



Escape from Baghdad!

By Saad Hossain

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Two down on their luck black-marketeers, Dagr and Kinza, have inherited a very important prisoner: the former star torturer of Saddam's recently collapsed Ba'athist regime, Captain Hamid, who promises them untold riches if they smuggle him to Mosul. With the heat on, they enlist the help of Private Hoffman, their partner in crime and a U.S. Marine, who undertakes to help them escape the authorities.

But getting out of Baghdad is no easy task. The city is crawling with traps and alive with 5000 years of history. Soon they are embroiled in the search for a serial killer and the mysteries of an ancient watch that doesn't tell time. Hounded by religious fanatics, crazed librarians, alchemists, special elements of the former Iraqi secret service, not to mention the United States army, the odd foursome must survive long enough to discover the truth. And in this place where life is constantly under siege the truth may be, quite simply, the secret to eternal life.

With a satiric eye firmly cast on the absurdity of human violence, *Escape from Baghdad* features more than a few shades of Heller's *Catch-22* and David O'Russell's *Three Kings* while doing something all-together shocking: giving voice, ribald humor, and some epic firepower to people most often referred to as "collateral damage."

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Editorial Review

Review

"Saad Hossain's perplexingly weird debut novel, *Escape From Baghdad!*, captures the pure insanity of the Iraq War. At the same time, it's not a war novel. Instead, it's a skillfully constructed literary IED that brings together the sharpest aspects from multiple genres. It's a Tarantino-esque *Heart of Darkness* set in war-torn Iraq, filled with absurdism and dark humor, a mash-up of satirical Joseph Heller-style comedy and sci-fi fantasy with a gratuitous mixture of good old-fashioned ultra-violence." — Colby Buzzell, *VICE*

"Set in the aftermath of the US invasion of Iraq, Bangladeshi author Saad Hossain's debut novel is a riot of mordant humour and gonzo storytelling... The Gulf war may just have found its *Catch-22*." — James Lovegrove, *The Financial Times*

"Saad Z. Hossain's *Escape From Baghdad!* may be the hippest, weirdest, most creative and visionary book yet to emerge from the full-on debacle that was W's still-simmering Iraq war. Hossain's unique blend of satire, mythology and speculative fiction makes *Escape* a hold-onto-your-hat tilt-a-whirl joy to read. And, quite possibly, a future classic in its own right." — Jerry Stahl, author of *Permanent Midnight*, *Happy Mutant Baby Pills*, *I, Fatty*

One of *Library Journal's* Key Spring Titles for 2015

"Hossain daringly shows us that war isn't just hell but absolutely insane." — Barbara Hoffert, *Library Journal*

"Saad Hossain has given us a hilarious and searing indictment of the project we euphemistically call 'nation-building.' With nods to *Catch-22*, *Frankenstein*, *The Island of Doctor Moreau* and the Golem myth, *Escape from Baghdad!* weaves fantasy, absurdity and adventure into a moving counter-narrative to the myth of the just war." — Daniel José Older, *NPR*

"It's a marvelous mix of genres, blending the visceral atmosphere of a war movie with the casual nihilism of *Catch-22* or the original M.A.S.H. complete with an Indiana Jones-style treasure quest... A gonzo adventure novel that shreds the conventional wisdom that pulp can be pigeonholed." — *Kirkus Reviews*

"*Escape from Baghdad!* is a virtuoso performance, both utterly heartbreaking and riotously, laugh-out-loud funny... I wanted to stand up and applaud when it was finished, but I didn't want it to finish. I could not recommend it enough." — Lavie Tidhar, World Fantasy Award winning author of *Osama*.

"Saad Z Hossain's upcoming *Escape from Baghdad!* (The Unnamed Press, March 2015) is the sci-fi and fantasy writer's debut novel, characterized as an Arabian-Nights-esque thriller. Having set the book in modern-day Iraq, Hossain started off his research reading blogs written by American soldiers in Iraq, and then braided together Norse and Greek mythologies." — *Ploughshares*

"Saad Hossain is the author of *Escape from Baghdad!*, an engrossing cross between Zero Dark Thirty and Raiders of the Lost Ark that takes a sobering look at America's troubled legacy in Iraq." — *Bookslut*

About the Author

Saad Z. Hossain writes in a niche genre of fantasy, science fiction and black comedy with an action-adventure twist. He was published in the anthologies *What the Ink?*, and *Six Seasons Review*. He has written numerous articles and short stories for *The Daily Star*, *New Age*, and the *Dhaka Tribune*, the top English daily newspapers in Bangladesh. He's a monthly columnist for the *Daily Star* literary page and lives in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Oliver Crites:

The book *Escape from Baghdad!* make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You should use to make your capable much more increase. Book can being your best friend when you getting strain or having big problem with the subject. If you can make examining a book *Escape from Baghdad!* to become your habit, you can get considerably more advantages, like add your personal capable, increase your knowledge about a number of or all subjects. You could know everything if you like available and read a reserve *Escape from Baghdad!*. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science guide or encyclopedia or some others. So , how do you think about this publication?

Rebecca West:

The ability that you get from *Escape from Baghdad!* may be the more deep you rooting the information that hide inside the words the more you get interested in reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to comprehend but *Escape from Baghdad!* giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in selected way that can be understood by means of anyone who read the item because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This book also makes your vocabulary increase well. Therefore it is easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having this kind of *Escape from Baghdad!* instantly.

Shawn Martinez:

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Jamie Leal:

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