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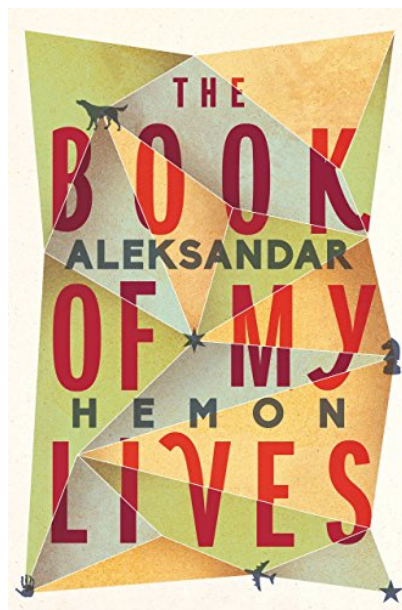
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*Présentation de l'éditeur*Aleksandar Hemon grew up in a blissful Sarajevo, where his childhood was consumed by football, his adolescence by friends, movies and girls and where, as a young man, he poked at the pretensions of his beloved city with American music, bad poetry, and slightly better journalism. And then at twenty-seven Hemon flew to Chicago for a month-long visit. A matter of weeks later Sarajevo was engulfed in an atrocious war and Hemon found himself an exile – he wouldn't return home for five years, and when he did, he found his city irrevocably changed.

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Commentaires clientsCommentaires clients les plus utiles0 internautes sur 0 ont trouvé ce commentaire utile. The magic of Sarajevo and ChicagoPar Alfred J. KwakHemon grew up in a magical Sarajevo where three faiths had coexisted peacefully for centuries. He left his domicile in 1992 for a brief US-sponsored trip to Chicago, weeks before the long siege of Sarajevo began. He returned six years later, having become a

refugee in Chicago, then US citizen. His colorful stories are love songs to the two cities that have shaped his outlook on life. But all the stories were written and published long after the Bosnian war was settled. He experienced none of its horror. Normally, one reads a writer's fiction first, then his non-fiction. Here, except for some short pieces in "GRANTA", my acquaintance with AH began with this collection of autobiographical stories, all rewritten and more or less chronologically arranged for this volume. All his writing was done in the US, from memory and that of friends, with 1992 a crucial year. Retrospectively, he describes his early life in Bosnia in nostalgic and ironic hues, later on he turns from worried and confused to outright furious. His years in Chicago since 1992 were hard. His Ukrainian roots were helpful in the beginning. Finding steady work and shelter was not easy but Hemon greatly improved his basic English over the years and slowly became a notable writer in English. The closing story "The Aquarium" is hauntingly dramatic. It monitors his nine-month old daughter Isabel's 108-days struggle with a rare form of brain tumor. Read how passionately Hemon, an avowed atheist, mourns her suffering and death and how he writes about how the process impacted on his wife and three-year old daughter Ella. First published in "The New Yorker", which is very tough on checking facts, the medical procedures and rescue efforts are surely professionally described. Finally, at some point Aleksandar Hemon states that in his native Bosnian language there are no separate words for fiction and non-fiction. Meaning that a shortage of the one can be balanced by an infusion of the other... Whereby this book could easily be called "The book of my lies". This reviewer has started reading "The Lazarus Project", his most successful novel.

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