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The People Smuggler

Author: Stéphanie Coste

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Through the intertwined stories of migrants and their executioner, Stéphanie Coste paints a panormama of history and a maimed continent.

When you've made "hope your stock-in-trade," as Seyoum cynically puts it, and become one of the biggest human smugglers on the Libyan coast, your brain consumed by khat and drink, do you have a shred of humanity left? That is the question when the nth convoy of migrants desperate to cross over shows up. But with them, his past suddenly comes back to him: a family destroyed by the Eritrean dictatorship, conscription into Sawa training camp, scenes of torture, escape, imprisonment, and lost love...

Awards: Prix de la Closerie des Lilas

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