

A Penguin Book



Julian Merlin, powerful chief of a vast multinational firm, is obsessed by the movie star Iolanthe—but Iolanthe is dead. So Julian implores the brilliant scientist Felix Charlock to re-create her. (See Lawrence Durrell's novel *Tunc*, also published by Penguin, in which Felix created a fabulous memory-machine named Abel.) The result is astonishing: a robot that can talk, flirt, fornicate, and philosophize. The new Iolanthe even longs to break free of her bondage to Julian. At last she does break free, but only after a tragic confrontation with the inhumanity that made her. . . . At once bawdy, ironic, fantastic, and profound, *Nunquam* is about power and the individual, time and reality, life and death.

"Flashes of satire, shrewd sense, and mystic insight . . . one feels that Durrell has been alert to the whole significant culture of his time."

—*Book World*

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