

# A FOREIGN COUNTRY

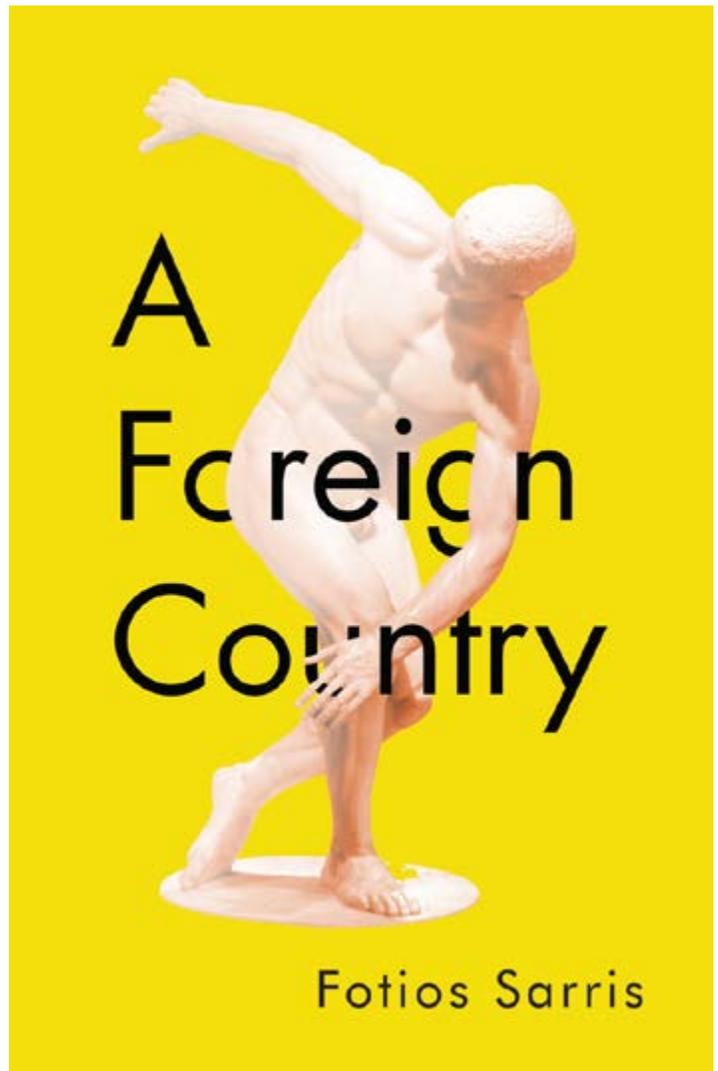
FOTIOS SARRIS

*The child of Greek immigrants in Mile End, Montreal struggles to cut bonds of tribe and family.*

At 45, Alex Doukas is trying to make sense of a life in ruins. His quest takes him past Mile End in the fifties, when young Greeks like his parents flocked to Montreal, all the way to war-torn Athens and a girl hiding under a bed. Then forward again, through the torments of youth, to flight from his immigrant ghetto and a glimpse of freedom - and the turbulent romance that leads to a violent unravelling, even as his parents spiral to their dooms.

But if life is anguish, nobody else got the memo: not the old Greek men in their windbreakers still trumpeting for Achilles, not the unstoppable force that is a Greek mother offering drinks to an unthirsty boy, not the erudite 10 year old with teenage brothers as he lectures on female anatomy. Because Mile End doesn't slow down for something as familiar as tragedy.

*A Foreign Country* explores the burdens of history, the bonds of tribe and family, and the ferocious pull of love. And from one man's tale of failure, something wondrous unfolds: a profound, moving, sometimes tragic, often hilarious, portrait of a family and panorama of an age.



FOTIOS SARRIS was born in Montreal to first-generation Greek immigrants. After graduating in English from McGill, he completed his Ph.D at University of Toronto. A long-time communications instructor at Ryerson University, Fotios now lives in Toronto. *A Foreign Country* is his first novel.

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