Brass Neck

Esi decides to divorce after enduring yet another morning's marital rape. Though her friends and family remain baffled by her decision (after all, he doesn't beat her!), Esi holds fast. When she falls in love with a married man—wealthy, and able to arrange a polygamous marriage—the modern woman finds herself trapped in a new set of problems. Witty and compelling, Aidoo's novel, "inaugurates a new realist style in African literature."

Amplifying Islam in the European Soundscape

Jamaican-born novelist and sociologist Erna Brodber describes Myal as “an exploration of the links between the way of life forged by the people of two points of the black diaspora—the Afro-Americans and the Afro-Jamaicans.” Operating on many literary levels—thematically, linguistically, stylistically—it is the story of women’s cultural and spiritual struggle in colonial Jamaica. The novel opens at the beginning of the 20th century with a community gathering to heal the mysterious illness of a young woman, Ella, who has returned to Jamaica after an unsuccessful marriage abroad. The Afro-Jamaican religion myal, which asserts that good has the power to conquer all, is invoked to heal Ella, who has been left “zombified” and devoid of any black soul. Ella, who is light skinned enough to
pass for white, has suffered a breakdown after her white American husband produced a black-face minstrel show based on the stories of her village and childhood. This cultural appropriation is one of a series Ella encountered in her life, and parallels the ongoing theft of the labor and culture of colonized peoples for imperial gain and pleasure. The novel's rich, vivid language and vital characters earned it the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize for Canada and the Caribbean. The novel links nicely with Brodber’s coming-of-age story, Jane & Louisa Will Soon Come Home, also from Waveland Press, for its similar images, themes, and specific Jamaican cultural references to colonialism, religion, slavery, gender, and identity. Both novels are Brodber's way of telling stories outside of published history to point out the whitewashing and distortion of black history through religion and colonialism.

**The Black Book**

**Food for Our Grandmothers**

Public manifestations of Islam remain fiercely contested across the Global West. Studies to date have focused on the visual presence of Islam – the construction of mosques or the veiling of Muslim women. Amplifying Islam in the European Soundscape is the first book to add a sonic dimension to analyses of the politics of Islamic aesthetics in Europe. Sound does not respect public/private boundaries, and people experience sound viscerally. As such, the public amplification of the azan, the call to prayer, offers a unique opportunity to understand what is at stake in debates over religious toleration and secularism. The Netherlands were among the first European countries to allow the amplification of the azan in the 1980s, and Pooyan Tamimi Arab explores this as a case study embedded in a broader history of Dutch religious pluralism. The book offers a pointed critique of social theories that regard secularism as all-encompassing. While cultural forms of secularism exclude Muslim rights to public worship, Amplifying Islam in the European Soundscape argues that political and constitutional secularism also enables Muslim demands for amplifying calls to prayer. It traces how these exclusions and inclusions are effected through proposals for mosques, media debates, law and policy, but also in negotiations on the ground between residents, municipalities and mosques. This book is open access and available on www.bloomsburycollections.com. It is funded by the Religious Matters in an Entangled World program, Utrecht University.

**So Long a Letter**

*Fiction. African American Studies.* BAKEFACE AND OTHER GUAVA STORIES is the first title in Mango Publishing's new Classic
Series, which will bring back into print tried and tested quality fiction with an international reputation. This established collection is made up of four Jamaican stories: ‘Bake-Face’, ‘Duppy Get Her’, ‘Me Man Angel’ and ‘Widow's Walk’. Adisa won the 1987 Pushcart Prize award for the short story, ‘Duppy Get Her’. An important thematic thread running through the stories is woman's relationship with self, woman's relationships with one another and with men, community, motherhood, hope, emptiness and power. Marginalised by both patriarchal and imperial structures, these women have, in effect, been victimised into a kind of voicelessness which Adisa subverts through her writing. In the stories, Adisa develops a new language to give voice to her women characters. Hers is a voice speaking from within the community, though the narrative is frequently focalised through the protagonist's consciousness. "Solid, visceral, important stories written with integrity and love"--Alice Walker. Opal Palmer Adisa is a Jamaica-born novelist, poet, essayist, children's book author, visual artist, storyteller and teacher. Though she has lived in the United States since age 16, Adisa's work is rooted in Caribbean landscapes.

