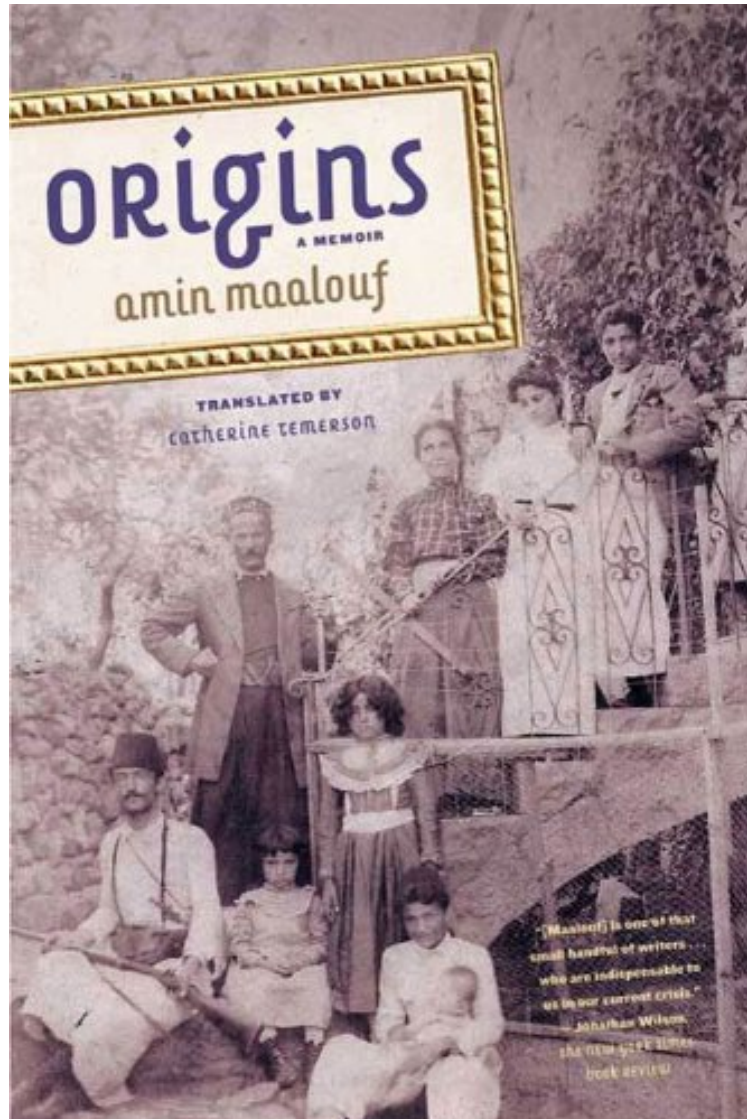


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Origins: A Memoir

Von Amin Maalouf

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Von Amin Maalouf : Origins: A Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Origins: A Memoir:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A personal family history by MaaloufVon matilda special, BelgiumMaalouf is a careful writer and this book is also intersting as it is the tale of how he discovers his own family history in Lebanon. It is an excellent period piece and an excellent chrater sketch of all of the players, notably his paternal grandfather. There is a lot of sadness also woven through it, about fortunes gained and lost, about a family scattered by bad local politics, etc.Lovers of biography and

history will love this.

KurzbeschreibungOrigins, by the world-renowned writer Amin Maalouf, is a sprawling, hemisphere-spanning, intergenerational saga. Set during the last quarter of the nineteenth century and the first quarter of the twentieth in the mountains of Lebanon and in Havana, CubaOrigins recounts the family history of the generation of Maalouf's paternal grandfather, Boutros Maalouf. Maalouf sets out to discover the truth about why Boutros, a poet and educator in Lebanon, traveled across the globe to rescue his younger brother, Gabrayel, who had settled in Havana. What follows is the gripping excavation of a family's hidden past. Maalouf is an energetic and amiable narrator, illuminating the more obscure corners of late Ottoman nationalism, the psychology of Lebanese sectarianism, and the dynamics of family quarrels. He moves with great agility across time and space, and across genres of writing. But he never loses track of his story's central thread: his quest to lift the shadow of legend from his family's past. Origins is at once a gripping family chronicle and a timely consideration of Lebanese culture and politics. Pressestimmen "Maalouf's novels re-create the thrill of childhood reading, that primitive mixture of learning about something unknown or unimagined." --Claire Messud, "The Guardian" Praise for Amin Maalouf "What do you get when one of the Arab world's greatest writers, a Prix-Goncourt-winning historical novelist, decides to write a memoir? A marvel. Amin Maalouf has given us the engrossing story of his grandfather, a prescient, remarkable man, as well as the story of his time and place--how the Middle East was formed, politically, geographically, historically, and not least, psychologically. An extraordinary achievement." --Rabih Alameddine, author of "The Hakawati" "Maalouf's novels re-create the thrill of childhood reading, that primitive mixture of learning about something unknown or unimagined . . ." --Claire Messud, "The Guardian" "One of the best European writers to have emerged in the last decade." --"Kirkus s" "Maalouf skillfully weaves the threads of contemporary history into his fictional narratives . . . In each of his books, he takes a historical figure about whom few facts are known, puts him in the context of this time and place and adds a myriad of invented but historically plausible details. The finished portraits have the intricate richness of oriental tapestries." --"International Herald Tribune" "What is common to Maalouf's wide-ranging works--six of his novels have been translated into English--is his apparent belief that through examining and understanding a particular historical period we can gain a better understanding of our present time. 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Maalouf is a gifted writer; he has a knack for maintaining dramatic tension as he reveals his efforts to uncover his family's secrets, layer by layer, as his search extends over three continents. This is an intensely personal and compelling story." --Jay Freeman, "Booklist" "Maalouf's narrative gains in emotional immediacy from its lack of the polished presentation often found in memoirs...His kins' reactions to tragedies and triumphs both personal and universal add to the book's vibrant texture and tone. A shimmering portrait of a clan molded by history and personal whim." --"Kirkus s" "What do you get when one of the Arab world's greatest writers, a Prix-Goncourt-winning historical novelist, decides to write a memoir? A marvel. Amin Maalouf has given us the engrossing story of his grandfather, a prescient, remarkable man, as well as the story of his time and place--how the Middle East was formed, politically, geographically, historically, and not least, psychologically. 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