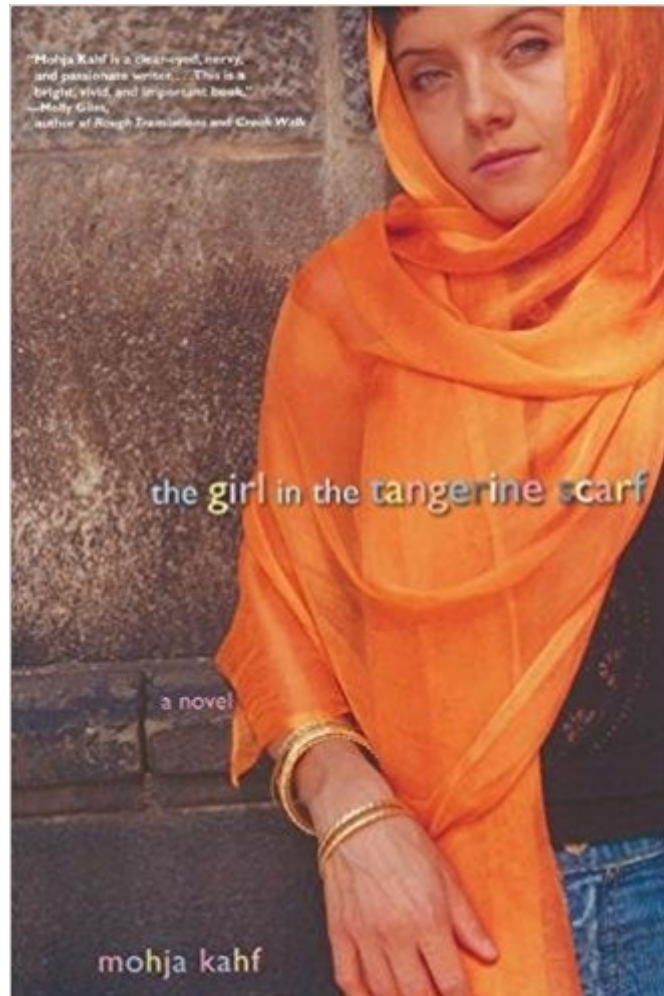




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The Girl In The Tangerine Scarf: A Novel



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

In comp lit professor Kahf's fiction debut, Khadra Shamy recalls growing up in an immigrant Syrian

family in 1970s Indianapolis. Khadra's devout parents raise Khadra and her older brother, Eyad, to be observant of Islamic customs. The inevitable culture clashes ensue, from taunts of "raghead" and "go back where you came from" to the varying interpretations of Islamic code among the community's other Muslims. The mutability of ordinary cultural crossroads—along with the shock of violent ones, such as the rape and murder of one of Khadra's friends—force Khadra to continually question what it means to be "Muslim" or "American." After a short and disastrous marriage to an overbearing husband (he forbids her to ride a bike; she has an abortion), Khadra travels to Syria—now mired in political and religious strife—and returns to the United States in the late '80s to continue searching for her own way in the world. Khadra is a compelling protagonist, and the supporting cast is varied and believable, but Kahf's authorial incursions—critiques of religion and society—are heavy-handed. However, Khadra's ever-evolving view of herself and her religion resonate and provide a valuable portrayal of an oft-misunderstood faith. (Oct. 10) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"A sensitive, passionate and occasionally lyrical book."--Dr. A Yemisi Jimoh -- Dr. A Yemisi Jimoh
"A refreshingly human look at growing up Muslim in America"; clean American prose that shows brilliance."--Daniel Abdal-Hayy Moore -- Daniel Abdal-Hayy Moore
"Mohja Kahf is a clear-eyed, nifty, and passionate writer". This is a bright, vivid, and important book."--Molly Giles -- Molly Giles

With exquisite, poetic prose, Kahf teaches us so much about the diversity of American Muslims. You can see the commonalities between the immigrant Muslim community and the conservative Midwestern culture, between the child of Christian missionaries and the child of those commissioned to shore up and educate the faith and practice of Muslims in America, between the orthodox Jewish woman and the conservative Muslim woman, and the outsidership of any religious person in secular society. Perspectives that I only wondered about, but never heard--on the Iranian revolution, Palestine, The Gulf war, the immodesty of American women, and the varieties of hijab.

Using this novel as required reading for my Intro to Lit Freshman comp class because it delivers a rich mixture of the complexity facing Muslims in America. Students were at first put off by it, but by the time they'd finished it, all agreed it had been a valuable use of their time.

I enjoyed learning more about the Muslim faith and followers. Their immigration experience should enlighten any who read the book. I believe that those conflicts described are so similar and telling about what is happening across the globe.

I enjoyed this book very much. Very relevant and informative to learn about the lives of Muslims, something I have no interaction with on a daily basis.

A pivotal work of American muslim literature. I found it just in the middle of the book and like it a lot...

Great story, although fiction it gives insight as to how life may be looking from the inside out in being a Muslim girl just trying to live her faith in the U.S. without the politics.

This was a book that I had to read for a paper I was writing in graduate school. At first it was not such a good book, it started out beyond slow but as you read you start to feel the style of writing and it is a good book

It was OK

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