a wicked wit, and a vivid understanding of the human condition. Even Mavis Gallant's most devoted admirers will find many stories here that they do not know. For newer admirers, this will prove to be a wonderful source of constant pleasure, leaving only the great mystery: How does she do it?

*The Jungle Books* Rudyard Kipling 2008-06-12 Presents the adventures of Mowgli, a boy reared by a pack of wolves and the wild animals of the jungle. Also includes other short stories set in India.

*Other Fires* Alberto Manguel 1992 A powerful, haunting, vivid, and provocative collection of short fiction by Latin American women.

**The Assassination Bureau, Ltd.** Jack London 1994-10-01 London's suspense thriller focuses on the fine distinction between state-justified murder and criminal violence in the Assassination Bureau—an organization whose mandate is to rid the state of all its enemies. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

**A History of Water** Edward Wilson-Lee 2022-08-18 From award-winning writer Edward Wilson-Lee, this is a thrilling true historical detective story set in sixteenth-century Portugal.

*The Librarian of Auschwitz* Antonio Iturbe 2017-10-10 Based on the experience of real-life Auschwitz prisoner Dita Kraus, this is the incredible story of a girl who risked her life to keep the magic of books alive during the Holocaust. Fourteen-year-old Dita is one of the many imprisoned by the Nazis at Auschwitz. Taken, along with her mother and father, from the Terezín ghetto in Prague, Dita is adjusting to the constant terror that is life in the camp. When Jewish leader Freddy Hirsch asks Dita to take charge of the eight precious volumes the prisoners have managed to sneak past the guards, she agrees. And so Dita becomes the librarian of Auschwitz. Out of one of the darkest chapters of human history comes this extraordinary story of courage and hope. This title has Common Core connections. Godwin Books

A History of Reading Alberto Manguel 2012-11-13 In this marvelous book, acclaimed around the world, Alberto Manguel takes us on a fascinating exploration of what it means to be a reader of books. *A History of Reading* is a brilliant reminder of why we cherish the act of reading—despite distractions throughout the ages, from the Inquisition to the lures of cyberspace. He shows us what happens when we read; who we become; and how reading teaches us how to live. He reminds us that we live in books as well as among them—how we find our own stories in books, and traces of our lives. He shows us how our reading habits have developed over the centuries, and how, ever since humans first transcribed their thoughts and deeds on clay and papyrus, the act of reading is itself a part of being human. Alberto Manguel is a lover of reading, and he brings a lover's delight and enthusiasm to his history of reading. His stories take us across a breathtaking range of time and experiences. From the invention of the reader to Pliny the Younger's first lip-synch in history; from the moment when Alexander the Great's conquering army watched, amazed, as their captain read a letter from his mother—but silently—to himself!—to reading clubs in medieval France; from the Great Camel Library of the Grand Vizir of Persia, who trained his camels to walk in alphabetical order, to the ancient delights of bedroom reading and the modern horrors of book burning in Nazi Germany; from cuneiform and codexes to the invention of printing and to Penguins; from the creation of eyeglasses to the hypnotics of hypertext—the story of reading is laid open here for our pleasure.

**Homer's the Iliad and the Odyssey** Alberto Manguel 2009-03 Examines the origins of "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey," the colorful characters and events chronicling the Trojan War and its aftermath, and the legacy of the works for Western culture.

*A Case of Curiosities* Allen Kurzweil 2001-08-10 This tale of an ambitious inventor in France as the Revolution looms is "brilliantly playful . . . full of lore and lewdness" (Chicago Tribune). "A portrait of a

young mechanical genius in 18th-century France, delivered along with a gallimaufry of odd and intriguing facts and a rich, lusty picture of society in that time and place." —Publishers Weekly In France, on the eve of the Revolution, a young man named Claude Page sets out to become the most ingenious and daring inventor of his time. Over the course of a career filled with violence and passion, Claude learns the arts of enameling and watchmaking from an irascible, defrocked abbé, then apprentices himself to a pornographic bookseller and applies his erotic erudition to the seduction of the wife of an impotent wigmaker. But it is Claude's greatest device—a talking mechanical head—that both crowns his career and leads to an execution as tragic as that of Marie Antoinette, and far more bizarre. "Like a joint effort by Henry Fielding and John Barth" (Chicago Tribune), this "captivating novel" (San Francisco Chronicle) marked the debut of one of the finest literary artists of our time. "A Case of Curiosities . . . really is brilliant. Also witty, learned, ingenious, sly, and bawdy." —Entertainment Weekly "What John Fowles did for the 19th century with *The French Lieutenant's Woman* and Umberto Eco did for the 14th with *The Name of the Rose* . . . Kurzweil now does for the late 18th century." —San Francisco Chronicle

