



Our Man in Iraq

Robert Perisic

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"Robert Perisic depicts, with acerbic wit, a class of urban elites who are trying to reconcile their nineties rebellion with the reality of present-day Croatia. . . . The characters' snide remarks could easily sound cynical but the novel has a levity informed by the sense of social fluidity that comes with democracy."—*The New Yorker*

"Robert Perisic is a light bright with intelligence and twinkling with irony, flashing us the news that postwar Croatia not only endures but matters."—Jonathan Franzen

"This jivey—and I should say x-rated—story stays with us."—Alan Cheuse, "All Things Considered" NPR

"Despite the serious themes, the novel is largely comic and in many ways falls into the same genre of satirical anti-war novels that includes *The Good Soldier* by Jaroslav Hasek and Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse Five*. Perisic constructs a series of long and entertaining scenes full of quirky dialogue and rhythmic interior monologue."—*The Times Literary Supplement*

"In this raucous and funny novel about an entire country's post-traumatic stress syndrome, Toni discovers that you can't entirely escape your past no matter how must you try to live your life in fast forward."—Huffington Post

"In addition to being a delightfully acerbic primer on a literarily underrepresented part of Europe, *Our Man in Iraq* may well prove to be one of those rare cases where something is actually gained in translation."—*Toronto Star*

"Given the uncountable billions of words they have dedicated to the war in Iraq, it might be easy for Americans to think of it as belonging solely to them. Even its possession by the Iraqis can feel tenuous at times. So it is a refreshing reminder of the new global village to read a novel like Robert Perisic's Our Man in Iraq, which studies the fighting in Baghdad from the distant shores of Croatia."—Boston Globe

"A must-read... brilliantly captures modern-day Zagreb." —The Guardian

One of *The Millions* most anticipated books of 2013

"How deeply satisfying it is to hear Perisic's wry voice take a different angle, and tell a different story."—ZYZZYVA

"This smart, cutting book powerfully illustrates the horrible hangover of war."—Publishers Weekly

Saddam is a young villager from the outskirts of Basra, named after the president. What can he do? He spreads his hands wide like a scarecrow, and I spread mine too, and we chat like two scarecrows in the field, except there are no crops, no grass, and no birds for us to scare away, only sand and scrap iron, and his village, said Saddam, is in a bad place. So he stuck all his goats in a pickup truck and took to the road

like Kerouac, except there's no literature here, and no shade.

2003: As Croatia lurches from socialism into globalized capitalism, Toni, a cocky journalist in Zagreb, struggles to balance his fragile career, pushy family, and hotheaded girlfriend. But in a moment of vulnerability he makes a mistake: volunteering his unhinged Arabic-speaking cousin Boris to report on the Iraq War. Boris begins filing Gonzo missives from the conflict zone and Toni decides it is better to secretly rewrite his cousin's increasingly incoherent ramblings than face up to the truth. But when Boris goes missing, Toni's own sense of reality—and reliability—begins to unravel.

Our Man In Iraq, the first of Robert Perisic's novels to be translated into English, serves as an unforgettable introduction to a vibrant voice from Croatia. With his characteristic humor and insight, Perisic gets to the heart of life made and remade by war.



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From reader reviews:

Gabriel Cleveland:

Here thing why this specific Our Man in Iraq are different and dependable to be yours. First of all examining a book is good nonetheless it depends in the content of computer which is the content is as scrumptious as food or not. Our Man in Iraq giving you information deeper as different ways, you can find any guide out there but there is no publication that similar with Our Man in Iraq. It gives you thrill studying journey, its open up your own eyes about the thing this happened in the world which is perhaps can be happened around you. It is easy to bring everywhere like in area, café, or even in your means home by train. If you are having difficulties in bringing the imprinted book maybe the form of Our Man in Iraq in e-book can be your alternative.

Graciela Johnson:

Now a day those who Living in the era where everything reachable by match the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not involve people to be aware of each details they get. How many people to be smart in obtaining any information nowadays? Of course the solution is reading a book. Reading a book can help persons out of this uncertainty Information specially this Our Man in Iraq book since this book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred percent guarantees there is no doubt in it you know.

Antoinette Hagen:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray you, why because this Our Man in Iraq publication written by well-known writer we are excited for well how to make book that can be understand by anyone who have read the book. Written throughout good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and producing skill only for eliminate your hunger then you still skepticism Our Man in Iraq as good book but not only by the cover but also from the content. This is one guide that can break don't evaluate book by its cover, so do you still needing a different sixth sense to pick this specific!? Oh come on your reading sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to yet another sixth sense.

Albert Shepherd:

In this era globalization it is important to someone to obtain information. The information will make professionals understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information much easier to share. You can find a lot of recommendations to get information example: internet, newspapers, book, and soon. You will observe that now, a lot of publisher this print many kinds of book. The book that recommended to you personally is Our Man in Iraq this e-book consist a lot of the information with the condition of this world now. This particular book was represented just how can the world has grown up. The vocabulary styles that writer make usage of to explain it is easy to understand. The writer made some study when he makes this book. That's why this book suited all of you.

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