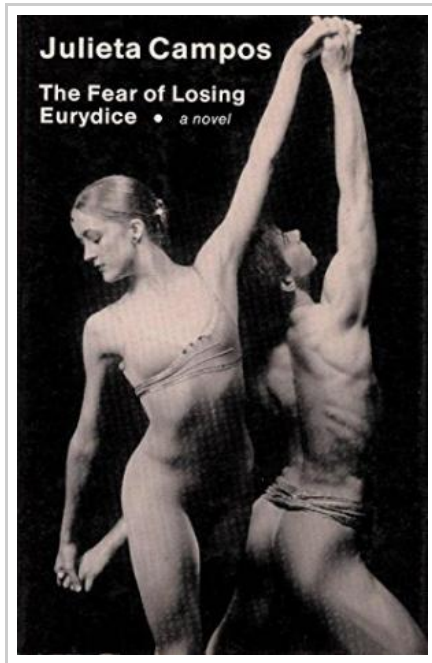



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By Julieta Campos, Leland H. Chambers

Dalkey Archive Press, United Kingdom, 2009. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 215 x 141 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. This lyrical novel by one of Mexico's leading women writers explores both desire and the desire to tell a love story. In an idle moment between grading assignments, a French teacher sitting in a cafe in a Caribbean seaport town sketches an island on his white napkin. Like Proust's petite madeleine, the island opens up a host of images: Island: the sum of all improbabilities; intoxicating improbability of fiction. Island: image of desire. All the islands formulated by human beings and all islands appearing on the maps comprise a single imaginary archipelago--the archipelago of desire. Monsieur N.'s original plan to use a Jules Verne novel about shipwrecked schoolboys as a translation exercise for his pupils becomes an obsession to collect every reference to islands he can find and to meditate on them in a diary of his imaginary travels--his Islandiary. Parallel to this quest is an archetypal love story that he begins writing in his notebook, printed in a narrow column with islands of quotations surrounding it. Voyaging and the quest for islands becomes a metaphor for the...



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