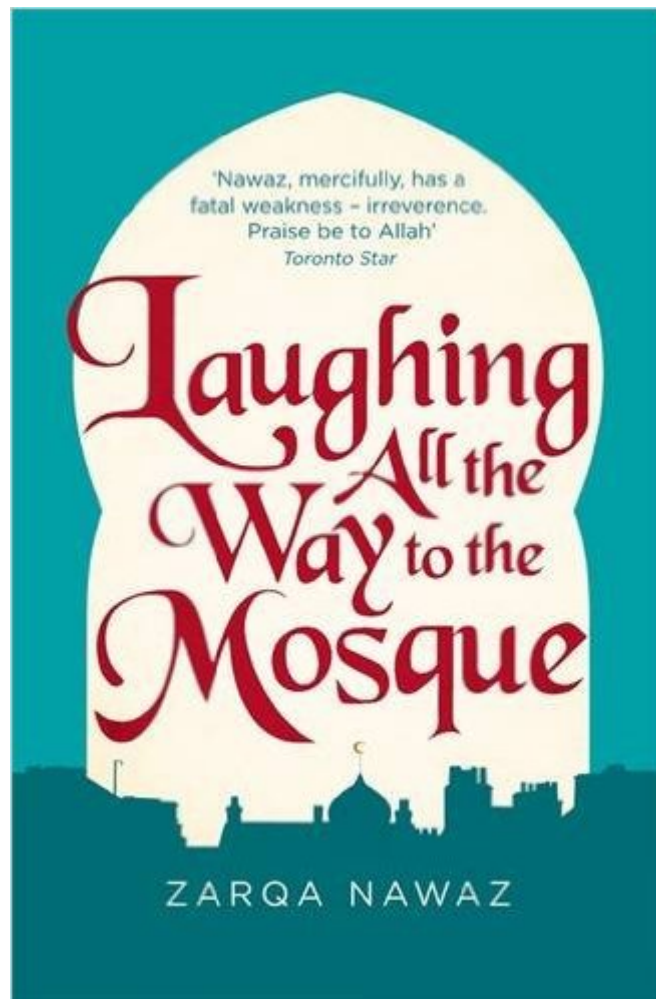


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# Laughing All The Way To The Mosque: The Misadventures Of A Muslim Woman



## Synopsis

Being a practicing Muslim in the West is sometimes challenging, sometimes rewarding and sometimes downright absurd. How do you explain why Eid never falls on the same date each year; why it is that Halal butchers also sell teapots and alarm clocks; how do you make clear to the plumber that it's essential the toilet is installed within sitting-arm's reach of the tap? Zarqa Nawaz has seen and done it all. And it's not always easy to get things right with the community either: Zarqa tells of being asked to leave the DBW (Dead Body Washing) committee after making unsuitable remarks; of undertaking the momentous trip to Mecca with her husband, without the children, thinking (most incorrectly) that it will also be a nice time to have uninterrupted sex; of doing the unthinkable, and creating Little Mosque on the Prairie, a successful TV sitcom about that very (horrified, then proud) community. You have to laugh.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Zarqa's Muslim parents were from Pakistan and moved to the Toronto area when she was young ... their marriage was arranged and happy. Zarqa's original plan was to become a doctor but she ended up going to journalism school instead. When her brother wanted to get married, tradition stated that he couldn't until Zarqa was married so the search began for a husband for her. She married Sami and moved to Saskatchewan and they had four children. She directed some documentaries about Muslims before creating and producing the hit CBC show, Little Mosque on the Prairie. This book contains her stories of growing up as a somewhat "modern" Muslim in the Toronto area and her life as a wife and mother in Saskatchewan ... dealing with being extra hairy,

interviewing prospective husbands, going for hajj, explaining to a "white" contractor the need to have a water jug within reach when one is using the toilet, the impact of being Muslim after 9/11 and having to pray in separate areas from the men in mosques. I didn't know much at all about Muslims and learned a lot. The author told her stories in a funny and comical way. I enjoyed this book and would recommend it.

