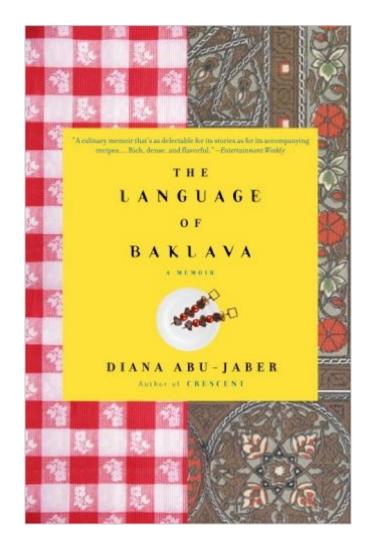
The book was found

The Language Of Baklava: A Memoir





Synopsis

Diana Abu-Jaberâ [™]s vibrant, humorous memoir weaves together stories of being raised by a food-obsessed Jordanian father with tales of Lake Ontario shish kabob cookouts and goat stew feasts under Bedouin tents in the desert. These sensuously evoked repasts, complete with recipes, in turn illuminate the two cultures of Diana's childhoodâ "American and Jordanianâ "while helping to paint a loving and complex portrait of her impractical, displaced immigrant father who, like many an immigrant before him, cooked to remember the place he came from and to pass that connection on to his children. The Language of Baklava irresistably invites us to sit down at the table with Dianaâ [™]s family, sharing unforgettable meals that turn out to be as much about â œgrace, difference, faith, loveâ • as they are about food.

Book Information

Paperback: 352 pages Publisher: Anchor; First Edition edition (March 14, 2006) Language: English ISBN-10: 1400077761 ISBN-13: 978-1400077762 Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.7 x 8 inches Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies) Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (65 customer reviews) Best Sellers Rank: #214,961 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 in Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Regional & International > Middle Eastern #358 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Culinary #1416 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Authors

Customer Reviews

Normally, I wouldn't want to give autobiographical information when writing about someone else's work. However, it's necessary for me to give some of my own background in order to explain my responces to Ms. Abu Jaber's memoir/cookbook.I grew up in Oregon with an American(Scots-Irish/Norwegian) mother and an Arab (Palestinian-Israeli) father. So, while I wouldn't claim that my life has mirrored Diana Abu Jaber's background, I would say there are a lot of similarities.Much of this book rings true. The overprotective father. Family grudges and gossip. Relatives crisscrossing the ocean. The audience for the "The Bold and the Beautiful" (an American soap opera) that you find in the Middle East. Immigrant parents who want all their children to

become doctors, lawyers, and engineers. Taboos against dating. The expectations to marry someone who is also Arab, even if your own mother isn't. You get the idea.One chapter that sticks out to me is "Immigrants' Kids". One part of it describes the nostalgia that a dish of stuffed cabbages (a popular arab dish) can bring. Reading it almost made me shed a tear because it reminded me that its been a long time since I've had stuffed cabbages.Like Diana, I also had a father who wished to move the family back to the Middle East. Like her, I also fought with my dad over this happening. I admire her for writing about such a conflict because it can still be painfull for me to recall such old disagreements.If there is a line that I felt summed up the book's theme it is when a friend of Diana's asks: "How come my father never cooked me any eggs?" Of course Diana's father has cooked her eggs and plenty more.In my opinion, this is a book about family love.

The author's memoir, The Language of Baklava, is as rich and full-bodied as the pungent recipes that are peppered throughout the book, both sweet and spicy, a peek into bi-cultural life that is amusing and heartwarming. Abu-Jaber infuses her memoir with the joy of family and the love of food, meals shared with many because "you never know who's just come over from the old country". The old country being, in this case, Jordan.Her two novels, Arabian Jazz and Crescent, are filled with the kind of colorful personalities, both Jordanian and American, who have filled Abu-Jaber's life, the author drawing inspiration from a unique assortment of extended family and friends. In this flavorful book, she tells her own story, growing up a child of two cultures. Moving from America to Jordan and back, the young Diana absorbs everything around her, the people, events and aromatic dishes prepared by her father. She speaks to a personal experience of cultural ambiguity as a schoolgirl in America, with a father who has his own ideas about the behavior of adolescent daughters. Throughout, the author gathers the reader in, introducing her extended family in all their glory and eccentricity. The Abu-Jaber's are as generous and expansive as they are unconventional, drawing outsiders into their circle, unable to resist the tempting aromas that waft from the home. In one scene, the children are allowed to stay up all night on New Year's Eve. As the parents gather to talk of old times, the children enjoy their own adventures, let loose upon the midnight landscape, their imaginations wild with abandon until, one by one, they fall into sleep, exhausted by possibilities. Food, family and celebration go hand in hand, the rich tastes that bring back memories of Jordan, the flavors of home.

Download to continue reading...

The Language of Baklava: A Memoir Body Language: Body Language Training - Attract Women & Command Respect, by Mastering Your High Status Body Language (Body Language Attraction,

Body Language ... Language Secrets, Nonverbal Communication) The Language of Baklava BODY LANGUAGE : Decoding Alpha Male Body Language, Instantly Attract Any Woman Without Saying a Single word. (Body Language 101, Alpha male, Attract woman, ... Seduce Women, Eye Contact, Body Language) Fault Lines: A Memoir (2nd Edition) (The Cross-Cultural Memoir Series) On Language: Chomsky's Classic Works Language and Responsibility and Reflections on Language in One Volume German: Learn German with These 500 Phrases (German Language, Speak German, Learning German, Germany Language, Austria Language, Learning German, Speaking German) Body Language: Master the Art of Reading Anyone Through Nonverbal Communication (Body Language 101, Body Language Mastery, Read Everyone) PC Assembly Language: learn how computer work easy ways to learn assembly language Natural Language Processing for Historical Texts (Synthesis Lectures on Human Language Technologies) Common Core Language Arts Workouts, Grade 6: Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening, and Language Skills Practice Assessing English Language Learners: Bridges to Educational Equity: Connecting Academic Language Proficiency to Student Achievement Exceptional Language Development in Down Syndrome: Implications for the Cognition-Language Relationship (Cambridge Monographs and Texts in Applied Psycholinguistics) Introduction to German Poetry: A Dual-Language Book (Dover Dual Language German) The Divine Comedy Selected Cantos: A Dual-Language Book (Dover Dual Language Italian) Introduction to Spanish Poetry: A Dual-Language Book (Dover Dual Language Spanish) Libro en espaà ol para nià os. Spanish language: Los Grandes También Fueron Pequeà os. Spanish language Book (Yo puedo, Tu puedes, Todos podemos nº 5) (Spanish Edition) Viking Language 1: Learn Old Norse, Runes, and Icelandic Sagas (Viking Language Series) Selections from Don Quixote: A Dual-Language Book (Dover Dual Language Spanish) Language Hacking French (Language Hacking with Benny Lewis)

<u>Dmca</u>