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Mr. Rosenblum Dreams in English: A Novel

By Natasha Solomons



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At the outset of World War II, Jack Rosenblum and his family escape Berlin for London. Jack embraces the welcome pamphlet instructing immigrants how to act like "the English." He acquires Saville Row suits and a Jaguar. He never speaks German, apart from the occasional curse. But one key item--membership in a golf club--remains elusive. So Jack hatches a wild idea: he'll build his own.

Jack's wife, Sadie, does not share this obsession. She wants to cook her mother's recipes and remember the life they left behind. But when Jack relocates them to the country, Sadie watches their savings deplete as he pursues his quixotic dream.

In this gently surprising first novel, Natasha Solomons tells the captivating love story of a couple making a new life--and their wildest dreams--come true.



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Screenwriter Solomons's debut novel is the pleasant, ripped-from-the-family-archives story of German exile Jack Rosenblum and his unlikely postwar quest to build a golf course in the Dorset countryside. Fresh off the boat and with a Helpful Information and Friendly Guidance for Every Refugee pamphlet in hand, Jack dives passionately into assimilation, starting a booming carpet business, buying his suits at Henry Poole and his hats at Lock of St. James, and avoiding his native tongue at all costs. And while he can afford golf clubs at Harrod's, he can't check off the last item on his list: join a golf club. On impulse, he buys a damp acreage and embarks on the final leg of his assimilation. Meanwhile, his wife, Sadie, obsesses over the past, churning out *Baumtortes* and other confections. It's undeniably winsome, and while the pace is lackadaisical at best, the details of postwar Britain are nicely observed, and the narrative offers a sweet perspective on some very heavily traveled turf. (June)

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Review

“Adams who is also the CEO of Bee Audio, narrates a bittersweet, comic love story filled with World War II nostalgia.”

?Publishers Weekly

(The Times (London))

“This is a stunning book, with setting, scenes, and dialogue all artfully managed.”

?Jewish Book World

“A beguiling debut novel sure to appeal to the legion of fans of novels like Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows’s *The Guernsey Literary* and *Potat Peel Society*.”

?Library Journal [starred review]

“Prepare to be seriously charmed. . . . Hilarious and touching.”

?The Times (London)

About the Author

Natasha Solomons is a screenwriter who lives in Dorset, England. *Mr Rosenblum Dreams in English* is her first novel and was inspired in part by her childhood spent at the cottage her own grandparents bought with restitution money from Germany. The recipes in the novel are from her grandmother's ancient cookbook. Solomons' most recent novel is the *New York Times* bestseller *The House at Tyneford*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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