**The Dictionary of Imaginary Places** Alberto Manguel 2000 Describes and visualizes over 1,200 magical lands found in literature and film, discussing such exotic realms as Atlantis, Tolkien's Middle Earth, and Oz.

**Fabulous Monsters** Alberto Manguel 2019-09-24 An original look at how literary characters can transcend their books to guide our lives, by one of the world's most eminent bibliophiles Alberto Manguel, in a style both charming and erudite, examines how literary characters live with us from childhood on. Throughout the years, they change their identities and emerge from behind their stories to teach us about the complexities of love, loss, and the world itself. Manguel's favorite characters include Jim from *Huckleberry Finn*, Phoebe from *The Catcher in the Rye*, Job and Jonah from the



Bible, Little Red Riding Hood and Captain Nemo, Hamlet's mother, and Dr. Frankenstein's maligned Monster. Sharing his unique powers as a reader, Manguel encourages us to establish our own literary relationships. An intimate preface and Manguel's own "doodles" complete this delightful and magical book.

*Unreasonable Hours* Julio Cortázar 1995 "Seven stories from Cortázar's volume *Deshoras* (see HLAS 48:5600). Useful afterword by Manguel places work in biographical, literary, and political context. Powerful, often fantastic narrations told from different points of view, compellingly translated by Manguel. Important contribution to Cortázar bibliography in English"--*Handbook of Latin American Studies*, v. 58.

*Black Water 2 : More Tales of the Fantastic* Alberto Manguel 1990 In this companion volume to the widely acclaimed *Blackwater: The Book of Fantastic Literature*, master anthropologist Alberto Manguel assembles nearly 70 more hypnotic tales from writers such as Julian Barnes, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Margaret Atwood. (1990)

**The Library** Stuart Kells 2017-08-28 'Almost like poetry, a rich ode to all things books and everything we love about them. The enjoyment and engagement is so palpable you can almost taste it and Kells proves to be the perfect guide through the subject matter and history.' AU Review Libraries are filled with magic. From the Bodleian, the Folger and the Smithsonian to the fabled libraries of Middle-earth, Umberto Eco's mediaeval library labyrinth and libraries dreamed up by John Donne, Jorge Luis Borges and Carlos Ruiz Zafón, Stuart Kells explores the bookish places, real and fictitious, that continue to capture our imaginations. *The Library: A Catalogue of Wonders* is a fascinating and engaging exploration of libraries as places of beauty and wonder. It's a celebration of books as objects and an account of the deeply personal nature of these hallowed spaces by one of Australia's leading bibliophiles. Stuart Kells is an author and book-trade historian. His 2015 book, Penguin and the Lane Brothers, won the Ashurst Business

Literature Prize. An authority on rare books, he has written and published on many aspects of print culture and the book world. Stuart lives in Melbourne with his family. He is writing a book about Shakespeare's library. 'Libraries are filled with magic. From the Bodleian, the Folger and the Smithsonian to the fabled libraries of middle earth, Umberto Eco's mediaeval library labyrinth and libraries dreamed up by John Donne, Jorge Luis Borges and Carlos Ruiz Zafón. Stuart Kells explores the bookish places, real and fictitious, that continue to capture our imaginations. *The Library: A Catalogue of Wonders* is a fascinating and engaging exploration of libraries as places of beauty and wonder. It's a celebration of books as objects and an account of the deeply personal nature of these hallowed spaces by one of Australia's leading bibliophiles.' Prime Minister's Literary Awards 2018, Judges' comments 'If you think you know what a library is, this marvellously idiosyncratic book will make you think again. After visiting hundreds of libraries around the world and in the realm of imagination, bibliophile and rare-book collector Stuart Kells has compiled an enchanting compendium of well-told tales and musings both on the physical and metaphysical dimensions of these multi-storied places.' Age 'On a vivid tour of the world's great libraries, both real and imagined, Kells is a magnificent guide to the abundant treasures he sets out.' Mathilda Imlah, Australian Book Review, 2017 Publisher Picks 'The Library charts the transition between formats such as papyrus scrolls, parchment codices, moveable type and ebooks. There are many whimsical detours along the way, and Kells even devotes a chapter to fantasy libraries...Kells translates his stunning depth of research into breezy digestibility.' Big Issue 'The Library is a treasure trove and reaching the last page simply prompts an impassioned cry for more of the same.' Otago Daily Times 'Rich with gossipy tales of the inspired, crazy, brilliant and terrible people who have founded or encountered libraries through history...Kells's reflections are wonderfully romantic,

