



My Son the Fanatic

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Set in a northern industrial town, this screenplay presents the dismay experienced by a Pakistani father when his son rejects the material possessions and values he has slaved all his life for and embraces a fundamentalist sect of Islam.

My Son the Fanatic Details

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Author : Hanif Kureishi

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rx.1998 says

I like how the characters in this story are flawed and very human. The word and stylistic choices are also captivating.

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Steven says

This study of Islamic Fundamentalism and clash between radical and westernized moslem generations is even more apropos now than when written.

Agustina says

I read this when I was in high school and didn't think much of it at the time.
Now that I've re read it I can only wonder what the fuck the teacher was thinking about.
This is so brutal and scary. I totally respect it but I am not prepared to review this. It's just too much.
Specially the ending.

Mai ahmed says

my son the fanatic is a fantastic and great short story

Eva Rováková says

Short stories fast to read with incredibly important messages that make you wonder and understand... I really have to read more of these!

Kristine Lenda says

This really made me re-think so many things. I recommend it.

Marina says

Yup, liked it.

Just today, I spoke with a friend about the authority our parents have over us. And then I read this, and it kind of fit. The father is in no position to tell his son to quit his religion and then to beat him up like that? Over a prostitute? I think Ali was right about everything he told his father, he deserved it and had it coming. Will be interesting to interpret this story tomorrow in class, so I'll maybe come back to this review.

EDIT: So yeah, they're both fanatics. It slipped my mind that the son said he and the other Muslims are ready for a Jihad hahah

But still, the alienation between family members is really well portrayed, the immigration prejudices, religious intolerance and the clash of cultures (London's multiculturalism) - it's all very contemporary and interesting to read about.

Emily says

This short story is a very important read. It showcases how the Eastern cultures feel they are being overshadowed and taken over by the Western cultures. Now I am very interested in seeing the film to compare.

Ayesha Rizwan says

Truthfully when I first read the short story I didn't think much of it too but the line that really struck me was what Ali asks Pervaz in the last line. You never decipher if the father is more afraid of Ali or if Ali is more afraid of Pervaz. It's till the end of the story that you realize that they are not characters but just stand-ins, symbolic figures with greater meaning because at the end when I read it now it seems that when Ali asks Pervaz "who's the fanatic now", it's not the Pervaz he is addressing but it is the reader. Hanif plays with the reader's perception of the fanatic and turns it topsy turvy.

Vikas Lather says

One of the most dazzling stories I have ever read

Matt says

The son starts acting odd and the father tries to find out why. Interesting turn of events. The end is not what

you expect. Worth a quick reading.

Perkha says

So I read this faster than I read Buddha of Suburbia but that doesn't say much.

Mark(us) Smith says

A great short read (i'm talking a few pages) on Eastern meets Western culture. An (Americanized) father is offended and confused by his son's loyalty to Islam.
