



The General of the Dead Army

By Kadare Ismail

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This is the story of an Italian general, accompanied by his chaplain, charged with the mission of scouring Albania in search of the bones of their fallen countrymen, killed twenty years earlier during World War II.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The General of the Dead Army, Ismail Kadare's meditation on the consequences of war, is a hugely moving account of duty and loss. It is 20 years since the end of World War II and an Italian army general is sent to Albania to search again for the bodies of those who lost their lives in the campaign. He is armed with maps, lists, measurements, and dental and other records. He tours the countryside organizing digs and disinterments and, as he tries to find the dead sons of forgotten families, he wonders at the sense, and scale, of his task. He talks and argues with the curt Italian priest who is accompanying him. He finds his footsteps followed, sometimes anticipated, by a fellow general who is also looking for bodies--the bodies of his German countrymen. He struggles with the Albanian countryside, weather, laborers who work for him, and peasants who watch their work. And he fights the despair that grows as the size, scope, and, ultimately, the hopelessness of his task becomes ever more apparent.

Kadare's plaintive novel is a consistently heartfelt lament to all those who have died and been affected by war, but it is also a beautiful work displaying the skills that make him one of the great modern European writers. --Mark Thwaite, *Amazon.co.uk*

Review

A major international novelist. (*The New York Times*)

The appearance of this powerful and poignant Albanian novel in an accessible English translation is cause for a celebration. Kadare's imaginative language marks a writer of global significance. (*The Boston Globe*)

One of the most compelling novelists now writing in any language. (*The Wall Street Journal*)

One of contemporary fiction's greatest prose lyricists. (*Philadelphia Inquirer*)

Ismail Kadare is a writer who maps a whole culture—its history, its passion, its folklore, its politics, its disasters. He is a universal writer in a tradition of storytelling that goes back to Homer. (Professor John Carey, Committee Chair, Man Booker International Prize 2005)

Ismail Kadare's fiction has been compared with that of Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Certainly he induces that same ironic double-take in his readers, by means of the child's magical view of life that is larger than most adults realize. (Leonie Caldecott *The New York Times*)

Writing like this is hard to stop quoting, it is musical not only in rhythms, but in its most elemental perceptions. (*Nation*)

Albania's most valuable export: the novels of Ismail Kadare. (Ken Kalfus *Village Voice Literary Supplement*)

A great writer. (*Booklist*)

Kadare's prose glimmers with the magic realism of Gabriel Garcia Marquez. (*Los Angeles Times*)

The General of the Dead Army, Ismail Kadare's meditation on the consequences of war, is a hugely moving

account of duty and loss. Kadare's plaintive novel is a consistently heartfelt lament to all those who have died and been affected by war, but it is also a beautiful work displaying the skills that make him one of the great modern European writers.

(Mark Thwaite)

Albania's Kadare is probably the premier writer of fiction to have emerged from the Balkan countries since Bosnian Nobel-winning novelist Ivo Andric.

(*Kirkus Reviews*)

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: French

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sybil Davis:

Book is usually written, printed, or descriptive for everything. You can know everything you want by a e-book. Book has a different type. We all know that that book is important matter to bring us around the world. Alongside that you can your reading proficiency was fluently. A reserve The General of the Dead Army will make you to possibly be smarter. You can feel far more confidence if you can know about every little thing. But some of you think this open or reading any book make you bored. It isn't make you fun. Why they might be thought like that? Have you looking for best book or acceptable book with you?

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Brian Nelson:

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