

## Celebrated by Readers in Many Countries, **THE MISSING ROSE** Continues to Build Readership Worldwide

Successfully representing contemporary Turkish Literature in the international arena, Serdar Özkan's debut novel, *The Missing Rose*, has been translated into 44 languages to date, and is now among one of the most translated novels of World Literature. Entering bestseller lists as the No.1 bestselling foreign fiction in various countries, *The Missing Rose* has remained on bestseller lists for weeks.

*The Missing Rose*, often compared and likened to all-time favorites *The Little Prince* by St. Exupery and *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho, is a unique novel of self-discovery. *The Missing Rose*, like *The Little Prince* and *The Alchemist*, emphasizes the universal side of man. The young author Serdar Özkan believes that it is for this reason that a first novel has been translated into so many languages and gained the approval and appreciation of readers from so many different cultures.

Intertwining different cultures and philosophies with contemporary modern life, *The Missing Rose* acts as a bridge between East and West. Following in the footsteps of Diana, the heroine of *The Missing Rose*, the reader sets out on a journey that extends from Greek mythology to the Sufi poet Yunus Emre; from William Blake to Socrates; from mysticism of the East to *The Little Prince*; from Mother Mary to Nasreddin Hodja; from modern life to metaphysics; from the real world to the world of dreams; and from San Francisco to Istanbul.

Giving equal space to eastern and western motifs in his works, Serdar Özkan was asked in an interview, "Are you an easterner writing about the West or a westerner writing about the East?" The author gives enough priority to the universality of man and our common points to reply, "Well, I think I'm a human being."

With its universal messages bringing cultures together and reconciling the East and West, *The Missing Rose* is a work that carries a promise of hope, especially in a world where cultural conflict is constantly on the rise. Stating on Canadian television that *The Missing Rose* is one of the most beautiful stories she has ever read, book critic Christine Michaud especially emphasizes this aspect of the work by saying, "One could say that this book has the power to unite us." Michaud adds that the story addresses all kinds of people.

In his novels Serdar Özkan emphasizes our meeting points, rather than our differences. While accepting differences among people coming from various cultures, the author contends that still our similarities as human beings are far more important than our differences. Having lived in America for four years during his university education, Özkan says that these ideas formed while he was living in a culture completely different from his own. And in fact, *The Missing Rose* tells the story of a foreigner who comes to Istanbul in search of her twin sister.

At the same time, *The Missing Rose* is the story of a young woman who has abandoned her dreams and even herself in pursuit of the approval and praise of others. *The Little Prince's* rose and the roses of Istanbul accompany Diana in her struggle of reclaiming herself. The story, to parallel the dualities within Diana of vanity versus humility and ego versus soul, ends in Ephesus the ancient city which embodies both the temple of Artemis and the house of Mother Mary.

"The human condition. We're all like the city of Ephesus, home to both Artemis and Mother Mary." Diana

"Turks' Little Prince charms the whole world."

**Helsinki Sanomat – FINLAND**

"His book is a modern fable, profound and wise—similar to the masterpiece 'The Little Prince' by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry."

**DPA - GERMANY**

"Magnificent. What this novel does is so magnificent. One could say that this book has the power to unite us."

**TVA Television - CANADA**

“Serdar Özkan represents the main exponent of contemporary Turkish Literature.”

**Moleskine City - ITALY**

“A fairytale debut.”

**Boek – HOLLAND**

“The Missing Rose is a bridge between East and West.”

**Vijesti – SERBIA & MONTENEGRO**

“I adored this book, I loved it. I found that the author’s observations on human nature are excellent.”

**Gino Chouinard, Salut Bonjour Weekend - CANADA**

"A wonderfully inspiring story about seeking and finding true happiness."

**MAGAZIN 2000plus - GERMANY**

“A major global success. Compulsory reading for all who are thrilled by The Alchemist, The Little Prince and Jonathan Livingston Seagull.”

**Air Beletrina - SLOVENIA**

“The Missing Rose is one of the most beautiful stories I have ever read in my life. When you finish reading it, you feel like you’ve received a gift. I felt like that.”

**Christine Michaud, TVA - CANADA**

“If you like books such as The Alchemist or The Little Prince you will *love* The Missing Rose.”

**Time Out**

**For More Information on The Missing Rose : [www.serdarozkan.com](http://www.serdarozkan.com)**