

the girl in the tangerine scarf mohja kahf

The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf Mohja Kahf: A Deep Dive into Identity, Culture, and Faith

the girl in the tangerine scarf mohja kahf is not just a character or a mere literary creation; she embodies the intricate layers of identity, faith, and cultural negotiation in a contemporary world. Mohja Kahf's novel, **The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf**, offers readers a profound exploration of what it means to grow up as a Muslim Arab-American woman, navigating the complexities of family expectations, religious traditions, and the pressures of assimilation. This article delves into the themes, character development, and cultural significance of this celebrated work, shedding light on why it resonates so deeply with readers across diverse backgrounds.

The Essence of The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf Mohja Kahf

Mohja Kahf's novel centers on Khadra Shamy, a young Muslim woman from a Syrian-American family living in Indiana. The "tangerine scarf" is a symbol that threads throughout the narrative—not just a piece of clothing but a vibrant emblem of identity, visibility, and resistance. The scarf reflects Khadra's internal struggles and her journey through adolescence and young adulthood in a post-9/11 America, where Muslim identities often face scrutiny and misunderstanding.

The novel is semi-autobiographical in nature, drawing from Kahf's own experiences as a Syrian-American Muslim woman. This personal connection enriches the storytelling, granting it authenticity and emotional depth. Readers are invited to witness Khadra's challenges and triumphs as she negotiates between her family's cultural expectations and her own aspirations.

Exploring Themes in The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf Mohja Kahf

Identity and Belonging

At its core, **The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf** is about the search for identity. Khadra's life is a balancing act between her Arab heritage, Islamic faith, and the American culture that surrounds her. This theme resonates with many second-generation immigrants who often feel caught between two worlds.

Khadra's scarf symbolizes this tension vividly. Wearing it makes her visibly Muslim, a choice that brings both pride and prejudice. It becomes a way for her to assert her identity but also exposes her to discrimination. Through Khadra, Kahf illustrates the nuanced realities of maintaining cultural and religious identity in a society that can be both welcoming and alienating.

Faith and Spirituality

Religion plays a pivotal role in the novel, not just as a backdrop but as a dynamic force shaping Khadra's worldview. Kahf portrays Islam as a rich, multifaceted tradition, filled with personal meaning and spiritual depth. However, the novel also candidly addresses the challenges of living as a Muslim in America, especially against the backdrop of political tensions and stereotypes.

Khadra's journey is one of questioning, learning, and sometimes rebelling against rigid interpretations of faith. This exploration provides readers with insight into the diversity of Muslim experiences and the personal nature of spirituality.

Family and Community Dynamics

The Shamy family is a vibrant portrayal of an immigrant household grappling with the pressures of preserving culture while adapting to a new environment. The intergenerational conflicts, cultural misunderstandings, and deep familial love depicted in the novel highlight the complexities of immigrant family life.

Khadra's parents hold fast to traditional values, but Khadra and her siblings navigate a more hybrid identity. This dynamic creates both tension and growth, showing how families adapt over time while holding on to their roots.

The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf Mohja Kahf: Character Development and Symbolism

Khadra Shamy as a Protagonist

Khadra's character is crafted with nuance and empathy. She is intelligent, outspoken, and sometimes rebellious—a realistic portrayal of a young woman coming into her own. Her internal conflicts and external challenges make her relatable to readers who have experienced cultural or religious marginalization.

The novel's strength lies in how it humanizes Khadra's experience, avoiding stereotypes and instead offering a richly textured personality. Her growth throughout the story—from confusion and frustration to a clearer understanding of her identity—is both compelling and inspirational.

The Tangerine Scarf as a Metaphor

The titular tangerine scarf is more than a fashion statement; it is a metaphor for visibility and resilience. The bright color symbolizes vibrancy and courage, standing out in a landscape that often encourages invisibility for those who are different.

For Khadra, the scarf is a reminder of her heritage and faith, a declaration of self despite societal pressures to conform or hide. It also invites readers to consider how outward symbols of identity can carry deep personal and political significance.

Cultural Impact and Relevance in Today's World

Since its publication, *The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf* has become an important work in Muslim-American literature and immigrant narratives. It offers a voice to experiences often marginalized or misunderstood in mainstream media. The novel's honest portrayal of Islam and Arab-American identity challenges stereotypes and fosters greater empathy.

