

Book Club Kits!

Laughing All the Way to the Mosque



Inside the kit:

- (8) book copies
- (1) book club guide

About the Book:

From Goodreads:

Zarqa Nawaz has always straddled two cultures. She's just as likely to be agonizing over which sparkly earrings will "pimp out" her hijab as to be flirting with the Walmart meat manager in a futile attempt to secure halal chicken the day before Eid.

Little Mosque on the Prairie brought Zarqa's own laugh-out-loud take on her everyday culture clash to viewers around the world. And now, in *Laughing All the Way to the Mosque*, she tells the sometimes absurd, sometimes challenging, always funny stories of being Zarqa in a western society. From explaining to the plumber why the toilet must be within sitting arm's reach of the water tap (hint: it involves a watering can and a Muslim obsession with cleanliness "down there") to urging the electrician to place an eye-height electrical socket for her father-in-law's epilepsy-inducing light-up picture of the Kaaba, Zarqa paints a hilarious portrait of growing up in a household where, according to her father, the Quran says it's okay to eat at McDonald's-but only if you order the McFish.

Suggested Reads:

Anam, Tahmima
The Good Muslim

Bennet, Brit
The Mothers

Saeed, Aisha
Written in the Stars

Yousafzai, Malala
I Am Malala: The Story of the Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban

About the Author:

Zarqa Nawaz created the world's first sitcom about a Muslim community living in the west. *Little Mosque on the Prairie* finished airing its 91th episode in 2012 and is now being broadcast to over 60 countries. The show demystified Islam for millions of people around the world by explaining how practicing Muslims live their every-day lives.

Zarqa's first true tragedy was being rejected from medical school since she was brainwashed from the time she was an embryo to become a doctor. To recover, she made several short comedy films. Eventually the National Film Board of Canada, approached her, and in 2005, she made the ground-breaking documentary *Me and the Mosque*, about Muslim women's battle with patriarchy in the mosque.

Laughing All the Way to the Mosque is Zarqa's memoir about growing up as a Canadian of Muslim faith. She was not beaten, or stoned, but her stories about going to Muslim summer camp are pretty funny.

Zarqa finally did find a husband in the prairies and squeezed out four babies as a result. She lives with all of them in Regina, Saskatchewan.

Once a year, she puts a big tent in her backyard to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr and she wants anyone reading this silently in their brain to know, they are invited.

From the author's website

1. How does comedy help overcome cultural boundaries?
2. How did/does Zarqa's relationship with her parents shape who she is?
3. Did you have any misconceptions about Muslims before reading this book? What were they?
4. Does humor have a place in religion? How?
5. One publishing industry official told Zarqa that her memoir was "too happy," and she lamented that this reaction would never occur with women like Tina Fey or Amy Poehler; "People want to hear that Muslim women are oppressed." Why do you think this is?
6. Initially, Zarqa's Muslim community weren't accepting of her show. What changed over the years?