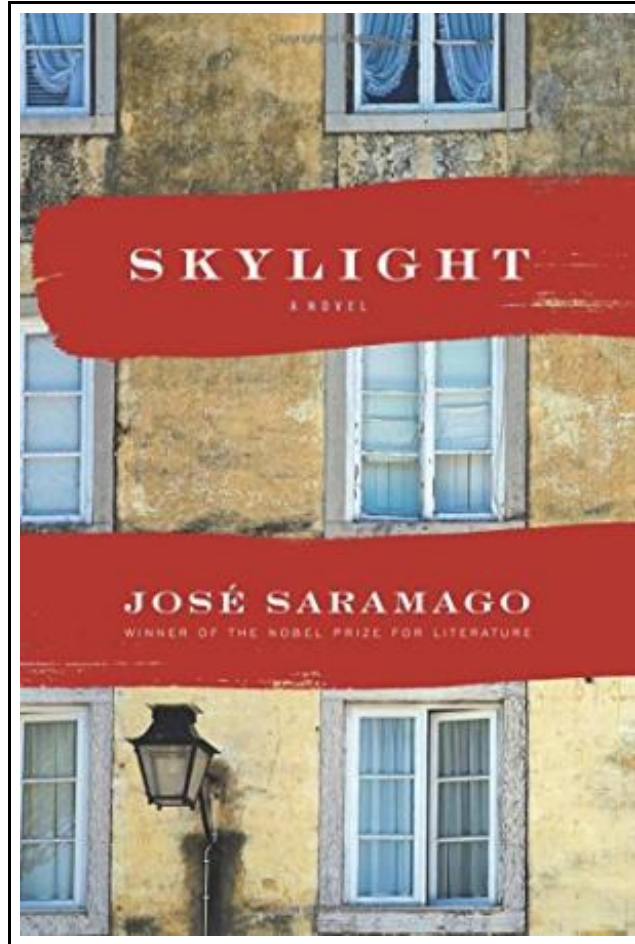


Skylight



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Reviews

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SKYLIGHT



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Houghton Mifflin. 1 Cloth(s), 2014. hard. Book Condition: New. Originally written in 1953 but unpublished until after the author's death, this early work by José Saramago reveals the emerging themes and stylistic hallmarks that would define the future Nobel Prize winner's career, and is "a fascinating and startlingly mature work, one that would merit publication even if its author had never written another book" (Boston Globe). In a faded apartment building in 1940s Lisbon, Silvestre the cobbler and his wife take in a disaffected young lodger named Abel. Adriana loves Beethoven more than any man, but her budding sexuality brings new feelings to the surface. Carmen left Galicia to marry humble Emilio, but hates Lisbon and longs for her first love, Manolo. Lidia used to work the streets, but now she's kept by Paulo, a wealthy man with a wandering eye. These are just some of the characters in *Skylight*, a portrait of ordinary people painted by a great observer of the beauty and hardships of the modern world."The gifted young Saramago makes these characters click together in a way that's extremely sympathetic. It's unfortunate that early in his career the writer couldn't enjoy the praise this book now calls forth. This book, once lost, now found."All Things Considered, NPR"The inklings of Saramago's style swell throughout. *Skylight* shines in little moments that underscore the awful inanity of a common existence, the compromises we make to live together . [and] offers a rarer glimpse into the mind of a then-young writer, and even into the past itself."NYTBR 299.



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