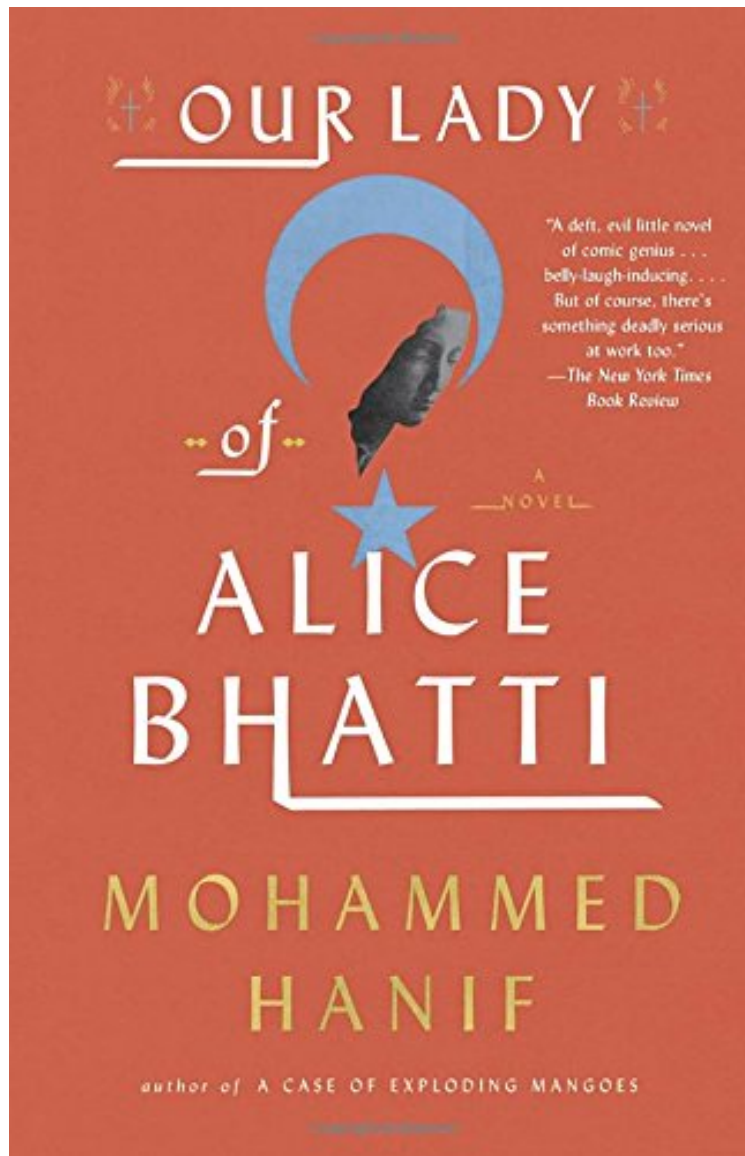


Our Lady of Alice Bhatti

Mohammed Hanif

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#993751 in Books Mohammed Hanif 2013-02-26 2013-02-26 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .70 x 5.201, .59 #File Name: 0307948943252 pages Our Lady of Alice Bhatti | File size: 41.Mb

Mohammed Hanif : Our Lady of Alice Bhatti before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Our Lady of Alice Bhatti:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. This Novel Has Been Underrated by Many: It's Brilliant By Eric Selby Reading this novel felt to me somewhat like my movie experience with "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel" with that delightful, energetic Indian hotel manager--or mis-manager. Of course the novel takes place in Pakistan, not India. And Alice is certainly not like the hotel manager, but the author's narrative voice most certainly is. It is a wonderful

