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Minaret-Leila Aboulela 2007-12-01 "A beautiful, daring, challenging novel" of a young Muslim immigrant—from the author of the New York Times Notable Book, The Translator (The Guardian). Leila Aboulela’s American debut is a provocative, timely, and engaging novel about a young Muslim woman—once privileged and secular in her native land and now impoverished in London—gradually embracing her orthodox faith. With her Muslim hijab and down-turned gaze, Najwa is invisible to most eyes, especially to the rich families whose houses she cleans in London. Twenty years ago, Najwa, then at university in Khartoum, would never have imagined that one day she would be a maid. An upperclass Westernized Sudanese woman, her dress gloves, live many well in Khartoum family. But a coup forces the young woman and her family into political exile in London. Soon orphaned, she finds solace and companionship within the Muslim community. Then Najwa meets Tamer, the intense, lonely younger brother of her employer. They find a common bond in faith and slowly, silently, begin to fall in love. Written with directness and force, Minaret is a lyric and insightful novel about Islam and an alluring glimpse into a culture is Westerners are only just beginning to understand. “Lit up by a highly unusual sensibility and world view, so rarefied and uncompromising that it is likely to throw the reader out of kilter . . . Her delicacy of touch is to be complimented.” —Chandrahas Choudhury, San Francisco Chronicle

The Translator-Leila Aboulela 2007-12-01 A New York Times Notable Book: “Aboulela’s lovely, brief story encompasses worlds of melancholy and gulsfs between cultures” (Kirkus Reviews, starred review). American readers were introduced to the award-winning Sudanese author Leila Aboulela with Minaret, a delicate tale of a privileged young African Muslim woman adjusting to her new life as a maid in London. Now, for the first time in North America, we step back to her extraordinarily assured debut about a widowed Muslim mother living in Aberdeen who falls in love with a Scottish secular academic. Sammar is a Sudanese widow working as an Arabic translator at a Scottish university. Since the sudden death of her husband, her young son has disappeared. Leaving her family, seeking freedom and a new beginning, she comes to the city alone, in cold, gray Aberdeen, grieving and isolated. But when she begins to translate for Rae, a Scottish Islamic scholar, the two develop a deep friendship that awakens in Sammar all the longing for life she has repressed. As Rae and Sammar fall in love, she knows they will have to address his lack of faith in all that Sammar holds sacred. An exquisitely crafted meditation on love, both human and divine, The Translator is ultimately the story of one woman’s courage to stay true to her beliefs, herself, and her newfound love. “A story of love and faith all the more moving for the restraint with which it is written.” —J. M. Coetzee

Disorientation: Muslim Identity in Contemporary Anglophone Literature-E. Santesso 2013-09-12 Focusing on British novels about the Muslim immigrant experience published after 9/11; this book examines the promise as well as the limits of ‘British Muslim’ identity as a viable form of self-representation, and the challenges - particularly for women - of reconciling non-Western religious identity with the secular policies of Western states.

Arab Voices in Diaspora-Layla Maleh 2009-01 Arab Voices in Diaspora offers a wide-ranging overview and an insightful study of the field of Anglophone Arab literature produced across the world. The first of its kind, it chronicles the development of this literature from its inception at the turn of the past century until the post 9/11 era. The book sheds light not only on the historical but also on the cultural and aesthetic value of this literary production, which has so far received little scholarly attention. It also seeks to place Anglophone Arab literary works within the larger nomenclature of postcolonial, emerging, and ethnic literature, as it finds that the authors are haunted by the same ‘hybrid’, ‘exilic’, and ‘diasporic’ questions that have dogged their fellow postcolonialists. Issues of belonging, loyalty, and identity are recognized and dealt with in the various essays, as are the various conflicts involved in cultural and relational identification. The contributors to this volume come from different national backgrounds and share in examining the nuances of this emerging literature. Authors discussed include Elmez Abinader, Diana Abu-Jabar, Leila Aboulela, Leila Ahmed, Rabih Alameddine, Edward Attiyah, Shah Dallal, Ibrahim Fawal, Fadia Faqir, Khalil Gibran, Suheir Hamid, Louhna Haikal, Nada Awar Jarrar, Jad El Hage, Lawrence Joseph, Mohja Kahf, Jamal Majhour, Hisham Matar, Dunya Mikhail, Samia Serageldine, Naomi Shihab Nye, Ameen Rihana, Mona Simpson, Ahdaf Soueif, and Cecilie Yazbak.Contributors: Victoria M. Abboud, Dijya M. Abd, Sameaa Abdurraaq, Marta Carillo, Carol Fadda-Conrey, Cristina Garrigos, Lamia Hammad, Yasmeen Hannaish, Wall S. Hassan, Richard E. Himshem, Syrine Hout, Layla Al Maleh, Brinda J. Mehta, Dawn Mirapuri, Geofffrey P. Nash, Boulos Sarro, Fadia Fayez Syufyuev

