



Reunion: A Novella

By Fred Uhlman

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Reunion: A Novella By Fred Uhlman

A daring novella about the loss of innocence in pre-war Germany.

Reunion is the story of intense and innocent devotion between two young men growing up in "the soft, serene, bluish hills of Swabia," and the sinister (but all too mundane) forces that end both their friendship and their childhood.

The year is 1932. Hans Schwartz is Jewish, the son of a Stuttgart doctor who asserts that the rise of the Nazis is "a temporary illness, something like measles which will pass off as soon as the economic situation improves." The Holocaust would be unthinkable for these characters, but of course it looms over the story: Hans's friend, the young Count Konradin von Hohenfels, has a mother who keeps a portrait of Hitler on her dresser. The two boys share their most private thoughts and trips to the countryside of southwest Germany, discuss poetry and the past and present of their country, and argue the existence of a benevolent God.

The eventual disintegration of this cherished relationship foreshadows the fate of Europe's Jews-- but Uhlman doesn't end his story with neat polarities. Years later, exiled in America, Hans comes upon a revelation about von Hohenfels which provides a stunning denouement and leaves the reader recalling Uhlman's haunting, lyrical descriptions of the vineyards, opera houses, and dark forests of Württemberg.

"Hundreds of bulky tomes have now been written about the age when corpses were melted into soap to keep the master race clean; yet I sincerely believe that this slim volume will find its lasting place on the shelves."--Arthur Koestler, from the *Introduction*

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Editorial Review

Review

"A brilliant work of art that deserves a far wider readership" -- Ian McEwan "I loved Reunion and found it very moving. It's a rediscovered novella, only 80 pages long, a real gem about how friendship can be challenged by historical circumstance" -- John Boyne "Quite simply, a perfect work of art. With the utmost delicacy and care, Uhlman distils all the rage and tragedy of the second world war into one brief childhood friendship, and the final line is the most shattering of any novel I know. It is one of those books that is an unflinching test of character: if you give it to someone, and they don't like it, you should sever all ties, and possibly call the police" -- Sarah Perry Guardian "I read it in a gulp...very powerful" -- Deborah Moggach "A perfect little gem of a story with a kick in the tail - and a resonance that rings louder than ever just when you think the story is over" -- Meg Rosoff

About the Author

Fred Uhlman was born in Stuttgart in 1901 and, as an anti-Nazi lawyer, was forced to leave in 1933 for England, where he became a well-known painter.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dolores Watkins:

Nowadays reading books become more than want or need but also be a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge the actual information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The knowledge you get based on what kind of publication you read, if you want have more knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want sense happy read one with theme for entertaining like comic or novel. The Reunion: A Novella is kind of guide which is giving the reader capricious experience.

Andrew Fogarty:

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