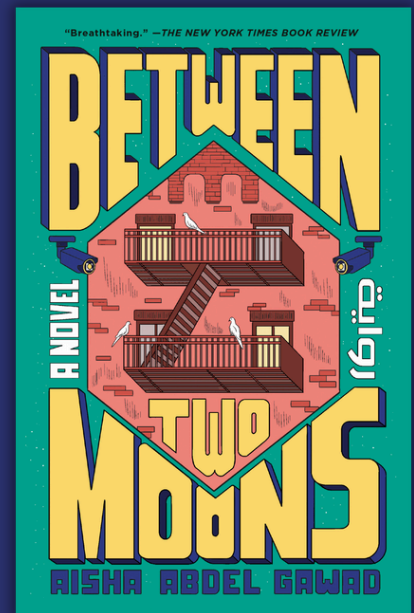


Between Two Moons

by Aisha Abdel Gawad

Twin sisters Amira and Lina are testing their boundaries in the summer before high school graduation. Set over the course of Ramadan, *Between Two Moons* asks what it means to be a young Muslim in America.

“A moving look at family, survival, and celebration.”
—Hanif Abdurraqib



Discussion Questions

1. Ramadan is a holy month during which Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. Why do you think the author decided to set the book during Ramadan?
2. How would you describe the relationship between twin sisters Amira and Lina? What moments best illustrate the dynamic between them?
3. Amira’s first-person narration is punctuated by a few sections narrated in the third-person. What effect do the third-person sections have on the way the story unfolds?
4. Surveillance is a big theme in the novel. What are some of the different kinds of watching that happen? What is the relationship between the watcher and the watched?
5. What are some moments where you see Amira and Lina reflecting on their identity as Muslims? What role does faith play in their lives? In what ways is the author challenging stereotypical depictions of Muslim women?

6. Where are some red herrings in the novel, moments when you aren't sure who should be trusted or who might be a threat? Why does the author create this ambiguity around who is an enemy?
7. Some men in the novel-Sami, Abu Jamal, Imam Ghozzi-are hurt or threatened in very obvious, public ways. But the women-Amira, Lina, Mama, and Aziza Ghozzi, for example-largely wrestle with their pain in private. How does gender impact the way the characters experience and process trauma?
8. What were some of your favorite moments of joy or humor in the novel? When do we see the family laughing together and enjoying each other's company? What do these more light-hearted scenes add to a story so weighted by fear?
9. What was it like to read the NYPD "Demographics Report"? Why include an entire police report, part of which is redacted, in the middle of the novel?
10. By the end of the book, would you say this is a story about a family being broken apart or a family coming together?

Suggested Reading List

EVIL EYE by Etaf Rum

HOMEGOING by Yaa Gyasi

A BURNING by Megha Majumdar

EXIT WEST by Mohsin Hamid

Playlist



Listen to Lina's hip hop playlist [on Spotify](#).