Highly symbolic and often misunderstood, Muslim women's wearing of the veil sometimes evokes passionate responses, from other Muslims as well as from non-Muslims. In this insightful and often surprising analysis, Harvard University professor Leila Ahmed describes the adoption of hijab (the practice of wearing head coverings and other concealing garments in public) as a "quiet revolution" among Muslim women. Ahmed intertwines her observations as a scholar of feminism and Islam with her own history growing up in a mid-twentieth-century family in Egypt, adding nuance and complexity to Americans' understanding of the recent resurgence of hijab. In *A Quiet Revolution*, Ahmed explores the meaning of concepts such as "secular," "Islamist," and "feminist" in thought-provoking ways that challenge the widely held misconception that all Muslim women are passive and oppressed.

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Richly insightful, intricately drawn, and passionately argued, this absorbing story of the veil's resurgence, from Egypt through Saudi Arabia and into the West, suggests a dramatically new portrait of contemporary Islam. Likewise, the prohibition against attracting the male gaze regulates female body language and behavior in a mixed gender environment. Perhaps no other concept has been more hotly contested in the literature on Muslim women than the veil (Mernissi 1992; Secor 2010; Ahmed 2012). Nowadays, especially in the diaspora, the practice of wearing a hijab can be interpreted as signaling a variety of attitudes; it can function as a sign of religiosity, respect for tradition, political beliefs or a
combination of any them (Secor 2010). “A Quiet Revolution is an important book. It provides a thorough history of the resurgence of the veil both in the Muslim world and in the U.S. and adds significant nuance to the complex issues that surround the veil. Ahmed’s work will no doubt continue to inspire a new generation of Muslim feminists.”—Los Angeles Times. “The book’s critical and self-consciously feminist perspective makes a valuable contribution to the existing literature.”—J. Hammar, Choice. In this wonderful book, Ahmed explores the

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