MONDRU



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Heartland of the Earth

ARTHUR PETROLA

Original title: O Interior das Terras

IMPRINT	GENRE	PUBLISHED	PAGES	TRIM SIZE	ISBN
Mondru	Short Stories	2025	152	14 × 21 cm	978-65-6042-229-2

SYNOPSIS

With prose steeped in marvelous realism, Heartland of the Earth blends life's harshness with mythical events that unfold naturally. Talking jaguars, unlikely saints, flowers that guard secrets, and men haunted by desire and misery. More than mere backdrop, the sertão here is character and destiny: that which insists on enduring, even when everything seems to fall apart. These stories guide the reader into a mystical and human universe where the real and the imaginary have become one and the same. It is a journey through the heart of the land, a place where dust, faith, and blood consecrate destinies. The work is a mosaic revealing lives shaped by ancestral forces and everyday brutalities. An intense reading experience that grips from the very first page, in dialogue with the oral tradition and imagery of Mia Couto, the marvelous reality of Gabriel García Márquez, and the poetic brutality of Marcelino Freire's contemporary Brazilian Northeast.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born in the sertão of Inhamuns, Ceará. A migrant now based in England, he writes so as not to forget where he came from. Holding a PhD in Psychology, he worked as a professor and researcher in Social and Political Psychology, authoring academic books, but it is in literature that he finds the path to traverse memories, affections, and hauntings of the sertão. A writer marveling at reality and a poet of orality, his writing turns the sertão not merely into a setting, but into voice and destiny. Heartland of the Earth is his collection of short stories, where harsh life reveals itself in layers of myth, memory, and humanity.

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