A SCHOOLBOY'S DIARY

And Other Stories

ROBERT WALSER

Selected and translated from the German by

DAMION SEARLS

Illustrations by

KARL WALSER

Introduction by

BEN LERNER

NEW YORK REVIEW BOOKS



New York

CONTENTS

Introduction · ix
Translator's Note · xv

PART I

Fritz Kocher's Essays · 3

 $Introduction \cdot Man \cdot Autumn \cdot The \ Fire \cdot Friendship$

 $Poverty \cdot School \cdot Politeness \cdot Nature \cdot Open \ Topic$

From the Imagination \cdot Careers \cdot The Fatherland

My Mountain · Our City · Christmas · Instead of an Essay

The Fair · Music · The Essay · The Classroom

PART II

Greifen Lake · 43

Six Little Stories · 45

1. About a Poet · 2. Lute · 3. Piano · 4. · 5. · 6. The Beautiful Place

Letter from a Poet to a Gentleman . 51

The Poet · 54

The Mountain · 56

A Curious City · 58

The Island · 61

```
[Untitled, Crossed Out] · 63
```

The Heathstone · 64

Two Little Things · 66

By the Lake · 67

The City · 69

Spring · 71

A Schoolboy's Diary · 73

Hanswurst · 80

School Visit · 81

Hat-Chitti · 83

The Rowboat · 85

Ascent by Night · 86

Adventure on a Train · 88

Apollo and Diana · 90

A Story · 92

The New Novel · 94

The Letter · 97

The Italian Novella · 99

Caseman and Houseman · 101

The Idol · 103

The Cover · 105

The Great Talent · 107

The Wicked Woman · 109

A Son and His Mother · 111

Student and Teacher · 113

A Model Student · 115

The Tale of the Four Happy Fellows · 117

Summer in the Country · 119

Swift and Sluggish · 121

From My Youth · 123

All Right Then · 125

Reading · 129

A Devil of a Story · 132

The Soldier · 134

Something About Soldiers · 136

In the Military · 139

The German Language · 141

Morning and Night · 143

Flowers · 144

The Little Tree · 145

The Last Prose Piece · 146

PART III

Hans · 153