The Canonical Debate Today-Liviu Papadima 2011-03-10 The Canonical Debate Today. Crossing Disciplinary and Cultural Boundaries re-enters the canonical issues current in the ‘90s from a new perspective, triggered by the changes that occurred worldwide in understanding the concepts and the status of theory, in the legacy of literary studies within the field of humanities, and in cultural production and reception. During the last decade discussions of globalization mostly took into account its impact on the status of academic disciplines such as comparative literature or cultural studies, or the reconfiguration of national literary fields. These debates do not dispense with canonicity altogether but make it more urgent and necessary. Canons seen as sets of norms or regulatory practices are central to the formation of disciplines, to the recognition and transmission of values, even to the articulation of discourses on identity on various levels. The three sections of the volume deal with three interrelated subjects: theories and applicable contexts of the canon (Canons and Contexts); recent transformations in the area of literary studies in response to the task of canon formation (Reshaping Literary Studies); and the challenges brought to the understanding of the canon(s) by the current process of re-defining literary and cultural boundaries (Transgressing Literary and Cultural Boundaries). This volume will appeal to researchers, teachers, and students of cultural studies, comparative literature, and literary theory.

Mediating Faiths-Michael Bailey 2011 Mediating Faiths brings together scholars working across a range of fields, including cultural studies, media, sociology, anthropology, cultural theory and religious studies, in order to illustrate how religion continues to be responsive to the very latest social and cultural developments in the environments in which it exists. They raise fundamental questions concerning new media and religious expression, religious youth cultures, the links between spirituality, personal development and consumer culture, and contemporary intersections of religion, identity and politics.

A Companion to Sufian Studies, 500-1500- 2017-08-07 This collection of essays is the first English-language, multidisciplinary analysis of medieval and modern Sardinia, offering fresh perspectives from archaeology and other fields. This volume is an ideal introduction for a new comer to the field, as well as the advanced scholar.

Islamic Beliefs, Practices, and Cultures- 2010 Presents an overview of the beliefs, customs and culture of Islam, covering the history of the religion, its sacred texts, important holidays, holy places, art, architecture, literature and contemporary philosophy.

Elsewhere Home-Leila Aboulela 2019-02-12 Since her award-winning debut novel, Minaret, Leila Aboulela has been praised by J.M. Coetzee, Ali Smith, Aminatou Forna, and Anthony Marra among others for her rich and nuanced depictions of Islamic spiritual and political life. Her latest collection, Elsewhere, Home, draws us ineluctably into the lives of immigrants at home and abroad as they forge new identities and reshape old ones. A young woman’s encounter with a former classmate elicits painful reminders of her former life in Khartoum. A wealthy young Sudanese woman studying in Aberdeen begins an unlikely friendship with one of her Scottish classmates. A woman experiences an evolving relationship to her favorite writer, whose portrait of their shared culture both reflects and
A Companion to the Abbey of Le Bec in the Central Middle Ages (11th-13th Centuries) - 2017-10-20

