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Charco Press  
Catalogue  
2018 / 2019

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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.



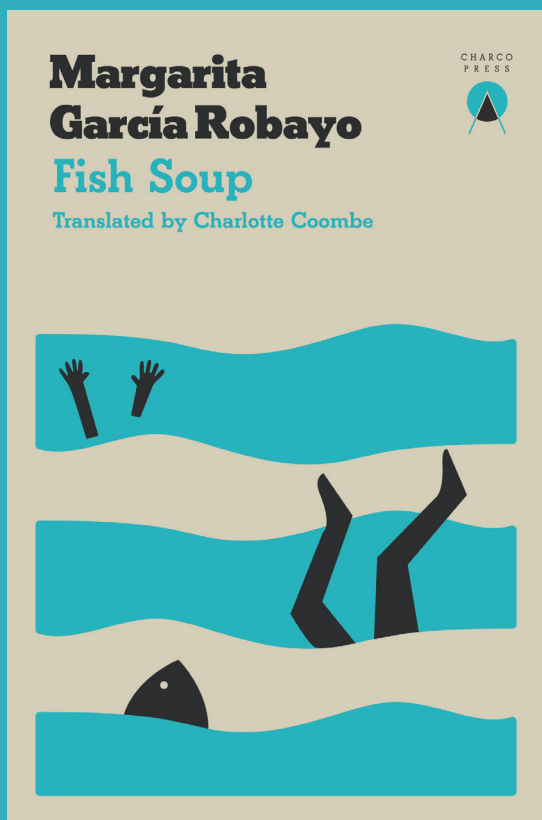
# 2018 COLLECTION



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“There are very few writers who can challenge expectations the way Margarita García Robayo does.”

Mariana Enríquez



ISBN: 978-1-9998593-0-5

eISBN: 978-1-9998593-5-0

04 June 2018 • 232 pp

B format paperback • £9.99

Literary Fiction

# FISH SOUP

Margarita García Robayo

Translated by Charlotte Coombe

*Fish Soup* is the amalgamation of three books by Margarita García Robayo: a collection of short stories *Worse Things*, a rite of passage novel, *Waiting for a Hurricane*, and *Sexual Education*, a semi-autobiographical novella not yet published in Spanish. Internationally acclaimed, García Robayo's books have been praised in Latin America as well as in Spain, and have been translated into French, Portuguese, Italian, Hebrew and Chinese. *Fish Soup* is her first book in English.

Margarita García Robayo (Colombia, 1980) is the author of three novels, a book of autobiographical essays and several collections of short stories, including *Worse Things*, which obtained the prestigious Casa de las Américas Prize in 2014. Her work has appeared in several anthologies such as *Región: cuento político latinoamericano* (Political Latin American Short Stories, 2011) and *Childless Parents* (2014). In 2013, she was awarded a Literary Creation Grant from the Han Nefkens Foundation and the Pompeu Fabra University.



# THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US

Renato Cisneros

Translated by Fionn Petch

In this sprawling family saga stretching across Latin America, a son embarks on a journey to unravel his complex relationship with his father and how it shaped the man he is today. Recalling García Márquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude* and Allende's *House of the Spirits*, the renowned journalist and writer Renato Cisneros probes deep into his own family history to try and come to terms with his father, General Luis Federico 'The Gaucho' Cisneros, a leading, controversial figure in the oppressive military regime that held power in Peru during the 1970s and 1980s, a tortuous period marked by state-sanctioned terrorism and the rise of the Shining Path. Selling over 35,000 copies in Peru alone, *The Distance Between Us* is at once excruciating in its honesty and deeply moving in its universal relevance.

Renato Cisneros (Peru, 1976) is a well-known journalist, broadcaster and writer in Peru, where he presents current affairs programmes on radio and TV. Having published a number of books of poetry and two novels, in 2015 he stepped back from his career as a broadcaster to fully concentrate on his writing. *The Distance Between Us* was shortlisted for the Mario Vargas Llosa Biannual Award, longlisted for the Prix Médicis (2017) and was the winner of the Prix Transfuge du Meilleur Roman de Littérature Hispanique (2017).



‘A book so intelligent and moving,  
you wish it would never end.’

