



## Best European Fiction 2013

*Aleksandar Hemon (Editor) , John Banville (Preface) , Christina Hesselholdt (Denmark) , Dan Lungu (Romania) , Bernard Comment (Switzerland) , Ray French (United Kingdom - Wales) , Mike McCormack (Ireland) , Gyrðir Elíasson (Iceland) , more... Ari Behn (Norway) , Žarko Kujundžiski (Macedonia) , Dragan Radulović (Montenegro) , Lasha Bugadze (Georgia) , Paul Emond (Belgium) , Krikor Beledian (Armenia) , Kirill Kobrin (Russia) , Balla (Slovakia) , Vitalie Ciobanu (Moldova) , Tomas Mac Siomoin (Ireland) , Tiina Raevaara (Finland) , Miklós Vajda (Hungary) , Zehra Ç?rak (Turkey) , Dulce Maria Cardoso (Portugal) , Gundega Repše (Latvia) , Tania Malyarchuk (Ukraine) , Eloy Tizón (Spain) , Semezdin Mehmedinović (Bosnia & Herzegovina) , Lydia Mischkulnig (Austria) , Marie Redonnet (France) , Ieva Toleikytė (Lithuania) , Rumen Balabanov (Bulgaria) , A.S. Byatt (United Kingdom - England) , Kristiina Ein (Estonia) , Sylwia Chutnik (Poland) , Daniel Batliner (Liechtenstein) , Bernardo Atxaga (Spain) , Borivoje Adašević (Serbia) , Mirana Likar Bajželj (Slovenia) ...less*

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2013 may be the best year yet for *Best European Fiction*. The inimitable John Banville joins the list of distinguished preface writers for Aleksandar Hemon's series, and A. S. Byatt represents England among a luminous cast of European contributors. Fans of the series will find everything they've grown to love, while new readers will discover what they've been missing!

SLOVAKIA: Balla, Before the Breakup

MACEDONIA: Žarko Kujundžiski, When the Glasses Are Lost

MONTENEGRO: Dragan Radulovi?, The Face

GEORGIA: Lasha Bugadze, The Sins of the Wolf

BELGIUM: Paul Emond, Grand Froid

ARMENIA: Krikor Beledian, The Name under My Tongue

RUSSIA: Kirill Kobrin, Last Summer in Marienbad

MOLDOVA: Vitalie Ciobanu, Orchestra Rehearsal

IRELAND: Tomás Mac Síomóin, Music in the Bone

FINLAND: Tiina Raevaara, My Creator, My Creation

HUNGARY: Miklós Vajda, Portrait of a Mother in an American Frame

TURKEY: Zehra Ç?rak, Memory Cultivation Salon

PORUGAL: Dulce Maria Cardoso, Angels on the Inside

LATVIA: Gundega Repše, How Important is it to be Ernest?

UKRAINE: Tania Malyarchuk, Me and My Sacred Cow

SPAIN (Castilian): Eloy Tizón, The Mercury in the Thermometers

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA: Semezdin Mehmedinovi?, My Heart

AUSTRIA: Lydia Mischkulnig, A Protagonist's Nemesis

FRANCE: Marie Redonnet, Madame Zabee's Guesthouse

LITHUANIA: Ieva Toleikyt?, The Eye of the Maples

BULGARIA: Rumen Balabanov, The Ragiad

UK, ENGLAND: A.S. Byatt, Dolls' Eyes

ESTONIA: Kristiina Ehin, The Surrealist's Daughter

POLAND: Sylwia Chutnik, It's All Up to You

LIECHTENSTEIN: Daniel Batliner, Malcontent's Monologue

SPAIN (Basque): Bernardo Atxaga, Pirpo and Chanberlan, Murderers

SERBIA: Borivoje Adaševi?, For a Foreign Master

SLOVENIA: Mirana Likar Bajželj, Nada's Tablecloth

DENMARK: Christina Hesselholdt, Camilla and the Horse

ROMANIA: Dan Lungu, 7 P.M. Wife

SWITZERLAND: Bernard Comment, A Son

UK, WALES: Ray French, Migration

IRELAND: Mike McCormack, Of One Mind

ICELAND: Gyrðir Elíasson, The Music Shop

NORWAY: Ari Behn, Thunder Snow and When a Dollar Was a Big Deal

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## **From Reader Review Best European Fiction 2013 for online ebook**

### **Arja Salafranca says**

Strange sometimes surreal tales - people trapped in a lift, people watching an absurdist play, a girl looks after a cow named Daisy... The best, for me, as always are the more realistic and "traditional" stories, where character comes first and you get behind the skin of a character in a story. There were fewer of these than I would have liked, unfortunately, so ideally I'd like to give this 2 and half stars.

