

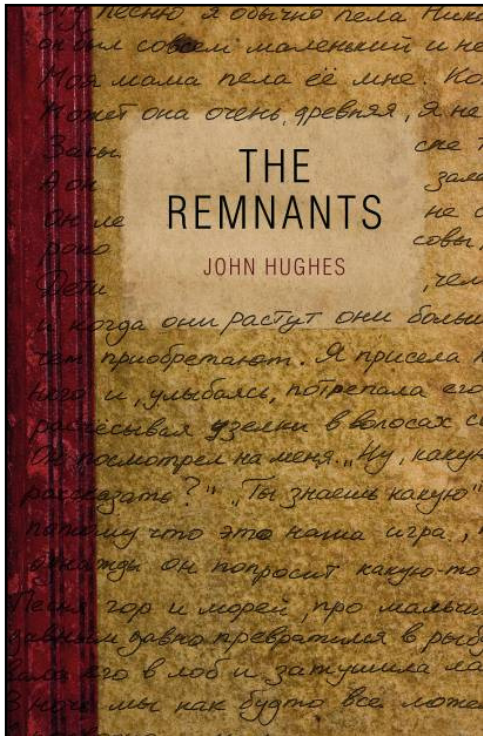
THE REMNANTS

By John Hughes

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THE REMNANTS, from National Biography Award and NSW Premier's Award-winning author **John Hughes**, is a searing novel about legacy and exile, and a son's desire to exorcise the past.

At the centre of this story is a manuscript, written by an Australian art historian and discovered by his son, **R.H.**, at his father's death.

In the manuscript **R.H.'s father** claims to have uncovered a series of lost paintings by **Piero della Francesca** in the small Tuscan city of Arezzo. His tale moves between Renaissance Italy and post-Revolutionary Russia, and at its core is his extraordinary relationship with an ageing Russian émigré, **Anna Ivanovna**, who nursed the poet **Osip Mandelstam** in his final days.

She, in turn, is haunted by the traumas of Stalinist Russia and the ghost of her murdered son.

In his search for answers, **R.H.** travels to Italy, while at the same time delving into the shadows of his memories of thirty years before – where he finds the father who once led him on a journey into the heart of the Australian desert.

The tightly-woven strands of this story beautifully mirror the complexity and strangeness of memory. *The Remnants* is a deeply philosophical novel of translations: between languages, between cultures and, ultimately, the translation of the father into the son.

John Hughes is a Sydney based writer and teacher. His first book of autobiographical essays, *The Idea of Home*, was widely acclaimed and won both the NSW Premier's Literary Award for Non-Fiction (2005) and the National Biography Award (2006). It was also the National Year of Reading 'Our Story' winner for NSW (2012). His second book, *Someone Else*, a collection of fictional essays, was awarded the QLD Premier's Literary Award for a Short Story Collection (2008), The Adelaide 2008 Festival Award for Innovation and was shortlisted for the inaugural 2009 Warwick International Prize for Writing. (2008). *The Remnants* is his debut novel.



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