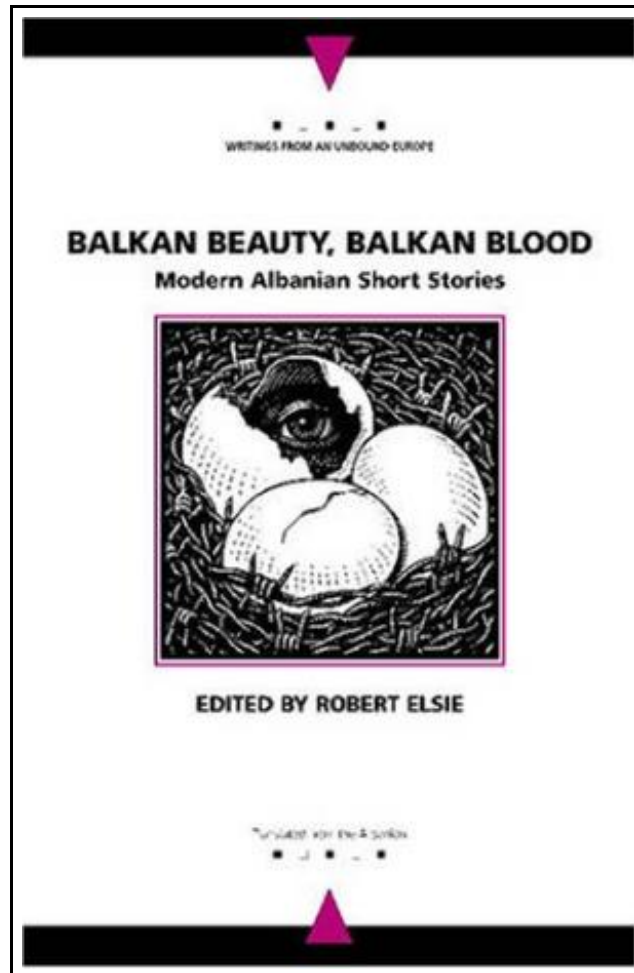


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Northwestern University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, *Balkan Beauty, Balkan Blood: Modern Albanian Short Stories*, Robert Elsie, Robert Elsie, Andrew Baruch Wachtel, Although Albanian literature dates back to the 1500s, creative prose in that nation is very much a twentieth-century phenomenon; and much as the early literature in Albanian was interrupted by Ottoman rule - and oppression - its later emergence was stymied and stunted by Stalinist politics and propaganda. What this volume documents is, then, a literature at once venerable and nascent, a tradition in the making, however deep its roots. In these stories representing the last three decades of Albanian writing - especially the burst of creativity in the newfound freedom of the 1990s - readers will encounter work that reflects the literary paradox of Eastern Europe in the late twentieth century: the startling originality of the new uneasily coupled with the strains of history; the sophistication and self-consciousness of late (or post-) modernity married to the simplicity of a literature first finding its voice; a refusal of political influence and pressure expressed through frankly political subject matter. Albania's more established writers (including Dritero Agolli, Ismail Kadare, Teodor Laco, and Eqrem Basha) appear here alongside newer talents (such as Ylljet Alicka, Mimoza Ahmeti, Elivra Dones, Lindita Arapi, and Kim Mehmeti), providing English-speaking readers with an elucidating and entertaining overview of the recent history, and the future, of the nation's literature.



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