

Sal, the protagonist of *Sun Alley*, is an exceptionally intelligent twelve-year-old boy in the midst of his first love. One summer afternoon, on his way to see his girlfriend Emi, he is caught in a rain shower and seeks shelter in the hallway of a block of flats. Compelled to find the source of a strong odour, he ventures into the building's basement, where he comes upon the corpse of a young and very beautiful woman. Little by little, Sal attempts to discover the mystery behind this body as he pursues his relationship with Emi.

Yet as his love story evolves, Sal tries his best to hide it—not only from the cynical eyes of his friends in the neighbourhood, but also from his parents, whose intervention may well shatter his bliss. Alongside this pure first love, readers witness the development of an illicit relationship between a local adult couple. However, the connections between the adults and the two children, on the one hand, and the dead body discovered by Sal, on the other, are far deeper and more complicated than they may at first seem. *Sun Alley* is a novel about the roots of adultery and the destiny of a remarkable young boy who, thanks to his gifts, has the power to see his own future in his mind's eye.

Cecilia Ștefănescu is one of Romania's finest contemporary writers. Her first book, Love Sick, instantly became a bestseller in her home country and was adapted into an internationally acclaimed film. Sun Alley, her second novel, received excellent reviews in her home country.

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