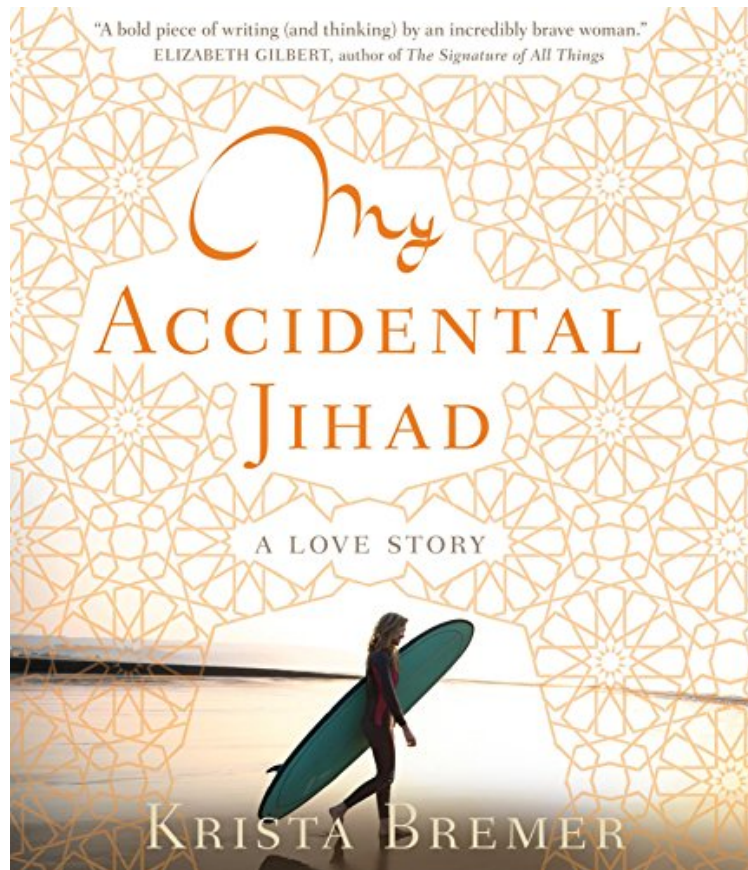


My Accidental Jihad

Krista Bremer

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#4117524 in Books 2014-04-22 2014-04-22 Formats: Audiobook, CD, Unabridged Original
language: English PDF # 1 5.30 x .56 x 6.40 | .35 Running time: 390 minutes Binding: Audio CD 390 pages |
File size: 38.Mb

Krista Bremer : My Accidental Jihad before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Accidental Jihad:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Beautifully written story of finding yourself through the magnifying glass of a multi-cultural marriage By Janet DI purchased this book because I was inspired to read her heartfelt story about falling in love, building a life, sharing dreams, and raising children with a man from a North African country. I'm married to a Moroccan man who came to America for school and ended up falling in love with me who happens to be southern and very American. There aren't many tales written of how multi-cultural couples end up exploring not only the other culture they married into, but also themselves and ultimately how their children are being raised. This is a coming-into-one's-skin kind of story. Krista Bremer is wonderfully open and honest with herself and how she deals with her frustrations, her challenges, and how she comes full circle to a place of peace and mutual respect. I adored her tales of her visit to Libya with her in-laws and their extended community. Her colorful way of writing puts the reader firmly there, experiencing all of the sights, smells, tastes and bewilderment of finding oneself in a family that you don't share the language of nor the traditions. Krista also paints a peaceful and loving picture of a Muslim family and

