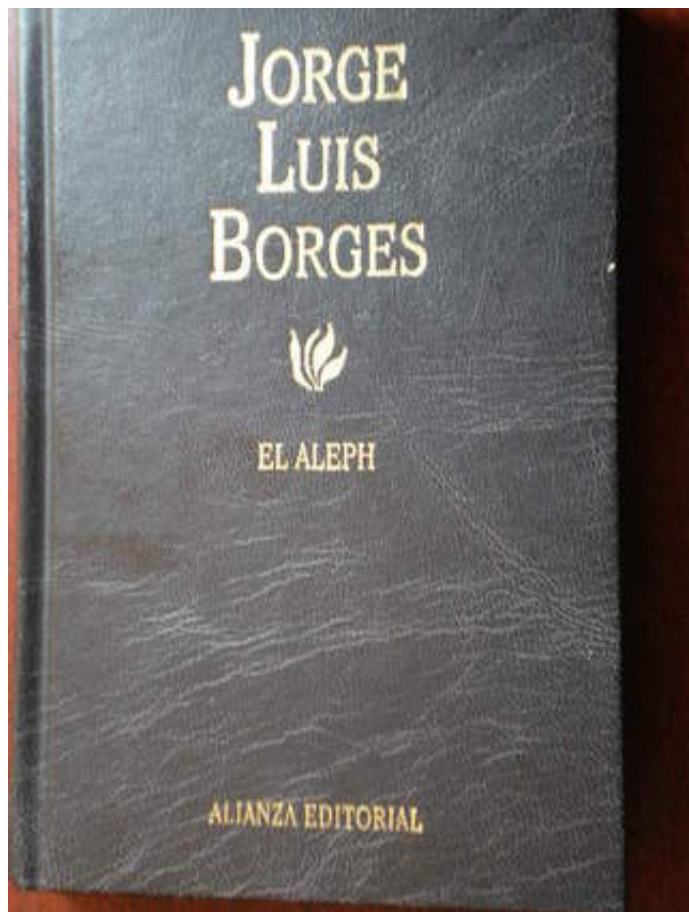

Jorge Luis Borges

El Aleph



Title: El Aleph

Author: Jorge Luis Borges

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Description

Full of philosophical puzzles and supernatural surprises, these stories contain some of Borges's most fully realized human characters. With uncanny insight he takes us inside the minds of an unrepentant Nazi, an imprisoned Mayan priest, fanatical Christian theologians, a woman plotting vengeance on her father's "killer," and a man awaiting his assassin in a Buenos Aires guest house. This volume also contains the hauntingly brief vignettes about literary imagination and personal identity collected in *The Maker*, which Borges wrote as failing eyesight and public fame began to undermine his sense of self.

Insightful reviews

Vanita: Pode ser encarado como humildade, ignorância ou até alguma preguiça. A verdade é que há muito queria introduzir Jorge Luís Borges nas minhas leituras e fiquei radiante quando me ofereceram "O Aleph" no Natal. A certeza de que iria conhecer um mundo novo e entrar nos meandros que deram origem ao realismo mágico, o mesmo que serve de mote a um dos melhores livros de sempre - "Cem Anos de Solidão", de Gabriel Garcia Marques - lançou-me neste livro de contos com tanto entusiasmo, que acabei por esbarrar na minha falta de bagagem cultural e filosófica. Jorge Luís Borges é para entendidos, não para incautos. Por muito que se queira, a vontade de conhecer não chega para se estar à altura de um autor como este, considerado um dos maiores nomes da literatura mundial.

Não é tanto a ilusão que se mistura com a realidade que nos apanha desprevenidos, nem o ambiente fantástico que explora temas como a vida e a morte, a eternidade e a imortalidade, mas sim o elevado registo de conhecimento do autor que nos deixa à deriva. Composto de contos escritos em meados do séc. XX, numa altura em que o acesso à Internet era inexistente - esqueçam lá isso do Google -, "O Aleph" engloba teorias e fundamentos apenas possíveis a verdadeiros estudiosos, um conceito cada vez menos em voga. Das referências às alusões e simbolismos, todas as histórias criadas por Jorge Luís Borges promovem um debate intrincado do qual me senti excluída por falta de bases. É triste assumi-lo, mas é a mais pura realidade.

