

Discussion Questions

Love, Inshallah ed. by Nura Maznavi and Ayesha Mattu



Source: Questions created by the editors

1. What are some common cultural understandings of Muslim women/men? How do these stories complicate these cultural understandings?
2. Culture and religion are intertwined. What are some ways that the women in this anthology balance their faith and American identity with their search for love?
3. What did you find especially surprising or compelling in these stories or about these women?
4. Whose story did you identify with most strongly, and why?
5. Discuss the idea of being honest with your parents (or children) about sex and other relationship issues. How do some of the authors handle this and how did you do so in your life?
6. How did your religious upbringing contribute to who you are today?
7. If you believe in a religion that has a sacred scripture, do you know what every word means and adhere to every command? If not, why not?
8. Some of the authors discuss juggling family expectations and the search for love. How is their experience similar or dissimilar to yours? Did familial expectations, race/ethnicity, religion, or socioeconomic factors play a role in your search for a partner?
9. Are there any passages in the book you would like to share (or have already shared) with your friends or family?
10. In the introduction, the editors explained why they collected these stories. Do you think the editors were successful in their aims? Why or why not?