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## El ladrón de morfina

The Morphine Thief



Author: Mario Cuenca Sandoval [1]

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Korea, the middle of the war. One night in 1951, Flaco (Skinny) Bentley, a recruit in the United States 187 Air Transport Squadron, parachutes onto the battlefield, eight thousand miles from home. During the war, he experiences death and horror, but also comes across a Colombian angel, an officer-artist who draws tanks with his typewriter, morphine traffickers and sex. And he realises that there are always two wars, existing together: the one unleashed in the trenches, at ground level, and a higher one, the result of hallucination and intoxication; the result of the curse which obliges us to ask ourselves what we want and who we are. An additional torture, as it turns out that we always want what we cannot have and we are something we would never even have suspected. Each man unleashes his ultimate battle in the field of desire and identity.

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Additional informationPrizes and reviews:

"He has a vast literary talent, writes like a maestro, his prose is of the highest quality, as good as the best (and I am not talking about the best in Spain, but the best in general)... He reminds me of Denis Johnson's mixture of tension and lyricism, the impersonal and reverie and, in general, of the best recent North American prose fiction." (Andrés Ibáñez, ABCD)

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