



Bartleby & Co.

By Enrique Vila-Matas, Jonathan Dunne

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A marvelous novel by one of Spain's most important contemporary authors, in which a clerk in a Barcelona office takes us on a romping tour of world literature.

In *Bartleby & Co.*, an enormously enjoyable novel, Enrique Vila-Matas tackles the theme of silence in literature: the writers and non-writers who, like the scrivener Bartleby of the Herman Melville story, in answer to any question or demand, replies: "I would prefer not to." Addressing such "artists of refusal" as Robert Walser, Robert Musil, Arthur Rimbaud, Marcel Duchamp, Herman Melville, and J. D. Salinger, *Bartleby & Co.* could be described as a meditation: a walking tour through the annals of literature. Written as a series of footnotes (a non-work itself), *Bartleby* embarks on such questions as why do we write, why do we exist? The answer lies in the novel itself: told from the point of view of a hermetic hunchback who has no luck with women, and is himself unable to write, *Bartleby* is utterly engaging, a work of profound and philosophical beauty.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Modern Spain's best writer among a growing sect of fanatics scattered around the world: from Estocolmo to Veracruz, from Paris to Cabo Verde, from Lisbon to Prague, from Varsovia to Buenos Aires."

About the Author

Enrique Vila-Matas was born in Barcelona in 1948. His novels have been translated into eleven languages and honored by many prestigious literary awards including the Prix Médicis Etranger. Author of *Bartleby & Co.*, *Montano's Malady*, and *Never Any End to Paris*, he has received Europe's most prestigious awards and been translated into twenty-seven languages.

Jonathan Dunne was born in Kingston-upon-Thames, England, in 1968 and studied Classics at Oxford University. He is director of the publishing house Small Stations Press. He translates from Bulgarian, Catalan, Galician and Spanish into English.

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