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# Raja Alem

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**Memory, Voice, and Identity**  
Oxford University Press  
November 1979. Violence has  
broken out in the holiest site of  
Islam after a charismatic rebel  
and his devoted followers have  
announced the coming of the  
Mahdi and seized the Grand

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Mosque in Mecca. Among the insurgents is a young woman, Sarab, disguised as a man. As the horror and chaos of the siege reach their peak, she escapes and encounters a French officer from the opposing side. They form an unexpected bond, as hostility turns to attraction, but the violence of both of their pasts will return to haunt them. Award-winning writer Raja Alem's extraordinary narrative stretches from Saudi Arabia's Najd desert to the heart of Paris. In her typical bold and captivating style, this most unusual of love stories unpicks faith and fanaticism, alienation and redemption, and ultimately what it means to be human. On Evelynne Accad University of

Texas Press Arab women's writing in the modern age began with 'A'isha al-Taymuriya, Warda al-Yaziji, Zaynab Fawwaz, and other nineteenth-century pioneers in Egypt and the Levant. This unique study-first published in Arabic in 2004-looks at the work of those pioneers and then traces the development of Arab women's literature through the end of the twentieth century, and also includes a meticulously researched, comprehensive bibliography of writing by Arab women. In the first section, in nine essays that cover the Arab Middle East from Morocco to Iraq and Syria to Yemen, critics and writers from the Arab world

examine the origin and evolution of women's writing in each country in the region, addressing fiction, poetry, drama, and autobiographical writing. The second part of the volume contains bibliographical entries for over 1,200 Arab women writers from the last third of the nineteenth century through 1999. Each entry contains a short biography and a bibliography of each author's published works. This section also includes Arab women's writing in French and English, as well as a bibliography of works translated into English. With its broad scope and extensive research, this book is an indispensable resource for anyone interested in Arabic literature,

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women's studies, or comparative literature. Contributors: Emad Abu Ghazi, Radwa Ashour, Mohammed Berrada, Ferial J. Ghazoul, Subhi Hadidi, Haydar Ibrahim, Yumna al-'Id, Su'ad al-Mani', Iman al-Qadi, Amina Rachid, Huda al-Sadda, Hatim al-Sakr.

Oxford University Press  
When the body of a young woman is discovered in the Lane of Many Heads, an alley in modern-day Mecca, no one will claim it, as they are all ashamed of her nakedness. As Detective Nasser pursues his investigation of the case,

seemingly all of Mecca chimes in—including the Lane of Many Heads itself—in this brilliant, funny, profane, and enigmatic fever dream of a novel by Raja Alem, the first woman to win the International Prize for Arabic Fiction. Nasser initially suspects that the dead woman is Aisha, one of the residents of the Area, and he searches her emails for clues. The world she paints embraces everything from crime and religious extremism to the

exploitation of foreign workers by a mafia of building contractors, who are destroying the historic areas of the city. In stark relief with this grimness is the beauty of her love letters to her German boyfriend. Another view reveals the city through the eyes of Yusuf, Aisha's neighbor, increasingly frustrated by the acceleration pace of change. As gripping as classic noir, nuanced as a Nabokov novel, and labyrinthine as the alleys of Mecca itself, this

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powerful and disturbing work of fiction masterfully reveals a city and a civilization in all its contradictions, at once beholden to brutal customs and uneasily coming to terms with new traditions. Raja Alem's singular *The Dove's Necklace* is a virtuosic work of literature that deserves the world's attention.

The Arch and the Butterfly Syracuse University Press  
In the Shoes of the Other

Interdisciplinary Essays in Translation Studies from Cairo "This anthology continues a tradition that is intended to give impetus to the development of Egyptian and Arab discourses on translation both within and beyond the American University in Cairo. It is a welcome and important

contribution to raising the profile of translation, in all its forms, and of translators in the region." Mona Baker, University of Manchester  
"Since its founding, the Center for Translation Studies has hosted an astonishing number of academic events that are among the most intellectually serious and

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internationally prominent of AUC's activities in the humanities; this has been noted by universities across the world. Indeed, the "In Translation" lecture series is, without any exaggeration, the most impressive public lecture series of its kind anywhere, and far beyond anything comparable in

Africa or the Middle East." Adam Talib, Durham University "AUC's Center for Translation Studies has proved itself a vital interpreter of texts and events generated by Egypt's turbulent political history and fervent artistic culture. I know of no other group of scholars with equal competence in these matters and with an

equivalent respect in the field." Anthony Cordingley, Université Paris VIII  
Tayeb Salih Routledge  
Hend is a young Saudi Arabian woman struggling to challenge her conservative society, which is represented by various soldiers, real and metaphorical, in her life. After a failed arranged marriage to an army officer, she is determined to establish herself as a writer and make her own choices in love. Her mother, a firm supporter of their

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society's traditional norms, works to block her efforts. As Hend engages with her mother, stories of her past and those of other female relatives reveal the extent of the suffering previous generations of women have endured while living in such a patriarchal society. Hend also comes to understand how such traditions have adversely affected the men in her family, including one brother who flees to the West and another who finds comradeship among the members of al-Qaeda. Badriah Albeshr

represents a growing number of women writers from the Arabian Peninsula who refuse to shy away from the taboo topics of religion and sexuality, which makes *Hend and the Soldiers* a valuable read for those seeking insights into the complexities surrounding these issues.

