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Badawi: A Novel

"With precision, beauty, and fierceness, Mohed Altrad tells the story of a young Bedouin setting off to conquer life."

—*Le Marseillaise* (France)

Badawi



a novel

Mohed Altrad



Synopsis

Published to wide critical acclaim in France, Badawi is Mohed Altradâ™s heartrending debut novel, inspired by the authorâ™s own narrative arc from Bedouin orphan to engineer and finally billionaire businessman. In the Syrian desert, a young boy watches as his mother dies. She was a repudiated woman, abandoned by the boyâ™s powerful father, leaving MaÃouf to his scornful grandmother. Though the Bedouin tribes have stopped their centuries-long travels across the dunesâ™their tents long since converted into sedentary shacksâ™MaÃoufâ™s grandmother wants him to carry on tradition as a shepherd. But from the first time he sneaks off to the white-walled schoolhouse to watch the other children learn, MaÃouf envisions a different future for himself. This is one extraordinary childâ™s story of fighting for an education, and a life, he was never supposed to have, from a tiny desert village to the city of Raqqa, from the university halls of Montpellier on to the oil fields of Abu Dhabi. But is a life of exile the one he wants? Can a child whose name means 'the abandoned one' ever make a home for himself? With each step forward, he feels the love of his youthâ™a steadfast young Syrian woman named Fadiaâ™and the shifting, haunted sands of his native village pulling him back toward the past he thought he had left behind.

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