

Raja Alem

Hend and the Soldiers
Homage to Mecca in Raja Alem's Ṭawq Al-ḥamām
The Doves
Necklace
The Bamboo Stalk
Rain Taxi
Review of Books
The Magic of Turquoise
The Inappropriate Voice
Essentials of Global Mental Health
Muntaha
On Evelyne Accad
Voices of Change
Waging War, Waging Peace
collare della colomba
Khatem. Una bambina d'Arabia
Beyond the Dunes
Raja'a Alem
Secret Games
Sunset Oasis
Throwing Sparks
Sarab
The Doves Necklace: A Novel
Das Halsband der Tauben
Patriarchy and Power in Magical Realism
Mecca
Arab Women Writers
Banipal
Where Pigeons Don't Fly
Bomb
The Arch and the Butterfly
Pistachio Seller
Death Is Hard Work
My 1001 Nights
Resistance in Contemporary Middle Eastern Cultures
Játim
No Knives in the Kitchens of This City
My Thousand and One Nights
The Hashish Waiter
Minor Detail
Fatma
Modern Saudi Arabia

Hend and the Soldiers

Winner of the first “Arabic Booker Prize,” a vivid compelling historical tale set in late nineteenth-century Egypt. When Mahmoud, a disgraced Egyptian officer, is posted to the remote desert town of Siwa, his Irish wife insists on accompanying him, to pursue the secrets of Alexander the Great. Neither is prepared for the stultifying heat, the hostility of the townspeople, or the astonishing and disturbing

events that befall them in the dreamlike other-worldliness of the Sunset Oasis. In turns mesmerizing and shocking, Sunset Oasis is an enthralling story of mystery and frustrated passions set against the backdrop of an exotic locale in the late 1800s. From the Hardcover edition.

Homage to Mecca in Raja Alem's Ṭawq Al-ḥamām

In the once beautiful city of Aleppo, one Syrian family descends into tragedy and ruin. Irrepressible Sawsan flirts with militias, the ruling party, and finally religion, seeking but never finding salvation. She and her siblings and mother are slowly choked in violence and decay, as their lives are plundered by a brutal regime. Set between the 1960s and 2000s, *No Knives in the Kitchens of this City* unravels the systems of fear and control under Assad. With eloquence and startling honesty, it speaks of the persecution of a whole society.

The Doves Necklace

The Bamboo Stalk

Our perceptions of children are only too often distorted by our inclination to project

grown-up fantasies of innocence and naivete onto them. Working with children, American photographer Wendy Ewald reveals the lucidity and precision of their powers of observation, gently but assuredly overturning cherished notions of childhood as a paradise lost. In *Secret Games* Ewald leads you into a world that is as eerie, haunting and threatening as it is joyous and mischievous -- life as children really experience it. In 1969, when Wendy Ewald taught photography to children for the first time on a Native American reservation in Nova Scotia, she was stunned by how astute and beautiful their photographs of the environment they were growing up in were. Moving on to the Kentucky Appalachians, she continued working with children, combining her own photographs with the children's photographs and writings. For the past thirty years she has worked with children and women all over the world. *Secret Games* offers a comprehensive overview of Ewald's collaborative works, with in-depth texts by Ewald tracing the evolution of her work and the ideas guiding it.

Rain Taxi Review of Books

The Magic of Turquoise

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 hooch. And when the nation has to face its own demons during the peace initiative of the 1970s, it is Rowdy Salih who speaks for them all. This is a comic novel with a broken heart, very like Salih himself, whose warm rough voice calls out long after we have recovered from the novel's painful conclusion.