Julie: Trippy in the best, Borgesian sense. One of my favorites is "The Zahir," about a coin the narrator can't stop thinking about (this happened to me once with the Redwall books when I was much younger: I found myself unable to stop thinking about the picture of Cluny the Scourge on the Redwall paperback cover, and I FREAKED out thinking that it would be the only thing I would think about for the rest of my life!! Thankfully, that didn't happen... until now... *ominous music*). "The Immortals" is about immortality and one of the most well-written stories in the bunch; it encapsulates most of the themes present in the other stories: time, death, doubles, infinity, and so on (summarizing Borges' favorite themes is so fun!). "The Theologians" deals with doubles and mirror-images, a theme I always enjoyed since I'm a twin. "Story of the Warrior and the Captive Maiden" is brief but powerful and thought-provoking. I liked "Emma Zunz" quite a bit, despite Borges criticizing its "timid execution" in the afterword. It's one of those rare Borges stories with a female protagonist. "The House of Asterion" is very creepy and probably inspired "House of Leaves." "A Biography of Tadeo Isidoro Cruz" and "The Dead Man" are examples of Borges' ongoing interest in gauchos. "The Other Death" is a trippy

time traveling story and expounds on Borges' interest in military failures and cowardice rather than bravery and success. "Deutsches Requiem" reminds me a lot of "By Night in Chile;" you can really understand Borges' influence on Bolano through this story. My least favorite stories are "The Wait" and "The Man on the Threshold," neither of which I really understood (maybe I just read them too quickly. I didn't really get "Averroes' Search" either, though the last paragraph certainly packs an oomph (think of it as a "Sixth Sense" moment, Borges-style). "Ibh-Hakam al Bokhari, Murdered in His Labyrinth" is a detective story. "The Two Kings and the Two Labyrinths" is a cautionary tale read by a priest in the former story. "The Writing of the God" is... I don't really know what to say about it. It has a jaguar in it. And "The Aleph," of course, is vintage Borges, all the more so because he manages to link the personal with the epic.

"Words, words, words taken out of place and mutilated, words from other men--those were the alms left him by the hours and the centuries."

Joselito Honestly and Brilliantly:

In its beginning and in its end are thoughts of a woman. Then there is a sudden, plaintive cry in the middle about her with the author identifying himself.

The beginning:

"On the incandescent February morning Beatriz Viterbo died, after a death agony so imperious it did not for a moment descend into sentimentalism or fear, I noticed that the iron billboards in the Plaza Constitucion bore new advertisements for some brand or other of Virginia tobacco; I was saddened by this fact, for it made me realize that the incessant and vast universe was already moving away from her and that this change was the first in an infinite series. The universe would change but I would not, I thought with melancholy vanity; I knew that sometimes my vain devotion had exasperated her; now that she was dead, I could consecrate myself to her memory, without hope but also without humiliation...."

The end:

"...Our minds are porous with forgetfulness; I myself am falsifying and losing, through the tragic erosion of the years, the features of Beatriz."

And somewhere in the middle:

"Beatriz, Beatriz Elena, Beatriz Elena Viterbo, beloved Beatriz, Beatriz lost forever, it's me, Borges."

Now between these fixed points are facts, events, stories both expressed and implied, people,

little adventures, history, concepts, theories, poetry, myths, mundane happenings--breathless, fast-paced snapshots of life, the author's own, yet there, like unmoving moorings, are the beginning, the middle and the end which were Beatriz.

