

🎧 [Read] ➡ **Fado Alexandrino** **By António Lobo Antunes ➡ –** **Soccerjerseys-wholesale.co**

Posted on 09 June 2019 By António Lobo Antunes

In This New Work By The Foremost Portuguese Novelist, The Reunion Of Five Men On The Tenth Anniversary Of Their Battalion S Return From Mozambique, Portugal S Vietnam, Ends In A Fatal Stabbing Which Ultimately Serves As An Act Of Liberation For The Corrupt City Of Lisbon Newsday This was a challenging and very difficult book to understand and read Written in a stream of consciousness with little punctuation and with voices switching mid sentence I needed infinite time and patience to try and understand what the author was telling the reader the translation was excellent but because of the dense writing, few paragraphs and the narrative voices continually changing I felt I never got to know the characters sufficiently well to begin to understand the story I know little about Lisbon where the story was set. Second read As is my habit, I shall not attempt to summarize the story, just my take on what it is about A brilliant novel by Portuguese author, Ant nio Lobo Antunes Fado Alexandrino is an alcohol fuelled crawl through Portugal s colonial wars, the Carnation Revolution, and the post revolution period, all portrayed in their hideous glory As with all of his novels, the author takes his readers into a world of violence, sex, drunkenness, hatred and love Simultaneously, he has created a work of genius in which the conscientious reader can discern the pain and the confusion in the stories of each of the central characters Most importantly, he has left this reader, at least, in a story filled with deprivation, disgust and humour, with a deeply felt sense of empathy with the human condition At the end of the book, I found myself wondering if, given the circumstances of each of

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their lives, I would have been able to overcome a similar fate, a fate which, on the surface seems to be so easily avoidable As with all of us, each character wants to be understood, wants to understand, wants to simply live what the good life Don t we all This is the story of five men who gather to celebrate the tenth anniversary of their return from the war of counter insurgency in the then colony of Mozambique They are the soldier, the communications officer, the second lieutenant, the captain, and the lieutenant colonel During the long night of talking, drinking and whoring, each relates, often in painful detail, the circumstances of his life Only four of the characters are speaking The fifth is generally the one being addressed Often they are speaking over each other, not paying much attention to what the others are saying Often they are confused, bewildered, distressed by another s story Typical human communication But I shall leave it those of you who decide to read the book to discern the story Keep in mind that Ant nio Lobo Antunes wants to portray people as they actually feel and behave, so it is not always easy to sort the characters out Also, as the characters speak, events do not always unfold chronologically Also, note that the book is divided into three sections, each with four chapters Thus, each character is given three chapters to tell his story in each section but it s not always that simple If you take on this wonderful challenge, I would suggest that you make a list of the four characters then write down the various names they are given throughout along with the events and the women in their lives You may also wish to list the names of the women as they come up and be on the lookout for those known by different names This is probably not at all necessary for those not addled by old age as I am Do read it It is a very human, even touching, story with lots of heartfelt humour Ant nio Lobo Antunes does a wonderful job of putting us in touch with our inner humanity Really. Everyone is familiar with the concept of a great american novel This book might be easily called a great Portuguese novel It encompasses traumatic, relatively recent past of the country including desperate bloody wars for african colonial possessions followed by the revolution against the dictatorship in 1974 and its aftermath Four main characters, all ex military men irrevocably damaged by the war, are having the reunion 10 years after coming back The book is intermingled

