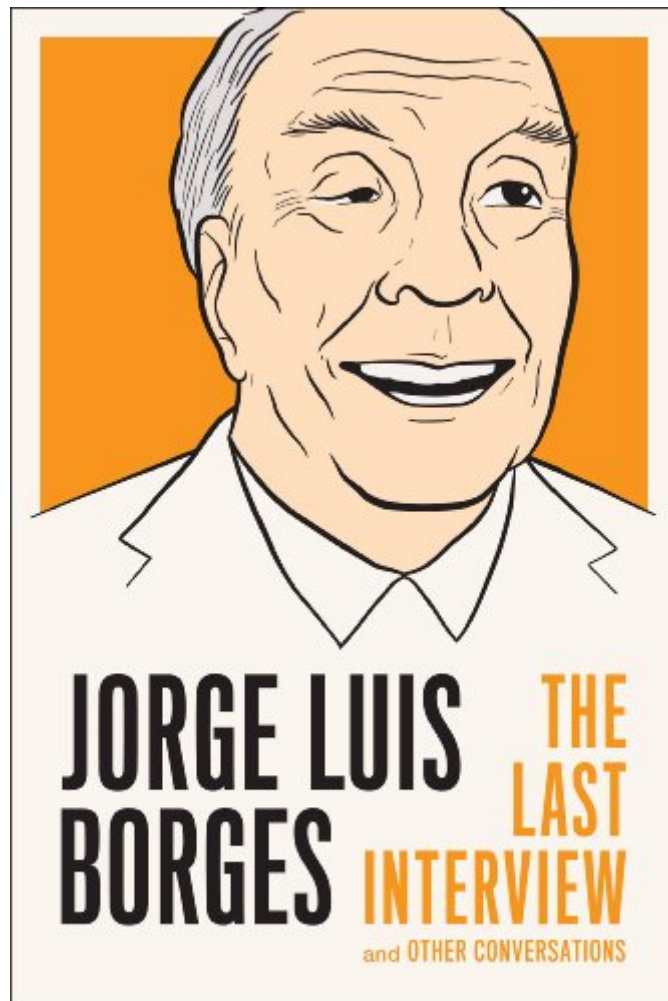


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Jorge Luis Borges: The Last Interview: And Other Conversations (The Last Interview Series)



Synopsis

“Believe me: the benefits of blindness have been greatly exaggerated. If I could see, I would never leave the house, I’d stay indoors reading the many books that surround me.” —Jorge Luis Borges

Days before his death, Borges gave an intimate interview to his friend, the Argentine journalist Gloria Lopez Lecube. That interview is translated for the first time here, giving English-language readers a new insight into his life, loves, and thoughts about his work and country at the end of his life. Accompanying that interview are a selection of the fascinating interviews he gave throughout his career. Highlights include his celebrated conversations with Richard Burgin during Borges’s time as a lecturer at Harvard University, in which he gives rich new insights into his own works and the literature of others, as well as discussing his now oft-overlooked political views. The pieces combine to give a new and revealing window on one of the most celebrated cultural figures of the past century. From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

This contains excerpts from three series of interviews with Jorge Luis Borges, the earliest conducted

in 1967 and 1968, the next in 1980, and the latest being a radio interview conducted in Argentina in 1985, which the book touts as the very last interview Borges gave (I am a little skeptical of that claim). I confess that I am not a huge fan of JLB's fiction, but I find him fascinating as a man of letters, and I have thoroughly enjoyed other similar accounts of encounters with JLB. So it was with heightened anticipation that I began reading this book. I ended up mildly disappointed, however. My dissatisfaction probably can be traced primarily to the interviewers. The first, Richard Burgin, is sympathetic, but at times he is a tad obsequious and he spends a lot of time discussing with JLB individual stories of his. Thus, the interview would be of more interest to fans of JLB's stories who already are quite familiar with them. The second interview was conducted by a trio of men, who come across as pedantic, analytical academics. One, in particular, is an insufferable, self-absorbed boor, asking JLB such questions as "Do you think of words as having effects that are inherent in the word or in the images they carry?", and "How would you describe a twentieth-century mythology for writers?" And the last interviewer is a brassy woman asking very direct, personal questions, such as "Doesn't being blind make you feel impotent?" It is a measure of JLB's inherent graciousness, and perhaps his advanced age, that he didn't terminate the interview several minutes into it. Nonetheless, the book contains a number of rewarding quips and observations from a man who was an original thinker and one of the great students of world literature, especially American literature.

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