



Beyond taboos: the female body and social disorder

The case of *The Story of Zahra* by Hanan al-Sheikh

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Abstract: The Story of Zahra is the tale of the journey of a female body, from self-denial to acceptance of intercorporeity. The child, almost oblivious of her own individuality, makes way for a young woman in a state of unease, who deliberately rejects all interaction with others. In doing so, she denies her own existence in a world from which she protects herself by any means possible, until, finally, her long-denied body compels her to accept herself within the world.

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