

ISTROS NEW BOOK: PRESS RELEASE

An intriguing, gripping tale: a mystery & crime novel that challenges many deeply-held perceptions about identity. Now available in English for the very first time, here's the latest book from a winner of The European Prize for Literature

PUBLICATION DATE: 24 AUGUST 2015

"... a compulsively readable mixture of humour and dark fate, Nikolaidis bitterly explodes all Balkan post-Communist myths. After reading it, you will hate life, but in an immensely happy way!"

Slavoj Žižek (the well-known philosopher and cultural critic.)



TILL KINGDOM COME

by Andrej Nikolaidis

The prize-winning novelist and journalist from Montenegro

Translated (from Montenegrin) by Will Firth – who was recently shortlisted for the prestigious Oxford-Weidenfeld Prize for Literary Translation

ISBN: 978 1 908236 241 Paperback RRP: £9.99 160pp August 2015 Istros Books



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A reporter tackles his most important investigation – to uncover his true identity. This existential crime novel is the latest offering from the pen of this highly-acclaimed writer.

Suddenly discovering that the story of his own past is a complete fabrication, a cynical reporter (who works on a small local paper), sets out to discover the truth about his own identity. Everything he had believed about his past – including the snaps of happy times in the family photo album – has been revealed as false. But can he find out what was really going on when he was just a small child?

Was it *really* true that his birth-mother one of an elite band of trained killers employed by the Yugoslav Secret Services and that they had invented his identity for him? Was it *really* true that the woman who brought him up and he thought was his Grandmother had been complicit in the deceit?

His investigations take him to the sites of wartime atrocities, follows a trail of fake suicides across Europe, to the doorstep of an occult Scottish clan and, eventually, to the empty grave of his own mother.

In his own unique style, Nikolaidis takes us into a world of criminal intrigue and, in the process, dissects the meaning of identity and, in the process, he takes an uncompromising long, hard look at the very essence of our human existence.

Powerful and thought-provoking, this book is an exciting page-turner that will appeal to lovers of well-written crime and mystery novels and lovers of quality fiction who are looking for something that is a little out of the ordinary and might make them question their own assumptions. The existential dilemmas posed in this slim novel will challenge readers and may, possibly, haunt them forever.

Regional interest: The book makes reference to the Celtic pagan festival of Beltan which is still celebrated in Peebles (Scotland) and in some parts of Ireland. The novel also mentions Holborn, London and the legend that Oliver Cromwell was secretly buried in Red Lion Square.

Media opportunities: Extracts/serialisation. Review copies available on request.

- UK Publisher (Susan Curtis-Kojakovic) is available for interviews about this & other ISTROS books
- Telephone or email interviews with the author can be arranged.

Please see over for information about the author and praise from the press for his previous books >>>>

ISTROS NEW NOVEL: PRESS RELEASE continued

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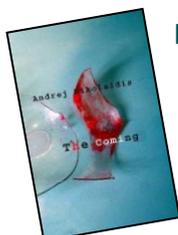


About the author: Andrej Nikolaidis was born in 1974 into a Montenegrin-Greek family and was raised in Sarajevo, Bosnia/Herzegovina. In 1992, following the breakout of ethnic strife in Bosnia that soon erupted into an all-out war, Nikolaidis' family moved to Ulcinj, his father's hometown in Montenegro. An ardent supporter of Montenegrin independence, anti-war activist and promoter of human rights, especially minority rights, Nikolaidis initially became known for his political views and public feuds, appearing on local television and in newspapers with his razor-sharp political commentaries.

His writings for *Monitor* and *Slobodna Bosna* aroused controversy and he received threats, including death threats, after publishing several articles about "facing the past." During a talk show on Radio Antena M, one listener, while he was on air, said that he would kill Nikolaidis. Nikolaidis recently contributed an essay to the book, *Welcome to the Desert of Post-Socialism: Radical Politics after Yugoslavia* (published by Verso, 2015). He now works as a freelance journalist and also writes for the UK newspaper, *The Guardian*. His novels have been translated into 12 European languages. Nikolaidis lives in Ulcinj.



From the same author – and now available in English from ISTROS Books



THE COMING by Andrej Nikolaidis

ISBN: 978-1-908236-03-6 Paperback £7.99 ISTROS Books 2012

In a small town on the Adriatic coast, a local detective is content to sacrifice truth for the sake of telling his clients the stories he thinks (and hopes) they want to hear. As the story unfolds, the reader encounters some challenging ideas, the like of which can only be found in the most intelligent detective story writing.

'An explosive mixture ... if there is justice in the world, Nikolaidis' novel should become a bestseller bigger than the novels of James Patterson or John Grisham ...insanely readable page-turner.' Slavoj Žižek

'Like all good Central European fiction it is about a lot more than it seems on the surface ... cynical and comic with a touch of the historic novel and some epistolary touches ... reminds you of why you read books in translation: it is to see worlds through different eyes and concepts.' Stu Allen, WinstonsdadBlog

'Great vibrancy and visual poetry. His descriptive prose is a joy to read. It begs to be read at ease, to luxuriate in the language and the choice of words ... I savoured each page and did not want this thought-provoking book to end.' Marcus Agar, Wild Rooster

'Another wonderful work from Andrej Nikolaidis, peppered with thought provoking snippets, a fine plot, and multi layered ... Nikolaidis' work deserves to be more widely explored and read.' Tony Messenger, Messenger's Booker

THE SON by Andrej Nikolaidis – European Prize for Literature winner, 2011

ISBN: 978-1-908236-12-8 Paperback £8.99 ISTROS Books 2011

This novel follows one night in the life of a hero with no name, a writer whose life is falling apart. That afternoon, his wife left him. As if that wasn't enough, for many years he has been in conflict with his father, who blames him for his mother's death. Incapable of finding inner calm, he turns his back on the past and starts an inner journey that will prove to be enlightening but will also force him to question not only his personal history but also the Communist past of his homeland.



'...makes Samuel Beckett look positively cheery; yet the relentless pessimism has an oddly invigorating effect.'
Five Star Review in *The Independent*

'It is perhaps accurate to describe the narrator-cum-protagonist as an antihero, at times reminiscent of Patrick Bateman with his interest in serial killers and a fixation with creating soundtracks to moments in his life. However, it is arguably this that makes the book all the more triumphant.' The Litterateur

'... multi layered and complex in its observations. Ultimately a story about the father/son relationship, this is also a moving story of Montenegro and the futility of existence. Another great work from the Balkan region and yet another from Istros Books that I thoroughly enjoyed. A region I will continue to explore given the wealth of writing talent.' Tony Messenger, Messenger's Booker

because quality has no borders...

an independent London publisher specialising in English translations of
extraordinary writing from unfamiliar places



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