



The Last Pomegranate Tree

By Bachtyar Ali

Translated from Kurdish by Kareem Abdulrahman

An inlet to the recesses of a terrifying historical moment, and a philosophical journey of formidable depths.

Description

Whenever he told a lie, something strange would happen. So begins *The Last Pomegranate Tree*, a phantasmagoric warren of fact, fabrication, and mystical allegory, set in the aftermath of Saddam Hussein's rule and Iraq's Kurdish conflict. An inlet to the recesses of a terrifying historical moment, and a philosophical journey of formidable depths, the book interrogates the origins and reverberations of atrocity. It also probes, with a graceful intelligence, unforgettable acts of mercy.

Endorsements

- After being held in a desert prison for 21 years, a Peshmerga fighter in Iraq desperately searches for his son, setting off on a quest guided by memory and myth in this imaginative novel. — New York Times
- Superbly realized novel of life, death, and what lies between . . . Blending magical realism with dark fables worthy of Kafka, Kurdish novelist Ali spins episodes that require the willing suspension of disbelief while richly rewarding that surrender . . . Altogether extraordinary: a masterwork of modern Middle Eastern literature deserving the widest possible audience. — Kirkus Reviews, starred review
- A leading novelist who marks a new era. — BBC
- Bachtyar Ali is a model novelist ... like Achebe and Pynchon, Morante and Ortese, who knew how to give a concrete anthropological and narrative foundation to their vision – one made of tragedy and poetry, or rather, the fairytale and the epic. A balance that few writers in the world are still capable of achieving — *La Domenica – Il Sole 24 Ore*

Keynote

- The author's first novel, amongst 17 novels in Kurdish.
- Named among 21st century's top 100 books by Neue Zürcher Zeitung.
- 25,000 copies sold in German language.
- Prizes: The prestigious Nelly-Sachs-Prize (2017); the Hilde-Domin-Prize (2023) – given to writers who live in exile in Germany and publish in German language.
- UK edition. First published in the US by Archipelago Books in 2023.

Author Biography

Bachtyar Ali was born in Sulaymaniyah in Iraqi Kurdistan in 1966. He has established himself as an influential novelist since the mid-1990s. His books have become instant bestsellers in both Iraq and Iran. Today, Ali is one of the most famous contemporary Kurdish writers, with over 25,000 copies of each of his novels sold in Kurdish (Sorani). His novel *The Last Pomegranate Tree* sold 25,000 copies in German and is part of the list of the 100 best books of the 21st century by NZZ Germany 2024. In 2009 Ali received the first HARDI Literature Prize, awarded by the largest cultural festival in the Kurdish part of Iraq. 2014 he was awarded the newly-founded Sherko Bekas Literature Prize, in 2017 the prestigious Nelly-Sachs-Prize and in 2023 the Hilde-Domin-Prize. This prize is given to writers who live in exile in Germany and publish in German language. Ali has been living in Cologne and Wuppertal, Germany, since 1998.

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Second Floor, Crown House
47 Chase Side
Southgate, London N14 5BP
T: 020 8829 3000
F: 020 8881 5088
Mnemonic: Turn
E: orders@turnaround-uk.com

Afsana Press Ltd.
F4, 40 Castle Hill Avenue
Folkestone, CT20 2RE

☎ ++44(0)7453918505
✉ publisher@afsanapress.uk
🌐 www.afsanapress.uk



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