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Ismail Kadare's Voice in Albania's Polyphonic Identity

Architecture and Control addresses the urgent question residing at the intersection of architectural and cultural theory: how can the interplay between designed structures and practices of control foster an emergence of the unforeseen and the uncontrolled in post-2000 architectures and infrastructures?

The Ghost Rider

June 28, 1389: Six hundred years before Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic called for the repression of the Albanian majority in Kosovo, there took place, on the Field of the Blackbirds, a battle shrouded in legend. A coalition of Serbs, Albanian Catholics, Bosnians, and Romanians confronted and were defeated by the invading Ottoman army of the Sultan Murad. This battle established the Muslim foothold in Europe and became the centerpiece of Serbian nationalist ideology, justifying the campaign of ethnic cleansing of Albanian Kosovars that the world witnessed with horror at the end of the past century. In this eloquent and timely reflection on war, memory, and the destiny of two peoples, Ismail Kadare explores in fiction the legend and the consequences of that defeat. *Elegy for Kosovo* is a heartfelt yet clear-eyed lament for a land riven by hatreds as old as the Homeric epics and as young as the latest news broadcast.

The Traitor's Niche

The mysteries of ancient Egypt have proved an endless source of fascination to the world. Here, for the first time, international bestselling author Robert Temple seeks to reveal the real history of this ancient civilisation's puzzling origins and in so doing calls into question accepted truths about the early history of Egypt. With unprecedented access to lost portions of the Valley Temple which have long been closed to archaeologists, Temple presents a sensational, reconstructed story of this fascinating society. By exploring the many paths to the truth in the story of

ancient Egypt, Egyptian Dawn establishes: That the Great Pyramid could not have been built by King Cheops. The exact locations of seven intact royal tombs of the Old Kingdom period which currently await opening at Giza, and the true purpose and plan of the Giza Plateau and its three main pyramids. The existence of the world's largest megalithic ring and astronomical observatory in North Africa and its possible connection with the pyramids. That the Valley Temple of Giza is riddled with previously unreported passages and chambers, which Robert Temple presents here for the first time. The true date of the mysterious 'Tomb of Osiris', which lies 114 feet beneath the Giza Plateau. By re-dating key monuments using a revolutionary new technique, together with stunning never-before-seen images which have been meticulously photographed and documented, Temple provides solid evidence to support his findings whilst exposing the antiquities forgers who faked much of the data for Old Kingdom chronology. Egyptian Dawn is unlike any other book before it, and is supported by many supplementary photos on its website www.egyptiandawn.info

The Novel of the Century

Travelling by bus, on foot, by mule and horse, staying with Albanians in their houses and crumbling Stalinist tower blocks, Robert Carver meets Vlach shepherds and village intellectuals, ex-Communist Special Forces officers and juvenile heroin smugglers, missionaries with jeeps and light planes, and ex-prisoners of Enver Hoxha who have spent 45 years in the Albanian

gulag. In the remote villages of the Accursed Mountains of the far north, he is the first Briton seen since World War II, when Intelligence officers were parachuted in to help fight the German occupiers. On his journey to Lake Gashit, high above the snowline on the Serb-Montenegrin border, Carver survives murder attempts and suicidal bus rides. He sees villages last visited by outsiders in 1933, which had effectively been hermetically sealed off from the rest of the world.

False Apocalypse

Memoirs Found in a Bathtub

In the Balkan Peninsula, history's long-disputed bridge between Asia and Europe, the receding Byzantine empire has left behind a patchwork of warring peoples who fight over everything, from their pastures of sheep to the authorship of their countless legends. One such gruesome tale declares that a castle under construction cannot be finished until a young mason's bride has been walled up alive, one breast left exposed to suckle her growing infant even after her death. Myth becomes perverse reality when a mason is plastered into a bridge over a strategically important river, where his will not be the last human sacrifice.

Architecture and Control

Egypt in the twenty-sixth century BC. The young

pharaoh Cheops wants to forgo the construction of a pyramid in his honor, but his court sages hasten to persuade him otherwise. The pyramid, they tell him, is not a tomb but a paradox, designed to appease the masses by oppressing them. It is a symbol of nothing, a useless and infinite project designed to waste the country's wealth and keep security and prosperity, ever the fonts of sedition, constantly at bay. And so the greatest pyramid in the world has ever seen begins to rise. Rumors multiply. A secret police is formed. Conspiracies—real and imagined—swirl around the rising edifice. The most drastic purges follow. By the time the first stone is laid, Cheops's subjects are terrified enough to yield to his most murderous whims. Each time one of the massive stones is hoisted into place, dozens of men are crushed, and there are tens of thousands of stones. . . .

