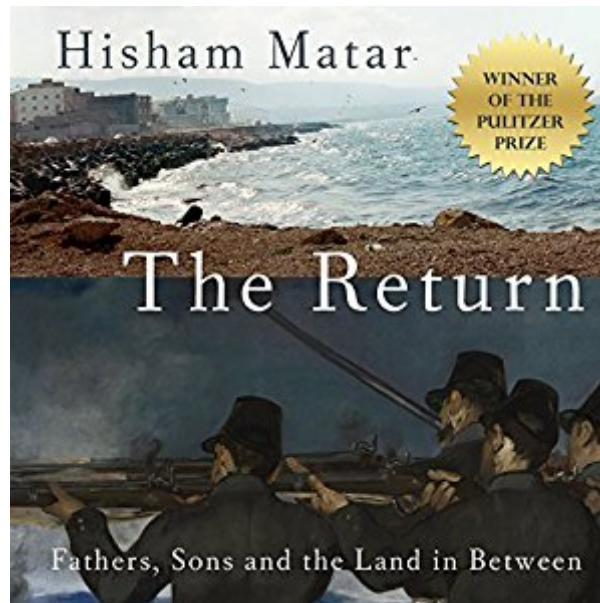




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The Return: Fathers, Sons And The Land In Between



Synopsis

Pulitzer Prize, Biography/Autobiography, 2017 From the author of *In the Country of Men*, a Man Booker Prize and National Book Critics Circle Award finalist, comes a beautifully written, uplifting memoir of his journey home to his native Libya in search of the truth behind his father's disappearance. When Hisham Matar was a 19-year-old university student in England, his father was kidnapped. One of the Qaddafi regime's most prominent opponents in exile, he was held in a secret prison in Libya. Hisham would never see him again. But he never gave up hope that his father might still be alive. "Hope," as he writes, "is cunning and persistent." Twenty-two years later, after the fall of Qaddafi, the prison cells were empty, and there was no sign of Jaballa Matar. Hisham returned with his mother and wife to the homeland he never thought he'd go back to again. *The Return* is the story of what he found there. It is at once an exquisite meditation on history, politics, and art; a brilliant portrait of a nation and a people on the cusp of change; and a disquieting depiction of the brutal legacy of absolute power. Above all, it is a universal tale of loss and love and of one family's life. Hisham Matar asks the harrowing question: How does one go on living in the face of a loved one's uncertain fate?

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #46 in Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships >

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in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Middle Eastern

Customer Reviews

Although the book was about loss, fear, familial uprooting, and other awful situations, I thought the writing to be factual, precise, and unemotional. I found myself lacking sympathy for the characters,

and getting bored with their continuing searches, even though the premise of the story should arouse more of a response!

This is an important story that needs to be told to remind us of the injustices in the world. The author crafts an intriguing story, embedded with vivid descriptions and history. The only drawback is that his tendency to paint a picture impacts the flow of the real story.

The author takes us on his intimate journey to get the closure he needs with his father. In so doing, we are able to experience many of the challenges faced in his homeland as well as the complexities that inhabit all family members. This is a courageous undertaking on his part. Beautifully written!

Powerful emotional and reflective. Interesting read about a history that is often overlooked here in the West. Pick this book and enjoy the Read!

An excellent read. A line in particular will stay with me for a long time: why do past generations pass the duty of rebelling against dictatorship to us? It is not fair, is it. (These are not exact quotes)

wonderfully written, poignant, incredibly sad and meaningful for all that is happening in the Middle East today. A proud son does all he can to keep his father's legacy alive and accomplishes this to the best of his human strength.

good read

This is a beautifully told tale. I felt like it opened my eyes to Libya during a very troubling time. I also loved the way the author wrote about the shadow his father cast.

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