

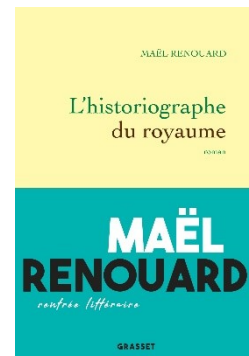
L'HISTORIOGRAPHE DU ROYAUME

Historian of the Kingdom

Maël Renouard

September 2020

336 pages



FIRST NOVEL

LOONGLISTED FOR LE PRIX GONCOURT
LOONGLISTED FOR LE PRIX JEAN GIONO

In this first novel Maël Renouard, a philosophy professor already recognized for his non-fiction works, invites us to follow, through ups and downs, the life of a XX century Moroccan courtier. Of modest origin, he was chosen at the age of 15 to accompany the schooling of the Crown Prince. He will later see his destiny transformed by this ambiguous relationship with who will later become King Hassan II. Throughout his life, he will oscillate between loyalty and rivalry...

The narrator and the main personage of the novel is a well-educated Moroccan boy of humble origin who was chosen, among all the children of the Cherifian kingdom, to be part of the class of the Crown Prince, the future Hassan II, at the Royal College of Rabat. This could be a start of a wonderful career. Not taking into consideration the vicissitudes of life at court, in the presence of a seductive and spirited, but also erratic and cruel king. When in 1961 prince Hassan, his former classmate, takes the thrones after the death of his father, Mohammed V, he hopes for an important promotion. But what happens contradicts all his expectations. Did he show his pride in always being a better student than the king? One thing is certain, he finds himself exiled deep in the kingdom to carry out an absurd administrative mission for several years.

Until the day when the king finally decides, and still without explanation, to appoint him as the kingdom's historiographer. He must now think about organizing a national celebration for the 300th anniversary of the reign of Sultan Moulay Ishmael, who ascended to the throne in 1672. It was the most famous of the sultans of the Cherifian dynasty, the equivalent, in the history of Morocco, of Louis XIV. But what happened in the summer of 1972, rather than a beautiful parade, was an attempted putsch against Hassan II, which has remained in history under the name of "putsch of the aviators", and which only failed by a miracle. Could it be that the king's counsellor was involved in some way? After all, he is well acquainted with the beautiful Morgiane, from one of the largest families in the kingdom, who is close to the revolutionary movement that is stirring up the Moroccan youth...

Before becoming a writer **Maël Renouard** taught philosophy in the Sorbonne and Ecole Normale Supérieure. He is the author of *La Réforme de l'opéra de Pékin* (2013 - Prix Décembre) and *Fragments d'une mémoire infinie* (2016).

Rights sold: Arabic (Arab cultural center).

Rights sold for *Fragments d'une mémoire infinie*: English (USA: New York Review of Book), German (Diaphanes Verlag).