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Aida Dalati

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Aida Dalati : Restoring Damascus: with watered down paint before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Restoring Damascus: with watered down paint:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Charming and Delicious read! By sally I'm still reading this book but it is such a fun read. It's full of juicy details for all you Interior Designers and travelers. Her wit, charm and sense of adventure add yet another element to the this very interesting book. I love all the little vignettes of detail... I feel like I'm eating the most wonderful smorgasbord of yummiest flavors! It also gives you a view into how charming the historic center of Damascus was, and hopefully will be again someday.. This book has lots of heart and soul, I highly recommend it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Amazing tale of grit and determination in order

to achieve a dreamBy Penny DreadfulWhat an amazing tale of a woman who was determined to realize her dream despite the many obstacles that continuously appeared in her path. Her drive, commitment, and optimism was impressive and I was in awe of how she continued to push ahead and achieve her goal amidst all the madness. The author paints a picture of a beautiful, ancient city filled with labyrinth streets and magical shopkeepers minding stockpiles of treasures. As I listen to the news of the ghastly events currently taking place in Syria my mind goes back to all of the places Aida describes in her book and I pray that they're still there, and that her magical city is not lying in ruins. The author performs a valuable service by describing the beauty and history of her homeland. So often all we in the West hear are the negative stories about the Middle East when the truth is that while there are many serious issues that remain unresolved, there is another side of the story. It is a land of incredible architecture, delicious food, ancient traditions, important historical sites, and with Aida's unique American-Syrian perspective, she makes her birthplace come alive for the reader. This is a book for anyone interested in architecture, interior design, food, travel, renovation of historical properties, or adventure, as her account covers all of that and more. Aida is a proud Syrian and a strong American woman who doesn't let tradition or sexism get in her way as she successfully manages her stubborn male contractors and ultimately realizes her dream of a traditional stone home in the Damascus city center. You go girl! Highly recommend.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Restoring Damascus by Aida Dalati A great book to read!By christy aptonRestoring Damascus is a great book to read, because it shows one woman's courageous dream of owning a house in Damascus can become a reality. This book shows the reader how different it is to buy a home outside of America. I have never ventured far from home so this is a real adventure for me. Most people would have given up, but Aida didn't. She moved forward with the buying of the house of her dreams and the hard work to restoring it.The floral tiles and artwork that are in this home are beautiful treasures. It is like being in a secret garden when you see the before and after pictures in her book. Aida is a great designer and has designed a work of art for everyone to enjoy when you read her book. Thank you for sharing your home restoration project with me. Christy R. Drexel

Restoring Damascus is a non-fiction woman's inside view of returning to her hometown and restoring an old villa inside the Roman walls of Old Damascus. She navigates the labyrinth of culture, bureaucracy, and the never ending corruption with characters such as the undercover-yogurt maker/real estate agent, baby sitting pig-headed stone artists, and digging up flooded Roman-era sewers in a city where time is cheap but a friendly conversation and personal relationships are the real prize. The renovation was completed three months prior to the current Syrian revolution. Over seventy before and after full color images.

About the AuthorAida Dalati is a Syrian American designer living in California. Her parents met in Michigan and traveled back to Damascus to meet the Syrian family her father came from. Aida spent her school years in Damascus and later left for California at the age of twenty. Her love for everything Syrian drew her back to her native city in an attempt to fit back in after being away for twenty five years. She currently lives in the San Francisco Bay area where she has a textile and clothing design studio. This one woman and her renovation biography is a lifelong project, she draws from her knowledge and expertise on the subjects of mythology, common sense, history, gossip and beauty. Engaging craftsmen of her new Damascus neighborhood in a bouquet of restoration jobs became her badge of honor and sustained her through the terrible early months of the Syrian Revolution.