



Swimming Lessons: and Other Stories from Firozsha Baag

By Rohinton Mistry

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Firozsha Baag is an apartment building in Bombay. Its ceilings need plastering and some of the toilets leak appallingly, but its residents are far from desperate, though sometimes contentious and unforgiving. In these witty, poignant stories, Mistry charts the intersecting lives of Firozsha Baag, yielding a delightful collective portrait of a middle-class Indian community poised between the old ways and the new.

"A fine collection...the volume is informed by a tone of gentle compassion for seemingly insignificant lives."--Michiko Kakutani, *New York Times*

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

"The world of Mistry's stories is a Bombay apartment complex. Various inhabitants are examined in interlocking narratives that evoke brilliantly the textures of this exotic yet startlingly knowable setting. . . . These 11 short narratives form an elegant mosaic that should confirm Mistry as a rising star in the literary firmament," acclaimed PW.

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From Scientific American

Drawn with . . . penetrating compassion, humor, and warmth.

Review

Skillfully interwoven into stories about the apartment inhabitants' domestic strivings are fearsome glints of the outside world: communal strife, dowry murders, color prejudice. . . . Mr. Mistry's ability through antic humor and compassion to make the repellent--or, at the very least, sad--story material of Firozsha Baag life-affirming, even ebullient, is astonishing given the horrifyingly stunted lives he depicts. In part, the author's success at leaving the reader with a sense of community and of life's bounty, in the face of all evidence to the contrary, comes from his facility in creating a feeling of flow and unfolding. The densely packed hive that is Firozsha Baag has a pulse that belies the trapped lives of its individuals. -- *The New York Times Book Review*, Hope Cooke

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