



Mothballs

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This marks the first US edition of Iraqi journalist and writer Alia Mamdouh's searing second novel. Published in Egypt in 1986, four years after Mamdouh was banned from publishing in her native Baghdad due to the subtle political nature of her writing, *Mothballs* remains one of only a few novels that explore the lives of Iraqi women living in Baghdad. Since its debut, *Mothballs* has been translated into several languages, including French and Italian. Even more remarkable is the novel's prepubescent, female protagonist, Huda, whose keen perception of the adult world around her collides with her own vivid and passionate imagination as she comes of age in the 1950s.

Alia Mamdouh was born in Baghdad in 1944 and has been a journalist and writer for over thirty years. She has published four novels, two collections of short stories, and numerous critical essays. Since going into exile in 1982, she has lived and worked in London, Cairo, and Beirut. Currently, she resides at the Georges-Pompidou Centre in Paris.

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Frank Dawson:

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