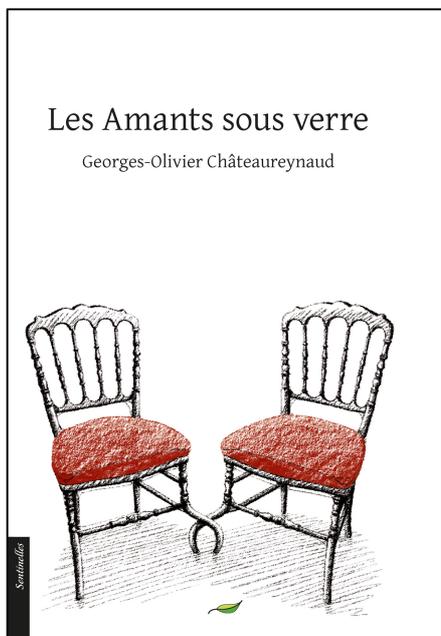


## LOVERS UNDER GLASS



### Genre(s):

- Novella
- Magical realism

### Keywords:

- Love
- Fine arts
- Popular art
- Youth and aging
- Switching bodies

**Audience:** suitable for all audiences, adolescents + adults; fans of fantasy genres

Right sold abroad: /

### Concept

When two slightly crooked second-hand dealers spend the night in a retired couple's home, their hosts steal their bodies for the night.

### Universe and references

- Magical realism and Jean Ray's works
- Film *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus*
- The world of antique and second-hand goods dealers
- The author was awarded the Renaudot prize and the Goncourt for short stories

### Pitch

This antique fair is one of the most popular in the world. It would be odd if Golo, a second-hand dealer, didn't come across a golden opportunity. To be completely honest, his small business could really use it.

He joins up with the beautiful Stella to track down the diamond in the rough. And just like that, bingo! Golo can't believe their luck! Stella's every desire seems to materialize. They even miraculously find a room staying with a retired couple.

But in the dark of the night, the bodies switch owners... Have Golo and Stella been tricked by someone who is more cunning than they are?

### Author

**Georges-Olivier Châteaureynaud**, who was born in Paris in 1947, writes short stories and novels. He received the Renaudot award in 1982 for *The University of Dreams* and now is one of the Renaudot award's jury members. He has served as president for the "Société des Gens de Lettres de France," a writers' association in France that represents all aspects of the profession.

## ***At a glance***

- Short story
- Word count: 57,000 characters including spaces
- Available material in English: this presentation (including an overview of the work's characteristics) and a translated excerpt

## ***Excerpt***

He came closer, listened carefully, and heard easily identifiable sighing and moaning – except that to the best of his knowledge, he and Stella were the house's only occupants who were young enough to be able to frolic with such ardor. He leaned forward, ventured a peek, and saw himself, Golo, having his way with Stella under the canopy of a huge four-poster bed made of dark wood. A lampshade made of parchment bathed the scene in a soft light which was further filtered by a silk scarf that matched the placenta-like color of the sitting room's curtains. The naked bodies were reflected in the large armoire's mirror. A look of ecstasy could be seen on Stella's face and the face of Golo's twin. He suddenly had the unbearable feeling of being dispossessed. That was him, that was his body, his inalienable property, and no one had the right to use it in his stead. He wanted to call out to the lovers, rush toward them and separate them. But the only sound he could emit from his dry throat was an inaudible and pathetic moan. Slowly, he moved forward with dragging footsteps on wobbly legs to the foot of the bed. In their throes of passion, they did not notice even him. A guttural cry escaped Stella's lips. Her partner adjusted his position for the final attack. Golo pleadingly stretched out a hand toward them, a scrawny hand made of nothing but skin and bones. He moved forward a few more steps and found himself standing before the armoire's mirror. In it, he saw his full-length reflection and recognized Mr. Reinboldt's face with its wrinkles and jowls, its bloodless lips, bulbous nose, veiny cheeks, and its forehead speckled with brown spots. Underneath his pyjamas, he could make out the shape of a dilapidated body that matched his decrepit face.

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## ***LOVERS UNDER GLASS***

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