

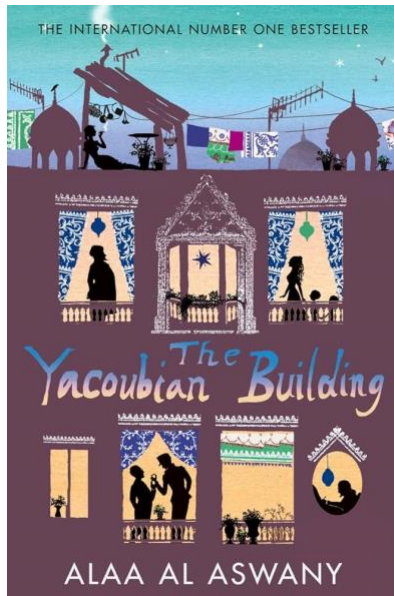


## Book Talk

### *The Yacoubian Building*

by Alaa al-Aswany

Number of pages: 270



Set in Cairo in the early 1990s, the book follows different characters living in the Yacoubian Building, a formerly luxurious and prestigious apartment block that now houses a more diverse population.

The book looks at how Egyptian society changed over decades, covering attitudes towards class, women, homosexuality and religion.

Originally written in Arabic, it was made into an Egyptian film and TV series.

We recommend this book if you enjoyed *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles, or *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What did you learn about Egyptian society from the book?
2. Which characters did you most identify with and why?

3. Do you think Taha's journey was inevitable, or could he have ended up differently?
4. Do you think Busayna was powerful or a victim?
5. Who do you think had a happy ending?
6. Would you want to live in the Yacoubian Building?

*Thank you to our volunteer Erin for choosing this title and creating the resource.*