

B. Traven

Portrait of a Famous Unknown

Golo • Translated by Donald Nicholson-Smith

His life belonged to him, only. His books belonged to the public.

B. Traven: Portrait of a Famous Unknown is a graphic biography that tells the larger-than-life story of the German revolutionary, actor, and writer known as B. Traven (1882–1969). Despite his commercial success as a best-selling writer, Traven managed to keep his identity a secret during his lifetime. It is now generally accepted that Traven was in fact “Ret Marut” (another pseudonym), a German stage actor and editor of an anarchist newspaper in Germany called *Der Ziegelbrenner* (The Brick Burner). As Marut he was a major participant in the short-lived Bavarian council (or soviet) republic of 1919–20. Barely escaping execution, he fled Germany and lived incognito for the remainder of his life. His entire literary work, a great commercial success in its day, combines lively and often humorous storytelling with a radically critical attitude towards capitalism and nationalism. His best-known work is *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, from 1927. This novel was adapted for film in 1948 by John Huston, winning three Oscars.

Golo’s stunning artwork and enthralling account of Traven’s life begins and ends with his ashes being dropped from a plane over the Lacandon jungle in Chiapas, Mexico, just a quarter-century before the explosive uprising of the Zapatistas seemed to echo his deepest wishes.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Guy Nadaud, known as **Golo**, was born in Bayonne in 1948. He began his artistic career in 1973 as an illustrator for the music magazine *Best*. In the same year he visited Egypt for the first time, fell in love with Cairo, and has lived there for many years beginning in the 1990s. A prolific cartoonist and comic-book creator, Golo has contributed to many French and Egyptian periodicals, among them *Hara-Kiri*, *Charlie Hebdo*, *Libération*, *Cairo Times*, *L’Association* (Cairo), and *Charlie Mensuel*. In the 1980s his regular collaborator was the late Frank Reichert (“Frank”). His countless comic albums include adaptations of Albert Cossery, travelogues on Taiwan, and a two-volume graphic biography of the Romanian revolutionary vagabond Panaït Istrati.

Born in Manchester, England, **Donald Nicholson-Smith** is a longtime resident of New York City. He has translated many texts of the Situationist International, including Guy Debord’s *The Society of the Spectacle* and Raoul Vaneigem’s *The Revolution of Everyday Life*. PM Press has also published his translations of Anselm Jappe’s intellectual biography *Guy Debord* and Vaneigem’s *A Letter to My Children and the Children of the World to Come*. Translations of poetry include Guillaume Appollinaire’s *Letters to Madeleine* and the self-selected poems of the dissident Moroccan author Abdellatif Laâbi, *In Praise of Defeat*. Nicholson-Smith has also worked on noir fiction, notably several novels by Jean-Patrick Manchette for New York Review Books. And, among graphic works, Nicole Claveloux’s *The Green Hand* and Yvan Alagbé’s *Yellow Negroes and Other Imaginary Creatures*.

ACCOLADES

“By dwelling so effectively on Traven’s years as a revolutionary known as Ret Marut, Golo taught me so much about the Bavarian soviet republic of 1919. For that alone this book would have been very precious and profitable for me.”

—Raton-Liseur, *Babelio*



SUBJECT CATEGORY

Comics & Graphic Novels: Nonfiction / History, Literary, Biography & Memoir

PRICE

\$19.95

ISBN

979-8-88744-055-2

PAGE COUNT

144

SIZE

7.5 x 10.5

FORMAT

Paperback

PUBLICATION DATE

11/05/2024

US DISTRIBUTION

Publishers Group West

1-866-400-5351

www.pgw.com • ips@ingramcontent.com

CANADA DISTRIBUTION

Publishers Group Canada

1-800-663-5714

customerservice@raincoast.com

EUROPE DISTRIBUTION

IPS_International.Orders@ingramcontent.com

UK DISTRIBUTION

Turnaround Publisher Services Ltd

020-8829-3000 • orders@turnaround-uk.com

PM PRESS

P.O. Box 23912 • Oakland, CA 94623

www.pmpress.org • info@pmpress.org

510-703-0327

PM

PM Press is an independent, radical publisher of critically necessary books for our tumultuous times. Our aim is to deliver bold political ideas and vital stories to all walks of life and arm the dreamers to demand the impossible. Founded in 2007 by a small group of people with decades of publishing, media, and organizing experience. We're old enough to know what we're doing and young enough to know what's at stake.