

The
POETRY
of ARAB WOMEN



A Contemporary Anthology

EDITED BY NATHALIE HANDAL

Poetry of Arab Women: A Contemporary Anthology

Nathalie Handal (Editor)

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Arab women poets work within one of the oldest literary traditions in the world, yet they are virtually unknown in the West. Uniting Arab women poets from all over the Arab World and abroad, Nathalie Handal has put together an outstanding collection that introduces poets who write in Arabic, French, English, and Swedish, among them some of the twentieth century's most accomplished poets and today's most exciting new voices. Translated by distinguished translators and poets from around the world, The Poetry of Arab Women showcases the work of 82 poets, among them: Etel Adnan, Andre Chedid, Salma Khadra Jayyusi, Naomi Shihab Nye, and Fadwa Tuqan.

Poetry of Arab Women: A Contemporary Anthology Details

Date : Published September 30th 2015 by Interlink Books (first published October 2000)

ISBN : 9781566563741

Author : Nathalie Handal (Editor)

Format : Paperback 378 pages

Genre : Poetry, Feminism, Nonfiction



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From Reader Review Poetry of Arab Women: A Contemporary Anthology for online ebook

Sarah Yasin says

I don't think this is an anthology of the best and brightest pieces to choose from - some are lyrically dull and others are too politically charged. I guess that's what was en vogue to western ears at the time of publication.

Sara Khayat says

What Nathalie Handal has done as an editor is revolutionary for the future of Arab identity. Handal has given Arab women as well as Arab women of the diaspora a safe place where they can all converse. In this contemporary anthology, nearly one hundred Arab women share the same space in the same language, existing geographically next to each other without barriers.

Language, while crucial to the construction of this anthology, is also a very common theme within these narratives. Whether that is a language barrier, having a language but being discouraged from speaking, or losing a language to another. Language, to these women, is power.

Another common element weaved throughout these poems is food. Food, for some, is the only part of their culture that some had access to. Foods such as zaatar, grape leaves, hommos, almonds, figs, etc. continually find their way within each poem, proving that the culture is one.

Doann Houghton-Alico says

Terrific! Moving, poignant, revealing.

Mills College Library says

892.71608 P7457 2001

Antonio Delgado says

A necessary anthology and a great introduction to an often ignored poetry tradition. Every poems and every poet feels contemporary of our common humanity. Every page takes us deeper into seeing our fragile existence.

Chrissy says

Browsed through, reading occasional poems. Particularly liked Habiba Muhammadi.

Sincerae says

A very good collection of poetry by Arab women writers from across North Africa, the Middle East, and the diaspora. The poetry spans most of the 20th century. To get an idea of the origins and influences of modern Arab women poetry I recommend that both the preface and especially the introduction are read.

D says

Fabulous anthology, I earmarked so many poems in here.

lkh0ja says

A lovely anthology full of poets I'd never encountered before. I really enjoyed reading it and seeing how rich Arab poetry is.

Camille says

Generally I think I expected more from this anthology. While its breadth of writers is huge, and definitely interesting, the quality and variety of poetry varies a lot. That said, there are some amazing writers in this collection, and given how understudied women poets are, particularly Arab women poets, this anthology breaks new ground in providing a lens into current writers for the English reading crowd.

Malak Alrashed says

Pretty insightful. It introduced me to so many Arabic female poets whom I didn't know at all. I noticed, though, that the voices of these women sound pretty similar to one another. I think it tells us a lot of how our poetry is restricted and still not completely free.

Recommended for anyone who is interested in the history of Arabic Female Poetry. It has a good introduction of how it all started followed by lots of poems.

Zaha Gheryania-shtewi says

An anthology that includes poets of a rare demographic, Arab women. It seems like our narrative is constantly written for us, edited and handed over, all bound and glossy...we're expected to smile and swallow it without any sugar to help it go down easy. I'm glad that Handal was able to put together this collection, it might be especially helpful for those who might not understand the brown female experience. For writers like me who fit the description, I was surprised at how similar my own work was to these women..not in skill (I have a long way to go) but in the way we spin our tales, our observations.

The only criticism I have, and I'm not sure if it could have been helped, but I wish there were more writings from countries that don't have the most celebrated literary scenes. I loved the Syrian & Iraqi poets but where were the Sudani, Libyan, or Saudi poets? I understand that this requires a bit more research and labor but I believe it would have been worth it, maybe in time. Nonetheless, a beautiful read.

Josephina Kilzi says

As much as I wished it was written in its original language, Arabic, I enjoyed reading this book quite a lot. The collection of poetry is beautifully added, and the effort of translation is remarkable. Give it a read, Western world!

Lorelei Armstrong says

Gorgeous. Had to stop turning down page corners or I would never have gotten it to close.

Zohra Star says

One of the best anthologies of Arab women poets.
