

Between Worlds

[music: *Arrival of the Birds* by *The Cinematic Orchestra*]

Hello and welcome to the *nomadamin* English podcast. I'm Amin Bahmani Yeganeh, an English teacher and the founder of *nomadamin*. Every episode, a fascinating subject is chosen to help you improve your English, and gain new perspectives on the world. I, the storyteller, will be using intermediate English with a **pinch of** higher-level language for you to learn. If you miss something, you can always skip back and listen again. Full transcripts are also offered at <http://nomadamin.com/podcast>.

[Introduction]

Today, we have a special episode dedicated to the **play** *Between Worlds* by **none other than** the **renowned** author *Éric-Emmanuel Schmitt*. This international bestseller, originally published with the French title *Hôtel Des Deux Mondes*, has captured the hearts of readers around the globe, including me myself, so much so that I honestly couldn't help myself crying when reading some parts of it. Anyway, **with no further ado**, let's **dive into** it.

[Author]

Before anything else, let's take a moment to introduce the talented *Éric-Emmanuel Schmitt*. Born in Lyon, France, *Schmitt* is an **acclaimed** author, **playwright**, and philosopher. His writing explores **profound** questions about human existence, spirituality, and the search for meaning in life. His unique storytelling style and the ability to **blend** reality with fantasy have made him a beloved **figure** in **contemporary** literature.

[Plot]

Now, let's move on to the **plot**. In a hotel between life and death, where the souls of all coma patients come to, people **from all walks of life** meet. The hotel guests are **relieved** from the physical pain their bodies are suffering from on earth, but they have to wait for the doctors' success or failure to save them. Depending on the situation, guests take an elevator, the hotel's only exit, either back down to earth, back to life, or up to heaven, to death. We follow the story of *Julien* in particular. He **embarks on** this profound journey, meeting different spirits who **reveal** secrets and insights about the human condition through their own stories. He finds himself in a position to **confront** his past, to face his **flaws**, and ultimately to seek **redemption**.

[Concepts]

The play **weaves together** themes of love and the search for meaning. *Schmitt* skillfully explores the concept of life's purpose and the importance of human

connection. Through his imaginative storytelling, he challenges readers to **ponder** and question what lies beyond our **mortal** existence.

[Quotes]

[music: *Nuvole Bianche* by Ludovico Einaudi]

Let me share a couple of quotes from the play **showcasing** Schmitt's remarkable talent:

- “*Laura: I like to dream and listen to music. And when I listen to music, I like to hear the sound of the silence around me.*
Julien: And then?
Laura: Then I like to read books, madly, to experience all the lives that I couldn't know.”
- “*Julien: You don't know what death is?*
Dr. S...: The worst thing that can happen to this question is for it to be answered.”
- “*If you want to spend time only with the things that last, go talk to rocks and mountains.*”

And finally this one:

- “*Julien: Doctor S..., if Laura and I meet on earth, do you think we will recognize each other?*
*Dr. S...: I think so. As soon as you get out of the elevator, you'll forget everything, but on earth there is an unconscious memory of what happened outside the earth, a deep memory, **lurking** in the unconscious, which reactivates at first sight. And that makes you recognize each other. It's called love at first sight.*”

[Reviews]

Moving on to some of the reviews of *Between Worlds*; *The New York Times* **hailed** it as “*a philosophical masterpiece that dares to explore life's profound questions with **grace** and sensitivity.*” *The Guardian* **praised** Schmitt's ability to create **vivid** and engaging characters, while the French newspaper, *Le Monde*, called it “*a captivating **odyssey** that will leave you reflecting on life's complexities for weeks to come.*”