In a world where conversations about multiculturalism, religion, and identity are increasingly vital, Kahf's work provides valuable perspectives. It encourages readers to reflect on the complexities of cultural integration and the importance of embracing diversity.

Why This Novel Matters for Readers

- **Representation:** The book offers representation for Muslim and Arab-American readers who rarely see their experiences reflected in literature.
- **Education:** It serves as a gateway for non-Muslim readers to understand the nuances of Muslim life beyond headlines and clichés.
- **Empathy:** By sharing intimate stories of family, faith, and identity, the novel fosters empathy and bridges cultural divides.
- **Inspiration:** Khadra's resilience inspires readers facing their own struggles with identity or belonging.

Tips for Engaging with *The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf* Mohja Kahf

If you're new to this novel or contemplating it for a book club or classroom, here are some ways to deepen your engagement:

- **Reflect on the symbolism:** Pay attention to how the tangerine scarf is used throughout the story and what it represents for Khadra and others.
- **Explore cultural context:** Research the Syrian-American community and Islamic traditions to better understand the characters' backgrounds.
- **Discuss themes of identity:** Consider your own experiences or those of people you know navigating multiple cultural identities.
- **Analyze family dynamics:** Notice how generational differences influence the characters' choices and relationships.

- **Consider contemporary relevance:** Think about how the novel relates to current discussions about immigration, religious freedom, and multiculturalism.

These approaches can enrich your reading experience and spark meaningful conversations about the intersections of culture, faith, and personal growth.

The story told in **The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf** by Mohja Kahf is a vibrant tapestry of a young woman's life at the crossroads of tradition and modernity. Through Khadra's eyes, readers embark on a journey filled with challenges, discoveries, and ultimately, empowerment. It's a narrative that celebrates the richness of cultural heritage while embracing the courage it takes to forge one's own path.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf' by Mohja Kahf?

The main theme of 'The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf' is the exploration of identity, particularly the struggles of a Muslim American girl balancing her cultural heritage and American upbringing.

Who is the protagonist in 'The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf' and what challenges does she face?

The protagonist is Khadra Shamy, a Syrian-American Muslim girl who faces challenges related to cultural expectations, religious identity, and belonging in both her family and the wider American society.

How does Mohja Kahf portray Muslim American life in the novel?

Mohja Kahf portrays Muslim American life with nuance and authenticity, highlighting the diversity, faith, struggles, and resilience of the community through the lens of Khadra's experiences.

What significance does the tangerine scarf hold in the story?

The tangerine scarf symbolizes Khadra's cultural and religious identity, as well as her personal journey towards self-acceptance and understanding within the context of her Muslim and American worlds.

In what ways does the novel address issues of faith and modernity?

The novel addresses issues of faith and modernity by depicting Khadra's navigation between traditional Islamic values and contemporary American culture, illustrating the tensions and

harmonies between the two.

Why is 'The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf' important for understanding Muslim American narratives?

The novel is important because it provides a rare, intimate portrayal of a Muslim American family, challenges stereotypes, and offers insight into the complexities of identity, faith, and assimilation in the United States.

Additional Resources

****Unveiling Identity and Culture: The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf by Mohja Kahf****

the girl in the tangerine scarf mohja kahf emerges as a compelling narrative that intricately weaves themes of identity, faith, and cultural conflict through the lens of a young Muslim American woman. Mohja Kahf's debut novel delves into the nuanced experiences of a generation caught between the demands of tradition and the challenges of assimilation in contemporary America. This literary work stands as a significant contribution to Muslim American literature, offering a fresh perspective on the complexities faced by Muslim youth navigating the intersections of religion, gender, and ethnicity.

Exploring the Narrative Depth of The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf

Mohja Kahf's novel is not merely a coming-of-age story; it is a profound exploration of what it means to be Muslim in the United States post-9/11. The protagonist, Khadra Shamy, embodies the tensions between modernity and tradition, individuality and community, and spirituality and secularism. The storytelling is deeply personal yet universally resonant, tapping into the broader discourse surrounding multiculturalism and religious identity in a globalized world.

Thematic Core: Identity, Religion, and Cultural Conflict

At its core, **The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf** confronts the challenges of self-definition within a society that often views Muslim identity with suspicion or misunderstanding. Khadra's journey is marked by her struggle to reconcile her faith with her American upbringing, highlighting the dual pressures of conforming to familial expectations and resisting societal stereotypes.