A Woman in the Crossfire

An intense and poised novel in the form of a letter written by Ramatoulaye, who has recently been widowed.

The Mother Machine

First published in 1983, this edited collection is based on contributions at a Scandinavian symposium on the place of women in Islamic society. It offers perspectives which illuminate our understanding of social relationships and structures pertaining to a vast number of the world's population dispersed throughout Asia and Africa. Sociological and anthropological investigations of social organization and the behavioural patterns provided in these papers demonstrate that the status of women, their rights, duties and control over property, their body, the degree of seclusion and veiling, vary considerably. Overall, this collection of papers show that the relationship between Islam and the everyday lives of Muslim women is a complex picture, one that is confronted with a considerable range of interpretations of laws and traditions. This book will be of particular interest to those studying women and Islam, anthropology, religion and sociology.

Blue Aubergine

This text with readings provides an accessible and engaging introduction to issues faced by women around the world. Each chapter
begins with a framework essay written by a feminist scholar in the field, which provides an overview and analytical structure for the 
issues related to the topic at hand. The framework essay includes learning activities and other sidebars that may help instructors in 
planning class sessions and will encourage students to explore issues further. A number of carefully selected readings in each chapter 
offer a wide variety of perspectives on the topics discussed. Few of these essays have been anthologized elsewhere, providing new 
material for instructors and students.

**Arabic Short Stories**

A well-known novelist and journalist from the coastal city of Jableh, Samar Yazbek witnessed the beginning four months of the 
uprising first-hand and actively participated in a variety of public actions and budding social movements. Throughout this period she 
kept a diary of personal reflections on, and observations of, this historic time. Because of the outspoken views she published in print 
and online, Yazbek quickly attracted the attention and fury of the regime, vicious rumours started to spread about her disloyalty to the 
homeland and the Alawite community to which she belongs. The lyrical narrative describes her struggle to protect herself and her 
young daughter, even as her activism propels her into a horrifying labyrinth of insecurity after she is forced into living on the run and 
detained multiple times, excluded from the Alawite community and renounced by her family, her hometown and even her childhood 
friends. With rare empathy and journalistic prowess Samar Yazbek compiled oral testimonies from ordinary Syrians all over the 
country. Filled with snapshots of exhilarating hope and horrifying atrocities, she offers us a wholly unique perspective on the Syrian 
uprising. Hers is a modest yet powerful testament to the strength and commitment of countless unnamed Syrians who have united to 
fight for their freedom. These diaries will inspire all those who read them, and challenge the world to look anew at the trials and 
tribulations of the Syrian uprising.

**Home and Exile**

The former Google executive and political activist tells the story of the Egyptian revolution he helped ignite through the power of social 
media. In the summer of 2010, thirty-year-old Google executive Wael Ghonim anonymously launched a Facebook page to protest the 
death of an Egyptian man at the hands of security forces. The page’s following expanded quickly and moved from online protests to a 
nonconfrontational movement. On January 25, 2011, Tahrir Square resounded with calls for change. Yet just as the revolution began 
in earnest, Ghonim was captured and held for twelve days of brutal interrogation. After he was released, he gave a tearful speech on 
national television, and the protests grew more intense. Four days later, the president of Egypt was gone. In this riveting story, Ghonim
takes us inside the movement and shares the keys to unleashing the power of crowds in the age of social networking. “A gripping chronicle of how a fear-frozen society finally topples its oppressors with the help of social media.” —San Francisco Chronicle
“Revolution 2.0 excels in chronicling the roiling tension in the months before the uprising, the careful organization required and the momentum it unleashed.” —NPR.org

The Concubine

Bint Allah knows herself only as the Daughter of God. Born in a stifling male-dominated state, ruled by the Imam and his coterie of ministers, she dreams of one day reaching the top of a distant hill visible through the bars of the orphanage window. But Bint Allah’s ambitions do not escape the attention of the Imam, who never feels secure no matter how well he protects himself. When the Imam falsely accuses Bint Allah of adultery and sentences her to death by stoning, he is not prepared for what happens next. A postmodern fantasia, this powerful and poetic novel is a call to arms against those who use religion as a weapon against women.

