

“I’ll kill him for you.”

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MAGVETŐ



László Szilasi: The Third Bridge

Novel, 352 pages, Magvető Publishing, 2014

László Szilasi’s novel is the story of one long night, during which the events of bygone decades are relived. The characters in *The Third Bridge* come from Árpádharagos. They meet at a school reunion where, willingly or otherwise, they reckon up with the past. The events that interest the one-time classmates are mediated through the more subjective, emotional viewpoint of a former émigré to Canada, and the leaner, more rational angle of an investigator returned from Germany: two viewpoints which at times are contradictory. But the real hero of *The Third Bridge*, who emerges from the background repeatedly, is Péter Foghorn, the former golden boy of Árpádharagos, a favourite with the girls, who was expected to achieve great things, and whom everyone remembers differently since he left his hometown. And what happened to him after he left is not the only contradiction: his death too is surrounded with mystery.

László Szilasi

László Szilasi was born in 1964 in Békéscsaba.



His prizes:
The Rotary Literary Prize (2010)
The Déry-Tibor Prize (2013)

The *Third Bridge* is his second novel published with Magvető.

With secrets worthy of a thriller, this book gives a charmingly detailed, intimate description of the town of Szeged. Lives falling apart, passions, murders, or simply everyday life, the stories roll on, and slowly come to circle around a group of homeless people in Szeged. László Szilasi leaves moralizing aside, and writes about society’s outcasts not from an ethical perspective, but an ontological one. His aim is not to arouse sympathy, but to map the lives and desires of the various castes of the homeless and the options open to them as accurately and as comprehensively as possible. From the viewpoint of those on the edge of society he examines the capitalist system, which gives an image of the world and the people in it no better, or more just, than the former socialist one.

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