Egyptian Dawn

At the heart of the Ottoman Empire, in the main square of Constantinople, a niche is carved into ancient stone. Here, the sultan displays the severed heads of his adversaries. People flock to see the latest head and gossip about the state of the empire- the province of Albania is demanding independence again, and the niche awaits a new trophy Tundj Hata, the imperial courier, is charged with transporting heads to the capital - a task he relishes and performs with fervour. But as he travels through obscure and impoverished territories, he makes money from illicit side-shows, offering villagers the

spectacle of death. The head of the rebellious Albanian governor would fetch a very high price. The Traitor's Niche is a surreal tale of rebellion and tyranny, in a land where armies carry scarecrows, state officials ban entire languages, and the act of forgetting is more complicated than remembering.

A Girl in Exile

An old woman is awoken in the dead of night by knocks at her front door. The woman opens it to find her daughter, Doruntine, standing there alone in the darkness. She has been brought home from a distant land by a mysterious rider she claims is her brother Konstandin. But unbeknownst to her, Konstandin has been dead for years. What follows is chain of events which plunges a medieval village into fear and mistrust. Who is the ghost rider?

The Pyramid

When a girl is found dead with a signed copy of Rudian Stefa's latest book in her possession, the author finds himself summoned for an interview by the Party Committee. Unable to guess what transgression he has committed Rudian goes fearfully to meet his interrogators. He has never met the girl in question but he remembers signing the book. As the influence of a paranoid regime steals up on him, Rudian finds himself swept along on a surreal quest to discover what really happened to the mysterious girl to whom he wrote the dedication - to Linda B.

Spring Flowers, Spring Frost

'A fascinating study of a difficult love' John Burnside, Guardian
Young Ismail's world centres around his mother. Naïve and fragile as a paper doll, she is an unlikely presence in her husband's imposing house, with its hidden rooms and infamous dungeon. Yet despite her youthful nature, she is not without her own enigmas. Most of all, she fears that her intellectual, radical son will exchange her for a superior mother when he becomes a famous writer. From the winner of the first ever Man Booker International Prize, this is a disarming story of home and creative ambition, of personal and political freedom. Rooted in the author's own childhood in Albania, it is dedicated to the memory of his mother. 'Laconic, sinister and drily funny' Spectator

The Three-Arched Bridge

Winner of the NESTOR LUJÁN HISTORICAL NOVEL PRIZE. "I was nervous about this book. Finding a good novel in translation from the tiny state of Andorra, nestling in the Pyrenees between Spain and France, was always going to be tricky I was in for a pleasant surprise Salvadó has certainly done his homework: the book is painstakingly researched By and large, the level of detail and historical knowledge is well-handled The text itself felt professional and slick this is a highly readable light novel powerful flashes of insight into human greed, pride and ambition" (ANN MORGAN, Andorra: Buried treasure, A Year of Reading the Word, <http://ayearofreadingtheworld.com/2012/02>)

/22/andorra-buried-treasure/, London, february 22, 2012) This is the history of the time of Pharaoh Snefru and Queen Hetepheres, the parents of Cheops, who built the largest and most impressive pyramid of all. It is also the story of Sedum, a slave who became Cheops' teacher, the high priest Ramosi, and how the first pyramid came to be built. Sebekhotep, the great wise man of that time, said, "Everything is written in the stars. Most of us live our lives unaware of it. Some can read the stars and see their destiny. But very few people learn to write in the stars and change their destiny." Ramosi and Sedum learned to write in them and tried to change their destinies, but fortune treated them very differently. This is a tale of the confrontation between two men's intelligence: one fighting for power, the other struggling for freedom. Other critics' opinions: "It is a long time since a prize was so justly awarded. THE TEACHER OF CHEOPS deserves every honour An intrigue that develops at a good pace without causing anxiety A restrained and inspired piece of writing; an outstanding, intelligent and well-constructed novel." (RAMÓN VENTURA, El Periódico) "Salvadó develops the mystery with great skill in his novel." (JACINTO ANTÓN, El País) "Salvadó presents a story about power and knowledge through a fast-paced plot combining intrigue, love, mystery, murder and adventure." (ROSA M^a PIÑOL, La Vanguardia) "Albert Salvadó displays seasoned writing skill in this novel A very well-organised plot A straightforward, effective style that is a pleasure to read He achieves accuracy in his writing." (IGNASI ARAGAY, Avui)

