



Harem

Barbara Nadel

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The body of a teenage girl is discovered in a cistern deep below the city of Istanbul. For the Turkish police force's most talented officer, Inspector Çetin Ikmen, this is a difficult case. The girl was his daughter's friend and her attire, that of a nineteenth-century Ottoman, offers no easy explanation. With his promise of justice to the dead girl's mother still fresh on his lips, Ikmen is suddenly taken off the case and reassigned to the kidnapping of an ageing movie star's wife. The star is hiding something and so, Ikmen fears, are his superiors. A powerful secret exists in the labyrinthine city; one which those on either side of the law will do anything to prevent surfacing...

Harem Details

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Chrissa Vasileiou says

να απ? τα σημαντικ?τερα πρ?γματα που ψ?χνω π?ντα στα βιβλ?α που διαβ?ζω,ε?ναι το ταξ?δι.Θ?λω να ταξιδε?ω μαζ? τους πνευματικ?,γεωγραφικ?,πολιτισμικ?..Το "Χαρ?μι" μου πρ?σφερε αυτ? τη δυνατ?τητα και ε?μαι πολ? χαρο?μενη γι' αυτ?! ?ταν μ?λιστα το ταξ?δι συνδυ?ζεται με αστυνομικ? δρ?ση,μυστ?ριο και ?γκλημα,τ?τε θεωρ? πως ?χω βρει τον τ?λειο συνδυασμ?!

Στο βιβλ?ο αυτ? λοιπ?ν,που αποτελε? μ?ρος της σειρ?ς βιβλ?ων της Barbara Nadel με ?ρωα τον επιθεωρητ? Τσετ?ν Ικμ?ν,ο αναγν?στης γνωρ?ζει απ? πρ?το χ?ρι την Κωνσταντινο?πολη - τους ανθρ?πους,τα ?θη,τα ?θιμα και τις παραδ?σεις τους,τα "αρ?ματα" της,τα μυστικ? της,τα μυστ?ρι? της.Η αστυνομικ? δρ?ση ε?ναι ολοφ?νερη σε κ?θε σελ?δα,οι εξελ?ξεις διαδ?χονται η μ?α την ?λλη σε γρ?γορο ρυθμ?.Π?ντα και παντο? ?μως παραμονε?ει η Π?λη,αποφασισμ?νη να τυλ?ξει στα μεταξωτ?,πολ?χρωμα π?πλα της αυτ?ν που διαβ?ζει το βιβλ?ο.?λα συνδ?ονται με την παρ?δοση,που χ?νεται στα β?θη των αι?νων.?λα ξεκινο?ν και καταλ?γουν εκε?,και ο σ?γχρονος πολιτισμ?ς χορε?ει σφιχτ? αγκαλιασμ?νος με τα πιστε?ω και τις αντιλ?ψεις προηγ?μενων εποχ?ν,με τ?τοιο τρ?πο που λες πως αποκλε?εται το ?να να καταφ?ρει να επιβι?σει χωρ?ς το ?λλο.

Ε?ναι ολοφ?νερο πως η Nadel ε?ναι και λ?τρης της ανατολ?τικης παρ?δοσης και της Τουρκ?ας,αλλ? και -ευτυχ?ς!- ?ριστη γν?στρια της Π?λης και της ιστορ?ας.?λα τα βιβλ?α της διαδραματ?ζονται εκε? και ε?ναι παντο? δι?σπαρτη στο κε?μενο η ?νεσ? της με τον τ?πο.Απ? τα διαδρομ?ς των ηρ?ων σε οποιαδ?ποτε συνοικ?α της Π?λης μ?χρι τις ιστορικ?ς αναφορ?ς και απ? τις παραδ?σεις μ?χρι τη σκιαγρ?φηση και των πιο μικρ?ν λεπτομερει?ν,νομ?ζει κ?ποιος πως διαβ?ζει κ?ποιον τουριστικ? οδηγ?!!Αξ?ζει συγχρητ?ρια η συγγραφ?ας,που πραγματικ? παρουσι?ζει μια ιστορ?α τ?σο καλ? δεμ?νη και τ?σο καλογραμμ?νη,τ?σο πλο?σια και γεμ?τη με την Ανατολ?,εκτ?ς απ? το καθαρ? αμιγ?ς αστυνομικ? στοιχε?ο.