community. Those glimpses into a world that very few Americans experience are sorely needed today. This is a must-read for all multi-cultural families and those who are connected to them. It's also an enlightening book club read. Lots of topics for passionate discussions! 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Memoir By Tara Very well-written memoir. I have to admire the writer for her candor and honesty even though I found her to be judgmental, many times lacking in empathy, and very opinionated wanting things her way much of the time. I appreciated her struggle to find herself, find where she and her husband are in their marriage and acceptance of each other, of her daughter's choices and her inner reflection and admission many times that she felt her ideas were not right. With as many issues as this mixed couple has from such wildly diverse cultures as they come from, it is a wonder their marriage is enduring but I guess with the help of couples therapy it is. Having heard for years of Gaddafi, I really knew nothing of Libya and her people, so found her chapters on their trip to that country to be very enlightening and interesting. I had the impression that the writer, even though she witnessed the oppression of the Libyan people, especially her husband's relatives and himself, she seemed to lack understanding of what they went through under the dictator, and why he still has residual affects from what he and his beloved family lived. under. All that said, I still found it to be a very good read especially for someone who likes memoirs and I highly recommend it. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful By Leah I liked everything about this book! It captured me fully! This first person rendition of understanding, misunderstanding, navigating, refusing, and embracing a different culture, specifically a Muslim culture, was brilliant!! It was so raw and candid, questioning so many things about the American culture and giving both cultures an honest gaze. I recommend this book to anyone interested in cross-cultural relationships, and even to those interested in books on marriage. This had a unique outlook on being married given the different cultures, but I think it made understanding marriage even more possible. I know I've said "culture" many times, but that's what matters to me. I desire to see as many cultures in as many different lights as I can. This book was so helpful and special in doing that. Give it a read!

Fifteen years ago, Krista Bremer would not have been able to imagine her life today: married to a Libyan-born Muslim, raising two children with Arabic names in the American South. Nor could she have imagined the prejudice she would encounter or the profound ways her marriage would change her perception of the world. But on a running trail in North Carolina, she met Ismail. He was passionate and sincere and he loved adventure as much as she did. From acquaintances to lovers to a couple facing an unexpected pregnancy, this is the story of two people—a middle-class American raised in California and a Muslim raised by illiterate parents in an impoverished Libyan fishing village—who made a commitment to each other without forsaking their own identities. It is the story of a bicultural marriage—and aren't all marriages bicultural? In any marriage, we might discover that our mate is foreign to us, with very different language, memories, and assumptions about home and family. How we respond to difference is what shapes our families, our communities, and our world.

From Booklist After quitting her So-Cal beach-bum lifestyle to attend graduate school, Bremer found herself pregnant and impulsively married Ismail, an older Libyan man. Basing this book on her Pushcart Prizewinning essay, *My Accidental Jihad*, Bremer details her youthful Barbie-doll dreams of marriage and wealth and the sweetness of their newborn daughter and then bolts to the comparative ickiness of Ramadan. Ismail's breath smells bad, for one thing, and his fasting makes him too tired to help around the house. Further, he doesn't quite comprehend American celebrations, such as Easter and Christmas. It was difficult for him to understand holidays untethered from meaning and drifting in an ocean of desire and delight. A trip to Libya to meet Ismail's family is nearly all dismal, with Bremer grouching about how uncomfortable she is. There's no coffee, nowhere to go running, and so on. The book's title refers not to her falling in love with a Muslim but her own accidental jihad, forcing me to wrestle with my intolerance and self-absorption. Readers with similar mind-sets will want to follow Bremer's love story. --Eloise Kinney From Kirkus SA moving, lyrical memoir about how an American essayist fell in love with a Libyan-born Muslim man and learned to embrace the life she made with him. Sun associate publisher Bremer was a wayward former California surfer girl just starting to build her life in North Carolina when she met Ismail. He was 15 years older than she and different from her in almost every possible way. Yet his gentle simplicity made her feel as though she could finally exhale and [open] up to [herself] in ways she had not been able to with anyone else. When she unexpectedly became pregnant not long after they met, she faced a difficult choice: terminate the pregnancy and continue her pursuit of a promising career in journalism or keep the baby and accept Ismail's heartfelt offer of marriage. Unable to resist the mysterious allure of the future she never intended or even knew how much [she] wanted, Bremer chose to stitch [their] mismatched lives together to make a family. Among the many challenges she encountered was coming to terms with Ismail's loving but traditionalist family in Tripoli. To them, she was a woman weighed down by so much individualism, impatience, and desire. Yet through her visits with them, she also learned to temper the Western individualism she came to realize had been the source of the creeping despair that comes from doggedly chasing the elusive dream that women can be everything at once. As she gradually came to accept a different way of living and eventually, worshipping in middle-class America, Bremer grew to appreciate Ismail, her extended family and the struggle they brought into her life more

than she even imagined possible. A sweet and rewarding journey of a book. Readers of memoir will welcome this love story about patience and kindness and learning the importance of putting culture first. Library Journal