



Revolution

Piet Hein Wokke

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"Do we ever really fight over religion?
Or do we use religion to fight?"

Escape to the Middle East in this thrilling tale about Khalid, Abdullah and Jalal – young men who try to shape the kingdom of Beledar.

While the nearest battlefields of WWII are hundreds of miles of away, on the streets of Mayasin, the capital of Beledar, Abdullah struggles to survive. In a remote village, Khalid sets out in search of his father, and must face the brutal laws of the desert.

Jalal, the young king, wants to break through nepotism and corruption, but in a conservative, Islamic country, change doesn't come easy. That the western world preys on his country's oil fields, doesn't make his life any easier either.

In this exciting book, Wokke expertly and poignantly shows the roots of modern conflicts in the Middle East, through the people and ideas that inhabit it.

Revolution Details

Date : Published May 1st 2017 by Xowox Publishing BV

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Author : Piet Hein Wokke

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From Reader Review Revolution for online ebook

Freek Bos says

The book gives an insight in the politics and ideas of the middle east of 1940 - 1950. It is an easy read.

This book covers the youth of a dictator, I am curious to read the next parts.

Sarah says

Not a fan of the writing style. I stopped reading on my kindle at 23%.

Lisanne Gillieron says

Revolution is exciting, actual and original historical fiction.

With verve and admirable scope Piet Hein Wokke describes the originate of a revolution in the fictional kingdom Beledar in the Middle East. The book is written so rich in imaginary that it easily could be a script for a film. Also because of his writing style the reader can share in the experiences of the boys who are growing up in an unsafe world. With genial flexibility he adapts his style according to the seniority of his characters. Because of this the story is getting more and more speed and tension before the different themes and lives are coming beautifully together. This confrontation with the boys who has become adults carrying the traumas of their youth shows a very good psychological knowledge. The story has great depths for the reader who explores and is seeing the similarities with actual events in the here and now live. The end has the promise of a sequel , and I certainly hope that Piet Hein Wokke finds the possibility to write and publish another excellent novel.

Lisanne Gillieron

Michelle Kidwell says

Revolution

by Piet Hein Wokke

XowoX Publishing
Historical Fiction , Mystery & Thrillers

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I am voluntarily reviewing a copy of Revolution through XowoX Publishing and Netgalley:

This book takes us to the Middle East during World War 2 where Abdullah is led away from the path of the

prophet. Food shortages are making people desperate. Abdullah is only ten or eleven and trying to feed a younger brother too.

After the death of Mr. Darwish Abdullah finds his life has become more difficult. The money he made from shinning shoes was not much, but it helped as did the pieces of Pita bread and leftover Pastry at breakfast now he had none of that, and walked the streets hungry.

On the other side of the desert Khalid learns the harsh laws of the desert show Khalid God's laws are easier preached than followed.

By 1948 Abdullah finds that his education is completed and he is being told he will be working for the King.

I give Revolution four out of five stars.

Happy Reading.

Milli (MiracleMilliReads) says

Well written and very amazing story! After reading this story, I started to summarize a video review I want to do. This storyline was well researched and told in a very good manner. I loved reading behind the history of the 1940's - 1950's and the middle east.

The story starts with two young main characters named Abdullah and Khalid who have to kill someone. Also, young Jalal who becomes king when his father dies. This story follows the two boys into adulthood and seeing Jalal grow up as well, but from far away. The constant upbringing of the beliefs the people have on the reality of God and the extremes taken to hopelessly avoid corruption. The boys come from different lifestyles and later on tested which makes them connect as enemies. We see how the king suffers and dictates the decisions he has to make to run his country in his right direction.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCADH...>

In the end, I was left with a lot of questions and seeking answers, but I know that there will be a sequel and I can't wait. I wanna know more about the characters and how there decisions will turn out for them in the end of decisions sufferings.

Wytzia Raspe says

One of the best novels I read in a long time! "Shepherds use religion to fight; sheep fight over religion". It is one of the great quotes in the novel written by Dutch historian Piet Hein Wokke (3 June 1985) who studied history in Groningen, focusing on contemporary conflicts and Middle Eastern history. Even when the book is set in a fictitious country called Beledar situated between Jordan and Iraq, the novel sheds light on many real things regarding the region while telling a captivating story in the meantime: What is the difference between the Sunni and the Shi'a muslims? Why did people call followers of Islam Mohammedans in the past and why do Muslims prefer to be called Muslims? (Because they think the term Mohammedans implies they worship Mohammed like Christians worship Christ). And when you are familiar with the history of the region you

recognise elements of Jordanian and Iraqi historic facts in the tale of fantasy Beledar.