Δεν αρνο?μαι πως,προσωπικ?,δυσκολε?ομαι να αποδεχτ? τις συν?θειες των Το?ρκων.Τα ?θιμ? τους,η κατ?τερη θ?ση και η δουλοπρ?πεια των γυναικ?ν,η κοινωνικ? ανισ?τητα,τα πιστε?ω και ο τρ?πος σκ?ψης τους,η υποταγ? στον ?ντρα και αφ?ντη του σπιτιο? ε?ναι πρ?γματα εντελ?ς ?ξω απ? μ?να και την κοσμοθεωρ?α μου.Καταλαβα?νω πως μιλ?με για ?ναν ?λλον κ?σμο,με ?ναν τρ?πο σκ?ψης εντελ?ς διαφορετικ? απ? το 'δυτικ?' και το σ?βομαι -δεν μπορ? να πω ?μωσ πως το εκτιμ? κι?λας.Γι' αυτ? αρχικ? σκεφτ?μουν πως ?σως αυτ? με χαλο?σε κ?πως..Τελικ? δε με εν?χλησε,αν και με ξ?νισε κ?πως.Κι αυτ? το οφε?λω στη συγγραφ?α.Μ?νο και μ?νο απ? αυτ? το γεγον?ς,θα με κ?ρδιζε ο?τως ? ?λλως!

Το "Χαρ?μι" ε?ναι ?να βιβλ?ο που απ?λαυσα πολ?,?μουν απ?λυτα προσηλωμ?νη στην ιστορ?α του διαβ?ζοντ?ς το,αλλ? νομ?ζω πως θα συνεχ?σω να προτιμ? τα αστυνομικ? μυστ?ρια που λαμβ?νουν χ?ρα κ?που στη Δ?ση.Κατ? τη γν?μη μου,?μωσ,ΑΠΟΚΛΕΙΕΤΑΙ κ?ποιος λ?τρης των αστυνομικ?ν ιστορι?ν γενικ? και της Τουρκ?ας ειδικ? να μην το λατρ?ψει!Το συστ?νω ανεπιφ?λακτα!

Mehwish says

Crime thriller. That you buy on a notion that it will kill the boredom of insomnia and when are just pretty

much bored of your own ponderings over conspiracy theories, tedious travelings and visiting relatives.

It is quick read; how you opt to skim the repeated content. Especially when the character is a chain-smoker and in every page or two he is lighting his cigarette (if only I knew how it feels)

The plot was ambitious and steady. Too many characters in it which made it somewhat exciting for me. I like multi dimensional perspective stories which however makes it repetitive. Confidentiality is the fundamental aspect of the novel.

The plot is of few criminal Turks making clandestine Harem underground Istanbul resembling the ancient tendency of secrecy and festal accessible to personages beyond commonplace involving lewdness and a murder of a girl of which mystery is being pursued by the most idiosyncratic and talented officer of Turkey. However it's not easy for him as he surmises how huge the influential people are behind it and ironically he's being controlled by them. There is manipulation and distortion of truth for the common people.

AGMaynard says

I had read parts of two other Inspector Ikmen novels. Good immersion in modern and historical Turkey. This one reaches back into the Ottoman past for traditions while looking at a modern sex trafficking scheme.

Glitter says

It was an OK book which I read in segments, brokenly due to the rather mediocre plot and extensive backgrounds on cheating characters of this book. The conclusion was a disappointment and I'm rather upset at the hopeless stance the writer has taken in concluding this detective/crime-style plot. I might try reading other works of this author in the future however, just to see whether I unjustly berated this piece.

Barbara says

Set in Istanbul – hard to wrap my head around the numerous Turkish names – a tale about the discovery of a teenage girl dressed in the attire of a nineteenth century Ottoman Odalisque. The victim is the daughter of investigator Ikmen's daughter. Deep mystery with connections to the Russian, Sicilian, and Turkish mafia. Different – I liked it.

Jack Laschenski says

OK!

Dead girls in 19th century Odalisk costumes.

A Turkish movie star in Hollywood.

Decapitation as a persuader.

American mafia connections (they lose!)

Cisterns and tunnels beneath Istanbul.

A police psychiatrist with serious post-partum depression

A teenage police officer's Turkish daughter in love with a beautiful Jewish boy

Want to throw anything else into this stew???

Couldn't put it down.

Barbara wins again.

