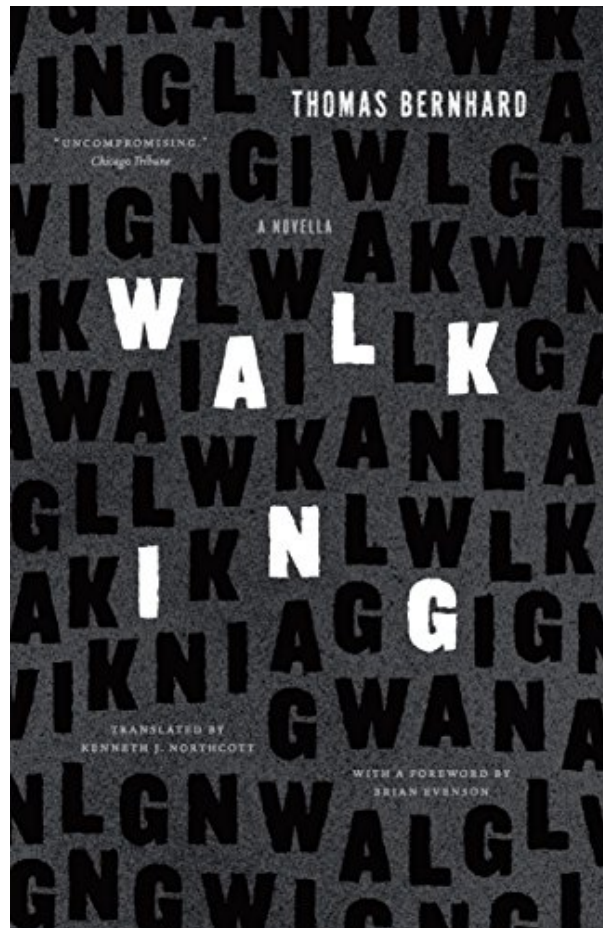
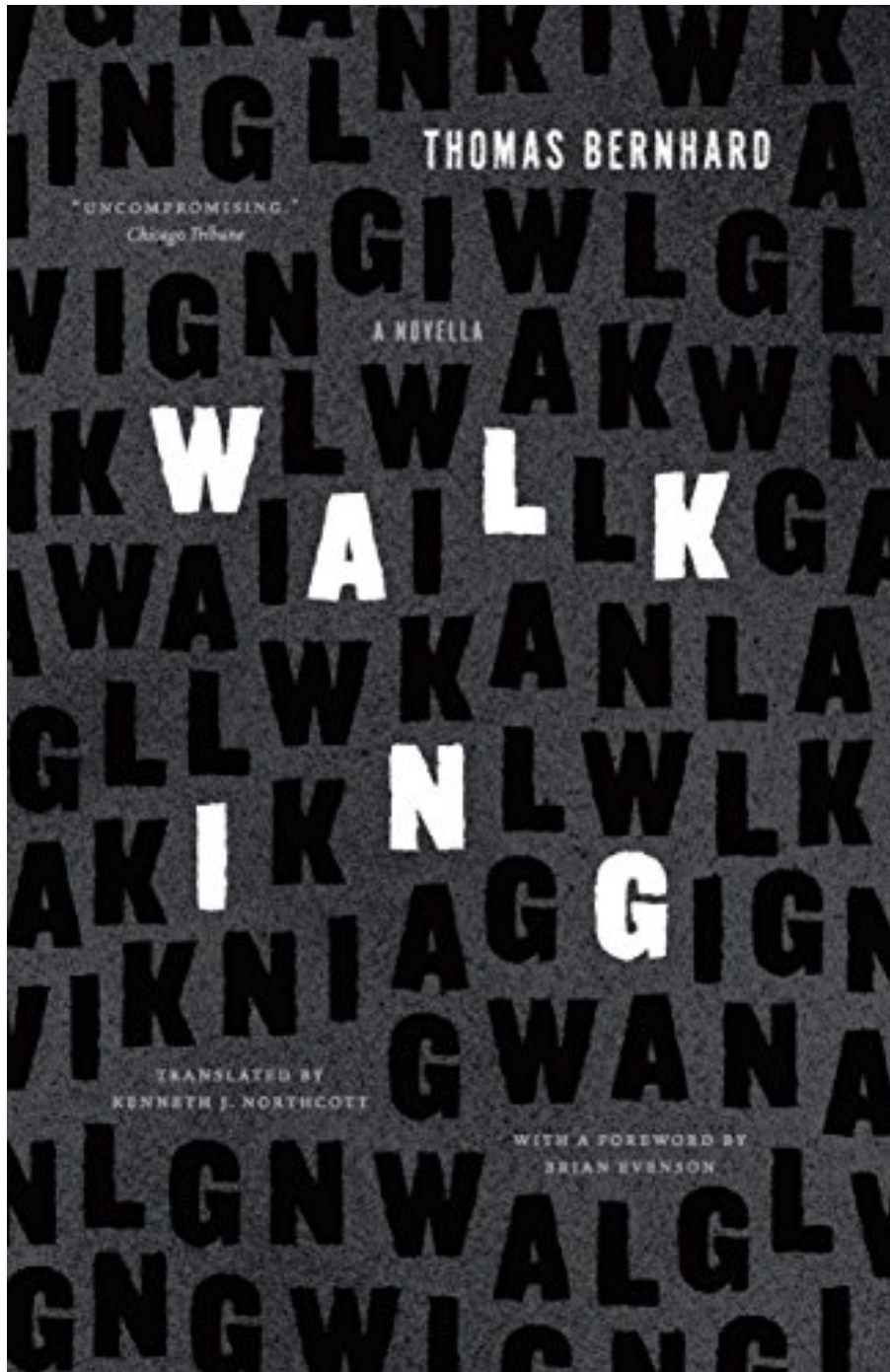


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Review

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Thomas Bernhard is “one of the masters of contemporary European fiction” (George Steiner); “one of the century’s most gifted writers” (Newsday); “a virtuoso of rancor and rage” (Bookforum). And although he is favorably compared with Franz Kafka, Samuel Beckett, and Robert Musil, it is only in recent years that he has gained a devoted cult following in America.

A powerful, compact novella, *Walking* provides a perfect introduction to the absurd, dark, and uncommonly comic world of Bernhard, showing a preoccupation with themes—illness and madness, isolation, tragic friendships—that would obsess Bernhard throughout his career. *Walking* records the conversations of the unnamed narrator and his friend Oehler while they walk, discussing anything that comes to mind but always circling back to their mutual friend Karrer, who has gone irrevocably mad. Perhaps the most overtly philosophical work in Bernhard’s highly philosophical oeuvre, *Walking* provides a penetrating meditation on the impossibility of truly thinking.

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Everyone should read everything that this man ever wrote. But be advised that this is repackaging. I almost want to give it zero stars. The Univ of Chicago press published "*Walking*" in their still in-print title *Three Novellas*. Shame shame shame. For twice the cost of this paperback you get three novellas in a nice hardbound edition. Wish I'd done my due diligence.

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