



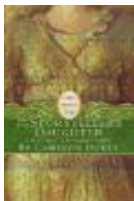
TALES FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

by Kara Pearson 7/10

The Middle East has a long and interesting history. Here are some novels and non-fiction about the region that are entertaining and insightful.

Middle Eastern Booklist

 =place hold on audiobook version of this title



Place hold

THE STORYTELLER'S DAUGHTER

By Cameron Dokey

Call #: YF Dokey

A king, betrayed by his queen, vows to take a bride for one night only. In the morning she will face a terrible fate, and he will choose another. Nothing can change his course, until Shahrazad seeks to restore his heart with words.



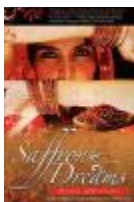
Place hold

SHADOW SPINNER

By Susan Fletcher

Call #: YF Fletcher

When Marjan, a thirteen-year-old crippled girl, joins the Sultan's harem in ancient Persia, she gathers for Shahrazad the stories which will save the queen's life.



Place hold

SAFFRON DREAMS

By Shaila Abdullah

Call #: F Abdullah

After her husband's death in the World Trade Center, the discovery of his manuscript marks Arissa's reconnection to life. Her unborn son and the unfinished novel fuse in her mind into one life-defining project that becomes, at once, the struggle for her emotional survival and the redemption of her race.



Place hold

MORNINGS IN JENIN

By Susan Abulhawa

Call #: F Abulhawa

Explores how several generations of one Palestinian family cope with the loss of their land after the 1948 creation of Israel and their subsequent life in Palestine, which is often marred by war and violence.





Place hold

THE HAKAWATI

By Rabih Alameddine

Call #: F Alameddine

In 2003, Osama al-Kharrat returns to Beirut after many years in America to stand vigil at his father's deathbed. The city is a shell of the Beirut Osama remembers, but he and his friends and family take solace in the things that have always sustained them: gossip, laughter, and, above all, stories.



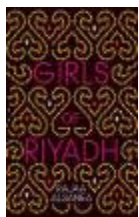
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THE LAST OF THE ANGELS

By Fadhil Al-Azzawi

Call #: F Al-Azzawi

Losing his job with the British-run Iraq Petroleum Company amid rumors that he propositioned his boss's wife, chauffeur Hameed Nylon of 1950s Kirkuk becomes an unlikely labor organizer and revolutionary when his termination sparks local outrage and demonstrations.



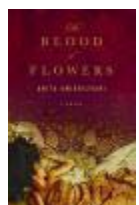
Place hold

GIRLS OF RIYADH

By Rajaa Alsanea

Call #: F Alsanea

This debut novel reveals the social, romantic, and sexual tribulations of four women from the elite classes of Saudi Arabia. In fifty emails over the course of a year, we witness the tragicomic reality of four university students negotiating their love lives, their professional success, and their rebellions, against their cultural traditions.



Place hold

THE BLOOD OF FLOWERS

By Anita Amirrezvani

Call #: F Amirrezvani

After her father dies without leaving her with a dowry, a seventeenth-century Persian teen becomes a servant to her wealthy rug designer uncle in the court of Shah Abbas the Great, where her weaving talents prove both a blessing and curse.



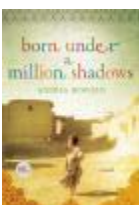
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MAPS FOR LOST LOVERS

By Nadeem Aslam

Call #: F Aslam

The disappearance of Jugnu and Chanda turns tragic when Chanda's brothers are arrested for their murders and the families struggle to reconcile their Islamic faith and the crime's impact on their families.



Place hold

BORN UNDER A MILLION SHADOWS

By Andrea Busfield

Call #: F Busfield

In post-Taliban Afghanistan, Fawad and his mother move in with a Western woman who has a relationship with a notorious Afghan warlord, and soon, a horrible tragedy threatens to destroy Fawad's love for his country.





[Place hold](#)

THE MERCHANT AND THE ALCHEMIST'S GATE

By Ted Chiang

Call #: F Chiang (Sci-Fi/Fantasy Area)

A Baghdad merchant, who discovers an alchemical device that can send him back in time twenty years, tries to return to an earlier time to save his dead wife.



