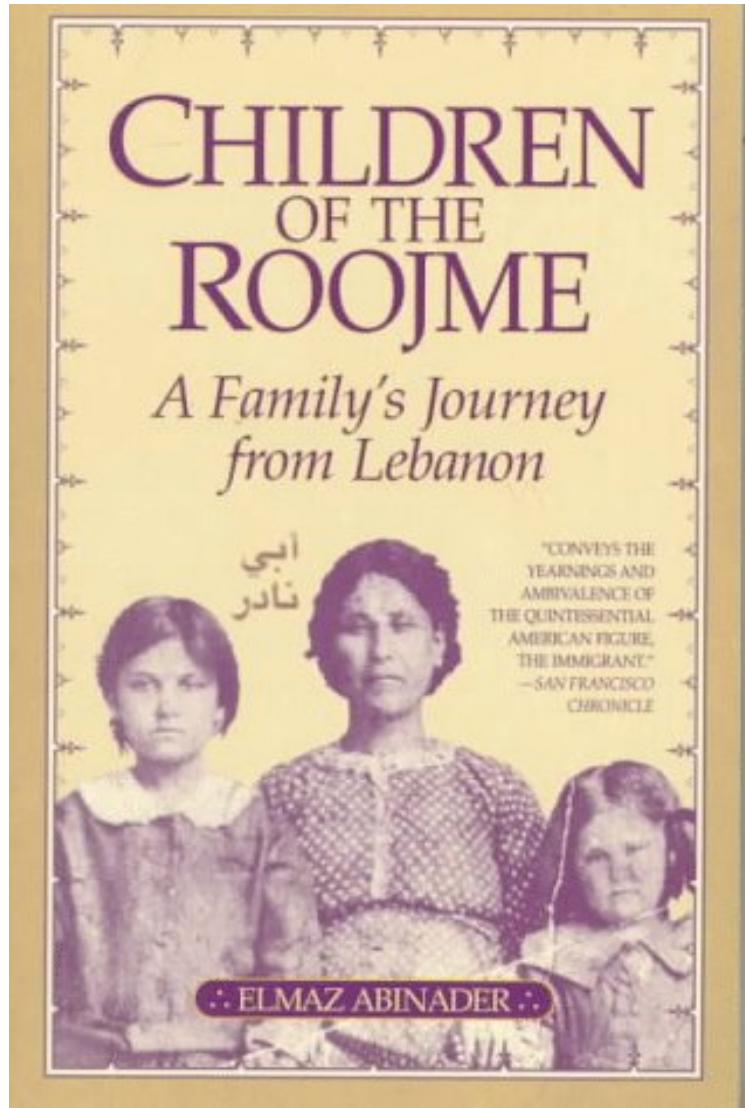


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Children of the Roojme: A Family's Journey from Lebanon

Elmaz Abinader

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Elmaz Abinader : Children of the Roojme: A Family's Journey from Lebanon before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Children of the Roojme: A Family's Journey from Lebanon:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Recommended poignant, poetic ethnic narrative. By A Customer Elmaz Abinader has created a vivid and insightful biography of three generations of a family's struggle to define itself amid the dislocation and challenges of the first half of the 20th century. Her characters are strongly drawn and distinctive, reflecting values so typical of the Lebanon and other communities where family and kinship are both

strength and obstacle. Elmaz has a particularly strong feeling for her women. They are sometimes overwhelming and tedious in their ability to bear pain, rationalize hurt, support erring spouses, and recognize flaws in others. The men do not hold up as well. Despite some heroic moments in fleeing from persecution and making new lives in America, in general, the men are not as spiritually hardy or as forebearing as the women. There is a strength and lyricism in these pages that goes beyond another ethnic narrative. Elmaz' grounding as a poet has served in well in unfolding the dramatic and incremental movement of these families towards a conclusion that renews again the wheel of life. Well-done. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An AWAIR Pick By Audrey Shabbas A beautiful work of remembrance, a family chronicle written against the backdrop of history. Here are the stories of five generations of her family-- in Lebanon and in the Americas. Based on diaries, letters, and interviews, the richly textured narrative moves easily through oppression by Ottoman Turks, religious struggles, and world wars, back and forth from the hills of Beirut to the green knolls of western Pennsylvania. Teachers/Librarians: 9th grade to Adult - Social Studies/humanities - your collection of Arab-American history. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Most Boring Book I've Ever Read By Susan Rudolph This book was incredibly boring. I was assigned to read it for a class. Not one person in the class made it all the way through.

In this lyrical memoir of her Lebanese-American family, Elmaz Abinader offers a vivid account of uprooted and resettled lives. Spanning four generations and two continents, *Children of the Roojme* is the story of a family from the mountains of Lebanon and their emigration to western Pennsylvania. More than that, it bears intimate witness to the hardships of World War I, the disintegrating Ottoman empire, abandonment of centuries-old villages, and the New World conflict between cultural tradition and assimilation.

About the Author Elmaz Abinader, a first-generation Arab-American, writes prose and poetry and performs stories of Arab women's lives. Her work has appeared in several anthologies, including *Grape Leaves: A Century of Arab American Poetry*. She teaches at Mills College and lives in Oakland, California.