



Letters from Cairo رسائل من القاهرة

“a collection that is itself a piece of art.”

—Annalise DeVries, author of *Maadi: The Making and Unmaking of a Cairo Suburb, 1879–1962*

On the eve of the Six-Day War, a young American woman writes from her desk in Cairo to her parents thousands of miles away in upstate New York. Over hundreds of letters, she relates the greatest adventure of her life: the delights of molokhia soup, to camping under desert stars, to the seasonal flooding of the Nile, to the cacophony of street vendors. Lurking below the surface are the tensions wrought by culture and politics: for Roberta as a smart, highly-educated biochemist thwarted by her male Egyptian peers, and for her husband Franz, a labor researcher at the American University in Cairo, whose interest in the Aswan High Dam involves one of the most consequential flashpoints of Nasser’s United Arab Republic. *Letters from Cairo* weaves the accounts, travels, and discoveries of Roberta and Franz with the broader social and political history of the era to tell the story of a country as rich as it is complex.

This full-color facsimile edition includes over 100 letters and 75 historical photographs of Cairo, the Aswan basin, the Middle East, and North Africa, as well as an extensively-researched Foreword, Historical Timeline, and a multilingual transcription and English translation of its accompanying archival recording, “Sounds of Cairo.” This book will fascinate the wanderluster, the historian, the storyteller, and anyone who believes in the capacity of quotidian life abroad to nourish life-changing exploration.

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