Dark
Author:
EDGARDO COZARINSKY
Reader:
Annie McDermott

Against a backdrop of the seedy, bohemian underworld of 1950s Buenos Aires, Dark tells the engaging and sometimes disturbing tale of a teenager's sentimental education at the hands of an enigmatic older man.

The protagonist is a middle-class teenager and aspiring writer, desperate to escape his sheltered existence with his parents in a wealthy area of the city. In search of the sort of adventure he spends all his time reading about in novels by Thomas de Quincey – something exotic, dangerous and absolutely forbidden by his parents – he sneaks out one night to a legendary tango venue. Here, he is approached by the mysterious, middle-aged Andrés and, on a whim, introduces himself falsely as Victor. Throughout the novel, we never know him by any other name.

In short chapters and simple yet elegant prose, Dark traces the development of Victor's ambiguous friendship with Andrés…

As well as being a gripping story, Dark is a study of how memory and imagination form and deform our understanding of the past…

… although its atmosphere is heavy with unspoken desire and unanswered questions, it is fast-moving and action-packed…

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