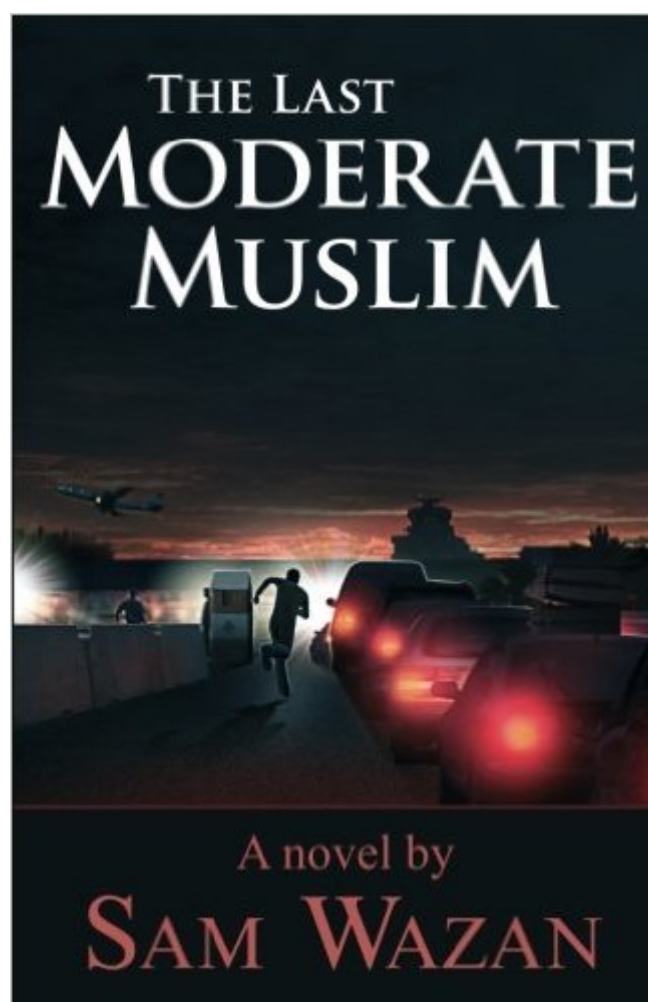


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The Last Moderate Muslim (Volume 1)



Synopsis

The intimate and dramatic story of two brothers, contaminated by their upbringing and religious violence, *The Last Moderate Muslim* is an authentic rendition of the root causes of chronic conflict in the Middle East. It is about negotiating a complex sibling relationship--one a budding terrorist, Nabil, the other a reluctant moderate, Ziad--in the absence of paternal affection. Ziad wages a jihad for his own survival among family and allies. The story reveals the power of education, interfaith love, resiliency, and simple yet life saving choices--those of acceptance, reconciliation, and forgiveness--as a means to counter senseless violence. Much like the protagonist, the author lived in a combat zone during the civil war in Lebanon, for fifteen years and witnessed sectarian executions, survived remorseless snipers and indiscriminate rockets--and ultimately negotiated a humanitarian way out. Inspired by his story, the novel exposes cultural details and unsparing insights into radical believers of various faiths that are applicable to the current situation in the Arab world and the Middle East, and that can ultimately suggest a road map out of the geopolitical and religious violence--toward peace.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Last Moderate Muslim is an authentic and engrossing story with a message and as such it is well worth reading. At its core the book is an indictment of war and the rationales we hide behind to justify our barbarous treatment of other people. The book is even handed in its condemnation of incivility no matter the source. It paints a picture of how war contaminates and diminishes us all. The story is centered around the experiences of Ziad Hadhari, the eldest son of a Muslim family living in West Beirut, one of the hot spots in Lebanon's civil war during the period spanning roughly the

years from 1975 to early 1985. The Hadhari family and their circle of friends and neighbors become the crucible through which we can see how our humanity is affected by war. As the conflict between the various factions - Christians, Muslims and Jews - escalates, all of the characters are all forced to make stark choices. Should they participate in the atrocities perpetrated by the warring factions, fan the flames of hatred, stand on the sidelines, or in the case of one family choose to flee the scene? Having survived a massacre by right wing Christians, Ziad at first vows to exact revenge for the massacre, but eventually comes to the realization that he does not want to participate in the bloody reprisals which are everyday occurrences in the war zone. The story follows Ziad's inner journey from hatred to fear and finally reconciliation as he attempts to work to counter the atmosphere of fear, tension and senseless violence engendered by the war. He finally makes good on his promise to emigrate to America in search of a better life. The one thing that the book is missing is a sense of the geo-political power structures at work in the Middle East.

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