

Your Face Tomorrow 3: Poison, Shadow and Farewell

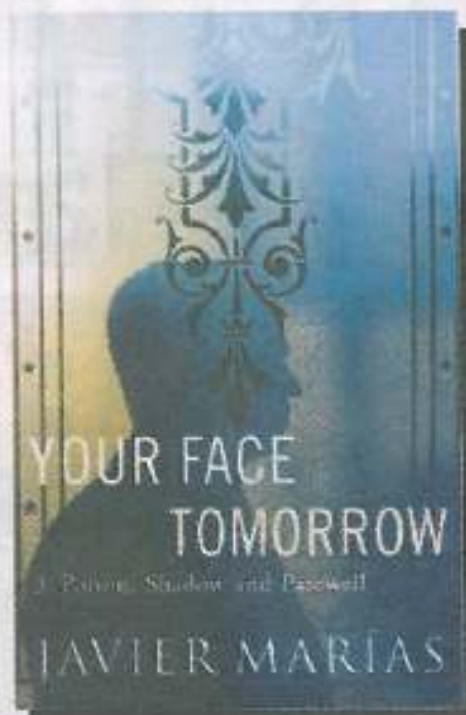
By Javier Marías
(New Directions)

Javier Marías has been called one of the most original writers living today, his name often uttered in the same breath as Dostoevsky, Proust and Beckett.

In the concluding volume of his *Your Face Tomorrow* trilogy, Marías continues his exploration of the concept of the self, this time tackling the possibility of being poisoned or corrupted by what we see.

This psychological thriller exposes the reader to the other side of reality that hides those disparate elements that contribute to our idea of ourselves.

Jacques Deza is a spy who is employed by a shady branch of the British intelligence services to use his unusual powers of per-



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ception to not only assess characters, but also to predict their behaviour.

Having 'poisoned' his essence of self by way of experiencing horrors through text and videos – termed the 'ways of the world' by his boss Tupra – Deza is sent to Madrid on a double-edged mission, on which he takes the opportunity to spy, fight for and protect his own family even as he slips out of sync in his relationship with his wife.

I like the conversational, stream of consciousness approach that Marías employs with his narrative, as well as his keen sense of observation, all wrapped up with incandescent prose.

At the same time, I must say that this book is not your regular 'easy read', as you may need all the concentration you can muster so as not to miss any nuance and meaning, whether obvious or not.



*Ifedinma Dimbo, originally from Nigeria, is the author of *She Was Foolish?* More details about her work*

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