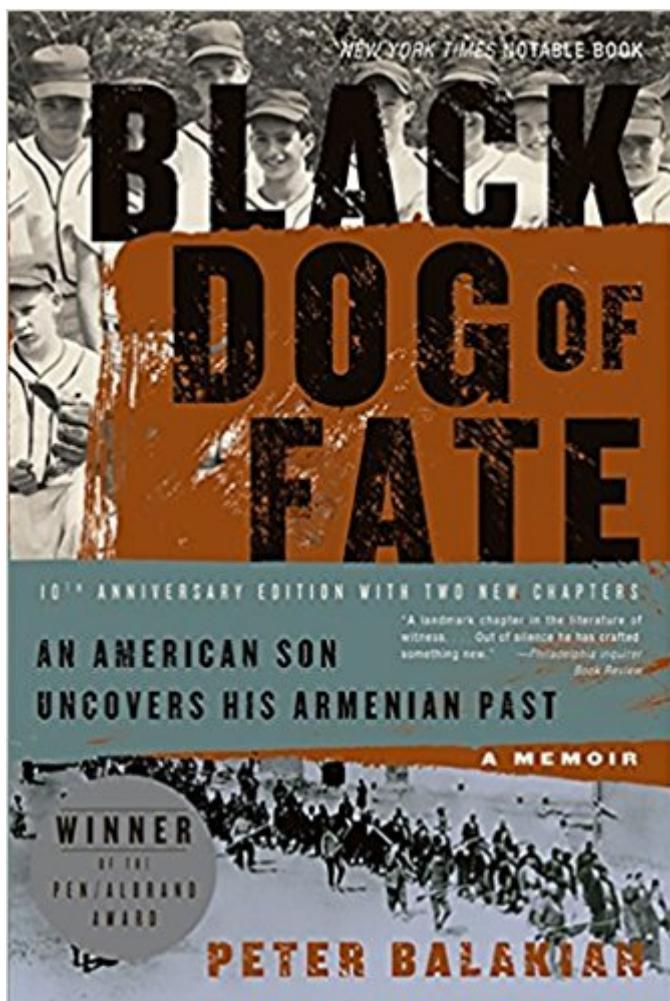


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Black Dog Of Fate: A Memoir



Synopsis

In this tenth anniversary edition of his award-winning memoir, New York Times bestselling author Peter Balakian has expanded his compelling story about growing up in the baby-boom suburbs of the '50s and '60s and coming to understand what happened to his family in the first genocide of the twentieth century—the Ottoman Turkish government's extermination of more than one million Armenians in 1915. In this new edition, Balakian continues his exploration of the Armenian Genocide with new chapters about his journey to Aleppo and his trip to the Der Zor desert of Syria in his pursuit of his grandmother's life, bringing us closer to the twentieth century's first genocide.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The author of four volumes of verse, Peter Balakian writes with the precision of a poet and the lyricism of a privileged suburban child in 1950s New Jersey. He is shadowed by his relatives' carefully guarded memories of past trauma: the brutal Turkish extermination in 1915 of more than a million Armenians, including most of his maternal grandmother's family. Balakian seamlessly interweaves personal and historical material to depict one young man's reclamation of his heritage and to scathingly indict the political forces that conspired to sweep under the rug the 20th century's first genocide. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A poetic reminiscence of growing up in the '60s takes a sharp turn as the author discovers and explores his family's painful memories of the Armenian genocide in the early years of this century.

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Fascinating book. Not too sure that there is much balance to his approach but I knew that going in. It is interesting that, unlike many of the descendants of the Armenian diaspora, his family was not highly politicized. I was not familiar with him as a poet/writer and I appreciated his perspective. I have traveled to Armenia and have some feeling for their side of the genocide issue. Much harder to buy the Turkish version and how the US fails to recognize the magnitude of the killings of innocent women and children.

Peter Balakian's memoir is memorable not only for its poetic and heart-moving prose, but for its movement from boyhood memories of a secure Armenian home to the unspeakable atrocities of the Armenian Genocide. From his keen and sensitive perspective we learn just how far away his gentle, peaceful home in New Jersey was from the Armenian home of his ancestral family where genocide was perpetrated by the Turks against the Armenians. And, yet, how close it remained--and remains forever--in the silent recesses of his family's lives. Even in his own life. The way Balakian creates a seamless narrative in the telling of his experience owes a lot to the sublime poetry of his prose. As a result we experience the forces of a protective, loving environment as well as the extremities of the most severe brutalities of the human condition.

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The story of a family's struggle and survival through a genocide which is still denied by many. Uplifting and heartbreaking, a chapter of history which deserves to be brought to light. This would make a wonderful short television series.

I'm only about halfway through this riveting book. As a first generation Armenian American born of two parents who were Armenian, I can relate to quite a number of memories that the author writes about. My parents also spoke very little about their lives in Armenia, so I find this book to be compelling in helping me understand their thoughts.

I would have preferred an exposition about the genocide of Armenians without so much detail about the Balakian family, noted though they are.

A gripping memoir. It interweaves personal history with the history of the Armenian genocide in a powerful and moving way.

Excellent. Once I started to read, I couldn't put it down. Balakian's grandmother reminds me of my own. The experiences they had left wounds that never healed.

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