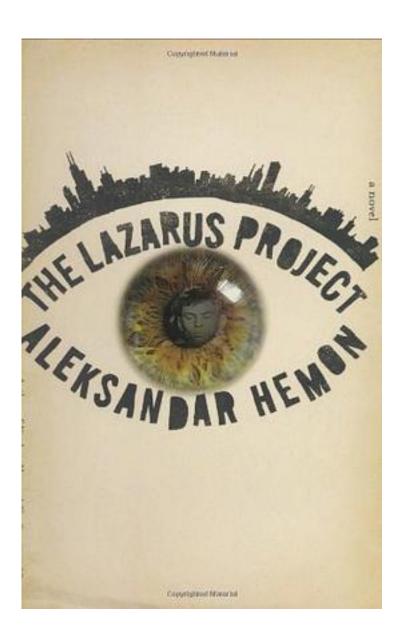
The Lazarus Project



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出版者:Putnam Juvenile

出版时间:2008-5-1

装帧:Hardcover

isbn:9781594489884

In two collections of stories, "The Question of Bruno" and the NBCC-finalist "Nowhere Man," Aleksandar Hemon has earned unmatched literary acclaim and a reputation as one of the English languageas most original and moving wordsmiths. In "The Lazarus" Project," Hemon has turned these talents to an embracing novel that intertwines haunting historical atmosphere and detail with sharp and shimmering asometimes hilarious, sometimes heartbreakingacontemporary storytelling. On March 2, 1908, nineteen-year-old Lazarus Averbuch, a recent Jewish immigrant from Eastern Europe to Chicago, knocked on the front door of the house of George Shippy, the chief of Chicago police. When Shippy came to the door, Averbuch offered him what he said was an important letter. Instead of taking the letter, Shippy shot Averbuch twice, killing him. When Shippy released a statement casting Averbuich as a would-be anarchist assassin and agent of foreign political operatives, he all but set off a city and a country already simmering with ethnic and political tensions. Now, in the twenty-first century, a young writer in Chicago, Brik, also from Eastern Europe, becomes obsessed with Lazarusas storyawhat really happened, and why? In order to understand Averbuch, Brik and his friend Roraawho overflows with stories of his life as a Sarajevo war photographeraretrace Averbuchas path across Eastern Europe, through a history of pogroms and poverty, and through a present-day landscape of cheap mafiosi and cheaper prostitutes. The stories of Averbuch and Brik become inextricably entwined, augmented by the photographs that Rora takes on their journey, creating a truly original, provocative, and entertaining novel that will confirm Hemon once and for all as one of the most dynamic and essential literary voices of our time.

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