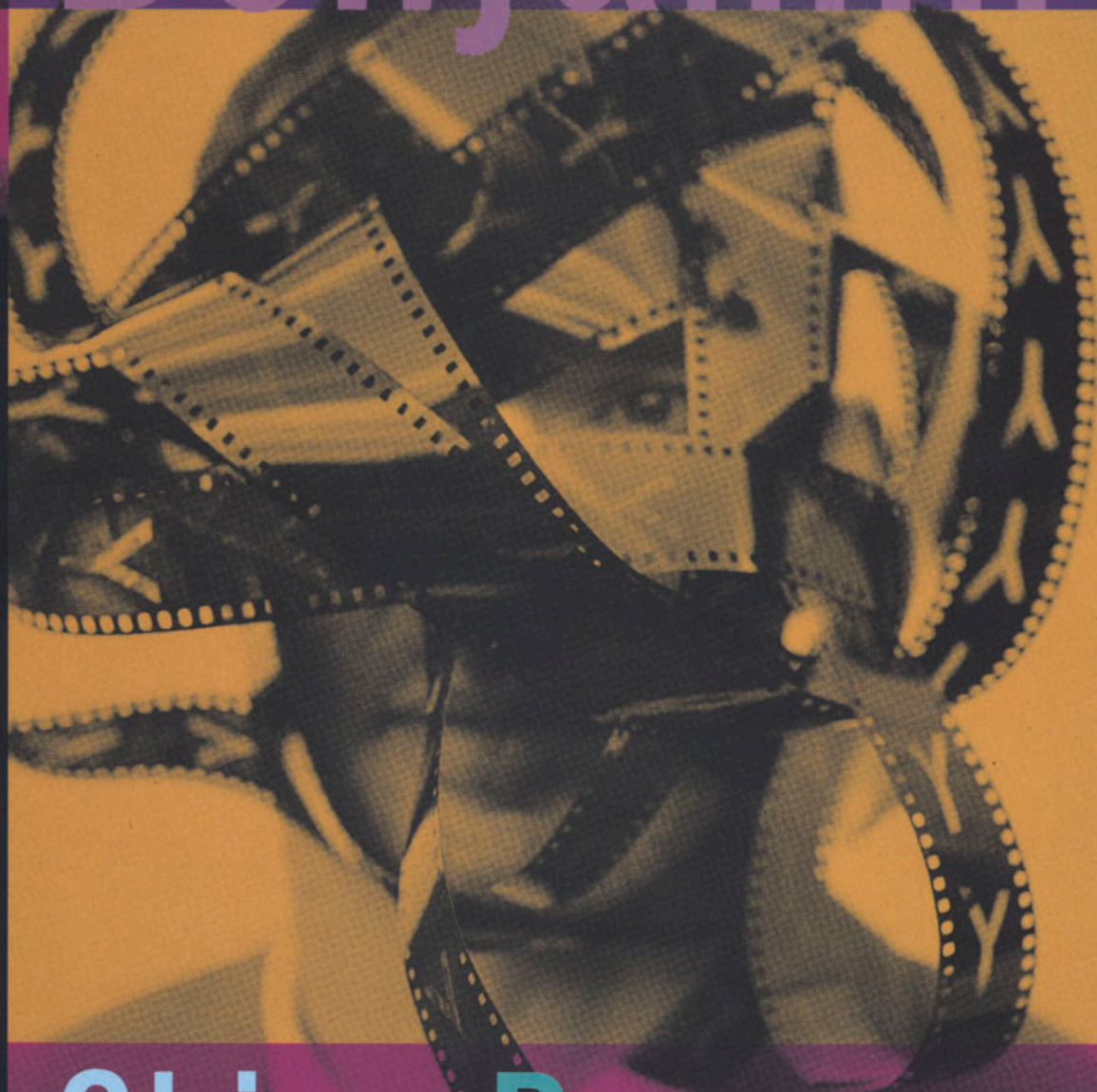


Benjamin



Benjamin Chico Buarque



Chico Buarque



'Taut, nervy prose and a
telling eye for detail.'

Financial Times

'A nightmarish tour de force.'

Independent



'An unmistakably Brazilian text.'

A little like *Ulysses* turned
inside out.'

New Statesman



Praise for
Turbulence
by
Chico Buarque



'A fast-forward trip across the
almost medieval divide
between the rich and the poor
in Brazil. Impressive.'

i-D magazine



'An undeniably haunting read.'

Daily Telegraph

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In Chico Buarque's fiction you quickly find yourself in the grip of a powerful and seductive imagination. The narrative of his second novel *Benjamin* unfolds elliptically, looping back on itself with parallels, coincidences and double-takes – engaging the language and imagery of the cinema, with which the eponymous narrator is obsessed.

A photographic model turned minor actor, Benjamin Zambraia feels mocked by his spurious sort of fame, by which people recognise him in the street but can never put a name to him – a face from the hoardings that rings a distant bell. He is also haunted by Castana Beatriz, a love he lost thirty years before, but whose double has begun to crop up with unsettling regularity round the city. Can Arieta Muse be Castana's daughter? Is Benjamin about to relive his passion or to meet his nemesis? Is it true that he is crippled by guilt that he inadvertently led political police to Castana and her urban guerrilla lover – and thus to murder by firing squad? He stares out at the grey stone of Elephant Rock which looms just a few metres outside the only three windows of his phantasmagoric apartment – as if he existed in a projectionist's room and was watching his life on a stone mountain screen.

Chico Buarque presents the reader with a dream logic in which everything, however outlandish, makes sense. He also provides striking glimpses of what he calls 'a parallel Rio', where lavish dining and abject starvation coexist in proximity and a crooked property dealer turns charismatic politician. It is an unpredictable world: darkly compelling, but with flashes of dazzling colour.

£14.99



Dramatist, singer, composer of countless haunting songs, novelist and star of his own football team, Chico Buarque is the most formidably gifted figure in the Brazilian cultural landscape. His achievements as a musician are internationally recognised and his first novel *Turbulence* was published in fourteen languages. He lives in Rio de Janeiro and Paris.

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