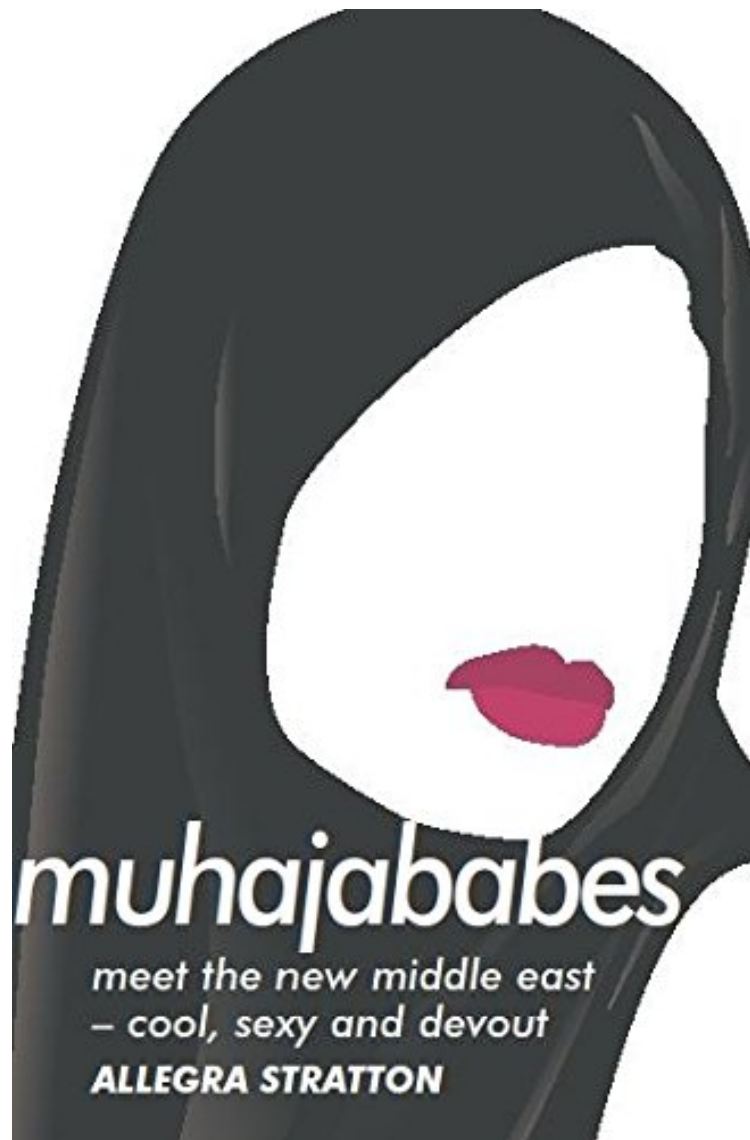


(Free and download) Muhajababes

Muhajababes

Allegra Stratton

*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#8335973 in Books 2006-06-29Original language:English #File Name: 1845294270256 pages | File size: 69.Mb

Allegra Stratton : Muhajababes before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Muhajababes:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Muslim Flirty Females c. 2005By William Garrison Jr."Muhajababes" by Allegra Stratton (2006, 2008). As a British television journalist (BBC) she wanted to achieve some understanding of the "Arab Spring" demonstrations that were occurring in the Middle East. So, in early 2005, the author traveled to Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, and the West Bank (Israel) and spoke with young adults that she

encountered in several of the larger cities (Beirut, Amman, Cairo, Dubai, Damascus). Where possible, she visited discotheques, several bohemian crash-pads, markets, several classrooms, teachers - all in search of a female or feminist perspective of the social political uprisings. Being in British television, the author sought out Middle Eastern television personalities: pop stars, singer, reality TV shows, DJs, film-makers, sexually liberated women, etc., for their views about the Arab Spring. She saw many teenage girls wearing the veil (hijab), who are called "muhajabat" (veiled/cloaked woman), and those cloistered but risqu women who expose some hair or brightly colored or tight clothing are referred to as liberated "muhajababes" - hence the title of this book about the author's reporting on the Arab Spring's supposedly revolutionary liberated woman. But the author was baffled about the seemingly contradiction of realizing that more and more young women were veiling themselves, but the author wasn't sure if this was because they are becoming more religiously "Islamitized" or did so to protect themselves from Arab males who seemed all too frequently interested in groping scantily clad women. The author saw much, sought much, but never really got into understanding the mindset of Arab males, or perspectives from women about lecherous males. She wanted to get feedback from some Islamic religious spokesmen, but the author really doesn't present much analysis as to how Islamic religious teachings guide the morality of Muslim women. This book is useful for some background 'gossip' about M.E. youth city-folk, but just not much depth or substance. It could have been so much better had the author had some knowledge of Islamic theology before starting her exploratory trips. [For a more scholarly perspective, see: "Islamic Feminism in Kuwait" by Alessandra Gonzalez.]

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A real let down
By Y. Vashchenko
Having done a lot of research online about Muhajabat, or Muslim girls who veil, I bought this book thinking it was a collection of individual stories from many lands on the topic of religion, tradition and modernity. Instead, it was a boring, hard to understand book. In fact, the style of writing is brusque and unrefined and though I tried to skip ahead to make sure I gave this book a good chance, it was just dreadful.

