

**THE DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE  
AND  
THE PROGRAM IN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE**

**Invite to  
A talk and book presentation by**

**Benjamin Moser,  
New Books Columnist, Harper's Magazine**

Date: November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 7 pm

Place: Art History Hall Room-100, Douglas Campus.

**OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS PRESENTS**

**WHY THIS WORLD**

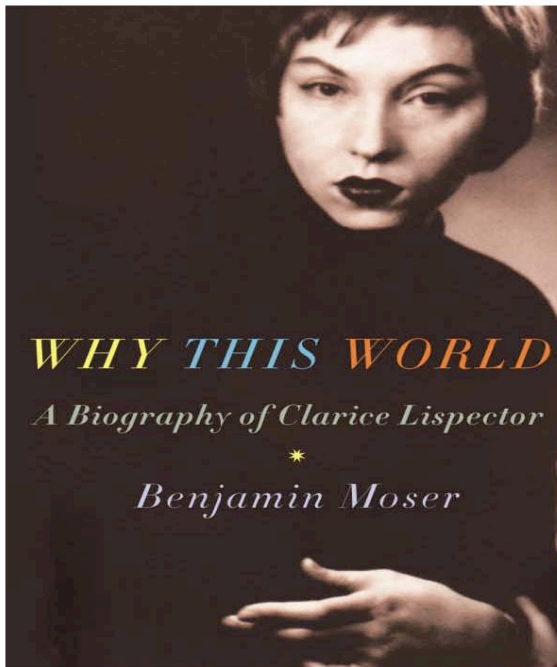
*A Biography of Clarice Lispector*

By Benjamin Moser,  
New Books Columnist, *Harper's Magazine*

"*Why This World* treats Clarice and her many mysteries very gently. Moser carefully unwraps the very raw, intimate character behind her very introspective books...An excellent feat of portraiture." —*Los Angeles Times*

"Beautifully rendered... Moser's richly contextualized, uniquely insightful, and haunting biography of mystic and writer Lispector resurrects a 'penetrating genius'." —Donna Seaman, *Booklist* (starred review)

"A biography worthy of its great subject ... One of the twentieth century's most mysterious writers is finally revealed in all her vibrant colors." —Orhan Pamuk



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**\$29.95**

"That rare person who looked like Marlene Dietrich and wrote like Virginia Woolf," Clarice Lispector is one of the most popular but least understood of Latin American writers. Now, after years of research on three continents, drawing on previously unknown manuscripts and dozens of interviews, Benjamin Moser demonstrates how Lispector's art was directly connected to her turbulent life.

Born amidst the horrors of post-World War I Ukraine, Clarice's beauty, genius, and eccentricity intrigued Brazil virtually from her adolescence. *Why This World* tells how this precocious girl, through long exile abroad and difficult personal struggles, matured into a great writer, and asserts, for the first time, the deep roots in the Jewish mystical tradition that make her both the heir to Kafka and the unlikely author of "perhaps the greatest spiritual autobiography of the twentieth century."

From Ukraine to Recife, from Naples and Berne to Washington and Rio de Janeiro, *Why This World* shows how Clarice Lispector transformed one woman's struggles into a universally resonant art.



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