



## The Betrayal of Borges ★

### *La traición de Borges*

Marcelo Simonetti

ISBN: 9788496080584 · 2005 · 224pp  
Spanish · All territories

**A story that reveals evasive planes of reality and disturbing traces of other possible worlds.**

When Jorge Luis Borges dies, in 1986, Emilia Forch convinces a mediocre actor but famous for his interpretation of the Argentine writer, that he is the real Jorge Luis Borges. This new Borges decides to join the adventure and assumes the role completely. Both leave Chile and settle in Buenos Aires to convince everyone that Borges is still alive. The success of the farce and the love that arises between them will be threatened by the presence of Antonio Libur, Chilean plagiarist writer who travels to the Argentine capital to recover his old girlfriend, Emilia.

The story takes place against the backdrop of an Argentina convulsed by the conquest of the FIFA World Cup by Diego Armando Maradona.

The Betrayal of Borges is a novel about the fictions we build our lives with, also addressing, not without humor, the issue of the overwhelming cultural relevance of the great Argentine figures (Borges, Maradona ...) on a neighboring country like Chile.

A master in the creation of flesh and blood characters, who at the same time show their small human weaknesses, Marcelo Simonetti dazzled the jury of the Casa de América Award with this novel.

*"The information was brief and occupied a few lines in the section of international news. A fake Chilean Borges was arrested and the headline read, 'A Chilean citizen was arrested in front of the Casa Rosada, in the heart of Buenos Aires, in circumstances where he was passing himself off as the famous Argentinian writer, Jorge Luis Borges, who died a week ago'. Antonio Libur had to read the paragraph three times before reacting. He woke up from the morning sun, which in mid-June is barely warm, left the bench made of concrete where he was sitting on and started walking with the newspaper folded under his arm. He realized that the news had disturbed him because he was advancing at a furious pace, unable to avoid the puddles left by the weekend rain. His mind was almost blank. There were images coming and coming and did not last more than a couple of seconds in his memory: Emilia biting a watermelon while the juice was running down her neck; Emilia sad, making little balls with the crumbs of the bread on a wooden table; the bed with the sheets scattered, empty, without Emilia. It had not been an hour since Antonio had left the room he was renting in that neighborhood of cats and quiet afternoons. He had the feeling that day his condition as an illustrated lay-off might suffer an unexpected turn".*



**Winner of the VI Casa de América de Narrativa Award, Spain 2005**



**Marcelo Simonetti** (Valparaíso, Chile, 1966) is a writer, playwright and journalist. He has published several pieces for children and youth: Tito (novel 2013), Vertical Horizon (novel 2015), The Secret Life of Letters (illustrated book 2016), The Tiger Stripes (illustrated book 2019), all of them in Spanish. Winner of the prizes Casa de las Américas a la Narrativa Innovativa, (Innovative Narrative, Madrid 2005), Municipal de Santiago (Santiago City Literature Prize 2003), La Felguera (Asturias, 1999), Marta Brunet (Children's Books, Chile 2019) and Muestra Nacional de Dramaturgia (National Playwright Show, Chile 2019).

**“ Marcelo Simonetti composes his first novel with the materials of a plot that, given the titles of recent times, aims to become a theme, even a literary motif [...] A novel that emphasizes above all the power of fiction as incisive entertainment full of human meaning" - J. Ernesto Ayala-Dip, El País, Spain 2005**