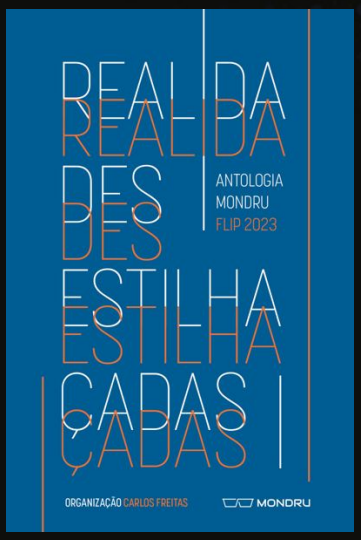
MONDRU



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Shattered Realities

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GENRE
Anthology

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SYNOPSIS

The anthology Shattered Realities brings together short narratives written in distressing prose, permeated by impossibilities. The stories in this collection revolve around a Kafkaesque framework where characters and situations flirt with the absurd, weighed down by a strange sense of suffocation amid what we take for everyday normality. The pieces gathered here are the result of a creative writing workshop hosted by Mondru Editora in the second half of 2023, aimed at discovering new voices and providing a platform for writers who had already begun publishing elsewhere. Participants were invited to examine, analyze, and debate the short story form, keeping the workshop's central theme constantly in focus. Through various group activities, practical exercises, and studies of short story techniques, the authors were challenged to develop their own approaches to what it means to face a reality whose ground is shifting—or perhaps nonexistent. As they wrote, their texts were discussed collectively, in an enriching exchange of experiences and diverse literary perspectives.

Rather than residing solely in the plot events, fantastical, bizarre, and uncanny elements often emerge within the underlying arguments themselves, making the stories even more thought-provoking. Furthermore, the inventive capacity of the contributors extends far beyond the initial prompt. Given full creative freedom from the start, they ventured well past it. The stories are steeped in social critique, intimate investigations of the human psyche, cries for freedom, autofictional expiations, and loud whispers of unease. Readers might wonder: what about humor? Was it left out of this strange selection? The answer is no, albeit with a caveat. In shattered realities, humor is always present. However, be forewarned: when humor appears here, it may be off-key, demanding complete immersion. Stay alert.

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