



# Skylight

By José Saramago, Margaret Jull Costa

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The inklings of Saramago's style swell throughout... Skylight shines. New York Times Un....

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## **Skylight By José Saramago, Margaret Jull Costa Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #947582 in Books
- Published on: 2015-11-03
- Released on: 2015-11-03
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .88" w x 5.31" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 320 pages

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## Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

**An Amazon Best Book of the Month, December 2014:** Anyone who has ever lived in an apartment building is familiar with the unique intimacy that such dwellings unintentionally provide. You may never see your upstairs neighbor, but you know that he wakes up at 6am sharp, grinds his coffee beans, and has a parrot that knows how to say a few choice curse words. Sometimes you know far more--stories pieced together by casual encounters in common areas, or bits of conversations overheard through too-thin walls...In the previously unpublished novel, *Skylight*, the late, great José Saramago gives us unfettered access to the lives of several tenants in a Lisbon apartment building in 1940—lives that intersect and sometimes clash in shocking ways. Saramago's gift for penning well-drawn female characters is on full display here, as is his mastery of illuminating the extraordinary in the mundane. But *Skylight* is also a very philosophical novel in Saramago's signature style, one in which the characters wrestle with profound questions, questions the reader will grapple with long after the last page is turned. —*Erin Kodicek*

Review

"Fluid and imaginative...[*Skylight*] is a masterly creation: pessimistic without being bleak, lyrical without being sentimental...Brilliantly structured, the novel contains moments of extraordinary poignancy...[Saramago] shows humanity at its most anxious, its most vulnerable and most true." —*The Independent* (UK)

"Not only does [*Skylight*] illuminate the slow development of a radically original artist, but it is an interesting novel in its own right...The explicit sexuality of the book (which may have kept it from being considered for publication in Salazar's Portugal in 1953) is remarkable now only because it is so compassionate...Moving from character to character, the loosely plotted story includes a good deal of mean-spirited evildoing, quite in the tradition of Balzac and the naturalists. It also includes dry humour, and at least one tranquil domestic scene revealed suddenly as almost visionary." —*The Guardian* (UK)

"Compelling...[*Skylight*] is shot through with more than enough flashes of brilliance to justify it seeing the light of day." —*The National* (UAE)

From the Inside Flap

**Translated by Margaret Jull Costa**

Called "the book lost and found in time" by its author, *Skylight* is one of Saramago's earliest novels. The manuscript languished for decades in the publishers' offices in Lisbon and is only now being published in English.

Lisbon, late 1940s. The inhabitants of a faded apartment building are struggling to make ends meet: Silvestre the cobbler and his wife take in a disaffected young lodger; Dona Lídia, who used to work the streets, is now kept by a businessman with a roving eye. The cultivated family of Dona Cândida, come down in the world,

keep to themselves with their books and music. Emilio the humble salesman has a Spanish wife who's in a permanent rage; Claudinha, the beautiful young typist, has a boss who lusts for her; Justina and her womanizer husband live at war with each other.

Happy marriages, abusive relationships, jealousy, gossip, love—*Skylight* is a portrait of ordinary people painted by the master of the quotidian, a great observer of the immense beauty and profound hardship of the modern world.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Boris Hansen:**

This *Skylight* book is not really ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book will be information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. This *Skylight* without we realize teach the one who examining it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't be worry *Skylight* can bring when you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' turn into full because you can have it with your lovely laptop even phone. This *Skylight* having excellent arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not sense uninterested in reading.

#### **Mike Yerkes:**

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#### **Clementine Frazier:**

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**Nancy Garcia:**

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