

The Village: A Novel of Wartime Crete
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HOW DOES A BLOKE WHO GREW UP IN LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND, WIND UP WRITING
ABOUT THE ISLAND OF CRETE DURING WORLD WAR TWO?

BY WAY OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGY, OF COURSE.

DUKE, A RETIRED PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY AT FORT LEWIS COLLEGE,
RECENTLY COMPLETED HIS SECOND NOVEL, THE VILLAGE, A NOVEL OF WARTIME
CRETE, AND WILL HOLD A READING AND BOOK SIGNING FOR HIS LATEST WORK AT 6
P.M. ON THURSDAY, MAY 9, AT MARIA'S BOOKSHOP.

THE STORY FOLLOWS THE LIVES OF FOUR PEOPLE, TWO CRETE ISLANDERS, A
GERMAN PARATROOPER, AND A BRITISH SOLDIER, AND HOW THEY AND THE ISLAND
WERE AFFECTED BY THE BRUTAL NAZI INVASION AND OCCUPATION OF THE ISLAND
IN 1941.

CRETE WOULD SEEM A FAR CRY FROM LIFE AS AN ARCHAEOLOGIST AND
ANTHROPOLOGIST IN SOUTHWEST COLORADO.

BUT THE BOOK ACTUALLY STEMS FROM HIS PROFESSIONAL WORK AS THE LEAD
ARCHAEOLOGIST ON THE COLORADO COALFIELD WAR ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT.

HIS FIRST BOOK, A TERRIBLE UNREST, FOLLOWS THE LIVES OF THE ANDRAKIS
FAMILY WHO WERE FORCED TO IMMIGRATE TO THE UNITED STATES FROM CRETE AT
THE TURN OF THE 20TH CENTURY.

THEY EVENTUALLY ARRIVED IN THE SOUTHERN COLORADO COAL FIELDS, WHERE
THEY BECAME EMBROILED IN THE COAL FIELD WARS WHEN THE COLORADO MILITIA
WERE SENT TO PREVENT MINERS FROM UNIONIZING.

THE MILITARY INTERVENTION RESULTED IN THE LUDLOW MASSACRE, WHEN WOMEN
AND CHILDREN, ALONG WITH MINERS, WERE MURDERED BY THE ARMED FORCES.

THE VILLAGE, A NOVEL OF WARTIME CRETE, IS A LOOSELY CONNECTED SEQUEL
THAT STARTS WITH AN ANDRAKIS FAMILY MEMBER WHO WAS TOO YOUNG TO
EMIGRATE FROM THE ISLAND.

BY THE START OF WORLD WAR II, SHE IS A VILLAGE MATRIARCH WHOSE LIFE IS
IRREVOCABLY CHANGED AS SHE TRIES TO HOLD HER FAMILY TOGETHER DURING
THE INVASION.

DUKE IS NO STRANGER TO CRETE. HE LED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOURS AS A FORT

LEWIS COLLEGE PROFESSOR AND LATER MOVED THERE AFTER RETIREMENT.

Philip Duke: “LIVING ON CRETE FOR FIVE YEARS REALLY GAVE ME A FEEL FOR WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE A CRETIN AND BY TALKING TO OLD PEOPLE WHO HAD GONE THROUGH THIS I WAS ABLE TO BUILD UP A PRETTY GOOD PICTURE. THE ENGLISH CHARACTER, WHO IS A VERY VERY NAIVE ARTILLERY MAN, IS SOMEWHAT BASED ON MY OWN FATHER'S EXPERIENCES BUT IN TERMS OF THE CRETANS OBSERVING TALKING TO THEM NEVER FORMALLY INTERVIEWING THEM. JUST SOAKING IN THAT BEAUTIFUL WONDERFUL CULTURE OF CRETE.”

THE STORY IS A STUDY IN CHARACTERS WHO ARE CHANGED DRAMATICALLY BY THEIR WARTIME EXPERIENCES AND IT CARRIES A STRONG MESSAGE FOR TODAY'S READERS.

Philip Duke: “MEAN THE MESSAGE IS VERY VERY SIMPLE IT'S AN ANTI-WAR NOVEL. NO ONE COMES OUT OF IT SMELLING LIKE A ROSE. ONE OF THE FOUR MAIN CHARACTERS IS A VERY YOUNG GUNG-HO GERMAN PARATROOPER DIETER LAYMAN. HE HAS HUGE ARGUMENTS WITH HIS FATHER WHO IS ON THE FENCE ABOUT THE WHOLE NAZI REGIME. BUT WHEN DIETER WHO'S GERMAN YOUTH, PRO HITLER BELIEVES WE SHOULD GERMANS SHOULD RULE THE WORLD HIS MIND GETS COMPLETELY CHANGED BY WHAT HE IS FORCED TO GO THROUGH AS A PARATROOPER DURING THE INVASION. SO THAT'S WHAT IT'S REALLY ABOUT THAT IT'S AN ANTI-WAR NOVEL. IT'S NOT AN ACTION NOVEL, IT'S ANTI-WAR AND IT SHOWS HOW WAR CHANGES, DESTROYS ORDINARY PEOPLE IN A WAY THAT THEY NEVER EVER EXPECTED TO HAVE HAPPEN.”

ONCE AGAIN, DUKE WILL HOLD A READING AND BOOK SIGNING AT 6:30 P.M. ON THURSDAY, MAY 9TH AT MARIA'S BOOKSHOP. TO READ MORE ABOUT HIS NOVEL, VISIT DUKE'S WEBSITE AT PHILIPDUKE.COM.

THANKS FOR WATCHING THIS EDITION OF DURANGO TV NEWS. IF YOU LIKED THIS STORY, YOU CAN WATCH IT AGAIN ON OUR WEBSITE AT DURANGOTV.COM, WHERE YOU ALSO CAN FIND AN ARCHIVE OF ALL OUR PAST STORIES AND SIGN UP FOR OUR DAILY NEWSLETTER. IN THE MEANTIME, YOU CAN CATCH US ON DURANGO CABLE TV CHANNEL 15. I'M DEBORAH URODA FOR DURANGO TV NEWS.