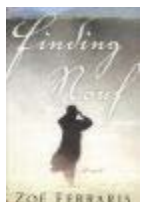
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THE SAFFRON KITCHEN

By Yasmin Crowther

Call #: F Crowther

On a blustery day in London, the dark secrets and troubled past of Maryam Mazar surface violently, with tragic consequences for her daughter Sara and her newly orphaned nephew Saeed.



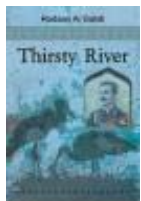
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FINDING NOUF

By Zoe Ferraris

Call #: F Ferraris (Mystery Area)

When sixteen-year-old Nouf goes missing and is found drowned in the desert outside Jeddah, Nayir--a desert guide hired by her prominent family to search for her--feels compelled to find out what really happened.



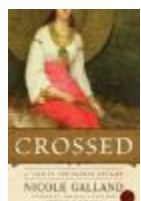
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THIRSTY RIVER

By Rodaan Al Galidi

Call #: F Galidi

A family's destiny is intimately tied to the rise and fall of Saddam Hussein in this novel, the first about the U.S. war to be written by an Iraqi. The story follows four generations of the Bird family, who live on the banks of the Thirsty River in southern Iraq.



[Place hold](#)

CROSSED: A TALE OF THE FOURTH CRUSADE

By Nicole Galland

Call #: F Galland

Briton, a vagabond, and his knight protector try to return an Arab princess to her home in the Holy Land, as they are drawn into the violence of the Fourth Crusade and the impending sack of Constantinople.



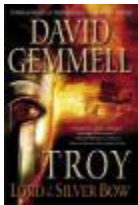
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THE NIGHTINGALE

By Morgana Gallaway

Call #: F Gallaway (Romance Area)

Set in war-torn Iraq, a woman must choose between adhering to strict traditions and wearing the hijab, or allowing new American friends to influence her future life.



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LORD OF THE SILVER BOW

By David Gemmell

Call #: F Gemmell (Sci-Fi/Fantasy Area)

A retelling of the legend of the Trojan War chronicles the exploits of Aeneas, the Lord of the Silver Bow, a powerful warrior known as Helikaon to his friends, as he engages Argurios, a warrior of Agamemnon, in a battle to the death.



Place hold

A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS

By Khalid Hosseini

Call #: F Hosseini

Mariam and Laila are born a generation apart but are brought together by war and fate. Together they endure the dangers surrounding them and discover the power of both love and sacrifice.



Place hold

NAJILA

By C.J. Illinik

Call #: F Illinik

Najila is an independent, assertive Persian princess whose heart is torn between two faiths and the two people closest to her.



Place hold

THE AGE OF ORPHANS

By Laleh Khadivi

Call #: F Khadivi

His innocence shattered when his parents are massacred by the soldiers of Iran's new shah, a young boy is taken in by the same army that killed his family, hides the truth about his Kurdish origins, and is instructed to kill his own people.



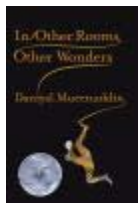
Place hold

CENSORING AN IRANIAN LOVE STORY

By Shahriar Mandanipour

Call #: F Mandanipour

Seamlessly entwining two related narratives, Mandanipour unfolds the tale of an Iranian writer attempting to pen a love story set in present-day Iran. Similar to Romeo and Juliet.



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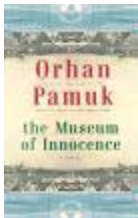
IN OTHER ROOMS, OTHER WONDERS

By Daniyal Mueenuddin

Call #: F Mueenuddin

A volume of linked stories describes the intertwined lives of landowners and their retainers on the Gurmani family farm in Pakistan, in a collection that explores such themes as culture, class power, and desire.





Place hold

THE MUSEUM OF INNOCENCE

By Orhan Pamuk

Call #: F Pamuk

Kemal, scion of one of the city's wealthiest families, is about to become engaged to Sibel, daughter of another prominent family, when he encounters Fusun, a beautiful shopgirl and a distant relation. Thus begins an obsessive but tragic love affair that will transform itself into a compulsive collection of objects.



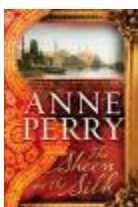
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THE VIRGIN'S KNOT

By Holly Payne

Call #: F Payne

Preparing dowries in the form of mystical healing rugs for young brides, celebrated virgin Turkish weaver Nurdane questions the limitations of her faith and culture when she is forced to choose between her craft and her chance for a loving life.