This book is a collection of essays written by a Muslim immigrant woman living in Canada, partly in Toronto but mainly in Regina Saskatchewan. She is married to a Muslim doctor who again is an immigrant to Canada. She has 4 young children. The writing, which is always fluent and easy to read, comes as a surprise because of her irreverent sense of humour. The humour is in total contrast to the picture of excessive seriousness, often laced with violent thought and action, one often sees in today's Islam. I found it a pleasure to read of Muslim conventions and attitudes, told by an authoress who understands her religion very well, but has not lost her commonsense and humanity. The chapter covering a pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca is most informative and interesting for a non-Muslim reader. I would strongly recommend the book to anyone searching for an understanding of Islam in daily family living.

This book is hilarious. I picked it up originally because I was a fan of her show "Little Mosque on the Prairie." Knowing her style of humor, I expected it to be funny situations about Muslims. However like many comedy writers, she's much funnier than what you see on tv. I expected this book to be maybe a 4/5 but I was definitely blown away. I wish she would write more. Please write more! This book would be enjoyed by anyone who wants to laugh along with Muslims. You don't need to know anything about her tv show (it only features slightly and situationally), nor do you need to know anything about Muslims or Islam. In fact, this book is part intro to Islam book in addition to being a biography of Ms. Nawaz. If you want to know about Muslims in the West, skip the textbooks and "laugh your way to the mosque" along with Zarqa. You'll enjoy it much more.

If you're a 'Little Mosque on the Prairie' fan, this is a must read book. If you're not, you may well dig it, too. The author's humor is wonderful, and warms the reader as they work through some cross cultural adventures.

Zarqa Nawaz is exactly what the world needs right now, and that's someone who can deliver sensitive information in a human and humorous way. She has a way of making you feel a part of

every page, and I find that true sincerity rare these days. As a big fan of her TV and film work, I was very excited for this book and it did not disappoint. I laughed, I cried, I laugh-cried: I might as well have appeared mentally unstable randomly bursting into fits of laughter on the train as I devoured this book. I hope that Nawaz's work is a source of pride for the modern Muslim; I too hope that those curious about Islamic family life will read "Laughing All the Way to the Mosque" and see that real Muslims are nothing to fear. I can sympathize with her goofiness, love of food, and brutal honesty, and I hope she gets plenty of new fans.

It is a fun light read for Muslims and especially if you are desi. If you are not a Muslim it may be a big eye opener to the moral and cultural issues Western Muslims go through. The internal mental and emotional battles we have in our struggle to practice our faith and to be contributing members of our crazy and confused community. I loved her tone, it was poking fun by not taking anything too seriously. It was fun!

Zarqa Nawaz writes about how it is to be a practicing Muslim in Canada. She writes about her life and her faith with a great sense of humor. I loved that her book gives so much information about the religion itself, but also about Zarqa Nawaz's interpretation. I learned and laughed a lot, which in my opinion is a perfect combination. *Laughing All the Way to the Mosque* is a book about a woman who dares to be different and who isn't afraid to fight a battle if she thinks it's needed. I liked how Zarqa Nawaz's strong personality influences the decisions she makes. She thinks things through and she knows what she wants. Sometimes her plans work even better than she anticipated and she isn't afraid to stand up for what she believes in. She has such a fantastic style of writing and because of that I couldn't stop reading. I enjoyed the fun, clever and brave style very much. Zarqa Nawaz has a great media career. Unfortunately I haven't been able to watch *Little Mosque on the Prairie*, which is her biggest success. After reading the book I was curious to see how her writing would be translated on screen. It isn't a necessity to know more about her work to read the book though. I was curious because of the book, not the other way around. I learned a lot from this book. The writing is vivid and understandable and very, very funny. Zarqa Nawaz has an interesting life and I think it's great she's so open and honest. Her personality is what makes this book such a good read.

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