Jessica Howard says

A book redolent of the mysteries and secrets hidden in Istanbul since Ottoman times. Inspector Ikmen must simultaneously attempt to solve the disappearance of a famous actor's wife, and the brutal rape of a young girl, while simultaneously dealing with his recalcitrant teenagers, and the complications surrounding the birth of his colleague Suleyman's son. If you're into big conspiracy theory type mysteries, as well as some characters with creepy sexual tendencies, this book will be right up your alley.

Irismacpherson says

Interesting mystery set in Istanbul. Not my kind of book. I had a hard time following characters re turkish names. I liked the main detective Cetin Ikmen but did we have to hear how many times he lit a cigarette. I felt the plot was too ambitious and unruly. In the end I was uncertain what was what. Some parts were too simplistic. Hard to believe the police didn't know about the Harem when street people did. Did not make me feel i would like to visit Turkey anytime soon

Spuddie says

As much as I love foreign-based mysteries (this one is in Istanbul, Turkey)...they do all seem to share some common themes that get old and wearying after awhile, such as corruption in the police and government, with no real resolution even when the mystery is solved. I love this main character--Cetin Ikmen, a chain-smoking atheist who is married to Fatma, a devout Muslim. They have nine children and live in a crowded apartment, mostly because Ikmen is squeaky clean and doesn't take bribes. His group of co-workers and friends are also very interesting. This is the fourth in series (with many more to come) and despite my enjoyment of the character and the culture immersion provided by the book, the mystery itself was destined to be disappointing and I foresee the same thing happening with others in the series. I will likely carry on...the books are well written and as I said, interesting from a cultural perspective. But I will continue to

leave lots of space between them.

Cheryl says

I have not been back to Turkey for a good ten years after living there for 13 years. So this book brought back many memories. The plot was excellent. I have fallen in love with Çet'n İkmen. someone not too familiar with the country I think would find this quite interesting . i will be reading the rest of Çet'n's books and i hope his integrity stays with him. I would prefer less sex but the book's subject did call for it. i do recommend it.

Elizabeth says

Inspector Ikmen begins by trying to solve the case of the brutal death of a teenage girl, a friend of his daughter's. Before he is finished he has stirred up old hidden crimes and he is left disillusioned because he has to kowtow to powers beyond his control if he is to keep his family and friends safe.

Victoria Sayar says

Love these Books

As ever, another great read from the most wonderful Barbara Nadel. I've lived in Turkey for 16 years yet she has introduced me to so much I didn't know about Istanbul and her stories are so well written with such wonderful true to life characters.

Cathy says

Este não é o género de livro que costumo apreciar. Associado, desde há uns anos que as traduções para português me fazem revirar os olhos. Assim, as expectativas iniciais eram francamente baixas. No entanto, este livro surpreendeu-me. Para alguém que dificilmente se deixa cativar por policiais, dei por mim sempre a questionar-me como tudo se ligava. A verdade é que me prendeu até ao fim. A cadência foi excelente. E o fim não era nada expectável e estranhamente realista. A autora não caiu na tentação de criar um personagem principal impossível que se liberta de todas as situações. Ikmen é extremamente humano e credível.

Adorei toda a descrição do império otomano, os seus costumes e características; bem como, do vislumbre da Turquia. Toda a crítica social e política implícita na história tornaram-na ainda melhor.

A tradução também me pareceu de boa qualidade.

Sem duvida vou voltar a ler outros livros desta autora.

Jelena Milašinović says

This one was much darker and bleaker than the previous books. It was enjoyable to read, but somehow sad -

like a world you knew and liked was ending. Replaced by something unknown, but darker.

Chris says

Inspector Ikmen rocks in this page turning thriller. But the rock of Ikmen's integrity is tested to its limits in this book. Ikmen begins investigating the murder of one his daughter's coworkers and is swept into an international conspiracy theorist's dream about sex and power. Meanwhile on the homefront his daughter is falling in love with a Jewish boy, his brother-in-law is moving in with him to die, and one of his officers is engaging in some inappropriate behavior. At the same time a Turkish movie star from Hollywood returns home to become the focus of Ikmen's attention and we get to visit the sewers and the underground of Istanbul. The thing I love most about Ikmen is how different he is from all the other stereotypical policemen in crime fiction who are all career focused, lonely, divorced, and like to drink. Ikmen has nine kids and lives in a crowded apartment. He is devoted to his job but also to his family and his wife, Fatima. Needless to say he couldn't spend so much time at work if he didn't have such a good partner in his wife. In this episode Fatima is gone most of the time so Ikmen gets to bond with his teenage daughter who has always been a source of concern to him.
