

CONTENTS

PROLOGUE: The Hustle 1

PART I: THE SINS OF THE FATHERS

Germany: The Sins of the Fathers 5

When the Ghosts Have Bodies 9

Visit to Majdanek 13

Temple of Unanswered Prayers 17

On the Hunger of Jewish Writers 21

PART II: HISTORY ENTERING THE HOUSE

And Their Flags Are Still There 29

George Konrád: An Appreciation 32

When History Enters the House 37

On the Loneliness of Hungarians 41

PART III: HUNGARIAN SOULS

A Conversation with George Konrád 47

Here's to the Happy Hungarians! 69

Magda: A Weinstock Among the Living 73

Looking for "Árpi Bácsi" 79

God Bless the Man Who's Got His Own 82

PART IV: THE ALLURE OF EXILE

A. A.: The Extraterritorial 89

The Giant Who Goes Part-Way with Me 93

So Many Borders, So Little Interest 97

The Allure of Exile 101

On Feeling Like a Central European 105

PART V: IN SEARCH OF A CENTRAL EUROPEAN METAPHOR

- In Praise of Battered Cities 111
- Boston-to-Budapest Diary: In Praise of Anarchy 115
- In Search of a Central European Metaphor: The Hanger 119
- Waiting for Bread in Hegymagas 123
- Teaching in Hungary: Beating the Beaten System 127
- God Bless You, Mrs. Kovács! 133

PART VI: BRAVE NEW WORLD

- This Private(ized) Life 139
- When Freedom's Just Another Word... 143
- For Whom the Bell Tolls 147
- Election Postscript: The (Un)Wisdom of (In)Security 151
- Reach Out and Touch Everyone 155
- Elegy for the Lángos 159
- Hello to All That 163
- Famous for Sixteen Seconds 167

PART VII: AMERICA THROUGH NEW EYES

- Election Postscript: Proud to Be an American Again 173
- Tale of Two Schools 177
- Primer for Hungarian Journalists 181
- Je Change, Donc Je Suis*: Reflections on the American Self 185
- Report from the Home Front 193
- Triumph of the Tawdry:
- O. J. Simpson and the Unmaking of America 197
- Real Family Values 203
- Sight for Sore Hearts 207
- Homesick at Last 211
- What I Loveth Well Remains American 215

EPILOGUE: Lukács Fürdő 219