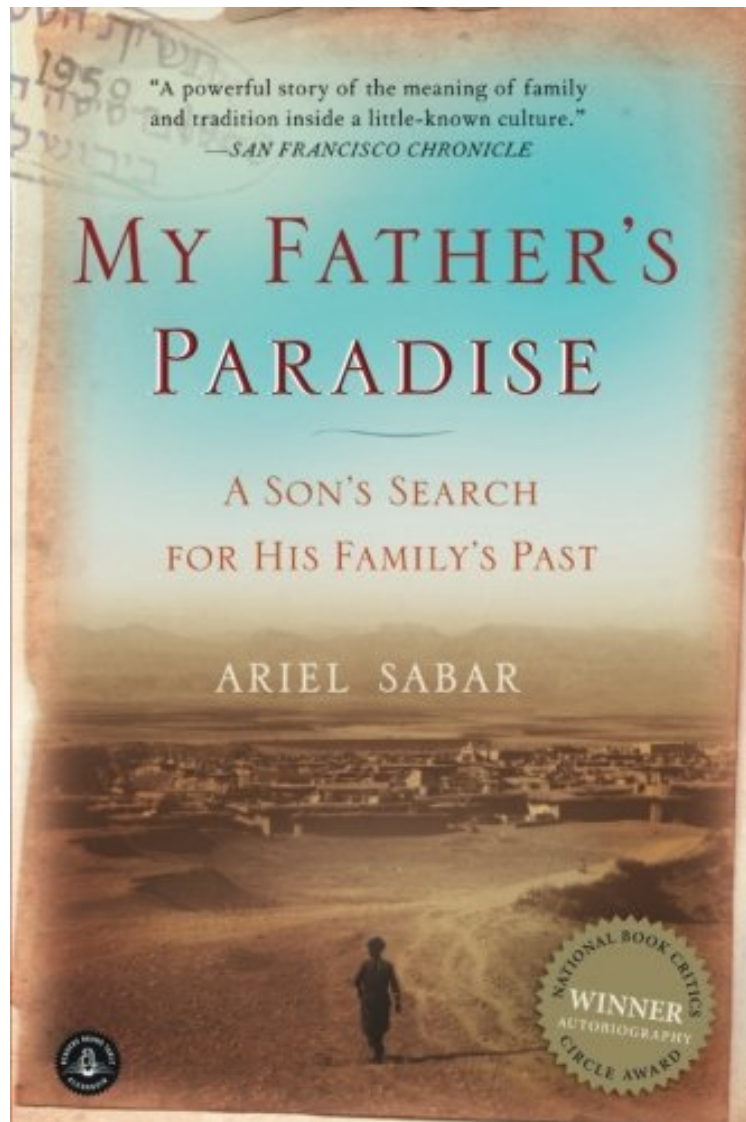


(Download pdf) My Father's Paradise: A Son's Search for His Family's Past

## My Father's Paradise: A Son's Search for His Family's Past

*Ariel Sabar*

*audiobook | \*ebooks | Download PDF | ePub | DOC*



 **Download**

 **Read Online**

#168544 in Books Algonquin Books 2009-10-13 2009-10-13Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.19 x 1.00 x 5.50l, .80 #File Name: 1565129334345 pagesGreat product! | File size: 79.Mb

**Ariel Sabar : My Father's Paradise: A Son's Search for His Family's Past** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Father's Paradise: A Son's Search for His Family's Past:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The Past, Present, and Pluperfect in one book.By Sgt FletcherThis is one of the great first persons accounts with the correct amount of mix of history, linguistics, and colorful reporting all melted into a great book for those interested in linguistics, history, or just simple family relationships. There is a lot of meat here in an easy-to-read complex history of a language and how it evolves and the people who spoke it. This is really a 6 Star book, but 5 stars is all I could give it. The reader will not have wasted his money.2 of 2 people found

