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Berlin-Hamlet



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NYRB/POETS



Synopsis

Berlin-Hamlet evokes a stroll through one of the phantasmagoric shopping arcades described in Walter Benjaminâ ™s Passagen-Werkâ "but instead of the delirious image fragments of nineteenth-century European culture, we pass by disembodied scraps of written text, remnants as ghostly as their authors: primarily Franz Kafka but also Benjamin himself or the Hungarian poets Attila Jà zsef or Ern Szép. Paraphrases and reworked quotations, drawing upon the vanished prewar legacy, particularly its German Jewish aspects, appear in sharp juxtaposition with images of post-1989 Berlin frantically rebuilding itself in the wake of German unification.

Book Information

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