



IN EXTREMIS

Sylvain Turner

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Born in Montreal in 1969, Sylvain Turner holds a bachelor's and master's degree in literature from the Université du Québec à Montréal. Copywriter, designer, editor, lyricist and translator, he appears frequently on the radio and has written poems and prose for Quebec literary journals since 1990, including *Gaz Moutarde*, *Possibles* and *Exit*. He has distinguished himself with the publication of *In extremis*, a finalist for the 2023 Excellence in Poetry Prize from the cultural magazine *La Métropole*.

I don't know where I am, where I come from. I am confused, lost. With these words the twisted, roller coaster journey begins. The reader is taken on an often touching, sometimes horrifying odyssey through many a Kafkaesque scene. This is the story of a private, intimate war that the poet wages in the heart of besieged territories, where language shines its most beautiful light on the most sombre of inks.

The writing is full of prose-poetry metaphors and allusions, often bone-chilling, that will stir the mind and touch the heart. As Lynda Dion of *Librairie de force* writes, "It almost feels like being at the movies." Scene after scene is set with visual clarity and a sense of purpose. The author's words are full of power and emotion. As Roxanne Pichette of *Ce qu'il faut lire* writes: "You've got to read *In extremis*... to discover the pen of Sylvain Turner."

It is followed in the same volume by *Paintings of an Ordinary Apocalypse*, a series of poems in which we are

introduced to a variety of exotic characters. In its third edition in French, the entire book was translated, by a team of expert translators, metamorphosed from the original French into a vibrant English version, readers agree.

This unique talent deserves to be discovered in English as he has been in French.

French version:

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