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**Mohsin Hamid**

**Den ovillige fundamentalisten**



Title: Den ovillige fundamentalisten

Author: Mohsin Hamid

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## Description

En amerikaner i Lahore får fortalt en ung mands livshistorie om hvordan han opbyggede en succeslivværelse i USA, men efter 11. september kom i tvivl om sit nye liv og mere og mere vendte sig mod sine pakistanske rødder.

## Insightful reviews

Jason: Wow. This is everything I want in a novel. Engaging and somewhat experimental narration and challenging politics. I plan to make a discussion video about this book, so I'll save a lot of my thoughts, but let me say that this was brilliant.

The second-person narration is extremely powerful, as it confronts "you"—the implied American (or Western) reader—and implicates you directly in the events that have taken place in the novel and as complicit with the politics that shaped the landscape that produced it. It is a post-9/11 novel, fascinating because the second-person narrative, a conversation between a Pakistani man, Changez, and an unnamed American, is entirely one-sided; the American character speaks, but we don't have access to his words. Everything is mediated through Changez, the entire story is told through his perspective, and the American voice is ostensibly erased, especially interesting considering the discourse in post-9/11 society that has attempted to erase any dissenting voice.

Finally, the ending, so ambiguous and heavy with discomfort, is so challenging and so productive. This was a brilliant reading experience for me. I can't wait to talk more about it.

"As a society, you were unwilling to reflect upon the shared pain that united you with those who attacked you. You retreated into myths of your own difference, assumptions of your own superiority. And you acted out these beliefs on the stage of the world, so that the entire planet was rocked by the repercussions of your tantrums, not least my family, now facing war thousands of miles away. Such an America had to be stopped in the interests not only of the rest of humanity, but also in your own."

DoctorM: An eerie, quietly powerful story. The structure is simple enough--- a monologue. A cafe in Lahore, and a young Pakistani is explaining to a silent American how he came to be an enemy of America. There's menace there--- something is about to happen, and soon. You're not told why the American is there, or what he does, or quite why young Changez is telling him these things. But there it is. This voice--- educated, articulate, tinged with hostility and faux-bonhomie and self-pity ---speaking into the dusk, ordering more tea, and...waiting.

There are reviewers at GoodReads who just didn't *get* the narrator, who just disliked him out of hand. After all, they said--- full scholarship to Princeton, near-six-figure Wall Street job at 22, beautiful American girlfriend: how dare he dislike America? I just kept reading and thinking about Dostoyevsky's "Devils" or Conrad's "Under Western Eyes". Changez would be...exactly...the sort to end up a terrorist of some kind. From a family with old name and status but no money. Educated someplace where you're *almost* never aware of being different, where

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suddenly money is an issue, where status and formalized deference don't soften the edges of not having money. A job with travel to places where you're aware of being American in the eyes of locals, but being a mere foreigner to American customs officials. Being smitten with a beautiful, gentle Upper East Side girl who slips away from you. Changez turns on the TV in a Manila hotel suite and sees the Towers burning on 11 September 2001 and finds himself suddenly, unexpectedly...smiling. However not? You can see Changez being as surprised as any of his American employers and friends at just how much resentment is there. Just the sort of person who could be recruited, who'd find himself seeking out places where he could open up his anger.

There's no grand political justification here, no sudden acceptance of Islam or jihad. Changez is secular, and his disdain for Americans isn't religious as much it is based on tribe and class and a sense of falling between identities. Mohsin Hamid gives his narrator a disturbing and quiet sense of slowly growing bitterness and isolation, as well as a slowly growing desperation about finding an identity. *I am a Kurtz*, he tells his nameless American listener, *waiting for my Marlowe*.

"The Reluctant Fundamentalist" is an unexpected find, and a story with a whole cast of ghosts and ideas happening just behind the main narrative. Very much worth reading, and a book where you'll be uncovering layers in Changez's monologue for a long time.

Sanjay: Nine Reasons To Read This One:

Because it's short, yet evocative: a relief at a time when authors needlessly pile on the pages.

Because it's hard enough to sustain a distinctive voice for a dramatic monologue in a poem (ask Robert Browning), leave alone an entire novel.

Because the voice is just right – formal without being sombre; precise without being stiff.

Because, unlike in John Updike's *Terrorist*, you can empathise with and understand Changez, the fundamentalist.

Because of the delicious ironies, among them the fact that Changez works in a US firm that evaluates companies ripe for takeover; virtually the first piece of advice he receives is to stick to the fundamentals.

Because Changez's disillusionment comes about in a nuanced, progressive manner and as such is completely believable.

Because there's ample evidence of the author's craft, especially in Changez's many responses and descriptions while narrating his tale in a Lahore bazaar.

Because yet another example of such craft is that Changez's ill-fated relationship with the USA is matched by his ill-fated relationship with Erica – without being heavy-handed about it.

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Because in less than 200 pages, Hamid creates both a compelling protagonist and a compelling argument.

Lorenzo Berardi: to date a complete disappointment. What occurred to the intense writer of *Moth Smoke*? This publication along with his narrator's monologue appears like an attempt to try and simplify both: literature and issues of view. Even irony turns out positioned the following and there and not using a logic. And the impact of some of these pretend makes an attempt to faux the narrator is de facto having a talk with the stereotype of an American businessman in Lahore is admittedly disturbing. I wish that Hamid goes to shock me, yet nonetheless web page after page, bankruptcy after bankruptcy i'm turning into pessimist. And bored. It's all approximately writing strategy and truthfully the tale itself does not capture my attention. The narrator himself in his chaotic and sticky conversing does not resemble the shy, bright, silently polite fellow he's within the story. And this insufferable omniscient determine retains on narrating for (apparently) the full e-book with out intermissions. Help!

Tea Jovanovi?: Sjajan... neobican... ima ono "nesto" specificno za autore poreklom iz Indije i Pakistana... sjednom finom notom humora meni veoma dragog... Prava je kupio jedan srpski izdavač, ali je zapao u teskoce i knjiga verovatno neće skoro biti objavljena na srpskom... Za sve one kojima se dopala knjiga Pitanja i odgovori Vikasa Svarupa (Laguna) ili Beli tigar (IPS)

atiya: Mohsin Hamid additionally wrote "*Moth Smoke*," and that introduced me to this book--the flashy name might have been ignored. At first, the best way he wrote it appeared fascinating yet quick became annoying. the tale is ready a tender Pakistani man who involves America, is going to Yale, and earns his solution to a hugely aggressive activity as a monetary analyst. he's in love with an stressful girl. He assimilates and loves his existence in the USA yet his outlook alterations after September 11. Unfortunately, Hamid does not quite look after that transition very well. He leaves it striking in places. The publication hurtles ahead supplying you with the expectancy that it'll clarify how the most character's trajectory changes, however it does not supply much. whereas Hamid describes the e-book as a love story, he makes barely enough observation on America's colonialist perspective (which he writes virtually as prose--it's worthy slicing out and gluing to...something for future...whatever) and the most character's transition that i will see neo-cons picking out it up and renewing their conviction. In different words, he does not paint a whole picture--and i do not simply suggest that he says issues I disagree with. it is the book's promise that makes it disappointing--and makes it inflate any prior frustration with assimilation, (how we define) fundamentalism, and colonialism.

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