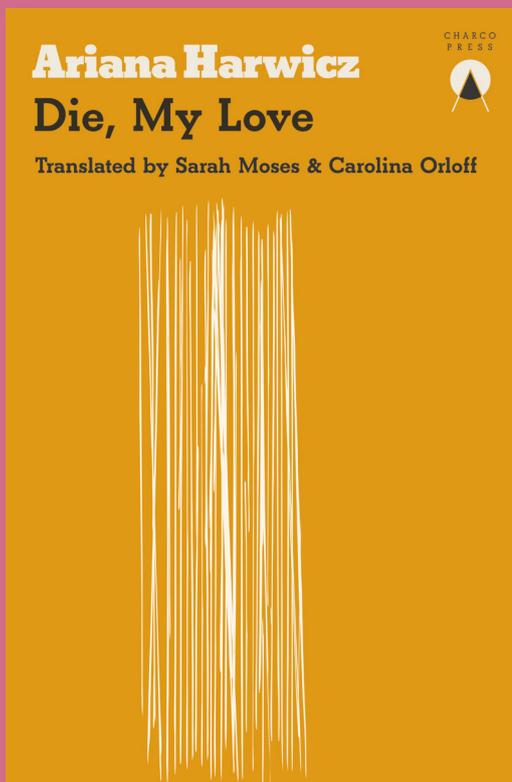




Reader's Guide



Die, My Love Ariana Harwicz

Translated by Sarah Moses & Carolina Orloff

Charco Press

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About the author

Ariana Harwicz was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in December 1977. She studied screenwriting and drama in Argentina, earning a first degree in Performing Arts from the University of Paris VII as well as a Master's degree in comparative literature from the Sorbonne. She has taught screenwriting and written two plays, which have been staged in Buenos Aires. *Die, My Love* is her first novel to be translated into English. It was named best novel of 2012 by the Argentinian daily *La Nación* and is currently being adapted for theatre in Buenos Aires and in Israel, and has just been republished by Mardulce in Argentina. It is the first of an 'involuntary' trilogy, followed by *La débil mental (Feeble-minded)* (2014) and *Precoz (Precocious)* (2015). She is writing a new novel entitled *Racista (Racist)*, to be published in 2018.

About the translators

Sarah Moses was born in Toronto, Canada, in October 1980. She is a writer and translator. Her stories, translations, and interviews have appeared in chapbook form as well as in various journals, including *The Argentina Independent* and *Brick*. She is Asymptote's Editor-at-Large for Argentina, and divides her time between Buenos Aires and her native Toronto.

Carolina Orloff was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 1977. She is a researcher in Latin American literature and an experienced translator, working both in English and in Spanish. Her translations include texts by contemporary Latin American writers as well as Virginia Woolf's short stories. In 2016, she co-founded Charco Press where she acts as Main Editor.

About the book

In a patch of dilapidated French countryside, a woman struggles with the demons of her multitudinous internal conflicts. Embracing exclusion, yet desiring to belong, craving freedom whilst feeling trapped, yearning for family life and yet wanting to burn the entire façade down. Given surprising leeway by her family for her increasingly erratic behaviour, she instead feels ever more incarcerated, stifled. Motherhood, womanhood, the mechanization of love, the inexplicable brutality of having 'your heart live in someone else's'; these questions are faced with raw intensity. It is not a question of whether a breaking point will be reached, but rather when, and how violent a form will it take.

Discussion points

The protagonist of *Die, My Love* spends much of the book on the brink of madness – how well did the author express this?

The increasingly desperate feelings of the main character put her child in danger – how do our sympathies change when a child is involved?

Knowing her behaviour is unacceptable, she still seems unable to change – what do you think stops her from seeking help?

This is, at times, an uncomfortable read – what do you think Harwicz is trying to achieve with such an unflinching look at the family dynamic?

Themed reading

Clarice Lispector *The Passion According to G.H.*

Sylvia Plath *Ariel*

Miriam Toews *All My Puny Sorrows*

Katherine Anne Porter *Pale Horse, Pale Rider*

Jeffrey Eugenides *The Virgin Suicides*

Useful links

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/dec/22/die-my-love-ariana-harwicz-review>

<https://neverimitate.wordpress.com/2018/01/18/author-interview-ariana-harwicz/>

<https://neverimitate.wordpress.com/2017/11/09/book-review-die-my-love/>