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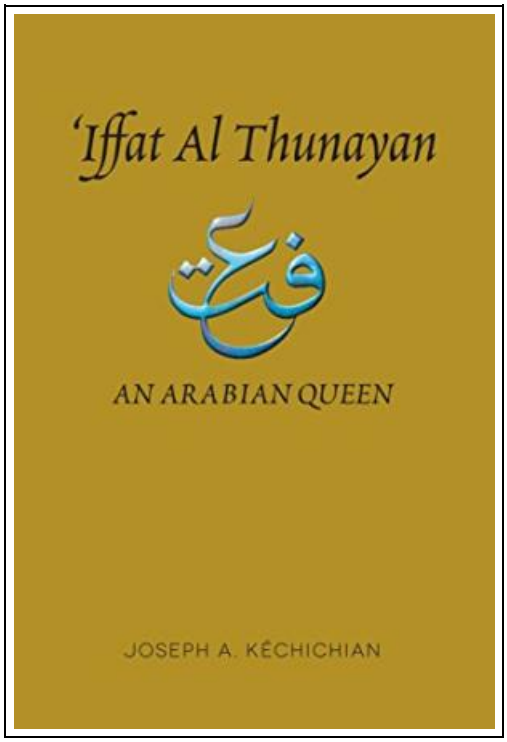

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Sussex Academic Press, United Kingdom, 2015. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Iffat Al Thunayan, spouse of the late King Faysal bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud (r. 19641975), was a pillar of the ruling Al Saud family. Born and raised in Istanbul to an uprooted Saudi family, she returned to the Kingdom in 1932, a few months before the founder ruler, Abdul Aziz bin Abdul Rahman, reinstituted the monarchy. Iffat used her influence to infiltrate many progressive ideas into the Kingdom, including significant strides in education for both boys and girls as well as major advances in health care. An astute observer and a doer par excellence, Queen Iffat left her mark on the contemporary history of the Al Saud, as she protected and empowered her kin. She raised a formidable family, listened carefully, guided conversations as necessary, spoke with moderation, recommended policies to her husband and, after the latter was assassinated, to her brothers-in-law who succeeded him. A politically conscious spouse, Queen Iffat played the leading role in Saudi female society, attended many state functions, and received female state guests. She traveled extensively, especially in Europe and the United States, supported myriad charities, and cajoled many to invest in the Kingdom. Universally respected, many people sought her advice for she shared her ambitions and ideas to benefit the entire country. Based on multiple interviews conducted with members of the al-Faysal family, friends, and acquaintances of the late Queen, Joseph A. Kechichian offers the first political biography of a Saudi monarchs spouse. This work is an important resource for social scientists and political analysts, and of interest to all who wish to learn about Arab women in general, and Saudi women in particular.

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