The Mediterranean Sea and Civilization: A Voyage from Rome to Lisbon

Suggested Reading List
By Dana and Stephen Strand

The Stranger
Albert Camus
LITERATURE • 1989 • PAPER • 144 PAGES

Camus' classic story of a disillusioned young man who commits a senseless murder on an Algerian beach explores man's vulnerability in the face of the absurd. Newly translated from the French. (NAF94, $12.95)

The Meursault Investigation
Kamel Daoud
LITERATURE • 2015 • PAPER • 160 PAGES

At once a retelling and a critical response to Camus' classic story of the murder of an Arab man on an Algerian beach in The Stranger (NAF94), this book re-imagines the familiar narrative through the eyes of Harun, the brother of "the Arab" senselessly killed by the infamous Mersault. By giving the victim a name -- Musa -- and a story, Doud offers not only an engaging novel, but also a political manifesto about post-colonial Algeria, Islam and the irrelevance of Arab lives. (NAF95, $14.95)

The Middle Sea
John Julius Norwich
HISTORY • 2007 • PAPER • 720 PAGES

A marvelous writer who has already written on Byzantium, Venice and the Sahara, Norwich spins his magic in this story of culture, trade and politics, royalty and rulers, wars and religion in the Mediterranean from antiquity to the end of the First World War. (MED98, $21.00)

Small Memories
Jose Saramago
BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR • 2012 • PAPER • 192 PAGES

Recollecting a youth split between the tiny village of Azinhaga and the growing city of Lisbon, the late Portuguese Nobel laureate recreates a childhood both dark and magical, full of boiled roots and colorful characters. Partially raised by his peasant grandparents, Saramago is especially moving when describing his growing fascination with the power of literature (he taught himself to read). Margaret Jull Costa's translation captures the author's simple, witty style. (PGL82, $13.95)
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