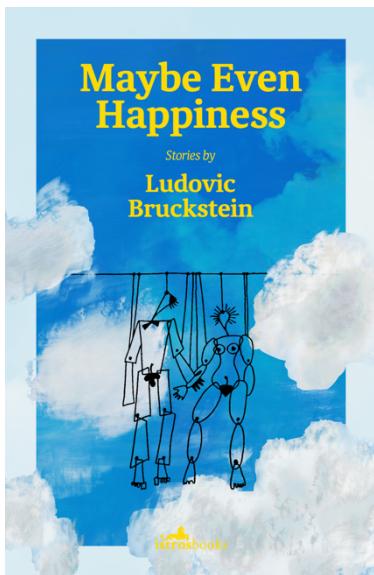


# Istros Books Advanced Information Sheet

Istros Books Ltd, Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4RL



## Maybe Even Happiness

Short stories by Ludovic Bruckstein (1967-87)

Translated from the Romanian by Alistair Ian Blyth

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*“Whereas contemporary short stories often rely on ephemeral insight, the lessons here feel solid, timeworn and tested. . . The translation from Romanian by Alistair Ian Blyth captures brilliantly the sage wisdom of the rabbis with their humour and mischief...Recommended with enthusiasm, this is a collection I plan to return to often.”* Rónán Hession, **The Irish Times**

In this striking collection of short stories, written over a twenty-year period, we find Buckstein, the storyteller, at his most lyrical. Having completed his works charting the Jewish history of his family and community in the Carpathian town of Sighet (*The Trap*, *With an Unopened Umbrella in the Pouring Rain*, *The Fate of Yaakov Maggid*, also published in English by Istros), his voice is here set free to explore the joys in the details of the everyday. The collection opens with an invitation to a wax-work museum, where the viewer is not confronted with the likenesses of the rich and famous, but of ordinary people; neighbours and acquaintances each with a story to tell, each looking for that elusive feeling of happiness, which, unless we are very vigilant, is so often recognised only in retrospect. His heroes' lives are presented with deep understanding, with humour, sometimes bordering on irony, but always with empathy and love. A sensitive reader need only follow the invitation, and let the wisdom of these stories guide them.

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The author and playwright **Ludovic Bruckstein** was born in 1920 in Munkacs (then in Czechoslovakia, present-day Ukraine). He grew up in Sighet, a small town in the district of Maramureş, in the Northern region of Transylvania, a town well known for its flourishing pre-war Jewish community and Hassidic tradition. Istros Books has published his three previous works: *The Trap* (2019), *With an Unopened Umbrella in the Pouring Rain* (2021) and *The Fate of Yaakov Maggid* (2023), all in expert translation by **Alistair Ian Blyth**, who has translated numerous works of fiction and philosophy from the Romanian over nearly two decades.