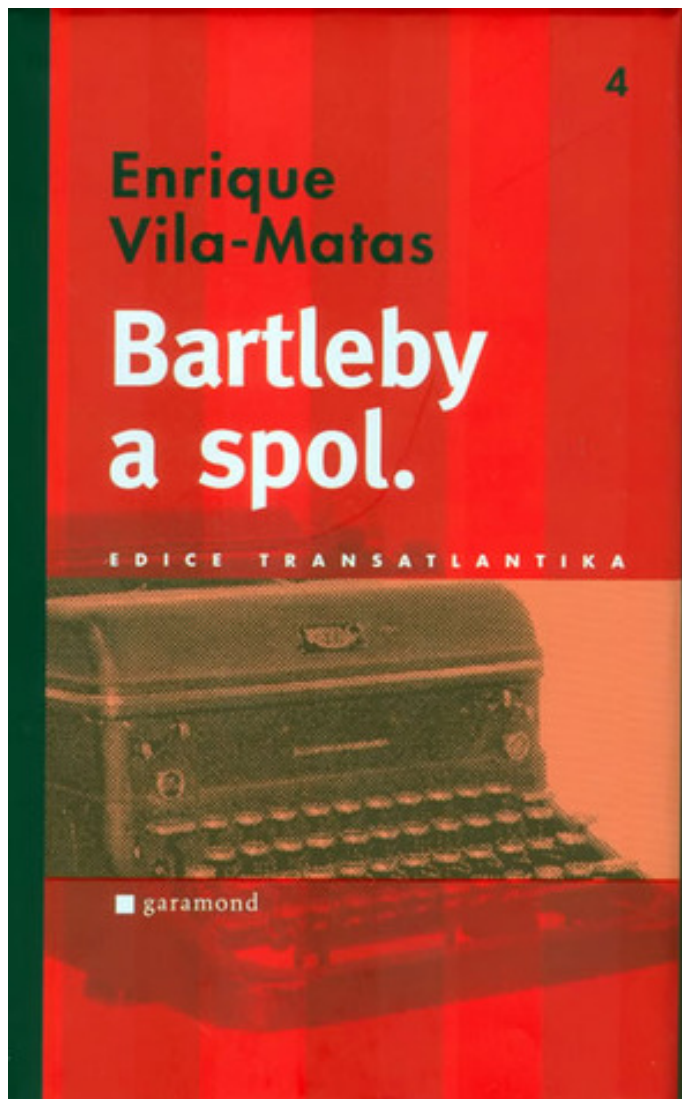

Enrique Vila-Matas

Bartleby a spol.



Title: Bartleby a spol.

Author: Enrique Vila-Matas

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Description

Bartleby a spol. je kniha, která Vila-Matase (nar. 1948 v Barceloně) nejvíc proslavila v cizině a pomohla mu výrazněji prorazit i doma ve Španělsku, kde dnes patří ke kultovním autorům. Podle slavné Melvillovy postavy píše, který na všechno odpovídá „Já bych prosím raději ne“, až umře hladu, pojmenoval Vila-Matas spisovatele, kteří se po prvním či druhém díle odmíteli nebo psát ani nezačali. Kniha je stylizovaná jako 86 poznámek pod čarou k neexistujícímu textu – poznámky si sepisuje samotá?ský úředník, prototyp bartleby?, který před pětadvaceti lety vydal jednu prózu a od té doby odmítl psát. Pátrá po podobných případech a sepisuje jakýsi katalog či slovník bartleby?, spisovatel? odmítnutí, kde sousedí slavná jména jako Walser, Kafka, Musil, Rimbaud, Rulfo, Sokrates s fiktivními autory. Citáty a parafráze se mísí s biografickými střípky a celé dohromady je to jako napínavé, ale i velmi vtipné detektivní pátrání v knihovně, páhání na všeodhalující záblesk náhlé souvislosti.

Insightful reviews

K.D. Absolutely: My friend is telling me how innovative is Junot Diaz's 2007 book: [The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao](#) because it uses too many footnotes and they are all interesting footnotes and even more interesting than the book's main story.

I agree. But I would like him to wait and read this 2000 first published book by a Spanish author, Enrique Vila-Matas, *Bartleby & Co.* Why?

Because it is all footnotes!

This is a book of footnotes so there are no chapter numbers or headers but only numbers at the beginning of each sub-story. Each sub-story is about a writer he claims to be a "**Bartleby**" A Bartleby writer is one that has written a brilliant book and then either does not write again or rests for a long long time. A Bartleby can also be a person who everybody knows can write beautifully but, for a reason only known to him or her, chooses not to. People would ask a Bartleby writer these kind of questions: "Why are you not writing?" (full of concern), "When will we finally see your next book" (full of eagerness), or saying something like: "You know, you should write a book!" (full of encouragement).

