

Intercultural love story in a
Europe in decline

She Alone

FIKRY EL AZZOUZI

'She Alone' is a contemporary love story. While working as a dishwasher Ayoub falls in love with Eva. The resulting relationship surprises and confuses them both. We look through Eva's eyes at a former Moroccan street urchin that Western society is so frightened of. All the prejudices rear their head. When it is apparent that Ayoub does not fit the stereotype, Eva actually becomes interested in a number of aspects of Islam, without losing her own liberal and feminist ideas. In this way 'She Alone' becomes a story of a love between Western Europe and Islam, and a confrontation between and a merging of Europe and Islamic values.

El Azzouzi has written a fantastic, pessimistic novel that leaves the reader speechless.

DER FREITAG

However, the novel turns out to be set in an unspecified near future. In European cities increasingly violent terrorist attacks are taking place. Extreme right-wing parties take power and it even reaches the point where Islam is forbidden in Belgium. The lovers Eva and Ayoub suddenly find themselves in an extremely sombre future scenario.

'She Alone' is a dystopic warning for Europe, and its growing fear of everything that is different.

Writing that commands respect

DE GROENE AMSTERDAMMER



AUTHOR



Fikry El Azzouzi (b. 1978), a Flemish-Moroccan author, writes novels, columns and plays. He debuted in 2010 with 'The Feast of the Sheep'. For his novel 'Drarrie in the Night' and his play 'Jihad Travels', he was awarded the 65th Arkprijs van het Vrije Woord. 'She Alone' is his most recent novel. *Photo © Jimmy Kets*

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