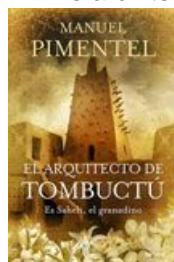


El arquitecto de Tombuctú

The architect of Timbuktu



UK panel's choice AUTUMN 2010

Author: [Manuel Pimentel Siles](#) [1]

Publisher: [Editorial Almuzara](#) [2]

Year of Publication: 2008

Pages: 509

ISBN: 978-84-89-36750-0

Genre: Literature

AUTUMN

2010

Season: AUTUMN 2010

In the year 1337, Abu Isaq Es Saheli of Granada arrives in the city of Fez as Ambassador to Kanku Mussa, emperor of the Kingdom of the Blacks. After he is received with every honour, he falls victim to a plot against his life. In revenge, Fez declares war on the city of Tlemcen, with the covert aim of controlling the route of caravans. While he recuperates, Es Saheli writes his very own Rihla, the story of his wandering life: his childhood as the son of the alamin or head of the perfumers' guild of Granada, his tormented youth, his early success and bohemian excesses, the painful exile from the Nasrid Kingdom, his journey to Cairo, travels through Damascus, Baghdad, Yemen and Mecca, his passion for Egyptian architecture... until culminating in his main legacy: the construction of the Great Mosque of Timbuktu. The life of Es Saheli is as thrilling as that of León the African and other geniuses.

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