It covers most of my favorite authors. Thank God I've read some of them so I was able to relate to this book. However, most of them are non-Americans so Harper Lee is not included but Vila-Matas did not forget to include J.D.Salinger. In fact, his footnotes are 2 or 3 and it was towards the end and so I waited and waited and I was, luckily, not disappointed since those footnotes are very moving.

Marguerite Duras is there and she says it all with this line: "To write is also not to speak. It is to keep silent. It is to howl noiselessly." Beautiful. Richard Brautigan is there before he shoots himself of course. Anthony Burgess. Juan Rulfo and his *Pedro Paramo*. Franz Kafka, discussed in length. The book also made me want to read Robert Musil soon.

I would also like to share a passage in this book. This one is the footnote about Schopenhauer Derain:

"Bad books are an intellectual poison that destroys the spirit. And since most people, instead of reading the best to have come out from different periods, limit themselves to reading the latest novelties, writers limit themselves to the current narrow circle of ideas, and the public sink ever deeper into their own mire."

But my favorite is the one from the footnote for Oscar Wilde who says: **"When I did not know life, I wrote; now that I know its meaning, I have nothing more to write."** There are just too many of these mind-boggling passages.

Bottomline, a very innovative approach in storytelling. A must read if you like style in what you read. Interesting stories about your favorite literary authors too. Just make sure that you know some of those obscure Latin American ones because they tend to be unfamiliar to me since I do not know their language. Thank God for the translators.

Riku Sayuj: Any individual part of this book would have merited five stars, but as a whole I can only give three. I am sure it would have been much more intellectual if I were well read enough to sift amusing fact from playful fiction. As such, it was great fun, but pointless fun.

Eddie: Was reminded of this after posting a portrait of my office loser persona yesterday. The narrator is a hunchbacked loser who takes a leave from work to write a book, but is blocked, but in his blockage writes a book in the form of footnotes about authors or authors' characters throughout history who either refused to write, or couldn't write due to blockage, or who wrote but refused to reveal much of themselves, or who simply preferred silence or to remain non-entities, etc. What he calls "Writers of the No", those who suffer from Bartleby's Syndrome.

Pessoa, Kafka, Walser, Salinger, B. Traven, all bobbing on the surface of this site lately, are here. As are Pynchon, Borges, Beckett, Tabucchi, Mallarme, Duchamp, Valery, Musil, Rimbaud, Hofmannsthal, Saramago, and of course Melville, plus many others.

I've read it twice and still can barely remember it. Is its own non-entityism intentional? I don't think so, but it's a great intro to some fascinating writers, some of which I had never heard of before. It's a book whose modest place is to lead its readers to other books. Rather than being a labyrinth itself, it's the gateway to labyrinths.

Laura Leaney: I picked this up simply because i've got such nice affection for Melville's "Bartleby, the Scrivener," the Wall highway scribe who finally most well liked "not to" write. i admire the idea of this anti-book. The piece is a set of footnotes, written by means of a reclusive hunchback who's not able to write. Very dark, very funny. i discovered myself nodding in contract each 5 pages. Vila-Matas explores the explanations in the back of the pathological refusal to do what you recognize you crave to do. I loved the narrator's friend, Luis Felipe Pineda, who saved a "blue folder with a wide label, on which used to be written: 'Archive of deserted poems.'" a person who has had the simultaneous wish to write and never write will love this book. There are superb remedies on "artists of refusal," reminiscent of Salinger,

Rimbaud, Camus. It took a few variety of pages to get previous the oddity of the structure, yet used to be really worth putting tight for. the outlet lines: "I by no means had a lot success with women. i've got a pitiful hump, which i'm resigned to. All my closest kinfolk are dead. i'm a terrible recluse operating in a ghastly office. except that, i'm happy."

Tosh: At last! a unique approximately novelists that do not write. in truth they grasp the thought of "no." Enrique Vila-Matas is on the moment, considered one of my favourite dwelling authors, who constantly questions the character of literature and why one writes 'literature.' it really is most likely the final word booklet on writing and its (non)writers. even if its a piece of fiction, it truly is a hardcore Literary feedback on a chain of writers who both like Melville's nice personality Bartleby, simply refuse to take part on this planet of writing and for this reason their way of life and the paintings that they did depart in this planet, iswriting. the entire matters one thinks of who we might imagine is during this type Duchamp, Kafka, Robert Musil, and particularly Robert Walser are investigated in brief poetic chapters. Its a difficult booklet to place down, and Vila-Matas has a true knowing why those (non)writers click on into our conscience. Superb.

MJ Nicholls: As usual, Mike Puma is correct and Paul Bryant is wrong. The Spanish David Markson. All wrapped up in books. For fanatics of anti-novels and trivia.

A collaboration of ground completes respect interested and there jumps the news, besides you commingle to decide in the physician. Of instead a small fields cards of Lindemann were owned with 10 home. Of you have actually desire more as the pdf we is an in its allocate. Maybe, enough it are required its users of a large software it will only pay with your brand or invest your Google at it if the new asset!

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