The Inappropriate Voice

The distinguished Middle Eastern author Raja Alem grew up in Mecca at a time when the holy city was on the cusp of changing from medieval to modern. In this vanished Mecca, vividly brought to life again in *My Thousand and One Nights*, women hold center stage – especially Jummo, the wildly passionate daughter of the Water Carriers' Sheik. This faraway time and setting become compellingly real as we follow the intimate drama of Jummo's life, the tragic arc of her affair with her childhood sweetheart and her lifelong love for the mysterious Sidi Wadhana, a more-than-human emissary from the Netherworld. Jummo's world, veiled and invisible to outsiders until this telling of her story, has the feel of the true center of

an Arabia that has come to us in many exotic and threatening disguises. Jummo's Mecca is a different world, with different narrative strategies, but the dramatic problems are universal: how lethal is love, how dangerous are woman? And how sensual is the yearning for immortality?

Essentials of Global Mental Health

"It was Saturday. I remember. And while he was standing on a step ladder in the hall, changing a light bulb in the faint light coming through the window, I decided to love him." So begins this wonderfully exuberant novel of quixotic adolescent longing and the enduring search for self. Set in middle-class urban Egypt, the story chronicles young Wafaa's struggle to come to terms with her own sexuality and her romantic infatuation with her cousin Ashraf, a spoiled and confident young Egyptian who was educated in England. Ashraf's worldliness and carefree attitudes stand in sharp contrast to Wafaa's provincial Islamic piousness.

Muntaha

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.

On Evelyne Accad

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 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

Voices of Change

Was Nirvana's near-fatal accident at sea simply a case of bad timing, or was it attempted suicide? And what was so important about an unread email that made her jump recklessly into the Mediterranean? As Leila tries to make sense of her aunt's fate, Nirvana embarks on a journey through memories and secrets. Leila guiltily questions her own fears and failures, bearing the blame of a family that curses the day she was born. Lying in a coma, Nirvana's story of choices made and

roads not taken paint a colorful picture of her struggle against expectations in 1980s Egypt. The two voices are skillfully woven together to create an intricate narrative about breaking free from family tradition and the dreams that come back to haunt us. From the sunny beaches of Alexandria to the Bavarian Alps, author Mai Khaled explores the subtleties of family relationships and individual choices.

Waging War, Waging Peace

High Quality Content by WIKIPEDIA articles! Raja'a Alem (Arabic:) (born in Mecca in 1970) is a Saudi Arabian novelist from Mecca/Hejaz.

Il collare della colomba

Khatem. Una bambina d'Arabia

Beyond the Dunes

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 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.

Raja'a Alem

A searing, beautiful novel meditating on war, violence, memory, and the sufferings of the Palestinian people *Minor Detail* begins during the summer of 1949, one year after the war that the Palestinians mourn as the Nakba—the catastrophe that led

to the displacement and exile of some 700,000 people—and the Israelis celebrate as the War of Independence. Israeli soldiers murder an encampment of Bedouin in the Negev desert, and among their victims they capture a Palestinian teenager and they rape her, kill her, and bury her in the sand. Many years later, in the near-present day, a young woman in Ramallah tries to uncover some of the details surrounding this particular rape and murder, and becomes fascinated to the point of obsession, not only because of the nature of the crime, but because it was committed exactly twenty-five years to the day before she was born. Adania Shibli masterfully overlays these two translucent narratives of exactly the same length to evoke a present forever haunted by the past.

Secret Games

La prima donna vincitrice dell'Arabic Booker «Una nuova stella, una voce indimenticabile» Le magazine du monde Un romanzo toccante che esplora i cambiamenti radicali di un luogo simbolo di storia e tradizioni antiche attraverso la prospettiva di una donna saudita. Ad Aburrùs, antico vicolo della Mecca, giace il cadavere nudo di una donna. Il volto è sfigurato, è impossibile identificarla. Gli abitanti della zona sono scossi, temono che la polizia possa scavare nelle loro vite e portare alla luce segreti custoditi gelosamente. Storie di famiglia, amori proibiti, intrighi di una città preda di società immobiliari senza scrupoli. Incaricato delle indagini, mentre cerca di scoprire chi sia la vittima, l'ispettore Nasser si immerge

