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The Sand Fish: A Novel from Dubai

By Maha Gargash

Harper Perennial. Paperback. Condition: New. 361 pages. Dimensions: 7.8in. x 5.4in. x 0.9in. A fascinating window into a different culture and an inspiring and unforgettable universal story of strength and self-reliance from an extraordinarily wise and lyrical new literary voice. Coming of age in the 1950s, seventeen-year-old Noora is unlike other women of the sun-battered mountains at the tip of the Arabian Peninsula. Though she shares their poverty and, like them, bears life's hardships without complaint, she is also fiery and independent. Following the death of her mother and her father's descent into dazed madness, Noora flees the threat of an arranged marriage, only to be driven back to her unwanted fate by disappointment and heartbreak. As the third wife to a rich, much older man, Noora struggles to adjust to her new home by the sea, thinking of herself as a sand fish—the desert lizard she observed in the mountains, which, when stuck in the wrong place and desperate to escape, smashed itself again and again into unyielding rocks. But then a light is shone into her miserable darkness, resulting in an unexpected passion, a shocking indiscretion, and a secret that could jeopardize Noora's life. This item ships from multiple locations. Your...

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A novel of Dubai, *The Sand Fish* by Maha Gargash offers readers a fascinating glimpse into another corner of the world. Set in the 1950s in what is now the United Arab Emirates, *The Sand Fish* tells the poignant and powerful story of a rebellious young woman trapped in a repressive society—“as richly atmospheric a look at Middle Eastern life and culture as *The Kite Runner* by A novel of Dubai, *The Sand Fish* by Maha Gargash offers readers a fascinating glimpse.” The reason behind that was that it is a novel whose settings take place in Dubai in the 1950s that had an Emirati woman as its main lead. Me as a reader, found myself already relating to the book even before reading it because I was a local while I am an Emirati woman living in Dubai in 2010. *The Sand Fish. A Novel from Dubai. Maha Gargash. To my parents.* All the places and communities in this novel are of the author’s™s imagination but are based on the various societies that lived in the region that today makes up the United Arab Emirates and the Musandam Peninsula of Oman in the early 1950s. The author has chosen fictitious names for the towns, villages, and communities for two reasons. *The Piano Teacher: A Novel - Kindle edition by Lee, Janice Y. K..* Download it once and read it on your Kindle device, PC, phones or tablets. Use features like bookmarks, note taking and highlighting while reading *The Piano Teacher: A Novel.* Good Books Books To Read My Books Reading Lists Book Lists Ismail Kadare Books Everyone Should Read Reading Challenge So Little Time.” Use features like bookmarks, note taking and highlighting while reading *The Sand Fish: A Novel from Dubai.* Good Books Books To Read My Books Future Days Books Everyone Should Read Literature Books Reading Challenge Book Lists Book Worms. *The Hakawati.*

The Sand Fish. (2009) A Novel from Dubai A novel by Maha Gargash. Seventeen-year-old Noora is not like the other women of the sun-battered mountains of the Arabian Peninsula in the 1950s. She shares their poverty and uncomplaining existence, but carries a fiery independence. With the death of her mother, her father sinks into a dazed madness. That's when her brother assumes responsibility and insists that she marry. As she begins her new life by the sea, Noora remembers the sand fish, a desert lizard she had spotted in the mountains. In its panic at her intrusion, it did only what was natural: it dove into the rocks, again and again, till it bashed its snout. Just like the sand fish, she is stuck in the wrong place, struggling to escape. The three novels included in this list are penned by contemporary Emirati authors and indicate an active, exciting literary community. Alongside the novels are a history book, a travel guide and an anthology of Nabati poetry, all painting a kaleidoscopic portrait of this relatively new and often misunderstood country. "The Diesel" (1994) by Thani Al-Suwaidi. The first novel from Emirati poet Thani Al-Suwaidi, *The Diesel* is a surreal tale about a transgender jinni (genie) and entertainer. After facing difficulty getting the book published in the UAE, Al-Suwaidi took his work to Beirut, where he has similar books to *The Sand Fish: A Novel From Dubai*, like *Playing Cards in Cairo*. *Playing Cards in Cairo* Book by Hugh Miles. As the third wife to a rich, much older man, Noora struggles to adjust to her new home by the sea, thinking of herself as a sand fish—the desert lizard she observed in the mountains, which, when stuck in the wrong place and desperate to escape, smashed itself again and again into unyielding rocks. But then a light is shone into her miserable darkness, resulting in an unexpected passion, a shocking indiscretion, and a secret that could jeopardize Noora's life. A young woman's story opens a window into Dubai on the verge of modernity. . . . Seaside and desert locales, along with the transitional time period, give a fresh twist to this standard tradition-versus-modernity plotline. . . . Her setting is original., 'A rare view of life at the tip of the Arabian Peninsula in the 1950s. . . . A novel of Dubai, *The Sand Fish* by Maha Gargash offers readers a fascinating glimpse into another corner of the world. Set in the 1950s in what is now the United Arab Emirates, *The Sand Fish* tells the poignant and powerful story of a rebellious young woman trapped in a repressive society—as richly atmospheric a look at Middle Eastern life and culture as *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini and Alaa Al Aswany's *The Yacoubian Building*. I was so thrilled to read a novel based in Duabi, a fascinating record of culture and behaviour in this area in the '50s. The book starts in the remote mountains of Ras al Kaimah / Musandam (I think), where two matchmakers arrive to tutor Noora in the art of becoming a wife and pleasing her husband.