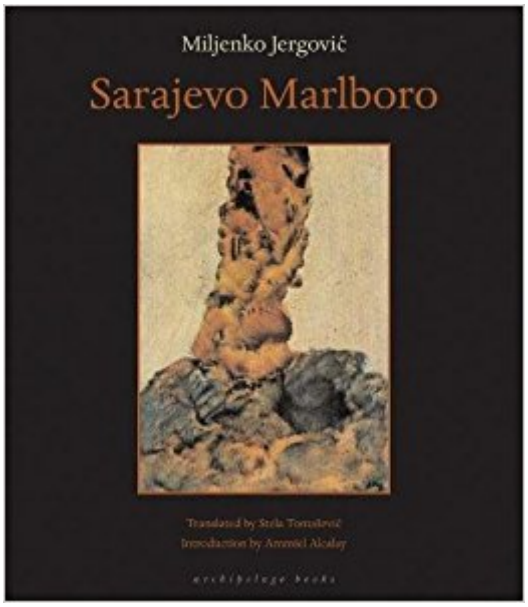
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Sarajevo Marlboro



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Synopsis

Miljenko JergovicÃ¢â ¬â„¢s remarkable dÃƒÂ©but collection of stories, Sarajevo Marlboro Ã¢â ¬â œ winner of the Erich Maria Remarque Peace Prize Ã¢â ¬â œ earned him wide acclaim throughout Europe. Croatian by birth, Jergovic ? spent his childhood in Sarajevo and chose to remain there throughout most of the war. A dazzling storyteller, he brings a profoundly human, razor-sharp understanding of the fate of the cityÃ¢â ¬â„¢s young Muslims, Croats, and Serbs with a subterranean humor and profoundly personal vision. Their offbeat lives and daily dramas in the foreground, the killing zone in the background.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Named one of the 25 Books That Inspired the World (1989Ã¢â ¬â œ2014) by World Literature TodayJergoviÃ„â ¡'s "fiction is news that stays news.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Ã Â World Literature TodayRead this book: at Sarajevo many died and the twenty-first century was born. These spare tales speak of all that may yet befall us if we forget our essential fragility; by showing that while what unites us is undeniable, what we allow to divide us too easily becomes murderous. This classic of anti-war writing is a warning about the immense human cost of following those who would have us hate others. Its US publication could not be more timely. Ã¢â ¬â •Richard Flanagan, GouldÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Book of Fish Like all great war books, Sarajevo Marlboro is not about warÃ¢â ¬â •itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s about life. Jergovic is an enormously talented storyteller, so the people under siege come through in all their poignant fullness. And one more thing: this book does not

belong to the literature of complaining, much too common these daysÃ¢â ¬â •Sarajevo Marlboro is a book for the people who appreciate life." Ã¢â ¬â •Aleksandar Hemon, Nowhere Man Reading Miljenko JergovicÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Sarajevo Marlboro is like wrapping yourself in a quilt of 29 patches, with each patch personalizing the horrors of the Bosnian War in ways that are engaging, humorous, and unendingly sad. If we are ever to learn to avoid carnage it will be through such acts of constant humanizing as are captured in JergovicÃ¢â ¬â„¢s amazing work. Ã¢â ¬â •Richard Wiley, winner of the PEN/Faulkner Award for Soldiers in Hiding JergovicÃ¢â ¬â„¢s writing derives great power from what is left unsaid. Ã¢â ¬â •Scotland on Sunday Poetic and moving . . . Of the many books written on Bosnia, this collection of stories is perhaps the best. Ã¢â ¬â •Slavenka Drakulic, S.: A Novel about the Balkans

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Serbo-Croation --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

It takes a special kind of person to live through war as relentless, close up, brutal and personal as the siege of Sarajevo and to be able to write about it with such humanity. Miljenko Jergovic manages the seemingly impossible by writing in an almost detached, but loving manner about how people coped with the constant terror in ways which made them more rather than less aware of the essentials of daily life. There is horror, suffering and loss behind every tale in "Sarajevo Marlboro", but there is also laughter and belonging and everyday things to help make sense of it all. So Sarajevo can give its name to something as ordinary as a packet of cigarettes and not lose any of its meaning in the process. And a young boy can fantasies about comic book action heroes at a time when real life heroes and villains shooting at each other on the frontline and become indistinguishable from each other. This is a powerful, unforgettable read

Jergovic attempts to approach the story of Sarajevo through different stories. This is a powerful style of writing because it recognizes how nuanced and subjective different experiences in Sarajevo were during the war. Instead of just providing facts about the war, he goes for a deeper, emotional understanding that is definitely achieved. Each person in the stories responds to death and tensions caused by the war differently. Jergovic admits that the siege of Sarajevo and the conflicts surrounding it are incredibly complex and he captures this complexity expertly through Sarajevo Malboro.The reason I gave it 4 stars is because, I think his stories would be more effective if they spent a little more time developing the characters. Potentially he could have written fewer stories

with a more in-depth character analysis and development. That may be just personal preference, but it is something to keep in mind when buying the book. Overall, I thought it was very well done.

