

sent to an asylum where the inmates quickly turn to violence and force to get what they want as tensions grow and people become increasingly dehumanised everybody wants to escape but without knowing what caused the blindness epidemic how can anybody stop it find out everything you need to know about blindness in just a few minutes this practical and insightful reading guide includes a complete plot summary character studies key themes and symbols questions for further reflection why choose brightsummaries com available in print and digital format our publications are designed to accompany you in your reading journey the clear and concise style makes for easy understanding providing the perfect opportunity to improve your literary knowledge in no time see the very best of literature in a whole new light with brightsummaries com

a strange protest triggers a descent into paranoia and chaos in this illuminating parable a sequel to the nobel prize winning author s blindness ursula k le guin the guardian uk on election day in the capital it is raining so hard that no one has bothered to come out to vote the politicians are growing jittery should they reschedule the elections for another day around three o clock the rain finally stops voters promptly rush to the polling stations as if they had been ordered to appear but when the ballots are counted more than 70 percent are blank in response to this mass act of rebellion a state of emergency is declared but are the authorities acting blindly the word evokes terrible memories of the plague of blindness that hit the city four years before and of the one woman who kept her sight perhaps she is the one behind the blank ballots a police superintendent is put on the case what begins as a satire on governments and the dubious efficacy of the democratic system turns into something far more sinister as the story unfolds the humor is still tender but the tone darkens tension rises ursula k le guin the guardian uk

combining bitter satire outrageous parody and uncanny hallucinations this collection of jos saramago s earliest stories from the beginning of his writing career attests to the novelist s imaginative power and incomparable skill in elaborating the most extravagant fantasies each tale is a wicked surreal take on life under dictatorship in embargo a man drives around a city that is slowly running out of petrol the chair recounts what happens when dictator salazar falls off his chair and dies in the kafkaesque things the life of a civil servant is threatened as objects start to go missing

portuguese nobel laureate saramago tells a fantastic tale about a city hit by an epidemic of white blindness in this work that is the basis for the upcoming movie with julianne moore

a winkingly blasphemous retelling of the old testament by the nobel prize winning author of the gospel according to jesus christ the new yorker in josé saramago final novel he daringly reimagines the characters and narratives of the old testament placing the despised murderer cain in the role of protagonist this epic tale ranges from the garden of eden when god realizes he has forgotten to give adam and eve the gift of speech to the moment when noah s ark lands on the dry peak of ararat condemned to wander forever after he kills his brother abel cain makes his way through the world in the company of a personable donkey he is a witness to and participant in the stories of isaac and abraham the destruction of the tower of babel moses and the golden calf and the trials of job again and again cain encounters a god whose actions seem callous cruel and unjust he confronts him he argues with him and one thing we know for certain saramago writes is that they continued to argue and are arguing still cain s vagabond journey builds to a stunning climax that like the book itself is a fitting capstone to a remarkable career publishers weekly starred review this ebook includes a sample chapter of jose saramago s blindness

an unassuming family struggles to keep up with the ruthless pace of progress in a genuinely brilliant novel from a nobel prize winner chicago tribune a los angeles times best book of the year and a new york times notable book cipriano algar an elderly potter lives with his daughter marta and her husband marçal in a small village on the outskirts of the center an imposing complex of shops apartments and offices marçal works there as a security guard and cipriano drives him to work each day before delivering his own humble pots and jugs on one such trip he is told not to make any more deliveries people prefer plastic apparently unwilling to give up his craft cipriano tries his hand at making ceramic dolls astonishingly the center places an order for hundreds and cipriano and marta set to work until the order is cancelled and the penniless trio must move from the village into the center when mysterious sounds of digging emerge from beneath their new apartment cipriano and marçal investigate what they find transforms the family s life in a novel that is both irrepressibly funny the christian science monitor and a triumph the washington post book world the struggle of the individual against bureaucracy and anonymity is one of the great subjects of modern literature and saramago is often matched with kafka as one of its premier exponents apt as the comparison is it doesn t convey the warmth and rueful human dimension of novels like blindness and all the names those qualities are particularly evident in his latest brilliant dark allegory which links the encroaching sterility of modern life to the parable of plato s cave a remarkably generous and eloquent novel publishers weekly

translated from the portuguese by margaret jull costa

a delightful insight into the formation of an artist who would become one of the world s most respected writers born in 1922 in the tiny portuguese village of azinhaga josé saramago was only a baby when his family moved to a series of cramped lodgings in a working class neighbourhood of lisbon nevertheless he would return to the village throughout his early life its river and olive groves seeping deep into his memory shifting between azinhaga and lisbon this touching book is a mosaic of memories written with characteristic wit and honesty small memories traces the formation of an artist always fascinated by language and who emerged against all odds as one of the world s most respected writers

this essential anthology presents thirteen acclaimed works by the nobel prize winning author of blindness with an introduction by ursula le guin this collection available exclusively in e book form brings together twelve novels and one novella of the great portuguese writer josé saramago from saramago s early work like the enchanting baltasar blimunda and the controversial gospel according to jesus christ through his masterpiece blindness and its sequel seeing to his later fables of politics chance history and love like all the names and death with interruptions this volume showcases the range and depth of saramago s career his inimitable narrative voice and his vast reserves of invention humor and understanding

