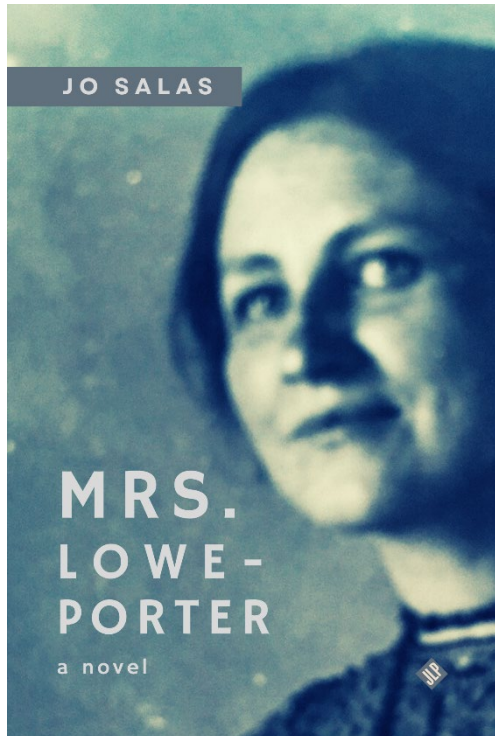


A woman ahead of her time. —*The New York Times*

A captivating biographical novel... with Mrs. Lowe-Porter, Jo Salas has achieved the writing triumph that her never-met but vividly imagined grandmother-in-law hoped to write...a magnificent literary achievement. —*BookTrib*



Mrs. Lowe-Porter

A Novel by Jo Salas

The literary giant Thomas Mann balked at a female translator, but he might well owe his standing in the Western canon to a little-known American woman, Helen Lowe-Porter. Based closely on historical source material, Jo Salas's novel *Mrs. Lowe-Porter* sympathetically reveals a brilliant woman's struggle to be appreciated as a translator and also to find her own voice in a culture of male dominance. Married to the charming classicist Elias Lowe, whom she met and fell in love with in Munich, the story weaves one woman's journey as her husband Elias's career soars, and her translation work earns Mann the Nobel Prize. The novel celebrates Helen Lowe-Porter as she learns to risk stepping out from the long shadow of the dominating men of her life to become a person of letters in her own right.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR | Jo Salas Jo Salas is a New Zealand-born writer of fiction (*Dancing with Diana*, Codhill Press) and nonfiction. Winner of the Pen & Brush prose contest and nominated for a Pushcart Prize, she is a co-founder, performer, and chronicler of Playback Theatre. She lives in upstate New York.

PRAISE | MRS. LOWE-PORTER

"Salas reads between the lines of early 20th century history and family archives to breathe life into Lowe-Porter's reality as a woman who bent her formidable gifts to the service of others in this deeply researched, vividly imagined novelization." —*Chronogram*

"Highly recommended for adding insights missing in *The Magician* or in connection with any of the works of Thomas Mann....[Salas's] writing in this novel is worthy her subject and her book's literary focus." —*California Review of Books*

"A literary book in the best sense: about literature and its creation, and artistic in itself." —*Historical Novel Society*

"With a richly imagined interior life and insight into the creative collaboration of translation Lowe-Porter's voice is uplifted for a new generation." —*Toronto Star*

I was completely seduced by the story, the recounted life, and the personality of the main character. How does Helen retain control of the central challenge of being Mann's translator without losing herself in his overwhelming grandeur as a world-famous novelist? Jo Salas brilliantly captures the shifting depths underfoot. Despite the strictures of sticking to some semblance of biographical truth, however elastic, she maintains the pact between her subject and the freedom to stray and invent.
—Adam Thorpe, author of *Ulverton* and *The Rules of Perspective*

Helen Lowe-Porter, like the talented women who came before and after her, faced dilemmas that men have rarely needed to consider. As the woman behind two larger-than-life men, Helen's desire for her own creative expression will resonate with readers. Jo Salas skillfully depicts Helen's milieu and her rich inner world in this wise, engaging, and touching novel. —Nava Atlas, creator of *LiteraryLadiesGuide.com*

An exploration of the complicated life of the translator of Thomas Mann—who is a writer in her own right. Salas asks difficult questions about work and gender—whose words should take precedence? Whose work? Whose needs? Salas uses the real life of Helen Tracy Lowe-Porter as the foundation for this fascinating novel.
—Roxana Robinson, *Dawson's Fall*

"I gave him my creative spirit, my conscientious, painstaking labor.... I was just the translator. I was not an inventor of worlds." The deep contradiction between "I gave him my creative spirit" and "I was just the translator" defines the driving dilemma of Helen Lowe-Porter, the first English translator of Thomas Mann. Jo Salas's engaging novel, based closely on the life of this admirable woman, is a must.
—Suzanne Jill Levine, author of *The Subversive Scribe: Translating Latin American Fiction*

Mrs. Lowe-Porter beguiled me in its nuanced and insightful depiction of the dilemma common to so many women: how to balance one's own ambition and need for self-expression with the demands of families within a culture that neither values care nor prizes women's work equally. The author not only deftly commands the details of an earlier time and place but imagines Helen Lowe-Porter's interior life and struggles with such sensitivity and verve that I found myself moved to a deeper understanding and profound appreciation of a woman I barely knew, my own grandmother. —Anneke Campbell, writer and documentary filmmaker

LEARN MORE | ORDER

[Jo Salas](#) | [Jackleg Press](#) | #MRSLOWEPORTER

Retail: [Ingram Content Group](#) | Libraries: [Libraries \(ingramcontent.com\)](#)

[JackLeg Press](#) | JackLeg employs an environmentally sustainable publishing model and a rigorous editorial process to bring the best new and familiar voices into the literary world. At JackLeg, we stress authenticity, collaboration, and bold thinking.