



How the Soldier Repairs the Gramophone

By Sasa Stanisic

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The hardcover publication of *How the Soldier Repairs the Gramophone* launched Stanisic as an exciting and important new voice in literary fiction and earned exuberant praise from readers and critics alike. Now in paperback, Stanisic's debut about a boy who experiences the Bosnian War and finds the secret to survival in language and stories is bound to dazzle a whole new readership. For Aleksandar Krsmanovic, Grandpa Slavko's stories endow life in Višegrad with a kaleidoscopic brilliance. Neighbors, friends, and family past and present take on a mythic quality; the River Drina courses through town like the pulse of life itself. So when his grandfather dies suddenly, Aleksandar promises to carry on the tradition. But then soldiers invade Višegrad—a town previously unconscious of racial and religious divides—and it's no longer important that Aleksandar is the best magician in the nonaligned states; suddenly it is important to have the right last name and to convince the soldiers that Asija, the Muslim girl who turns up in his apartment building, is his sister. Alive with the magic of childhood, the surreality of war and exile, and the power of language, every page of this glittering novel thrums with the joy of storytelling.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Stanisic's debut novel is the moving story of a young Bosnian refugee named Aleksandar Krsmanovic.

Aleksandar is the apple of his family's eye, but his sheltered childhood ends when ethnic wars brewing in the surrounding republics make their way to his hometown in the spring of 1992. As Serbian troops storm the village, Aleksandar's family hides, but nowhere is safe. The violence forces the family to Germany, where they struggle to adjust to their new lives as refugees. In the depths of their despair, Aleksandar's grandmother makes him promise to "remember when everything was all right and the time when nothing's all right."

Aleksandar keeps his word, and the memories pour out of him like a river. The author organizes Aleksandar's recollections as a stream of consciousness, operating on no distinct linear time line and often stopping one story and starting another in the same breath. It is difficult to keep up with this frantic pace, but it pays to be patient because a remarkable life's journey unfolds. (*June*)

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Review

"A bold, questing work of art."—*Los Angeles Times*

"Funny, heartbreaking, beautifully written."—*The Seattle Times*

"Wildly inventive . . . It rages rough and broad and joyful."—*San Francisco Chronicle*

"The magic of storytelling lies at the heart of Saša Stanišić's sensational debut. . . . A book that will dominate the discourse on how children experience war for a long time to come."—*Foreign Policy*

"Poignant and hauntingly beautiful."—*The Village Voice*

"Will convert skeptics with the sheer force of its emotional power."—*The Oregonian*

"An astonishing accomplishment . . . Enthralling, something you can't put down."—*Deseret News* (Salt Lake City)

"Dazzling . . . A novel rich with experience and imagination."—*Kirkus Reviews*

About the Author

Sasa Stanisic was born in Visegrad in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1978. At the age of fourteen, he fled to Germany with his family and went on to study literature in Heidelberg and Leipzig. *How the Soldier Repairs the Gramophone* is his first novel.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Charles Carter:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important take action, like looking for your favorite guide and reading a book. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you

can add your knowledge by the reserve entitled How the Soldier Repairs the Gramophone. Try to face the book How the Soldier Repairs the Gramophone as your close friend. It means that it can to become your friend when you feel alone and beside that of course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortunate for you. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know almost everything by the book. So , let me make new experience as well as knowledge with this book.

Chris Holmes:

The actual book How the Soldier Repairs the Gramophone will bring someone to the new experience of reading a book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. Should you try to find new book to learn, this book very suited to you. The book How the Soldier Repairs the Gramophone is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book in the official web site, so you can quicker to read the book.

Mark Morrow:

People live in this new time of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the spare time or they will get lots of stress from both day to day life and work. So , if we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely indeed. People is human not only a robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, often the book you have read is usually How the Soldier Repairs the Gramophone.

Wayne Robinson:

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