Bird Summons-Leila Aboulela 2020-02-11 An enchanting, heartfelt novel about three Muslim women in search of freedom, faith, and happiness, from Scottish Book Award and Caine Prize-winning author Leila Aboulela. In her adventurous new novel, New York Times Notable author Leila Aboulela delivers a lively portrait of three women who embark on a journey of self-discovery while grappling with the conflicting demands of family, duty, and faith. When Salma, Monty, and Iman—friends and active members of their local Muslim Women’s group—decide to take a road trip together to the Scottish Highlands, they leave behind lives often dominated by obligation, frustrated desire, and dull predictability. Each wants something more out of life, but bears the cost of taking it. Salma is successful and happily married, but tempted to risk it all when she’s contacted by her first love back in Egypt. Monty gave up a career in banking to care for her disabled son without the help of her indifferent husband, and Iman, in her twenties and already on her third marriage, longs for the freedom and autonomy she’s never known. When the women are visited by the Hoopoe, a sacred bird from Muslim and Celtic literature, they are compelled to question their relationships to faith and femininity, love, loyalty, and sacrifice. Brilliantly imagined, thoughtful and wise, Bird Summons is Leila Aboulela’s reputation as one of our finest contemporary writers.
Islamophobia and the Novel-Peter Morye 2018-08-14 In an era of rampant Islamophobia, what do literary representations of Muslims and anti-Muslim bigotry tell us about changing concepts of cultural difference? In Islamophobia and the Novel, Peter Morye analyzes how recent works of fiction have framed and responded to the rise of anti-Muslim prejudice, showing how their portrayals of Muslims both reflect and refute the ideological preoccupations of media and politicians in the post-9/11 West. Islamophobia and the Novel discusses novels embodying a range of positions—from the avowedly secular to the religious, and from texts that appear to underwrite Western assumptions of cultural superiority to those that recognize and critique neocolonial impulses. Morye offers nuanced readings of works by John Updike, Ian McEwan, Hanif Kureishi, Monica Ali, Mohsin Hamid, John le Carré, Khadija Hosseini, Azar Nafisi, and other writers, emphasizing the demands of the literary marketplace for representations of Muslims. He explores how depictions of Muslim experience have challenged liberal assumptions regarding the novel’s potential for empathy and its ability to encompass a variety of voices. Morye argues for a greater degree of critical self-consciousness in our understanding of writing by and about Muslims, in contrast to both exclusionary nationalism and the fetishization of difference. Contemporary literature’s capacity to unveil the conflicted nature of anti-Muslim bigotry expands our range of resources to combat Islamophobia. This, in turn, might contribute to Islamophobia’s eventual dismantling.

Does My Head Look Big in This?-Randa Abdel-Fattah 2014-05-01 Don’t panic - I’m Islamic! Amal is a 16-year-old Melbourne teen with all the usual obsessions about boys, chocolate and Cosmo magazine. She’s also a Muslim, struggling to honour the Islamic faith in a society that doesn’t understand it. The story of her decision to “shawl up” is funny, surprising and touching by turns.

Bird Summons-Leila Aboulela 2019-03-07 * A GUARDIAN BEST BOOK OF 2019 * ** SHORTLISTED FOR THE SAL Testing FICTION BOOK OF THE YEAR 2019 * ** LONGLISTED FOR THE HIGHLAND BOOK PRIZE 2019 * ** BIRD SUMMONS is a magic carpet ride into the forest of history and the lives of women. Deep and wild’ Lucy Ellmann, Booker-shortlisted author of DUCKS, NEWBURYPORT Salma, happily married, tries every day to fit into life in Britain. When her first love contacts her, she is tempted to risk it all and return to Egypt. Moni gave up a career in banking to care for her disabled son, but now her husband wants to move to Saudi Arabia - where she fears her son’s condition will worsen. Iman feels burdened by her beauty. In her twenties and already in her third marriage, she is treated like a pet and longs for freedom. On a road trip to the Scottish Highlands, the women are visited by the Hoopoe, a sacred bird whose fables from Muslim and Celtic literature compel them to question the balance between faith and feminism, love, loyalty and sacrifice. Brilliantly imagined, intense and haunting, Bird Summons confirms Leila Aboulela’s reputation as one of our finest contemporary writers.

Coloured Lights-Leila Aboulela 2005 All eleven stories illuminate the subtleties of Muslim immigrant experience in Britain: comic culture clash and deep spiritual struggles, from the title story, which tells of the tragic death of the narrator's brother; in another, romance is tentative in a traditional Muslim society.” So states the translator's foreword to this collection of the Egyptian author's best short stories. Rifaat (1930–1996) did not recognize and critique neoimperial impulses. Morey offers nuanced readings of works by John Updike, Ian McEwan, Hanif Kureishi, Monica Ali, Mohsin Hamid, John le Carré, Khadija Hosseini, Azar Nafisi, and other writers, emphasizing the demands of the literary marketplace for representations of Muslims. He explores how depictions of Muslim experience have challenged liberal assumptions regarding the novel’s potential for empathy and its ability to encompass a variety of voices. Morye argues for a greater degree of critical self-consciousness in our understanding of writing by and about Muslims, in contrast to both exclusionary nationalism and the fetishization of difference. Contemporary literature’s capacity to unveil the conflicted nature of anti-Muslim bigotry expands our range of resources to combat Islamophobia. This, in turn, might contribute to Islamophobia’s eventual dismantling.

Mapping Cultural Identities and Intersections-Onorina Botezat 2019-09-26 This volume investigates identity discourses and self-constructions/de-constructions in various texts through imagological readings of films, narratives, and art works, examining different layers of cultural identities, on the one hand, and measuring the literary reception of ethnic/identity construction to reveal both the self and hetero images, on the other. The book features theoretical and analytical approaches with insights borrowed from multiple disciplines, and mainly focuses on the application of imagological perspectives in the fields of literature and translation, and specifically in literary works “carried over” from one culture to another. It will be of interest for scholars and researchers working in the fields of literature, translation, cultural studies, and imagology, as well as for students studying in these fields.

