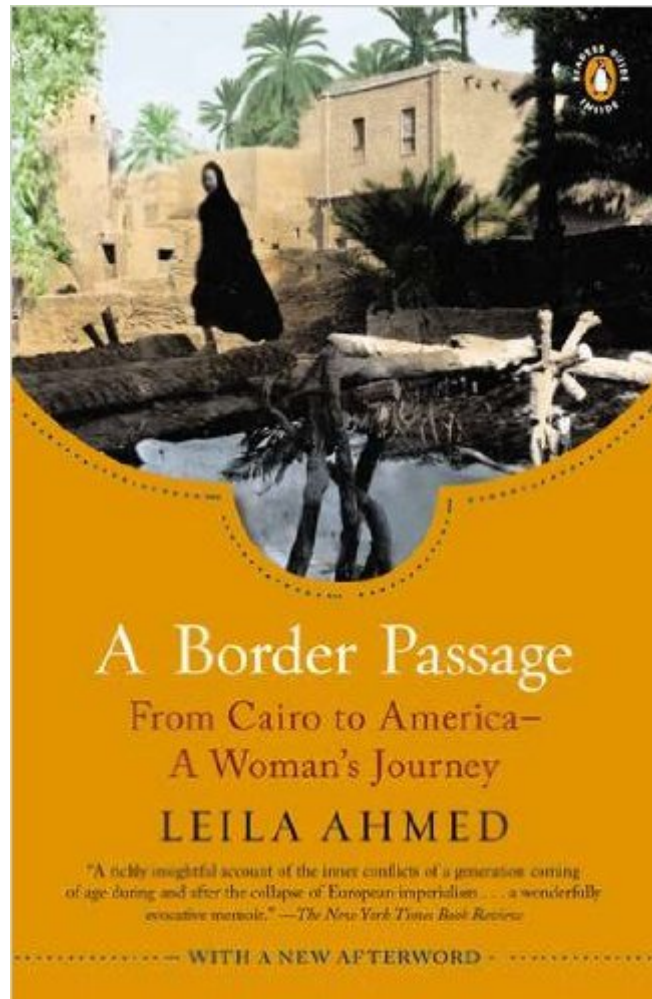


The book was found

# A Border Passage: From Cairo To America--A Woman's Journey



## Synopsis

An Egyptian woman's reflections on her changing homelandâupdated with an afterword on the Arab SpringIn language that vividly evokes the lush summers of Cairo and the stark beauty of the Arabian desert, Leila Ahmed movingly recounts her Egyptian childhood growing up in a rich tradition of Islamic women and describes how she eventually came to terms with her identity as a feminist living in America. As a young woman in Cairo in the forties and fifties, Ahmed witnessed some of the major transformations of this centuryâthe end of British colonialism, the rise of Arab nationalism, and the breakdown of Egypt's once multireligious society. As today's Egypt continues to undergo revolutionary change, Ahmed's inspirational story remains as poignant and relevant as ever.

## Book Information

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Penguin Books; Reprint edition (April 24, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0143121928

ISBN-13: 978-0143121923

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (34 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #51,707 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 inÂ Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Women in Islam #53 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Emigration & Immigration #214 inÂ Books > History > World > Women in History

## Customer Reviews

A Border Passage is not a typical autobiography. It has many elements of an autobiography, but it is also a book of well reasoned essays on some of the most difficult aspects of the history of Egypt and its culture. Essays on Islam, imperialism and on the identity and language of Egypt Leila Ahmed recount of her childhood and upbringing in Cairo and Alexandria is beautifully written. Her complex relationship with and her views of her mother are an important theme in the first half of the book. Her analysis of the social impact of the colonial and post colonial on her own family and the events that surrounded her is particularly insightful. In writing this book Leila Ahmed clearly has done a considerable amount of sole searching with objective detachment. She describes that process and articulates clearly her reasoning. You can actually sense the struggle and pain she went through to reach a particular conclusion. This is the work of a sensitive person with a superb analytical mind

and an ability to reflect. I particularly enjoyed her pointing out of what was a recollection and knowledge in retrospect, in her process of understanding an issue or an emotion. The book contains a very well researched and argued section on the "Arabization" of Egypt. Here, she presents why she is not an Arab, but rather an Egyptian, from a historical, cultural, linguistic and social viewpoint. She illustrates with significant historical substantiation Arabism in Egypt as a colonial invention. Yet, she appears to be willing to accept an Arab identity as well as an Egyptian one in the west, because of what she shares with Arabs in the west. She talks of two "Arabnesses", I think I understood her correctly, but I am not sure.

A very intimate autobiography because it's not an autobiography at all, it's about 'border passages' -- from child to adulthood, women's communities to patriarchal ones, citizenship to immigrant, and has stirred in me a strong desire to learn more about Islam. It blew a lot of my misconceptions out of the water, but in an incidental fashion: not, "You all think Muslim women are like this, you're wrong, here's the truth", but "when I was a child, I grew up this way, in a woman's community filled with the oral teachings of Islam, oral culture, oral tradition..." lots of wonderful and instructive reminiscences about her family and culture and growing up in Egypt during the time that Nassar came to power, the era when the word "Arab" was redefined, and the impact of her parents, her immediate family, and their beliefs on the sum and substance of her own life. In the course of this discussion is embedded a course on Egyptian history from the eyes of both a child, and the adult scholar who turned her attention to her own home and history. Ahmed's comments on coming to America at the height of '60s feminism', when white middle-class women were questioning fundamental tenets of their society, yet being discouraged from asking similar questions of her own society's tenets, a pressure many 'feminists of color' experienced, was of particular interest to me. I think there may be an interesting parallel between that experience and the pressure on Third Wave feminists by some older feminists to not stray from the path established by them in the 60s, to not ask our own questions.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

A Border Passage: From Cairo to America--A Woman's Journey  
Kabloona in the Yellow Kayak: One Woman's Journey Through the North West Passage  
The Twelve (Book Two of The Passage Trilogy): A Novel (Book Two of The Passage Trilogy)  
Alone in the Passage: An Explorers Guide to Sea Kayaking the Inside Passage  
Cairo in the War: 1939-45  
Ritual, Politics, and the City in Fatimid Cairo (Sunny Series in Medieval Middle East History) (Sunny Series, Medieval Middle East History)  
Lost Lion of Empire: The Life of 'Cape-to-Cairo' Grogan (Life of Ewart Grogan Dso (1876-1976))

Hardluck Ironclad: The Sinking and Salvage of the Cairo Theatre From Medieval Cairo: The Ibn Daniyal Trilogy (Martin E. Segal Theatre Center Publications) Palace Walk: The Cairo Trilogy, Volume 1 Cairo by Night (Vampire: the Masquerade) Africa Solo: My World Record Race from Cairo to Cape Town No Simple Passage: The Journey of the 'London' to New Zealand, 1842 Deep Water Passage: A Spiritual Journey at Midlife Drawing the Line : How Mason and Dixon Surveyed the Most Famous Border in America Blacks on the Border: The Black Refugees in British North America, 1815-1860 Mujerona masiva y apretado coño-masive big woman and tight pussy: fotos de sexo,sex bilder,sex pictures,big woman sex,mujer madura sexo,erotica,milf (Spanish Edition) Woman Defamed and Woman Defended: An Anthology of Medieval Texts BODY LANGUAGE : Decoding Alpha Male Body Language, Instantly Attract Any Woman Without Saying a Single word. (Body Language 101, Alpha male, Attract woman, ... Seduce Women, Eye Contact, Body Language) Qur'an and Woman: Rereading the Sacred Text from a Woman's Perspective

[Dmca](#)