Fatma Routledge  
Winner of the prestigious International Prize for Arabic Fiction - The Arab Booker 2011. As he prepares to leave for work one morning, Youssef al-Firsiwi finds a mysterious letter under his door. In a single devastating line he learns that his only son, Yacine,

whom he believed to be studying engineering in Paris, has been killed in Afghanistan fighting with the Islamist resistance. Yousif, the son of a cross-cultural marriage between his Moroccan father and German-born mother, is quickly caught up in a mesh of family tragedies that reflect the changing world he lives in. He turns for support to his friends Ahmad and Ibrahim, themselves enmeshed in ever more complex business and criminal dealings, and he struggles to reconnect with his father. With his world already shattered, and finding himself abandoned by his wife for another man, Yousif begins to question everything including his own values and identity.  
Cairo Swan Song Restless Books

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November 1979. Violence has broken out in the holiest site of Islam after a charismatic rebel and his followers have attempted to announce the coming of the Redeemer. Amid the horror and chaos of the siege, Sarab, an insurgent, kidnaps a French officer. Caught between hostility and mutual attraction, the two forge an unusual relationship, each confronting the traumatic history that has brought them to this point--and how they might help each other overcome the memories that haunt them. In this sweeping narrative ranging from the Najd desert to the green heart of Paris, award-winning

writer Raja Alem examines the nature of identity, love, faith, and ultimately what it means to be human.

Voices of Change Syracuse University Press

Veiling is a globally polarizing issue, a locus for the struggle between Islam and the West and between contemporary and traditional interpretations of Islam. This book examines the vastly misunderstood and multi-layered world of the veil. It explores and analyzes the cultures, politics, and histories of veiling.

Sarab McFarland

Since the middle of the

twentieth century, Turkish playwriting has been notable for its verve and versatility.

This two-volume anthology is the first major collection of plays in English of modern Turkish drama, a selection dealing with ancient Anatolian mythology, Ottoman history, contemporary social issues and family dramas, ribald comedy from Turkey ' s cities and rural areas. It also includes several plays set outside Turkey. The two volumes together will feature seventeen plays by major playwrights published or produced from

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the late 1940s to the present day, with volume 1, “ Ibrahim the Mad ” and Other Plays, encompassing plays from the 1940s through the 1960s, and volume 2, "I, Anatolia" and Other Plays, including plays from the 1970s through the 1990s. They grant to English readers the pleasure of riveting drama in translations that are colloquial as well as faithful. For producers, directors, and actors they provide a wealth of fresh, new material, with characters ranging from Ottoman sultans to a Soviet cosmonaut, from the

Byzantine Empress Theodora to a fisherman's wife, from residents of an Istanbul neighborhood to King Midas, from Montezuma to a Turkish cabinet minister.

Sarab Syracuse University Press

This study highlights the connections between power, cultural products, resistance, and the artistic strategies through which that resistance is voiced in the Middle East. Exploring cultural displays of dissent in the form of literary works, films, and music, the collection uses the concept of

'cultural resistance' to describe the way culture and cultural creations are used to resist or even change the dominant political, social, economic, and cultural discourses and structures either consciously or unconsciously. The contributors do not claim that these cultural products constitute organized resistance movements, but rather that they reflect instances of defiance that stem from their peculiar contexts. If culture can be used to consolidate and perpetuate power relations in societies, it can also be used as



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the site of resistance to oppression in its various forms: gender, class, ethnicity, and sexuality, subverting existing dominant social and political hegemonies in the Middle East.

Politics and Digital Literature in the Middle East Hoopoe  
The story of one woman's passionate odyssey and sophisticated fantasy of Arabia, ancient and modern.

Where Have all the Flowers Gone? Three Continents Press  
Ideal for students and general readers, this single-volume work serves as a ready-reference guide to pop culture in countries in

North Africa and the Middle East, covering subjects ranging from the latest young adult book craze in Egypt to the hottest movies in Saudi Arabia. • Allows readers to make cross-cultural comparisons by relating pop culture in the Islamic world to pop culture in the United States • Supplies highly relatable content for young adult readers that is presented in a fun and engaging way • Provides information that students can use in daily life, such as renting a popular or acclaimed Middle Eastern film or watching a YouTube video of Egyptian music • Enables students to

better understand the uneasy paradox that is pop culture in the Islamic world

The Doves Necklace Cambridge Scholars Publishing

The story of one woman's passionate odyssey and sophisticated fantasy of Arabia, ancient and modern.

Resistance in Contemporary Middle Eastern Cultures

University of Texas Press

Writers and Nations

compares American and Saudi literatures and defines the concept of the nation and its relevance to literature. It facilitates the comparative

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study of American and Saudi writers within the context of each nation's history and the emergence of their respective national literatures.

