



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 millenium 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:

Lee Durfee:

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open as well as read a book allowed The Burning Veil? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have some other opinion?

Jose Miller:

Nowadays reading books become more than want or need but also work as a life style. This reading practice give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge your information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The knowledge you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want get more knowledge just go with training books but if you want truly feel happy read one having theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. The actual The Burning Veil is kind of publication which is giving the reader unstable experience.

Jimmy Martinez:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read the book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent the entire day to reading a e-book. The book The Burning Veil it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book features high quality.

Ronald Griffin:

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