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Far-reaching implications
By Ernesto Aguilar
Although this book is very much promoted as an examination of Muslim youth, in many respects it is far more about the social pressure, religious and political winds and cultural tensions to which young people are more subjects than those who define their lives on their own terms. As a result, a good chunk of Muhajababes is dedicated to the adults whose visions are influencing the young. Stratton does a spectacular job of digging into these adults' mindsets, be they conservative jihadis, feel-good moderates or well-heeled liberals. Stratton also does a good job of bringing to a larger audience the alternate religious universe created for youth by these adults. Whether it is the video games aimed at glorifying nationalist fantasies and counteracting Western entertainment or Muslim leaders exhorting followers to gain wealth as a demonstration of Allah's greatness, starkly different versions of Islam are pitched to appeal to youth in ways the casual reader probably would never otherwise know about. The author will most certainly be criticized in this telling of Muslim youth life over what seems to be a lot of focus on largely middle- and upper-class Muslims, many of whom who have access to education, media and power that the poor do not. Indeed, it is difficult to ascertain how representative the Muslim youth culture Stratton presents is to the global Muslim experience. Let there be no question, however, that she has actively sought major cultural players for this book, and, in sharing a behind-the-scenes look at this generational shift, her work succeeds on many levels.

Two thirds of the population in the Middle East are under 25 years old and, though more of them than ever have university degrees, there aren't enough jobs to go round. They're having a collective quarter-life crisis. In the months before turning 25 herself, Allegra Stratton set out to meet them, all of them. She visits Beirut, Amman, Cairo, Dubai, Kuwait City and Damascus - moving with the Middle Eastern ripple of change: Iraq's first post-Saddam elections, Lebanon's Cedar Revolution, Mubarak's decision to hold multi-candidate elections and Kuwait giving women the vote. Instead of youth culture as we know it she discovers a massive video industry of airbrushed, heavily produced, scantily clad singers holds the affections of young Arabs. And there seems to be a contradiction. Many of the fans of these semi-naked popstrels are also very devout. 'Muhajabah' means one who veils. These, then, are the Muhajababes. Allegra gets locked into a painter's studios and sits at the back of Pop Idol auditions; she saves a businesswoman from a fatal spelling mistake and meets the region's most famous single mother. All of them - members of the Muslim Brotherhood and members of sports clubs alike - talk of the same Islamic revival. But though this time it's dressed up as trendy Islam, is it still religious conservatism? When Allegra returns, she discovers the answer to this question may lie closer to home than she thought.

From Publishers Weekly
Starred . Two-thirds of the Middle East a quarter of a billion people are 25 or younger, a demographic as large as it is unrepresented in Western media. With aplomb and scads of self-deprecating wit, journalist Stratton, herself 25 years old and a self-professed naif about the Arab and Muslim world, plunges into youth culture in Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon and Kuwait. Her findings are epitomized by the book's title; the term muhajababes (coined by one of Stratton's interviewees) describe veiled young women who combine traditional piety with a secular sensibility, wearing tight jeans with their head scarves and following pop stars and religious leaders with equal devotion. My methodology was to talk to everyone... who seemed my age, Stratton writes, including men

and women, religious visionaries and artists, revolutionaries and small-business owners. In visiting pockets of the Middle East seldom seen in the Western media (a Kuwaiti student union, a Damascus newspaper), she skillfully renders the frequently downplayed differences between the countries and their shared effort to integrate centuries of history with an avalanche of modern influences. The book's lacunae are not unimportant. Stratton doesn't step beyond urban population centers or speak with any local experts who might have helped analyze the tumble of information, but her genuine and frankly affectionate engagement makes Muhajababes an entertaining addition to the shelf of anyone hoping to actually understand, rather than stereotype, Arabs and Muslims. (July 1) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Muhajababes will disabuse you of your preconceptions of the Middle East forever.--The Times Literary Supplement Her ability to capture the emotion and logic of her interviewees deserves praise. Through conversations with would-be suicide bombers, a gay exhibitionist who insists Islamist segregation encourages homosexual relationships, and supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood, the reader penetrates further into the hidden world of energy and inner conflict of Middle Eastern youth. At times, the author pierces through the contradictions even those of us living in the region can't seem to describe or fathom. The book is listed in the current affairs/politics category, but after reading it, one wonders if it would be better placed in the self-help section - Stratton gets that close to the psyche of the Middle East.--Egypt Today Littered with funny, often charming moments. Stratton has a candid style, not only with the reader, but with her respondents, who clearly open up to her in confidence. It is a world that should be visited [and] Muhajababes provides a valuable passport.--The Australian For its willingness to ask questions about the trajectory of Arab Islamic modernity which are so often left unasked, this book deserves to be taken seriously...-- Arab Media Society Fascinating. Muhajababes is direct, energetic, and unpretentious.--The Guardian About the Author Allegra Stratton worked on the foreign desk at The Times before joining the BBC. She was one of the original producers of BBC1's This Week with Michael Portillo and Dianne Abbott and now works for Newsnight. She has written for the Independent, The Times and New Statesman.