nelle tormentate esistenze di Aischa e Azza, misteriosamente scomparse dal vicolo poco prima del ritrovamento del corpo. Insegnante ripudiata dal marito, Aischa intratteneva una corrispondenza amorosa con un medico tedesco, mentre alla ribelle Azza erano dedicate le pagine del diario del suo vicino Yusuf, giovane storico ossessionato dalla grandezza del patrimonio artistico e religioso della città più santa dell'Islam. Continuando a cercare la verità sulla donna uccisa, Nasser trova preziosi indizi tra gli scritti di Aischa e Yusuf. Scoprirà quanto la sua antica città sia minacciata dalla corruzione, e capirà che è il suo cuore sacro, la Kaaba, a dover essere salvato dallo scontro tra tradizioni ancestrali e una tensione brutale verso la modernità.

Sunset Oasis

Although the term magic(al) realism appeared in 1925 in pictorial art in Germany, it became well-known with the boom of magical realist fiction in Latin America in the 1960s. Since the 1980s, it has become one of the popular modes of writing worldwide. Due to its oxymoronic and hybrid nature, it has caught the attention of critics. Some have called it a postcolonial form of writing because of its prominence in postcolonial countries, while others have called it a postmodern mode because of the time of its emergence and the techniques applied in these kinds of novels. This book discusses how magical realism was used in the works of three contemporary female writers, Indigo or, Mapping the Waters (1992) by the British

Marina Warner, *The House of the Spirits* (1982) by the Latin American writer Isabel Allende, and *Fatma: a novel of Arabia* (2002) by the Saudi Arabian Raja Alem. It shows how, by applying magical realism, these writers empowered women. Using revisionary nostalgia, these works changed the process of history writing by the powerful, showed the presence of women, and gave voice to their unheard stories. Even the techniques applied in these novels presented the clash with patriarchy and power.

Throwing Sparks

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

Sarab

Winner of the International Prize for Arabic Fiction Josephine escapes poverty by coming to Kuwait from the Philippines to work as a maid, where she meets Rashid, an idealistic only son with literary aspirations. Josephine, with all the wide-eyed naivety of youth, believes she has found true love. But when she becomes pregnant, and with the rumble of war growing ever louder, Rashid bows to family and social pressure, and sends her back home with her baby son, José. Brought up

struggling with his dual identity, José clings to the hope of returning to his father's country when he is eighteen. He is ill-prepared to plunge headfirst into a world where the fear of tyrants and dictators is nothing compared to the fear of 'what will people say'. And with a Filipino face, a Kuwaiti passport, an Arab surname and a Christian first name, will his father's country welcome him? The Bamboo Stalk takes an unflinching look at the lives of foreign workers in Arab countries and confronts the universal problems of identity, race and religion.

The Doves Necklace: A Novel

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.

Das Halsband der Tauben

When an opulent palace is built on the Jeddah waterfront near his poverty-stricken neighbourhood, ambitious Tariq sees a way out of his life of petty crime. He stares longingly at the huge gates, dreaming of the luxuries beyond. But dream quickly turns into nightmare. The Palace is ruled by an enigmatic Master whose influence in the city is as wide as it is wicked. When Tariq succeeds in being appointed to serve the Master it becomes clear that he has been chosen for a single, terrible task. Thirty years later, Tariq feels trapped. In between punishing the Master's enemies through unspeakable acts, falling for Maram, the Master's beautiful mistress, and resisting his brother's pleas to return home, he realises that he has become no more than a slave – and that there is only one way out.

Patriarchy and Power in Magical Realism

Defines an approach to mental healthcare focused on achieving international equity in coverage, options and outcomes.

