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The Terminal Man

Alfred Merhan

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Alfred Merhan : The Terminal Man before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Terminal Man:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A question of personal identityBy Jonathan JarvisKarimi Nasseri, who began to call himself "Sir, Alfred Mehran" (comma included, after the salutation in a letter he once received), came from a wealthy family in Iran, the son of a respected medical doctor. However, he learned to his shock on

reaching college age, when his father died, that he would receive no inheritance because his birth was the outcome of an affair between his father and a Scottish nurse. In Iran, the penalty for adultery is stoning although not for the offspring. The offspring, however, have no rights of any kind. After his false mother coldly told him that she was not his real mother, she left the room and he never saw her again. His uncles proposed a deal: they would send him to an English university for three years, all expenses paid, but he must never come back to embarrass the family. I can imagine the shock this revelation must have been to his sense of identity and self worth. But it was to get much worse. Due to loss of all his identity documents by a mugging in Paris while traveling in Europe some years later, he became trapped in limbo in the Charles de Gaulle airport when no other country would accept him as a refugee. He could not return to Iran because of political expulsion for having once joined a British march protesting the Shah. After many years passed, he was offered travel papers but by then he had come to believe that he was not really Iranian after his rejection by his family and his status as an exile. He stubbornly refused to sign the travel papers identifying him as an Iranian. Therefore he chose to remain living on a bench in the departure lounge of Terminal One. Finally, after almost eighteen years at the airport (August 1988 to July 2006), he was removed to a hospital and placed eventually in an Emmaus shelter in Paris for homeless people where he lives to this day, according to a Wikipedia article. It is not known whether he ever learned the full name of his mother or made contact with her as he long wished to do. The price of this book has skyrocketed in the past month. Maybe the current situation of limbo at Sheremetyevo airport has increased demand for this story. I hope that Corgi Books in Great Britain will issue a reprint. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Amazing story By NATHAN CHAMBERLAIN I truly enjoyed this book. Though it's never directly confirmed, I believe the movie *The Terminal* with Tom Hanks was based on this amazing, amazing story. But READ THIS BOOK because there's much, much more to it and the story is so inspiring and eye-opening. Not the fastest moving, but remember it's a true story. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting read, great for a trip! By WindowsProfessional This book was purchased as I watched one of my favorite films: *The Terminal* featuring Tom Hanks. A very humble, interesting tale, but the level of English it is written in is basic, and possibly due to the translation. The tale is heart warming and breaking at the same time, but don't expect a scholarly read here.

The Terminal Man is the extraordinary story of Mehran Karimi Nasseri, better known as 'Sir Alfred' of Charles de Gaulle Airport. Sir Alfred has spent the last 15 years living and sleeping inside the airport's Terminal One building, trapped in international no-man's land without the proper documentation needed to move on. Sir Alfred was born in Iran in 1945. When he was twenty his father died and he received an even greater shock when the woman he regarded as his mother told him he wasn't her son, but the result of a union between his father and a British nurse. A deal was agreed for Sir Alfred to disappear overseas to England and his family would pay for his studies. After a year at university, his family broke all contact and he returned to Iran where he was imprisoned for his political activism, was arrested and tortured. He was then expelled from Iran with a passport valid for just one year - so he was now a stateless person. He was mugged on his way to Charles de Gaulle airport in 1988 and lost all his documents. He boarded a plane to London but without the appropriate documentation was sent straight back to Paris. On trying to leave the airport he was arrested and sentenced as an illegal immigrant, and served six months in jail. Upon his release, he returned to Charles de Gaulle and was refused permission to enter any other country. Fearing arrest if he left the terminal building but unable to board a flight, he was trapped there for years. He sleeps on a red bench borrowed from an old bar, surrounded by piles of newspapers and magazines stored in cargo boxes and his extensive diary. As Sir Alfred remained trapped between countries his fame began to spread. There have been numerous press and magazines articles around the globe; he receives hundreds of letters from well-wishers as well as his visits and has also featured in three documentary feature films about his plight as the world's only celebrity homeless person. Political refugee, prisoner, exile, rebel, gentleman, citizen of the world, media magnet and, most of all, delayed passenger, *The Terminal Man* tells Sir Alfred's incredible and unique life story in his own words.