the following review helpful. from Kurdistan to Los Angeles and backBy AgrippasSabar's description of his father's history may appeal to only a restricted audience, but I found it fascinating. Sabar is an journalist and tells of his father's origins in a millennia-old Jewish community in Kurdistan, his immigration with his family at age 13 to Israel, their trials as new immigrants at the bottom of the social heap, and his eventual recruitment by a US university as a world-class expert linguist in his native language, Aramaic. But the book doesn't end there; the author is not only chronicler of his father's life; as an investigative reporter he senses a great story in an attempt to locate an older sister lost or kidnapped as an infant. The effort is in the end futile and the author is more interested in it than his father in the attempt.Sabar comes across as an honest reporter, even to the extent of sometimes presenting himself in a less than flattering light. I assume this is not unintentional which is a tribute to his honesty.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A LOVELY READBy Judith MI was so happy to have found this book. It was poignant and heartfelt and gave a personal and deeply moving dimension to a slice of history that I knew in more general terms. I was particularly ignorant of Jewish life and history in Kurdistan. It is important to remember all those communities of Jews and the individual and unique qualities of their communities. Their existence and stories add much to the dynamism and colorful history of the Jewish people. I was particularly taken by the story of Aramaic and the race to save the language in a time of homogenization of cultures and the loss of languages. Finally, I appreciated the coming of age nature of the author's journey as he learned to appreciate his father and his father's mission.

In a remote corner of the world, forgotten for nearly three thousand years, lived an enclave of Kurdish Jews so isolated that they still spoke Aramaic, the language of Jesus. Mostly illiterate, they were self-made mystics and gifted storytellers and humble peddlers who dwelt in harmony with their Muslim and Christian neighbors in the mountains of northern Iraq. To these descendants of the Lost Tribes of Israel, Yona Sabar was born. Yona's son Ariel grew up in Los Angeles, where Yona had become an esteemed professor, dedicating his career to preserving his people's traditions. Ariel wanted nothing to do with his father's strange immigrant heritage-until he had a son of his own.Ariel Sabar brings to life the ancient town of Zakho, discovering his family's place in the sweeping saga of Middle-Eastern history. This powerful book is an improbable story of tolerance and hope set in what today is the very center of the world's attention.

From Publishers WeeklyStarred . For his first 31 years Sabar considered his father, Yona, an embarrassing anachronism. Ours was a clash of civilizations, writ small. He was ancient Kurdistan. I was 1980s L.A. Yona was a UCLA professor whose passion was his native language, Aramaic. Ariel was an aspiring rock-and-roll drummer. The birth of Sabar's own son in 2002 was a turning point, prompting Sabar to try to understand his father on his own terms. Readers can only be grateful to him for unearthing the history of a family, a people and a very different image of Iraq. Sabar vividly depicts daily life in the remote village of Zahko, where Muslims, Jews and Christians banded together to ensure prosperity and survival, and in Israel (after the Jews' 1951 expulsion from Iraq), where Kurdish Jews were stereotyped as backward and simple. Sabar's career as an investigative reporter at the Baltimore Sun and elsewhere serves him well, particularly in his attempt to track down his father's oldest sister, who was kidnapped as an infant. Sabar offers something rare and preciousa tale of hope and continuity that can be passed on for generations. Photos. (Sept. 16) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistFor almost 3,000 years, a tiny Jewish enclave existed in what is now the autonomous Kurdish region of northern Iraq. The Jews and their Christian and Muslim neighbors spoke the ancient tongue of Aramaic, which had once been the lingua franca of the Middle East and was spoken by Jesus. Sabars father, Yona, was born in that enclave but immigrated to the U.S. when the creation of the state of Israel created hostile conditions forIraqi Jews in the 1950s. Yona, however, maintained strong emotional ties to his native language and culture even as he ascended to a prominentacademic position at UCLA. Meanwhile, Sabar showed virtually no interest in his fathers background; however, after the birth of his own son, he felt a desire to reconnect withhis father and their shared cultural heritage.Their joint visit to their ancestral town of Zakho rekindles memories of the ancient community while strengthening the ties between father and son.An involving memoir that works as both a family saga and an examination of a lost but treasured community. -- Jay Freeman Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for Autobiography."A biography, a memoir, a meticulously reconstructed history of a largely vanished people and place. ... Transcending mere reportage, it acquires a novel-like warp and weft." --Los Angeles Times"A wonderful, enlightening journey, a voyage with the power to move readers deeply even as it stretches across differences of culture, family, and memory." --Christian Science Monitor"Sabar offers something rare and precious - a tale of hope and continuity that can be passed on for generations." --Publishers Weekly (Starred )"A remarkable new memoir." --Philadelphia Inquirer"Graceful and resonant." --New York Times Sunday Book "ExcellentA compelling readTold with novelistic attention to narrative and detail, but its heart is Ariel's heart, that of a son searching with love for the meaning of his relationship with his father. The Providence (RI) Journal (The Providence (RI) Journal )"A powerful story of the meaning of family and tradition inside a little-known culture." San Francisco Chronicle (San Francisco Chronicle )"Remarkable...A moving story about the near-death of an ancient language and the tiny flicker of life that remains in it." The Washington Post

Book World (The Washington Post Book World )