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The "Albaru"



Synopsis

This short story deals with the fate of endangered languages in the mid Twenty-first Century and people struggling for preserving words that are on the verge of disappearing. “There were the “orphan-words, which were not so much sought after, and then there were the “full-words. An orphan-word was a rare word, no longer used, whose sense had been lost: no one knew what it meant. The full-words in contrast, were rare words even extremely rare that were on the verge of disappearing, but whose meaning had been preserved. Between orphan-words and full-words, there was a large price difference, for a full-word was considered a gem. English translation of the story originally published in Corsican. Length: 5600 words; 1 illustration. Also includes the original text in Corsican language. Paul Franceschi, Ph.D., is a philosopher specialized in paradoxes and cognition who also writes philosophical fiction.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For fans of O. Henry's "The Gift of the Magi", The "Albaru" will be a rare treat. It keeps all of the original intent and theme of "The Gift of the Magi" and builds on top of it. Though a short story, it

packs quite a punch. While The "Albaru" could easily be marketed as speculative fiction, and pigeon-holed as such, it is so much more. Set in the not so distant future, the story centers around a husband and wife, and the things they hold most dear. In this time, whole languages have been irrevocably lost and the trafficking in words - both with meaning and without - is big business. This element is woven into the fabric of the story, but is not the crux of the work. But our husband and wife are simple farmers with simple needs and wants. When there is the potential for calamity, they trade their most valuable possessions to save what they think is most important to the other. While this could end in a bittersweet moment, instead, they find themselves enriched in ways they could not have imagined. It is important to note that this is a translation of the original, which was written in Corsican. Sometimes I was not so sure that the translation allowed the words to shine, as sometimes happens. But in the moment it was needed most, the words transport the reader into the story to share in the wonder and awe and beauty that the husband and wife experience. At its heart, this is what the story is all about. It is not just a re-imagined "Gift of the Magi", it truly is so much more. As mentioned earlier, if you are a fan of O Henry's work, you will definitely like this (I happen to be a huge fan.), but even if you are not, this story is not one to miss. **RATING: 4.5** **REVIEWED BY: Monique Neaves, My Book Addiction Reviews**

The Albaru is a short but complex tale, and I felt the description of the story itself was somewhat more understandable than some of the scenes within it. I found it intriguing, and the premise quite unique, as I often do when listening to a language that I basically know, but when local idioms are inserted, for example: I can find myself losing the thread of the conversation for a time. Set in the future of our current reality, somehow The Albaru still had the feel of an ancient tale, as a man and his wife deal with some of the ordinary complications of daily life at their rural estate when they become fixated on a certain word, the `albaru.' This discovery leads them to a wondrous discovery that is the solution to their personal conundrum. First posted at the review/interview website [...]

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The "Albaru"

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