



The Hunting Party

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1983. Dans la brume glacée des forêts soviétiques, s'organise une singulière “partie de chasse”. Un jeune traducteur français y est convié par son mentor, Evguéni Golozov, interprète et homme de confiance du mystérieux Vassili Alexandrovitch Tchevtchenko. Ce stratège silencieux du pouvoir communiste, apparaît au fur et à mesure de l'intrigue comme le maître d'orchestre machiavélique des exactions sanglantes de dirigeants décadents. Quand la petite histoire se fond dans la grande, le lecteur redécouvre les sombres événements qui ont marqués la période du bloc de l'Est. À travers ce titre, Bilal signait avec Christin, l'une des œuvres majeures de la bande dessinée moderne.

The Hunting Party Details

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Author : Enki Bilal , Pierre Christin

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From Reader Review The Hunting Party for online ebook

J.T. says

Review on my blog, here. Can't import it to GR without losing the pictures.

The Hunting Party is an ambitious book – perhaps a bit too ambitious for its format. While it's clear a huge amount of artistic labor went into every page, it's done a disservice by unsubtle, scattershot, or uneven writing and characterization. Being a [graphic] novel of ideas, THP is only as strong as its message, and if you aren't on board with the anti-Sovietism, agree only partially, or are too distracted by aforementioned art/writing issues, the reading experience will likely leave you wanting.

*Still [...] THP tried to do something a little more *meaningful* with Russia than most contemporary comics aspire to.*

Paul says

Perhaps a bit overly ambitious for the format, or at least for the page count. A good fifty percent of the work does no more than set up the characters in the plot, rather than advancing the plot itself, and that becomes both tedious, and somewhat confusing.

Bilal's artwork is beautiful, though. As always.

David says

Story 4/5 Art 3/5

Isabelle says

We are in the midst of a kitchen refurbishing project, so I have very little time to myself, very little time to read right now. So, why not go back and re-read some of the Graphic novels that taught me to love the genre?

I am very partial to Enki Bilal's very recognizable graphic style: the gaunt, lost faces, the haunting landscapes. I also happen to like his choice of stories, whether he actually writes them himself or collaborates with a writer.

"Partie de Chasse" has aged inasmuch as the plot that takes us within the USSR's aparatchik is no longer at the cutting edge of political fiction. Now that the USSR is Russia again, and that the Communist regime has fallen, or at least recycled itself into an essentially undefinable "something else", this novel becomes a historical document of sorts.

During a hunting party, intrigue, secrets and a cold, boundless lust for power are unleashed against a snowy background.

This was my first Bilal novel, and it got me to read so many more of them. I loved it then, I love it now!

Alex says

Η παρτ?δα κυνηγιο? ?ταν το δε?τερο μ?ρος του chaos effect. Μου ?ρεσε εξ?σου πολ? αλλ? με τελε?ως διαφορετικ? τρ?πο. Εν? οι φ?λαγγες βρ?θουν δρ?σης και εν?ργειας (?στω και σε μια κατ?σταση ημιδι?λυσης) η παρτ?δα πα?ρνει το χρ?νο της και με σκληρ? ψυχραιμ?α σε εισ?γει στην καθεστωτικ? παρακμ? του ανατολικο? μπλοκ λ?γο πριν την πτ?ση της σοβιετικ?ς ?νωσης. Δεν σε κερδ?ζει με τις εναλλαγ?ς στα περιβ?λλοντα ? τις σκην?ς δρ?σης οι οπο?ες λ?μπουν δια της απουσ?ας τους.

Αφο? μιλ?με για κυν?γι, θα ?πρεπε να β?ζει τον αναγ?στη και στη θ?ση του θηρευτ? και του θηρ?ματος, και το πετυχα?νει ?ψογα. Ταυτ?χρονα η ιστορ?α ντ?νεται απ? δι?φορα flashback κυρ?ως του πρωταγωνιστ? Αλεξ?ντροβίτς και λιγ?τερο των συντρ?φων του στο κυν?γι (?λοι σημαντικ?ς για τον χ.ψ λ?γο φιγο?ρες στα δι?φορα σοσιαλιστικ? καθεστ?τα) που σου περιγρ?φουν μ?σα απ? τις προσωπικ?ς τους εμπειρ?ες την ιστορ?α του κομμουνισμο?.

