



The Resurrected

By Joost Hiltermann

A journey of survival, rising from Saddam's mass graves, to a haven in Virginia

Description

They were meant to be dead, buried under the sand. But they survived. Two young Kurds manage to miraculously escape Saddam Hussein's killing grounds to eventually find their way to America. A story of luck, nerve and perseverance, with many setbacks along the way.

Synopsis

Partially based on true events, this novel tells the story of a genocide as remembered by some who lived through it – as victims, perpetrators, and witnesses. By weaving together their testimonies – some true, some false, others imagined – the author paints an enthralling portrait of survival and destiny under the worst of circumstances, the 1988 Anfal campaign in Iraq, and what happened afterwards. In America the survivors build protected but split-soul lives typical of first-generation immigrants – until one day the past comes calling.

Endorsements

–“Joost Hiltermann colourfully reimagines a forgotten story that once shaped our times in an ambitious quilt of compelling tales, cleverly brought together with a novelist's skill, a scholar's depth, and the empathy of a journalist who lived this history.”—**Lyse Doucet**, Chief International Correspondent of the BBC

–“Joost Hiltermann has brought the texture, the context, the complexity and the pain of the genocide of Iraqi Kurds to life in a way that transcends cold data, resurrecting the victims, both those who died and those who survived.”—**Barbara Bodine**, Director, Institute for the Study of Diplomacy; former US Ambassador to Yemen

–“This unconventional, witty, harrowing, compassionate, and engaging novel tells the story of one of the great horrors of the late 20th century, the Anfal campaign against Iraqi Kurds.”—**Nathan Thrall**, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *A Day in the Life of Abed Salama*

–“Through this strikingly original combination of oral history, personal memoir, and moral reflection, Joost Hiltermann draws on his decades of first-hand experience to paint a memorable portrait of a small group of individuals who survived the worst atrocity ever inflicted on the Kurds.”—**George Black**, author of *The Long Reckoning: A Story of War, Peace, and Redemption in Vietnam*

Keynotes

- The author's debut novel.
- Based on true characters and events.

Author Biography

Joost Hiltermann is a Dutch researcher and writer. He was the Programme Director for the Middle East & North Africa at the International Crisis Group and was previously at Human Rights Watch. Joost holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of California, Santa Cruz. He has written for The New York Review of Books, The London Review of Books, Foreign Affairs and other publications. He has published two books: *A Poisonous Affair: America, Iraq, and the Gassing of Halabja* (Cambridge, 2007) and *Behind the Intifada: Labor and Women's Movements in the Occupied Territories* (Princeton, 1991). *The Resurrected* is his debut novel. Joost was one of the main researchers of the genocide against the Kurds for Human Rights Watch in the 1990s, culminating in his fictionalized retelling of the case. He has remained in close contact with the two (real) survivors and their families to this day.

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