

Inspired by the Arabian tale of the Voyages of Sindbad the Sailor, the great Hungarian author Gyula Krúdy created a distinctively Hungarian world of seduction and intrigue in the early part of this century.

In these marvellously written stories, Krúdy's Sindbad, a voyager in the realms of memory and imagination, travels through centuries in pursuit of love. Krúdy's prose flows beyond strict narrative as Sindbad journeys between past and present, often a musing presence in his own adventures. But although Sindbad can move through time, it is time that proves his chief enemy and youth that remains his real love.

This profoundly autumnal book, filled with nuance and nostalgia, is an erotic elegy to the dying Habsburg empire.



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Gyula Krúdy (1878–1933) was born in Nyíregyháza in eastern Hungary. He was seventeen when he arrived in Budapest in 1896, a handsome and charismatic young man in a sophisticated city. Over the next three decades, he created a literary landscape referred to, nostalgically, as the world of Krúdy. As well as being recognised as one of Hungary's most remarkable novelists, he is also remembered as a bon viveur and journalist whose writing captured and chronicled the end of an era.

Krúdy's writing anticipates both 'stream of consciousness' modernism and the magic realism of contemporary Latin American writers. In his enormously productive life, he published over fifty novels, some three thousand short stories, and several thousand articles.

George Szirtes was born in Budapest in 1948, but has lived in England since 1956. He was trained as an artist but is now primarily a poet and translator. He has won several major prizes for his nine books of poetry, which include his *Selected Poems* and most recently, *Portrait of My Father in an English Landscape*. He has translated a wide range of Hungarian poetry and fiction. He was awarded the European Poetry Translation Prize in 1996.

Timothy Garton Ash was born in 1955 and read Modern History at Oxford. Now a Fellow of St. Antony's College, Oxford, he is well known for his writings about Central Europe, where he has been travelling for more than twenty years. His books include *The Polish Revolution: Solidarity*, *The Uses of Adversity: Essays on the Fate of Central Europe*, *We the People, In Europe's Name*, and, most recently, *The File: A Personal History*.