AEROSTASIS

Adrian Nathan West



- His debut novel *My Father's Diet* (published by & Other Stories) was hailed as a modern classic of American self-examination.
- Shortlisted for the International Booker Prize and the National Book Award with his translations.
- Honoured by the Arts and Letters Award in Literature by American Academy of Arts, the English PEN, the Austrian Cultural Forum Translation Prize, and the Spain-USA Foundation Translation Award.
- His works has appeared in the *London Review of Books*, the *New York Review of Books*, and the *Baffler*.
- For readers of Paul Murray's *The Bee Sting* and Jonathan Franzen's *Crossroads*.

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BINDING	PB with flaps

"West's writing is acute and at times brilliant."
—*Literary Review*

"Tender, sardonic, and endearingly grotesque."
—*Publishers Weekly*

"West's achievement is to have rendered failure in strikingly handsome terms."
—The *Guardian*

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Following the acclaim of *My Father's Diet*, Adrian Nathan West returns with a novel of the persistence and decay of love across three generations of an American family.

When rapid-onset dementia strikes Joan two years after her husband's death, her daughter Lisette, an adjunct philosophy professor, abandons her work and home to become her mother's caretaker, chronicling in a journal the unraveling of the woman who raised her, and the secrets that come loose with her. Lisette's boyfriend, Henry, a mental health technician at a hospital for troubled young men, wrestles with the futility of his work and the pull of the impoverished Rocky Mount, North Carolina he thought he'd left behind. Meanwhile Lisette's brother, beverage manager sinking under debt at a tony suburban country club, looks away from his wife's infidelities and finds an unlikely closeness with his rebellious teenage son, the two of them restoring a battered antique hot air balloon in the garage.

A work of vision and piercing lyricism, *Aerostasis* confirms once again why **Joshua Cohen** has called West "one of our best novelists" and **Lauren Oyler** affirmed, "West captures the bizarre vividness of America better than anyone I've ever read."

About the Author

ADRIAN NATHAN WEST is the author of the novel *My Father's Diet* (& Other Stories) and translator of dozens of books from Spanish, German, and Catalan, including Hermann Burger's *Diabelli*, Marianne Fritz's *The Weight of Things*, and Alejo Carpentier's *Explosion in a Cathedral*. A prolific essayist and reviewer, his writing has appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, the *Baffler*, the *New York Review of Books*, *Liberties*, and many other journals in print and online. He lives between Philadelphia and Spain.

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Praises for

ADRIAN NATHAN WEST

"*My Father's Diet,* Adrian Nathan West's debut novel, is **slim, sad, comic and sharply observed**. . . West's achievement, in this subtle and delightful book, is to have rendered failure in strikingly handsome terms."
—Christopher Shrimpton, *The Guardian*

"This debut offers an acute, painfully funny front-row view of a midlife crisis in action."
—Sam Sacks, *Wall Street Journal*

"Compact and stirring, [. . . *My Father's Diet*] showcases the recognizable confusion of a changing world."
—Patrick Nathan, *New York Times Book Review*

"Our narrator is a product of malls, low-status jobs and faded dreams, and **West's wry, precise tone captures the monotony and inertia of his daily life.** But what could have been a cruel satire is elevated by his empathy for his characters and an outlook that's compassionate rather than condescending."
—Alastair Mabbott, *The Herald*

"West's writing is acute and at times brilliant. His descriptions of bodies that have been transformed into objects of devotion, especially, are luminous and imaginative, often humorous too . . . *[My Father's Diet]* is a book of subtle wit and poignancy, the scope of which is far greater than its brief length would suggest."
—Lamorna Ash, *Literary Review*

"West's dark, slim, emotionally precise debut novel is consistently poised on a very narrow line between black hearted contempt for these characters and comic mockery of them. But because he never slips off that line, he generates a certain affection for his characters, even if it's clear how that body-transformation scheme is going to go."
—*Kirkus Review*

"Where other authors might opt for satire, West instead delivers a kind of highly wrought kitsch realism that implicates everyone, including the narrator. **His style's mingled tenderness and grotesquerie can sometimes read like a distant cousin to *Winesburg, Ohio.***"
—Jeremy Lybarger

"*My Father's Diet* is a wry and blisteringly honest indictment of American grotesquery. It is also–miraculously–tender about the unwinnable game of masculinity in this country. I loved this book for its humour, its clarity, its wicked prose. **Adrian Nathan West is a star.**"
—Lauren Groff

"**Adrian Nathan West, one of our best translators, is also one of our best novelists.** He gives such solemn care to such mundane American pap and crap even while denying any redemptive power to the effort and it's that denial – sorrowful, but without anger, without delusion – that constitutes his brilliance. *My Father's Diet* is among the most ruthlessly true chronicles of the culture – of the patrimony – that we, all of us, have ruined."
— Joshua Cohen

"*My Father's Diet* is a strange, funny, sad, and wonderful novel. With the precision of a translator who has very good taste, **West captures the bizarre vividness of America better than anyone I've ever read.**"
—Lauren Oyler

"In *My Father's Diet*, **Adrian Nathan West does what the giftless memoirists cannot: he alchemizes experience into art.** Here is a rare book not only for sons and their fathers but for any reader who still cares about the reach of sentences well made."
— William Giraldi

"Imagine a precise, refined eye looking at all the grotesque realities of mall life in Middle America and you'll have a sense of *My Father's Diet.* **It's as if the Joyce of *Dubliners* were looking at Akron.**"
—Edmund White