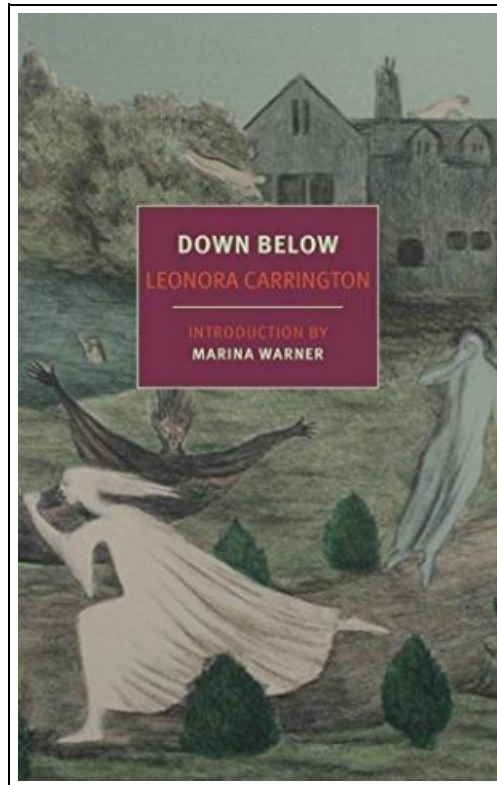


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The New York Review of Books, Inc, United States, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Main. Language: English . Brand New Book. A stunning work of memoir and an unforgettable depiction of the brilliance and madness by one of Surrealism s most compelling figures In 1937 Leonora Carrington--later to become one of the twentieth century s great painters of the weird, the alarming, and the wild--was a nineteen-year-old art student in London, beautiful and unapologetically rebellious. At a dinner party, she met the artist Max Ernst. The two fell in love and soon departed to live and paint together in a farmhouse in Provence. In 1940, the invading German army arrested Ernst and sent him to a concentration camp. Carrington suffered a psychotic break. She wept for hours. Her stomach became the mirror of the earth --of all worlds in a hostile universe--and she tried to purify the evil by compulsively vomiting. As the Germans neared the south of France, a friend persuaded Carrington to flee to Spain. Facing the approach of robots, of thoughtless, fleshless beings, she packed a suitcase that bore on a brass plate the word Revelation. This was only the beginning of a journey into madness that was to end with Carrington confined in a mental institution, overwhelmed not only by her own terrible imaginings but by her doctor s sadistic course of treatment. In Down Below she describes her ordeal--in which the agonizing and the marvelous were equally combined--with a startling, almost impersonal precision and without a trace of self-pity. Like Daniel Paul Schreber s *Memoirs of My Nervous Illness*, Down Below brings the hallucinatory logic of madness home.



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