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### **Fabio Bensoussan says**

Esperando ansiosamente pelo lançamento, em outubro (Kindle). As edições anteriores proporcionaram grandes descobertas.

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### **Theresa says**

These are unusual stories. Absurdist, Kafkaesque in many places, or supernatural. A woman who discovers a "thing" crouching in the corner of her living room behind the TV set that only gets bigger when her husband returns from a business trip and may be cheating her. A dishrag that announces it was a person the day before. Some of the stories are a little too confusing or obscure, but overall, this collection inspired me!

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### **Gurldoggie says**

Another great collection - the third that I've read in this series. I read this one slowly, a story at a time over about 6 months, and every time I came back to it I was delighted once again by the diversity of voices, settings, perspectives and themes. Even if some stories are better than others, every one is worth reading. I'm very much looking forward to the 2014 collection!

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### **Amy says**

Pure literary pleasure. I can only think of one story in the entire book that I didn't care for. Plenty of reviews have detailed the various stories, no one needs this from me. I can say that a full month after finishing the book, my mind is full of its stories. They have stuck with me and will continue to be with me. Not just the information contained within the stories, but the ways they made me feel, the thoughts they made me think - this book stays with me.

I checked this book out from my library. I think it would be an even better read as a purchase, when one can take all the time in the world to savor each story individually. It is worthy of the reader's full time and attention. An absolutely perfect compilation of short stories.

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### **André says**

Ich habe ein Buch bei BookCrossing.com registriert!  
<http://www.BookCrossing.com/journal/12811233>

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### **Chris says**

another amazing collection

"when we are not sure, we are alive." -- Graham Greene

"What's important is what was happening in me, that definitive rupture with the Fatherland, however painful I found it. And when a person steps into the next stage of his destiny, there is no way back to the last. When a person finds himself in a state such as mine, everything around him takes on a different aspect: people seem to laugh differently, walk differently, react to you differently, and you, for that matter, react differently to them. In a word, the world and the people who walk in it appear hostile to you. I would like it not to be so, but that's how it is and now I don't know what I can do about it, apart from describe it. Somehow, I say, everything changes, which means that even the landscape around you seems to change as well." --Borivoje Adaševi?

A.S.Byatt's story of a lover's unusual betrayal is beautifully drawn.

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### **Ciprian says**

I found interesting around two thirds of the stories.

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### **Ümit Mutlu says**

*"Bence herkes birbirinden farklı? öpü?üyor. Bu tür öpü?melerde her zaman ruhlar ve özgünlük, ?ahsi dili?ünceler de etkili?im halindedir. Bedenlerin üzerindeki kafalarda a?zlar çok özel deneyimler ya?arlar; her biri her zaman kendine özgü. Ve bu nedenle bir daha asla Alfredo'nunki gibi bir öpü?me ya?ayamayaca?m sevgili bayan Merk. Tabii bir daha onunla kar?la?mazsam."*

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### **Quinn Irwin says**

Some of the stories are superb, but many of them are light in scene and heavy in exposition.

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## **John Arden says**

Some were quite good, some were terrible, most were in between.

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## **Tuck says**

Another fantastic and eclectic collection of euro short stories, with bonus author bios and biblios, and translator bios and biblios. A real desert island book with preface by john banville this go round.

A few I found particularly well written were kirill kobrin Russian, a story of ennui and roving eyes, alighted on a book by “herzen”.

Vitalie ciobanu moldova, about a guy who has to play in the never-ending folk band instead of concentrating on his classical education, and figuring out how to escape the hell that was his country.

Miklos vajda hungary, chronicling the almost unfathomably labyrinthine Hungarian diasporas.

Tania malyarchuk Ukraine, sweet story of young city girl spending her summers on the farm with her old old grandma, and going back in time to country ways. Here's her intro

“I hated my cow and she hated me.

Even though we were like two peas in a pod: both of us crazy.

We competed with one another in mental abnormality, and the cow always won because she was the better runner. She had four legs, and I only two.”

It's interesting, these new hemon/dalkey collections, the translators are just as powerful and important as the original writers. Jull costa for example, Spanish and Portuguese into English, and perhaps basque too? Here is great interview with her: <http://www.thewhitereview.org/intervi...>

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## **Rune Clausen says**

Read about half the stories, some okay, others not so much.

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