



# When the Ground Turns in Its Sleep

By Sylvia Sellers-Garcia

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**When the Ground Turns in Its Sleep** By Sylvia Sellers-Garcia

**The award-winning debut novel that ?brings to mind the atmosphere and tension of Gabriel García Márquez.?( Katharine Weber, author of *The Little Women*)**

Nítido Amán knows he was born in Guatemala, but he doesn't know why his family left. Raised in the States by his immigrant parents, they never talked about it. When Nítido loses his father to Alzheimer's disease, his despondent mother grows increasingly silent and Nítido realizes that his links to the past are disappearing.

Seeking answers, Nítido travels to Guatemala against his mother's wishes. Upon his arrival in the small town of Río Roto, he is mistaken for the new priest, and decides to play the part. From his parishioners, he catches tantalizing and frightening glimpses of the buried history he's aching to know. In a place shrouded in secrets, Nítido is at once determined and frightened to unearth the unnamed horrors it has seen.

With her elegant, hypnotic prose, this marks Sellers- García's arrival as a distinctive new voice in fiction.

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## **When the Ground Turns in Its Sleep** By Sylvia Sellers-Garcia Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

As Sellers-García's rich debut opens in 1993, *Nítido Amán* is seeking his origins in Guatemala following his father's death by spending a year as a teacher in the remote village of Río Roto. His father had said that the Amáns came from a place very near there, but was never specific as to the family's home village. Upon arrival, Nítido is immediately mistaken for an arriving priest and is too tired at first to correct the man who meets his bus and settles him in the sacristy. When, the next morning, his innocent questions about the burned schoolhouse and the path to a certain village are met with evasion, stony silence and worse, Nítido begins to suspect that Río Roto hides a deep trauma. On the third morning, when he is suddenly called in to give a woman last rites, Nítido, for reasons even he doesn't fully understand, tacitly accepts the role of priest. In a moving tale of mourning and revelation, Sellers-García puts Nítido's secret and hidden origins on a slow-motion collision course with the secrets of the town. While the pace is slowed by Nítido's letters to his dead father, this spare and vivid debut brings together wrenching personal and political histories. (*Jan.*)  
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From [The New Yorker](#)

This impressive début is narrated by Nítido Amán, a high-school teacher born in Guatemala but brought up in America. Reading about the atrocities of the nineteen-eighties warfare in his homeland, Amán returns there, in order, he says, "to fill the silences" left by his parents and by "the wide margins of the newspaper." Arriving in 1993 in an isolated village near his parents' birthplace, he is mistaken for the town's new priest, and finds himself furthering the illusion. Sellers-García is concerned with the jigsaw nature of violent history. The villagers confess mysterious illnesses; Amán gives refuge to an injured priest from a neighboring town that no one will talk about; and the stage is set for the dramatic unravelling of near and distant savageries.

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Review

Sylvia Sellers-Garcia has invented a rich and strange place, and her novel is possessed of a narrative voice that brings to mind the atmosphere and tension of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's "No One Writes to the Colonel," "When the Ground Turn in Its Sleep" is an extraordinarily assured novel. It's a mesmerizing debut. (Katharine Weber, author of "Triangle" and "The Little Women")

aImpressive...Spare...Graceful...Part folk tale, part noir mystery, part meditation on the burden of history, this is a remarkable debut.a

a"San Francisco Magazine"

a[An] impressive debut...[in which] the stage is set for the dramatic unraveling of near and distance savageries.a

a"The New Yorker"

aMesmerizing.a

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? "The New Yorker"

? Mesmerizing.?

? Katharine Weber, author of "The Little Women"

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Alicia Mendes:**

The particular book *When the Ground Turns in Its Sleep* will bring you to the new experience of reading any book. The author style to spell out the idea is very unique. In the event you try to find new book you just read, this book very ideal to you. The book *When the Ground Turns in Its Sleep* is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book from your official web site, so you can quickly to read the book.

#### **Hannah Norton:**

The reason? Because this *When the Ground Turns in Its Sleep* is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap this but latter it will distress you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who also write the book in such remarkable way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book include such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking method. So , still want to delay having that book? If I were being you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

#### **Kathleen Blackwood:**

This *When the Ground Turns in Its Sleep* is great publication for you because the content that is full of information for you who have always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This book reveal it information accurately using great manage word or we can claim no rambling sentences within it. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole information in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but difficult core information with splendid delivering sentences. Having *When the Ground Turns in Its Sleep* in your hand like getting the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous just one. We can say that no book that offer you world in ten or fifteen small right but this book already do that. So , this can be good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. occupied do you still doubt in which?

#### **Shirley Vega:**

Don't be worry should you be afraid that this book may filled the space in your house, you could have it in e-book way, more simple and reachable. This kind of *When the Ground Turns in Its Sleep* can give you a lot of buddies because by you investigating this one book you have thing that they don't and make an individual more like an interesting person. This kind of book can be one of a step for you to get success. This

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