*Libération*



ISBN: 978-1-9998593-1-2

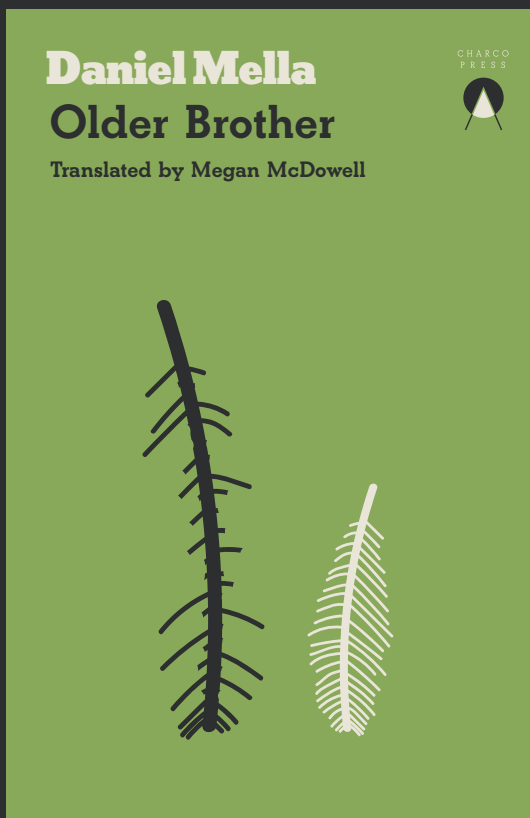
eISBN: 978-1-9998593-6-7

9 August 2017 • 370pp

B format paperback • £12.99

Literary Fiction

“ This is a must-read book (...) a cathartic novel and another step in the consolidation of Mella as a remarkable writer... ”  
*El País*



ISBN: 978-1-9998593-4-3

eISBN: 978-1-9998593-9-8

September 2018 • 150pp

B format paperback • £12.99

Literary Fiction



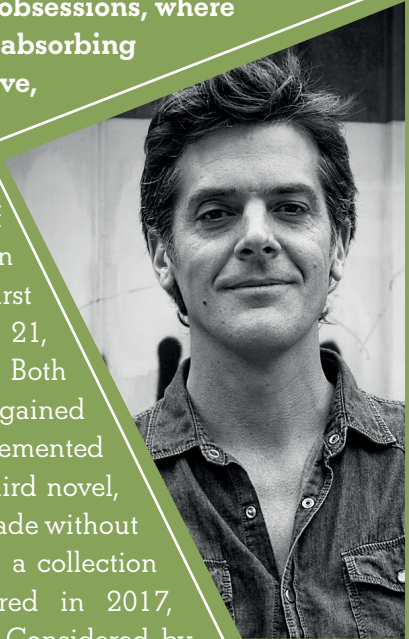
# OLDER BROTHER

Daniel Mella

Translated by Megan McDowell

During the summer of 2014, on one of the stormiest days on record to hit the coast of Uruguay, 31-year old Alejandro, lifeguard and younger brother of our protagonist and narrator, dies after being struck by lightning. This marks the opening of a novel that combines memoir and fiction, as it unveils an urgent exploration of the brotherly bond, and the effects that death can have on our most intimate circles as well as on ourselves. In a style that is reminiscent of that of Bret Easton Ellis and J.D. Salinger, and which in parts recalls David Cronenberg's or Anthony Burgess's examination of violence in society, Mella takes us with him in this dizzying journey right into the centre of his own neurosis and obsessions, where fatality is skilfully turned into an absorbing experience and a meditation on love, relations, grief, art and beliefs.

Daniel Mella (Uruguay, 1976) is one of the key figures in contemporary Latin American literature. He published his first novel *Pogo* (Mosh, 1997) at the age of 21, followed by *Derretimiento* (Melt, 1998). Both books were lauded by critics and quickly gained Mella the reputation of a cult writer. He cemented his place on the literary scene with his third novel, *Noviembre* (November, 2000). After a decade without writing, Mella returned with *Lava* (2013), a collection of short stories. *Older Brother* appeared in 2017, garnering jubilant press internationally. Considered by some critics to be the 'Dostoyevsky of the River Plate', this is Daniel Mella's first book in English.



