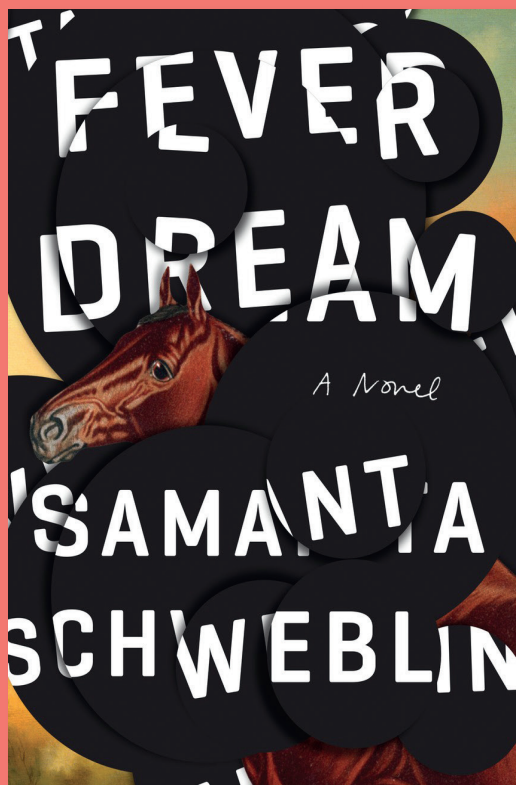


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Reader's Guide



Fever Dream Samanta Schweblin

Translated by Megan McDowell

Oneworld

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About the author

Samanta Schweblin was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1978. In 2001, she was awarded first prize by both the National Fund for the Arts and the Haroldo Conti National Competition for her debut, *El Núcleo del Disturbio*. In 2008, she won the Casa de las Américas prize for her second collection of stories, *Pájaros en la boca*. Two years later, she was listed among the Best of Young Spanish Writers by *Granta* magazine. Her work has been translated into numerous languages and appeared in more than twenty countries. She lives in Berlin.

About the translator

Megan McDowell has translated many modern and contemporary South American authors, including Alejandro Zambra, Arturo Fontaine, Carlos Busqued, Álvaro Bisama and Juan Emar. Her translations have been published in *The New Yorker*, *McSweeney's*, *Words Without Borders*, *Mandorla*, and *Vice*, among others. Born in Mississippi in 1978, she now resides in Chile.

About the book

A young woman named Amanda lies dying in a rural hospital clinic. A boy named David sits beside her. She's not his mother. He's not her child.

The two seem anxious and, at David's ever more insistent prompting, Amanda recounts a series of events from the apparently recent past. As David pushes her to recall whatever trauma has landed her in her terminal state, he unwittingly opens a chest of horrors, and suddenly the terrifying nature of their reality is brought into shocking focus.

Discussion points

Critics have said *Fever Dream* 'belongs to a new literary genre'. Do you agree?

Fever Dream was originally published in Spanish as *Distancia de rescate*. Discuss the concept of 'rescue distance', and the portrayal of mothers and fathers in the book.

What role do memory and reality play in the novel? Can we trust the parallel narratives?

David makes Amanda focus intensely on details. Are there any details that stood out to you?

'My mother always said something bad would happen.' Anxiety and paranoia creep into the lives of the characters. How do they affect the course of the story?

What might the story be saying about modern Argentina?

Themed reading

Ottessa Moshfegh *Eileen*
Helen Oyeyemi *What Is Not Yours Is Not Yours*
Mariana Enriquez *Things We Lost in the Fire*
Jorge Luis Borges *Fictions*
Henry James *The Turn of the Screw*