

Gazelle



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As mesmerizing as a tale from the lips of Sheherazade, *Gazelle* traces the story of Elizabeth, a thirteen-year-old American girl whose adolescent passion is awakened in the exotic climate of 1950s Cairo. While her mother—whose beauty and sexual prowess both frighten and fascinate Elizabeth—moves into a hotel to pursue a string of lovers, her father, a historian, loses himself in a world of chess and toy soldiers. Elizabeth's imagination, primed by an explicit edition of *The Arabian Nights*, leads her to fantasies about her father's friend, a gentle, older man named Ramses Ragab, a perfume maker who visits their house regularly to play games of war and who opens her up to the mystery of hieroglyphics and the art of exotic scents.

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