



Books Burn Badly (Hardback)

By Manuel Rivas

Vintage Publishing, United Kingdom, 2010. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. On 19 August 1936 Hercules the boxer stands on the quayside at Coruna and watches Fascist soldiers piling up books and setting them alight. It is a moment which transforms a young group of friends, who just weeks before had spent their days sunbathing beneath the lighthouse, into a broken generation. Out of this incident during the early months of Spain's tragic civil war, Manuel Rivas weaves a colourful tapestry of stories and unforgettable characters to create a panorama of twentieth-century Spanish history. For it is not only the lives of Hercules the boxer and his friends that are tainted by the unending conflict, but also those of a young washerwoman who sees souls in the clouded river water and the stammering son of a judge who uncovers his father's hidden library. Rivas depiction of life under Franco's dictatorship reveals violence and betrayal but also irrepressible humour and love, and stands as a testament to the indomitable freedom of the human imagination. Few novels become classics during their authors' lifetimes, but in *Books Burn Badly*, Manuel Rivas has produced an astonishing masterpiece....



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-- **Lyda Davis II**

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