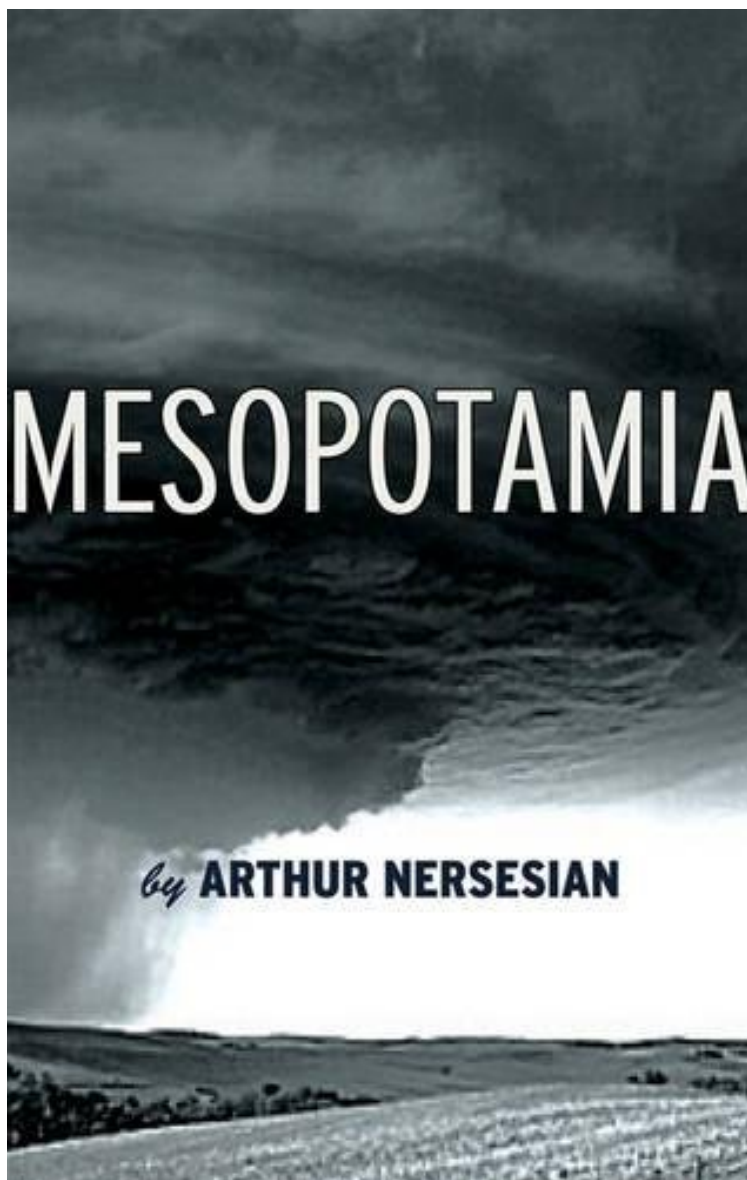


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## Mesopotamia

*Arthur Nersesian*

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**Arthur Nersesian : Mesopotamia** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mesopotamia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Keep it Up Arthur!! Thanks!!By An CustomerGreat read. Nersesian is good for business (aka you'll like his stuff).5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Highly Entertaining MysteryBy BrkatInvestigative reporter Cassandra Bloomgarten has marital problems, money problems, drinking

problems and living problems. In an attempt to salvage what's left of her career she takes a freelance job with a tabloid paper to check out a possible juicy kidnap/murder down in Memphis. But while she is there Cassandra thinks she may have stumbled upon another potential mystery of greater significance wielding colossal ramifications. But will she be able to prove it?"Mesopotamia" is my first Arthur Nersesian novel. If this is indicative of his work, I will be reading all of his books. From page one, his writing snares you and makes you want to keep reading to find out what happens next. No spoilers here. Just read "Mesopotamia" for yourself to find out what does happen at the end. Along the way you will be treated to a catchy plot, wry humor and some entertaining foreshadowing tidbits. Great novel with my highest recommendation.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Blue Suede Step...By MejMesopotamia is a step apart from the other works I've read by Arthur Nersesian. In prior works, historical issues have been developed, retold and set forward to tell a alternative story...or one with a particular slant. While this happens again in Mesopotamia, it's been a while since I've read Nersesian in such fine form.Completely funny and utterly absurd (at times), this satire of our media-crazed culture unfolds a story of Korean born Sandy Bloomgarten, reporter extraordinaire, who is given an assignment by her tabloid employer to run down to TN and investigate the kidnapping of a young girl. What unfolds is a whirlwind of Elvis impersonators, trailer park woes, shotgun murders and alcoholic misery. Despite the many misgivings in Sandy's life, the currency of human need becomes the common thread that ties this story together while never becoming a morality tale.A well deserved break from the Five Books of Moses, Nersesian has given us one of his better novels in quite some time.

