



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
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- Binding: Hardcover
- 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:

Pauline Jefferson:

Now a day people that Living in the era where everything reachable by match the internet and the resources in it can be true or not involve people to be aware of each details they get. How individuals to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book. Examining a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information specially this The Dictionary of the Khazars book because this book offers you rich facts and knowledge. Of course the information in this book hundred percent guarantees there is no doubt in it you may already know.

Lois Cox:

The event that you get from The Dictionary of the Khazars is the more deep you rooting the information that hide in the words the more you get considering reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to comprehend but The Dictionary of the Khazars giving you thrill feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in particular way that can be understood by anyone who read this because the author of this guide is well-known enough. That book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having this specific The Dictionary of the Khazars instantly.

Angel Huitt:

The Dictionary of the Khazars can be one of your starter books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to place every word into pleasure arrangement in writing The Dictionary of the Khazars nevertheless doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource data that maybe you can be one among it. This great information could drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial thinking.

Donna Canales:

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