



The bookstore, a space to examine literary commitment in Tahar Djaout's *Le Dernier été de la raison*

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Abstract: In his last, unfinished, novel, the Algerian writer Tahar Djaout sent his writing into a brief cycle of literary engagement with a narrative immersed in the violent unrest of the Algerian "Black Decade." Holed up in his bookstore, Djaout's main character rejects the fanaticism imposed by the Vigilant Brothers. Yet *Le Dernier été de la raison* lends itself to a more complex reading that questions the real effectiveness of literary engagement during a dark period of Algerian history.

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