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**Habibi:** Two star-crossed lovers try to find love in the first fictional feature set in Gaza in more than a decade. *Habibi* means "beloved" and is based on a Sufi parable that predates Shakespeare. First-time feature director and former journalist Susan Youssef does a remarkable job of updating the classic story of tragic and undying love from a beautiful woman and a brooding suitor. Poet Qays (Kais Nashif) writes graffiti on walls to get the notice of his lover Layla (Maisa Abd Elhadi). But religion and the boundaries of class get in the way. Elhadi, who has an upcoming role in *World War Z* with Brad Pitt, shines in the role.

**Tony Wong**

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