Tirra Lirra by the River

Read worldwide for her wisdom, authenticity, and skillful prose, South African–born Bessie Head (1937–1986) offers a moving and magical tale of an orphaned girl, Margaret Cadmore, who goes to teach in a remote village in Botswana where her own people are kept as slaves. Her presence polarizes a community that does not see her people as human, and condemns her to the lonely life of an outcast. In the love story and intrigue that follows, Head brilliantly combines a portrait of loneliness with a rich affirmation of the mystery and spirituality of life. The core of this otherworldly, rhapsodic work is a plot about racial injustice and prejudice with a lesson in how traditional intolerance may render whole sections of a society untouchable.

Juletane

Minaret

This elegant, haunting novel takes us deep into the world of bookstore owner Boualem Yekker. He lives in a country being overtaken by
the Vigilant Brothers, a radically conservative party that seeks to control every element of life according to the laws of their stringent moral theology: no work of beauty created by human hands should rival the wonders of their god. Once-treasured art and literature are now despised. Ø Silently holding his ground, Boualem withstands the new regime, using the shop and his personal history as weapons against puritanical forces. Readers are taken into the lush depths of the bookseller's dreams, the memories of his now-empty family life, his passion for literature, then yanked back into the terror and drudgery of his daily routine by the vandalism, assaults, and death warrants that afflict him. Ø From renowned Algerian author Tahar Djaout we inherit a brutal and startling story that reveals how far an ordinary human being will go to maintain hope.

**The Fall of the Imam**

In the seventeenth century, a young Italian scholar sailing from Venice to Naples is taken prisoner and delivered to Constantinople, into the custody of a scholar known as Hoja—‘master’—a man who is his exact double. Hoja wonders, given the knowledge of each other’s most intimate secrets, if they could actually exchange identities. Set in a world of magnificent scholarship and terrifying savagery, The White Castle is a colourful and intricately patterned triumph of the imagination.

**Venice & the East**

Collects twenty-four short stories by Arabic authors such as Bahaa Taher, Alifa Rifaat, and Edward El-Kharrat, which explore such themes as prostitution, adultery, and arranged marriage.

**The Penguin Book of Erotic Stories by Women**

**A Thousand Splendid Suns**

Amadi’s masterpiece of African literature captures village life and practices not yet touched by the white man. The novel’s beautiful, hardworking protagonist, Ihouma, is admired by all in her village. Yet those who express their love for her meet with mysterious tragedy, leaving her devastated. This enticing odyssey, where exemplary attributes go unrewarded and the boundaries between myth and
reality are muted, outwits readers with unexpected twists that make them want to keep turning the page.

The Minaret

Blue Aubergine tells the story of a young Egyptian woman, born in 1967, growing up in the wake of Egypt's defeat of that year, and maturing into womanhood against the social and political upheavals Egypt experienced during the final decades of the twentieth century. Physically and emotionally scarred by her parents and the events of her childhood, and incapable of relating to men, Nada, the 'Blue Aubergine,' fumbles through a series of dark and unsettling adventures, resorting first to full Islamic dress with niqab and gloves and then throwing it all off for the flowing hair and tight clothes of an emancipated young graduate student, in an ever more desperate and ultimately failed search for tenderness and affection. A frank assessment of the damage society wreaks by foisting unwise claustraphobic values on its children, this richly woven text shifts unpredictably through time and space like a sojourn in dream time. A mixed crowd of aunts and teachers, classmates and fellow students, Marxists and Islamicists are there to people the Blue Aubergine's bewildering journey to the knowledge that the maintenance of chastity and innocence and her naive determination to cling to the threads of silk and lace that bind her to her past bring only misery and isolation.

