



## Return to Childhood: The Memoir of a Modern Moroccan Woman (Modern Middle East Literature in Translation)

By Leila Abouzeid

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Leila Abouzeid, whose novel *Year of the Elephant* has gone through six reprintings, has now translated her childhood memoir into English. Published in Rabat in 1993 to critical acclaim, the work brings to life the interlocking dramas of family ties and political conflict.

Against a background of Morocco's struggle for independence from French colonial rule, Abouzeid charts the development of personal relationships, between generations as well as between husbands and wives. Abouzeid's father is a central figure; as a strong advocate of Moroccan nationalism, he was frequently imprisoned by the French and his family forced to flee the capital. Si Hmed was a public hero, but the young daughter's memories of her famous father and of the family's plight because of his political activities are not so idyllic.

The memoir utilizes multiple voices, especially those of women, in a manner reminiscent of the narrative strategies of the oral tradition in Moroccan culture. *Return to Childhood* may also be classified as an autobiography, a form only now gaining respect as a valid literary genre in the Middle East. Abouzeid's own introduction and Elizabeth Fernea's foreword discuss this new development in Arabic literature.

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## **Return to Childhood: The Memoir of a Modern Moroccan Woman (Modern Middle East Literature in Translation) By Leila Abouzeid Bibliography**

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### **Editorial Review**

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: Arabic

About the Author

LEILA ABOUZEID is the author of two novels, as well as memoirs and many other stories. She lives in Rabat, Morocco, where she is in demand as a commentator on both radio and television. Her work has been translated into English, German, Dutch, and Urdu.

### **Users Review**

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**Carmine Caulfield:**

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