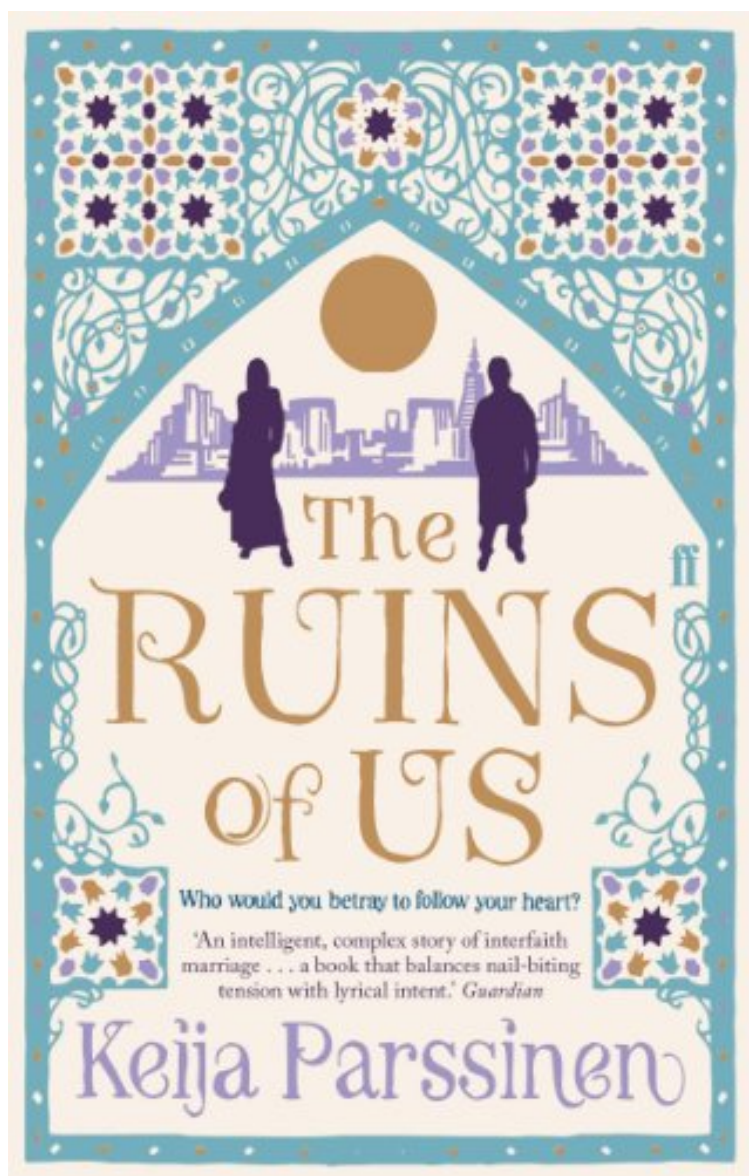


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# The Ruins of Us (English Edition)



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love. Revue de presse 'An intelligent, complex story of interfaith marriage... a book that balances nail-biting tension with lyrical intent.' Guardian 'Having been brought up in Saudi Arabia, [Parssinen] knows the background and writes boldly and unsentimentally of a family's predicament at the edge of cultural fault lines.' -- Sunday Times 'A compelling debut about the heartbreak that shakes a family when an American woman discovers her Saudi husband has taken a second wife.' -- Marie Claire 'Keija Parssinen evokes the landscape of Saudi Arabia with a deftness, precision and lucidity which make for an utterly absorbing read. Turning the same clear-eyed, unflinching gaze on her characters she captures, too, the nuances of their love and despair, their faiths and betrayals, the vagaries of the human heart. The Ruins of Us is an extremely assured and impressive debut.' -- Lucy Caldwell, author of *The Meeting Point* 'The Ruins of Us is a stunning debut novel--a love story that spans continents. Writing with kindness and longing about Saudi Arabia and Sugar Land, Texas, Parssinen teaches us that while cultural differences run deep, when it comes to matters of the heart, we are all the same. I was dazzled by this book.' -- Amanda Eyre Ward, author of *Close Your Eyes* 'The Ruins of Us is an arresting story of family and country. Parssinen's characters are richly conceived and her evocative petrol universe of wealth, privilege, and intrigue is unforgettable. Powerful storytelling that is refreshing and entertaining.' --Anthony Swofford, author of *Jarhead* 'The author's expat experiences of Saudi Arabia are evident in an intelligent, complex story of interfaith marriage ... the plot swerves into darkness with hostile, vulnerable Faisal's increasing involvement with militant rebels taking centre stage in a book that balances nail-biting tension with lyrical intent.' --Guardian

Presentation de l'auteur 'An intelligent, complex story of interfaith marriage. . . . That balances nail-biting tension with lyrical intent.' Guardian More than two decades after moving to Saudi Arabia from America and marrying Abdullah Baylani, Rosalie learns that her husband has married a second wife. The discovery plunges the powerful family into chaos as Rosalie grapples with leaving Saudi Arabia, her life and her family behind. Abdullah and Rosalie's consuming personal entanglements also blind them to the crisis approaching their sixteen-year-old son Faisal, whose deepening resentment towards their lifestyle has led to his involvement with a controversial sheikh. When Faisal makes a choice that could destroy everything his family holds dear, all must confront difficult truths as they fight to preserve what remains of their love.