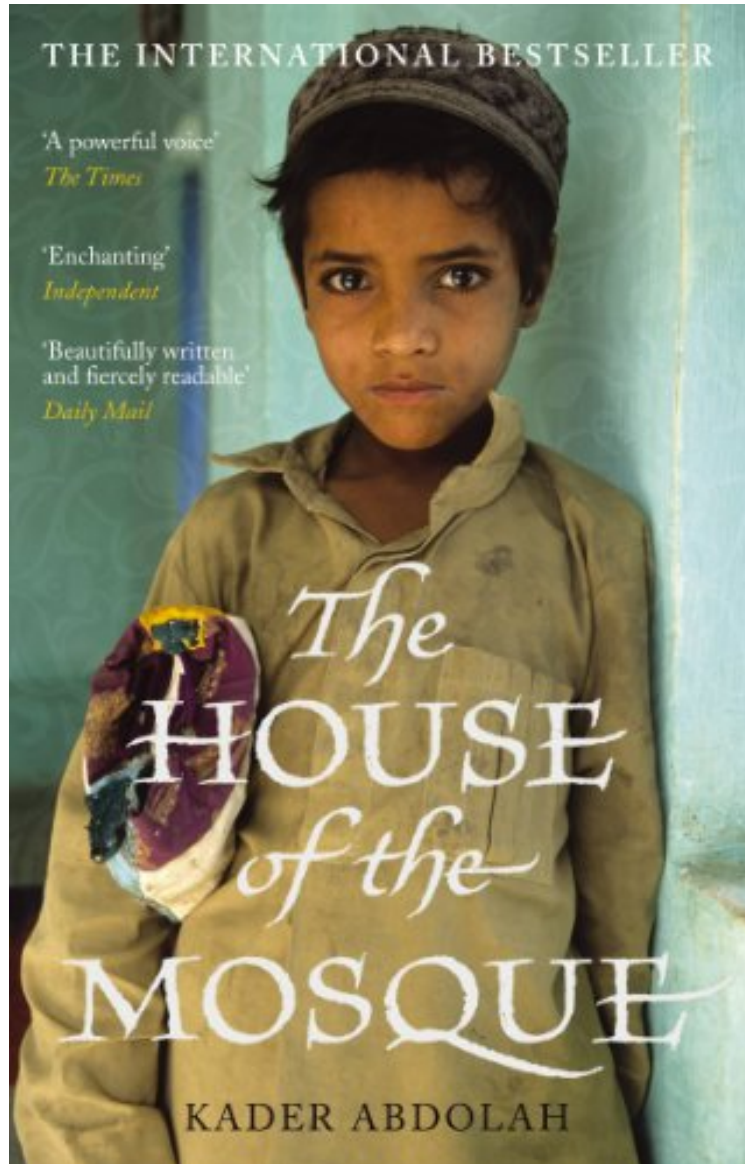


(Library ebook) The House of the Mosque

The House of the Mosque

Von Kader Abdolah

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Von Kader Abdolah : The House of the Mosque before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The House of the Mosque:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A historical fresco of two decades of Iranian lifeVon DandrusianusThe House of the Mosque is an extraordinary book, presenting Islam at the crossroad of modernity.On the one side one sees the traditional rural type of Muslim family

