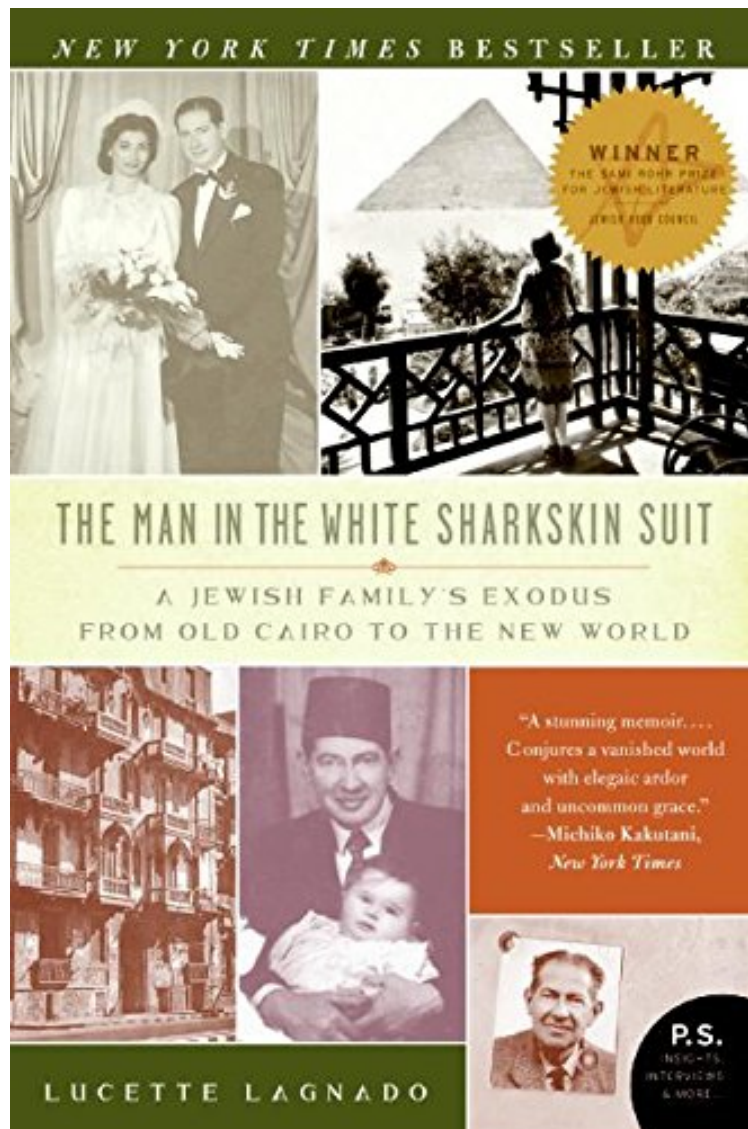


(Free) The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit: A Jewish Family's Exodus from Old Cairo to the New World (P.S.)

## The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit: A Jewish Family's Exodus from Old Cairo to the New World (P.S.)

Lucette Lagnado

ebooks | Download PDF | \*ePub | DOC | audiobook



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#99818 in Books Lucette Lagnado 2008-07-01 2008-07-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .83 x 5.311, .60 #File Name: 006082218X368 pages The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit A Jewish Family's Exodus from Old Cairo to the New World P S | File size: 69.Mb

**Lucette Lagnado : The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit: A Jewish Family's Exodus from Old Cairo to the New World (P.S.)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit: A Jewish Family's Exodus from Old Cairo to the New World (P.S.):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Recommended for those curious about a bygone era, and the life and culture in a very different land

By Kindle Customer  
Excellent description of middle class life in Cairo, Egypt, prior to, and after the revolution which ousted the King and replaced him with a Military Junta, that eventually turned on the middle class and especially the Jews. This is the story of a Jewish family, and especially the rather flamboyant father, who, while fervently religious, identifies as an Egyptian (speaking perfect Arabic), and has all the trappings of Egyptian middle class culture. Then the revolution occurs (1952). Not much changes until the Suez war with Israel (and England and France, 1956). The Jews of Egypt are forced to emigrate in droves (though never physically threatened). The book follows the family's heart wrenching departure, then their tribulations as they seek asylum in the US. Finally as they settle in New York, the book vividly describes the culture shock experienced by the older generation and the far easier adaptation of the teenagers. The author, who is the youngest child of this family, writes with sensitivity and an easy to read style.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Stalled out midway through

By Cabushka  
I found this book to be informative as I learned about a culture, the Levantine Jews, which I knew nothing about. It is biographical, following the lives of the Lagnado family from the 1950's to present as they regressed from a privileged life in Egypt to poverty as immigrants in America. The writing style got a bit stale midway through the book. The author's father was the primary focus and was idolized. The book would have been more interesting had the author focused on other family members as well.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The story of Immigrants

By Marianne Pich  
Important. Interesting. Well told. First we learn that the "man in the White Sharkskin suit" takes his Aleppo Syrian Jewish tradition to cosmopolitan Cairo which he adopted as his dream town. Life there with his family is good. His ways of life are tolerated. Secondly we learn how hard it was to get to the United States, when after World War II Jews were undesirable in Egypt. It was an almost year long, arduous and degrading process till he and his family received the immigration permits in Paris. Then: the Welcome in the NEW World was limited and short lived. Like the majority of immigrants with no help from already adapted families, the gentleman from Cairo sought refuge in a Jewish neighborhood where he could find the food he was used to, even the ground floor apartment and the temple needed according to his Aleppo Jewish version. Like many, he and his wife remained immigrants while his sons and worse his oldest daughter moved out. Lesson: only the second generations merge, and like the youngest daughter, who told us this fascinating story of many, but, in this case, highly individual story, succeed. She became an American. But going back to Cairo, where she wanted to revisit the dream city of her beloved father, she did not find it. It had changed.

