



## PRESS RELEASE

Journal of a Sad Hermaphrodite  
by Michael de Larrabeiti  
Published by Tallis House September 2008  
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First published in 1992 by Aidan Ellis, *Journal of a Sad Hermaphrodite* is critically acclaimed writer Michael de Larrabeiti's undiscovered masterpiece.

Written in a unique style - two narratives are interwoven with quotations from over fifty other writers - *Journal of a Sad Hermaphrodite* tells the story of Cooper, an eccentric teacher of English in a small county town. Apprehensive and unadventurous, he yet carries with him a powerful passion: a love of words and a devotion to the art of poetry.

In the course of his teaching Cooper communicates this passion to one of his students. They begin to meet secretly and Cooper cultivates her obvious talent: the gift for writing that he yearns for but is certain he does not possess.

Their friendship develops and a scandal ferments in the small world of the county town. Cooper and his student are forced to act: they must choose between life-denying conformity and the dangers of a truthful existence.

'*Journal of a Sad Hermaphrodite* is a great novel about how we discover ourselves and others through books, using its original and compelling form to tell the beautifully realised story of a young woman's sentimental education.'

Dr Francesco Manzini,  
King's College London

'A masterpiece . . . it should be in the hands of every intelligent man and woman.'

Patric Dickinson

### About the publisher:

After spending far too much of a thirty-five year career battling with cowardly literary agents and timorous publishers, Michael de Larrabeiti decided to start his own publishing company. Today Tallis House is operated by Michael de Larrabeiti's literary estate, to ensure that his best work is always in print.

### About the author:

Michael de Larrabeiti (1934–2008) was one of five children and was brought up in South London. His mother lived most of her life in the Lavender Hill area; his father was a disappearing Basque from Bilbao.

After leaving school at sixteen, he worked at many things: on camera in documentary films; as a travel guide and teacher in France and Casablanca; as a shepherd, completing the Provençal *transhumance*, herding three thousand sheep to their summer pastures in the French Alps; and as photographer on Oxford University's Marco Polo Expedition, travelling four months overland on a motorcycle to Afghanistan and India. He later read English and French at Trinity College, Dublin, won a scholarship to the École Normale Supérieure in Paris, and began a D.Phil at Keble College, Oxford, which he later abandoned to take up fulltime writing.

Michael de Larrabeiti was the author of many travel essays for *The Sunday Times* and fourteen books, including the much admired *Borrible Trilogy* and *Spots of Time*, a memoir. He was nominated for the CWA Golden Dagger Award, the Whitbread Prize, and the Travelex Travel Writer's Award.

