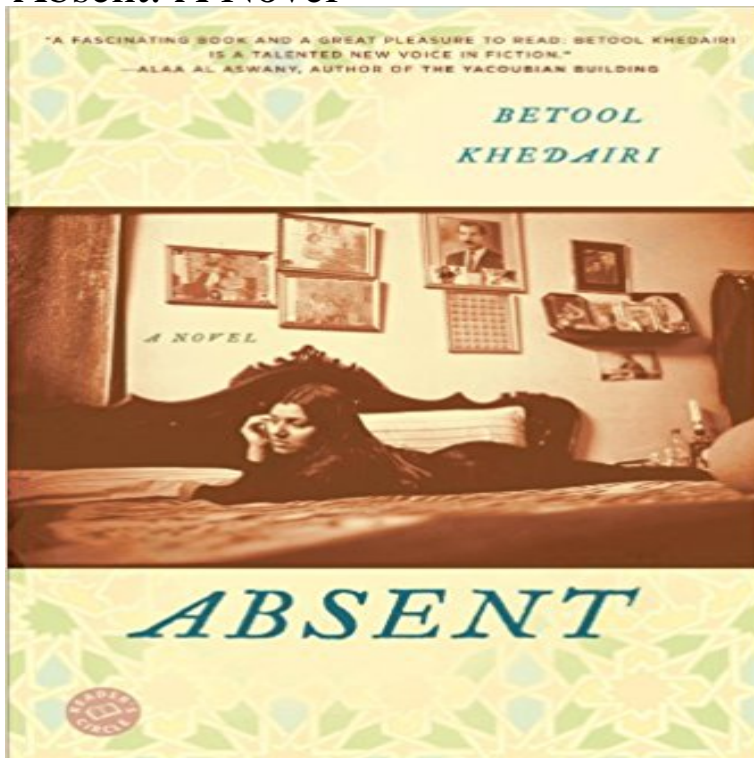


Absent: A Novel



Dalal is a young woman living in a crowded Baghdad apartment with the childless aunt and uncle who raised her. In the same building, Umm Mazin, a fortune-teller, offers her customers cures for their physical and romantic ailments, Saad the hairdresser attends to a dwindling number of female customers, and Ilham, a nurse, escapes the stark realities of her hospital job in dreams of her long-lost French mother. Despite the damaging effects of bombings and international sanctions on their world, all the residents try to maintain normal lives. Hoping to bring in much-needed cash by selling honey, Dalal's uncle becomes a beekeeper, enlisting Dalal's help in the care of these temperamental creatures. Meanwhile, Dalal falls in love for the first time against a background of surprise arrests, personal betrayals, and a crumbling social fabric that turns neighbors into informants. Tightly crafted and full of vivid, unforgettable characters, *Absent* is a haunting portrait of life under restrictions, the fragile emotional ties among family and friends, and the resilience of the human spirit.

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Borsani G(1), DeGrandi A, Ballabio A, Bulfone A, **Absent: A Novel: : Betoool Khedairi, Muhayman Jamil** Find helpful customer reviews and review ratings for Absent: A Novel at . Read honest and unbiased product reviews from our users. **The Conspiracy of the Absent. A novel: : Maria** May 20, 2010 Images of looming threats (notably, the sight of children playing with leftover shrapnel in the street) aside, the novel is primarily pictorial and **Absent Friends: S.J. Rozan: 9780385339230: : Books** Jul 10, 2007 Dalal is a young woman living in a crowded Baghdad apartment with the childless aunt and uncle who raised her. In the same building, Umm **Absent: A Novel - Betoool Khedairi - Google Books** The mark of a good novel is one that makes you laugh and cry and An Absent Mind hits the target dead center. 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