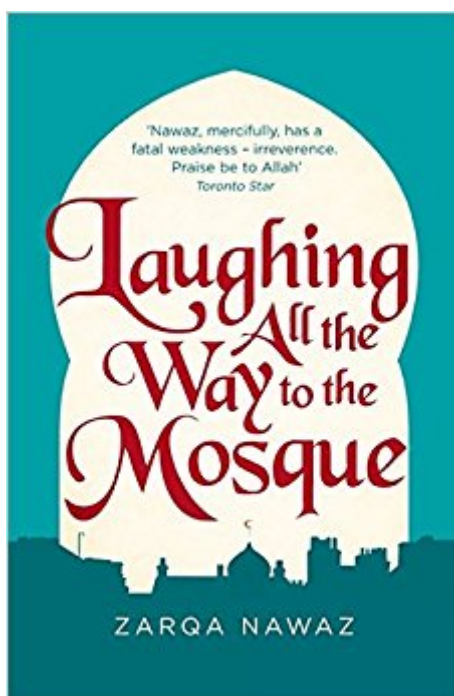




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# Laughing All The Way To The Mosque: The Misadventures Of A Muslim Woman



## Synopsis

Being a practicing Muslim in the West is sometimes challenging, sometimes rewarding and sometimes downright absurd. How do you explain why Eid never falls on the same date each year; why it is that Halal butchers also sell teapots and alarm clocks; how do you make clear to the plumber that it's essential the toilet is installed within sitting-arm's reach of the tap? Zarqa Nawaz has seen and done it all. And it's not always easy to get things right with the community either: Zarqa tells of being asked to leave the DBW (Dead Body Washing) committee after making unsuitable remarks; of undertaking the momentous trip to Mecca with her husband, without the children, thinking (most incorrectly) that it will also be a nice time to have uninterrupted sex; of doing the unthinkable, and creating Little Mosque on the Prairie, a successful TV sitcom about that very (horrified, then proud) community. You have to laugh.

## Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Virago; Reprint edition (May 17, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0349005931

ISBN-13: 978-0349005935

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.8 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 38 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #144,446 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Religion #367 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Television Performers #577 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Essays

## Customer Reviews

Zarqa Nawaz is one very Funny Lady, the Sultana of the Sardonic, maybe even the Imamma of the Ironic . . . Nawaz, mercifully, has a fatal weakness - irreverence - and it's a state of being that's constantly getting her into trouble. Praise be to Allahâ •Toronto Star

Zarqa Nawaz created Little Mosque on the Prairie for Canadian television, and has spent much of the past six years writing comedy pilots for ABC, CBS, NBC and FOX, and touring the world as a sought-after public speaker. She has been interviewed or profiled by CNN, the BBC, the New York Times and Al Jazeera. She lives in Regina with her family.

This book is hilarious. I picked it up originally because I was a fan of her show "Little Mosque on the Prairie." Knowing her style of humor, I expected it to be funny situations about Muslims. However like many comedy writers, she's much funnier than what you see on tv. I expected this book to be maybe a 4/5 but I was definitely blown away. I wish she would write more. Please write more! This book would be enjoyed by anyone who wants to laugh along with Muslims. You don't need to know anything about her tv show (it only features slightly and situationally), nor do you need to know anything about Muslims or Islam. In fact, this book is part intro to Islam book in addition to being a biography of Ms. Nawaz. If you want to know about Muslims in the West, skip the textbooks and "laugh your way to the mosque" along with Zarqa. You'll enjoy it much more.

Zarqa Nawaz is exactly what the world needs right now, and that's someone who can deliver sensitive information in a human and humorous way. She has a way of making you feel a part of every page, and I find that true sincerity rare these days. As a big fan of her TV and film work, I was very excited for this book and it did not disappoint. I laughed, I cried, I laugh-cried: I might as well have appeared mentally unstable randomly bursting into fits of laughter on the train as I devoured this book. I hope that Nawaz's work is a source of pride for the modern Muslim; I too hope that those curious about Islamic family life will read "Laughing All the Way to the Mosque" and see that real Muslims are nothing to fear. I can sympathize with her goofiness, love of food, and brutal honesty, and I hope she gets plenty of new fans.

Although I have traveled to several Muslim countries and had students in my college classes who were Muslim, I really learned a lot about their culture from this book and had a several laughs in the process. I wish I had read this prior to teaching classes as every now and then one of my students would come back from vacation and say that her family or a brother had given her a hard time about not being married and within a month or two that particular student vanished from the university. Later I would learn that she had suddenly married and relocated while just a few credits short of completing her master's degree. This book explains a lot about the marriage order, etc.

This book is a collection of essays written by a Muslim immigrant woman living in Canada, partly in Toronto but mainly in Regina Saskatchewan. She is married to a Muslim doctor who again is an immigrant to Canada. She has 4 young children. The writing, which is always fluent and easy to read, comes as a surprise because of her irreverant sense of humour. The humour is in total

contrast to the picture of excessive seriousness, often laced with violent thought and action, one often sees in today's Islam. I found it a pleasure to read of Muslim conventions and attitudes, told by an authoress who understands her religion very well, but has not lost her commonsense and humanity. The chapter covering a pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca is most informative and interesting for a non-Muslim reader. I would strongly recommend the book to anyone searching for an understanding of Islam in daily family living.

Laughing All the Way to the Mosque: The Misadventures of a Muslim Woman by Zarqa Nawaz is the kind of book that even if you're having a horrible day, it will make you laugh out loud, loudly, in public. The book is \*just that funny\*.

I learned a lot about the Muslim faith, but I think more importantly I learned that we have more in common than we have differences. I think I would love having the author as a friend. We oils totally mess up celebratory meals together!

Loved reading the story behind one of my favorite shows. Zarqa Nawaz is the writer and originator of the Canadian show "Little Mosque on the Prairie" (now called just "Little Mosque" on hulu.com). Interesting book and I found it a quick read.

It is a fun light read for muslims and especially if you are desi. If you are not a muslim it may be a big eye opener to the moral and cultural us Western muslims go through. The internal mental and emotional battles we have in our struggle to practice our faith and to be contributing members of our crazy and confused community. I loved her tone, it was poking fun by not taking anything too seriously. It was fun!

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