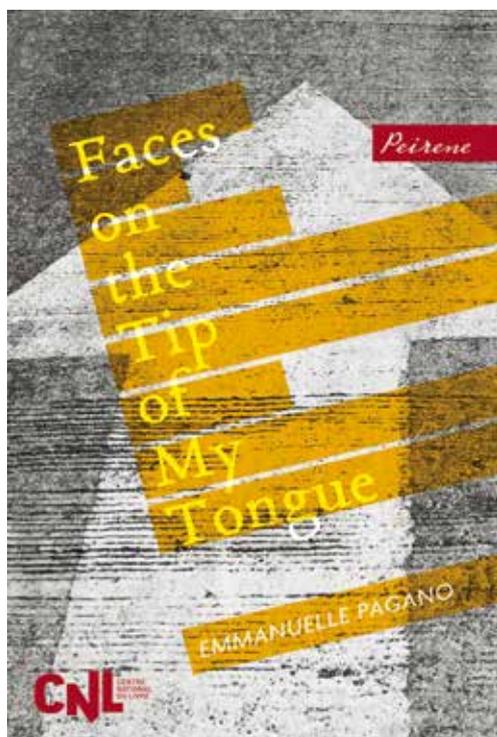


The
2020
International
Booker
Prize

Readers' Guide



Faces on the Tip of My Tongue

Emmanuelle Pagano

Translated by Sophie Lewis and Jennifer Higgins

Peirene Press

Other novels by Emmanuelle Pagano
Trysting (2016)

thebookerprizes.com

About the author

Emmanuelle Pagano was born in Rodez, southern France, in September 1969. Her books have been translated into more than a dozen languages, and she has won multiple awards for her writing, including the EU Prize for Literature and the French Ecology Novel Prize. This is her second book to appear in English. She lives in France.

About the translators

Sophie Lewis was born in London, UK, in October 1980. She is a writer, editor and translator from French and Portuguese. Her translations have been shortlisted for the Scott Moncrieff Prize and the Republic of Consciousness Prize. She is a co-founder of the translation workshops enterprise www.shadowheroes.org. She lives in London.

Jennifer Higgins was born in Chester, UK, in December 1978. She has translated numerous books from French and Italian, and is assistant director of the Queen's College Translation Exchange. She has also written a book about English translations of French poetry. She lives in Abingdon.

About the book

Meetings, partings, loves and losses in rural France are dissected with compassion.

The late wedding guest isn't your cousin but a drunken chancer. The driver who gives you a lift isn't going anywhere but off the road. Snow settles on your car in summer and the sequins found between the pages of a borrowed novel will make your fortune. Pagano's stories weave together the mad, the mysterious and the dispossessed of a rural French community with honesty and humour. A superb, cumulative collection from a unique French voice.

What the judges said

'Linked short stories, subtle and delicate, rooted in the countryside of the French Ardèche. Slices of life, rather than conventional short stories, in a spare and evocative translation.'

Discussion points

Do you think this book is more of a novella or a short story collection?

What challenges do you think the changing voices may have presented to the translators?

Some stories from the book were cut when it was translated from French to English. Do you think that the English version can be seen as a different book to the French edition as a result?

Are there any stories or characters that you particularly liked or disliked when reading?

Is there a connection running through the stories?

Themed reading

Girl, Woman, Other by Bernardine Evaristo

Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout

Drown by Junot Diaz

Winesburg, Ohio by Sherwood Anderson

Florida by Lauren Groff

Useful links

<https://www.emptymirrorbooks.com/literature/emmanuelle-pagano-sophie-lewis-jennifer-higgins>

<https://pentransmissions.com/2016/11/17/fragments/>

<https://foreveronadillo.com/2019/09/30/review-faces-on-the-tip-of-my-tongue-emmanuelle-pagano/>

<https://alifeinbooks.co.uk/tag/faces-on-the-tip-of-my-tongue/>

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