



# The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit

MY FAMILY'S EXODUS FROM OLD CAIRO TO THE NEW WORLD

Lucette Lagnado

This poignant and breathtaking memoir from an award-winning *Wall Street Journal* reporter recounts the exile of her family from Egypt and her father's heroic and tragic struggle to survive his "riches to rags" trajectory

In vivid and graceful prose, Lucette Lagnado re-creates the majesty and cosmopolitan glamour of Cairo in the years between WWII and Gamal Abdel Nasser's rise to power. Her father, Leon, was a boulevardier who conducted business in the elaborate lobby and cozy dark bar of the Nile Hilton, dressed in his signature white sharkskin suit. But with the fall of King Farouk and Nasser's nationalization of Egyptian industry, Leon and his family lose everything. As streets are renamed, neighborhoods of their fellow Jews are disbanded, and the city purged of all foreign influence, the Lagnados too, must make their escape. From Cairo to Paris to New York, the poverty and hardships they encounter make a striking contrast to the beauty and comfort of old Cairo.

An inversion of the American dream set against the stunning portraits of three world cities, this memoir offers a grand and sweeping story of faith, tradition, tragedy, and triumph in a family's epic exodus from paradise.



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**Lucette Lagnado** is the coauthor of *Children of the Flames: Dr. Mengele and the Untold Story of the Twins of Auschwitz*, which has been translated into nearly a dozen languages. Currently, she is a senior special writer and investigative reporter for the *Wall Street Journal*. She and her husband, Douglas Feiden, reside in New York City.

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