



Two Women in One

By Nawal El Saadawi

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Two Women in One is the story of Bahiah Shaheen, an 18-year-old medical student and daughter of a prominent Egyptian public official. She finds the male students in her class rough, coarse and alien. Her father, too, seems to belong to a race apart, and the young woman has long ceased to be surprised at not being her real self in his presence. But what, she wonders, is this real self? Of one thing she is certain: it is not the hard-working, well-behaved medical student from the comfortable middle-class background familiar to all who know her. One day, while looking at a painting in an exhibition, a stranger engages her in conversation. This proves to be the beginning of Bahiah Shaheen's road to self-discovery and the start of her realization that fulfilment in life is indeed possible.

Two Women in One is, in fact, the story of countless women in the Third World, and speaks to their quest for emancipation and dignity. It is a reminder to women everywhere that hope must never yield to despair, that the future can hold brighter promise.

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Two Women in One By Nawal El Saadawi Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Bahiah Shaheen is a young medical student outwardly obedient to the wishes of her petit bourgeois family but inwardly starved for freedom and affection. Egyptian feminist writer Saadawi (*The Face of Eve*) does little to flesh out this stock situation. The nature of the student movement Bahiah joins (and goes to prison for) remains a mystery, and the lover whose own imprisonment impels Bahiah's involvement is a vaguely characterized prop. Practices such as clitoridectomy that might usefully have been discussed in an introduction go unexplained. Whatever *Two Women in One* may have meant to its intended audience upon its original publication (Beirut, 1975), it is unlikely to stir many readers here. Grove Koger, Boise P.L., Id. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

'These two women live, to some degree, in every thinking woman.' --The New York Times Book Review

Language Notes

Text: English, Arabic (translation)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Doris Geer:

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