. . . perhaps great literature. And what is literature? I don’t have ready at hand a comprehensive definition, but my off-the-cuff answer would be something to the effect of stories (narratives) that portray the human condition in its complexities, with compassion and with humor - because literature, as with all art, should help see us (both individually and as a species) through this life, towards which end I believe compassion and humor of some sort are essential. But concrete examples are probably more useful than abstract definitions, and SARAJEVO MARLBORO would be one of the principal works of fiction from my recent reading that I would offer as an example of literature.It is a collection of 29 stories written about life in Sarajevo and Bosnia, mostly during the first years of the Siege of Sarajevo. The first published book by Miljenko Jergovic, it originally was published in Croatia in 1994. Neither fighting nor politics feature prominently in these stories. Instead, they deal with the effects of the war on ordinary people who are trying to go about the business of life, an endeavor complicated inordinately in unpredictably random ways once enveloped by War. Since the setting is Sarajevo, most of the people in these stories are Bosnians, who of course are besieged by Serbs. But SARAJEVO MARLBORO does not side with the Bosnians, or the Serbs, or the Croats, or with the Catholics, the Orthodox, or the Muslims. A pox on all their houses.Instead it sides with Jela, an old woman who every day trudged to market in order to fetch the humanitarian aid and water until one day a shell exploded ten yards away from her, blowing her arm off. With Elena and Zlaja, of different religious backgrounds and different "nationalities", who despite their odd compatibility cannot live together safe and secure in either Sarajevo or Zagreb. With the gravedigger, who while digging the grave for a man killed by a sniper walking down a road, is interviewed by an American journalist who is dumfounded when the gravedigger does not automatically spew out ethnic hostilities but instead talks about walking through life happily or unhappily ("You end up happy or you don’t - and that’s all.").The stories range from four to ten pages. The writing is informal and straightforward; Jergovic has a distinctive voice. His perspective is unusual, slightly askew, maybe even slightly twisted. A thin veil of absurd mystery cloaks everything. There is much humor, often sardonic in nature. There also is frequent philosophizing. ("Humans live out of curiosity. That’s the best and most honest way. Anything else is just a false way of courting other people’s tears.") I was reminded more than once of both Kafka and Borges. That is not to predict that fifty years from now Jergovic will be as highly regarded as Kafka and Borges are now, but, judging from SARAJEVO MARLBORO (the first book of his that I have

read), it is possible.P.S.: My advice is to skip the rather pretentious introduction by Ammiel Alcalay.P.P.S.: "Sarajevo Marlboro" is a brand of cigarettes developed by Philip Morris to suit the taste of Bosnian smokers. (In other words, Marlboros are not fungible.) Sarajevo Marlboros come up in the course of the gravedigger's attempt to explain to the American journalist how things are in Bosnia, but his effort was doomed to futility. The journalist would have been better served by reading this book.

Evidently Mr. Jergovic is a poet. He should continue doing that. This book isn't anything I was looking for. I got little insight on the struggles of the people of Sarajevo. The extremely short stories left me high and dry trying to get something more. Maybe it was a translation issue? Sorry, this was very disappointing.

A chilling but fascinating book. Truly couldn't put it down. Beautiful, stark, and frank, these stories are powerful and lovely.

I personally enjoyed the book since I am from Bosnia and I totally can relate to the story and tragedy that hit that part of the world during 90s, book in so many way explain complexty of Bosnia and their struggle afther fall of Communist Regime and dificulty eacy person face after war begin ...

A wonderful, sad but nevertheless hopeful book about everyday lives of people in Sarajevo during the siege in the civil war between Bosnia and Serbia. It is the best fiction I have ever read -and keep reading- on the subject.

For those who watched that war unfolding from nearby , (Trieste,) these wonderful tales are like whirling clashing rowdy Balkan music! Bravissimo!

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