



THE PECULIAR LIFE OF A LONELY POSTMAN

BY DENIS THERIAULT

(Hesperus Press, £7.99)

Quebec writer Denis Thériault's second novel sank without a trace when it was published in 2008. Its republication could – and should – establish it as a lost-and-found gem with all the makings of a hit: a storyline about a haiku-loving, identity-stealing postman, with the romance – and sentimental whimsy – of a French film – *Amélie* with a twist of *Cyrano de Bergerac*. A beguiling story about love, loneliness and the modern world, crisply translated by Liedewy Hawke, all but the most hardened of readers will fall for the thrill, and the sadness, of this poetic, epistolary romance.

ARIFA AKBAR