Bekman is a writer of indeterminate age (although fairly young) who lives in Barcelona. At the beginning of the book we see how he maintains an impossibly idyllic emotional relationship with Sofía; at the same time he meets and begins to see another woman, Zilina, with whom his relationship is much more imperfect and unsatisfactory. However, Bekman is reluctant to stop seeing her. Soon Bekman will realise that he can't carry on like this: aspiring to adapt himself to reality even though it has always upset him. So he decides to cut Sofía out of his life and replace her with Zilina. He makes an effort to forget the past, even convincing himself he is happy, but he ends up succumbing to the inevitable temptation to meet up with his former love again. This reunion is more disturbing than he would have liked: Bekman ends up going mad: is everything he experiences and sees really real?

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