



As If I am Not There

By Slavenka Drakulic

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This is a story of hope and survival amidst the Balkan tragedy. S., a teacher in a Bosnian village, is 29 when war breaks out. One day a young Serbian soldier walks into her kitchen and tells her to pack her bag. She is taken to a concentration camp where there is a mysterious room. She soon finds out what it's for - the Serbs systematically rape their prisoners there. After some months S. finds out she is pregnant. She's devastated and resolves to have the baby aborted. However, when she's finally released it's too late and she when she's evacuated to Sweden she gives birth to the child. S. changes her mind about giving it up for adoption: she realises that it's not the child's fault that it was conceived in violence and that out of the act some good - this new life - can still come.

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As If I am Not There By Slavenka Drakulic Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

Ghastly in its purist sense; read it in the kitchen if you dare DAILY TELEGRAPH Celebratory in tone, The Taste of a Man is also a heartfelt, if unrepentant confession ... Drakulic does not disappoint NEW STATESMAN It is a tribute to Drakulic's sensitivity that we emerge from the desperate tale with a real feeling of hope. THE TIMES Drakulic does not permit ignorance. The tale she tells is as bad as it gets... It isn't a hopeful tale, but it is a necessary one. Drakulic has taken the reader to places where CNN will never reach: she teaches lessons in horror and makes the unimaginable into something everyday. She does, however, have the wisdom to give hope and to leave S with something like a better ending. SCOTSMAN A disturbingly insightful novel of love gone wrong ... gruesome and highly accomplished Time Out

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: Serbo-Croatian

About the Author

Slavenka Drakulic was born in Croatia. Her three novels and three non-fiction titles have been translated into many major European languages.

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