Spirit of Bosnia / Duh Bosne

An International, Interdisciplinary, Bilingual, Online Journal Međunarodni, interdisciplinarni, dvojezični, online časopis

In the Classroom

Mario Suško

the night slowly chokes the light around us and she closes the book her hand hovering above the cover History Primer: A Short Guide

we look at each other as if trying to remember each other's face before it becomes its own shadow

the building's roof's a charred skeleton the classroom floor littered with textbooks notebooks the village half burned deserted except for one donkey

braying in the field as the two of us came down the road two animals approaching warily from the opposite direction trying to sniff each other out

she placed two hand-grenades on the desk that now look to me like overgrown exotic pears we are going to feast on

History is supposed to teach us something but it never does she almost yells I look at the blackboard and make out its message

WE WILL BE BACK

a nauseous thought swells suddenly in my stomach I was here before she was here before closed the same book when I said It does not because we never learn anything from it or did I utter that

before or after she reached into her coat pocket and I shot her blindly to blot out all memory

You fainted she explains propping my head up her face coming and going together with a wavering candle

that makes the walls ebb away and school desks flung in the corner advance like ghosts toward us It's from hunger I whisper

© 2011 Mario Susko

The preceding text is copyright of the author and/or translator and is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License.