

Secrets and Lies

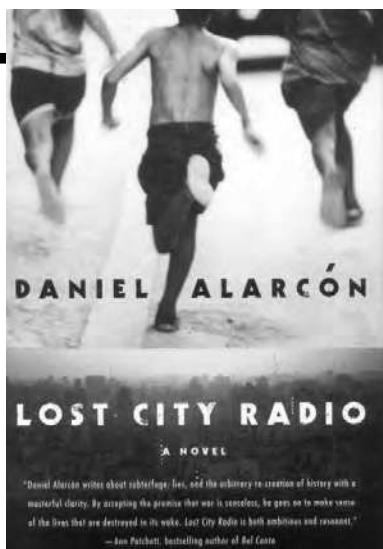
Mapping the past, losing the future

In Daniel Alarcón's world, people lie. Spouses lie about lovers, government officials lie about terrorists, spies lie to their masters, soldiers lie about their motivations, governments and rebels lie to everyone else. And people leave. They leave their small towns, losing their history and their way, and wind up in big cities or shantytowns with sprawling chaos and no services, where history is obliterated under the relentless march of the new, the asphalted over, the drowned and the buried. Maps are useless here, even dangerous, possibly fatal.

In Alarcón's brilliant and disturbing new novel, *Lost City Radio* (Harper Collins, \$24.95), a civil war has torn apart a nameless Latin American country, and the aftermath rings through the days of two main characters, shining a soft yet blinding light on the actions and lives of others. Norma is a radio host; on her program, "Lost City Radio," she reads the names that callers give to her, names of siblings, parents, children, grandchildren — the names of those who moved from villages to the city and, somehow, lost their families.

But families aren't all that is lost. Since the war "ended" (though the brutality of the government crackdown is far from over), the government has replaced every city, every village and every town's name with a number. Those who use old names and look at old maps,

those who remember and long for a safer time, even those reading the book who surmise that the country is modeled on Alarcón's native Peru, may wind up lost in the surreal world. Alarcón's narrative switches its urgent yet dreamlike focus between the capital city, One, and the jungle village 1797. Norma receives a visitor and a sort of gift: an 11-year-old boy, Victor, from 1797. Victor's presence ignites a maelstrom of emotions for Norma and sets into motion



events that culminate in a fateful decision. Why Victor came to the capital, why Norma reacts so strongly to news of 1797, what happened to Victor's parents and Norma's husband Rey — all is revealed as the plot moves through past and present, recursively visiting topics and moments that turn into touchstones for the horrors of war.

Mournful moments of revelation, small and slow, wind agonizingly through their stories.

Alarcón never neglects the telling details, from Victor's uncertain eating of a chicken leg to the color of the bedspread in the room

of a rebel. The specificity is a reflection of Alarcón's time in the Iowa Writers' Workshop, but the uncertainty and generalized dread hanging over the novel take their place in a long line of Latin American writing about war. When Norma thinks of her callers, she knows "it was mercy they sought: an answer, a yes or a no to release them from the burdens of waiting and hoping and wondering." Norma too seeks her answer, her lost one, whose name cannot be spoken without a fearful lack of mercy. That's what war does, Alarcón tells us: The violence of revolution is nothing to the violence of the state's repression, innocents are slaughtered along with the guilty and the delicate web of human connection will never truly recover. **EW**

Daniel Alarcón reads from Lost City Radio at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, Feb. 27, at Powell's on Burnside in Portland.

A QUICK NOTE: We don't get enough readings in Eugene, but we have the opportunity to hear UO creative writing prof **Cai Emmons** read from her upcoming novel *The Stylist* at 8 pm on Thursday, Feb. 22 in the Knight Library. Emmons' moving first novel, *His Mother's Son*, dealt with years-later implications and repercussions of a Kip Kinkel-like school shooting. We hear we can expect *The Stylist*, due out in September, to involve traveling, transformation and, yes, hair-styling, all wrapped in Emmons' closely observed prose.

BOOK NOTES: Reading and release party for the first release for Tsunami Press, **Ken Babbs'** *Lost a Bird, Found a Bird*, 7:30 pm 2/17, Tsunami Books. **Rene Denfeld** reads from *All God's Children: Inside the Dark and Violent World of Street*

Families, 3 pm 2/17, Barnes & Noble. **Mattilda, Priya Kandaswamy and Jennifer Blowdryer** discuss *Nobody Passes*, 7:30 pm 2/19, Powell's on Hawthorne, Portland. **Chris Chester**, author of the 2007 Readin' in the Rain selection *Providence of a Sparrow*, speaks, 7 pm 2/21, Hult Center. **Walter Kirn** reads from *The Unbinding*, 7:30 pm 2/21, Powell's on Burnside, Portland. **Cai Emmons** reads from her upcoming novel *The Stylist*, 8 pm 2/22, Knight Library, UO. **Ishmeal Beah** reads from *A Long Way Gone*, 7:30 pm 2/22, Powell's on Hawthorne, Portland. **Mark Strand** reads, 7:30 pm 2/26, First Congregational Church, Portland. \$18, \$14 stu., sr., \$5 youth. **Jerry Olton** speaks on "Science Fiction Demystified," 6:30 pm 3/1, Baker Downtown Center. \$10; Willamette Writers members free.

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Announcements

COLLECTING FOR C.C.C.F. Women inmates. Looking for books: recent fiction, parenting, young adult and other books. Also decent portable sewing machines and quilting fabrics. Marina, 343-3050 or 349-9193.

