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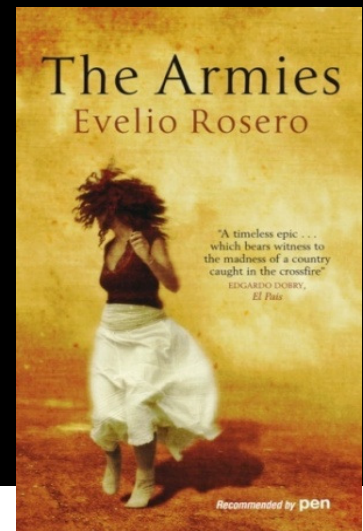
MURDOCH BOOKS

Media Release

THE ARMIES

By Evelio Rosero

Publishing January 2009, RRP \$29.95



'Unquestionably one of the most important Latin American novels of the last few years' – *El Universal*

An old Colombian man bears witness to the senseless violence engulfing his country in an immensely disturbing book where every detail is true to life.

Ismael is a retired school teacher in a small Colombian village. He gathers oranges, admires beautiful women and has an idyllic everyday life. When the village is ransacked by an anonymous army, he is thrown into the fray and his mental stability collapses.

The tragedy which engulfs the inhabitants of this village has indeed become an everyday occurrence in this country. People are kidnapped; killed; they disappear at the hands of unidentified groups such as the armies of the title: guerillas, paramilitaries, narcotics traffickers.

Instead of describing the reality of an unpredictable violent world, Rosero imitates it – with the dense, confused prose of a man going mad. Instead of portraying violence, he has created a violent novel. In this story, no one is spared, no one is protected.

Recommended by PEN, the international association of writers fighting for freedom of expression and human rights

Evelio Rosero studied Social Communication at the Externado University of Colombia. He is the author of seven novels and two collections of short stories, as well as books for children and young adults.

Anne McLean has translated the novels of, among others, Javier Cercas, Julio Cortázar, Ignacio Padilla and Tomás Eloy Martínez. Her translation of Javier Cercas' *Soldiers of Salamis* won the 2004 Independent Foreign Fiction Prize and the Premio Valle Inclán.

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