

Lecciones para un niño que llega tarde - Carlos Yushimito

Synopsis

Somewhere between imagination and reality are the unique and the universal. Carlos Yushimito's stories sink us into an essentially crude world in which the characters fight to find their own place in the world, to face the obstacles of destiny, and to make a space for their dignity.

Set predominantly in Brazil, a country which, surprisingly, he has never visited, the stories that give life to this book address symbolic violence and social amputations, of what is not done or is not spoken, and of untold frustrations. The Brazil of favelas and sertons, an ambiguous place that the author fills with his own codes to acquire a perception, a symbology, not a concept. Reading them, the reader is transported to a dense and stimulating world, perfectly entangled, that feeds off of childhood games and disorders it with a certain dark perversion.

The ghostly tone of this work, and the disappointment and skepticism that traverses its pages brings the reader face to face with a provocative and well-planned mirror game that leaves him alone with himself and with that which he might not be able to recognize.

Demonstrating infinite patience, Yushimito experiments with language and deepens even familiar metaphors, sprouting more than showing, and offering us a steadily beautiful and complex narrative, sprinkled with a unique and idiosyncratic lyricism.

Carlos Yushimito

Yushimito's short stories were first published in a limited edition titled *El mago* (2004). His second collection of short stories, *Las islas* (2006), was warmly received by the critics. His stories, set in favelas and sertões, are inspired by Brazil, though he has never been there. Fleeing from his native Peru like his paternal grandfather before him, he moved to the United States in 2008 to study at Villanova University in Pennsylvania.

Currently, he lives in Providence, Rhode Island, where he is working on a PhD at Brown University. There, in libraries and between seminars, he is finishing his first novel.

«A Peruvian of Japanese forbears who lives in Providence, Rhode Island? A Peruvian of Japanese forbears who lives in Providence, Rhode Island and who writes about Brazil? Carlos Yushimito is beautifully 21st Century. Everyone is everywhere. Or as Joyce would say, here comes everybody. After Borges, (particularly in the Spanish world) one has to be circumspect about bandying around once-simple words like author and story (I don't think I can ever forgive him for that). Kindly, Yushimito flags up his game straight away. Catch the word 'costume' in the first line of 'Seltz'.

Yushimito slips on Brazil just as his protagonist slips on his crocodile costume. The great thing about a costume is that you can see but you can't be seen. »

[Tibor Fischer](#), Best Young British Novelist 1993

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