wryly funny...There's no doubt we can all learn a lot from the magnificently obsessive and eloquent Kells.' Australian 'With The Library, Stuart Kells has written a deft and involving book that manages to balance the erudite with the accessible...There is, in any given chapter, a dozen odd details or compelling stories a reader can only hope to memorise, with an eye towards future use (perfectly timed and skilfully deployed, naturally).' Monthly 'There is so much to learn and enjoy in this book, with the impressive amount of research never weighing down the accessible writing...Kells makes an elegant plea for the future library—one that will resonate with most book lovers.' Good Reading 'A sprightly cabinet of bookish curiosities.' Jane Sullivan, Sydney Morning Herald 'Kells proves a generous guide, taking us on a whirlwind tour through several thousand years of book history.' Australian Book Review 'The Library abounds in fascinating tales of lost codices and found manuscripts, and the sometimes unscrupulous schemes by which people have conspired to obtain or amass valuable volumes.' New York Times

Into The Looking-Glass Wood Alberto Manguel 2011-02-04 By the award-winning author of A History of Reading "For me, words on a page give the world coherence--Words tell us what we, as a society, believe the world to be--I believe there is an ethic of reading--a commitment that is both political and private in the act of turning the pages. And I believe that sometimes, beyond the author's intentions and beyond the reader's hopes, a book can make us better and wiser." Through personal stories and literary reflections, in a style rich in humour and gentle erudition, Manguel leads us, the readers, to reflect upon the pleasures and responsibilities of reading, and the links that exist between the world we live in, and the words we live amongst. Into the Looking-Glass Wood is a voyage into the subversive heart of words - a voyage fired by the author's humanity and extraordinary breadth of vision.

**Aseroë** François Dominique 2020-09-15 "A singular novel."

—Lydia Davis, author of Can't and Won't and Essays One "An exhilarating adventure!" —Alberto Manguel, author of The Library at Night and Fabulous Monsters "Extraordinary. . . . Brings to mind the great mushroom scenes of the film Phantom Thread. How not to be aroused by this whopping treat of verbal virtuosity?" —Mary Ann Caws, author of The Modern Art Cookbook Aseroë, the mushroom, as object of fascination. First observed in Tasmania and South Africa, it appeared suddenly in France around 1920. It is characterized by its stench and, at maturity, its grotesque beauty. Aseroë, the word, as incantation. Can a word create a world? It does, here. François Dominique is a conjurer, who through verbal sorcery unleashes the full force of language, while evoking the essential rupture between the word and the object. An impossible endeavor, perhaps, but one at the very heart of literature. The narrator of Aseroë wanders medieval streets and dense forests, portrait galleries, and rare bookshops. As he explores the frontiers of language, the boundaries of science, art, and alchemy melt away, and the mundane is overtaken by the bizarre. Inhabited by creatures born in darkness, both terrible and alluring, Aseroë is ultimately a meditation on memory and forgetting, creation, and oblivion. François Dominique is an acclaimed novelist, essayist, poet, and translator. He has received the Burgundy Prize for Literature and is the author of eight novels, including Aseroë and Solène, winner of the Wepler Award and Prix littéraire Charles Brisset. He has translated the poetry of Louis Zukofsky and Rainer Maria Rilke and is the cofounder of the publishing house Ulysses-Fin-de-Siècle.