Classes

ACTORS PREP School. Preparation for a successful Hollywood acting career. Starts Mar. 4, for adults and mature teens. Call Peggy Ileen, 343-6544 for details. It's more than talent!

CREATIVITY WORKSHOP for all women, of all ages and walks of life. To come together with the intent to nurture and support each other, as we explore the creativity that is inherent in us all. Come and experience yourself and stretch your creativity muscles in your own unique timing. Bring your creativity into your personal world while building a community. Call Sylvia, 726-7455 for dates and times. Experiences starting soon.

LOOKING FOR a winter activity? Try POT-TERY. Elemental Play offers pottery classes for all ages. Ask about our Clay Club for experienced potters and our Birthday Party Package. Call Erika, 484-CLAY.

SACRED CREATIVE ART Workshops for women with artist Mara Berendt Friedman. Saturdays Mar. 3, Mar 17 no art experience needed. Call Mara 942-3203. Mandala workshop for kids: Sat. Mar 10. Call Vicki 684-6954. Make a magical mandala, renew your spirit this Spring!

Legal Notices

RETRACTION OF NOTICE printed in this newspaper February 8, 2007. Dates listed were incorrect. Correct dates are contained in this notice. NOTICE IS given that the manufactured home located at 39098 Dexter Road, Space 5, Dexter, Oregon, X-plate X132421 is deemed abandoned. The owner of the manufactured home is believed to be Mary Morris (deceased) and the occupant of the manufactured home is believed to be Mike Castle. The manufactured home will be sold by private bidding on February 21st, 2007, with sealed bids to be submitted to and accepted by Cox & Associates, LLC, 142 8th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon 97401. Attn: Brian Cox through February 19th, 2007. To inspect the manufacturered home, please contact Bob Macias at 937-2984.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT Of the State of Oregon for Lane County. In the matter of the Estate of: Mary Lynn Holm, Deceased. Case No. 50-06-23139. Notice to interested persons. Notice is hereby given that Alan Contreras has been appointed Personal Representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the undersigned attorney for the Personal Representative at 767 Willamette Street, Suite 302, Eugene, OR 97401, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the Personal Representative. Dated and first published on February 15, 2007. Personal Representative, DePalois & Shepard, 767 Willamette Street, Suite 302, Eugene, OR 97401. 541-683-8200.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Robert L. Thompson has been appointed personal representative for the Estate of Merle Alvin Traudt, deceased, by the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Lane County. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the personal representative at 1248 W 14th Ave, Eugene, OR 97402, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected

by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the lawyer of the personal representative, Ilona Koleszar, PO Box 3835, Eugene, OR 97403. Dated and first published on February 15, 2007. By: Robert L. Thompson, Personal Representative.

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS. Notice hereby given that William Hopkins has been appointed personal representative of the Estate of Robert A. Mulvey, deceased, by the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Lane County, Probate File No. 50-07-02432. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby notified to present the same to the said personal representative, c/o Randall Bryson, Attorney, 399 E. 10th Avenue, Suite 102, Eugene, OR 97401, within four months from the date of the first publication of this notice or their claims may be barred. Date of first publication of this notice is February 15, 2007. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceeding may obtain additional information from the records of the Court or from the personal representative, or from the personal representative's attorney, Randall Bryson, 399 E. 10th Ave., Suite 102, Eugene, OR 97401; Phone 541-687-1333.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY. In the matter of the Estate of: Elvira Headwig Stradley, Deceased. Case No. 50-07-00047. Notice to interested persons. Notice is given that Joan E. Odell has been appointed Personal Representative. All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached to the Personal Representative c/o Robert Cole Tozer, Attorney at Law, 96 E. Broadway, Suite 3, Eugene, OR 97401, (541) 345-0795, within four months of the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, The Personal Representative, or the Personal Representative's attorney, Robert Cole Tozer. Dated and first published February 15, 2007. Personal Representative Joan E. Odell.

NOTICE IS given that the manufactured home located at 5335 Daisy Street, Space 40, Springfield, Oregon, X-plate X120306 is deemed abandoned. The owner of the manufactured home is believed to be Alfonso Montiel Hernandez & Miguel Hernandez and the occupant of the manufactured home is believed to be: None. The manufactured home will be sold by private bidding on February 21st, 2007,

with sealed bids to be submitted to and accepted by Cox & Associates, LLC, 142 8th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon 97401 Attn: Brian Cox through March 18, 2007. To inspect the manufactured home, please contact Gerald Walters at 747-4919.

TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE Reference is made to that certain trust deed made by Patty A. Hickie, who acquired title as Patricia A. Hickie, as Grantor, to Western Title and Escrow Company, as Trustee, in favor of Selco Community Credit Union, formerly known as Service Employees of Lane County Credit Union, as beneficiary, dated December 3, 1999, recorded December 8, 1999, in the Records of Lane County, Oregon, as Document No. 1999-099352, covering the following described real property situated in said county and state, to-wit: Lot 38, ROYAL RIDGE, as platted and recorded in File 73, Slides 225 and 226, Lane County Oregon Plat Records, in Lane County, Oregon. Both the beneficiary and the trustee have elected to sell the said real property to satisfy the obligations secured by said trust deed and a notice of default has been recorded pursuant to Oregon Revised Statutes 86.735(3); the default for which the foreclosure is made is grantor's failure to pay when due the following sums: The monthly installment payments of \$742.00 beginning April 15, 2006, and continuing

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