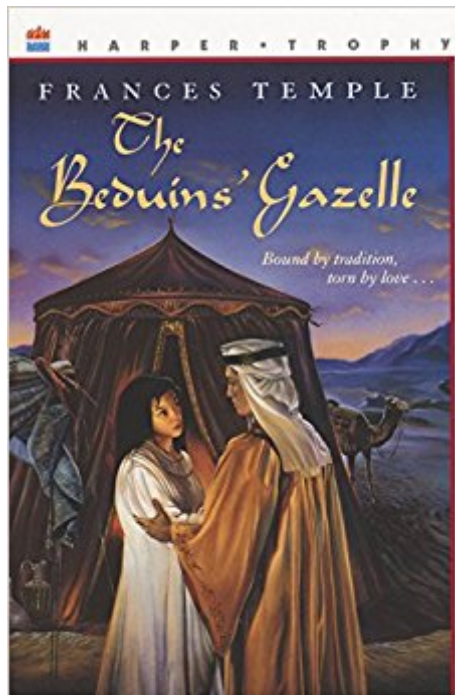




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# The Beduins' Gazelle (Harper Trophy Books (Paperback))



## Synopsis

When she and he were only babies, they were pledged in marriage. Now Atiyah has been sent away -- a political pawn in a war between the Beduin tribes in the year 1302. He vows to return to her as soon as he can. But while Atiyah is studying at the great university in Fez, Halima is lost in a sandstorm. Rescued by an enemy tribe, she is told that she must marry their powerful sheikh and live in his harem -- never to see her people again. Halima does what she can to resist, but she has no choice. In three moons' time she will become the youngest wife of the cruel and greedy Raisulu -- unless Atiyah can find her. But where in the vast sea of desert can he begin his search for his beloved?

The last novel from award-winning author Frances Temple, this companion to *The Ramsay Scallop* is a romantic tale of intrigue, adventure, and true love, set against the backdrop of medieval Arabia. Temple's evocation of the Beduin -- a grand, generous nation of poets and storytellers shaped by their religion and their hostile, sometimes beautiful, environment -- is as easily as vivid as the storyline. . . . This book glitters with the intelligence and skill of a gifted storyteller, and will sweep readers along on an exotic, satisfying adventure.

• Pointer/Kirkus Reviews   An American Bookseller Association Pick of the Lists, 1996  
• Book Links Editors' Choice of 1996

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## Customer Reviews

In this sequel to *The Ramsay Scallop*, a pair of star-crossed lovers challenge a wicked uncle in the 14th-century in the Middle East. "Temple is at the top of her game here, deftly handling societal issues with a spirited style," said PW in a starred review. Ages 12-up. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 5-8?The year is 1302 and Halima, the gazelle of the title, is betrothed to her cousin Atiyah. The young people look forward to the wedding, but their happiness is postponed. Saladeen, a powerful kinsman, sends Atiyah to Fez. He insists the young man must study the Koran, purportedly in order to unite warring factions in the tribe, but actually to strengthen his own position with the Caliph. Atiyah loathes leaving the desert, but believes his actions will please the Archangel Gabriel and bring much needed rain. Meanwhile, while migrating in search of water, Halima falls into the hands of the enemy tribe whose sheikh decides to make her his youngest wife. With the help of his foreign friend Etienne, Atiyah sets out to rescue his beloved. There are fascinating glimpses of everyday life here: Beduin women gathering camel hair for rugs, university students arguing in the classroom, men bursting forth into poetry as they come together for horse trading and camel racing. While telling this romantic tale, Temple also touches upon conflicts within the larger society, e.g., the Beduin way of life versus that of the educated urban mullahs, and the struggle between Islam and Christianity. As in Suzanne Staples's *Shabanu* (Knopf, 1989), this story shows young people striving to reconcile their individual hopes and dreams with the demands of a traditional society. A lyrical final offering from a gifted writer who died the day she sent this book to her editor.?Ellen D. Warwick, Winchester Public Library, MA Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

thank you

Nice quality.

Love this author; not a fan of this book.

Book was a good bargain. My son read it for his summer reading project. Book came on time and was in great condition. Thank you.

I read this book when I want a good laugh. It's like the author wrote it after watching soap operas taped over the movie "Hidalgo". When I see a book that promises adventure, romance, and a bit of good historical fiction and it falls short-- I can't help but wonder what was going through the author's mind (or the editor's mind for that matter)! That aside, the story started well. I enjoyed the creative story-telling language. And some of the cultural references were interesting, albeit confusing at times. But I was greatly disappointed by the characters, which seemed to be drawn well, but lacked personal conviction. Halima was, in the end, just a damsel in distress (and very resigned to it too, I might add). This would have left a perfect opportunity for her boyfriend Atiyah to step up and be the valiant hero, but instead his friend Etienne does most of the action. Atiyah is the most exciting when he is reciting poetry, but that is all. This is a book of secondary characters: the kind where you wish the author would chuck the first prototypes out the door and start over with the support crew in the lead. After I was finished it, I wondered why I had wasted my time. The ending seemed too easy, and there wasn't really any climax to Halima and Atiyah's romance. Not to mention that their friends were the only ones who thought up any kind of plan to keep them together... whilst they were sighing over the inevitability of their separation. To conclude: don't spend your time or money on this book unless you like this sort of thing, or you want to chuckle over the weak plot. The poorly made picture on the cover basically says it all.

The Beduins' Gazelle is a beautiful book by Frances Temple. I thoroughly enjoyed the book. The plot was beautiful and well planned. Even though it was short, I found myself being drawn to the characters. It was a romance, yet it wasn't inappropriate. The ending could have been a little bit more detailed, but overall this book was fantabulous.

the book was beautifully written and shows exactly how even bad people can have goodness in them to do the right thing. the book is about Halima (a girl slim and strong as the date palm, fleet-footed as a gazelle) and the boy she is in love with, Atiyah (a boy of promise and hope, whose name means Gift of God). Atiyah has been sent away as a political pawn to study in Fez. As Halima's tribe moves to a new camp she is lost in a sandstorm and captured by an enemy tribe. The

sheikh wishes to marry her in 3 moons time, the only way for that not to happen is if Atiyah comes to rescue her.

The Bedouin's Gazelle - Even the name tastes of poetry. This lyrical story of young Halima and Atiyah is a magnificent word-picture of desert living in 1302 AD (680 of the Hegira according to the Muslim culture) - a place where "wool gathering" indicates molting camels as well as daydreaming, and nomadic tribes follow the rain. Temple's metaphors and expressions consistently reflect the environs; they're exotic imagery that the reader pauses to savor. I have delighted in reading and rereading this book, "dancing in the desert among flowers."

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