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FICTION FROM ONE OF CHILE'S MOST
IMPORTANT CONTEMPORARY WRITERS –
PUBLISHED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ENGLISH

*"One of the greatest literary events of recent
years."*

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*"An unclassifiable object of unusual beauty ... one
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THE CONTEMPORARY ART OF THE NOVELLA

BONSAI by Alejandro Zambra

Introducing another new title in Melville House's growing series, The Contemporary Art of the Novella – a sister series to accompany the award-winning *The Art of the Novella*.

Newly translated into English by Carolina de Robertis, Alejandro Zambra's *Bonsaí* is a stylistically innovative, elliptically told tale of a young man and his love who mysteriously disappears – "a simple story that becomes complicated," as the narrator tells us.

Apparently heeding Borges' advice to "write as if summarizing a book that has already been written," Zambra offers us a story beautifully distilled which, in its few pages, spans years and depths from the very outset:

In the end she dies and he remains alone, although in reality he was alone some years before the death of her, of Emilia. Let's say that she is called or was called Emilia and that he is called, was called and continues to be called Julio. Julio and Emilia. In the end Emilia dies and Julio does not die.

Accessible, yet profound, *Bonsaí* explores the relationship between art, love and life – "Brief as a sigh and forceful as a blow."



ALEJANDRO ZAMBRA is a poet and critic and teaches literature at the Diego Portales University in Chile. *Bonsaí*, his first novel, was awarded Chile's Literary Critics' Award for Best Novel in 2006.

He is hailed as the greatest writer of Chile's younger generation. He is also the author of a second novel, *The Secret Life of Trees* as well as two poetry collections, *Bahía inútil* and *Mudanza*.

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