The novel dissects the layered experiences of Muslim women, particularly focusing on the symbolism of the hijab. The "tangerine scarf" itself functions as a potent metaphor—representing visibility, resistance, and pride. Kahf uses this symbol to challenge monolithic portrayals of Muslim women, emphasizing diversity within Islamic practice and the personal meanings attached to religious expression.

Characterization and Narrative Style

Khadra Shamy's character is intricately crafted, embodying both vulnerability and resilience. Kahf's prose balances poetic lyricism with sharp social commentary, allowing readers to engage empathetically with Khadra's internal conflicts and external realities. Secondary characters, including Khadra's family members and peers, enrich the narrative by presenting varying perspectives within the Muslim American community.

The narrative structure effectively employs flashbacks and multiple viewpoints, deepening the reader's understanding of Khadra's formative experiences. This layered storytelling technique enhances the novel's exploration of memory, trauma, and hope.

Contextualizing Mohja Kahf's Work within Muslim American Literature

Since its release, **The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf** has been recognized as a pioneering text in Muslim American literature, a genre that has gained increasing scholarly and popular interest in the 21st century. Kahf's novel stands alongside works by authors like Leila Aboulela and Randa Jarrar, who similarly examine the diasporic Muslim experience with nuance and authenticity.

Comparative Analysis: Positioning Kahf's Novel

Compared to other seminal works in the genre, Kahf's novel is distinctive for its focus on female adolescence and the intimate portrayal of a Muslim community in Indiana, offering a less commonly depicted geographical and cultural setting. While authors like Mohsin Hamid explore Muslim identity through the lens of geopolitical upheaval, Kahf centers her narrative on personal and communal identity formation amidst everyday American life.

The novel's engagement with post-9/11 Islamophobia adds a critical socio-political dimension, aligning it with literary efforts aimed at combating stereotypes and fostering intercultural understanding.

Pros and Cons of Kahf's Narrative Approach

- **Pros:** The novel's strength lies in its rich character development and authentic voice, providing a rare insider's perspective on Muslim American life. Kahf's poetic language elevates the narrative, making it both accessible and artful.
- **Cons:** Some readers might find the novel's pacing deliberate, as it prioritizes introspection and thematic depth over fast-moving plotlines. Additionally, the specific cultural references may require contextual knowledge for full appreciation.

Impact and Reception of *The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf*

Upon publication, **The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf** received critical acclaim for its insightful portrayal of Muslim American identity and its challenge to prevailing cultural stereotypes. Academic circles have frequently cited the novel in discussions of postcolonial identity, feminism, and religious studies. Moreover, it has found a place in educational curricula, serving as a valuable resource for fostering diversity and inclusivity.

Legacy and Influence

Mohja Kahf's work has inspired a new generation of writers and activists to explore Muslim identities in multifaceted ways. The novel's influence extends beyond literature, contributing to broader societal conversations about tolerance, representation, and the American Muslim experience.

Its nuanced depiction of a young woman's negotiation with faith and culture continues to resonate with readers navigating similar intersections of identity, making it a touchstone for contemporary discussions on multiculturalism.

Key Takeaways from *The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf*

- The novel foregrounds the complexity of Muslim American identity beyond reductive stereotypes.
- Khadra's story highlights the interplay between personal agency and cultural heritage.
- The tangerine scarf symbolizes both individual expression and collective belonging.
- Kahf's poetic narrative style enriches the emotional and intellectual engagement of readers.
- The book contributes to a greater understanding of Muslim women's diverse experiences in America.

In its vivid portrayal of faith, family, and self-discovery, **The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf** by Mohja Kahf remains a vital literary work that challenges readers to reconsider assumptions about identity and belonging in an increasingly complex world. Through Khadra's eyes, readers are invited to witness the resilience and richness of a culture often misunderstood, making the novel an enduring piece in the tapestry of American literature.

