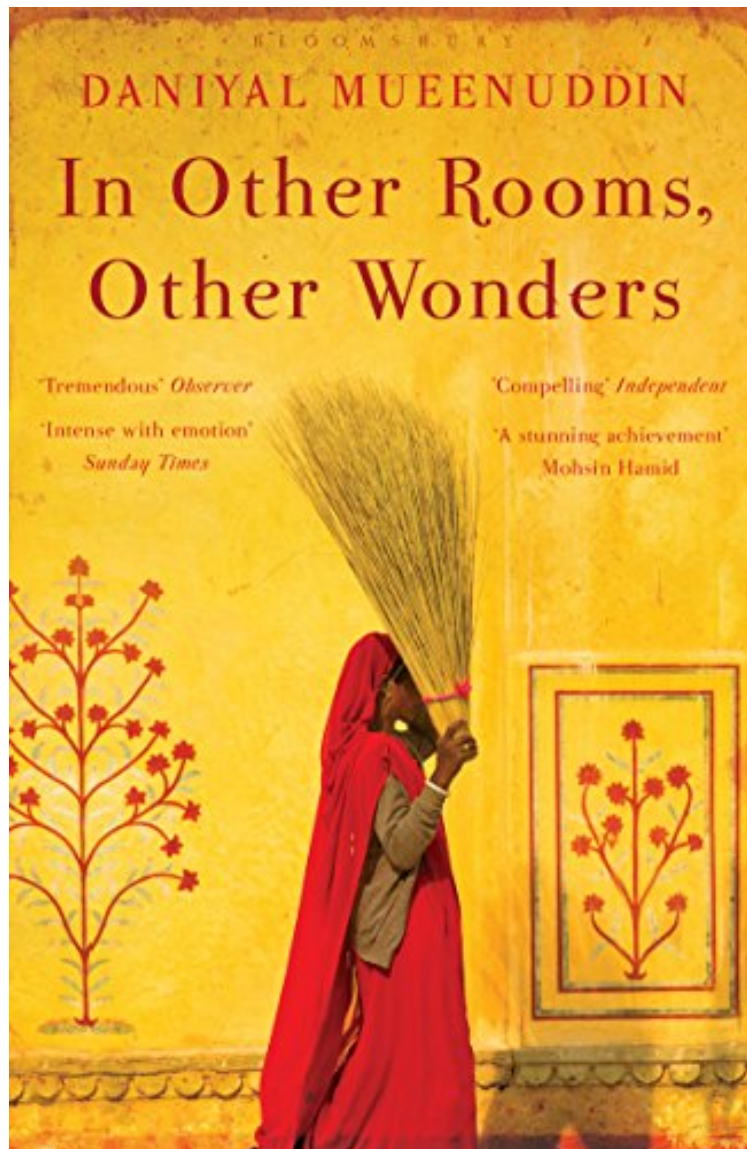


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In other rooms, Other Wonders

Von Daniyal Mueenuddin

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Von Daniyal Mueenuddin : In other rooms, Other Wonders before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In other rooms, Other Wonders:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A rising StarVon Holger K.In other Rooms, other Wonders is a set of short stories of different length, loosely connected by the person and family of the big landowner K.K. Harouni. The stories paint a rather sombre picture of today's Pakistani society: decadent rich landowners whose glory times are way past them, corrupt policemen and politicians, a rightless

lower class, and the partying, drunk jeuness dore of Islamabad and Karachi. Be aware, this is not a book of happy endings (even when they are open, you are hardly inclined to believe in a happy one). Nevertheless, the author has talent, no doubt. And, beeing a kind of gentleman farmer in Pakistan himself, he knows pretty well about what he is writing. So the stories feel very authentic. Some stories, especially those which describe the hard life and limited perspectives of the simple peasants and servants, are good and quite illustrative. However, if you have read your share of Indian literature, most of this seems familiar. Although Pakistan is a deeply islamic country, the characteristics of the society are more or less identical with those of India, which is a learning by itself. But it also makes the book less special. Until you reach the title story. This is when the author excels, weaving a party girl and her city friends, a modern farmer boy with clear views of the future, and the peasants' world into one great picture, centering on a lonely woman lost in a world that offers her everything except an aim. Here, we leave the exotic and the picturesque to enter contemporary literature at its best that could have been written in New York, London or Cape Town. May we assume that the author has processed his personal experiences in here? Looking back at the whole oeuvre, may I express my hope that D.M. writes a novel next? It might be a great one.

Kurzbeschreibung In Other Rooms, Other Wonders illuminates a place and people as it describes the overlapping worlds of an extended Pakistani landowning family. Servants, masters, peasants and socialites, all inextricably bound to each other, confront the advantages and constraints of their station, the dissolution of old ways, and the shock of change. These richly textured stories reveal the complexities of Pakistani class and culture, as they describe the loves, triumphs, misunderstandings and tragedies of everyday life.