

A black and white photograph of a forest. The trees are mostly bare, with snow or ice covering their branches and the ground. In the foreground, a large, dark tree trunk is visible on the left side. The background shows a dense forest of similar trees, some with snow on their branches. The overall mood is somber and wintry.

The Gates of the Forest

a novel by
ELIE WIESEL

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by Elie Wiesel

François Mauriac:

What gives Elie Wiesel a unique place among all the novelists of his generation is that while all others have experienced life, he alone has experienced death. Miraculously, he was brought back to life from a concentration camp, when he was still a child. He ascended from the depths of the abyss where he had seen those closest to him disappear. This gives to everything that he writes a power which no other work in any other literature gives me.

It was Lazarus who descended into hell; having lost his faith, he found it again when he began once more to live.

A. J. Heschel:

Elie Wiesel does not describe; he casts a spell. His imagination is in a state of trance. His words are a voice crying in the hideousness of our time.

As young Gregor flees from Nazi annihilation; as he is obsessed by the ringing laughter of the nameless Jew (Do you know what laughter is? It is God's mistake) as he himself becomes a betrayer and pursues a phantom; as he loves, and particularly as he survives, one question recurs:

How to live in a world that God has clearly abandoned?

Jacket Design: Elaine Lustig Cohen
Front Cover Photo: Naomi Savage
Photo of Elie Wiesel: Arthur W. Wang

David Daiches:

"It is impossible to discuss Wiesel's novels in the terms which one would normally employ in reviewing fiction. All his works are clearly autobiographical, directly or indirectly...The problem they deal with is central in modern experience, so that we are continually led as we read to go beyond the novels to reflect on how we ourselves should think or feel on this issue...they are certainly important evidence, great documents, dealing with something which must perpetually haunt everyone old enough to have lived through World War II."

Commentary

Born in Hungary in 1928, Elie Wiesel was deported to Auschwitz and after the liberation made his way to Paris where he began to write. Among other honors, Mr. Wiesel received the 1964 *Prix Rivarol*; he was recently awarded the Harry and Ethel Daroff Memorial Fiction Award of the Jewish Book Council of America and the Jewish Heritage Award in 1966. Holt, Rinehart and Winston will soon publish his new book, *The Jews of Silence*, a nonfiction work dealing with Soviet Jewry. His four previous novels achieved a critical distinction rare in modern literature.

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ELIE WIESEL

"...is a writer on a plane almost entirely uninhabited except by him. I have read no book dealing with this terrible hallucinatory world which made me feel that I was actually undergoing the experience of it as *The Gates of the Forest* made me feel...the impact it had on me was profound."

S. N. Behrman

"...honours us, his readers. To read him is to be in touch with a living voice...I find most applicable...what Auden says of Freud: that he remembers 'like the old' and is 'honest like children.' *The Gates of the Forest* is a powerful, profoundly moving novel, shot through with a strange humour of forgiveness..."

George Steiner

"...is one of the really important novelists of our time."

David Daiches

"...is an extraordinary writer. In *The Gates of the Forest* Wiesel has chosen allegory with terrifying effect...like something written by a Dostoevsky turned Kabbalist."

Chaim Bermant