"The immortal shadow of Elvis Presley gyrates wildly through this satiric exploration of America's fascination with tabloid journalism." --Publishers Weekly"Thoroughly entertaining . . . A quirky, hard-edged, slightly absurdist thriller from a writer who definitely bears watching." --Booklist"In his paean to the perplexities of dislocation and discovery—both in bohemian life and in life at large—Nersesian makes us eager to see what happens when the curtain finally rises."—The New York Times Book Review, on UnlubricatedThings have not been going well for journalist Sandy Bloomgarten. Her job went down the drain and her marriage quickly followed. After a lengthy bender, she awakens one morning to the stark realization that she is flat broke. Nonetheless, she's still a crack reporter and when a tabloid offers her a freelance assignment in Memphis—just a stone's throw from her childhood home in Mesopotamia, Tennessee—she takes it.Though sent there for one story, she winds up tracking down another: someone is killing Elvis impersonators who perform at the annual Sing-the-King festival. The few clues lead her to several unlikely characters: a cheating local minister constantly on the make, a strange band of misfits who only cover Elvis tunes, and a small-town private eye who blew himself up along with his crystal meth lab. As Sandy's investigation closes, she realizes that she is sitting on what could be the story of the century. The only problem is she can never reveal what she has found.Arthur Nersesian's latest novel is a satiric thriller that takes an amusing view of America's predilection with the superficial over the relevant, and celebrity excitement over real news.Arthur Nersesian is the author of nine novels, including the cult-classic The Fuck-Up (more than 100,000 copies sold), dogrun, and Suicide Casanova. He lives in New York City.

From Publishers WeeklyThe immortal shadow of Elvis Presley gyrates wildly through this satiric exploration of America's fascination with tabloid journalism. Washed-up alcoholic reporter Cassandra Bloomgarten gets a career reboot when a sensational "runaway bride" case erupts in the town of Mesopotamia, Tenn., near Memphis. Adopted from a Korean orphanage and raised in the area by a Jewish family, Cassandra may have the local connections to grab the headline, but what happens when she stumbles across two dead Elvis impersonators and a large family left fatherless by a meth lab explosion? The plot thickens-- or zigzags. Nersesian (Suicide Casanova) ambles along, almost getting lost in sitcom territory with the adorable fatherless kids, but he recovers when Cassandra enters an Elvis impersonator contest. A surprise ending won't be much of a shock to anyone who knows Elvis lore, but the loose, amiable read carries you through. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistA bare-bones summary of this novel's plot might make it sound like more of the same-old, same-old: a down-and-out reporter stumbles onto the story of a lifetime and risks everything she has to solve a series of murders that will blow the lid off a small-town scandal. Ho-hum, right? Wrong. No reader is going to look at this book and think: "Oh, well, another story about a homeless, broke, alcoholic tabloid reporter of Korean descent, a couple of dead Elvis impersonators, and a tax attorney's missing wife." The novel, which takes its title from the Tennessee town where the lead character grew up, is thoroughly entertaining, with an offbeat sense of humor and characters with names such as Floyd Loyd and Morton Beaucheete (say the last one fast). The author doesn't forsake story for funny business, though: there's a solid mystery here, underneath the goofiness. A quirky, hard-edged, slightly absurdist thriller from a writer who definitely bears watching. --David Pitt "[Mesopotamia] is a wildly entertaining novel by Nersesian"--Library Journal"Mesopotamia is a solid, absurdist mystery. It's a vacation from the cosmopolitan, for both its heroine and its author--and, just like the tabloids it skewers, a sensationalist retreat for the reader."--The Village Voice"Predictable' would never be a word used to describe an Arthur Nersesian novel. In his eight previous novels (among them The Fuck-Up, Suicide Casanova, and Unlubricated), outrageous situations and

sudden turns of events seem to be everyday situations for his characters. These unexpected twists and turns of the plot mix with the charismatic voices of his leading characters, leaving readers clutching their books tightly, madly turning pages in anticipation of what will happen next. His latest novel, *Mesopotamia*, is no exception....It easily ranks as one of his best works, and serves as a great introduction to an often offbeat but always entertaining author." --Verbicide Magazine "This is satire, of course, and it's supposed to be over the top. By design, the book often edges into shaggy-dog territory. But the craziness only serves to let Nersesian take aim at his true target -- the national media. Allusions to the original Mesopotamia (i.e., Iraq) and the subprime mortgage crisis drift just below the surface, giving bite to the book's comedy. Very sneakily, Nersesian has managed to write a book of ideas (albeit a very funny one)."--Bookslut