



Montague Kobbé reading from his new book.

Montague Kobbé launches 2nd book

ANGUILLA--Invited guests listened to stories from *Tales of Bed Sheets and Departure Lounges*, the second book published by Montague Kobbé, in the tropical setting of The Valley Bistro restaurant on Thursday, April 30.

The book is unusual, as it consists of 50 very short or extremely short stories, written in English and Spanish. They are a collection of thoughts and experiences from many different countries where Kobbé has lived, including England, Spain, Germany and Anguilla.

The micro stories are strung together by emotional ties "that progressively weave a sense of reality both drastically different to that expressed in each individual tale and at the same time shared by the entire collection." The book includes stories of love and lust, travel and sleep, intended to be read aloud and in succession, preferably in both languages.

Kobbé described this collection as "an exploitation of familiar tropes of lust and adventure, featuring a series of discrete narrators who put forward original, contrasting and sometimes even contradicting perspectives about largely commonplace situations, appealing above all to the morbid voyeurism inherent to Western society."

The author is a German citizen who was born in Venezuela and in the past decade has lived in Bristol, Leeds, London, Munich, Madrid and Anguilla where his mother and father reside. His work has been published in several countries in the Caribbean, Europe and the Americas. He has written regularly in the *WEEKender* of *The Daily Herald* newspaper since 2008. His first novel, *The Night of the Rambler*, was published in September 2013.

Loretta Collins Klobah says in her introduction to the book that Kobbé's "collection of fragmentary narratives places us in moments of intensity, positioning us as confidante to the wanderer, as voyeur and vicarious explorer of experiences of manhood that are pleasurable, disillusioning, unsettling, annoying and perplexing."

She suggests that reading the stories in English and Spanish gives an idea of the identity of the author, who lives life as both an English and Spanish speaker, having grown up in a bilingual home.

Readings of the book took place in London and at the recent Literary Festival in Guadeloupe that Kobbé attended.