



Paradises

By Iosi Havelio

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Paradises By Iosi Havelio

Paradises are trees that abound in Buenos Aires, the fruits of which are known as poison beads. This is what the novel is about: the many kinds of paradise and the poisons that inhabit them.' Iosi Havelio *Paradises* might be a reimagining of Camus' *Outsider* - but in female form and living in 21st-century Buenos Aires. Our narrator allows the hazards of death and chance encounters to lead her through the city, where she sleepwalks into a job in the zoo's reptile house, and another administering morphine to one of the oddball residents of the squat that she and her young son move into. Is this life in the shadows, an underworld of cut-price Christmases, drugs and dealers, or is this simply life? And why do snakes seem to be invading every aspect of it? *Paradises* returns to the enigmatic female characters of Havelio's first novel, *Open Door* - and has already been highly praised by Beatriz Sarlo, perhaps the most influential critic in his native Argentina. Thoughtful, yet unafraid of squalor or the perils of insecurity, this is a voice for right now, obliquely critical, grimly comic.

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Paradises By Iosi Havelio Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2525102 in eBooks
- Published on: 2013-10-01
- Released on: 2013-10-01
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Review

"Iosi Havilio has caused a literary storm in Argentina. ... His creation is of an inverted 'paradise,' urban squalor a pole apart from the gardens of Paradise. It well reflects the inequalities and iniquities left by Argentina's financial collapse at the turn of this century. This is the aftermath of an apocalypse." Amanda Hopkins, *The Independent*

"Havilio has found just the right tone and understated register to describe extremity. *Paradises* takes place in an irresistible, ghostly normality." Beatriz Sarlo

"An original voice that does not resort to tried and tested formulae." *El País*

"In contemporary Argentine literature, *Paradises* is an almost perfect novel." *Revista Tónica*

"In his novels we find the invisible and essential work that only great writers are capable of." Fabián Casas, author of *Los Lemmings*

"This is a novel which follows its own rules, and it works — on its own terms." Paula McGrath, *Gorse*

"... because of this accent on the dystopian, I thoroughly recommend this unusual novel. It is very readable and strangely enjoyable though wickedly weird with its insidious and invidious images... It compels the reader to progress laterally, yet literally, through its pages, all the time feeling rather like one has been invited to [a] very strange costume party." Vaughan Rapatahana, *Scoop Review of Books*

"This sparkling novel is full of contradictions . . . Havilio thus uses his narrator as a vehicle for a wider commentary on the human condition, which questions whether we are really as free as we think we are—what do we control and what controls us?" *Three Percent*

"I was drawn to a woman who, though lacking any moral compass, could make me smile with her wryly humorous observations." Wendy Smith, *Whichbook*

"*Paradises* is pervaded by a dreamlike, grotesque quality at times ... it's almost like a journey into a twisted fairy tale. ... Havilio's style is simple, but hypnotic." Tony Malone, *tonysreadinglist*

"I really enjoyed this book, although I'm not quite sure why or what it's really all about. It's beautifully written and translated with a compelling voice from the unnamed narrator that pulled me into the story and made me want to know what would happen next ... a highly readable book ... one that I found almost impossible to pin down." Rachel Ward, *A Discount Ticket to Everywhere*

"Havilio's passion lies with the powerless. An inexhaustible stream of eccentric, believable characters, the down-and-out, downtrodden marginal citizens of Buenos Aires, parades through his fiction." Nick DiMartino, *Shelf Awareness*

"I found myself drawn in by the language and my growing anxiety to know what was coming next; whether action or meditation ... The voice of Havilio's narrator has grown on me." Michael Johnson, *Akanos*

"In some ways this is a story of survival." Kate Gardner, *Nose in a Book*

"A chronicle of events within a life, and the life is not particularly consciously lived. Perhaps this is why Havilio has been compared to Albert Camus; his main character parallels the existential passivity of Mersault in *The Outsider*... It's something of a series of dots, which different readers will connect in different ways." Adam Ley-Lange, *We Love This Book*

"I can't really describe this strange and mesmerizing book any better than the publisher's do here: 'Is this life in the shadows, an underworld of cut-price Christmases, drugs and dealers, or is this simply life?' Oddly, this doesn't only capture this great Argentine novel, but my most recently celebrated holiday season." *Literalab*

About the Author

Iosi Havilio (b. 1974 Buenos Aires) *Open Door* is his first novel. His second novel is *Estocolmo* (Stockholm, 2010), and he is currently working on a novel - *Paradises* - that follows on from *Open Door*. *Paradises* will be published by *And Other Stories* later in 2013. He has become a cult author in Argentina after *Open Door* was highly praised by the outspoken and influential writer Rodolfo Fogwill and by the most influential Argentine critic, Beatriz Sarlo.

Beth Fowler (b. 1980 Inverness) currently lives in Aberdeen. She has spent time in Chile as an English teacher and is now a full-time translator from Spanish and Portuguese into English. In 2010 she won the inaugural Harvill Secker Young Translators' Prize and in 2011 translated Havilio's *Open Door* for *And Other Stories*, receiving high praise for her translation from the doyenne of Spanish translators Margaret Jull Costa. More recent work includes a translation for *Granta* magazine's Best of Young Brazilian Novelists issue.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Amelia Page:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a reserve. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled *Paradises*. Try to face the book *Paradises* as your buddy. It means that it can to get your friend when you really feel alone and beside regarding course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortunated for you. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know every little thing by the book. So , we need to make new experience and knowledge with this book.

Kenny Crowther:

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Lee Witherspoon:

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