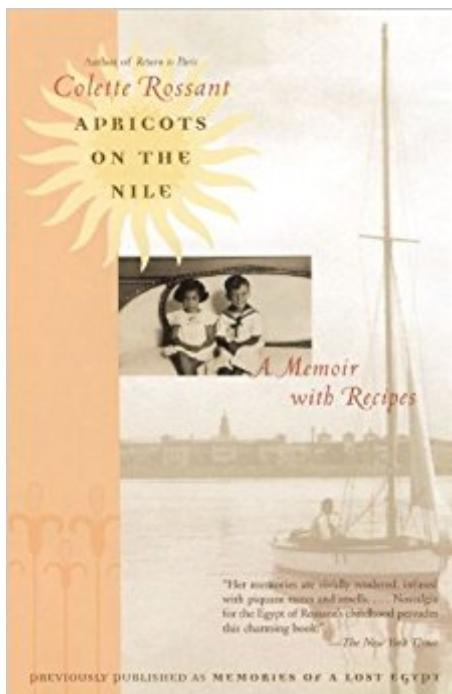


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Apricots On The Nile: A Memoir With Recipes



Synopsis

Cairo, 1937: French-born Colette Rossant is waiting out World War II among her father's Egyptian-Jewish relatives. From the moment she arrives at her grandparents' belle Èpoque mansion by the Nile, the five-year-old Colette finds companionship and comfort among the other "outsiders" in her home away from home -- the cooks and servants in the kitchen. The chef, Ahmet, lets Colette taste the ful; she learns how to make sambusaks for her new friends; and she shops for semits and other treats in the Khan-al-Khalili market. Colette is beginning to understand how her family's culture is linked to the kitchen...and soon she will claim Egypt's food, landscape, and people as her own. *Apricots on the Nile* is a loving testament to Colette's adopted homeland. With dozens of original recipes and family photographs, Colette's coming-of-age memoir is a splendid exploration of old Cairo in all its flavor, variety, and wide-eyed wonder.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The New York Times Her memories are vividly rendered, infused with piquant tastes and smells....Nostalgia for the Egypt of Rossant's childhood pervades this charming book. Chicago Tribune [Y]ou'll find vicarious pleasure in reading about this gourmet's life. Daily News (New York) [E]ngrossing not just for its lovely style of writing but because Rossant's life has been so unusual and interesting. And getting the recipes for some of the dishes she reminisces about is an added bonus! Alice Waters This is the kind of writing about food that stimulates your senses and connects you to the important traditions of the table....I am enchanted by this memoir.

Colette Rossant is the author of eight cook-books and the memoirs *Apricots on the Nile* and *Return to Paris*. A James Beard Award-nominated journalist, she divides her time between New York and France.

Rossant's memoir brought back some poignant memories from my 5-year sojourn in Cairo in the mid-1980s - the familiar but now decayed opulence of Garden City, the pace of life, the family gatherings, the markets, the culture of food and hospitality. What I especially liked about the book was the sheer simplicity of the dishes, with which I am somewhat familiar. Nothing pretentious about them - just wholesome recipes passed down from generation to generation to still intrigue the home chef.

This is a little jewel. The author transports you back to the WW II era, in a style that is without pretension or affectation. Food and family are the threads that weave together her life in Paris, Cairo and at the end, New York. I had a difficult time putting the book down, and did so only to see if I had the ingredients to prepare some of the dishes whose recipes punctuate the prose. What is masterful about the book is that it allows you to enter the life of the author and life in Cairo through good story-telling in which food--from going to market, through preparation, to enjoyment at the table--is a culinary and cultural adventure. This memoir is written from the heart, poignant and touching. The images it evoked linger with me still.

I really enjoyed reading this book - even though I will probably never try the recipes. I read the whole book through in one sitting (although, to be truthful, it's a small book.) Besides being an interesting memoir of the author's childhood in Egypt during WWII, in a wealthy Jewish family, it's also an honest account of her alienation from her mother, which really spoke to me. The author is a good writer, which makes the book easy and rewarding to read.

This was one of my favorite all-time books. I purchased one as a gift for my sister also. I love to read about other cultures, and this was an enjoyable read.

Not as good a story as some other cooking memoirs I've read, kind of sad. Fair recipes

Didn't like it. The recipes were nothing I am interested in preparing and the story just didn't catch my

interest.

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