



Granada (Middle East Literature In Translation)

By Radwa Ashour

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Granada (Middle East Literature In Translation) By Radwa Ashour

Radwa Ashour skillfully weaves a history of Granadan rule and an Arabic world into a novel that evokes cultural loss and the disappearance of a vanquished population. The novel follows the family of Abu Jaafar, the bookbinderhis wife, widowed daughter-in-law, her two children, and his two apprenticesas they witness Christopher Columbus and his entourage in a triumphant parade featuring exotic plants and animals and human captives from the New World. Embedded in the narrative is the preparation for the marriage of Saad, one of the apprentices, and Saleema, Abu Jaafar's granddaughtera scenario that is elegantly revealed in a number of parallel scenes.

As the new rulers of Granada confiscate books and officials burn the collected volumes, Abu Jaafur quietly moves his rich library out of town. Persecuted Muslims fight to form an independent government, but increasing economic and cultural pressures on the Arabs of Spain and Christian rulers culminate in Christian conversions and Muslim uprisings.

A tale that is both vigorous and heartbreaking, this novel will appeal to general readers of Spanish and Arabic literature as well as anyone interested in Christian-Muslim relations.

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Editorial Review

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Prior to the fifteenth century, Granada, Spain, was a Muslim community. When the Castilians conquered the area, they brought with them the Inquisition. Muslim culture and literature were banned, and inhabitants were forced to convert. This epic follows the fortunes of the Muslim family of Abu Jaafar, a well-respected leader and book printer. His two apprentices and the children of his deceased biological son make up the heart of the novel. Granada's history is likely to be unfamiliar to American audiences, and this fact, coupled with the explanatory footnotes, may, at first, be a little off-putting. However, once readers acclimate to the gentle rhythms of the story, they may well find it to be a page-turner. Characters such as the headstrong granddaughter, Saleema, will be familiar to anyone who enjoys romances. Occasionally, phrases such as "terrorist" and "Muslim Freedom Fighter" seem anachronistic and thrown in for their modern-day implications, rather than for the sake of the story. For the most part, though, the language is rich and evocative, and the characters are engaging. *Marta Segal*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

John Richardson:

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important for us. The book Granada (Middle East Literature In Translation) has been making you to know about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It is extremely advantages for you. The reserve Granada (Middle East Literature In Translation) is not only giving you far more new information but also to become your friend when you feel bored. You can spend your spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship while using book Granada (Middle East Literature In Translation). You never experience lose out for everything when you read some books.

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