



All The Sons of Abraham

Eldred Buck

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Alex Bell, a successful financial trader, married with a young family, is recruited by a striking Master of the Universe type, called Chris Barma, to work in a bank in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in the late 1990's. Alex has another reason for his career move as a spiralling out of control affair with a difficult and emotionally vulnerable French woman. He takes the job offer and takes on the cosseted and extraordinary lifestyle of pre 9/11 expatriate life in Saudi Arabia. Despite his serious misgivings about the nature of the country he is now working in, Alex presses on and meets an array of characters in the cosmopolitan goldfish bowl of a Western compound. He and his new friend and colleague, Jim Robson another Londoner, go on a boat trip with a rich Saudi. A diving accident occurs and Alex and his friend save the life of a young Saudi named Mohammed, the son of one of his colleagues, an action that has extraordinary consequences...

All The Sons of Abraham Details

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From Reader Review All The Sons of Abraham for online ebook

Brittany Guilfoyle says

All The Sons of Abraham by author Eldred Buck was an exceptionally fantastic read. My good friend, who personally knows the author, recommended the book to me. I did not know what to expect, but I must say I was blown away by what I read. I always love to view the world from someone else's eyes and experiences, and I am so glad I was able to do so with this author. I feel as if I learned so much about different parts of the world, varying cultures, and histories. The author writes with passion and a love for life that is evident through his words. I was hooked from the first to the last page. I read the book slowly so I could let every adventure sink in. I certainly did not want the book to end. This book is definitely deserving of 5 stars and I recommend it to everyone who seeks a mature, well-written, and thrilling read!

Vivienne Brooks says

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this. Eldred Buck draws you into the life of the hapless hero, financial Trader Alex Bell, and takes you on an intriguing journey through his life in 1990s London, Paris and Saudi Arabia. Mr Buck draws from his own experiences and writes with humorous panache, you really get a feel for what life was like for the somewhat spoiled ex pats living in Saudi, in contrast to that of the locals. The twists and turns of the drama builds to a surprising conclusion. Well worth a second read.

Mary says

Alex Bell, a Brit, works in the financial field and lives in Paris with his wife Claire and their kids. He applies for and gets a job in Saudi Arabia in a bank training the Saudis. This book follows Alex as he learns to deal with the new culture he encounters in Jeddah. Little does Alex know that he will end up becoming involved in espionage and terrorism. The book shows us how young boys turn away from their families and get indoctrinated in the ways of the Jihadists.

Isabelle Chandler says

Bought this book out of curiosity then couldn't stop reading it, even read it on the 'Cloud' at work! Its set in the 1990s and follows a successful, wealthy trader through his move from London to Paris then Saudi. There is a romance, its funny in places and it also shows the disparity between the Brits and native Saudis at the time which was quite an eye opener. I never knew financial trading could get so thrilling - and there is a brilliant twist to the end. Simply loved it, know I will re-read it, and hope the author writes many more.

Tele Adewusi says

What a frustratingly addictive novel. Once I realised that I was never going to really like the protagonist, I

managed to accept it for what it is; a tale about a falleable man, but a story which is expertly crafted. The mind of this troubled guy has you all over the place, your heart skips as he consistently gets too deeply into things; money, career, love, and eventually accidentally getting involved with the CIA. He is overly confident, so when things go wrong, you feel it is more of a surprise for him than it is to the reader, although I didn't see the ending coming!

The writing is superb and the story line had many layers.

Really enjoyed it.

Don Cox says

I loved the writing craft. Eldred has a way of keeping you on track even if he wants to make you walk with him for 511 pages! Great book, man. Before I started reading I was terrified by the thickness of the book, but after starting, Eldred's great craft saw the pages turning.

This is the most diverse book I have ever read. Almost all cultures and regions (Europe, Middle East, Africa, USA, etc) are represented somewhere in this great story. Indeed it's all the sons of Abraham and how they have erred.

Lastly, I want to admit, as I was reading I asked myself a number of times if Eldred isn't a history professor. Great work, man. Keep writing!

Fiza Pathan says

Eldred Buck has sensationaly portrayed one of the most important periods in modern world history or the latter contemporary world history in his intriguing book 'All the Sons of Abraham'. Buck has focussed on two very important years in his book which are the years 1997 and 1998 which contrary to our first impressions are rather significant years in contemporary times, especially for places like Jeddah and Riyadh where most of the action of the story takes place.