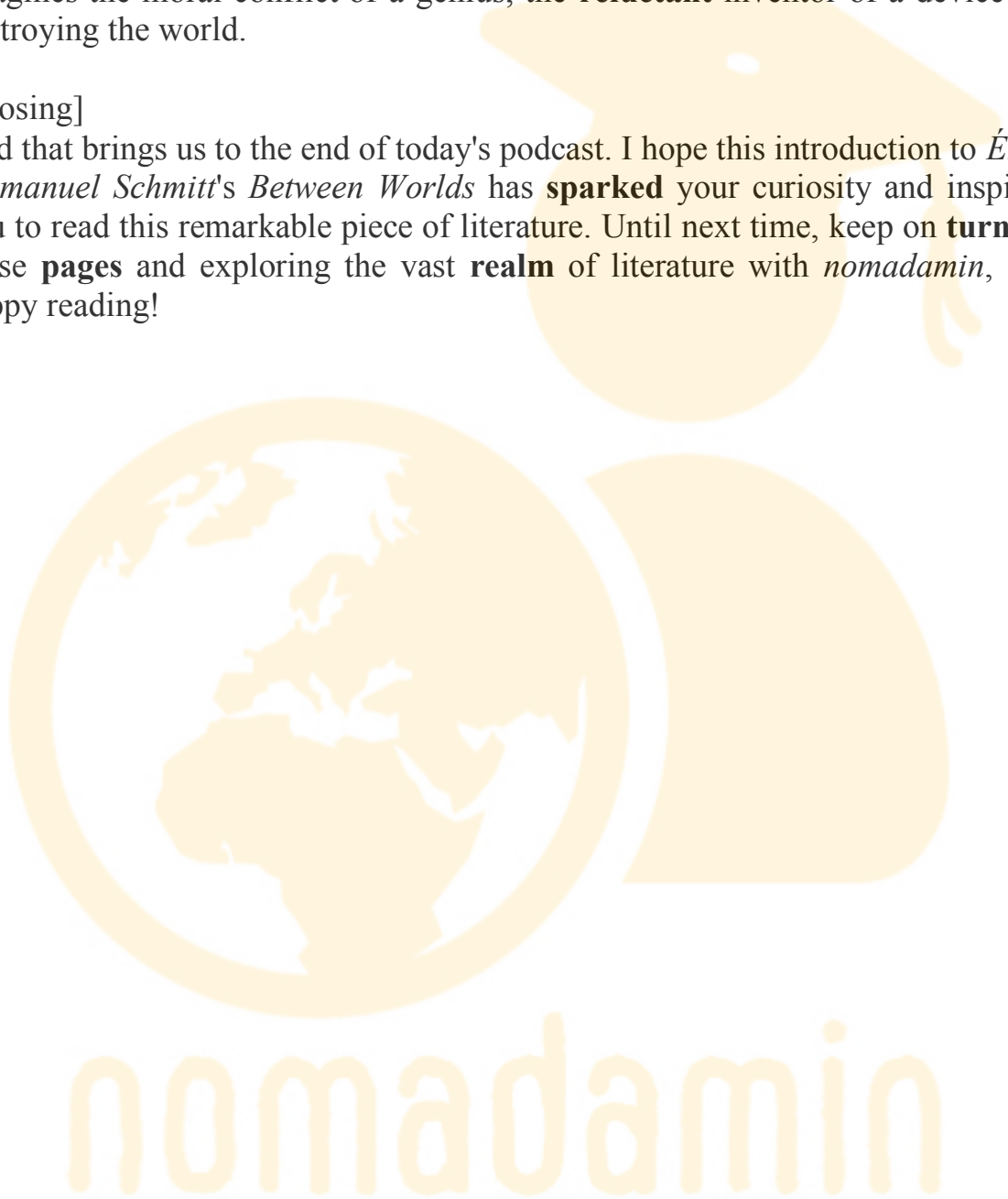
[Other Books]

If you're **intrigued** by *Éric-Emmanuel Schmitt's* writing and want to explore more of his works, I highly recommend checking out his following books. *The Most Beautiful Book in the World* is a **moving** collection of short stories that portrays

the human struggle for love, happiness, and the meaning of life. Also, *Oscar and the Lady in Pink* is a heartwarming story that explores themes of friendship, hope, and the power of imagination. It's about the life of a **terminally** ill boy and his unique friendship with an **eccentric** elderly woman. And finally, *Einstein's Betrayal*, an intelligent, serious and sometimes funny drama, in which *Schmitt* imagines the moral conflict of a genius, the **reluctant** inventor of a device for destroying the world.

[Closing]

And that brings us to the end of today's podcast. I hope this introduction to *Éric-Emmanuel Schmitt's Between Worlds* has **sparked** your curiosity and inspired you to read this remarkable piece of literature. Until next time, keep on **turning** those **pages** and exploring the vast **realm** of literature with *nomadamin*, and happy reading!



Words List

a pinch of: a small amount of something
play: a dramatic work for the stage or to be broadcast
none other than: said when you want to show that someone is an exciting choice
renowned: famous
with no further ado: with no more delay
to dive into/in: to start doing something energetically
intriguing: fascinating, interesting
acclaimed: admired, praised
playwright: a person who writes plays
profound: deep, heartfelt
to blend: to combine, to mix
figure: a person
contemporary: modern, present
plot: the main events of a play, novel, film, or similar work
people from all walks of life: people who have many different positions in society
relieved: happy that something unpleasant has not happened or has ended
to embark on: to begin (a journey)
to reveal: to uncover, to let someone know about something
to confront: to face
flaw: a fault, mistake, or weakness
redemption: the action of saving or being saved from sin, error, or evil
to weave together: to put together
to ponder: to think about
mortal: unable to continue living forever
to showcase: to show the best qualities or parts of something
to lurk: to wait or move in a secret way so that you cannot be seen
to hail: to praise, to acclaim, to admire
grace: the quality of being pleasantly considerate or polite, courtesy
to praise: to hail, to acclaim, to admire
vivid: clear
odyssey: a long journey full of adventures
intrigued: fascinated, amazed
moving: effective, touching
terminally: in a way that is predicted to lead to death, incurably
eccentric: unusual and slightly strange
reluctant: uninterested, unwilling, resisting, feeling doubt
to spark: to stimulate
to turn the page: to continue to the next page in a book
realm: field, area