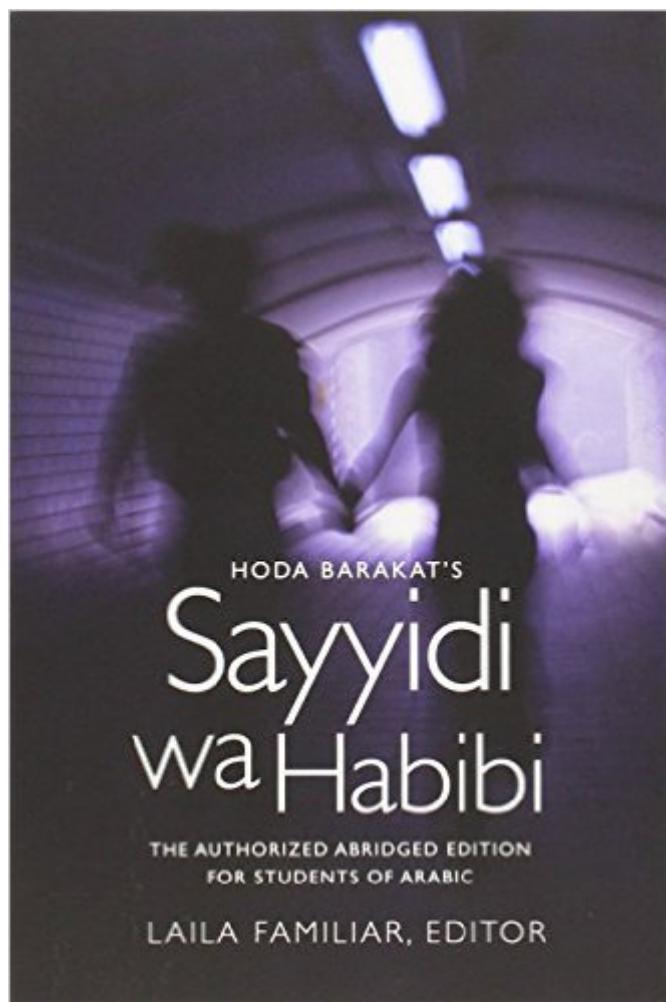


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# Hoda Barakat's Sayyidi Wa Habibi: The Authorized Abridged Edition For Students Of Arabic



## **Synopsis**

Sayyidi wa Habibi (My Master and My Love) is a novel by acclaimed Lebanese author Hoda Barakat, abridged in this volume for learners of Arabic at the advanced low proficiency level. Designed as a supplementary text that adds variety and fun to a regular course on Arabic, it is complete with exercises that guide learners through the story and help them improve their Arabic skills, introducing learners of the language to the world of contemporary Arabic literature and improving their knowledge of Arabic culture. Set against the backdrop of the Lebanese Civil War, this intriguing novel relates the struggles of Wadie, a young man who leaves school and becomes corrupted by crime, and his wife, Samia, who flees with him to Cyprus. Universal questions of existence are masterfully portrayed through eloquent prose that keeps readers engaged until the last line. Laila Familiar provides introductory materials, a short biography of the author, and exercises that develop linguistic and cultural competencies. Audio files of Barakat reading five passages from the work, along with a recorded interview, are available free on the press website in order to help students improve their listening skills. This authorized version of the abridged text of Sayyidi wa Habibi will be warmly embraced by college and university students of Arabic as well as by independent learners.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

As a non-native speaker of Arabic, approaching your first novel in the language can be very intimidating. Thank goodness, Sayyidi was Habibi is presented in such an approachable format. All

of the supplemental materials included with the novel from comprehension questions, writing activities and well-chosen, footnoted English translations help to make the process easier and more enjoyable. There is enough repetition of new words to help the meaning really sink in but the prose still makes for an enjoyable read- one which I have re-read for fun as well as to help improve my language skills. I would recommend this novel to any non-native speaker looking to improve their reading and comprehension skills. I wish there were more books developed in this format for Arabic language learners.

Sayyidi wa Habibi is an essential tool for students of Arabic. Implementing this book in the classroom utilizes all four core language skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. The prose is edited specifically for 3rd year students of Arabic, but also gradually introduces readers to new vocabulary, expressions and grammatical concepts in order to reach higher comprehension levels. Each chapter (or group of chapters) is accompanied by reading exercises and questions to help students understand the content of the text. This activates Arabic writing skills. However, I hope subsequent editions of Sayyidi wa Habibi place exercises directly after reading sections rather than at the back of the book. Select passages also include audio tracks of the author reading from the abridged text - activating listening comprehension. Finally, in the classroom context, class discussions provide the opportunity for students to articulate the plot and interpret the text in their own words, which activates speaking skills. This book brings students outside the context of textbook language learning and pushes them into a practical engagement with Arabic.

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