The story is about two young boys: Abdullah and Khalid who are just in their teens when the story starts and when young emir Jalal (who will become King later on) takes over the reign from his father. Still children both boys have to kill someone.

Abdullah is a street rat from the city who is given the chance to go and work for king Jalal. Khalid a younger son of a more or less well-to-do merchant from a desert oasis who runs away to the army with his brother and rises through the ranks.

We follow both boys growing up into men and in between we see short glimpses of King Jalal who in my opinion is the real hero of the story. A king who quotes Shakespeare, is aware he is a descendant of the prophet Mohammed but refuses to believe in a God as mankind is "shortsighted, self-centered and treacherous" and no God would create a species like that in his opinion. Although an Arab lord he is more British than anything else. Stiff upper lip and all.

Beledar is emerging into something more modern under King Jalal but not everyone likes that policy so under a prospering society currents of discontent are whirling.

In the end it is the conscience and courage of both Abdullah and Khalid that are tested. And unlike in his youth when revenge was brought upon someone here one of them says in the end: "Retribution for an injury is equal injury. However who forgives an injury and make reconciliation will be rewarded by God" and the other man feels the eyes of the king burning into his soul again.

I have the feeling the writer wants to continue the story in another book. Maybe that is one of the reasons some things are not crystal clear in the end. The writer chooses to show us a glimpse into the future of Beledar and our hero. I would have advised against that or to continue writing the whole story.

Nevertheless a brilliant book that had my Muslim colleague and I discussing it. I certainly can recommend buying it. I myself was given the opportunity of an advanced copy for the Netgalley-site.

<http://dutchysbookreviews.blogspot.nl...>

Martin B says

This book follows two boys, Khalid and Abdullah, as they grow up in a fictional Middle Eastern country around the time of the Second World War. It's quite an achievement how Wokke creates the atmosphere – I really felt like I was in the Middle East. The omnipresence of God, the almost impossible to avoid corruption and the ruthlessness of the society of Beledar was excellently shown.

The boys are interesting too. They come from different backgrounds, but they are also very alike. Their different perspective on Islam leads them to make different choices in life, which eventually makes them meet as enemies. The king is very strong character too. Although we often see him from far away, it's clear how he's suffering from the choices he needs to make to lead the country.

I've got one small point of criticism: I would have liked to see Khalid appear a little earlier in the story. I'm looking forward to seeing more of him in the sequel.

Patty says

A novel about Middle Eastern history from the 1930s to 50s, set in a fictional country. The point of view shifts between Jalal, Oxford-educated prince and later king of this country, married to a French feminist; Abdullah, a street urchin of the capital city who grows to become a palace clerk through a fortunate scholarship; and Khalid, a boy from a small town who becomes a fast-rising leader in the army. The book describes the political clashes as the country grows and attempts to modernize, such as between more conservative and more progressive factions of Islam or between the powerful old families of the country who want to keep their influence and Jalal's attempts to move towards democracy and egalitarianism. This was all fairly well done – enough so that I wondered why Wokke even set the book in a fictional country. If you've got a fictional setting, go ahead and do something interesting with it! But if you're going to stick so close to history, why not go ahead and set it in an actual country, and the reader can learn a few names and dates as they read? I never did figure this choice out, though I suspect the planned sequel might develop more in an interesting direction.

But I won't be reading that sequel, mainly because of the writing style. *Revolution* is written in extremely simple English, enough so that I spent a significant portion of it assuming that it was a middle-grade novel, not even up to including the complex sentences of YA. Though if nothing else, the extremely graphic scaphism scene definitely suggested it was not meant for children (by the way, if you don't know that word, don't google it! I'm trying to spare you nightmares. It's a form of torture). In the afterword the author says he learned English while writing this book, so I assume that explains the style.

On a minor note, there is a lot of anti-semitism in the dialogue. Which I suppose is realistic enough for the characters, particularly since the majority of it comes from Khalid's drill sergeant, but it did get uncomfortable to read after a while.

I read this as an ARC via NetGalley.
