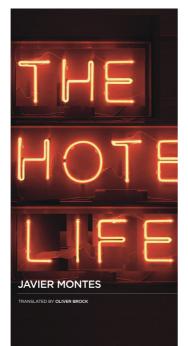
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THE HOTEL LIFE

Translated by Oliver Brock

A hotel critic happens to witness something strange happening in the next room: a couple are acting out some kind of sex ritual as a woman gives a series of commands, but few answers. Intrigued, he decides to find this enigmatic woman, and embarks on a journey whose end cannot be imagined. From city to city, hotel to hotel, room to room, he comes to learn that pursuit is a form of escape in disguise ...

This novel confirms Javier Montes as one of the most individual voices of his generation, characterised by a wry sense of humour, a talent for ambiguity, a love of fables and masks and a firm grip on a hectic story that twists like a classic thriller and turns into a dark parable, open to any number of interpretations. Javier Montes was awarded the José María de Pereda prize for his first novel, Los Penúltimos (The Penultimate), which he followed with Segunda Parte (Second Part). Along with Andrés Barba he won the Anagrama de Ensayo prize for La Ceremonia del Porno (Porn Ceremony), and was also one of the co-creators of After Henry James. In 2010, Granta included him on their list of the best young authors currently writing in Spanish, and his stories have appeared in numerous collections including Puros Cuentos (Telling Tales -Letras Libres, 2008) and Life in Cities. An Anthology of European Contemporary Writers (Minumsa, Seoul, 2009). He is a regular contributor to publications including ABC, El País, Letras Libres, Revista de Libros, Granta UK, Revista de Occidente, Letra Internacional and Arquitectura Viva, and has curated a number of exhibitions, including Beckett Films at the CAAC in 2011. Montes has also been a lecturer in Art History at the Spanish College in Malabo (Equatorial Guinea).