



A History of Money: A Novel

Alan Pauls

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A major new novel from the writer Roberto Bolaño called “one of the best living Latin American writers”

Alan Pauls, one of Latin American literature's rising stars, combines the intimate and the political in a novel that, although it is set in Argentina in the 1970s and '80s, will bring to mind books like Choire Sicha's *Very Recent History* and Sam Lipsyte's *The Ask* in its subtle, brilliant depiction of the place of money in its protagonists' lives.

It begins with a body: a top executive of an iron and steel company dies after his helicopter, travelling toward the factory where he is due to meet with striking workers, plummets into the river. The briefcase full of money which he was carrying disappears without a trace. Accident, or assassination? And where is the money?

A History of Money revolves around this event, as does the imagination and memory of the unnamed protagonist of the novel, who returns over and over to it even as he reflects on the role of money in his family and his own life. His parents are divorced: his father is a gambler who plays in all-night poker games and carries around all of his money in a wad of cash; his mother is a socialite who squanders her inherited fortune on a lavish lifestyle. Our protagonist, for his part, pays—in every sense of the word.

And his individual story is echoed in the larger story of Argentina in the 1970s and '80s, where money is everything: promise and punishment, dream and disaster. An intensely evocative novel from one of the world's most exciting new writers.

From the Hardcover edition.

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