Ismail Kadare

A group of Albanian friends are torn apart by the political turmoil of the mid 1970s, as the nation's diplomatic ties with China begin to unravel, and their personal entanglements follow suit in the face of government insecurity

Fredric Jameson

Ismail Kadare has experienced a life of controversy. In his own country and internationally he has been both acclaimed as a writer and condemned as a lackey of the Albanian socialist dictatorship. Coming of age after occupation and war, Kadare (b. 1936) belonged to the first generation of new Albanians. In a land where writers were routinely imprisoned, Kadare produced the most brilliant and subversive works to emerge from socialist Eastern Europe. His work brings to an end the century whose literary beginnings were marked by the terror to which Kafka gave his name. The inaugural award of the International Man-Booker Prize for Literature in 2005 marked an important milestone in the global recognition of Kadare. Ironic, multi-layered and imaginative, Kadare's writing is profoundly opposed to ideology. Through critical analysis of a representative selection of Kadare's works, Peter Morgan explains for a wide audience how Kadare survived and wrote in the repressive Albanian Stalinist environment. Peter Morgan is Professor of European Studies at the University of Western Australia.

The Accursed Mountains

The love story between a painter and a girl is set against the backdrop of a country in the midst of terrifying change as its inhabitants deal with the Westernization of a backward Balkan land, witness a series of strange events, and search for a tunnel to the Secret State Archives, which supposedly house records of crimes that may have been committed. Reprint.

India's War

Depicts a future America where a Uranian virus threatens the destruction of all paper.

The Three-Arched Bridge

This masterful book is the first comprehensive reappraisal of the Vichy France regime for over 20 years. France was occupied by Nazi Germany between 1940 and 1944, and the exact nature of France's role in the Vichy years is only now beginning to come to light. One of the main reasons that the Vichy history is difficult to tell is that some of France's most prominent politicians, including President Mitterand, have been implicated in the regime. This has meant that public access to key documents has been denied and it is only now that an objective analysis is possible. The fate of France as an occupied country could easily have been shared by Britain, and it is this background element, which enhances our fascination with Vichy France. How would we have

acted under similar circumstances? The divisions and repercussions of the Vichy years still resonate in France today, and whether you view the regime as a fascist dictatorship, an authoritarian offshoot of the Third Reich or an embodiment of heightened French nationalism, Curtis's rounded, incisive book will be seen as the standard work on its subject for many years. Skyhorse Publishing, as well as our Arcade imprint, are proud to publish a broad range of books for readers interested in history--books about World War II, the Third Reich, Hitler and his henchmen, the JFK assassination, conspiracies, the American Civil War, the American Revolution, gladiators, Vikings, ancient Rome, medieval times, the old West, and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

Dear Reader

A bridge under construction in 14th Century Albania is secretly sabotaged by ferry men who are afraid of being made redundant. Officially they blame a prophecy that no bridge will stand over the river without human sacrifice to the water spirits. So the builders immure a villager and the bridge gets built. A Balkan parable by the author of *The Pyramid*.

The Successor

To travel through these stories is to cross a landscape

of stunning beauty and terrific cruelty, where expectations are subverted, where moral certainties are shattered, where gorgeously wrought surfaces beguile at the same time that acts of incredible brutality horrify. It is no wonder that Yu Hua's stories caused a sensation when they first appeared in the 1980s. His work represents a sophisticated and often disturbing revolution in the Chinese literary tradition, reminiscent of the fiction of modernists like Kafka, Kawabata, Borges, and Robbe-Grillet, but drawing inspiration from several strains of traditional Chinese narrative as well. This is the first collection of short fiction by Yu Hua to appear in English. It takes us on a haunting and harrowing journey from classical China through the Cultural Revolution and into the new era of economic reform, exploding along the way our preconceived notions of what Chinese literature and culture are all about in the 1990s.

