

# OUR LAST YEAR

## by Alan Rossi

'A lucid and refreshingly uplifting masterpiece about a fraught period in the life of a married couple, *Our Last Year* surprised and moved and entranced me, calming and healing me with its wisdom and perspectives.'

– Tao Lin

### Our Last Year

*Alan Rossi*

A man and a woman are at a crisis point in their relationship; around them, the natural world is also on the brink of destruction. Following these parallel stories, Alan Rossi's second novel tracks the journey of two people as they confront both personal and environmental crises.

*Our Last Year* is a book about change, transformation and metamorphosis; through the internal narration of its two characters, the novel follows the disintegration and renewal of a marriage, in synthesis with a much wider natural reality.

The trajectory of the novel – of becoming part of the evolutionary process, awake to it, enlivened by it, compassionate towards it – is dramatised through two minds, asking readers to reconsider their relationship with themselves, with others, and with the planet itself.

#### ABOUT ALAN ROSSI

**Alan Rossi's** fiction has appeared in *Granta*, *The Missouri Review*, *The New England Review*, and many other journals. His novella *Did You Really Just Say That To Me?* was awarded the third annual New England Review Award for Emerging Writers. His fiction has also won a Pushcart Prize and an O. Henry Prize. His first novel, *Mountain Road, Late at Night*, was published by Picador in 2020.



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## **PRAISE FOR *OUR LAST YEAR***

‘A deep but unaffected book about learning how to listen – to a cicada, or to an oncoming storm, or to the person sitting right next to you. It’s also a full-on story of a relationship crisis which made me laugh, cringe, and think.’

– **Daisy Hildyard**

‘Relentlessly brilliant, terribly sad and ultimately miraculous.’

– **Simon Amstell**

‘Alan Rossi’s new novel cross questions in illuminating detail the heart of a marriage using a stunning minute-by-minute narrative that brilliantly catches the complexity, detail, and organic nature of thought. *Our Last Year* is a superb performance, providing the reader with a spellbinding and generous autopsy of two complex and passionate characters.’

– **Frederick Barthelme**

‘This novel’s prose acts as an undertow with readers pulled deeper and deeper into the lives of the couple who narrate their relationship’s unraveling and restitching. The prose delivers surprise after surprise. The narration shows such compassion for the characters and such surgical precision in the taking apart and putting back together of their lives. I’ve never read a relationship novel quite like this one. I can’t recommend it more highly.’

– **Toni Jensen**

## **ABOUT PROTOTYPE**

Prototype, established in 2019, is committed to creating new possibilities in the publishing of fiction and poetry through a flexible, interdisciplinary approach. Through the discovery of high-quality work across genres, Prototype strives to increase audiences for free-form contemporary literature. House Sparrow Press and Test Centre (2011-2018) are imprints of Prototype.

Recent titles include Yuri Felsen’s lost modernist novel *Deceit*, in its first English translation by Bryan Karenyk, Lucie Elven’s acclaimed debut novel *The Weak Spot*, and *The Boiled in Between*, the debut novel by Turner Prize-winning artist Helen Marten. Lucy Mercer’s debut collection *Emblem* is The Poetry Book Society’s Summer Choice for 2022, and Lila Matsumoto’s *Two Twin Pipes Sprout Water* was a Poetry Book Society Recommendation for Winter 2021. Prototype was awarded a PEN Translates award by English PEN for *Island mountain glacier* by Anne Vegter (translated by Astrid Alben), published in March 2022.

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