



The Story of Zahra: A Novel

By Hanan al-Shaykh

Download now

Read Online ➔

The Story of Zahra: A Novel By Hanan al-Shaykh

Zahra's mother uses her as a cover for her meetings with a lover; Zahra's strict father mistreats her for being complicit in her mother's affair. Fleeing from Beirut in search of solace, Zahra stays with her uncle in West Africa—and then uses marriage as another kind of escape. Back in Beirut, love finally comes to her, but with terrible consequences. Banned in several Middle Eastern countries since its original publication, *The Story of Zahra* is an intoxicating, provocative story of a young woman's coming of age in a city torn apart by war.

↓ [Download The Story of Zahra: A Novel ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online The Story of Zahra: A Novel ...pdf](#)

The Story of Zahra: A Novel

By Hanan al-Shaykh

The Story of Zahra: A Novel By Hanan al-Shaykh

Zahra's mother uses her as a cover for her meetings with a lover; Zahra's strict father mistreats her for being complicit in her mother's affair. Fleeing from Beirut in search of solace, Zahra stays with her uncle in West Africa—and then uses marriage as another kind of escape. Back in Beirut, love finally comes to her, but with terrible consequences. Banned in several Middle Eastern countries since its original publication, *The Story of Zahra* is an intoxicating, provocative story of a young woman's coming of age in a city torn apart by war.

The Story of Zahra: A Novel By Hanan al-Shaykh Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #559879 in Books
- Published on: 1996-12-15
- Released on: 1996-12-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.99" h x .49" w x 5.20" l, .43 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 215 pages

 [Download The Story of Zahra: A Novel ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Story of Zahra: A Novel ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Banned in several Arab nations, this rich tale mesmerizes with its frank sexuality and scenes of war-torn Beirut. Zahra is a misfit mistreated by her mother, who brings her along to secret meetings with a lover, and by her father, a harsh disciplinarian who reacts angrily to her habit of picking at her pimpled face. She leaves her parents to stay with an uncle who has fled to Africa to escape being arrested for political activity. When his affection for her grows sexual, Zahra agrees to an unsuccessful marriage with his friend Majed. Eventually, she returns to Beirut, where "the war was like a weevil that had found its way into the heart of a huge bag of white flour and settled there," and begins meeting secretly to have sex with a man who may or may not be a rooftop sniper. A rotating first-person narrative gives everyone a voice; Zahra's is the most striking, but each character has memorable moments, as when Majed describes his adolescent arousal while reading *Jane Eyre* and seeing an illustration of the heroine kissing Mr. Rochester. Al-Shaykh (*Women of Sand and Myrrh*), a Lebanese writer now living in London, has a focused and original style.

Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

This harsh 1986 novel traces several years in the life of Zahra, who attempts to escape her brutal existence in Lebanon by visiting an uncle in South Africa. When that venture proves equally empty, she returns to war-torn Beirut in hopes of finally finding inner peace.

Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Kirkus Reviews

Arab writer al-Shaykh (*Women of Sand and Myrrh*, 1992) details a cool, almost clinical journey to the heart of a young woman imprisoned within herself by family deceit--and liberated finally amidst the violence of war-torn Beirut. The story this time--reflecting the author's feminist sympathies, as well as her preoccupation with the contemporary Arab world--concerns Lebanese Zahra, who as a child had been used as cover for her mother's liaisons with another man. After a severe beating from her brutal father, who suspects Zahra's role in his wife's deceit, the formerly bright student retreats into herself, obsessively scratches her pimple-laden face, and embarks on a meaningless affair with a married man. She has two abortions and a nervous breakdown before her family sends her off to West Africa, where an uncle once active in Lebanese politics now lives in exile. The homesick uncle is delighted to see her, but Zahra, frightened by the intensity of his attentions, hides out in the bathroom ("the only thing I have loved in Africa") and in desperation accepts the marriage proposal of a local Lebanese man. The marriage is a disaster: Zahra becomes even more withdrawn, then returns to a Beirut devastated by war. As the war intensifies, her parents move to their native village, and Zahra, struggling to survive, falls in love for the first time. But her lover is almost certainly the lone sniper--"the only god of death, the only threat in their locality"--who shoots innocent passersby from a nearby apartment roof. As the two make love, little is said, and for the first time Zahra wants a normal life. But it's too late, as she--left only with "promise of menace"--becomes a victim of the city's mindless violence, personified by the sniper. A powerfully haunting portrait of innocence destroyed by violence both at home and in the larger world. More than just a novel about the contemporary Middle East. --
Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ned Aguayo:

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book entitled The Story of Zahra: A Novel? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have different opinion?

Sherry Clark:

What do you ponder on book? It is just for students because they're still students or this for all people in the world, exactly what the best subject for that? Simply you can be answered for that issue above. Every person has diverse personality and hobby for each other. Don't to be pushed someone or something that they don't need do that. You must know how great and also important the book The Story of Zahra: A Novel. All type of book are you able to see on many resources. You can look for the internet options or other social media.

Luis Gonzalez:

Information is provisions for folks to get better life, information presently can get by anyone on everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even a concern. What people must be consider while those information which is from the former life are hard to be find than now could be taking seriously which one would work to believe or which one the resource are convinced. If you get the unstable resource then you have it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen in you if you take The Story of Zahra: A Novel as the daily resource information.

Enola Hudson:

Does one one of the book lovers? If yes, do you ever feeling doubt if you are in the book store? Make an effort to pick one book that you never know the inside because don't judge book by its include may doesn't work here is difficult job because you are afraid that the inside maybe not while fantastic as in the outside seem likes. Maybe you answer could be The Story of Zahra: A Novel why because the fantastic cover that make you consider about the content will not disappoint you. The inside or content is actually fantastic as the outside or maybe cover. Your reading sixth sense will directly show you to pick up this book.

Download and Read Online The Story of Zahra: A Novel By Hanan al-Shaykh #96EM3QXTCIS

Read The Story of Zahra: A Novel By Hanan al-Shaykh for online ebook

The Story of Zahra: A Novel By Hanan al-Shaykh Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Story of Zahra: A Novel By Hanan al-Shaykh books to read online.

Online The Story of Zahra: A Novel By Hanan al-Shaykh ebook PDF download

The Story of Zahra: A Novel By Hanan al-Shaykh Doc

The Story of Zahra: A Novel By Hanan al-Shaykh Mobipocket

The Story of Zahra: A Novel By Hanan al-Shaykh EPub

96EM3QXTCIS: The Story of Zahra: A Novel By Hanan al-Shaykh