The Last of the Menu Girls

Against a backdrop of Islamophobia, Europeans are increasingly airbrushing from history their cultural debt to the Muslim world. But this legacy lives on in some of Europe's most recognizable buildings, from Notre-Dame Cathedral to the Houses of Parliament. This beautifully illustrated book reveals the Arab and Islamic roots of Europe's architectural heritage. Diana Darke traces ideas and styles from vibrant Middle Eastern centers like Damascus, Baghdad and Cairo, via Muslim Spain, Venice and Sicily into Europe. She describes how medieval crusaders, pilgrims and merchants encountered Arab Muslim culture on their way to the Holy Land; and explores more recent artistic interaction between Ottoman and Western cultures, including Sir Christopher Wren's inspirations in the "Saracen" style of Gothic architecture. Recovering this long yet overlooked history of architectural "borrowing," Stealing from the Saracens is a rich tale of cultural exchange, shedding new light on Europe's greatest landmarks.

Effortless Tears

In this powerful and moving novel, Myriam Warner-Vieyra sensitively portrays the complexities of cross-cultural relationships and, in
particular, the female predicament. When Helene, a self-reliant career woman, is packing her belongings for a move and imminent marriage for which she is reluctant, she unearths a faded old book. It is the diary of young Juletane, a confused, sheltered West Indian woman struggling to find herself. Written over three weeks, it records her short life: childhood in France, marriage to an African student, and an eager return with him to Africa, the land of her ancestors. It is Juletane’s diary that brings her and Helene together. Juletane does not fit into her husband’s traditional African family, especially the Muslim cultural demands of polygamy. Full of gentle ironies, Juletane is a story about alienation, madness, shattered dreams: the disillusioned West Indian outsider’s disenchantment with Africa. Myriam Warner-Vieyra looks at women’s lives, at the paths they have taken, at the possibilities open to women in the Caribbean, in Africa, in life. She forces readers, through the double narrative of Juletane and Helene, to reexamine easy assumptions, to look again at safe generalizations. Includes valuable Introduction 2014 by the translator.

**Modern Africa**

This groundbreaking collection creates a space in which Arab-American and Arab-Canadian feminists speak out about issues of history, culture and identity. While anti-Arab racism depicts Arab women as veiled, passive victims living in hopelessly sexist communities, Food for our Grandmothers analyzes and challenges these innacurate and distorted views.

**Bake-face and Other Guava Stories**

“A beautiful, daring, challenging novel” of a young Muslim immigrant—from the author of the New York Times Notable Book, The Translator (The Guardian). Leila Aboulela’s American debut is a provocative, timely, and engaging novel about a young Muslim woman—onece privileged and secular in her native land and now impoverished in London—gradually embracing her orthodox faith. With her Muslim hijab and down-turned gaze, Najwa is invisible to most eyes, especially to the rich families whose houses she cleans in London. Twenty years ago, Najwa, then at university in Khartoum, would never have imagined that one day she would be a maid. An upperclass Westernized Sudanese, her dreams were to marry well and raise a family. But a coup forces the young woman and her family into political exile in London. Soon orphaned, she finds solace and companionship within the Muslim community. Then Najwa meets Tamer, the intense, lonely younger brother of her employer. They find a common bond in faith and slowly, silently, begin to fall in love. Written with directness and force, Minaret is a lyric and insightful novel about Islam and an alluring glimpse into a culture Westerners are only just beginning to understand. “Lit up by a highly unusual sensibility and world view, so rarefied and uncompromising that it is likely to throw the reader out of kilter . . . Her delicacy of touch is to be complimented.” —Chandrahas
Choudhury, San Francisco Chronicle

**Distant View of a Minaret and Other Stories**

A collection of mystical fables follows the experiences of a range of extraordinary women who share a common strength in the form of feminine intuitive powers, which enable them to find resolve in the face of adversity, pursue their passions, and nurture the human soul. Reprint.