Eldred Buck has used a number of colourful characters to paint a fascinating hue to his story. He has researched very well into the happenings of the period in contemporary history which he has penned which can be clearly seen when he alludes to certain international events during the course of the novel like the death of Lady Diana for example. The flow of the book is smooth and easy to read. Bank work and the field of commerce is a very substantial part of the novel but Eldred Buck has handled the storyline so well that even an Arts or Science student would be easily able to read this novel and appreciate it.

As stated previously, the author has chosen to introduce many characters in his novel like the main protagonist Alex, his close friend in Jeddah who is called Jim, his wife Claire, their sons Christopher, Anthony and David, his colleagues at the AIB (bank) in Jeddah, his mistress, his neighbours and many others. Each character I have noticed has a role to play to convey to the reader what point of view or what idea the author wants to bring out via the character. This has been carried out excellently. Also, I admire the way Eldred Buck has given us during certain dialogues in the story a sort of insight into not only what is going on in one character's mind but simultaneously what is going on in the other character's mind which is unique and I'm impressed by it.

The pace of the story is relatively slow at first but then it happens to be a book where that pace is the best to go about to sink into the happenings of the novel. Of course towards the end of the novel, the pace is suddenly quickened which suits the situation appropriately.

The title of the book and the synopsis of the book can be relished in the story which as one of the characters put is about the sons of Abraham or let us say...the descendants of Abraham in the form of the Christians, Muslims and Jews who form a very important part of the Middle East during the years 1997 to 1998.

The chapters and sub chapters are divided properly following a continuum which makes the reader want to read more of the book and not get burdened with too many events to digest. The novel also brings out to the reader the way in which young Muslim men are brain washed into becoming terrorists and a threat to world peace which has been tackled very well by the author without hurting sentiments. The story is mature and has been gone about in a mature manner. The characters seem exceptionally real thanks to the vivid descriptions given by the author. Young adults and adults with a liking for intellectual matter in their stories are highly recommended by me to read this book. A few themes one can gather from this book are:

- The emergence of the Middle East as a powerful force
- The culture of the people of the Middle East
- The outlook of a foreigner in Jeddah
- The strict law of Jeddah
- The religion of Islam
- The rise of Osama Bin Laden as a world threat
- The brainwashing of young Muslim minds
- The undercover work of the CIA
- The globalization of the world and much more.

Lastly, I would like to thank the author for writing such a splendid book about a culture we are not very familiar with but through his book, we get a whole new look at the world of banking and commerce which is not at all boring but enlightening and fruitful for an intellectual reader.

Vaughan Humphries says

A thoughtfully crafted and well-written debut novel from Eldred Buck, who has no doubt injected some of his own experiences into the life-changing journey that the anti-hero Alex Bell undertakes. Eldred seamlessly weaves world events that forever changed our outlook on life such as the tragic death of Diana and the senseless bombing of the USS Cole by making them relevant to the protagonists who are far from home and lead sheltered existences behind the compound walls, increasingly isolated as unwelcome guests in the Kingdom. The title could not be more appropriate to expand upon in detail that despite the colours of our skin and our differing beliefs, from a holistic perspective, we are all one people. As people, we all make mistakes and we must live with the consequences of our actions, especially in the case of Alex Bell.

Robin Greenwood says

Eldred Buck is a talented writer and this is no ordinary book, it is a great read. You are swept along into the somewhat surreal, affluent world of 1990s financial traders, as we follow the ups and downs of Alex Bell, the central character. The story is engrossing, funny some times, and the suspense endless, I really did not

work out how the tale would pan out. There are sub plots with believable minor characters, and enough plot twists to keep you from putting the book down. The author deals with bigotry and religious disparities in an understandable and very human way, without being judgemental. I found that although it is set in the 90s it put into perspective a lot of current terrorist behaviour for me. I would recommend this book very much and gave it 5 stars.

Joe Cosentino says

One part financial trading story, one part historical, one part political thriller, and one part exploration of a failed romance, Sons of Abraham explores its protagonist's departure from Europe to Saudi Arabia on business, where Bell is drawn into a new and ultimately frightening world. Eldred Buck has written an intelligent, articulate, masculine novel of the pre 9/11 days with realistic and flawed characters involved in dangerous liaisons. At 511 pages, the novel slowly draws in the reader with its attention to cultural details and realistic plotting leading to a harrowing ending. I would not be surprised to see a movie version!