The Girl In The Tangerine Scarf Mohja Kahf

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the girl in the tangerine scarf mohja kahf: *The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf* Mojha Kahf, 2009-03-17 Syrian immigrant Khadra Shamy is growing up in a devout, tightly knit Muslim family in 1970s Indiana, at the crossroads of bad polyester and Islamic dress codes. Along with her brother Eyad and her African-American friends, Hakim and Hanifa, she bikes the Indianapolis streets exploring the fault-lines between Muslim and American. When her picture-perfect marriage goes sour, Khadra flees to Syria and learns how to pray again. On returning to America she works in an eastern state -- taking care to stay away from Indiana, where the murder of her friend Tayiba's sister by Klan violence years before still haunts her. But when her job sends her to cover a national Islamic conference in Indianapolis, she's back on familiar ground: Attending a concert by her brother's interfaith band The Clash of Civilizations, dodging questions from the aunties and uncles, and running into the recently divorced Hakim everywhere. Beautifully written and featuring an exuberant cast of characters, *The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf* charts the spiritual and social landscape of Muslims in middle America, from five daily prayers to the Indy 500 car race. It is a riveting debut from an important new voice.

the girl in the tangerine scarf mohja kahf: *Old Islam in Detroit* Sally Howell, 2014-07-29 Across North America, Islam is portrayed as a religion of immigrants, converts, and cultural outsiders. Yet Muslims have been part of American society for much longer than most people realize. This book documents the history of Islam in Detroit, a city that is home to several of the nation's oldest, most diverse Muslim communities. In the early 1900s, there were thousands of Muslims in Detroit. Most came from Eastern Europe, the Ottoman Empire, and British India. In 1921, they built the nation's first mosque in Highland Park. By the 1930s, new Islam-oriented social movements were taking root among African Americans in Detroit. By the 1950s, Albanians, Arabs, African Americans, and South Asians all had mosques and religious associations in the city, and they were confident that Islam could be, and had already become, an American religion. When immigration laws were liberalized in 1965, new immigrants and new African American converts rapidly became the majority of U.S. Muslims. For them, Detroit's old Muslims and their mosques seemed oddly Americanized, even unorthodox. *Old Islam in Detroit* explores the rise of Detroit's earliest Muslim communities. It documents the culture wars and doctrinal debates that ensued as these populations confronted Muslim newcomers who did not understand their manner of worship or the American identities they had created. Looking closely at this historical encounter, *Old Islam in Detroit* provides a new interpretation of the possibilities and limits of Muslim incorporation in American life. It shows how Islam has become American in the past and how the anxieties many new Muslim Americans and non-Muslims feel about the place of Islam in American society today are not inevitable, but are part of a dynamic process of political and religious change that is still unfolding.

the girl in the tangerine scarf mohja kahf: *Modern Arab American Fiction* Steven Salaita, 2011-04-13 Within the spectrum of American literary traditions, Arab American literature is relatively new. Writing produced by Americans of Arab origin is mainly a product of the twentieth century and only started to flourish in the past thirty years. While this young but thriving literature varies widely in content and style, it emerges from a common community and within a specific historical, political, and cultural context. In *Modern Arab American Fiction*, Salaita maps out the landscape of this genre as he details rather than defines the last century of Arab American fiction. Exploring the works of such best-selling authors as Rabi'ah Alameddine, Mohja Kahf, Laila Halaby, Diana Abu-Jaber, Alicia Erian, and Randa Jarrar, Salaita highlights the development of each author's

writing and how each has influenced Arab American fiction. He examines common themes including the Israel-Palestine conflict, the Lebanese Civil War of 1975-90, the representation and practice of Islam in the United States, social issues such as gender and national identity in Arab cultures, and the various identities that come with being Arab American. Combining the accessibility of a primer with in-depth critical analysis, *Modern Arab American Fiction* is suitable for a broad audience, those unfamiliar with the subject area, as well as scholars of the literature.

the girl in the tangerine scarf mohja kahf: Routledge Handbook of Islam in the West Roberto Tottoli, 2014-09-19 Islam has long been a part of the West in terms of religion, culture, politics and society. Discussing this interaction from al-Andalus to the present, this Handbook explores the influence Islam has had, and continues to exert; particularly its impact on host societies, culture and politics. Highlighting specific themes and topics in history and culture, chapters cover: European paradigms Muslims in the Americas Cultural interactions Islamic cultural contributions to the Western world Western contributions to Islam Providing a sound historical background, from which a nuanced overview of Islam and Western society can be built, the Routledge Handbook of Islam in the West brings to the fore specific themes and topics that have generated both reciprocal influence, and conflict. Presenting readers with a range of perspectives from scholars based in Europe, the US, and the Middle East, this Handbook challenges perceptions on both western and Muslim sides and will be an invaluable resource for policymakers and academics with an interest in the History of Islam, Religion and the contemporary relationship between Islam and the West.