The File on H.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER In this landmark work, one of the world's most renowned Egyptologists tells the epic story of this great civilization, from its birth as the first nation-state to its final absorption into the Roman Empire—three thousand years of wild drama, bold spectacle, and unforgettable characters. Award-winning scholar Toby Wilkinson captures not only the lavish pomp and artistic grandeur of this land of pyramids and pharaohs but for the first time reveals the constant propaganda and repression that were its foundations. Drawing upon forty years of archaeological research, Wilkinson takes us inside an

exotic tribal society with a pre-monetary economy and decadent, divine kings who ruled with all-too-recognizable human emotions. Here are the years of the Old Kingdom, where Pepi II, made king as an infant, was later undermined by rumors of his affair with an army general, and the Middle Kingdom, a golden age of literature and jewelry in which the benefits of the afterlife became available for all, not just royalty—a concept later underlying Christianity. Wilkinson then explores the legendary era of the New Kingdom, a lost world of breathtaking opulence founded by Ahmose, whose parents were siblings, and who married his sister and transformed worship of his family into a national cult. Other leaders include Akhenaten, the “heretic king,” who with his wife Nefertiti brought about a revolution with a bold new religion; his son Tutankhamun, whose dazzling tomb would remain hidden for three millennia; and eleven pharaohs called Ramesses, the last of whom presided over the militarism, lawlessness, and corruption that caused a crucial political and societal decline. Riveting and revelatory, filled with new information and unique interpretations, *The Rise and Fall of Ancient Egypt* will become the standard source about this great civilization, one that lasted—so far—longer than any other. From the Hardcover edition.

Elegy for Kosovo

Birds Without Wings traces the fortunes of one small community in southwest Turkey (Anatolia) in the early part of the last century—a quirky community in which Christian and Muslim lives and traditions have co-

existed peacefully over the centuries and where friendship, even love, has transcended religious differences. But with the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire and the onset of the Great War, the sweep of history has a cataclysmic effect on this peaceful place: The great love of Philothei, a Christian girl of legendary beauty, and Ibrahim, a Muslim shepherd who courts her from near infancy, culminates in tragedy and madness; Two inseparable childhood friends who grow up playing in the hills above the town suddenly find themselves on opposite sides of the bloody struggle; and Rustem Bey, a wealthy landlord, who has an enchanting mistress who is not what she seems. Far away from these small lives, a man of destiny who will come to be known as Mustafa Kemal Atatürk is emerging to create a country from the ruins of an empire. Victory at Gallipoli fails to save the Ottomans from ultimate defeat and, as a new conflict arises, Muslims and Christians struggle to survive, let alone understand, their part in the great tragedy that will reshape the whole region forever. From the Hardcover edition.

Clea and Zeus Divorce

a magical parable of love, death and the power of familial bonds. —Stephen Salisbury, New York Times Book Review

Agamemnon's Daughter

Masterful in its simplicity, Chronicle in Stone is a touching coming-of-age story and a testament to the

perseverance of the human spirit. Surrounded by the magic of beautiful women and literature, a boy must endure the deprivations of war as he suffers the hardships of growing up. His sleepy country has just thrown off centuries of tyranny, but new waves of domination inundate his city. Through the boy's eyes, we see the terrors of World War II as he witnesses fascist invasions, allied bombings, partisan infighting, and the many faces of human cruelty—as well as the simple pleasures of life. Evacuating to the countryside, he expects to find an ideal world full of extraordinary things, but discovers instead an archaic backwater where a severed arm becomes a talisman and deflowered girls mysteriously vanish. Woven between the chapters of the boy's story are tantalizing fragments of the city's history. As the devastation mounts, the fragments lose coherence, and we perceive firsthand how the violence of war destroys more than just buildings and bridges.

The Teacher of Cheops

On the autobahn in Vienna a taxi leaves the carriageway and strikes the crash barrier, flinging its male and female passengers out of its back doors as it spins through the air. The driver cannot explain why he lost control; only saying that the mysterious couple in the back seat seemed to be about to kiss Set against the tumultuous backdrop and aftermath of the war in the Balkans, *The Accident* intimately documents an affair between two people caught in each other's webs. The investigation into their deaths uncovers a mutually destructive obsession that

mirrors the conflicts of the region. Somewhere between vivid hallucination and cold reality, Ismail Kadare's new novel is a bold departure and an intense exploration of the contours of a union that moves inexorably towards its own demise.

The Past and the Punishments

This thesis is concerned with two of Ismail Kadare's novels: *The Palace of Dreams* and *The Pyramid*. These novels are often read as allegories of the Communist Regime, and in addition, the analysis presented here views these works as valuable glimpses of the past as well as the present. Kadare's novels inform and explain Albanian identity, they also articulate the anatomy of systems of power and power structures, and they illustrate the tension between the individual and his identity and the power structures that attempt to subject him. Michel Foucault and Louis Althusser's studies on power structures serve as important theoretical lenses in this analysis. Kadare's novels are considered in a historical context that takes into consideration pre-communist, communist, and post-communist Albania.

