

[Download] The Weight of a mustard Seed

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Wendell Steavenson

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Wendell Steavenson : The Weight of a mustard Seed before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Weight of a mustard Seed:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good insightBy U291832Where to start on this review; this book was everywhere all at once, it starts at the time of the American invasion of Iraq in 2003 but than it backtracks in time. Loosely the story revolves around this Iraqi general, Kamel Sachet, his rise in the Iraqi army, his personal life, how after the defeat in Kuwait his resignation but refusal to quit the army, serving a despot. His turn to Islam and his attempt to stay clean and straight in a country and with a regime that didn't make that possible.Despite myself I liked this book, for me, it gave me valuable insight into life in Iraq under Saddam Hussain and even in the psyche of the Iraqi. It provides some explanation for the violence that has plagued Iraq since Saddam's downfall.Why didn't I give it more stars? The story is fairly confusing, the author will introduce new people and give their whole back story, for an entire chapter, so when you get back to the main story of Sachet you are a bit discombobulated, confused. I couldn't keep up with all the names. Additionally, the author adds her thoughts into the story, how she viewed the people she was talking too, which adds further to the muddle. The author also tries to understand why so many people went along with the brutality of the Saddam dictatorship, that should have been a book unto itself - just seemed like a detour in the main story. Finally, the story is pieced together through interviews, and as Sachet is dead, so much is left out, the author can only guess or infer to Sachet's motivates, thoughts, etc. Even his demise, how Sachet was killed is up in the air - too much unresolved; the book ends but I feel left hanging.Now the big question, would I recommend the book.....yes I would, it definitely lets one see something of everyday ordinary Iraqi's before and after the fall of

Saddam Hussain and perhaps why they don't get along and why they don't like the US. Good book for a commuter or on a long plane ride. (less)0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must read bookBy suraj parkash MalhotraWriter has done a wonderful job in spite of facing many risks. The exposure of Saddam Hussain is complete. To begin with he gave the impression of a benevolent ruler. My idea about him has been shattered and like others I am under no more illusions. He fully exploited the loyalty of others and as when he thought his purpose has been served he removed those very persons out of the way. The saddest thing is that hardly any one challenged him but rather wanted to be on his right side. On the whole a very revealing book. My compliments to the author For doing a thorough job.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. No small amount of bravery by Ms. Steavenson to compile this riveting storyBy Andy OrrockI'm a big fan of author Wendell Steavenson based on the strength of her previous work, her Georgia-based travelogue *Stories I Stole*. She's outdone herself here with this recounting of the tale of Iraqi general Kamel Sachet al-Janabi, his career, aspirations, successes, family and tragic denouement. Ms. Steavenson was looking for the story of an individual who, in the recounting, would symbolize the arc of Iraqi military life under the direction of Saddam Hussein. As she cast around this desire, she heard one repeated refrain: You must speak to the family of General Kamel Sachet. What the author has done here is to piece together Sachet's professional life by talking to his family and one-time military colleagues. In doing so, you learn insights into the Iran-Iraq War, the invasion of Kuwait and the first Gulf War. In addition to Ms. Steavenson's talent as a writer, it took no small amount of bravery on her part to compile this story. Her reward should be your reading of this compelling book.