

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910777691103321
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Titolo	The last Jews in Baghdad [[electronic resource]] : remembering a lost homeland / / Nissim Rejwan ; foreword by Joel Beinin
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Austin, : University of Texas Press, c2004
ISBN	0-292-79747-8
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (269 p.)
Disciplina	956.7/47004924/092 B
Soggetti	Jews - Iraq - Baghdad Jews - Iraq - Baghdad - Social life and customs Jews - Iraq - Baghdad - Social conditions - 20th century Baghdad (Iraq) Ethnic relations
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di contenuto	In old Baghdad -- The Rejwan tribe -- Mother and the placebo effect -- Naima -- Early initiations -- Schooling -- The great crash and US -- Hesqail Abul Alwa hires a helper -- Living in sexual deprivation -- Idle days -- Distorted visions -- Rashid Ali's coup and its aftermath -- Bookshop days -- A deepening friendship -- The start : movies, book reviews -- Out in the cold -- Disposing of a library -- End of a community -- Farewells and reunions.
Sommario/riassunto	Once upon a time, Baghdad was home to a flourishing Jewish community. More than a third of the city's people were Jews, and Jewish customs and holidays helped set the pattern of Baghdad's cultural and commercial life. On the city's streets and in the bazaars, Jews, Muslims, and Christians—all native-born Iraqis—intermingled, speaking virtually the same colloquial Arabic and sharing a common sense of national identity. And then, almost overnight it seemed, the state of Israel was born, and lines were drawn between Jews and Arabs. Over the next couple of years, nearly the entire Jewish population of Baghdad fled their Iraqi homeland, never to return. In this beautifully written memoir, Nissim Rejwan recalls the lost Jewish community of Baghdad, in which he was a child and young man from the 1920s through 1951. He paints

a minutely detailed picture of growing up in a barely middle-class family, dealing with a motley assortment of neighbors and landlords, struggling through the local schools, and finally discovering the pleasures of self-education and sexual awakening. Rejwan intertwines his personal story with the story of the cultural renaissance that was flowering in Baghdad during the years of his young manhood, describing how his work as a bookshop manager and a staff writer for the Iraq Times brought him friendships with many of the country's leading intellectual and literary figures. He rounds off his story by remembering how the political and cultural upheavals that accompanied the founding of Israel, as well as broad hints sent back by the first arrivals in the new state, left him with a deep ambivalence as he bid a last farewell to a homeland that had become hostile to its native Jews.
