

What the Old Man Does is Always Right

Hvad fætter gør er altid det rigtige

by Manu Sareen



The text of this picture book is based on a well-known fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen titled *What the Old Man Does Is Always Right*.

The author has moved the narrative to the Vesterbro district of present-day Copenhagen, where the main character, Osama, helps out in his father's shop, called "The Iraqi Kioskie." (The misspellings here, and in the rest of the text, reflect the way recent immigrants to Denmark speak the Danish language.)

The "Old Man" in the story is Wahib, who knows how to get a good deal. For that reason, he is put in charge of investing the shop's cash. To help pay the electric bill, Wahib has to finagle his way through the numerous options available in Vesterbro, even though he doesn't possess the abilities of a true hustler. But it all ends well. Because of good family ties, Osama ends up earning both loving kisses and high praise.

This is an Easy-To-Read book, intended for beginning readers. The text is set in two columns with large type.

Manu Sareen (born 1967) grew up on the island of Amager outside of Copenhagen. His family moved to Denmark from India in 1970. He was educated as a social worker and conflict negotiator. Since 1997 he has worked for the Døgnkontakten/Etnisk consultant team, and since 1999 he has served as an ethnic consultant for the City of Copenhagen. In 2006 he made his debut as a children's book author, and in 2007 he published the second book in his series about Iqbal Farooq.

His published books include: *When Love Becomes Coercion — Generational Conflicts and Arranged Marriages* (2003); *Iqbal Farooq — And the Black Pierrot* (2006); *How to Avoid Dropouts, from A to Z* (2006); *Iqbal Farooq — And the Crown Jewels* (2007); *Iqbal Farooq — And the Indian Super Chip* (2009); and *Clumsy Hassan*, the title of which is a reference to the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale *Clumsy Hans*.



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