Modern Saudi Arabia A&C Black

This thematic encyclopedia examines contemporary and historical Saudi Arabia, with entries that fall under themes such as Geography, History, Government and Politics, Religion and Thought, Food, Etiquette, Media, and much more. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, known for its petroleum reserves and leadership role in the Middle East, is explored in this latest addition to the Understanding Modern Nations series. Organized into thematic

chapters, Modern Saudi Arabia covers both history and contemporary daily life. Chapter topics include: Geography; History; Government and Politics; Economy; Religion and Thought; Social Classes and Ethnicity; Gender, Marriage, and Sexuality; Education; Language; Etiquette; Literature and Drama; Art and Architecture; Music and Dance; Food; Leisure and Sports; and Media and Popular Culture. Each chapter contains an overview of the topic and alphabetized entries on examples of each theme. A detailed historical timelinespans from prehistoric times to the present. Special appendices are also included, offering profiles of a typical day in the life of

representative members of Saudi society, a glossary, key facts and figures about Saudi Arabia, and a holiday chart. This volume will be useful for readers looking for specific topical information and for those who want to read entire chapters to gain a deeper perspective on aspects of modern Saudi Arabia. • Includes "Day in the Life" features that portray the specific daily activities of various people in Saudi Arabia, from teenagers to working adults in different fields, thereby providing readers with insight into daily life in the country • Defines key terms related to the reading in a glossary appendix • Provides at-a-glance information about Saudi Arabia's important religious and secular

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holidays in a chart of National Holidays • Illuminates the text through photos and sidebars helping to illustrate key topics and allowing students to dive more deeply into ideas • Provides fun facts and anecdotal information in sidebars that help to engage readers

**Patriarchy and Power in Magical Realism** Simon and Schuster

Muslim women have been stereotyped by Western academia as oppressed and voiceless. This volume problematizes this Western academic representation.

**Muslim Women Writers from the Middle East** from Out al-

**Kouloub al-Dimerdashiyah** (1899 – 1968) and **Latifa al-Zayat** (1923 – 1996) from Egypt, to current diasporic writers such as **Tamara Chalabi** from Iraq, **Mohja Kahf** from Syria, and even trendy writers such as **Alexandra Chreiteh**, challenge the received notion of Middle Eastern women as subjugated and secluded. The younger largely Muslim women scholars collected in this book present cutting edge theoretical perspectives on these Muslim women writers.

This book includes essays

from the conflict-ridden countries such as Iran, Iraq, Palestine, Syria, and the resultant diaspora. The strengths of Muslim women writers are captured by the scholars included herein. The approach is feminist, post-colonial, and disruptive of Western stereotypical academic tropes.

**No Knives in the Kitchens of this City** Badgley Publishing Company

Banned by the Saudi Arabian government, this novel by the high-profile author and journalist **Badriah Albeshr**

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explores women's lives in the Saudi's repressive kingdom. Arabic Translation Across Discourses Lulu.com Sarmada, Arabic for “perpetuate” or “the eternally-not-changed,” is the novel’s fictitious setting. In the title, Fadi Azzam creates a new word (a derivative female form of noun-verb, which does not exist in Arabic) and in so doing immediately lets the reader know that women are the protagonists of this story that spans several generations, from Syria to Paris and back

again. The novel is set in the Druze area and is a declaration of love for tolerance and for the peaceful coexistence of the many religious groups that live in close proximity. Myths, communists, nationalists, murder, illicit love, superstition, erotic trees and women’s breasts make up the tapestry of this strange, beautifully written, first novel. Fadi Azzam narrates, just as he writes poetry: Sarmada is direct, ruthless and full of fire. The Dove's Necklace Springer Hilmi Yavuz is among Turkey’s most celebrated

poets. His poetry, at once cerebral and intensely emotional, has been translated into several languages but never, until now, into English. Walter G. Andrews’s translations bring to the English-speaking world a glimpse into the complex and expressive poetry of Yavuz, introducing traditional Ottoman forms and themes into a familiar poetic landscape and opening a door of understanding to Western readers. While each poem included in this volume can be enjoyed as a unique poetic entity, these poems read together reveal the organic and developmental relationship

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between Yavuz's figurative language and his self-expression. Barry Tharaud provides an insightful afterword, discussing Yavuz ' s work within the world of Turkish poetry and making a convincing plea for the importance of literature in translation. This volume will be of significant interest to anthologists, cultural and literary historians, and poetry lovers alike.

The History of Libya Routledge  
Tucked away in a rundown quarter, just out of sight of downtown Cairo, a group of intellectuals gather regularly to smoke hashish in Hakeem's den. The den is the center of their lives,

both a refuge and a stimulus, and at the center of the den is the remarkable man who keeps their hashish bowls topped up-Rowdy Salih. While his former life is a mystery to his loyal clientele of writers, painters, film directors, and even window dressers, each sees himself reflected in Salih; but without his humor, humility, or insight, or his occasional passions fueled by hootch. And when the nation has to face.