the girl in the tangerine scarf mohja kahf: Culture, Diaspora, and Modernity in Muslim Writing Rehana Ahmed, Peter Morey, Amina Yaqin, 2012-08-21 Fiction by writers of Muslim background forms one of the most diverse, vibrant and high-profile corpora of work being produced today - from the trail-blazing writing of Salman Rushdie and Hanif Kureishi, which challenged political and racial orthodoxies in the 1980s, to that of a new generation including Mohsin Hamid, Nadeem Aslam and Kamila Shamsie. This collection reflects the variety of those fictions. Experts in English, South Asian, and postcolonial literatures address the nature of Muslim identity: its response to political realignments since the 1980s, its tensions between religious and secular models of citizenship, and its manifestation of these tensions as conflict between generations. In considering the perceptions of Muslims, contributors also explore the roles of immigration, class, gender, and national identity, as well as the impact of 9/11. This volume includes essays on contemporary fiction by writers of Muslim origin and non-Muslims writing about Muslims. It aims to push beyond the habitual populist 'framing' of Muslims as strangers or interlopers whose ways and beliefs are at odds with those of modernity, exposing the hide-bound, conservative assumptions that underpin such perspectives. While returning to themes that are of particular significance to diasporic Muslim cultures, such as secularism, modernity, multiculturalism and citizenship, the essays reveal that 'Muslim writing' grapples with the same big questions as serve to exercise all writers and intellectuals at the present time: How does one reconcile the impulses of the individual with the requirements of community? How can one 'belong' in the modern world? What is the role of art in making sense of chaotic contemporary experience?

the girl in the tangerine scarf mohja kahf: Muslims on the Margins Katrina Daly Thompson, 2023-04-11 Offers vivid stories of nonconformist Muslim communities The turn of the twenty-first century ushered in a wave of progressive Muslims, whose modern interpretations and practices transformed the public's perception of who could follow the teachings of Islam. *Muslims on the Margins* tells the story of their even more radical descendants: nonconformists who have reinterpreted their religion and created space for queer, trans, and nonbinary identities within Islam. Katrina Daly Thompson draws extensively from conversations and interviews conducted both in person in North America and online in several international communities. Writing in a compelling narrative style that centers the real experiences and diverse perspectives of nonconformist Muslims, Thompson illustrates how these radical Muslims are forming a community dedicated to creative reinterpretations of their religion, critical questioning of established norms, expansive inclusion of

those who are queer in various ways, and the creation of different religious futures. *Muslims on the Margins* is a powerful account of how Muslims are forging new traditions and setting precedents for a more inclusive community— one that is engaged with tradition, but not beholden to it.

the girl in the tangerine scarf mohja kahf: Supporting Muslim Students Laura Mahalingappa, Terri L. Rodriguez, Nihat Polat, 2017-06-08 This book provides school professionals - including teachers, principals, counselors, psychologists, and administrators - with a practical guide for supporting Muslim students in PK-12 schools. It is important that school professionals are culturally responsive and understand students' backgrounds in planning effective instruction and creating safe schools. However, in the post-9/11 world, negative biases and stereotypes permeate mainstream discourses. Muslim students and their families often find themselves in conflict with school practices, procedures, and policies and do not often find themselves represented in the curriculum. This book provides a practical guide to the important issues that may impact the lives and education of Muslim students. This book gives essential information about Islam and Muslim students from authentic perspectives. This text will support teachers and other school professionals in their advocacy for all students to provide equitable and just educational opportunities for all students. Beyond basics such as food and clothing requirements, this text advocates for the implementation of anti-bias pedagogy for diverse learners. Through school-based vignettes and case studies, we situate experiences of Muslim students in lived realities and help school professionals think deeply and critically about who their students are and how to engage their experiences in the curriculum.

