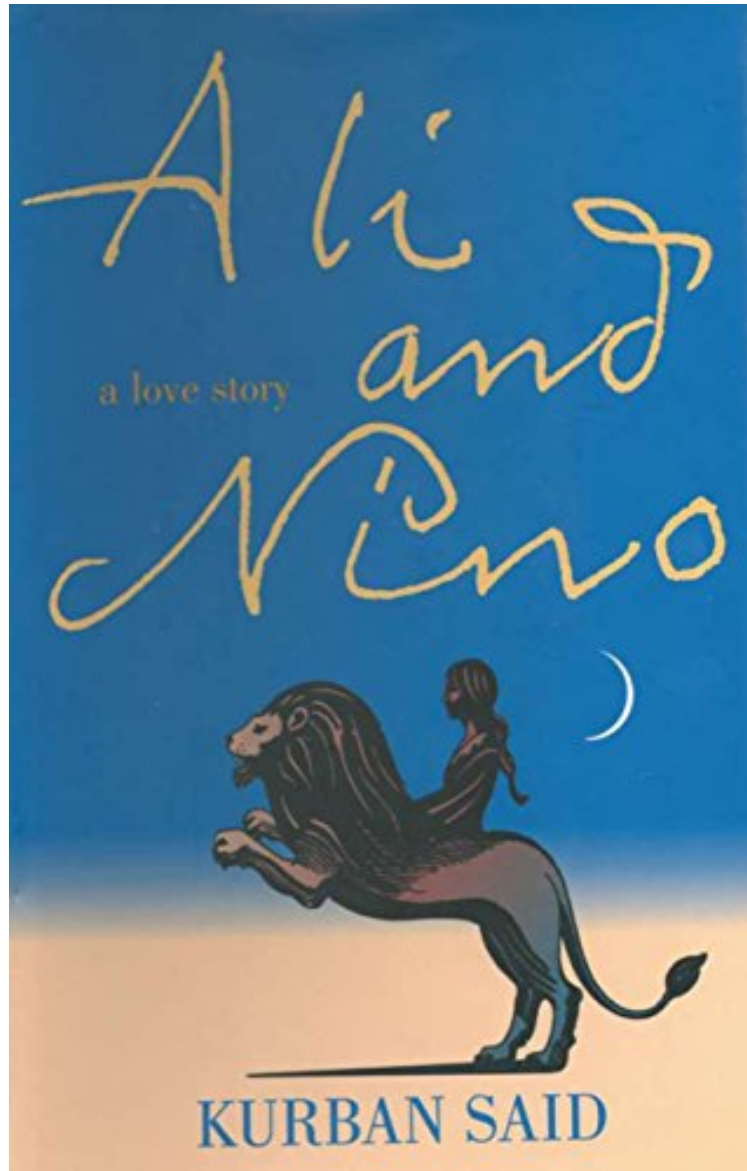


[Free download] Ali and Nino

Ali and Nino

Von Kurban Said

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Von Kurban Said : Ali and Nino before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ali and Nino:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
TraumreiseVon akariBeautiful and riveting story, on par with "Romeo and Juliet" as far as pacing, dramatic and romantic development are concerned. Story plays out before a historically and culturally interesting background. I read

this in preparation of a travel to the Caucasian region and it made me want to get there early to be able to fit in even more of this culturally diverse place. "Ali and Nino" was written from first person perspective - which I personally enjoy - and uses poetic, lively and figurative language that immerses its readers into the plot. I literally felt the sting of heat on my skin or smelled the dust on Baku Town Square. The main characters are complex and sympathetic, their fate suspenseful and, though tragic, deeply intoxicating in many ways. You can't help rooting for them despite wanting to grab them by their respective cuffs and shake some sense into them at the same time. Some secondary characters, though, are designed in a way as to make any self-respecting woman influenced by Western socialization reject many cultural notions expressed by them. This may or may not add some passion to the already diverting reading experience! If you liked Geoff Ryman's "The King's Last Song" or Arthur Golden's "Memoirs of a Geisha", you'll probably enjoy this book as well. It is short enough to make for an excellent summer read. Highly recommended.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Note that the introduction contains a large spoiler. Von Ein Kunde

While the introduction to the book gives an excellent deconstruction of its themes and offers some information about its mysterious author, it also contains one major spoiler that gives away the ending of the book. If you do not want any inkling of how the book is going to end, I recommend that you read the introduction after you have finished the book. Which won't take long!

