



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...

From the reader's report by