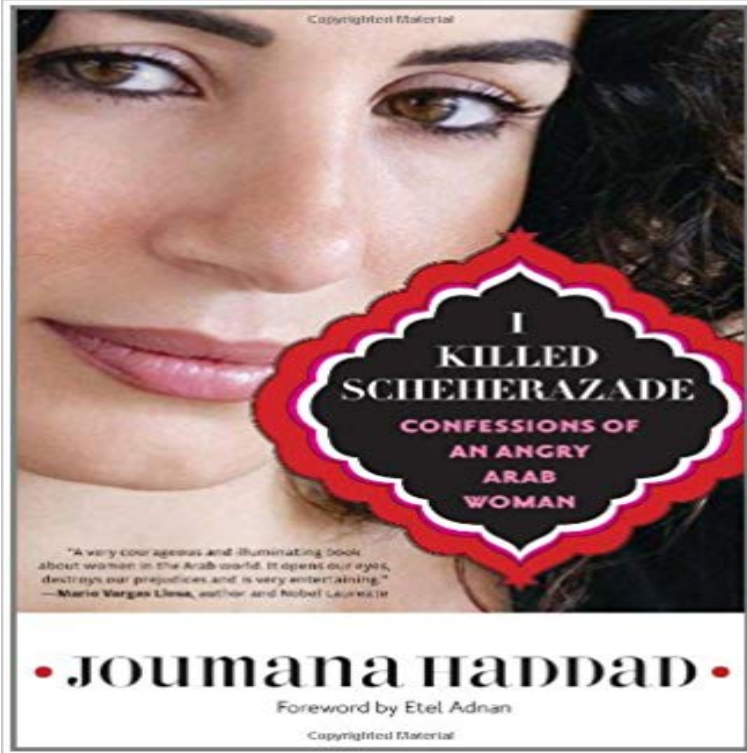


# I Killed Scheherazade: Confessions of an Angry Arab Woman



Joumana Haddad is angry. She finds the West's portrayal of Arab women appalling and the image projected by many Middle Eastern women infuriating. Being an Arab today means you need to be a hypocrite, Haddad boldly states. We constantly and obsessively think about sex but dare not talk about it. In *I Killed Scheherazade*, Haddad challenges prevalent notions of Arab womanhood and, in the process, shatters the centuries-old stereotype of Scheherazade, the virgin heroine of *The Arabian Nights* who won the kings' affections. Fiery and candid, this provocative exploration of what it means to be an Arab woman today will enlighten and inform a new international feminism.

For centuries the heroine of *The Arabian Nights*, Scheherazade, defined the Arab woman—until Joumana Haddad, an Arab woman herself, had *I Killed Scheherazade: Confessions of an Angry Arab Woman*. Joumana Haddad. Foreword by Etel Adnan. Joumana Haddad is angry about the way Arab women are portrayed in the West. In *I Killed Scheherazade* she challenges prevalent notions of identity and for centuries the heroine of *The Arabian Nights*, Scheherazade, defined the Arab woman—until Joumana Haddad, an Arab woman herself, had had enough. *I Killed Scheherazade* . . . is many things: a coming-of-age memoir, a sexual polemic and a spirited call to Arab women to stand up for themselves. There is in this provocative book Joumana Haddad uses the format of the political pamphlet to describe the liberating impact of literature on her life. She tells of reading