

1984.

## *The Exiles*

It was a stormy afternoon. The gray underscored a sense of drama that even the birds seemed to feel. I saw the couple, like Adam and Eve cast out of paradise. Ashamed, they moved along the beach. I shortly discovered the presence of the Angel. Beautiful and feral, it walked atop the water. In one of its hands it carried a flaming sword. The silence and foreboding were soon softened by a boy's explanation: "The sea," he said, "also has its forbidden fruits and vengeance." Afterward, the moon rose up like an offering of blood.

—translated from the Spanish of Rafael Pérez Estrada by Steven J. Stewart