K.A. Cross says

All the sons of Abraham is a good read. Although this is not the kind of book I would normally go for I really enjoyed it. At times I did find it a little slow and hard to follow. As the book is predominately about a banker there are a lot of technical terms through out the book. Thankfully the author did explain some of them but not all. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes books that make them think.

Jackie G Mills says

All the Sons of Abraham is a thoroughly interesting book about life in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia as experienced by Alex Bell, an ambitious financial trader. Alex is young, married to a beautiful wife and has two adorable children, but things are not going exactly as planned. His roving eye and love of money will soon instigate irreversible changes to his life.

What I liked about the book

Eldred Buck writes from a place of experience and knowledge. The characters are believable and the story intriguing. I found the insights into life in Saudi Arabia fascinating. He effortlessly introduces new ideas and concepts into the story in a clear uncomplicated manner. His writing style reminded me of sitting next to a campfire and listening to somebody's remarkable life story. Interesting characters and a fascinating story line held my attention to the end. I particularly like the realism in the story – the fact that I felt this was real life, with all its ugliness and conflicts.

What I didn't enjoy that much

For me the book had a tad too much description. This is a personal preference and other readers might well love it.

Final thoughts

I highly recommend this book, especially for readers who enjoy realistic fiction and political intrigue. A thoroughly enjoyable read. ?

Henry Sutton says

An insiders look at the world of financial trading spiced up with a romance and gradually building to a thrilling denouement. Well written, thoroughly enjoyable read.

The main character, Alex Bell, is not in control of his life, although he would like to think so. He and his co-workers are unwitting marionettes to their boss Obama almost as much as Omar's son is to his Uncle.

I felt quite sorry for Alex at times, although envious of his fabulous life in Paris. The romantic interlude had a tragi-comic feeling about it, and all the characters are well written and come to life, even the minor ones. I had never thought how it might be to live as an outsider in the Middle East and that was fascinating to read. Not sure I would like it. It was the the ordinariness of Omar's family that made it real if what was happening to his son was scary as the story really hots up and I became completely engrossed. It romps along and flourishes into a tense climax - I found it riveting. Like the hero, I am a trader, so it was interesting to look at life at this time and its relevance today.

Peter Parsons says

Not often I warm to an author's style so quickly. I was expecting this book to be a pleasant trip down memory lane and was surprised to find myself soon absorbed into the plot. The characters are believable, descriptions evocative, and it is written in a way that is enjoyable yet makes you think . Not a bad thing! If you are looking for a thriller that leaves an impression long after you have read the last page, I recommend this book to you. As for me, well I will read it again in a few weeks time.

Peter Mckinskey says

Eldred Buck is a talented writer, and this is no ordinary book, it is a great read. All the Sons of Abraham is a thoroughly interesting book about life in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia as experienced by Alex Bell, an ambitious financial trader. You are swept along into the somewhat surreal, affluent world of 1990s financial traders, as we follow the ups and downs of Alex. He is young, married to a beautiful wife and has three adorable children, but things are not going exactly as planned. If you are looking for a thriller that leaves an impression long after you have read the last page, I recommend this book to you.

Robert Chandler says

This is a thriller that raises a mirror to the comfortable lives of wealthy westerners in 1990s London and Paris, before 9/11, and juxtaposes this with the human similarities and material disparities to those of the Middle East, in an engaging and entertaining tale.

The story took a while to warm up, but if you hang on in there while the characters are rounded out, the

suspense builds at pace. The last 100 pages are an absolute romp, and I became totally involved in the plot, edge of the seat stuff, as I couldn't guess how it would pan out.

I found the central character, Alex, to be a very believable figure. He is obnoxious, with a tiresome wife, but I had some empathy for him, and was rooting for him by the last couple of chapters. He starts out so sure of himself you almost hope that he will suffer a few knocks. His life is not planned, things just happen to him in a very real way.

Some of the details about trading were alien to me and went over my head, I think I would have probably liked a little less about that, but the author keeps you involved with even the minor characters, which draws you back in and turning the page.

Without giving the plot away I can say there is an unfortunate romantic collusion which I thought was dealt with very well. The author is good at describing the little details that bring the story to life. At times he made me chuckle, but I also felt heart pounding excitement as I would want with a good thriller.

This is not your run of the mill suspense thriller, it has depth and gave me a lot of insight into the disparity between the West and the Middle East, as relevant twenty years ago as it is today.

I rated it 5 star and would recommend this book to anyone who thinks Trading is dull, as it is an eye opener.
