

ON ŠAROTAR'S WORK

"This segment of Šarotar's prose can hardly find any parallel in literature. What does come to my mind, however, is a cinematic one: the Hungarian master of slowness Bella Tar with the scripts of Laszlo Krasznahorkai."

Petra Vidali, Večer

"*Biljard v Dobrayu* (Billiards at the hotel Dobray) is a book written with masterly skill. Šarotar takes his time and his narration glides slowly among the stories and people's destinies and across the landscape; a book bereft of all radicality. The eye's gaze from way up in the air is cool, distanced, almost indifferent to people's destinies; as if they were looked upon from a great distance, temporal as well spatial, and the destinies of individuals were almost entirely insignificant specks in a more broadly outlined picture."

Matej Bogataj, Literatura

"The first specific poetic trait of the author is his stressed synergy between the lyrical and prose rhythm. With its dense apocalyptic imagery, the poetic quality of the language assumes the role of the fable."

Petra Jager, Sodobnost

"The work [*Biljard v Dobrayu*/Billiards at the hotel Dobray] which genuinely reopens the topic of the literary treatment of our WWII existence."

Bernard Nežmah, Mladina

"Well versed as a narrator, Šarotar skillfully knits all the aspects of narration together, which results in a fresh, pleasant and carefully reflected approach bringing together two great literary qualities: lack of pretence and authenticity."

Mojca Pišek, AirBeletrina

photo by Jože Suhadolnik



DUŠAN ŠAROTAR

design | Studio Učinek d.o.o.

DUŠAN ŠAROTAR

Dušan Šarotar, born in Murska Sobota in 1968, is a writer, poet and screenwriter. He studied sociology of culture and philosophy at the University of Ljubljana.

He has published five books of prose, *Potapljanje na dah* (Breath diving, 1999), *Mrtvi kot* (Dead angle, 2002), *Nočitev z zajtrkom* (Bed and breakfast, 2003), *Biljard v Dobrayu* (Billiards at the hotel Dobray, 2007), *Nostalgija* (Nostalgia, 2010), and three books of poetry, *Občutek za veter* (Feel for the wind, 2004), *Krajina v molu* (Landscape in minor, 2006), *Hiša mojega sina* (House of my son, 2009), he also writes plays for performances. Author of fifteen screenplays for documentary and feature films.

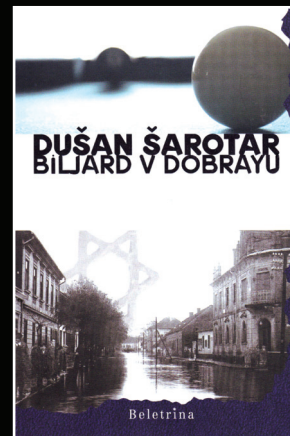
The author's poetry and prose have been included in several anthologies and translated into Hungarian, Russian, Spanish, Polish, Italian, Czech and English.

In 2008, the novel *Biljard v Dobrayu* (Billiards at the hotel Dobray) was nominated for the Kresnik award for best novel of the year.

A movie based on the novel will be filmed next year.

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BILLIARDS AT THE HOTEL DOBRAY



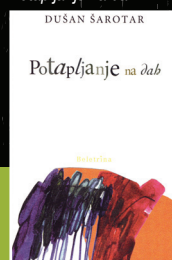
In the centre of Murska Sobota stands the renowned hotel Dobray, built in 1908 in the architectural style of the Secession, with a coffee house on the ground floor and a billiards room, a casino and a bordello upstairs. Hotel Dobray was once the gathering place of townspeople of all nationalities and social strata who lived in this small town in the middle of Prekmurje, a typical Pannonian landscape on the brink of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. Due to its historic and geographical particularities, the town had always been home to numerous ethnically and culturally mixed communities that gave it the charm and melos of Central-European identity. In the wake of World War 2, the town was occupied by the German army, which then soon passed power to the Hungarians.

Schwartz's wife Ellsie has for the past month been preparing their son Izak, a gifted violinist, for his first independent concert taking place in hotel Dobray. Izak is to perform on his bar mitzvah and 13th birthday, on April 26th, 1944. The German army marches into town and forces all Jews to display yellow stars on their clothes. Ellsie advises her husband the family should flee the town and escape to Switzerland together with several other families who have been secretly preparing to do so. Schwartz promises her he will obtain false documents, but not before Izak performs his concert in hotel Dobray.

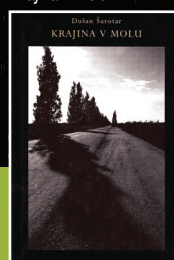
A year later, in March 1945, by foot, Schwartz returns from the concentration camp as one of the few survivors.

DUŠAN ŠAROTAR'S WORK

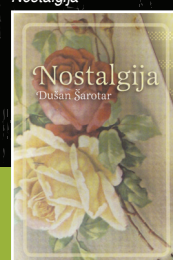
Potapljanje na dah



Krajina v molu



Nostalgija



Občutek za veter

