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Our Lady of Alice Bhatti

By Mohammed Hanif



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Our Lady of Alice Bhatti By Mohammed Hanif

From the author of the acclaimed *A Case of Exploding Mangoes* (“An insanely brilliant, satirical first novel . . . Belongs in a tradition that includes *Catch-22*”—*The Washington Post*), a subversively, often shockingly funny new novel set in steaming Karachi, about second chances, thwarted ambitions and love in the most unlikely places.

The patients of the Sacred Heart Hospital for All Ailments need a miracle. Alice Bhatti may be just what they’re looking for. She’s the new junior nurse, but that’s the only ordinary thing about her. She’s just been released from the Borstal Jail for Women and Children. But more to the point, she’s the daughter of a part-time healer in the French Colony, Karachi’s infamous Christian slum, and it seems she has, unhappily, inherited his part-time gift. With a bit of begrudging but inspired improvisation, Alice begins to bring succor to the patients lining the hospital’s corridors and camped outside its gates. But all is not miraculous. Alice is a Christian in an Islamic world, ensnared in the red tape of hospital bureaucracy, trapped by the caste system, torn between her duty to her patients, her father and her husband—who is a former bodybuilding champion, now an apprentice to the nefarious “Gentleman’s Squad” of the Karachi police, and about to drag Alice into a situation so dangerous that perhaps not even a miracle will be able to save them. But, of course, Alice Bhatti is no ordinary young woman . . .

At once a high comedy of errors and a searing illumination of the seemingly unchangeable role of women in Pakistan’s lower-caste society, *Our Lady of Alice Bhatti* is a resounding confirmation of Mohammed Hanif’s gifts of storytelling and of razor-sharp social satire.



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Editorial Review

From Bookforum

Our Lady of Alice Bhatti imbues all its moments with unsparing warmth and almost unbearable pathos.

—Jess Row

Review

"Belly-laugh-inducing. Sam Lypsyte funny. Faulty-Towers funny. The silliness is anarchic and profound...a ripping story and a rowdy piece of art" New York Times "Relentlessly readable" Guardian "Alice Bhatti's Karachi is so alive with sensations that you can smell the sewers, hear the screeching of tyres, and feel the humidity" Scotsman "Superbly witty" The Times "An amusingly anarchic tale of Karachi life" Lady

Review

"Relentlessly readable. . . . A comedy for those who think, a tragedy for those who feel. . . . Hanif does Karachi better than Rushdie does Bombay. . . . Perhaps Pakistan's brightest English-language voice."

—*The Guardian*

"Rambunctious, vulgar, funny, and moving, Alice Bhatti wields enormous emotional punch. . . . Right now the world could do with more books that portray Pakistanis that way."

—*Time*

"In this bold, uncompromising novel, Hanif draws a compassionate and despairing portrait of a nation in bedlam."

—*Financial Times*

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This Our Lady of Alice Bhatti usually are reliable for you who want to be a successful person, why. The main reason of this Our Lady of Alice Bhatti can be one of several great books you must have is usually giving you more than just simple examining food but feed you with information that perhaps will shock your prior knowledge. This book is actually handy, you can bring it all over the place and whenever your conditions at e-book and printed people. Beside that this Our Lady of Alice Bhatti forcing you to have an enormous of experience for example rich vocabulary, giving you trial of critical thinking that could it useful in your day pastime. So , let's have it and revel in reading.

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