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Ali and Nino - Kurban Said

Von liese g mccullough For some of us, our nomad experience has given us a profound longing to know where we come from. We have been raised up at the crossroads of cultures. After that first childish parting, we see everything as an ebb and flow of impermanence and all people as another opportunity for cherished memories. For these of us, this book is a gift. One may find in these pages something ancient that will not be denied. It is full of bitter ironies, both ancient and new. Ali and Nino are like all of us, raised in a homeland that after being swept away by events can never be recaptured. Baku is a homeland like what we carry in our hearts. The sacred ground where opposing forces can live together and love each other. Can a pure love that seems clean and new be soiled and yet, reclaimed? It is rare indeed. This is a book you can feel. It is rich with symbols that will delight your senses and activate your mind. It will challenge you to understand this Mohammedan and taste with intensity something connected to tradition, something different about belonging. I wept.

Kurzbeschreibung Ali and Nino is the epic novel of enduring romance in a time of war. It has been hailed as one of the most romantic epic novels of all time. Ali and Nino, two lovers from vastly different backgrounds, grow up together in carefree innocence in Baku on the Caspian Sea. Here, where Eastern and Occidental collide, they are inevitably drawn into the events of the First World War and the Russian Revolution. Torn apart by the turmoil, Ali joins the defense of Azerbaijan from the onslaught of the Red Army, and Nino flees to the safety of Paris with their child, not knowing whether they will ever see each other again. A sweeping tale, as romantic and gripping as *Gone with the Wind* or *Dr. Zhivago*, it portrays, against a gloriously exotic backdrop, the enduring love between childhood friends divided by their separate cultures.

As is true of all great literature, Kurban Said's *Ali and Nino* has timeless appeal. Set in the years surrounding the Russian Revolution and the rise of the Soviet Union, Said's tale of an Azerbaijani Muslim boy in love with a Georgian Christian girl is both tender and disturbingly prescient. The novel, first published in 1937, begins as Ali Khan Shirvanshir is finishing his last year of high school: We were a very mixed lot, we forty schoolboys who were having a Geography lesson one hot afternoon in the Imperial Russian Humanistic High School of Baku, Transcaucasia: thirty Mohammedans, four Armenians, two Poles, three Sectarrians, and one Russian. The multi-ethnic Baku, it seems, stands at a crossroads between West and East, and, as the smug Russian professor informs his pupils, it is their responsibility to decide "whether our town should belong to progressive Europe or to reactionary Asia." For Ali Khan Shirvanshir there is no doubt--he belongs to the East; his beloved Nino, however, is "a Christian, who eats with knife and fork, has laughing eyes and wears filmy silk stockings." Far away, to the West, there are rumblings of war. When the Russian Revolution begins, Ali Khan chooses not to fight; the Czar's fate is of little interest to a Muslim living in far away Transcaucasia. But the young man senses that another, greater danger is gathering on his country's borders--an "invisible hand" trying to force his world into new ways, the ways of the West. He assures his worried father that, like his ancestors, he is willing to die in battle, but at a time of his own choosing. In the meantime, he courts Nino and eventually marries her in the teeth of scandal and opposition. This union of East and West is at times a difficult one as Ali Khan finds himself lured further and further into European ways. When Soviet troops invade, however, he must choose once and for all whether to stand for Asia or Europe. One of the many pleasures Ali and Nino offers is Kurban Said's lovingly rendered evocations of Muslim culture. Another is his compassionate portrait of the protagonists' difficult but profound relationship. Modern readers coming to this novel in the wake of the fall of Communism, outbreaks of sectarian violence, and the rise of religious fundamentalism will find disturbing parallels in its cautionary chronicle of cultures colliding and a way of life brutally destroyed. In the end, however, it is not historical accuracy, but rather the charm and passion of the title characters that lifts Said's only novel into literature's highest ranks. --Alix Wilber

Pressestimmen "One feels as if one had dug up buried treasure one feels

completely caught up in the novel's exotic setting an epic of cultural change that seems more immediate than this morning's headlines." --The New York Times "Poignant and beautiful alive with a vividly unique vision of colliding culture and enduring love." --Newsweek