# RESISTANCE

Julián Fuks

Translated by Daniel Hahn

A young couple, involved in the struggle against the military dictatorship in 1970s Argentina, must flee the country. When they leave, they take with them their infant son, adopted after years of trying for a child without success. They build a new life in Brazil and things change radically. The family grows as the couple have two more children: a son and a daughter. *Resistance* unfolds as an intimate portrayal of the formation of a family under extraordinary circumstances, told from the point of view of the youngest child. It's an examination of identity, of family bonds, of the different forms that exile can take, of what it means to belong to a place, to a family, to your own past.

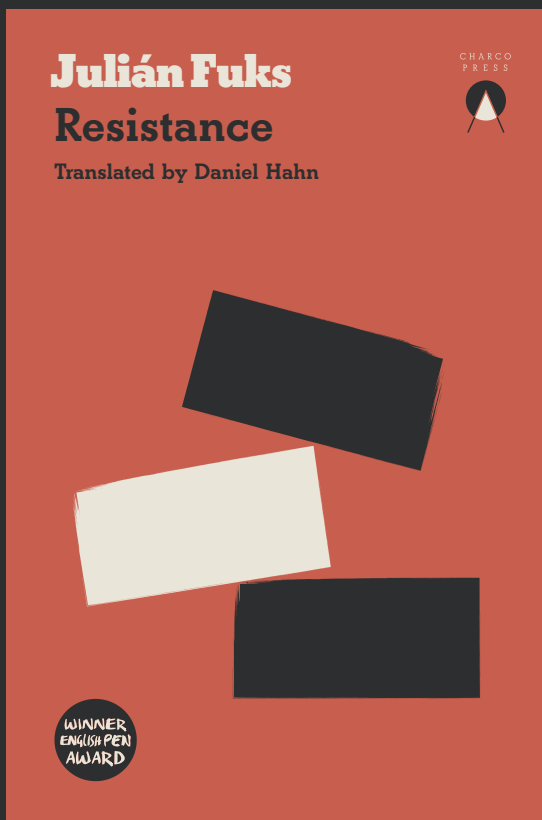


Julián

Fuks was born in São Paulo in 1981 and is the son of Argentinian parents. As an author whose work has garnered several top international literary prizes, Julián Fuks has gained recognition as one of Brazil's most outstanding young writers. He has worked as a reporter for the newspaper *Folha de S. Paulo* and as a reviewer for the magazine *Cult*. Considered by Fuks to be his most important work to date, *Resistance* was the winner of the Jabuti Award for Book of the Year (2016), the Oceanos Prize (2016), the José Saramago Literary Prize (2017) and the Anna Seghers Prize (2018).

‘A brilliant achievement. ’

*Le Monde*



ISBN: 978-1-9998593-2-9

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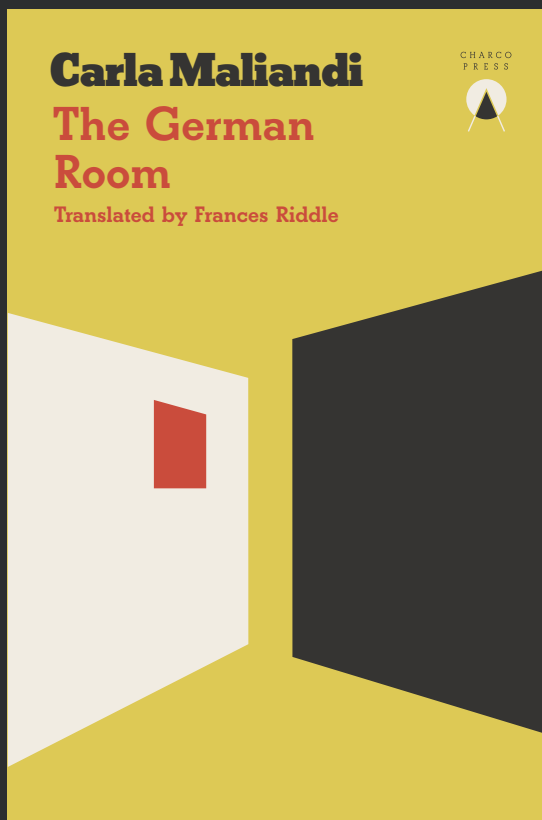
October 2018 • 150pp

B format paperback • £12.99

Literary Fiction

‘ A new way of thinking about exile,  
where politics stay on the margins. ’