Place hold

THE SHEEN ON THE SILK

By Anne Perry

Call #: F Perry

Arriving in the ancient Byzantine city in the year 1273, Anna Zarides has only one mission: to prove the innocence of her twin brother, Justinian, who has been exiled to the desert for conspiring to kill Bessarion, a nobleman.



Place hold

THE SAMARITAN'S SECRET

By Matt Rees

Call #: F Rees (Mystery Area)

A member of the tiny but ancient Samaritan community has been murdered. The dead man had controlled millions of dollars of government money and if the World Bank cannot locate it, all aid money to the Palestinians will be cut off. Omar Yussef must solve the murder and find the money, or all Palestinians will suffer.



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LIKE MAYFLIES IN A STREAM

By Shauna Roberts

Call #: F Roberts

A novel set in ancient Mesopotamia, approximately 4,750 years ago.



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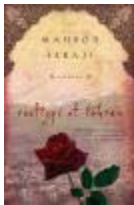
THE ENCHANTRESS OF FLORENCE

By Salmon Rushdie

Call #: F Rushdie

Rushdie pens the story of a European traveler and the extraordinary tale he shares with 16th-century Mughal emperor Akbar the Great. The traveler claims to be the son of a Mughal princess forgotten by time.





[Place hold](#)

ROOFTOPS OF TEHRAN

By Mahbod Seraji



Call #: F Seraji

In a middle-class neighborhood of Iran's sprawling capital city, 17-year-old Pasha Shahed spends one perfect, stolen summer with his beautiful neighbor, Zari, until he unwittingly guides the Shah's secret police to their target: Zari's intended.



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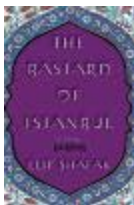
THE WISH MAKER

By Ali Sethi



Call #: F Sethi

Cousins Zaki and Samar grow up in a household of strong women just as incredible social and political changes grip their country of Pakistan.



[Place hold](#)

THE BASTARD OF ISTANBUL

By Elif Shafak



Call #: F Shafak

Turkish teen Asya is coming of age under the wing of her tattoo-parlor owner mother and her three aunts, befriending a cousin from America, and discovering a secret that links her family to the 1915 Armenian deportations and massacres.



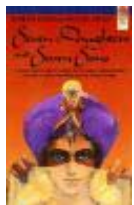
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THE WINTER THIEF

By Jenny White

Call #: F White

Special Prosecutor Kamil Pasha encounters his most ruthless adversary to date: Vahid, who has convinced the sultan that a socialist commune is leading a secessionist movement and should be destroyed--along with surrounding villages.



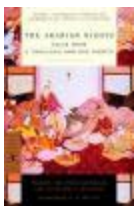
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SEVEN DAUGHTERS AND SEVEN SONS

By Barbara Cohen

Call #: Y 398.209 Coh

A retelling of a traditional Arabic tale in which a young woman disguises herself as a man and opens up a shop in a distant city in order to help her impoverished family.



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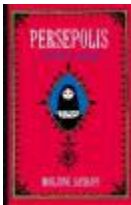
THE ARABIAN NIGHTS

By Richard F. Burton

Call #: 398.22 Ara

The Arabian Nights written by legendary author Richard Burton is widely considered to be one of the greatest classic and historical texts of all time. This great classic will surely attract a whole new generation of readers.





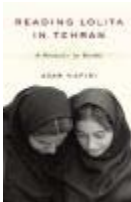
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PERSEPOLIS

By Marjane Satrapi

Call #: 741.594 Sat (Graphic Novel Area)

An intelligent and outspoken only child, Satrapi--the daughter of radical Marxists and the great-granddaughter of Iran's last emperor--bears witness to a childhood uniquely entwined with the history of her country.



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READING LOLITA IN TEHRAN

By Azar Nafisi

Call #: 820.9 Naf

For two years before she left Iran in 1997, Nafisi gathered seven young women at her house every Thursday morning to read and discuss forbidden works of Western literature. They were unaccustomed to being asked to speak their minds, but soon they began to open up and to speak more freely, not only about the novels they were reading but also about themselves, their dreams and disappointments.