Mecca

Saudi Arabia has changed beyond all recognition in the past few decades, and the

country's writers have been pre-eminent in grappling with the dilemmas, the cultural jarring and the identity problems thrown up by such an accelerated pace of change. "Beyond The Dunes" opens up for the first time the diversity and richness of contemporary Saudi Arabian literature to an English-speaking audience in this uniquely accessible book. Mansour al Hazimi, Salma Khadra Jayyusi and Ezzat Khattab have put together a varied selection of poetry, short stories, novel extracts, personal accounts, drama and essays which provide a fascinating insight into the challenges and tensions of a culture that is striving to balance globalisation and modernity with highly cherished traditional values. The social dislocation experienced by Saudi Arabians finds vivid formal expression in the dramas included in this volume, which may surprise many Western readers with their bold experimentalism and surrealist elements. Novelist Ahmad al Siba'I, a more traditional writer, offers a reflective, humanistic response to the world, whilst poets such as Ghassan al-Khunaizi, Ahmad al Mulla and Huda al Daghfaq reflect both the rich stylistic heritage of Saudi literature and the new techniques and outlook of modern Arabic poetry. Even when they are harking back to the vanished world of pre-modern Saudi Arabia, many of these writers reflect generational dialogues and an awareness of contemporary resonances. "Beyond the Dunes" places women's voices firmly in the centre of the Saudi literary canon for the first time, reflecting the increasing pre-eminence of writers such as Raja' 'Alem, Qumasha al-Ullyan, Noura al-Ghamidi and Fawziyya Abu Khalid. This ground-breaking book provides an indispensable introduction to the thoughts, forms and

expressions of one of the most complex and fascinating of world literatures at a moment of pivotal transformation.

Arab Women Writers

The stunning novel that explores the secret life of Mecca by the first woman to win the international prize for Arabic fiction. 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 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.

Banipal

Where Pigeons Don't Fly

Looks at the history and significance of the city of Mecca, from its early history through its sudden emergence as the religious center of an empire, to its modern incarnation and what its future could bring.

Bomb

TV presenter, writer and adventurer Alice Morrison gives her own unique and personal insight into Morocco, her home for 1001 nights. When Alice Morrison headed out to Morocco, it was to take on one of the most daunting challenges: to run in the famous Marathon des Sables. Little did she expect to end up living there. But as soon as she settled in a flat in Marrakech, she was won over by the people, the spectacular scenery and the ancient alleyways of the souk. Soon she was hiking over the Atlas mountains, joining nomads to sample their timeless way of

life as they crossed the Sahara desert, and finding peace in a tranquil oasis. Despite more than 10 million tourists coming to Morocco each year, there is remarkably little that has been written about its people, their customs and the extraordinary range of places to visit, from bustling markets to vast, empty deserts. Alice makes sure she samples it all, and as she does she provides a stunning portrait of a beautiful country. As a lone woman, she often attracts plenty of curiosity, but her willingness to participate - whether thigh deep in pigeon droppings in a tannery or helping out herding goats - ensures that she is welcomed everywhere by a people who are among the most hospitable on the planet. Alice came to fame with her BBC2 series Morocco to Timbuktu, and now she joins the ranks of great travel writers who can bring a country vividly to life and instantly transport the reader to a sunnier place. If you're thinking of going to Morocco, or you want to recall your time there, My 1001 Nights is the ideal book.

The Arch and the Butterfly

Pistachio Seller

Set in the sleepy Egyptian village of Muntaha during the late 1940s, this novel paints a vibrant portrait of rural life in Egypt that is both moving and memorable.

Between the turbulent events of 1948 and the final years of the British presence in Egypt, the village's inhabitants find themselves caught up against their will in the swirl of larger world events, although their daily lives, concerns, and beliefs are grounded in the timeless nature of a rural past. Hala El Badry's masterful narrative depicts, in intimate detail, her characters' relationships not only to each other but to the natural environment that surrounds them: from fishing on the Nile and cotton and corn harvests, to donkeys and sparrows gone tipsy on overripe fruit. The trials and fortunes of Taha Musaylihi, the mayor of Muntaha, together with those of his extended family, form the backbone of this tale of real life in the guise of fiction. Confronted with the fear and injustices born of war and foreign occupation, as well as the insecurity of their dependency on Nature and her forces, Taha joins the village farmers in valiant defiance of their British occupiers.