the girl in the tangerine scarf mohja kahf: *The Cry of the Dove* Fadia Faqir, 2007-12-01 An "exquisitely woven" novel of love, exile, and violated honor among a Bedouin tribe from the Jordanian-British author and human rights activist (Leila Aboulela). Salma has committed a crime considered punishable by death among her Bedouin tribe of Hima in the Levant: she had sex out of wedlock and became pregnant. When Salma gives birth to the child, she suddenly finds herself a fugitive on the run from those seeking to restore their honor. Though she is placed in protective custody, Salma's newborn child is ripped from her arms upon arrival. Devastated and disowned, she endures years of isolation before she is ushered to safety in Exeter, England, where she faces a new set of social pressures and expectations. With the help of an elderly English landlady and a Pakistani girl on the run from an arranged marriage, Salma is finally able to forge a new identity. But just as she settles into her new life, the need to return for her lost daughter overwhelms her, and one fateful day, Salma goes back to her village to find the girl. It is a journey that risks everything.

the girl in the tangerine scarf mohja kahf: *New Body Politics* Therí A. Pickens, 2014-02-05 In the increasingly multi-racial and multi-ethnic American landscape of the present, understanding and bridging dynamic cross-cultural conversations about social and political concerns becomes a complicated humanistic project. How do everyday embodied experiences transform from being anecdotal to having social and political significance? What can the experience of corporeality offer social and political discourse? And, how does that discourse change when those bodies belong to Arab Americans and African Americans? Therí A. Pickens discusses a range of literary, cultural, and archival material where narratives emphasize embodied experience to examine how these experiences constitute Arab Americans and African Americans as social and political subjects. Pickens argues that Arab American and African American narratives rely on the body's fragility, rather than its exceptional strength or emotion, to create urgent social and political critiques. The creators of these narratives find potential in mundane experiences such as breathing, touch, illness, pain, and death. Each chapter in this book focuses on one of these everyday embodied experiences and examines how authors mobilize that fragility to create social and political commentary. Pickens discusses how the authors' focus on quotidian experiences complicates their critiques of the nation state, domestic and international politics, exile, cultural mores, and the medical establishment. *New Body Politics* participates in a vibrant interdisciplinary conversation about cross-ethnic studies, American literature, and Arab American literature. Using intercultural analysis, Pickens explores issues of the body and representation that will be relevant to fields as varied as Political Science,

African American Studies, Arab American Studies, and Disability Studies.

the girl in the tangerine scarf mohja kahf: This Muslim American Life Moustafa Bayoumi, 2015-09-18 Winner of the 2016 Evelyn Shakir Non-Fiction Arab American Book Award A collection of insightful and heartbreaking essays on Muslim-American life after 9/11 Over the last few years, Moustafa Bayoumi has been an extra in *Sex and the City 2* playing a generic Arab, a terrorist suspect (or at least his namesake “Mustafa Bayoumi” was) in a detective novel, the subject of a trumped-up controversy because a book he had written was seen by right-wing media as pushing an “anti-American, pro-Islam” agenda, and was asked by a U.S. citizenship officer to drop his middle name of Mohamed. Others have endured far worse fates. Sweeping arrests following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 led to the incarceration and deportation of thousands of Arabs and Muslims, based almost solely on their national origin and immigration status. The NYPD, with help from the CIA, has aggressively spied on Muslims in the New York area as they go about their ordinary lives, from noting where they get their hair cut to eavesdropping on conversations in cafés. In *This Muslim American Life*, Moustafa Bayoumi reveals what the War on Terror looks like from the vantage point of Muslim Americans, highlighting the profound effect this surveillance has had on how they live their lives. To be a Muslim American today often means to exist in an absurd space between exotic and dangerous, victim and villain, simply because of the assumptions people carry about you. In gripping essays, Bayoumi exposes how contemporary politics, movies, novels, media experts and more have together produced a culture of fear and suspicion that not only willfully forgets the Muslim-American past, but also threatens all of our civil liberties in the present.