British Muslim Converts-Kate Zebri 2008 Kate Zebri examines British cases of conversion to Islam, asking whether converts could act as much-needed mediators in the growing divide between Islam and the West.

The Bloomsbury Introduction to Postcolonial Writing: New Contexts, New Narratives, New Debates is an advanced introduction to prominent issues in contemporary postcolonial literary studies. With chapters written by leading scholars in the field, The Bloomsbury Introduction to Postcolonial Writing includes: · Explorations of key contemporary topics, from eco-criticism, refugeeism, economics, faith and secularism, and gender and sexuality, to the impact of digital humanities on postcolonial studies · Introductions to a wide range of genres, from the novel, theatre and poetry to life-writing, graphic novels, film and games · In-depth analysis of writing from many postcolonial regions including Africa, South Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America, and American African writing · Covering Anglophone and Francophone texts and contexts, and tackling the relationship between postcolonial studies and world literature, with a glossary of key critical terms, this is an essential text for all students and scholars of contemporary postcolonial studies.

British Muslim Fictions-C. Chambers 2012-03-09 Through interviews with leading writers (including Abhaf Souef and Hanif Kureishi), this book analyzes the writing and opinions of novelists of Muslim heritage based in the UK. Discussion centres on writers' work, literary techniques, and influences, and on their views of such issues as the hijab, the war on terror and the Rushdie Affair.

Book of Clouds-Chloe Aridjis 2009-03-10 A young Mexican woman adrift in post-unification Berlin encounters romance, violence, and revelation in this "stirring and lyrical first novel" (Paul Auster, award-winning author and filmmaker). Having escaped her overbearing family in Mexico, Tatiana settles in the newly reunified city of Berlin, where she hopes to cultivate a life of solitude. But when she takes a job transcribing notes for the reclusive historian, Doktor Weiss, Tatiana's life becomes more complex—and more perilous. Through Weiss, she meets a young meteorologist who, as a child in East Germany, took solace in the sky’s constant shape-shifting, an antidote to his grim and unchanging reality. As their three conflicting worlds begin to merge, the tension culminates in an act of violence that will leave none of them untouched. Unfolding with the logic of a dream, Book of Clouds is both “a stunningly accurate portrait of Berlin” and a beautiful exploration of the myths we cling to in order to give our lives meaning. From a crowded U-Bahn where Hitler appears dressed as an old woman to an underground Gestapo bowling alley whose walls bear score marks from games long settled, Chloe Aridjis guides us through layers of history with wit and compassion, blurring the lines between real and imagined. Her debut novel is “required reading of the most pleasurable sort” (The New York Times). Named one of the 10 Best Books Set in Berlin by The Guardian.

Western Muslims and the Future of Islam-Tariq Ramadan 2004 Begins by offering a reading of Islamic sources, interpreting them for a Western context. The author demonstrates how an understanding of universal Islamic principles can open the door to integration into Western societies. He then shows how these principles can be put to practical use.

The Nomadic Object-Christine Göttler 2017-11-13 A team of renowned scholars examines how sacred art and artefacts responded to the demands of a world stage in the age of reform, demonstrating the significance of religious systems for a global art history.

A Thousand Splendid Suns-Khaled Hosseini 2008-09-18 A riveting and powerful story of an unforgiving time, an unlikely friendship and an indestructible love

Distant View of a Minaret and Other Stories-Alifa Rifaat 2014-01-16 "More convincingly than any other woman writing in Arabic today, Alifa Rifaat lifts the veil on what it means to be a woman living within a traditional Muslim society.” So states the translator’s foreword to this collection of the Egyptian author’s best short stories. Rifaat (1930–1996) did not go to university, spoke only Arabic, and seldom traveled abroad. This virtual immunity from Western influence lends a special authenticity to her direct yet sincere accounts of death, sexual fulfillment, the lives of women in purdah, and the frustrations of everyday life in a male-dominated Islamic environment. Translated from the Arabic by Denys Johnson-Davies, the collection admits the reader into a hidden private world, regulated by the call of the mosque, but often full of profound anguish and personal isolation. Badriyya’s despairing anger at her deceitful husband, for example, or the haunting melancholy of “At the Time of the Jasmine,” are treated with a sensitivity to the discipline and order of Islam.
The Invisible Muslim - Medina Tenour Whiteman 2020-03-18

Medina Tenour Whiteman stands at the margins of whiteness and Islam. An Anglo-American born to Sufi converts, she feels perennially out of place—not fully at home in Western or Muslim cultures. In this searingly honest memoir, Whiteman contemplates what it means to be an invisible Muslim, examining the pernicious effects of white Muslim privilege and exploring what Muslim identity can mean the world over—in lands of religious diversity and cultural insularity, from Andalusia, Bosnia and Turkey to Zanzibar, India and Iran. Through her travels, she unearths experiences familiar to both Western Muslims and anyone of mixed heritage: a life-long search for belonging and the joys and crises of inhabiting more than one identity.

