



# 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:**

**Michael Jackson:**

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

**Tammy Ely:**

The guide untitled The Story of Zahra: A Novel is the e-book that recommended to you to see. You can see the quality of the book content that will be shown to you actually. The language that publisher use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The author was did a lot of research when write the book, therefore the information that they share for your requirements is absolutely accurate. You also can get the e-book of The Story of Zahra: A Novel from the publisher to make you more enjoy free time.

**Geraldine Moreno:**

Precisely why? Because this The Story of Zahra: A Novel is an unordinary book that the inside of the e-book waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will jolt you with the secret it inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who have write the book in such incredible way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book have such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking way. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I were you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

**Nicholas Buchanan:**

That reserve can make you to feel relax. This book The Story of Zahra: A Novel was multi-colored and of course has pictures on there. As we know that book The Story of Zahra: A Novel has many kinds or category. Start from kids until teenagers. For example Naruto or Investigator Conan you can read and believe that you are the character on there. So , not at all of book are make you bored, any it offers you feel happy, fun and relax. Try to choose the best book for yourself and try to like reading this.

**Download and Read Online The Story of Zahra: A Novel By Hanan al-Shaykh #DFVB2JW78KA**

## **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**

**DFVB2JW78KA: The Story of Zahra: A Novel By Hanan al-Shaykh**