



The Dictionary of the Khazars

By *Milorad Pavic*

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A novel despite its title, this spans five or more centuries and is a mixture of history, fiction and fable. This edition is intended for male readers. There is an accompanying female edition.

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The Dictionary of the Khazars By Milorad Pavic Bibliography

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- Published on: 1989-02-13
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
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- 368 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Written in Serbo-Croatian, first published in Yugoslavia, already a bestseller in Germany and France, this whimsical "lexicon" can be read on many levels. Pavic, professor of Serbian literature at the University of Belgrade, cares passionately about literature and he teases us through the unusual format of this novel to explore the subject. Entries are alphabetically arranged and can be perused at random, read start to finish or back to front. The publisher is offering two different versions, designated "male" and "female," and differing by only 15 lines. The narrative purports to be the historical record of the Khazars, a fictional Indo-European tribe that vanished in the 10th century. According to legend, the Khazar ruler asked a rabbi, a monk and a dervish to interpret a portentous dream; the winner would gain the conversion of the Khazar people to Judaism, Christianity or Islam. The result of this contest was lost in time. Interest in the "Khazar Polemic" prompted the Serbian warlord Avram Brankovich to compile a dictionary on the Khazars with the help of his retinue in the 17th century. Codified by a monk, the dictionary subsequently was 99% destroyed; one copy was found and revised; now it has fallen into the hands of modern-day scholars. Pavic is a 20th century Scheherazade, spinning a series of interconnected folk tales, drawing on a vast source of literary references, eventually metamorphosing his narrative into a murder mystery. Readers who are intrigued by literary conundrums will enjoy entering this magical world with Pavic as their guide. 40,000 combined first printing.

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From Library Journal

Christina Pribicevic-Zoric. LC 88-45262. \$19.95. f Yugoslav writer Pavic assures us that the Khazars were a nomadic people who settled near the Black Sea in the 7th century A.D. "But their origins remain unknown and all traces of them have vanished." A thousand years later a Polish printer incorporated surviving knowledge of the Khazars into a dictionary almost all copies of which were burned by the Inquisition. Pavic's interlocking series of witty and fantastic tales purports to update that edition, but by now all "facts" about the forgotten nation are doubly conjectural. As if the truth weren't problematic enough already, Pavic has even produced his lexicon in "male" and "female" versions differing by only a few (highly significant!) words. This congeries will delight readers of Borges and Calvino, although libraries will need to buy both editions to satisfy them. Grove Koger, Boise P.L., Id.

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Review

"All its delights...the structural novelty and the comic inventiveness of the imagery...[are] an ebullient and generous celebration of the reading experience."

-- The New York Times Book Review

"As with Borges or Garcia Marquez...[Pavic] knows how to support his textual legerdemain with superb portrait miniatures and entrancing anecdotes." -- Washington Post Book World

Translated from the Serbo-Croatian

by Christina Pribicevic-Zoric

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Steven Richardson:

The particular book The Dictionary of the Khazars will bring you to definitely the new experience of reading some sort of book. The author style to describe the idea is very unique. When you try to find new book to study, this book very suited to you. The book The Dictionary of the Khazars is much recommended to you you just read. You can also get the e-book from your official web site, so you can more easily to read the book.

Teresa Vanhook:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? May be reading a book might be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the book untitled The Dictionary of the Khazars can be excellent book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

Carlos Quirk:

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