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## **Review of Red Dress in Black and White**

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Ackerman's (Waiting for Eden) latest novel focuses on the interactions of a half dozen characters in the course of one twenty-four-hour period in 2013. Thanks to Ackerman's unaffected style, this is an absolutely riveting novel that moves rapidly, unlike some one-day novels, like Joyce's painfully difficult Ulysses.

Catherine is a young American living in Istanbul, a patron of the arts, who is married to famous Turkish architect Murat Yaşar, a passive man who seems more interested in saving his failing business than his failing marriage. Kristin, a scheming Machiavel, is their friend who serves as the cultural attaché in the American embassy. Deniz is a friend of Kristin's and curator of the museum where Catherine is a trustee and for which Murat is designing a new wing. Peter is an American photographer, beneficiary of a grant awarded him by the American embassy's Cultural Affairs attaché, Kristin.

Amidst the up-and-down of all these interconnected characters, William, Catherine and Murat's adopted son, is the story's unsuspecting fulcrum.

Though not a mystery, there is mystery here. In Agatha Christie fashion, Ackerman gathers his characters for what appears the grand finale, but saves the true reveal for the very end.

VERDICT: An attention-grabbing, cleverly plotted, character-driven yarn.