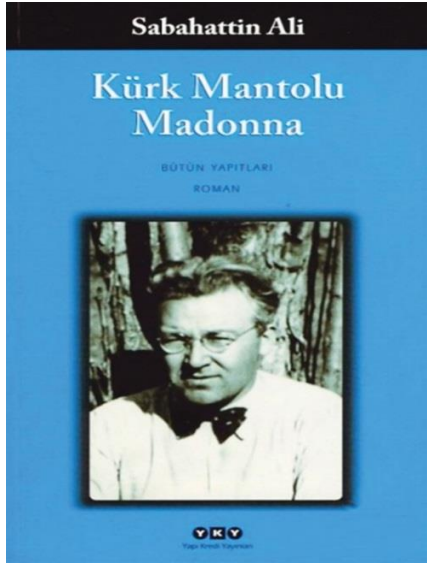


Madonna in a Fur Coat

Burak AVCI



Kürk Mantolu Madonna - the most popular book of Sabahattin Ali who is one of the most important writers of modern Turkish literature - is now available in English under the title “Madonna in a Fur Coat.

Sabahattin Ali is one of the most prominent writers of modern Turkish literature. Although having been written a long time ago, his books are still quite popular among Turkish readers today.

Sabahattin Ali was born in 1907. He studied at the Teacher Education School in Balıkesir, and then he was transferred to the Teacher Education School in Istanbul. Following his graduation, he served as a teacher for one year in Yozgat. He earned a fellowship from the Ministry of National Education and studied in Germany from 1928 to 1930. After returning to Turkey, he taught German language in high schools in Aydın and Konya.¹ He was a poet, writer and journalist. He was editor and author in the weekly journal "Marko Paşa".²

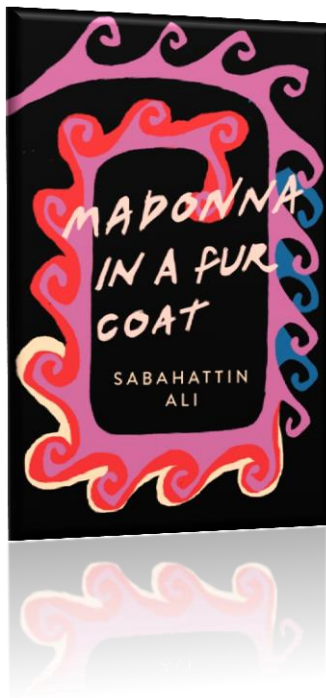
His masterpiece “Kürk Mantolu Madonna” (Madonna in a Fur Coat) has sold over 1 million copies since 1998 According to YKY (Yapı Kredi Kültür Sanat Yayıncılık) – the publisher. It was also stated by the Turkish Librarians’ Association that “Madonna in a Fur Coat” was the most borrowed book in 2015.

¹ Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sabahattin_Ali on 14 May, 2016.

² Retrieved from [https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Markopa%C5%9Fa_\(dergi\)](https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Markopa%C5%9Fa_(dergi)) on 14 May, 2016.

It is also an important point that a work by Sabahattin Ali has been translated into English for the very first time. His book ‘Kürk Mantolu Madonna’ has been translated by Maureen Freely and Alexander Dawe, and published by Penguin Books U.K. The novel centers on a post-World War I love affair between a Turkish student - Raif Efendi - and a German singer - Maria Puder - in Berlin. As well as including profound historical and political content, it is a romance, which thus attracts young people. It is possible to see the photos of the book accompanied by a cup of coffee taken and posted on Instagram by many "book lovers".

I also find it useful to add that "Kürk Mantolu Madonna" has already been published in German by Dorlemann, and has seen four print editions in Russian, Croatian, Arabic and Albanian.³



'It is, perhaps, easier to dismiss a man whose face gives no indication of an inner life. And what a pity that is: a dash of curiosity is all it takes to stumble upon treasures we never expected.'

4

³ Retrieved from <http://www.dailysabah.com/arts-culture/2015/04/01/turkish-masterpiece-to-be-translated-into-english> on 14 May, 2016.

⁴ Retrieved from <https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/285012/madonna-in-a-fur-coat/> on 14 May, 2016.