the girl in the tangerine scarf mohja kahf: Edinburgh Companion to the Arab Novel in English Nouri Gana, 2015-04-17 Opening up the field of diasporic Anglo-Arab literature to critical debate, this companion spans from the first Arab novel in 1911 to the resurgence of the Anglo-Arabic novel in the last 20 years. There are chapters on authors such as Ameen Rihani, Ahdaf

the girl in the tangerine scarf mohja kahf: Dinarzad's Children Pauline Kaldas, Khaled Mattawa, 2009-11-01 The first edition of *Dinarzad's Children* was a groundbreaking and popular anthology that brought to light the growing body of short fiction being written by Arab Americans. This expanded edition includes sixteen new stories —thirty in all—and new voices and is now organized into sections that invite readers to enter the stories from a variety of directions. Here are stories that reveal the initial adjustments of immigrants, the challenges of forming relationships, the political nuances of being Arab American, the vision directed towards homeland, and the ongoing search for balance and identity. The contributors are D. H. Melhem, Mohja Kahf, Rabih Alameddine, Rawi Hage, Laila Halaby, Patricia Sarrafian Ward, Alia Yunis, Diana Abu Jaber, Susan Muaddi Darraj, Samia Serageldin, Alia Yunis, Joseph Geha, May Monsoor Munn, Frances Khirallah Nobel, Nabeel Abraham, Yussef El Guindi, Hedy Habra, Randa Jarrar, Zahie El Kouri, Amal Masri, Sahar Mustafah, Evelyn Shakir, David Williams, Pauline Kaldas, and Khaled Mattawa.

the girl in the tangerine scarf mohja kahf: The Time Between Places Pauline Kaldas, 2010-11-01 This collection of twenty stories delves into the lives of Egyptian characters, from those living in Egypt to those who have immigrated to the United States. With subtle and eloquent prose, the complexities of these characters are revealed, opening a door into their intimate struggles with identity and place. We meet people who are tempted by the possibilities of America and others who are tempted by the desire to return home. Some are in the throes of re-creating themselves in the new world while others seem to be embedded in the loss of their homeland. Many of these characters, although physically located in either the United States or Egypt, have lives that embrace both cultures. *A Game of Chance* follows the actions of a young man when he wins the immigration lottery and then must decide whether or not to change his life. *Cumin and Coriander* takes us inside a woman's thoughts as she tries to come to terms with the path her life has taken while working as a cook for American expatriates in Egypt. *The Top* enters the mind of a man whose immigration results in a loss of identity and sanity. These compelling stories pull us into the lives of many different characters and offer us striking insights into the Arab American experience.

the girl in the tangerine scarf mohja kahf: With the Face of the Enemy Katharina Motyl,

2024-11-20 *With the Face of the Enemy* focuses on the writings of Arab American authors between 2001 and 2011. Positioned as Arab Americans in the post-9/11 U.S., this underexamined group of writers projects unique insights into both the Western and Arab worlds. Using the lens of postcolonial literary theory, Katharina Motyl explores how the »War on Terror« turned Arab Americans into enemies within their own country. Countering the master narrative of a »clash of civilizations« between the Islamic world and the West, the fictional and poetic texts discussed in this book alternate between deconstructing neo-Orientalist stereotypes and critiquing U.S. neocolonialism in the Greater Middle East, on the one hand, and critically examining Arab culture – for instance, its patriarchal outlook – on the other. Motyl pays special attention to texts written by Arab American women, who have radically advocated for self-determination in areas like sexuality and mode of dress, thus rejecting the stereotype of Arab women as oppressed victims. *With the Face of the Enemy* takes a serious look at how the aesthetics of Arab American literature negotiates the many psychosocial consequences the domestic »War on Terror« and the U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have had on the Arab American community.

the girl in the tangerine scarf mohja kahf: ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVES AND PANDEMIC IN ENGLISH LITERATURE Hasnul Insani Djohar, Willy Oktaviano, How did you feel when you see your students are struggling to understand heavy literary texts written by mainstream British or American writers, such as William Shakespeare and Ernest Hemingway? Indeed, the students have no ideas about the texts' contexts and the texts do not relate to their cultures. Of course, they feel alienation, strangers, and foreigners in their classes and their countries, such as Indonesia. Indonesia has the largest Muslim population in the world, but it seems that it has no power to distribute its own fruitful cultures, which has more than 3000 distinct cultures and at least 700 active languages from Sabang to Merauke, to its young generations. To incorporate this rich Indonesian culture and religion, such as Islam, this book inspires Indonesian lecturers and global English lecturers to use our traditions, such as Muslim traditions in teaching English or literature. This idea aims to develop our students' understanding in learning English literature in a more meaningful way as they learn it by relating it with their traditions and religion that they practice every day instead of merely studying foreign western cultures and literature without understanding first their own traditions. This book provides an example of how to incorporate our students' cultures, such as Muslim cultures and Islamic perspectives in understanding Western cultures and literature to establish a justice, equal society, and a more globally civilized society, which appreciates different people regardless of their different cultural and religious backgrounds. In doing so, this book decolonizes white supremacy, which tends to dominate language and literature in the world. By engaging with Islamic perspectives in investigating English literature, this book inspires global English literary scholars to decolonize English literary curriculum by incorporating Islamic studies in investigating the English texts to make our students learn English texts in a more meaningful way as it relates to their traditions and daily lives.

the girl in the tangerine scarf mohja kahf: Memory, Voice, and Identity Feroza Jussawalla, Doaa Omran, 2021-03-30 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.

