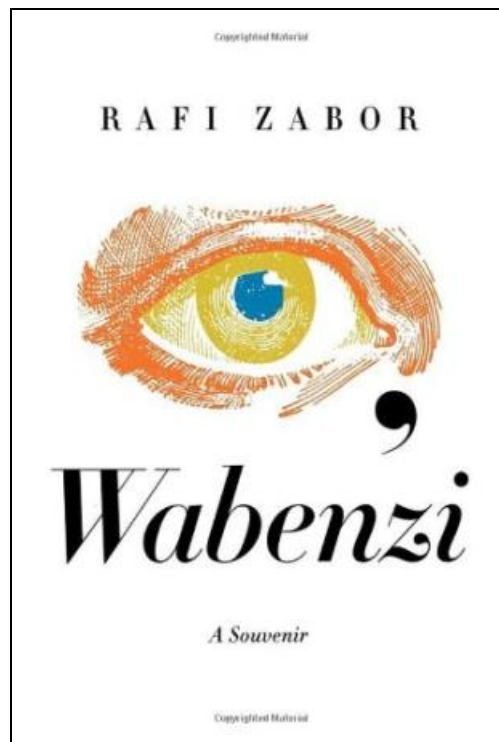


I, Wabenzi: A Souvenir (Hardback)



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Reviews

It is one of the most popular books. I am quite late in starting to read this one, but better than never. Once you begin to read the book, it is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding.

(Camille Larson)

I, WABENZI: A SOUVENIR (HARDBACK)

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Farrar Straus Giroux, United States, 2005. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Some time ago Rafi Zabor sat down to write a brief narrative of the year 1986. That was the year he set out across two continents in a used Mercedes-- Wabenzi is the Swahili word for a member of the Mercedes-owning class--to buy a grave stone for his friend Mahmoud Rauf and to outrun the shadow of his own parents recent death. But like a boat against the current, the writer was drawn back into the past: his father's escape from the Nazis, Rafi's own Brooklyn boyhood surrounded by the fractious, Zabors and Zaborovskys, and the anguished--sometimes farcical--spiritual journey that led Zabor from Brooklyn to Turkey by way of Coltrane, the thirteenth-century mystic Muhyiddin Ibn 'Arabi, the McGovern campaign, Gurdjieff, a shoe salesman named Gogol, and the cataclysmic months Zabor spent studying (and whirling) amid a band of Sufis in rural England. The result--the first of a projected four volumes--is one of the most original, capacious, and vivid narratives of the last few decades, a real-life Bildungsroman dealing with an expanded range of human experience, from matters of life and death to a piece of what lies beyond them. Straight from the uncharted territory between Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance and Tristram Shandy, *I, Wabenzi* lifts a corner of the known world as if it were the edge of a curtain, and begins to show a reality new to our literature gleaming on the other side.

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