

# *Selected Stories*



ROBERT WALSER

*Translated from the German*

*by Christopher Middleton and others*

*With a foreword by Susan Sontag*



FARRAR, STRAUS AND GIROUX

NEW YORK



# Contents

<i>Foreword by Susan Sontag</i>	vii
RESPONSE TO A REQUEST	3
FLOWER DAYS	6
TROUSERS	9
TWO STRANGE STORIES	12
BALLOON JOURNEY	14
KLEIST IN THUN	17
THE JOB APPLICATION	26
THE BOAT	28
A LITTLE RAMBLE	30
HELBLING'S STORY	32
THE LITTLE BERLINER	44
NERVOUS	52
THE WALK	54
SO! I'VE GOT YOU	105
NOTHING AT ALL	109
KIENAST	112
POETS	115
FRAU WILKE	118
THE STREET (I)	123

SNOWDROPS	126
WINTER	128
THE SHE-OWL	131
KNOCKING	133
TITUS	135
VLADIMIR	138
PARISIAN NEWSPAPERS	141
THE MONKEY	142
DOSTOEVSKY'S "IDIOT"	146
AM I DEMANDING?	148
THE LITTLE TREE	152
STORK AND HEDGEHOG	153
A CONTRIBUTION TO THE CELEBRATION OF CONRAD FERDINAND MEYER	157
A SORT OF SPEECH	160
A LETTER TO THERESE BREITBACH	164
A VILLAGE TALE	167
THE AVIATOR	169
THE PIMP	172
MASTERS AND WORKERS	176
ESSAY ON FREEDOM	179
A BIEDERMEIER STORY	182
THE HONEYMOON	184
THOUGHTS ON CÉZANNE	187
<i>Postscript by Christopher Middleton</i>	191