Lucette Lagnado's father, Leon, is a successful Egyptian businessman and boulevardier who, dressed in his signature white sharkskin suit, makes deals and trades at Shepherd's Hotel and at the dark bar of the Nile Hilton. After the fall of King Farouk and the rise of the Nasser dictatorship, Leon loses everything and his family is forced to flee, abandoning a life once marked by beauty and luxury to plunge into hardship and poverty, as they take flight for any country that would have them.

A vivid, heartbreaking, and powerful inversion of the American dream, Lucette Lagnado's unforgettable memoir is a sweeping story of family, faith, tradition, tragedy, and triumph set against the stunning backdrop of Cairo, Paris, and New York. Winner of the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature and hailed by the New York Times Book Review as a "brilliant, crushing book" and the New Yorker as a memoir of ruin "told without melodrama by its youngest survivor," *The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit* recounts the exile of the author's Jewish Egyptian family from Cairo in 1963 and her father's heroic and tragic struggle to survive his "riches to rags" trajectory.

From The New Yorker  
This memoir of an Egyptian Jewish family's gradual ruin is told without melodrama by its youngest survivor, now a reporter at the Wall Street Journal. Lagnado's story hinges on her father, "the Captain," who cut a dashing figure in mid-century Cairo, consorting with British officers and Egyptian royalty at French cafes while his family, neglected, stayed home. At first refusing to join the tide of Jews fleeing Egypt under the Nasser regime, the Captain finally yields, in 1963, when the family escapes to Paris and then Brooklyn. Deprived of wealth, status, and any means of coping, Lagnado's father fades, but he never loses his air of chivalry, manifested in a regular outflow of tiny checks to charitable causes, orphanages, vocational schools, and dowry funds for poor girls overseas. "As if the Captain were capable of rescuing anyone," his daughter writes. Copyright 2007 [Click here to subscribe to The New Yorker](#)

From Booklist  
\*Starred \* Lagnado's captivating account of her family's life in cosmopolitan Cairo and painful relocation to America centers on her beloved father. Dashing man-about-town Leon Lagnado, who kept to his carousing ways even after marrying a beautiful woman 22 years his junior, was enraptured at the age of 55 by the author, his fourth child; affectionately called Loulou, she became her father's companion, even at temple services and the Nile Hilton bar. But the Suez war in 1956 and the Nasser regime's cultural holocaust began forcing Jews from their native Egypt. Leon's injury in a fall and Loulou's mysterious illness (first diagnosed as cat scratch fever, eventually found to be something far worse) delayed the Lagnados' departure until 1963, when they arrived in New York with \$212, the maximum they were allowed to take out of Egypt; and Leon, once a prosperous, independent businessman and investor, was reduced to selling ties on the street. In Lagnado's accomplished hands, this personal account illuminates its places and times, providing indelible individual portraits and illustrating the difficulty of assimilation.

An exceptional memoir. Leber, Michele Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Beautifully written.... A great personalized telling of Egypts complicated history in the last half of the 20th century. (Fareed Zakaria)Like Andr Aciman...she conjures a vanished world with elegiac ardor and uncommon grace. (Michiko Kakutani, New York Times)[A] crushing, brilliant bookone final kiss from the Lagnados to their beloved city. (New York Times Book )This memoir of an Egyptian Jewish familys gradual ruin is told without melodrama by its youngest survivor. (The New Yorker)The resilient dignity of Lucettes family transcends the fiercest of obstacles. (Los Angeles Times Book )Lagnado gets to the heart of the modern exodus in a way only those who lived it can. (Miami Sun Post)Captivatingilluminates its places and times, providing indelible individual portraits...An exceptional memoir. (Booklist (starred review))Excellent new memoir One could praise Ms. Lagnados book for many things. (New York Sun)Full of emotion and longing, yet never sentimental, this lyrical memoir evokes a cosmopolitan Cairo. (Jewish Woman)Lagnado spares nothing in the retellingin this tender and captivating memoir. (The Oregonian (Portland))It succeeds especially as a... heartfelt elegy to the long-lost Cairo community of her youth. (Library Journal)Nostalgic but objectively tempered portrait of a family at the heart of social and cultural upheaval. (Kirkus s)Beautifully written . . . rich with history and insight. Wonderful. (Oscar Hijuelos, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of THE MAMBO KINGS PLAY SONGS OF LOVE)A stunning achievement. (Andre Aciman, author of OUT OF EGYPT and CALL ME BY YOUR NAME)A subtle and eloquent description of fatherly love and a mesmerizing portrait of a man shattered by the immigration experience. (Marianne Pearl, author of A MIGHTY HEART)Lagnados richly textured memoir is a loving tribute to a lost man and a lost culture. (Reform Judaism)