Beatriz Sarlo



ISBN: 978-1-9998593-3-6

eISBN: 978-1-9998593-8-1

November 2018 • c110pp

B format paperback • £9.99

Literary Fiction

# THE GERMAN ROOM

Carla Maliandi

Translated by Frances Riddle

**This novel represents what we could call a non-coming of age tale. A female protagonist – a young woman – travels from Argentina to Germany trapped by emotional conflicts. When she arrives, she is constantly exposed to all kinds of adventures and incidents, some funny, others tragic. She never fully understands her situation. Instead of learning from her circumstances and moving on, she gropes around, perplexed by the reality around her, hesitating as to what to do next. It is this hesitation that turns into thrilling suspense, a book that we can't put down. Maliandi takes us by the hand until the end of a novel that becomes, quite simply, remarkable and unforgettable.**

Carla Maliandi was born in Venezuela in 1976 and is the daughter of Argentinian philosophers Ricardo Maliandi and Graciela Fernández who were forced to escape Argentina's military regime. She is an award-winning playwright, theatre director, university lecturer and writer. She has written and

directed five theatre plays, which were all staged in Buenos Aires as well as in different international theatre festivals. She is part of the writers' collective *Rioplatensas* as part of which she directs a literary journal and a TV programme. *The German Room* is her first novel and was chosen by several critics as one of the best books to come out of Argentina in 2017. She lives in Buenos Aires.



# COMING IN 2019...

Charco is very excited to announce some incredible new authors for 2019 publication, alongside new works by two of our existing authors. (NB: All titles below are working titles and we will very, very likely change our minds on what we call most of them.)



## FEEBLEMINDED

**Ariana Harwicz**

After the success of the unforgettable *Die, My Love*, comes the second instalment of what Harwicz herself has called an 'involuntary trilogy'. A tale equally, if not more, powerful and wild, that takes the reader through a merciless roller-coaster of extreme emotions.

## TROUT BELLY UP

**Rodrigo Fuentes**

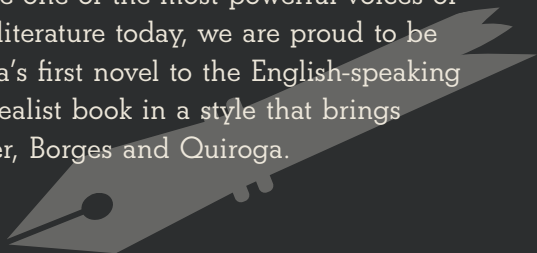
From Guatemala comes this extraordinary collection of tales, sewn together in a style recalling Hemingway's, stepping away from the brutality of the urban landscape to explore a very dark, rural reality. An hidden gem by an author never before published in English.



## THE WIND THAT LAYS WASTE

**Selva Almada**

Considered to be one of the most powerful voices of Latin American literature today, we are proud to be bringing Almada's first novel to the English-speaking world. A hyper-realist book in a style that brings together Faulkner, Borges and Quiroga.





## PERFECT DIARY

**Brenda Lozano**

Lozano is undoubtedly one of the most talented writers within the new generation of Mexican authors. Charco Press is thrilled to be publishing her second novel, a Proustian love story told by the voice of a young woman, waiting for her lover to return.

## AN ORPHAN WORLD

**Giuseppe Caputo**

*An Orphan World* is a visionary novel about sexual orientation, loneliness and love, set in a world of both prejudice and order, and dazzling, chaotic liberation, written by one of the bravest, most singular voices of Colombia.



## WAR SCENES

**Andrea Jeftanovic**

An impressive, sensitive, harrowing, widely praised debut novel by one of the most prominent Chilean writers. A novel where memory is the protagonist in the reconstruction of a nation's past as well of a family's present.

## THE ADVENTURES OF MRS MARTIN FIERRO

**Gabriela Cabezón Cámara**

The author of *Slum Virgin* gives us this unique story of love, betrayal and adventure, a 'queer western' where politics, humour, gender and revisionism are woven together in beautiful prose. An outstanding achievement by this very influential writer.



# 2017 COLLECTION



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Longlisted

The  
Man  
Booker  
International  
Prize  
2018



# 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 Sylvia Plath Virginia Woolf, and Nathalie Sarraute, 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 has been adapted for theatre in Argentina and Israel. In the UK, it was shortlisted for the Republic of Consciousness Prize 2018 and longlisted for the Man Booker International.



# 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.

## BEYOND 2019...

Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador... 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...

Keep up with us.



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