



ISTANBUL to MONTRÉAL -- the story of an immigrant

Byron Ayanoglu

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ISTANBUL to MONTREAL, the story of an immigrant

is Byron Ayanoglu's new novel. Based loosely on his own life, it tells the story of twelve year-old Dimitri, an Istanbuler who checks into Montreal in the glory days of the Canadian metropolis in the late fifties. It branches out from there to span the decades recounting the adventures of its protagonist, the unbreakable bond to his mother, his four marriages, his inability to fit firmly into Canada, his unconventional career, his travels.

It starts in Istanbul with the delirious friendship of two preteens, and all the attendant proclamations of life-long devotion;

it develops in Montreal and around the world as a man and a woman try to make sense of their unruly lives and their tumultuous relationship;

and it ends in Istanbul, the eternal city to which Dimitri returns in the twenty-first century, fifty years after he had last seen his childhood sweetheart.

This is a story of food and lust and love and travel and an unending search for a sense of belonging, a sense of home. It is about culture clash, and the budding culture of a brave new land. It is about having some laughs and sharing them with the reader. The world's a stage, and all of us in it merely pawns at the whimsical dictates of a witty God.

BYRON AYANOGLU is a Montreal-based writer and food/travel journalist. He has reported in newspapers and magazines for thirty years, and published many books, among them three restaurant guides, ten cookbooks including the best-selling *Simply Thai Cooking*, a well-received first novel (*Love in the Age of Confusion*) and an acclaimed memoir (*Crete on the Half Shell*), translated into three languages, and optioned for film. This new book returns to his roots in Istanbul and follows a coming-of-age in sixties-seventies Montréal.

The cover photographs and design are by ALGIS KEMEZYS.

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