



Sand

By Paul Majkut

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SAND explores the sexual and religious roots of jihadist terrorism. It is a snapshot album of Saudi Arabia in the late 1980s, when contemporary jihadism sprouted in the sands of the Kingdom. It is a novel that is more than the sum of its parts, more than its plot: a mystery centered on a delusional, religious-police detective investigating trouble at a five-star hotel in Riyadh. Graphic descriptions expose the sexual mania that motivates self-justified intolerance and violence resulting from a repressive society. Written by an American journalist who covered the Middle East at the time, SAND is a realistic story of characters, events, and an ideology so extreme that its telling is at times surreal. Neither Saudis nor their highly-paid foreign workers -- Americans, British, Canadian, Filipino, Pakistani, and others -- are spared. SAND describes a place where misogyny, predatory sexual opportunism, heterosexual and homosexual, religious terrorism, rape, stoning, and greed are the norm.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Paul Majkut, born in East St. Louis, Illinois, now lives in San Diego, California. He has also lived for long periods in Canada, Mexico, the People's Republic of China, and the Middle East. While on National Endowment for the Humanities grants, Majkut researched medieval attitudes on sin and anti-Semitism at Cambridge and Oxford. As a Fulbright Senior Specialist in Argentina, Finland, and Germany, Majkut taught American literature and culture. As a journalist, Majkut won numerous awards for his writing from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Los Angeles, the Southern California, and San Diego Press Clubs, and the Society for Professional Journalism.

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