29alabs: El Aleph es una colección de cuentos (de ficción, l. a. mayor parte) recopilada, si no me falla, por el mismo Borges, donde se exploran diversos temas que pasan por los angeles inmortalidad y su opuesto, los angeles divinidad, el significado de dios y todo esto lo conjunta con los angeles metafísica, teología, filosofía y estoy seguro que hasta algo de metaliteratura hay por allí. Y hay varios cuentos en los angeles colección que me dejaron muy buena impresión, El Inmortal paso a ser uno que recomendaría sin dudas, El Aleph es probablemente el más fantástico de todos hasta con un ligero toque Ray Bradburidiano, Emma Zunz el más sencillo de entender pero aún así sorprendente, Albejacán el borají que discute l. a. diferencia entre l. a. realidad y lo que se cuenta (la ficción), realmente creo que hay increíble cantidad de principios muy buenas en los 18 cuentos de l. a. colección pero se requiere de cierto proceso para llegar a ellas. Y esto es por los angeles escritura de Borges que es una "harsh mistress", uno tiene que estar tremendamente concentrado en lo que se lee para que los párrafos no te tachen de tonto, recuerdo tener que empezar un cuento desde cero por el basic hecho de no estar poniendo suficiente atención a los angeles lectura, es inútil usar este libro para pasar el rato lo cual estoy seguro que muchas personas hacen, y eso me explica el por qué de personas que lo califican de inentendible o sus reseñas son negativas, Borges en lugar de decirte, el universo abarca muchas dimensiones, le gusta tomar l. a. ruta escénica y en algunos casos decirte lo que las flores significan para él, todo en el mismo viaje, sin mencionar que le encanta hacer referencias que van desde el Corán hasta Shakespeare pasando por Poe y gusta de los nombres árabes y alemanes. Es imposible dar una calificación a toda los angeles obra completa siendo que los cuentos tienen poca relevancia entre sí y no pienso discutir los detalles de cada uno, tengo otras cosas que hacer y leer, pero creo que los angeles calificación es más que justa, de verdad pienso que es una buena recopilación aunque estoy seguro que no todos los cuentos dejan un buen sabor de boca o incluso un significado concreto, al ultimate existe un epílogo de lo que Borges quiso expresar con algunos cuentos pero les recomendaría que ustedes buscaran el suyo.

Olivia: i discovered this e-book on a shelf at a library days ago. The identify of the writer sounded familiar, yet i didn't be aware of from where. I picked it up and opened it on a random page, which occurred to be the 1st web page of the fast tale "The condo of Asterión". It was once some of the most beautiful issues I had ever read. pointless to say, I introduced The Aleph domestic with me that day. on the grounds that then i have been reading. it'd be a misinform say I understood everything, that I stuck each reference. probably that even additional to the sensation of unusual and of mystery. This ebook felt like examining a riddle, and never being attracted to understanding the reply as the query might get spoiled. The tales have a few universal themes; a ordinary one is the labyrinth, and infinty to be able to seize nothing. it is usually abstract, time and again absurd. The labyrinths within the tales hide, confuse and deceive. And whereas reading, i began discovering details, faint information that I famous from different tales within the Aleph. regardless of the various paths, i might consistently hit what gave the impression of an identical walls. i began to come across tigers, cash and purple spots that i used to be thoroughly convinced that I had already learn of. however the extra I read, the fewer i'll take into accout during which tale I had visible them before. The tales began to twist

round me. And while it used to be a ways too late, i noticed that Borges had lured me a ways into his personal labyrinth. I nonetheless have no idea if I made it out of there alive, or at the least with my sanity intact. The latter 1/2 this e-book proved to be some of the most excessive studying stories i have needed to date. it really is in no way for everyone, you need to savor not likely figuring out what's going at times. and you've got to really wish to be fooled. "The condo of Asterión" continues to be because the most sensible piece within the book, heavily by means of "The Writing of the God". The Aleph is an strange book, and it really is probably the most puzzling, and best, issues i have read.

Teresa: "Que o céu exista, mesmo que o nosso lugar seja o inferno." Há dias (por "culpa" de uma amiga do Goodreads) ouvi uma pequena história de Jorge Luis Borges que me impressionou:Um dia, junto das pirâmides do Egípto, Borges apanhou um punhado de areia, largou-o mais à frente e disse: "Estou a modificar o deserto. ...e, através da sua escrita, modifica a mente de quem o lê...Dos dezassete contos, incluídos neste livro, não gostei muito da maior parte deles. Ou porque não os compreendi (perdida em labirintos infinitos); ou porque não foram "escritos para mim". Mas....dos dezassete "guardei" três, aos quais junto a frase lá de cima. Para O Imortal e Deutsches Requiem cinco punhados de areia; para O Aleph o deserto inteiro...

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