?λλη μια ?ψογη συνεργασ?α ?που ο Μπιλ?λ στην κυριολεξ?α ζωγραφ?ζει και ο Κριστ?ν γρ?φει μια ιστορ?α πολιτικ?ς ?ντριγκας η οπο?α σου δε?χνει ?να τελε?ως διαφορετικ? και απ?νθρωπο πρ?σωπο των ηγετ?ν της κ?κκινης αυτοκρατορ?ας και των ιδε?ν με τις οπο?ες λειτουργο?σαν και ?ριζαν τις τ?χες εκατομμυρ?ων, β?ζοντας στο με?γμα λ?γο ρομαντισμ? και αρκετ? προσωπικ? φιλοδοξ?α με σημα?α το δ?γμα "?τι πρ?πει να γ?νει, θα γ?νει ανεξαρτ?τως κ?στους." Ιδια?τερη αναφορ? στο π?σο περ?τεχνα τοποθετο?σε ο Μπιλ?λ στα σκ?τσα το αιματοβαμμ?νο γερ?κι.

Henrique Vogado says

Excelente desenho de Bilal com o texto de Christin. Um livro de 1983 que antecipa a queda do muro de Berlim 6 depois. Revisão da história da União Soviética e dos países da cortina de ferro num encontro de velhos dirigentes comunista para uma caçada. As memórias duras, o apagamento da história numa sociedade que apodreceu por dentro.

O traço de Bilal é único.

Renaud Germain says

<http://www.histoire-immigration.fr/ag...>
(page internet avec l'auteur)

Παδ?μανθυς Φωτ?πουλος says

Great art from the hand of Enki Bilal and captivating story, through the history of warsaw's pact people.

Michael Finocchiaro says

This comic from Bilal's early career is the transcription of a book by Pierre Christin of the same name. It is an allegorical tale of bear hunting in Soviet Russia, but also about political strife and assassination plots. As always, Bilal's drawing is incredible - each page is a separate watercolor as in most of his work. It is a bit weak on dialog however, not his most powerful graphic novel even if the story is original and interesting.

Dragan Nanic says

Unbelievable thriller set in the mystic times of socialist Eastern block. The story gets horror innuendos straight from Dracula and weaves them in the even more horrifying events happening under socialist rule. Though fictional it reads as if it is true, including the short biographies of all the protagonists at the end. The narrative had to have someone who understand it from the first hand to give it the proper artistic treatment and Bilal has done amazing work here. Though he only lived in the Yugoslavia (which is even a source of the threat for some of the participants) I'm sure it felt more than familiar to him. At the same time he kept his recognizable signature. He masterfully used color to paint memories making them larger than life and crucial for understanding both the story itself and the inner lives of everyone involved. Remarkable graphic novel that will be truly appreciated by anyone interested or familiar with the times, lives and deaths of (socialist) Party members and ordinary people around.

Joan says

To enjoy this book, I think one must be very interested in the history and hidden politics of the Soviet block through the last century. I myself, am not, so I found this book obscure in its references to historical events. Nice art, though.

D.M. says

I'm a sucker for Bilal's art, so it's often hard for me to look past that to the success or failure of the narrative. Here, the narrative somehow takes over. The story is simple, but the depth of the history they've (for whatever reason) thought out for every character makes it seem considerably more complex. Perhaps a little more education in Soviet bloc politics would help in understanding all the intricacies at work amongst these characters, but not understanding most of that didn't spoil the read.

And then there's that art. There's absolutely nothing science-fiction or fantasy going on here, but Bilal still manages to impregnate scenes with his own unique style of symbolism -- somewhere between political cartoons and hieroglyphics. The people are the same profiles any Bilal fan recognises, and the stony texture that tends to come with his work is just as noticeable here. It's nice that the reproduction in this edition is so

pristine and large.

Overall, a decent read, but tries just a bit too hard to be something more than it is. And of course it's gorgeous.

Philippe Malzieu says

That occurs before the fall from the Berlin Wall. All that will occur is envisaged in this book: the perestroika, bursting of the Soviet block.

All the dignitaries of east countries are invited to a shooting party. There is the old leader Bolshevik who can't speak after a neurological accident. It is him who very organized. There are the memories which haunt them. The goal of this hunting is to allow regime's liberalisation.

this liberalization will destroy the communist bloc.

Bilal is an immense artist. Its works are sold expensive in auction.

An historic masterpiece

Reyel2107 says

communist hell !!!!!

Mikael says

Perfectly conveys the cloak and dagger dealings of soviet party politiks. i don't mind the surreal parts but in the end a lot of the dialog is left quite rambling.