The Rise and Fall of Ancient Egypt

28 June 1389, the Field of the Blackbirds. A Christian army made up of Serbs, Bosnians, Albanians and Romanians confront an Ottoman army. In ten hours the battle is over, and the Muslims possess the field; an outcome that has haunted the vanquished ever since. 28 June 1989, the Serb Leader Slobodan

Milosevic launches his campaign for a fresh massacre of the Albanians, the majority population of Kosovo. In three short narratives Kadare shows how legends of betrayal and defeat simmered in European civilisation for six hundred years, culminating in the agony of one tiny population at the end of the twentieth century.

The Concert

Psychologically incisive and impeccably crafted, Agamemnon's Daughter tells the crushing story of passion shattered by a heartless regime. Once again, Kadare denounces with rare force the machinery of oppression, drawing us back to the ancient roots of Western civilization and tyranny. This collection also showcases two masterful stories: "The Blinding Order," a parable about the uses of terror in the Ottoman Empire, and "The Great Wall," a chilling duet between a Chinese official and a soldier in the invading army of the great conqueror, Tamerlane.

The Doll

When it was first published in the author's native country, THE PALACE OF DREAMS was immediately banned. The novel revolves around a secret ministry whose task is not just to spy on its citizens, but to collect and interpret their dreams. An entire nation's unconscious is thus tapped and meticulously laid bare in the form of images and symbols of the dreaming mind.

The Accident

India's role in World War II has long been overlooked. But as Srinath Raghavan shows in this authoritative account, India did not fight the war as merely an appendage of the British Empire. From the start, India defended its own sub-empire from Imperial Japan and assisted its allies in battles in Italy, East Africa, and the Pacific. The war also brought great changes to the subcontinent. By the war's end, the Indian Army had become the largest volunteer force in history, while many millions more Indians had worked in their nation's rapidly expanding industry and agriculture. This nationwide commitment to victory altered the country's social landscape, overturning assumptions about class and opening up new opportunities for India's most disadvantaged people. The first major account of India during World War II, *India's War* chronicles how the demands of war forever transformed the country, its economy, its politics, and its people, laying the groundwork for the rise of modern South Asia.

Twilight of the Eastern Gods

On Dec. 13, 1981 Mehmet Shehu, a man who was number two in the Albanian government, was killed. Was it murder or suicide? Many different politicians in the country might stand to gain from this death. A wonderful analysis of dictatorship and communistic government.

Identity in a Post-communist Balkan State

After the world's most isolated country emerged from Stalinist dictatorship and opened to capitalism, many people fell prey to fraudsters who invited them to invest in so-called "pyramid schemes." At the start of 1997, these pyramids crumbled one after another, causing widespread demonstrations and protests. The conflict became increasingly violent, leading to the collapse of the state and of the country's institutions. Prisons were opened, crowds stormed arms depots, and the country was abandoned to anarchy and gang rule. Lubonja has chosen to tell this incredible story through a narrative technique that operates on two levels: a third-person narrator, who describes the large-scale events that made international headlines, and the narrative of Fatos Qorri, the author's alter ego, who describes his own dramatic experiences in a personal diary. The book begins with the synopsis of a novel entitled *The Sugar Boat* that Fatos Qorri intends to write about the spread of a small pyramid scheme luring people to invest supposedly in a sugar business. However, as the major pyramids collapse, real events overtake anything he has imagined, and Fatos Qorri finds himself in the midst of a real-life tragedy.

Chronicle in Stone

This title was first published in 2001. In seeking to better understand post-communist identity change, this book presents an analysis based on the study of everyday life in two villages in northern Albania. The author describes the villages from the perspective of community, economic activity and relations with the

state. The book applies theories relating identity and civil society to the social, economic and political realities associated with post-communist transformation. By describing village life in northern Albania at the close of the 20th century, it aims to complement the anthropological work undertaken by Edith Durham in the early 1900s and by Margaret Hasluck in the 1930s.

The Palace of Dreams

This volume brings together original work from internationally recognized scholars that critically engages with the full range of Jameson's work, including: Sartre, Lukács, 'Third World' literature, architecture, postmodernity, globalization, film, dialectics and Brecht. In a series of lively, and at times iconoclastic readings, the contributors challenge accepted views of Jameson's work and locate his project in the historical, political and institutional context that shaped it. The volume concludes with an original contribution by Jameson himself, providing an opportunity for readers to critically engage with his work themselves.