voice. This is a funny-sad novel written in the style of an Pakistani speaking English--by the way it is published in England's English, i.e., humour. Potential readers need to be aware that you may need to be patient getting into the syntax as well as the style, one in which the reader isn't always that certain what is happening when a new scene emerges, but then suddenly the reader has the ah-ha enlightenments. The novel is set in Karachi's Christian slum, the French Colony, with Alice Bhatti, skinny from malnutrition except large in breasts, is the delightful main character, "an underpaid junior nurse in an understaffed" [very, very understaffed] "welfare hospital, The Sacred. The cast is wonderful including Alice's father, Joseph, who isn't really very wonderful at all--her mother died when Alice was young--but then emerges in a very unique and very surprising role at the end in the epilogue. (The reader will not easily forget the ending of this novel, an ending that gives meaning to the title.) Noor is a 17-year-old hospital worker who simultaneously is caring for his mother, dying of cancer, often the only way to swat away the pests that inhabit the unsanitary place. The not-so-skilled main doctor, Dr. Pereira, and the sardonic nurse supervising Alice, Sister Hina Alvi. Alice, by the way, was, in the corrupted view of the administration of the nursing school where she was "trained" "its most troublesome student." Delightfully so for the reader. "Sometimes it seems to her [Alice] that the seven thousand patients in the hospital, hundreds crawling in the corridor, thousands more out in the compound using bricks as pillows, are feeling a bit better because they are in the hospital compound, only a few metres away from operating theatres, labs and drug dispensaries." In other words his hospital is on the edge of the section of Karachi where the wealthy live and work and are cared for. The novel is filled with back stories, sometimes told obliquely in unexpected places, giving the reader a sudden jolt of additional pleasure--or sadness. Alice meets Teddy Butt, an underling policeman who waxes his body-builder being and is in charge of getting criminals to and from places including not-Abu Zar. (I will not explain the not-Abu because that is part of the fun of the novel if you like your fun to be on the flip side of tragic. And Teddy's boss is Inspector Malangi who has a rather, well, I won't tell, last day on the job, on the day he retires. And then comes the epilogue. And I won't say more except that this is a really underrated novel by some of the reviewers here. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Magical Realism in Karachi By Constant Reader I don't know how Mohammed Hanif does it. He is a journalist in Karachi who works for the BBC and contributes to The New York Times. He is also a novelist who pours his despair, anger and wild creativity into phantasmagorical riffs about Pakistan, a country I would not care to visit. I am grateful for his voice. "Our Lady of Alice Bhatti" is a riff on Pakistan's brutal oppression of women as seen through the brief life of a hospital nurse from one of Karachi's slums. It is cleverly structured and somehow Hanif manages to leaven his tale with dark humor. As I said, I don't know how Hanif does it. This novel is brilliant. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Another great book from Hanif By C. Cresta Well done Mohammad! I loved "the Case of Exploding Mangoes" you've managed to out-do yourself with Alice Bhatti. It's a rarity to find a writer who can convey a difficult topic with such wit irony, which leaves me looking forward to your next book. I'm not going to give away the plots to Alice Bhatti or The Case of Exploding Mangoes because readers need to explore for themselves... I will say though, if you want to read a story conveying the reality people live with in the Far East but don't want the mental drain of Khaled Hosseini (whom I loved reading, but left me exhausted) read a Mohammad Hanif book... he's a fantastic storyteller.

Mohammed Hanif delivers a shockingly funny new novel set in steaming Karachi, about second chances, thwarted ambitions and love found 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 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 hospital's overflowing patients. 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, and torn between her patients, her father and her husband—who is about to drag Alice into a situation so dangerous that perhaps not even a miracle will be able to save them.

From Bookforum Our Lady of Alice Bhatti imbues all its moments with unsparing warmth and almost unbearable pathos. —Jess Row "In this amusing novel, Hanif renders the intricacies and limitations of Pakistan's lowest rungs with humor and candor, allowing as little pity for his characters as they allow themselves." - Publishers Weekly "Laced with humor, often ribald and iconoclastic, this is an insightful tale of pain and love, a story of a quest for humanity and grace in a desperate, chaotic society." - Kirkus "Rambunctious, vulgar, funny and moving, Our Lady of Alice Bhatti wields enormous emotional punch..." - Time Magazine "Hanif's storytelling is frequently impressive... touching and unusual." - Faith Brinkley, Literary "Perhaps Pakistan's brightest English-language voice... This very finely put-together novel sparkles and glitters but never shows off... Hanif's novel is relentlessly readable, compulsively so as it surges towards its apocalyptic conclusion... sometimes the prose attains the heights of poetry... Our Lady of Alice Bhatti is profoundly humane, and humanist." - Robin Yassin-Kassab, Guardian "The 200 pages spent in Alice Bhatti's presence are distressing, illuminating and often funny... In this bold, uncompromising novel, Hanif draws a compassionate and despairing portrait of a nation in bedlam." - Alice Albinia, Financial Times "...one of the subcontinent's most compelling talents... Hanif finds the humanity in the most flawed of his protagonists and, in some

unfathomable way, ends up affirming it." - Scotsman