



Isle of the Dead

By Meier, Gerhard. Pike, Burton, Translator.

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"Two elderly friends Baur and Bindschädler share a habitual walk to the edge of a town, Baur speaking incessantly veering between past and present, with inconsequential observations and profound insights while Bindschädler, equally unmoored, listens and reflects, in this novel by Swiss author Gerhard Meier (1917-2008). As they stroll, the former soldiers discuss art, sex, mortality, and history, and by journey's end, it is nearly impossible to distinguish one man from the other. In his preface, translator Burton Pike comments, "What distinguishes [The Isle of the Dead] from other modern novels is that it does not convey an alienation from life but a sense of wonder, expressed with wit and humor, and, beneath the wonder, regret." 103.



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