

## Verse in Arabic



a novella by  
Birgitte Rasine

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Can a patient's silence kill the doctor?

A respected physician in Cordoba, Spain, receives a mysterious phone call—a request to attend to the ailing daughter of a wealthy but secretive family in Madrid. What seems to be a routine house call quickly turns into a disturbing labyrinth of intrigue and mystery, and a fight for the girl's life. The outcome of that battle will impact the doctor—and the journalist interviewing him—in ways neither imagined.

Set against the unstable political climate of General Franco's Spain in the 1940's and based on a bizarre real-life incident that remains unsolved to this day, "Verse in Arabic" twists medical ethics and psychosocial tyranny into a cord that pulls at your heart from both ends.

## Verse in Arabic Details

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Author : Birgitte Rasine

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# From Reader Review Verse in Arabic for online ebook

## Shelly Mateer says

Ms. Rasine writes beautifully. I was truly transported into this story and felt myself wanting to solve the mystery as much as the main character did. I love how the author also gives the reader some insight into her mind with her explanation of how the story came to be.

The author never fails to capture the imagination with her beautiful prose. I look forward to reading more of her books in the future!

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## Josiah says

Quite a short read, this book left me with more questions than I would have liked, and yet there is at the same time great beauty in the prose.

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## Chava says

Review to follow

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## Britt, Book Habitue says

(Copy received for review from the author/publisher)

Really interesting novella. Be warned that there is NO resolution... and yet somehow it's okay. Usually that drives me BATTY but this is well-written enough and done in such a way that it works.

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## Debra Lobel says

A Mysterious Mystery

I love mysteries, especially ones that have an interesting plot and mysterious characters. When I read the description of Verse in Arabic, I thought it would be a captivating story. I was not disappointed.

The story is told by a doctor who is being interviewed by a journalist. The doctor recounts the events that led to his being jailed for the last 21 years for murdering a young woman in cold blood. He describes being threatened and then manipulated to treat this girl while being restricted in time and resources. The doctor admits to inadvertently killing her, but I found that the motivation for entrapping the doctor was not obvious.

As a bonus, there is a section in the book called the Story Seed. It describes the author's inspiration and how she came to write the book. The event that led to the book has no ending, so that might be why Verse in

Arabic has no clear ending. I always love learning about how someone comes up with an idea for a story and the journey they take in completing a book. I am looking forward to reading Brigitte Rasine's other books.

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review

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### **Charlotte says**

I won this book as part of a Goodreads giveaway, and I'm glad that I did. It's not the sort of book I'm drawn to usually - for one, it's a novella, and furthermore, it is a mystery novella. But the title and the setting intrigued me, so I clicked the "enter giveaway" button, and found the book in my mailbox just when I'd managed to forget about it.

The writer has a good balancing act going on between pushing the plot forward and titillating the reader with holding back information. Consequently the pacing of this novella is well divided between tension and acceleration. My previous experience with novellas was mostly more negative: my usual complaint would be that they manage to make the novella feel like a full blown trilogy by messing up the pacing. But not here.

The prose is clear, but engaging. It did give me a bit of an "in translation" feel - not sure whether that was on purpose, as the story does take place in Spain, and the characters would consequently be assumed to be speaking Spanish. There were, however, two instances in the prose that made me frown. "[I wanted] to see to see if" was an inelegant turn of phrase that had me reading the paragraph a couple times over in puzzlement. Another example is the following: "The doctor stopped to take a sip of his tea that surely had gotten quite cold. It did, and he called out to the housekeeper to refill his glass".

A final note on the prose that probably says more about me than it does about the writer: I had to do a double take on the doctor addressing the journalist (our narrator) as "son". The internal monologue of the character so far had established him in my mind as female.

But you're reading this review to decide whether or not to give this novella a read. Well, if you can deal with ambiguity and like a psychological thriller peppered with unresolved mysteries - go for it.

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### **Anastacia says**

Well written book. I was captivated by the mystery through out it. I would have liked it to been a little longer. The ending left a lot to the reader's imagination. Which wasn't necessarily bad. I would definitely recommend it.

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### **Naomi says**

4.5/5 Stars (I would like to have seen the author go deeper with some of the storyline.)

Hands down, my favorite by this author. This book was just creepy, mysterious and had a feeling of Gothic to it. I agree with another reviewer that it didn't wrap up with a nice red ribbon and I think that was my

favorite aspect to it. It leaves it to the imagination of the reader as to the true point of the story. One of the favorite things about this writer is that she adds story seeds to her books or "the story behind the story". I found with this one that the old saying about truth being stranger than fiction definitely applied, so don't miss it.

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