Creek

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

Blueberries for Sal

The Princess and the Pea

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

A Raisin in the Sun

The House on Mango Street

Strawberry Girl

The Catcher in the Rye

The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake

It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown

The Cherry Orchard

Each Peach Pear Plum

If Life Is a Bowl of

monologue of these four during the events of this very long night To say that the characters are unlikable would be an understatement, but they are deeply human all the same There is a lot of violence, sex and black humour on these pages There are also very acute and bleak observations of a society under the dramatic change, the meaning of this change and how each human being is forced to be a part of it It is a very male dominated novel There are a lot of female characters but we only see them through the eyes of these four men For them, the women are either the objects of their admiration or instruments for fulfilling their needs This attitude reminded me the essay, Courtly Love, or, Woman as Thing by Zizek It is my third novel by Antunes and i love his unique style of writing It could be called stream of consciousness , but it is the stream by at least three characters In this novel, there are four voices talking, moving forwards and backwards in time, between the reality and the imaginary of their thoughts It is impossible to appreciate this novel without giving it a full concentration But it pays off in my case He manages to combine very bleak, sometimes violent content with lyricism and beautiful imaginary He also is very good in showing the different layers of a moment how the outside reality is juxtaposed with the one inside someone s head For example, in the fragment below the protagonist is talking to another character, the captain Mendes, all along thinking about his departure from a woman in Goa many years agoShe didn t even speak in the morning when I left her in the tumbledown house beneath a huge thunderclap, where invisible hands were torturing the clouds as if they were bread dough The trees were agitated with tics, the brimstone light was shedding quick copper coloured flashes over the few unmatched pieces of furniture Not a word, not a sound, her damp fingers extended, an absolute lack of expression on her face, the Jeep heaving hesitantly in the windstorm, battered by loose leaves, trash, gusts of water, splashed of mud brought up be the wheels, just like spit Through the body, the words, the face, the tunic of captain Mendes, he saw the house growing smaller in the distance, the restless river, the anguish of the woods, his own heart, microscopic, vibrating Now you are watching the rain fall in some village or other, cookstoves fashioned out of three piles of stones over a small cone of hot coals and twisted logs It is a long novel It is a demanding novel

Cherries What Am I
Doing in the Pits?