international award winner a beautifully illustrated story book for kids 4 8 about the importance of nature and community from nobel prize winner josé saramago the sea is the universe close to us here is the story of a man who lives at the water s edge watching the rise and fall of the shoreline it is the sea itself that gives him everything he needs to survive and yet it will take courage to enter the sometimes roaring waters the man knows that this sea that gives him everything can also take it away but with the help of friends and with patience he knows the sea can be a balm and a source of life a poetic story that will resonate with anyone who has spent time near the sea listening to the sound of the waves with bright and beautiful water color art by amanda mijangos this simple story from the notebooks of nobelist saramago will excite and intrigue the youngest readers and all of those who read along with them

a comprehensive introduction for the english speaking reader to the novels of portugal s best known literary figure josé saramago the book covers both his acclaimed historically based fictions and his more recent allegorical works attention is paid to

questions of ideological content and the exploitation of specifically portuguese literary and cultural traditions

a study guide for jose saramago s blindness excerpted from gale s acclaimed novels for students this concise study guide includes plot summary character analysis author biography study questions historical context suggestions for further reading and much more for any literature project trust novels for students for all of your research needs

watching a rented video tertuliano maximo afonso is shocked to notice that one of the actors is identical to him in every physical detail he embarks on a secret quest to find his double and sets in motion a train of events that he cannot control saramago s novel explores the nature of individuality and examines the fear and insecurity that arise when our singularity comes under threat when even a wife cannot tell the original from the imposter

from a nobel prize winner a psychological even metaphysical thriller that will keep you turning the pages with growing alarm and alacrity the seattle times a washington post book world favorite book of the year senhor josé is a low grade clerk in the city s central registry where the living and the dead share the same shelf space a middle aged bachelor he has no interest in anything beyond the certificates of birth marriage divorce and death that are his daily routine but one day when he comes across the records of an anonymous young woman something happens to him obsessed senhor josé sets off to follow the thread that may lead him to the woman but as he gets closer he discovers more about her and about himself than he would ever have wished the loneliness of people s lives the effects of chance the discovery of love all coalesce in this extraordinary novel that displays the power and art of josé saramago in brilliant form

a family of portuguese farmers struggle to survive as world events pass them by in a novel that resounds with relevance for our own time new york times book review winner of the city of lisbon prize celebrated author jose saramago has delighted readers around the world with his imaginative tales and evocative depictions of life in his native portugal his novel raised from the ground follows the changing fortunes of the mau tempo family poor landless peasants not unlike saramago s own grandparents set in alentejo a southern province of portugal known for its vast agricultural estates the novel charts the lives of the mau tempos as national and international events rumble on in the background the coming of the republic in portugal the two world wars and an attempt on the dictator salazar s life yet nothing really

impinges on the grim reality of the farm laborers lives until the first communist stirrings raised from the ground is saramago s most deeply personal novel the book in which he found the signature style and voice that would win him the nobel prize in literature

in an unnamed country on the first day of the new year people stop dying there is great celebration and people dance in the streets they have achieved the great goal of humanity eternal life soon though the residents begin to suffer undertakers face bankruptcy the church is forced to reinvent its doctrine and local mafia smuggle those on the brink of death over the border where they can expire naturally death does return eventually but with a new courteous approach delivering violet warning letters to her victims but what can death do when a letter is unexpectedly returned

a marvelously amusing political fable in which part of the european continent breaks off and drifts away on its own publishers weekly starred review a nobel prize winner who has been called the garcía márquez of portugal new statesman chronicles world events on a human scale in this exhilarating allegorical novel one day quite inexplicably the iberian peninsula simply breaks free from the european continent and begins to drift as if it were a sort of stone raft panic ensues as residents and tourists attempt to escape while crowds gather on cliffs to watch the newly formed island sail off into the sea meanwhile five people on the island are drawn together first by a string of surreal events and then by love taking to the road to explore the limits of their now finite land they find themselves adrift in a world made new by this radical shift in perspective as bureaucrats ponder what to do about their unusual predicament the intertwined lives of these five strangers are clarified and forever changed by a physical spiritual and sexual voyage to an unknown destination at once an epic adventure and a profound fable about the state of the european project the stone raft is a hauntingly lyrical narrative with political social and moral underpinnings booklist that may be saramago s finest work los angeles times translated from the portuguese by giovanni pontiero

a dreamer petitions his king for a boat and gets more than he bargained for in t his richly enigmatic short story by the nobel prize winning author kirkus a man went to knock at the king s door and said give me a boat the king s house had many other doors but this was the door for petitions but the king spent all his time sitting at the door for favors favors being offered to the king you understand whenever he heard someone knocking at the door for petitions he would pretend not to hear so begins this

beautifully illustrated and deceptively simple fable why the petitioner required a boat where he was bound for and who volunteered to crew for him the reader will soon discover in a departure from his linguistically dense and sprawling historical novels jose saramago presents a philosophic love story worthy of swift or voltaire

published for the very first time an early novel by nobel laureate and literary master José Saramago that tells the intertwined stories of the residents of a faded lisbon apartment building in the late 1940s

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