



The Girl of Ghassan

Jurji Zaidan

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Available in English for the first time, a classic from Arabic fiction.

From the moment Hammad laid eyes upon Princess Hind, he fell deeply in love with her.

His only wish was to be by her side, so he entered a horse race held by her father, the great Ghassani king, Jabalah. At the feast, when their eyes met, Hind and Hammad knew their love to be true but Hind's cousin, the treacherous Tha'labah, became overcome with jealousy. His scheming interfered with the young lovers, separating them with the might of his own father's army.

Meanwhile, the Prophet Muhammad had begun to spread the light of Islam across the world, his armies advancing rapidly across the Arabian peninsula. When word of the Prophet's coming reaches Damascus, the fallout from the Emperor's reaction sends Hammad's father Abdullah on a mission to discover the truth about Muhammad's army.

While fleeing from Tha'labah, Hammad returns home to find his father missing, so he and his servant Salman make haste for the safety of Amman to begin the search for Abdullah.

Separated from his beloved Hind and his ever watchful father, Hammad must overcome the hardships of time and war, and survive the sweeping events of the birth of Islam so that he may at last marry the woman who holds his heart and guides his dreams.

The Girl of Ghassan was originally published under the title *Fatat Ghassan* by JURJI ZAIDAN in Lebanon in 1897. Jurji Zaidan is a prolific author and advocate of education and culture, particularly the preservation of Islamic history. Zaidan serialized his work in his historical journal, *al-Hilal*, where he published more than 23 works including *Fatat Ghassan*. Including *The Girl of Ghassan*, only 6 of Zaidan's novels have been translated into English. Zaidan's historical novels all weave stories of love and war over a backdrop of real world history.

It was Jurji's hope, as it is ours at One Cent Press, that this story will share not only a delightful story of perseverance and love, but also a window to the world that saw the end of the Roman Empire in Arabia at one of the most pivotal moments in history.

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