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American entered the cultural mainstream. Literary and visual productions negotiated static visual emblems of Islam, most prominently the veil. They did so not by rejecting veiling practices, but by adapting Muslim resources, concepts and visual tradition to empowerment narratives in popular media. Mainstream reception of their works has often overlooked or misread these negotiations. Muslim Textualities argues for more flexible and capacious interpretation, with particular attention to visibility as a metaphor for political agency and to knowledge of cultural contexts. This provocative volume aims to articulate Muslim female agency through clear and accessible analysis of the theory and concepts driving the interpretation of these works. Scholars interested in the working representations of Muslim women, feminist subjectivities, and the complexities of gender roles, patriarchy, and feminism will find this volume of particular interest.

the girl in the tangerine scarf mohja kahf: In-Between Identities: Signs of Islam in Contemporary American Writing John Waldmeir, 2018-09-11 For the writers and artists in In-Between Identities: Signs of Islam in Contemporary American Writing, contemporary Muslim American identity is neither singular nor fixed. Rather than dismiss the tradition in favor of more secular approaches, however, all of the figures here discover in Muhammad's revelation resources for affirming such uncertainty. For them, the Qur'anic notion of a divine "sign" validates creation, even that creativity born of contrasting if not competing assumptions about identity. To develop this claim, individual chapters in the book discuss Muslim faith in the work of poets Naomi Shihab Nye, Kazim Ali, Tyson Amir and Amir Sulaiman; novelists Mohja Kahf, Rabih Alameddine, and Willow Wilson; illustrator Sandow Birk; playwright Ayad Akhtar; and the online record of the 30 Mosques in 30 Days project.

the girl in the tangerine scarf mohja kahf: Breaking Broken English Michelle Hartman, 2019-03-26 Black-Arab political and cultural solidarity has had a long and rich history in the United States. That alliance is once again exerting a powerful influence on American society as Black American and Arab American activists and cultural workers are joining forces in formations like the Movement for Black Lives and Black for Palestine to address social justice issues. In Breaking Broken English, Hartman explores the historical and current manifestations of this relationship through language and literature, with a specific focus on Arab American literary works that use the English language creatively to put into practice many of the theories and ideas advanced by Black American thinkers. Breaking Broken English shows how language is the location where literary and poetic beauty meet the political in creative work. Hartman draws out thematic connections between Arabs/Arab Americans and Black Americans around politics and culture and also highlights the many artistic ways these links are built. She shows how political and cultural ideas of solidarity are written in creative texts and emphasizes their potential to mobilize social justice activists in the United States and abroad in the ongoing struggle for the liberation of Palestine.

the girl in the tangerine scarf mohja kahf: Muslims and American Popular Culture Anne R. Richards, Iraj Omidvar, 2014-02-10 Offering readers an engaging, accessible, and balanced account of the contributions of American Muslims to the contemporary United States, this important book serves to clarify misrepresentations and misunderstandings regarding Muslim Americans and Islam. Unfortunately, American mass media representations of Muslims—whether in news or entertainment—are typically negative and one-dimensional. As a result, Muslims are frequently viewed negatively by those with minimal knowledge of Islam in America. This accessible two-volume work will help readers to construct an accurate framework for understanding the presence and depictions of Muslims in American society. These volumes discuss a uniquely broad array of key topics in American popular culture, including jihad and jihadis; the hejab, veil, and burka; Islamophobia; Oriental despots; Arabs; Muslims in the media; and mosque burnings. Muslims and American Popular Culture offers more than 40 chapters that serve to debunk the overwhelmingly negative associations of Islam in American popular culture and illustrate the tremendous contributions of Muslims to the United States across an extended historical period.

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