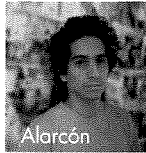


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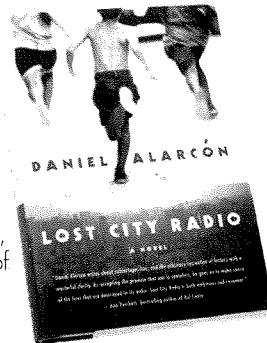
ANYBODY OUT THERE?



Alarcón

Suspense, intrigue, and mystery build inexorably in Peru-born writer Daniel Alarcón's debut novel, *Lost City Radio* (HarperCollins), which takes place in an unnamed, war-scarred South American country in the process of "forgetting the war ever happened at all." Enter Norma, whose voice is "her greatest asset, her career," and, Alarcón adds more ominously, "her fate." Norma's hugely popular weekly radio show broadcasts the names of disappeared civilians, giving refugees hope that she alone might "pluck the lost, estranged, and missing from the moldering city" 10 years after the end of the war between the government and a guerrilla army.

When, one day, a boy named Victor arrives at the station with a list of those missing from his village—the same one from which Norma's husband, Rey, also disappeared—Norma's life takes a surprising turn. Alarcón deftly shifts his narrative back and forth in time, gradually filling in the love story between Norma and Rey, the consequences of Rey's work as a jungle botanist and a presumptive member of the guerrilla faction, and his fate. In *Lost City Radio*, Alarcón (*War by Candlelight*), a Fulbright Scholar and Whiting Award recipient, has created a chilling, intimate, powerfully atmospheric tale of the moral, psychological, and emotional casualties of war and its aftereffects. —LISA SHEA



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