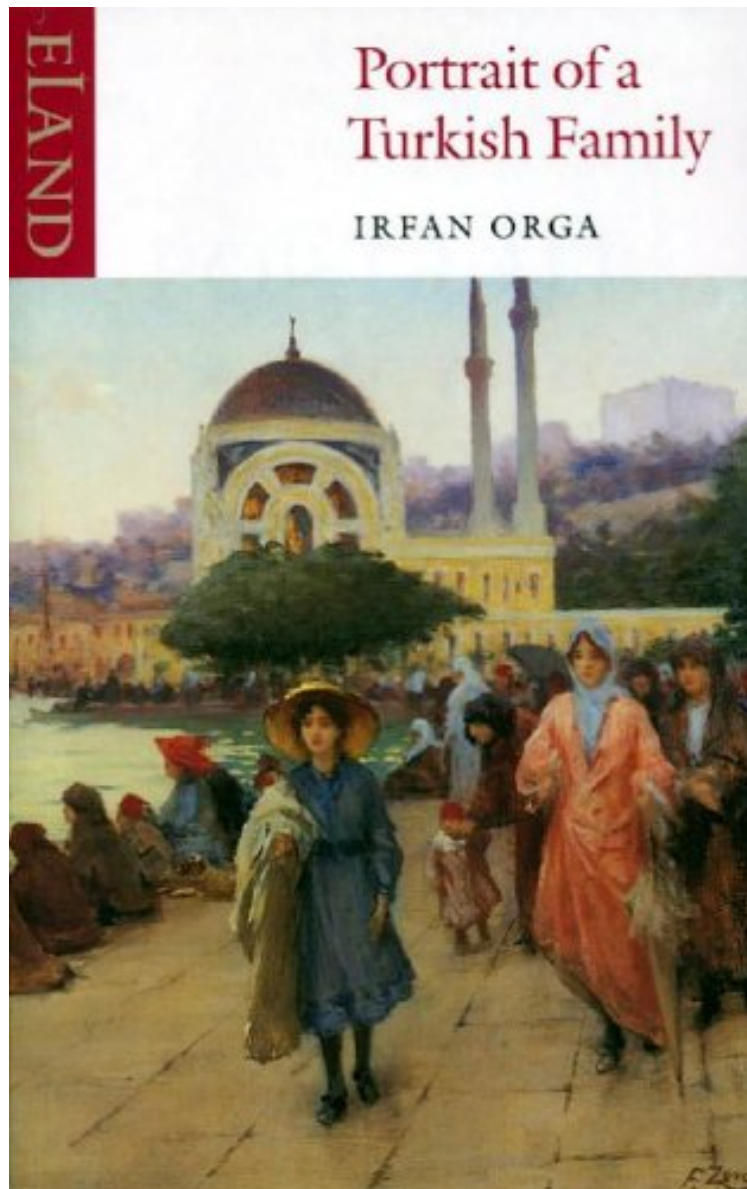


(Free) Portrait of a Turkish Family

Portrait of a Turkish Family

Irfan Orga

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Irfan Orga : Portrait of a Turkish Family before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Portrait of a Turkish Family:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book about turkish life pre and post WWIBy ORenDThis is a story worth telling. Not many have lived through such tumultuous times in their homelands and survived with enough sanity to tell the tale. I have read many stories around the world wars by Europeans. But there are so few such

stories from the non-European perspective. I found the language and narration a bit hard to get into at times. It lacked flow in many places. But the subject matter made the writing flaws almost insignificant. It was easy to sympathize with the author in most places. The only part I failed to understand was why his family believed he had become emotionally distant a long time ago. He describes his mother's hardness when dealing with impossible loss. He comes across as a sensitive enough child to understand that his mother's loss was tremendous and perhaps most sad. But he doesn't describe how exactly he became distant from his family later on. He seemed to try hard to give her security, but she still craves for some of the love that she lost in the war. Why did he fall short? These aspects were never explored in the book. The novel, however, offers excellent views into the lives of sheltered women in Muslim Turkey. Hiding them from the world left them ignorant and vulnerable in hard times when the men were no longer around to "protect them". It was heart breaking at times to see these proud upper-class women who were never taught anything besides rudimentary household skills come to terms with their new reality. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Increasingly disturbing By Meg This book starts out as boring as its title. It's a middle class Turkish family in the early 1900s. They squabble with relatives and have a comfortable life selling carpets. But WWI begins and each of them is literally ruined by the deprivation and horror they survive (or not). I'll never forget the description of the battle of Gallipoli in northern Turkey. What a horrible, pointless mess! It's quite a good book but harrowing. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Tale of Suffering in Ottoman Turkey By Robert Knox Well written, historically valuable, and very sad. What World War I was actually like for people, even a privileged family with some connections to power, in Ottoman Turkey. We know that Europe suffered terrible during The Great War. So did the rest of the world.

Describes in chilling, yet affectionate, detail the disintegration of a wealthy Ottoman family, both financially and emotionally. It is rich with the scent of fin de siècle Istanbul in the last days of the Ottoman Empire. His mother was a beauty, married at thirteen, as befitted a Turkish woman of her class. His grandmother was an eccentric autocrat, determined at all costs to maintain her traditional habits. But the war changed everything. Death and financial disaster reigned, the Sultan was overthrown, and Turkey became a republic. The red fez was ousted by the cloth cap, and the family was forced to adapt to an unimaginably impoverished life. Filled with brilliant vignettes of old Turkish life, such as the ritual weekly visit to the hamam, as it tells the "other side" of the Gallipoli story, and its impact on one family and the transformation of a nation. "It is just as though someone had opened a door marked 'Private' and showed you what was inside.... A most interesting and affectionate book." -Sir John Betjeman. "A wholly delightful book." -Harold Nicolson

"This book is a little masterpiece" Robert Fox, Daily Telegraph "This book is a little masterpiece" Robert Fox, Daily Telegraph "This book is a little masterpiece" Robert Fox, Daily Telegraph A wholly delightful book. --Harold Nicolson It is just as though someone had opened a door marked Private and showed you what was inside.... A most interesting and affectionate book. --Sir John Betjeman This book is a little masterpiece --Robert Fox, Daily Telegraph A wholly delightful book. --Harold Nicolson It is just as though someone had opened a door marked Private and showed you what was inside.... A most interesting and affectionate book. --Sir John Betjeman A wholly delightful book. --Harold Nicolson It is just as though someone had opened a door marked Private and showed you what was inside.... A most interesting and affectionate book. --Sir John Betjeman A wholly delightful book. --Harold Nicolson It is just as though someone had opened a door marked Private and showed you what was inside.... A most interesting and affectionate book. --Sir John Betjeman A wholly delightful book. --Harold Nicolson It is just as though someone had opened a door marked Private and showed you what was inside.... A most interesting and affectionate book. --Sir John Betjeman A wholly delightful book. --Harold Nicolson It is just as though someone had opened a door marked Private and showed you what was inside.... A most interesting and affectionate book. --Sir John Betjeman About the Author Irfan Orga was born into a rich Ottoman family which was decimated, financially and emotionally, by the First World War. He joined the Turkish Air Force but was forced into exile by a law forbidding members of the armed forces to marry foreigners. Living in England with his Anglo-Irish wife and their son Ates, he was largely supported by his wife, though the publication of Portrait of a Turkish Family and The Caravan Moves On made him a literary celebrity in the 1950s.