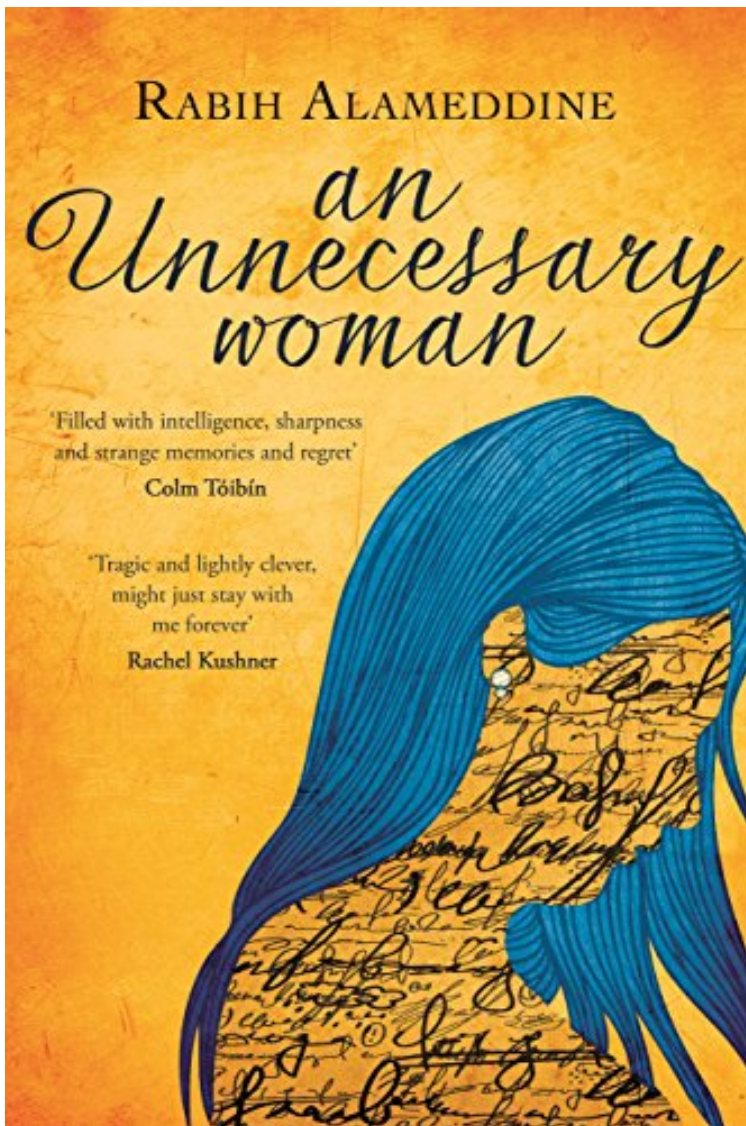


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An Unnecessary Woman (English Edition)



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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurAaliya Saleh lives alone in her Beirut apartment, surrounded by stockpiles of books. Godless, fatherless, childless, and divorced, Aaliya is her familys 'unnecessary appendage'. Every year, she translates a new favourite book into Arabic, then stows it away. The thirty-seven books that Aaliya has translated over her lifetime have never been read - by anyone.This breathtaking portrait of a reclusive woman follows Aaliyas digressive mind as it ricochets across visions of past and present Beirut. Colourful musings on literature, philosophy, and art are invaded by memories of the Lebanese Civil War and Aaliyas own volatile past. As she tries to overcome her ageing body and spontaneous emotional upwellings, Aaliya is faced with an unthinkable disaster that threatens to shatter the little life she has left.A love letter to literature and its power to define who we are, the prodigiously gifted Rabih Alameddine has given us a

magnificent rendering of one woman's life in the Middle East. *Revue de presse* An Unnecessary Woman is a meditation on, among other things, ageing, politics, literature, loneliness, grief and resilience. If there are flaws to this beautiful and absorbing novel, they are not readily apparent. (New York Times) Exquisite... An Unnecessary Woman is a story of innumerable things. It is a tale of blue hair and the war of attrition that comes with age, of loneliness and grief, most of all of resilience, of the courage it takes to survive, stay sane and continue to see beauty. Read it once, read it twice, read other books for a decade or so, and then pick it up and read it anew. This one's a keeper. (Aminatta Forna Independent) Irresistible. Candid and human. (Wall Street Journal) Alameddine has conjured a beguiling narrator in his engaging novel, a woman who is, like her city, hard to read, hard to take, hard to know and, ultimately, passionately complex. --(San Francisco Chronicle) An opaque self-portrait of an utterly beguiling misanthrope. Aaliya notes that: "Reading a fine book for the first time is as sumptuous as the first sip of orange juice that breaks the fast in Ramadan." You don't have to fast first (in fact it helps to have gorged on the books that Aaliya translates and adores) in order to savor Alameddine's succulent fiction. --(The Boston Globe) Simultaneously a philosophical rumination, a literature class and a cry from the heart, An Unnecessary Woman is, precisely in its strangeness, a genuine literary pleasure: a complicated one. --(Claire Messud Guardian) Presentation de l'auteur Aaliya Saleh lives alone in her Beirut apartment, surrounded by stockpiles of books. Godless, fatherless, childless, and divorced, Aaliya is her family's 'unnecessary appendage'. Every year, she translates a new favourite book into Arabic, then stows it away. The thirty-seven books that Aaliya has translated over her lifetime have never been read - by anyone. This breathtaking portrait of a reclusive woman follows Aaliya's digressive mind as it ricochets across visions of past and present Beirut. Colourful musings on literature, philosophy, and art are invaded by memories of the Lebanese Civil War and Aaliya's own volatile past. As she tries to overcome her ageing body and spontaneous emotional upwellings, Aaliya is faced with an unthinkable disaster that threatens to shatter the little life she has left. A love letter to literature and its power to define who we are, the prodigiously gifted Rabih Alameddine has given us a magnificent rendering of one woman's life in the Middle East.