



Gates to Tangier

Mois Benarroch, Sara Maria Hasbun (Translator)

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An international bestseller published in 8 languages (Spanish, Italian, French, German, Portuguese, Hebrew, Arabic, English).

"If I had a nomination vote for the nobel prize he'd be in the running." Klaus Gerken, Ygdrasil editor
When the father of the Benzimra family dies, he leaves a will informing his family of an illegitimate son he fathered with a Muslim woman in Morocco. To receive the inheritance, the family is instructed do everything possible to find that son. They embark on a journey to Tetouan, Morocco, from places as far-flung as Jerusalem, Madrid, New York and Paris. They are in search of their lost brother; a journey that will bring them face-to-face with their Moroccan roots and with their Judaism, a journey that will force them to think about their identities. After this experience they will no longer be the same. The novel reveals the Sephardi-Ashkenazi conflicts that exist in Israeli society as well as the ties and tensions between the Arab world and Europe, and between Middle Eastern and Western cultures. This is a world of complexities and nuances that are often blurred in the versions shown to you by the media.

This is a novel about the little-known world of the Jews of Northern Morocco, full of intrigue, humor, and eroticism. But there is also the possibility of a homecoming.

"Gates to Tangier is not primarily a critique of the marginalization of the Sephardim in Israel, but rather an exploration of the Moroccan component of Sephardic identity. The Benzimras' pilgrimage to Tangier, however, is not suggesting that this Moroccan component is the essence of Sephardic identity. Benarroch follows Khatibi's bilingual paradigm in suggesting that identity is expressed in the intersection of languages." Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo, *Memories of the Maghreb: Transnational Identities in Spanish Cultural Production* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012)

Gates to Tangier Details

Date : Published June 28th 2017 by Babelcube Inc. (first published January 1st 2008)

ISBN :

Author : Mois Benarroch , Sara Maria Hasbun (Translator)

Format : Kindle Edition 186 pages

Genre : Fiction

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Lee says

I really enjoyed reading this book, the writing in the book is very formal so it can be daunting but once you get into the swing of the language it's easy to read. There are point of view switches between the characters which some readers don't like, but in my opinion I think it really adds to the characters and depth of the story. I particularly like that there is a point of view for the dead brother, I really like seeing his take and his story in this book as well. He is mentioned often and in high regard which is so special.

There are also wonderful little vignettes between chapters that lighten up the mood of the book and are inspirational and beautiful. This was one of my favorite parts of the whole book. Those little nuggets of beauty between the chapters.

My favorite character was the little sister because she really had the heart of the family in mind. She was so special and so amazing in so many ways and always had very deep and beautiful thoughts about things that were acknowledged by the family.

There was a twist in the story that was TOTALLY unexpected and lends so much to the plot changing that it really had me turning pages after and made it hard to put down. (literally I read the last half of this book in one sitting). It's such a good story and I hope that Mr. Benarroch continues the story because it's riveting and where he left off definitely hints at more.

Solveig says

Personally, I did not enjoy this book very much. Read why in my review here:

<https://forums.onlinebookclub.org/vie...>

Leonie Stanley says

The first chapter of this book tossed me right into the middle of an unfolding family drama. Seated in the

office of the lawyer the Benzimra family have just learned the contents of their deceased fathers will and the fact that they must find their half-brother born from a Muslim mother and their Jewish father before they can access their inheritance.

At first this work of fiction confused me. I could not understand why it seemed that the writing was just random thoughts on a page flowing from one scenario to the next. I battled to pick up the storyline until I got halfway through the book. That was when I realized that the storyline WAS the random thoughts of a specific character. In the words of Alberto “I’m above this, and behind everything, I write like Alberto Benzimra, only Alberto Benzimra writes like Alberto Benzimra, and no one understands what he writes.” At this point I stopped, flipped back a few pages and started again and I finally understood the rhythm and flow of the book!

The chapters are titled with the name of a character from the book and each chapter allowed me into the mind and the thought process of that character. I experienced their feelings, their fears and their anguish from being born Jewish and who have left their country by their father’s instruction in search of a better life. Now they must return to a life they once knew, again by their fathers wish, in search of their brother and with their travels all their memories whether good or bad were flooding off the pages of this brilliant book. Although this book only spanned over a couple of weeks, the writing allowed me to learn much about each character and the issues they were facing that these characters seemed to be my childhood friends who have shared their lives with me over a long period.

The book was insightful and it highlighted the ever-present conflict between the various religions and cultures. Although Gates To Tangiers forms part of a trilogy, the book can stand on its own and once I understood the flow and the rhythm of the book it was an easy read. In my opinion, the book ended on a high – almost like there was something deliberately left untold! Maybe a new series with the origins in this trilogy?

If you enjoy fast paced fiction, you will enjoy this book.

Roo MacLeod says

With the death of their father, a family gathers to hear the will. Alas their is a clause. An illegitimate child was born in Morocco and must be found before the proceeds of the will come to fruition. I found this tale slow going and apart from the initial concept and first chapters i never got into the story.

Mois Benarroch says

Pof favor dejen reseñas en amazon, sobre todo en amazon España
<http://amzn.to/1UffHyr>
Gracias

Mois Benarroch

César Lasso says

Literatura israelí y, de algún modo, también española y marroquí. Se trata de un coro de monólogos interiores y de un conjunto de encuentros-desencuentros con Tetuán de fondo, la ciudad en que nació el autor; el desencuentro de los sefardíes con los askenazis en Israel, y la llaga en el alma de ser judío.

