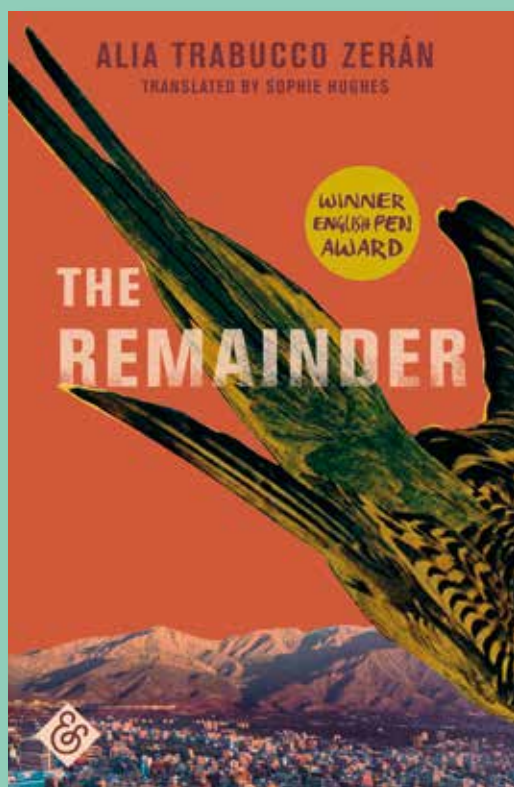




# Reader's Guide



## The Remainder Alia Trabucco Zerán

Translated by Sophie Hughes

And Other Stories

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About the author	Alia Trabucco Zerán was born in Santiago, Chile in August 1983. She was awarded a Fulbright scholarship for her MFA in Creative Writing at New York University and holds a PhD in Spanish and Latin American Studies from University College London. <i>The Remainder</i> is her debut novel. It won the Best Unpublished Literary Work awarded by the Chilean Council for the Arts in 2014, and on publication was chosen by El País as one of its top 10 debuts of 2015. She lives in London.
About the translator	Sophie Hughes was born in Chertsey, UK, in June 1986. She has translated novels by several contemporary Latin American and Spanish authors, including Best Translated Book Award 2017 finalist Laia Jufresa's <i>Umami</i> . Her translations, reviews and essays have been published in <i>The Guardian</i> , <i>The White Review</i> , <i>Times Literary Supplement</i> . She has been the recipient of a British Centre for Literary Translation mentorship and residency, a PEN Heim Literary Translation grant, and in 2018 she was shortlisted for an Arts Foundation 25th Anniversary Fellowship. She lives in Birmingham.
About the book	Santiago, Chile. The city is covered in ash. Three children of ex-militants are facing a past they can neither remember nor forget. Felipe sees dead bodies on park benches, counting them up in an obsessive quest to square the figures with the official death toll. He is searching for the perfect zero, a life with no remainder. Iquela and Paloma are also searching for a way to live on. When the body of Paloma's mother gets lost in transit, the three take a hearse and a handful of pills up the cordillera for a road trip with a difference. Intense, intelligent, and extraordinarily sensitive to the shape and weight of words, this remarkable debut presents a new way to count the cost of generational trauma.
What the judges thought	'A lyrical evocation of Chile's lost generation, trying ever more desperately to escape their parents' political shadow.'
Discussion points	<p>Much of the book is set during an ash storm. What symbolism does this have for the story?</p> <p>Why do you think Paloma decides to learn another language?</p> <p>How much do you know about Pinochet, and what impact does the dictatorship have on the characters?</p> <p>What struggles do you see in the relationships between parents and children?</p>
Themed reading	<p><i>The House of the Spirits</i> by Isabel Allende Chile's recent history is told through several generations of the Trueba family, in a personal and political story that combines fact with fantasy. While the family is led by the patriarch Esteban, it is the spirit and resilience of the women which shine through.</p> <p><i>Ways of Going Home</i> by Alejandro Zambra A child in 1980s Chile creates stories to explain the violence, the disappearances and the deafening silence of his parents living under authoritarian rule. As a young man reflecting on his childhood, he must confront the past, both of his own life and of his country's.</p> <p><i>Curfew</i> by José Donoso Set over 24 hours following the death of Pablo Neruda's wife, at the same time as a former revolutionary returns to Santiago. Donoso shows life under the repressive regime and how both individuals and society are damaged by over a decade of dictatorship.</p> <p><i>The Dictator's Shadow</i> by Heraldo Muñoz Former United Nations Ambassador Heraldo Muñoz gives his unique perspective as leader of the left opposition to Pinochet, telling what this important and ruthless dictator meant to Chile, the United State, and the world.</p> <p><i>A Terrible Country</i> by Keith Gessen When Andrei moves from New York to Moscow to look after his ageing grandmother, he must learn to navigate Putin's Moscow. His grandmother lived through the dark days of communism and witnessed Russia's violent capitalist transformation, and Andrei feels a sense of alienation between his own experience of Russia and his grandmother's.</p>
Useful links	<p>The Remainder review: bearing the burden of Chile's past in The Irish Times</p> <p><i>The Remainder</i> in <i>Minor Literatures</i></p> <p><i>The Remainder</i>, Alia Trabucco Zerán: Heavy, Kiese Laymon in <i>The Big Issue</i></p>