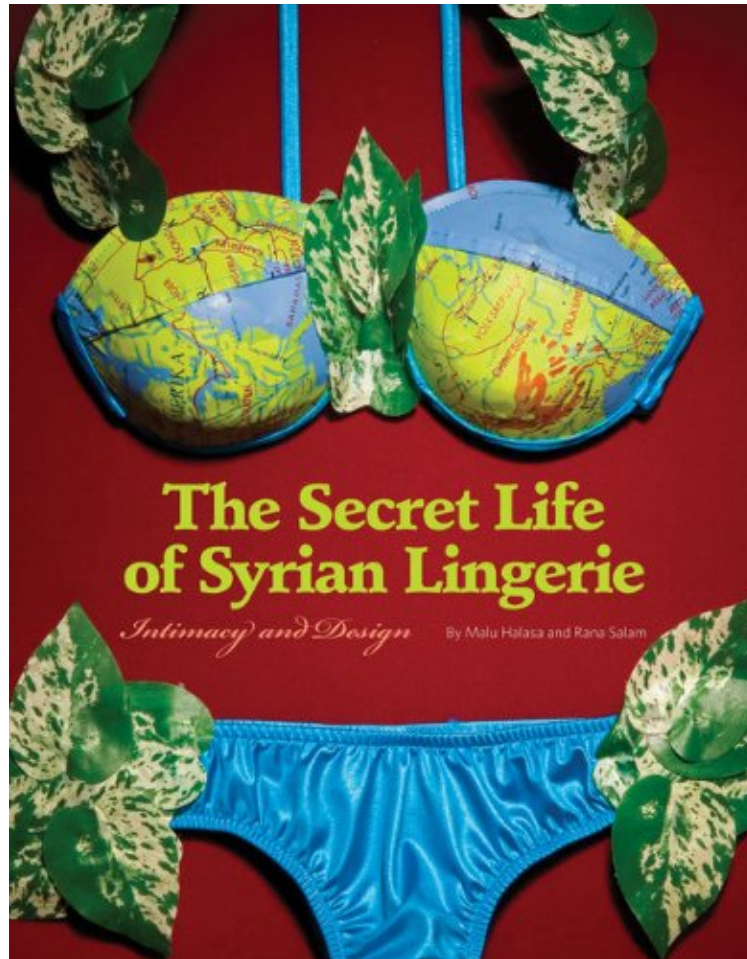


Secret Life of Syrian Lingerie: Intimacy and Design

Malu Halasa, Rana Salam

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#176480 in Books 2008-09-03Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.75 x .63 x 6.75l, 1.25 #File Name: 0811864588176 pages | File size: 26.Mb

Malu Halasa, Rana Salam : Secret Life of Syrian Lingerie: Intimacy and Design before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Secret Life of Syrian Lingerie: Intimacy and Design:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Syrian lingerie unveiledBy T. L. SmithA fascinating look at an primarily Islam country affection for (trashy) lingerie. Book is filled with interviews and essays by Syrian men women about the role lingerie has in a marriage. The women do not buy this lingerie before marriage. A common theme thru the book is that the lingerie is very important to most in a marriage, otherwise I quote "the men would otherwise stray."My conclusion is a Syrian woman must be a nun in public temptress in private. Most of the lingerie in the book is childishly funny. Some of the thongs bras have cell phone, feathers , flowers, stuffed animals, sequins, tweety bird, some play songs like Old Mac Donald had a farm. A good read and it gives you something to think about.12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Weird, just weirdBy Tom AhernI have to admit, it was the title that won my heart. Almost anything that would pay off a title this mysterious would be fine, I thought when I purchased this

book. I wasn't prepared for a well-documented, pretty serious look at the bizarre (to my American, secular eyes) world of female-underwear marketing in the Middle East. Imagine women, cloaked as conservative Muslim societies demand, out shopping for the most outrageous lingerie, locally dreamt up and stitched, adorned with feathers and who knows what (the cover photo is a pretty normal example), all intended as happy marriage aides, to bring entertainment for husband's eyes only into the privacy of the bedroom.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Drab Limited Audience. By DenniA lifelong lingerie fan, this book didn't hold my interest longer than 5 minutes.1. Most of the book isn't written by the author, but excerpts, articles and editorials from other sources (and not particularly interesting to a non Muslim).2. There are a number of photographs, which mostly appear dated. Copyright is 2008 but the pictures appear noticeably older than that time frame.3. Notice the background color on the cover? many of the pages are the same color...the printed pages have mid pink printing. In other words, low contrast and can be difficult to read. Some of the lingerie is photographed against the same color background, which may have increased the drab and uninteresting factor.4. The pictures with actual models also appear quite dated....and the majority of the models could easily pass for European/Caucasian. I was hoping for some inspiration...and although creative (even enthusiastic) the lingerie depicted is neither artistic, interesting, noteworthy or inspiring.

The most outrageous and exuberant lingerie in the world comes from a place youd probably never expect: Syria. Adorned with everything from faux fur, artificial flowers, and feathered birds to plastic toy cell phones, these intimates flash lights, play music, even vibrate. Well known across the Middle East in Syria the lingerie forms an important part of the folk tradition around trousseaus and weddings it is openly displayed in the markets and souks. Authors Malu Halasa and Rana Salam have brought together a diverse and dramatic collection of photography and writing, including the voices of Syrian women, celebrating this little-known niche of fashion design in all its playful glory.

About the Author London-based journalist Malu Halasa is the author of several books on art and culture. Rana Salam is an acclaimed graphic designer. She has lectured and exhibited internationally. She lives in London.