

A Penguin Book



"Abel cannot lie. You must try and imagine it this way—as Abel sees it, with that infallible inner photoelectric eye of his. He X-rays time itself. . . ."

Abel is a computer invented by a "thinking weed" named Felix Charlock. Abel not only remembers everything; he also predicts everything. Naturally, he attracts the attention of the Merlin Group—a vast multinational firm whose agents are everywhere, whose power encircles the earth. Merlin soon takes control of Abel. Will Felix himself manage to escape? . . . Set in Athens, Istanbul, and London, *Tunc* is Lawrence Durrell's most scintillating novel.

"The Alexandria Quartet was in large part about an artist's struggle for freedom within his culture; *Tunc*, which in Latin means 'next,' deals with the similar struggles of a scientist. . . . There are reams of beautiful writing . . . gaiety, originality, raw talent, and rebellious exuberance." —*Time*

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