Africana Islamic Studies - James L. Conyers Jr. 2016-03-04

Africana Islamic Studies highlights the diverse contributions that African Americans have made to the formation of Islam in the United States. It specifically focuses on the Nation of Islam and its patriarch Elijah Muhammad with regards to the African American Islamic experience. Contributors explore topics such as gender, education, politics, and sociology from the African American perspective on Islam. This volume offers a unique view of the longstanding Islamic discourse in the United States and its impact on the American cultural landscape.

Women and Gender in Islam - Leila Ahmed 2021-03-16

A classic, pioneering account of the lives of women in Islamic history, republished for a new generation. This pioneering study of the social and political lives of Muslim women has shaped a whole generation of scholarship. In it, Leila Ahmed explores the historical roots of contemporary debates, ambitiously surveying Islamic discourse on women from Arabia during the period in which Islam was founded to Iraq during the classical age to Egypt during the modern era. The book is now reissued as a Veritas paperback, with a new foreword by Kecia Ali situating the text in its scholarly context and explaining its enduring influence. “Ahmed’s book is a serious and independent-minded analysis of its subject, the best-informed, most sympathetic and reliable one that exists today.” —Edward W. Said “Destined to become a classic. . . . It gives [Muslim women] back our rightful place, at the center of our histories.” —Rana Kabbani, The Guardian

A Border Passage - Leila Ahmed 2012

Leila Ahmed grew up in Cairo in the 1940s and ’50s in a family that was eager and passionately political. Although many in the Egyptian upper classes were firmly opposed to change, the Ahmeds were proud supporters of independence. But when the Revolution arrived, the family’s opposition to Nasser’s policies led to persecutions that would throw their lives into turmoil and set their youngest child on a journey across cultures. Through university in England and teaching jobs in Abu Dhabi and America, Leila Ahmed sought to define herself—and to understand how the world defined her—as a woman, a Muslim, an Egyptian, and an Arab. Her search touched on questions of language and nationalism, on differences between men’s and women’s ways of knowing, and on vastly different interpretations of Islam. She arrived in the end as an ardent but critical feminist with an insider’s understanding of multiculturalism and religious pluralism. In language that vividly evokes the lush summers of her Cairo youth and the harsh barrenness of the Arabian desert, Leila Ahmed has given us a story that can help us all to understand the passages between cultures that so affect our global society.

Pillars of Salt - Fadila Faqir 1997-05-06

A novel on the lot of Arab women. Set in Jordan in the 1940s, the protagonists are two women in a mental hospital who exchange stories. One is a mother of eight who was repudiated by her husband so he could marry a younger woman. By a Jordanian writing in English, author of Nisanit.

Tumbleweeds - Leila Meacham 2012-06-19

The bestselling, epic storytelling of Roses meets the moving drama of Friday Night Lights in this heartrending story of three friends who forge a lifelong bond against the backdrop of a Texas town’s passion for football. Recently orphaned, eleven-year-old Cathy Benson feels she has been dropped into a cultural and intellectual wasteland when she is forced to move from her academically privileged life in California to the small town of Kersey. Here in the Texas Panhandle where the sport of football reigns supreme, she is quickly taken under the unlikely wings of up-and-coming gridiron stars and classmates John Caldwell and Trey Don Hall. Like herself, they are orphans—with whom she forms a friendship and an eventual love triangle that will determine the course of the rest of their lives. Taking the three friends through their growing-up years until their high school graduations when several tragic events uproot and break them apart, the novel expands to follow their careers and futures until they reunite in Kersey at forty years of age. Told with all of Meacham’s signature drama, unforgettable characters, and plot twists, TUMBLEWEEDS will have readers turning the pages, desperate to discover how it all plays out.

The Face Behind the Veil - Donna Gehrke-White 2007-02

Presents the lives and accomplishments of individual Muslim women living in the United States, discussing their roles as mothers, social workers, business executives, doctors, teachers, and human rights advocates.