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Tea in the Harem

By Mehdi Charef



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The lives of second-generation Algerians in a Paris housing project, the basis of the award-winning film.¶"Writing that is both dazzling and economical and a moral and aesthetic elegance that does not judge. The greatest attribute of this extraordinary first novel is its thirst for life."--*Le Quotidien de Paris*



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Tea in the Harem By Mehdi Charef Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Majid, the son of Algerian immigrants, lives on the fringes of French society in a dreary, concrete slum. Thrown out of technical school, he hangs out with his friends and drinks, takes drugs, vandalizes the neighbors' property and commits robberies for spending money. Charef has captured the texture of life on the street, the combination of hopelessness and bravado that marks these alienated youths, and as a picture of their despair, this first novel is a modest success. But Charef had more in mind. Early on, he notes that Majid is "neither French nor Arab. He's the son of immigrants--caught between two cultures, two histories, two languages and two colours of skin." The implication is that Majid's pathological lifestyle is somehow a result of cultural schizophrenia--an intriguing suggestion, but Charef never returns to it. He shows us a little of the other side of the coin--the French intolerance that manifests itself in racial slurs and police harassment--but even that seems unrelated to Majid's self-destructive behavior. Ultimately, this is a novel not about culture shock but about the bleak world of a forgotten underclass.

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Review

Charef describes everyday hurts and bruises as if they were distinctive characteristics of the human condition. This unadorned voice goes straight to the heart. Listen to it! Le Monde Tea in the Harem does not wallow in the world it depicts, it expresses the urge to get out. It is a dry, fast and ferocious book. Figaro Magazine Grabbed me from page one and never let go! -- Hanif Kureishi

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: French

Users Review

From reader reviews:

John Long:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be change about what going on or facts even knowledge to make them keep up with the era that is certainly always change and progress. Some of you maybe can update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know what type you should start with. This Tea in the Harem is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and need in this era.

Dale Hollander:

Now a day people who Living in the era everywhere everything reachable by connect with the internet and the resources within it can be true or not involve people to be aware of each facts they get. How individuals to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book. Looking at a book can help people out of this uncertainty Information particularly this Tea in the Harem book as this book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred pct guarantees there is

no doubt in it everybody knows.

Kelli Valverde:

Playing with family within a park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try point that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition of information. Even you love Tea in the Harem, it is possible to enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout people. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its called reading friends.

Margie Rodriguez:

As a college student exactly feel bored to be able to reading. If their teacher inquired them to go to the library or even make summary for some book, they are complained. Just tiny students that has reading's soul or real their leisure activity. They just do what the teacher want, like asked to go to the library. They go to presently there but nothing reading significantly. Any students feel that reading through is not important, boring and also can't see colorful photographs on there. Yeah, it is for being complicated. Book is very important for you personally. As we know that on this period, many ways to get whatever we want. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore , this Tea in the Harem can make you feel more interested to read.

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