Verdict on Vichy

Enigmatic and compelling, *The Fall of the Stone City* shows Ismail Kadare at the height of his powers. It was shortlisted for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize. In September 1943, German soldiers advance on the ancient gates of Gjirokaster, Albania. It is the first step in a carefully planned invasion. But once at

the mouth of the city, the troops are taken aback by a surprising act of rebellion that leaves the citizens fearful of a bloody counter-attack. Soon rumours circulate, in cafes, houses and alleyways, that the Nazi Colonel in command of the German Army was once a school acquaintance of a local dignitary, Doctor Gurameto. In the town square, Colonel von Schwabe greets his former classmate warmly; in return, Doctor Gurameto invites him to dinner. The very next day, the Colonel and his army disappear from the city. The dinner at Gurameto's house changes the course of events in twentieth-century Europe. But as the citizens celebrate their hero, a conspiracy surfaces which leads some to place Gurameto, and the stone city, at the heart of a plot to undermine Socialism. Ismail Kadare is Albania's best-known poet and novelist. Translations of his novels, which include *The Siege*, *The Successor*, *Chronicle in Stone* and *The Accident*, have been published in more than forty countries. In 2005 he became the first winner of the Man Booker International Prize.

textpublishing.com.au 'One of the most important voices in literature today.' Metro 'One of the world's greatest living writers.' Simon Sebag Montefiore 'There are very few writers alive today with the depth, power and resonance of this remarkable novelist.' Herald 'The Fall of the Stone City is a Kafkaesque nightmare, an incredibly powerful tale of historical drama and human tragedy. Lovers of great literature should feast on a book like this, devouring the story and despairing when there are simply no more pages to turn.' Weekend Bookworm, ABC Radio Brisbane 'European grand master Ismail Kadare, that wizard of the sinister, beguiles with yet another dark fablethis

epic novella packs a huge - both hugely entertaining and thought-provoking - punch.' Sunday Star Times

Chronicle in Stone

"The story of how Victor Hugo wrote Les Misérables and why it became among the most influential and protean works of art ever created"--

Doruntine

A coming-of-age tale by the inaugural Man Booker International Prize winner follows a young man's efforts to juggle the challenges of growing up in Albania during the terrors of World War II, a period marked by devastating cruelty, betrayals, and simple pleasures.

The Fall of the Stone City

Though A Painter, Abanindranath Tagore Loved Writing For Children. Perhaps That Is Why His Uncle Rabindranath Tagore Had Urged Him To Write. When Abanindranath Finally Did, These Unforgettable Stories Were Born. Now For The First Time In English.

Birds Without Wings

1958. In a dorm room in Moscow, a young writer is woken by the sound of angry voices on the radio. Through the fog of a hangover he hears the news that a novel called Doctor Zhivago has earned its author the Nobel Prize. There is uproar. The author, Boris

Pasternak, faces exile, the press hound him and demand that he refuse the award. A few days earlier the young writer found a copy of this book - could those simple pages really be so dangerous? Based on Ismail Kadare's own experience, *Twilight of the Eastern Gods* is a portrait of a city, a story of youthful disenchantment and a reminder of the incredible importance of the written word.

Three Elegies for Kosovo

In the mid-1930s, two Irish Americans travel to the Albanian highlands with an early model of a marvelous invention, the tape recorder. Their mission? To discover how Homer could have composed works as brilliant and as long as *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* without ever putting pen to paper. The answer, they believe, can be found only in Albania, the last remaining habitat of the oral epic. But immediately upon their arrival, the scholars' seemingly arcane research excites suspicion and puts them at the center of ethnic strife in the Balkans. Mistaken for foreign spies, they are placed under surveillance and are dogged by gossip and intrigue. It isn't until a fierce-eyed monk from the Serbian side of the mountains makes his appearance that the scholars glimpse the full political import of their search for the key to the Homeric question.

Raj Kahini

There's a lot of good to be said about publishing, mainly about the food. The books, though - Robert

Dubois feels as if he's read the books, but still they keep coming back to him, the same old books just by new authors. Maybe he's ready to settle into the end of his career, like it's a tipsy afternoon after a working lunch. But then he is confronted with a gift: a piece of technology, a gizmo, a reader Dear Reader takes a wry, affectionate look at the world of publishing, books and authors, and is a very funny, moving story about the passing of the old and the excitement of the new. From the Trade Paperback edition.

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