



The Burning Veil

Jean Grant

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Shortly before 9/11, Dr. Sarah Moss must decide whether to marry Ibrahim. His mother hates and fears her as does his brother, an Islamist hardliner. Sarah aims to live with integrity. Can she—dare she—in Saudi Arabia? In crisp, candid prose, former Middle East journalist Jean Grant presents a picture of the controversial kingdom and of the expatriates and nationals who either embrace or confront their destiny.

Reviews

I read *The Burning Veil* in two sittings, compelled to swallow pages as quickly as possible, even as I longed to linger—and often did—over richly-rendered details about day to day life in Saudi Arabia. Jean Grant's contemporary love story about cultural collision vying against our shared human longing for connection left me deeply moved, and at times, deeply melancholy, as religious fundamentalism gains strength in the U.S. and around the world. A powerful and important first novel." —A. Manette Ansay, author of *Good Things I Wish You* and *Vinegar Hill*

"Elegant and insightful, *The Burning Veil* takes the reader on a fascinating journey behind the closed doors of Saudi Arabian life, showing Arabs and expats as they struggle to come to terms with their differences. Jean Grant's novel is a delightful find." —Zoe Ferraris, author of *Finding Nouf*.

"The author manages not to force an agenda, relaying the intricacies of family life in two distinct cultures with immediacy and humor." — *Publishers Weekly*

Keywords

Arabic, expatriate, Khobar, abaya, culture shock, Saudi women, Islam, veil, Mecca, hydrologist, Aramco, culture clash, prayers

Extract:

Beyond the city limits, they drove in a monotony of buff-colored sand with only the pipeline, rusted oil barrels, and a few derelict trucks to break the emptiness. What came next was worse: the salt flats. She had imagined caravans curving around dunes, falcons winging overhead, and the sands puffing and swirling. She doubted now that the oasis would be as she had hoped, a tiny lake with a fringe of palm trees. Qatif had been a trading center since the third millennium B.C., a link between the civilizations of Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley. Before the advent of Islam, Zoroastrians, Jews and Christians lived there. And before them, the inhabitants followed the cult of Ishtar, the goddess of love and war. Archeologists thought a sculpture of her seated on a golden lion was hidden nearby. "Apparently Ishtar had a fondness for men," Ibrahim said.

"Like me for you," Sarah said lightly. "Maybe they'll excavate."

"I doubt it. A few years ago, British archeologists tried to get permission to dig, but the women objected."

"An odd thing to protest."

"Not at all. It is *their* place."

"So who won?"

"The women. The archeologists grumbled about our ways, but there was nothing for them to do but to pack up and fly off."

"To more tolerant realms?" She rested her hand on his knee. "And the women?"

"Still there. Mother goes all the time."

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From reader reviews:

Traci Farris:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be up-date about what going on or information even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era that is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe may update themselves by examining books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to anyone is you don't know what type you should start with. This The Burning Veil is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and need in this era.

Leonard Palmer:

People live in this new morning of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the spare time or they will get large amount of stress from both everyday life and work. So , when we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely indeed. People is human not really a robot. Then we request again, what kind of activity are you experiencing when the spare time coming to a person of course your answer can unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative inside spending your spare time, the actual book you have read is actually The Burning Veil.

Ora Barbour:

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Alice Winfield:

In this period of time globalization it is important to someone to acquire information. The information will make a professional understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information much easier to share. You can find a lot of personal references to get information example: internet, newspaper, book, and soon. You will observe that now, a lot of publisher that will print many kinds of book. The book that recommended to your account is The Burning Veil this book consist a lot of the information of the condition of this world now. That book was represented how can the world has grown up. The vocabulary styles that writer make usage of to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some research when he makes this book. Here is why this book acceptable all of you.

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