Quartet in Autumn Barbara Pym 2015-10-08 With an introduction by Alexander McCall Smith, author of The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series. One did not drink sherry before the evening, just as one did not read a novel in the morning. In 1970s London, Edwin, Norman, Letty and Marcia work in the same office and suffer the same problem - loneliness. Lovingly and with delightful humour, Barbara Pym conducts us through their day-to-day



existence: their preoccupations, their irritations, their judgements, and - perhaps most keenly felt - their worries about having somehow missed out on life as post-war Britain shifted around them. Deliciously, blackly funny and full of obstinate optimism, *Quartet in Autumn* shows Barbara Pym's sensitive artistry at its most sparkling. Its world is both extraordinary and familiar, revealing the eccentricities of everyday life.

**All Men Are Liars** Alberto Manguel 2012-06-05 In this gorgeously imagined novel, a journalist interviews those who knew-or thought they knew-Alejandro Bevilacqua, a brilliant, infuriatingly elusive South American writer and author of the masterpiece, *In Praise of Lying*. But the accounts of those in his circle of friends, lovers, and enemies become increasingly contradictory, murky, and suspect. Is everyone lying, or just telling their own subjective version of the truth? As the literary investigation unfolds and a chorus of Bevilacqua's peers piece together the fractured reality of his life, thirty years after his death, only the reader holds the power of final judgment. In *All Men Are Liars*, Alberto Manguel pays homage to literature's inventions and explores whether we can ever truly know someone, and the question of how, by whom, and for what, we ourselves will be remembered.

**The City of Words** Alberto Manguel 2008 'And yet stories, even the best and truest, can't save us from our own folly. Stories can't protect us from suffering and error, from natural and artificial catastrophes, from our own suicidal greed. The only thing they can do is ... offer consolation for suffering and words to name our experience. Stories can tell us who we are ... and suggest ways of imagining a future that, without calling for comfortable happy endings, may offer us ways of remaining alive, together, on this much-abused earth.' Based on Canada's 2007 CBC Massey Lectures (to be broadcast in Australia by ABC Radio National in April 2008), Alberto Manguel's *The City of Words* takes a fresh look at the rise of violent intolerance in our societies. We strive to build societies with sets of

values all citizens can agree on. But something has gone wrong- race riots in France, political murder in the Netherlands, bombings in Britain and Bali - are these symptoms of a multicultural experiment gone awry? Why is it so difficult for us to live together when the alternatives are demonstrably horrifying? With his trademark wit and erudition, Alberto Manguel suggests a fresh approach- we should look at what visionaries, poets, novelists, essayists and filmmakers have to say about building societies. Perhaps the stories we tell hold secret keys to the human heart. From Cassandra to Jack London, the Epic of Gilgamesh to the computer Hal in 2001- A Space Odyssey, Don Quixote to Atanarjuat- *The Fast Runner*, Manguel draws fascinating and revelatory parallels between the personal and political realities of our present-day world and those of myth, legend and story.

*The Grand Complication* Allen Kurzweil 2002-08-21 Confronted by both professional and personal crises, reference librarian Alexander Short gains a new lease on life when he meets Henry James Jesson III, who hires him for some research into an enigmatic eighteenth-century inventor.

**The Library of Babel** Jorge Luis Borges 2000 "Not many living artists would be sufficiently brave or inspired to attempt reflecting in art what Borges constructs in words. But the detailed, evocative etchings by Erik Desmazieres provide a perfect counterpoint to the visionary prose. Like Borges, Desmazieres has created his own universe, his own definition of the meaning, topography and geography of the Library of Babel. Printed together, with the etchings reproduced in fine-line duotone, text and art unite to present an artist's book that belongs in the circle of Borges's sacrosanct *Crimson Hexagon* - "books smaller than natural books, books omnipotent, illustrated, and magical."--BOOK JACKET.Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved

**A Reading Diary** Alberto Manguel 2006 While traveling, Manguel was struck by how the novel he was reading

seemed to reflect the social chaos of the world he was living in. He decided to keep a diary of these moments, reading a book a month and recording his observations, which provides an enthralling adventure in literature and life.

**The Traveler, the Tower, and the Worm** Alberto Manguel

2013-07-19 Alberto Manguel examines metaphors of readers and reading from literatures across centuries and the globe, from the ancient epic Gilgamesh to the World Wide Web, from the adventures of Ulysses to the tragedy of Emma Bovary, and he considers how these metaphors reflect the cultures that invent them.