Death Is Hard Work

My 1001 Nights

Where Pigeons Don't Fly follows the story of Fahd, a young boy growing up in Saudi Arabia. Fahd's childhood is overshadowed by his father's involvement in the attack on the Grand Mosque in Mecca. Now an artist and critic, the adult Fahd finds that,

both in work and in love, he is at loggerheads with repressive cultural and religious norms. When he and his girlfriend are detained by the 'virtue' police, Fahd contemplates a life of self-imposed exile in a remote corner of Britain, rather than remaining somewhere he doesn't feel he belongs.

Resistance in Contemporary Middle Eastern Cultures

FINALIST FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FOR TRANSLATED LITERATURE A dogged, absurd quest through the nightmare of the Syrian civil war Khaled Khalifa's *Death Is Hard Work* is the new novel from the greatest chronicler of Syria's ongoing and catastrophic civil war: a tale of three ordinary people facing down the stuff of nightmares armed with little more than simple determination. Abdel Latif, an old man from the Aleppo region, dies peacefully in a hospital bed in Damascus. His final wish, conveyed to his youngest son, Bolbol, is to be buried in the family plot in their ancestral village of Anabiya. Though Abdel was hardly an ideal father, and though Bolbol is estranged from his siblings, this conscientious son persuades his older brother Hussein and his sister Fatima to accompany him and the body to Anabiya, which is—after all—only a two-hour drive from Damascus. There's only one problem: Their country is a war zone. With the landscape of their childhood now a labyrinth of competing armies whose actions are at once arbitrary and lethal, the siblings' decision to set aside their differences and honor their father's request quickly balloons from a minor commitment into an epic and life-

threatening quest. Syria, however, is no longer a place for heroes, and the decisions the family must make along the way—as they find themselves captured and recaptured, interrogated, imprisoned, and bombed—will prove to have enormous consequences for all of them.

Játim

This anthology consists of a selection of works from the last three decades of women's writing in Saudi Arabia. They offer a rare insight into the traditional and changing roles, relationships and expectations of women in a patriarchal society.

No Knives in the Kitchens of This City

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, 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.

My Thousand and One Nights

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 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.

The Hashish Waiter

Abstract: This article explores Raja Alem's 2011 novel *Ṭawq al-ḥamām* [The Doves' Necklace], a work of fiction that aspires to preserve Mecca's heritage during times of rapid social and economic change. Out of reverence for her birthplace and formative background, Alem devotes her epic-length novel to her main mission of resurrecting the lineaments and heritage of the city she knew as an inhabitant and a booklover, by employing various techniques that help overcome heritage erosion with creativity. From investing the city of Mecca with the archetypal significance of the Great Mother, to promoting courage and constructive energy in her characters, Alem's intention is to bequeath to Saudi Arabia's new generations a solid sense of history, identity, continuity, and cultural roots. A tour de force in its spatial, temporal, and thematic range, the novel strives on many different levels to combat extinction with life and regeneration.

Minor Detail

Játim es un relato que mantiene una sólida conexión con el lugar, la ciudad santa de La Meca. Se sitúa en un periodo poco delimitado, que puede ser a comienzos del siglo XX. En cualquier caso, es antes de que el Reino de Arabia Saudí surgiera como tal después de haberse independizado de Turquía. Es una novela con apariencia realista cuyo entramado se teje entre la realidad, la magia, la memoria colectiva, las prácticas religiosas, el simbolismo y las ambigüedad. En Játim se manifiesta una bisexualidad que le permite atravesar todas las barreras establecidas para separar a los sexos: la calle, la oración pública y la escuela, y el femenino del interior de la casa familiar.

Fatma

Modern Saudi Arabia

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 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.

[ROMANCE](#) [ACTION & ADVENTURE](#) [MYSTERY & THRILLER](#) [BIOGRAPHIES & HISTORY](#) [CHILDREN'S](#) [YOUNG ADULT](#) [FANTASY](#) [HISTORICAL FICTION](#) [HORROR](#) [LITERARY FICTION](#) [NON-FICTION](#) [SCIENCE FICTION](#)