Watermelon

Oranges Are Not the
Only Fruit

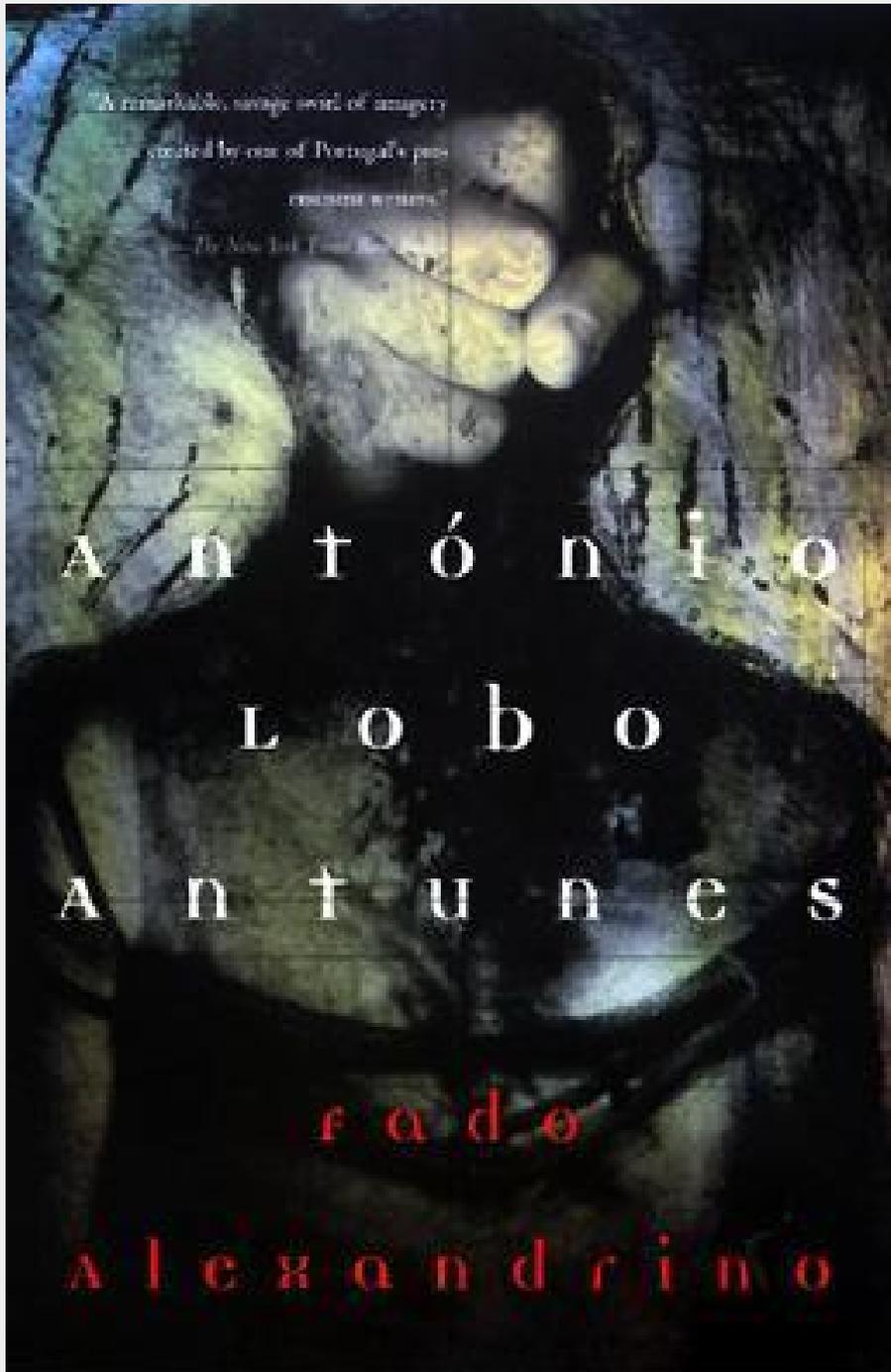
The Five Orange Pips

Five Little Peppers and
How They Grew

Dandelion Wine

The Orange Girl

I have to admit, I felt a bit tired by the last 50 pages. The knowledge of context would be probably a plus. However, it is a wise and stylistically superb book. Há uns dias atrás, ouvi uma entrevista antiga do Gonçalo M. Tavares em que ele dizia querer evitar as palavras casadas nascidas. Ficou-me na cabeça a expressão e quando voltei ao gigantesco tomo que o Fado Alexandrino, percebi o quão bem encaixava este querer na obra do Lobo Antunes. Li livros do Lobo Antunes contemporâneo e agora estou a fazer uma leitura cronológica, tendo começado no primeiro e assim em diante. Fado Alexandrino parece-me uma obra de transição entre as duas fases. Menos autobiográfico que os anteriores, mais denso, mais intrincado, mais próximo da maneira circular de escrever de agora neste limbo, que se ergue esta história assente em quatro personagens principais. Cinco militares, companheiros de armas em Moambique, juntam-se para um jantar. Todos eles vão contando vez após vez ao capitão, que no narrador, a história da sua vida até aquele momento. O autor divide o livro em 3 atos, por revolução, revolução e pós-revolução assim, apoiado nas vicissitudes destes homens e das suas mulheres, que o autor dissecou a história socioeconómica do Portugal da época. A fuga para o Brasil das famílias ricas com medo dos comunistas, os militares revolucionários, o falhanço do 25 de Novembro, o saneamento dos oficiais, a miséria dos bairros de Lisboa. A escrita irrepreensível, mais domada que em livros anteriores, menos pomposa. Como disse no início, o autor encontra metáforas belíssimas onde ninguém as veria, junta palavras que nunca seriam gêmeas. O estilo inigualável e aparece neste livro mais depurado, com menos plumas, mais eficaz. O autor admitiu já que os primeiros livros são vaidosos, tinha muita vontade de mostrar a cultura que tinha, os livros que lia, os quadros que conhecia, a música que ouvia. Neste o autor desapega-se desses adereços e afunda-se pela primeira vez na sua obra em vidas alheias, nas quais enxerta um pouco da sua. Não conhece na língua portuguesa autor tão bom a criar personagens, que surgem no livro tão verdadeiras nas suas formas e fraquezas que podiam ser o nosso vizinho do lado.



*"A remarkable, unique world of imagery
created by one of Portugal's pre-
eminent writers."*

—The New York Times

A n t ó n i o

L o b o

A n t u n e s

f a d o

A l e x a n d r i n o