**Distant View of a Minaret**

**The White Castle**

"More convincingly than any other woman writing in Arabic today, Alifa Rifaat lifts the veil on what it means to be a woman living within a traditional Muslim society." So states the translator's foreword to this collection of the Egyptian author's best short stories. Rifaat (1930–1996) did not go to university, spoke only Arabic, and seldom traveled abroad. This virtual immunity from Western influence lends a special authenticity to her direct yet sincere accounts of death, sexual fulfillment, the lives of women in purdah, and the frustrations of everyday life in a male-dominated Islamic environment. Translated from the Arabic by Denys Johnson-Davies, the collection admits the reader into a hidden private world, regulated by the call of the mosque, but often full of profound anguish and personal isolation. Badriyya’s despairing anger at her deceitful husband, for example, or the haunting melancholy of “At the Time of the Jasmine,” are treated with a sensitivity to the discipline and order of Islam.

**Gardens of the Righteous**

Rocío Esquibel is a girl growing up in a Southern New Mexico town with her mother and sister. She defines her neighborhood by its trees—the willow, the apricot and the one they call the marking-off tree. Rocio knows she was born in the closet where she and her sister now take turns looking at the picture of Jesus whose eyes light up in the dark. But at night she enters a magical realm, and in her imaginary Blue Room, she can fly. At first she is a mesmerized observer of the lives of older girls and their boyfriends, but as she finds a
job at the local hospital, and discovers a passion for drama and stories, Rocio begins to make her own choices in love and work. Alive with the taste of tamales and the lyrical tang of the Esquibels’ talk, The Last of the Menu Girls becomes a rich celebration of Chicano culture, and a universal story of finding one’s way in the world.

Feminisms Redux

Reading Brass Neck, one thinks of Whitman's passion for the body and insistence that one's on the connection of all of our bodies, our voices, our pain and pleasure. Of course, Whitman wasn't the first to give us the poetics of the body. The poems of this book make one think of Sappho and Catullus as much as they do of Whitman. And, yet, it is Walt's "barbaric yawp on the rooftops of the world" that echoes so much into our own era. One thinks of Orhan Veli of Turkey and Anna Swir of Poland, Israel’s Yona Wollach and many others who have responded to his call. The author of Brass Neck responds as well. There is a large embrace of erotic and ecstatic impulses in this work. At their best, the poems in Brass Neck contain epigrammatic quality that is memorable in its reach for the tonal largesse: "home is the chaos / where you feel / most alive." One is moved by the terrible pain and utter betrayal of girlhood in that many poems in this book showcase. And, at the same time, one is also surprised and compelled by the author’s uplift, by the unexpected tonalities, humor. This is a poet to watch. Ilya Kaminsky, Author of Deaf Republic

The Golden Legend

Bloom reveals that the Minaret, long understood to have been invented in the early years of Islam as the place from which the muezzin gives the call to prayer, was actually invented some two centuries later to be a visible symbol of Islam. Drawing on buildings, archaeological reports, medieval histories, geographies, and early Arabic poetry, he reinterprets the origin, development, and meanings of the minaret and provides a sweeping historical and geographical tour of the minaret’s position as the symbol of Islam.

Does My Head Look Big in This?

Basil Davidson's famous book -- now updated in a welcome Third Edition -- reviews the social and political history of Africa in the twentieth century. It takes the reader from the colonial era through the liberation movements to independence and beyond. It faces squarely the disappointments and breakdowns that have dulled the early successes of the post-colonial era; yet, for all the sorrows and uncertainties of Africa today, Basil Davidson shows how much has been achieved since decolonization, and the mood of his new final
chapter is hopeful and buoyant.

**Revolution 2.0**

When shots ring out on the Grand Trunk Road in the fictional Pakistani city of Zamara, Nargis’s life begins to crumble around her. Soon her husband—and fellow architect—is dead and, under threat from a powerful military intelligence officer, she fears that a long-hidden truth about her past will be exposed. For weeks someone has been broadcasting people’s secrets from the minaret of the local mosque, and, in a country where even the accusation of blasphemy is a currency to be bartered, the mysterious broadcasts have struck fear in Christians and Muslims alike. A revelatory portrait of the human spirit, in *The Golden Legend*, Nadeem Aslam gives us a novel of Pakistan’s past and present—a story of corruption and resilience, of love and terror, and of the disguises that are sometimes necessary for survival.

