



SUNBURST

by
Mauricio Magallanes

Mexican modernism was born in a small Mexican town in 1917, and as a child lived through the years of revolution and civil war. *Sunburst* is the story of Benjamin Herrera, a man without principles but with unshakable confidence who, on the strength of passion he had for himself, is hurrying out, free to shatter lights of power and fame, only to discover those who remain, and affectionately called him "Little Coyote". These silent, heart-working Indians appear in this book as untranslatable human beings, sometimes of the allegory of men, sometimes of the pain of violence in defiance of their rights. The atmosphere of the Mexican village appears heavy and sleep on the surface, but beneath, the swirling sun, emotions run high and the air swirls with tension.

Romans will compare the book to *Italo Calvino's* *Formosa* in its spirit, partly for the explicit and implicit underlying in its nature of nature and mountains they will find links with Neruda's *Seven Red Flowers*, and in the figure of *Sunburst* Herrera, they will detect echoes of other Mexican figures well known in real life.

Dominic Aronson called it the "best Mexican novel". Influential Mexican critics find it similar to the best of Mexican contemporary literature. The English reader it will introduce a steady and lasting new literary talent.

"Bare, grim, *Sunburst* is the best novel about modern Mexico which has yet appeared in English." - *News*

AKADEMIE DER KÜNSTE

LEAVES IN THE STORM

Edited by
STEFAN SCHIMANSKI AND HENRY TREECE

This is the most important collection which the editors of *Transformations* have brought out so far.

It is a collection of thirty-four excerpts from the diaries of contemporary writers, covering the period from September 1939 until the middle of 1945, and all these excerpts have been linked together by a running commentary so that the book, in its unified entity, presents a memorable record of the years of war as seen through the eyes of our poets.

For the editors have laid stress on the poetic nature of the contributions, believing that such an approach alone could transcend the limits of time and the actual, and thus come to be accepted as a more universal interpretation of our times.

Few of these diaries, therefore, mention dates; hardly any speak of factual events, and some attempts to re-create a pictorially accurate description of actual happenings. The diaries are, in fact, parts of the areas surrounding such events, rather than their mirror-like reflection. And it is these reactions and emotions which speak in this volume to the past and to the future, for the editors believe that Man's hope for the future and the defence of his past lies in his ability to record his experiences, both physical and spiritual. Without this ability, his life would be as passing, a chain of half-remembered events, purposes and without moral.

And the underlying theme of this book is, indeed, not without moral.

Contributors to this volume include:

Stevens Stevens	Rainer Maria Rilke	Walter Hasenclever
Osaka Kuro	Charles Merzworth	Josef Brodsky
Louis Lewis	J. F. Huxley	Arno Lomax
Romney Huxley	Leon de Maistre	John Wladan
Dorothy Looman	Hugo Malin	Die Lomaxen
Bert Stiles	Mark Twain	Henry Reed
V. S. Pritchard	Henry Masson	Guillaume Apollinaire

about 10/6

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TO THE
BIG BIRD

BY BERT STILES

BERT STILES was a student at Colorado College in 1942 when he joined the American Army Air Force. He received his commission in November 1943 and came over to Great Britain in March 1944. He was awarded the Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross and was a veteran of thirty-five bomber missions. Instead of returning to America when leave was due to him, he remained to be transferred to fighters. On 16th November 1944 he was shot down in a P-51 on an escort mission to Hannover. He died at the age of 25.

BY 1942 Bert Stiles had contributed stories and articles to prominent American Magazines, including the *Saturday Evening Post*, but *Serenade to the Big Bird* is his only book. He had many of the characteristics of the typical young American, and the book is written with sensitivity, ironic humour and a singular lack of sentimentality. It is a masterpiece, a sensitive, poignant, and even tragic, Bert Stiles' great achievement is that he has been able to make articulate the spirit and the aspirations of American youth of his time.

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Serenade to the Big Bird

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