

V I N T A G E  B O O K S

SELECTED STORIES

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ROBERT WAISER

"A MAJOR WRITER... ONE OF THE IMPORTANT
GERMAN-LANGUAGE WRITERS OF THIS CENTURY."

—FROM THE FOREWORD BY
SUSAN SONTAG



Parisian Newspapers

SINCE I have been reading the Parisian papers, from which the scent of power emanates, I have become so refined that I do not return greetings and, what's more, this amazes me not at all. With *Le Temps* in my hand, I appear very elegant to myself. Furthermore, I will no longer even glance at righteous people. To me the Parisian papers are a substitute for the theater. Also, not even the finest restaurant will I honor with my feet, so subtle have I become. Gulps of beer no longer pass my lips. My ear approves only of the melodiousness of the French language. Once I adored a lady, a true lady; today I find her most clumsy, since *Le Figaro* has spoiled me. Did *Le Matin* not drive me half mad? While my colleagues write themselves sick in this modern time of crisis, I grow exuberant through my papers. A trip which I intended to take to Paris I consider completed, I become acquainted with France's capital by way of reading. It is pleasing to be in good company. The papers of conquerors make the best society. German language products get no more blessings from me. I have forgotten how to speak German; I wonder if there is any harm in that?

[1925]

Translated by Tom Whalen and Carol Gehrig