living following the centennial Islamic and local customs rhythms. This traditional Muslim family ordines its life between cardinal events of existence: birth, childhood, marriage and death. The community is cohesive, the people are sympathetic, respectful to each other and sensible to others sorrows. Nosrat, the modern and antitraditionalist photographer, tells Lizard, the disabled boy of the family: 'Still you're lucky. (') This family gives you love and people need love. But in many ways they're backward.' This all too boring, maybe completely foreign, style of life for a modern individual is the center of a solidarity type, which I lived personally in a Christian traditional village in my childhood. This human warmth is impossible to recreate in the individualist modern societies. Aqa Jaan, the custodian of the mosque and an important merchant in Senejan is the prototype of rural traditionalism. He is righteous in his heart and deeds, a monument of human dignity and honesty and so is his wife. He is a devout Muslim, ready to forgive and to close an eye to sins derived from the inherent human weaknesses. Aqa Jaan is making everything in his power to maintain the unity of the family and to protect them. Nothing wrong should happen to such a honest and peace loving family, for Allah is protecting the righteous. Nevertheless the unthinkable happens. The Iranian Islamic Revolution thorns the Iranian society apart, unimaginable horrors take place. Absurd scenes of violence and immorality shake unexpectedly the traditional Muslim communities to the core. The new ideological regime is in no sense different in its atrocities from the Stalinist Russia or the Nazi Germany. The author writes: 'Islam had created a rift in Aqa Jaan's family. For the past eight centuries the house had been united in its struggle against the enemies of Islam, fighting the battle from the pulpit of the mosque. Now, for the first time, the family's foe was Islam itself'. That is, Aqa inadvertently faced the dual character of the Islamic dogma, the one which spawns fundamentalist movements all over the world. A despaired Aqa, does not recognize the fault in his religion, and confronted with abuses enters a moral dispute with the fundamentalist Zinat. He asks her: 'Which Allah do you mean? Why don't I know that Allah?' The moral hazard of the Islamist regime of the Ayatollahs is strictly based on the Islamic dogmas. Khalkhal explains the right of the regime to arbitrarily suppress and kill people referring to Islamic dogma: 'Allah has two faces: a merciful one and a cruel one. Now is the time for the cruel, terrifying face. It's the only way to keep Islam alive'. Moreover, the Islamic repression turned soon from anti-shah actions and anti-American slogans to actions against Muslims themselves. The main question remains unanswered. Will ever Islam be able to reconcile with modernity, human rights? Although the author suggests the house continues its life as before. I doubt it badly. The traditional way of living was forever compromised and buried with the arrival of television, radio, cinema. Even the fundamentalists in power till today lost contact with traditional Islam, they were unwillingly affected by modernity and science applications in our daily life. Aqa Jaan was for me the last mohican, the last samurai, a late statue of bygone ages. This living monument endured till the late XXth century, a record in itself.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Great story, beautifully written
 Von Nordlicht This is story telling at its best. Lots of strands interwoven, painting a picture. Needing to read between the lines, to get a feel for what is left unsaid, for the symbolism used. I felt transported to Iran, not just because that is the setting and context but because of the style and feel of the book. There is a lot of beauty. Beauty in individual characters and in their relationships. Beauty in the descriptions of the country, of society, of the fabric of life. Beauty, maybe, because so much of it describes a world that is lost. Yet so much of it is deeply disturbing as well. The violence and oppression by successive governments. The betrayal in relationships. The selfishness and striving for personal gain. Human nature at its worst, both on a large and on a small scale. I have come away feeling like I understand Iran just that little bit better.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Erhellend
 Von Miesi Wiegel Als Zeitzeuge der Umbrueche in jener Zeit, fand ich es sehr spannend die Geschichte noch einmal aus der Perspektive der Menschen die damals im Iran lebten zu hoeren. Vieles wurde mir klarer durch die Lektuere des Buches. Die Schicksale, der Menschen die dieses Haus ueber eine sehr lange Zeit bevoelkerten, werden spannend erzaehlt. Erstaunlich dann das Auseinanderdriften durch politische und religioese Einfluesse von Aussen. Die willkuerliche Ausuebung von politischer und religioeser Macht ist immer wieder erschreckend fuer mich. Spannend und interessant von der ersten bis zur letzten Seite.

Kurzbeschreibung In the house of the mosque, the family of Aqa Jaan has lived for eight centuries. Now it is occupied by three cousins: Aqa Jaan, a merchant and head of the city's bazaar; Alsaberi, the imam of the mosque and Aqa Shoja, the mosque's muezzin. The house itself teems with life, as each of their families grows up with their own triumphs and tragedies. Sadiq is waiting for a suitor to knock at the door to ask for her hand, while her two grandmothers sweep the floors each morning dreaming of travelling to Mecca. Meanwhile Shahbal longs only to get hold of a television to watch the first moon landing. All these daily dramas are played out under the watchful eyes of the storks that nest on the minarets above. But this family will experience upheaval unknown to previous generations. For in Iran, political unrest is brewing. The shah is losing his hold on power; the ayatollah incites rebellion from his exile in France; and one day the ayatollah returns. The consequences will be felt in every corner of Aqa Jaan's family.

Pressestimmen "The history of Iran in the 20th century glints through . . . moving and illuminating." "--Publishers Weekly "on "My Father's Notebook"" Beguiling and utterly original. It is that rare thing: a deeply political novel that informs, thrills, and moves

in equal measure." --Tahmima Anam, author", ""A Golden Age""A lovely novel, has the cadence of a fairy tale and the clarity of truth ." --"Wall Street Journal" on "My Father's Notebook""Myth and unlovely reality meet and mingle . . . Conveys the heartache of an exile who cannot help but feel a traitor." --"Christian Science Monitor" on "My Father's Notebook""An intimate portrait . . . Abdollah's prose . . . is clean and lyrical . . . A sweeping novel that chronicles the tumultuous modern history of [Iran]." --"Kirkus s" on "My Father's Notebook"KurzbeschreibungIn the house of the mosque, the family of Aqa Jaan has lived for eight centuries. Now it is occupied by three cousins: Aqa Jaan, a merchant and head of the city's bazaar; Alsaberi, the imam of the mosque and Aqa Shoja, the mosque's muezzin. The house itself teems with life, as each of their families grows up with their own triumphs and tragedies. Sadiq is waiting for a suitor to knock at the door to ask for her hand, while her two grandmothers sweep the floors each morning dreaming of travelling to Mecca. Meanwhile Shahbal longs only to get hold of a television to watch the first moon landing. All these daily dramas are played out under the watchful eyes of the storks that nest on the minarets above. But this family will experience upheaval unknown to previous generations. For in Iran, political unrest is brewing. The shah is losing his hold on power; the ayatollah incites rebellion from his exile in France; and one day the ayatollah returns. The consequences will be felt in every corner of Aqa Jaan's family.