**Myal**

Chinua Achebe is Africa's most prominent writer, the author of *Things Fall Apart*, the best known--and best selling--novel ever to come out of Africa. His fiction and poetry burn with a passionate commitment to political justice, bringing to life not only Africa's troubled encounters with Europe but also the dark side of contemporary African political life. Now, in *Home and Exile*, Achebe reveals the man behind his powerful work. Here is an extended exploration of the European impact on African culture, viewed through the most vivid experience available to the author--his own life. It is an extended snapshot of a major writer's childhood, illuminating his roots as an artist. Achebe discusses his English education and the relationship between colonial writers and the European literary tradition. He argues that if colonial writers try to imitate and, indeed, go one better than the Empire, they run the danger of undervaluing their homeland and their own people. Achebe contends that to redress the inequities of global oppression, writers must focus on where they come from, insisting that their value systems are as legitimate as any other. Stories are a real source of power in the world, he concludes, and to imitate the literature of another culture is to give that power away. *Home and Exile* is a moving account of an exceptional life. Achebe reveals the inner workings of the human conscience through the predicament of Africa and his own intellectual life. It is a story of the triumph of mind, told in the words of one of this century's most gifted writers.

**Women in Islamic Societies**
An international collection spanning one hundred years. From Elizabeth Cook's Billets Doux, on a woman's imaginative punishment for a man's infidelity, to Yuan Ch'iung Ch'iung's A Lover's Ear, on the erotic experience of cleaning your loved one's ear.

**Changes**

As European cities such as Venice looked further afield, not only for material goods, but also for artistic inspiration and information on new technologies and ideas, they inevitably came into contact with a great many new cultures. In this book Deborah Howard explores the experiences of Venetian merchants and travellers in the East and the influences that were brought to the city from the Islamic cultures encountered. The study is based on the literature of travellers, objects, buildings and architecture, documents and manuscripts, and takes a thematic look at the city: San Marco, the Merchant City, palaces, Palazzo Ducale, the Pilgrim City.

**Women With Big Eyes/Mujeres de Ojos Grandes**

The Black Book is Orhan Pamuk's tour de force, a stunning tapestry of Middle Eastern and Islamic culture which confirmed his reputation as a writer of international stature. Richly atmospheric and Rabelaisian in scope, it is a labyrinthine novel suffused with the sights, sounds and scents of Istanbul, an unforgettable evocation of the city where East meets West, and a boldly unconventional mystery that plumbs the elusive nature of identity, fiction, interpretation and reality.

**Stealing from the Saracens**

Don't panic - I'm Islamic! Amal is a 16-year-old Melbourne teen with all the usual obsessions about boys, chocolate and Cosmo magazine. She's also a Muslim, struggling to honour the Islamic faith in a society that doesn't understand it. The story of her decision to "shawl up" is funny, surprising and touching by turns.

**Maru**

"Opening the Gates succeeds not because of its methodology, but because of the stories the women tell." -- Voice Literary Supplement
Opening the Gates

One of Australia’s most celebrated novels: one woman’s journey from Australia to London Nora Porteous, a witty, ambitious woman from Brisbane, returns to her childhood home at age seventy. Her life has taken her from a failed marriage in Sydney to freedom in London; she forged a modest career as a seamstress and lived with two dear friends through the happiest years of her adult life. At home, the neighborhood children she remembers have grown into compassionate adults. They help to nurse her back from pneumonia, and slowly let her in on the dark secrets of the neighborhood in the years that have lapsed. With grace and humor, Nora recounts her desire to escape, the way her marriage went wrong, the vanity that drove her to get a facelift, and one romantic sea voyage that has kept her afloat during her dark years. Her memory is imperfect, but the strength and resilience she shows over the years is nothing short of extraordinary. A book about the sweetness of escape, and the mix of pain and acceptance that comes with returning home. From the Trade Paperback edition.

The Last Summer of Reason

A collection of Muslim traditions.

Women Worldwide: Transnational Feminist Perspectives on Women

A riveting and powerful story of an unforgiving time, an unlikely friendship and an indestructible love

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