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Borges: Influence and References

Martin Amis

From: [Halifax Slasher](#)

My favorite Borges reference is from Martin Amis's *The Information*, where a bad poet writes something good for once, and it turns out he swiped the lines from one of Borges's prose works.

From: [Jose Zelaschi](#)

In the author's note of *Einstein's Monsters*, Amis cites Borges and Rushdie as influences for his short story "The Immortals." The story, which is quite interesting, reads as if it had been written by a very witty -- I feel tempted to say, tongue-in-cheek -- Borges.

From: [James Diedrick](#)

Amis reviewed Borges, though he neglected to include it in *The War Against Cliché*:

"In the Hot Seat." Review of *Six Problems for Don Isidro Parodi*, by Jorge Luis Borges and Adolfo Bioy-Casares, translated by Norman Thomas di Giovanni. *The Observer*, 19 July 1981, 28.

Also, there are several references to Borges in other reviews collected in *The War Against Cliché* --pp. 66, 384, 401, 421.

From: [José María Gomez](#)

One story in *Other People* is about an amnesiac girl. In this work Amis uses lot of ideas, concepts, images even direct quotations from Borges short-story "Funes el memorioso," in which a boy gets the gift of infinite memory after suffering from an accident. In fact, the amnesiac girl is reading Borges' fiction:

"She read *Labyrinths*, *Scruples*, *America...*" (p.104)

"A few of the books... contain all things... like alephs" (p.104)

The postmodern irony is using images from a story about a person with infinite memory to describe the situation of an amnesiac, thus suggesting that both abnormal situations call into question our standard vision about reality.

Additional Information

[The Martin Amis Web](#) -- An excellent resource on Amis by James Diedrick, author of *Understanding Martin Amis*. It includes these Borges-specific sections:

[Borges' Genius Praised on the Centennial of his Birth](#) -- Laura Weffer Cifuentes of the Latino On-Line News Network reports on the 14 January 1999 colloquium on Borges at the British Library, featuring Martin Amis and Ian McEwan.

[Martin Amis and Ian McEwan discuss Borges](#) -- A streaming video of the Amis-McEwan conversation.

[The significance of "The Aleph" in *The Information*](#) -- From *Understanding Martin Amis* by James Diedrick.

Selected Works by Martin Amis

[Einstein's Monsters](#)

by Martin Amis. Paperback (March 1990)

[The Information](#)

by Martin Amis. Paperback (March 1996)

[The War Against Cliché](#)

by Martin Amis. Paperback (November 2001)

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