Tracey Madeley says

I had hoped that this book about a Moroccan Jewish community would be full of rich cultural references, but I was very disappointed. The characters were very shallowly drawn and although there was an interesting premise it was not well done. In short I found the book quite boring. I can't help wondering if this author should use his insight into the Jewish community to write a work of non-fiction rather than fiction, thus avoiding the problem of showing and telling.

AliceofX says

Short version is I found it to be pretty awful. The characters were indistinguishable, dialogue was laughable and the whole novel felt unfinished. My full review can be found [here](#).

Morgan says

To start off, I did not finish this book. I am an avid reader and just could not make it through this book. According to my kindle I only read about fifteen percent of the book. It took me four days to get that much done before I just called it a wash. The grab you factor was not there for me. The sad thing is that there is at least two more books in this series. Now let's get into the good or as I should say not so good things about this book. As I said, I did not finish it.

The book is Sunset: Book one of the Nightlord Series, by Garon Whited. I would classify this in a few different genres. Those are alternative world fantasy, scifi fiction, and vampire related material. It just seems like all the other vampire books out there with just a little twist. There isn't enough of a twist to keep me reading. I tried to read it through for online book club so that I could give them a decent review. Since I could not finish it I at least wanted to let you know the reasons as to why.

According to the rating system for the book club, I would give this 1 out of 4 stars. Per other rating systems I would give this 2 out of 5 stars. I thought that it would be a good book based on the reviews I read before I agreed to review it. I was really disappointed to find out it was not that great. I could not give it a higher rating because the wow factor was just not there. The book just drags on and on. It definitely needed to go through the editors a few more times. I was finding errors throughout the short part I read and it gets repetitive. If I would have known the book was in such a poor state I would not have bothered even starting it. When it finally gets to the point you forget what the author was trying to get across and have to reread chunks of the book.

The whole book isn't bad though. I do like the layout of it. It is written as a diary. Instead of chapters it has

the date and day of the week. It took me a little while to get into the layout but it is definitely a twist to the normal books I have read.

This book is tailored to a younger audience or really young adults. It involves traveling to other worlds with magic and vampires. You kind of get thrown into a scenario and from what I read it doesn't get any clearer. The plot is hard to follow. In my opinion, the theme falls into love, friendship and revenge. The main characters from the first fifteen percent of the book are Eric, Sasha and his friend Travis.

A quick view of Eric is that he was transformed by Sasha who is centuries old. She teaches him things that he has forgotten. At first he didn't believe in vampires or magic. Sasha was apparently his mistress or lover in his past life. Something happens to her and he has to rely on his magic to try and figure out his problem involving her. They are also being chased by the Church of Light. The whole magic thing is where I lost interested when he was trying to time hop. Even as fiction that never really caught my interest. I also don't understand how his friend Travis doesn't go crazy or report him to a mental place.

Tracy Rowan says

Because my review was done for The Online Book Club, I can't reproduce it here, but I can provide a link to the content: <https://forums.onlinebookclub.org/vie...>

Vasu Adunutula says

This was the first book that I have ever read which dealt with the history and the challenges that Jews have faced over the last two thousand years. The book was quite informative... and painted the picture quite well.

However, I found the style a bit taxing. The fact that the author brought up a number of questions without driving towards some kind of conclusion also felt a bit of an anti climax - and I just ended up with the feeling of having gone through a documentary than the telling of a story.

CLAUDIO ARAYA ESPINOZA says

En las puertas de Tanger

Discreta novela que trata de 4 hermanos que al fallecer su padre en su testamento deja estipulado que para repartirse la herencia deben encontrar a un hermano fuera del matrimonio y del cual se desconoce su paradero. Para tal efecto recorren diversos países ya que es una encomienda difícil para todos. Durante los viajes cada uno hace un recuento de lo difícil que es vivir en Israel con todos los antecedentes históricos por colindante con los musulmanes. En este aspecto es interesante por los antecedentes históricos de un país que siempre ha sido azotado por atentados musulmanes.

Georgia says

Review can also be found in Chill and read

The book starts off at a lawyer's office, where the Benzimra family is being read about the deceased father's will. The will informs the family that the late Benzimra has a illegitimate son and if they want to get their hands on the inheritance, they need to find him. The brother to all is to be found in Morocco where their father used to live. From that point onwards, the brothers and sisters go on a trip all together, apart from the little sister who is pregnant, in search of the new half brother of theirs.

The book travels the reader through many cities of the world, wherever there are Jews to be found, Morocco, Jerusalem, Madrid, New York, Paris and elsewhere. The Benzimra family leaves all over the world. Some are located in Jerusalem, a brother is in Madrid, another is in New York, a sister is in Paris. The family used to live in Morocco, but they emigrated to all those places in fear of what could possible happen to them, being Jews.

The chapters of the book are named after the brother or sister that is actually providing their thoughts and actions about this whole mess. Every chapter is different than the previous one as the story evolves. They don't repeat the same events, but they carry on from where the previous one stopped. And this is the nice thing about this book, as there is one story told by many people and there is no re-telling!

The basic theme around this book is actually the Jews. One that does not know much about them, can read it and learn a lot. Of course we all know about the Nazis and the holocaust and we all hate it. However, there is a tendency that people accuse Jews for all the bad things in this world. Yes, the Jewish people are scattered around the world, as they didn't really have a home until the country of Israel was created. However, many have not accepted that. And the Jews hate that there cannot be a year, a month or even a week, without a dead Jew, a murdered one, not one dying of natural causes.

It has been a little difficult to go through the book. It was especially because if you are not surrounded by Jews, you don't really know their customs and their way of thinking and all. It can be a little tiring. On the other hand, it could be mentioned as a masterpiece by a real Jew or one that understands the Jewish people.
