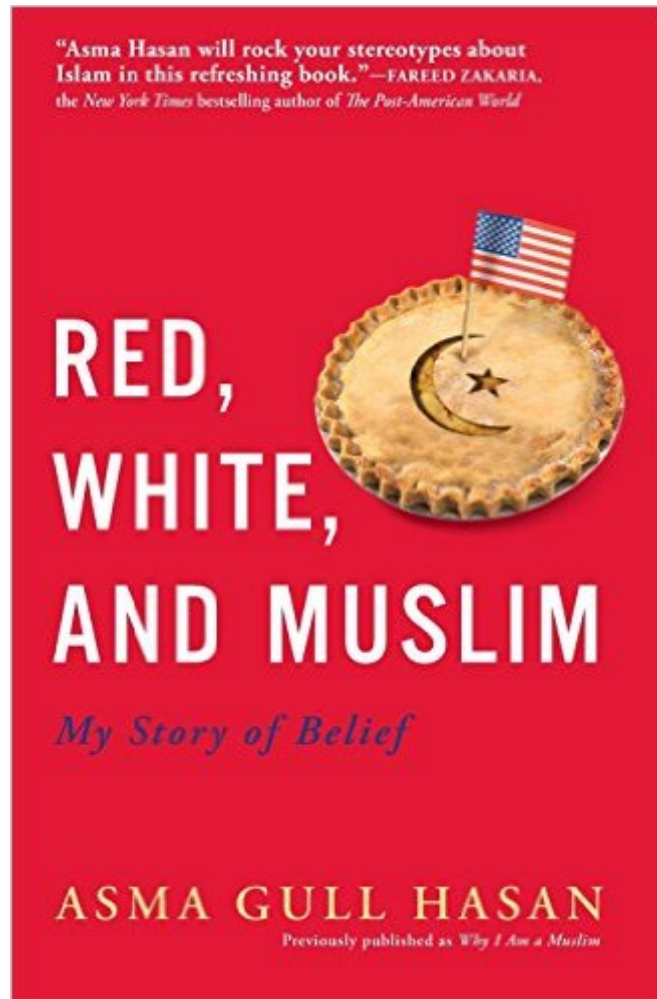


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Red, White, And Muslim: My Story Of Belief



Synopsis

An Inspiring Account of One Woman's Journey to Reclaim Her Spiritual and Cultural Identity For Asma Hasan, being a Muslim is not merely a matter of birth, but a matter of choice and faith. Hasan's personal relationship with her religion was, and continues to be, a defining element of her life, and through her writing she inspires a new understanding and appreciation of a frequently misunderstood tradition. This is her American story.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I like Asma Hasan, not in a sexual way, but as a decent respectable Muslim. I think she is a smart lawyer who knows how to put words together and knows how to wear makeup too. I am not a relative or friend reviewing this book but I hope that my words can reach Asma as honest criticism. I read some of the stories in the book and I nodded with approval such as when she talked about verses in the Quran being read out of context. She mentioned the verse that says Muslims should not take Jews and Christians as friends. Asma says the word "friends" should have been protectors but since the Pakistani Quranic translator Yusuf Ali was not an Arab, he did not consider the difference and made the verse appear as if Muslims could never be friends with Christians or Jews. She also said a few things that made my right eyebrow go up as I frowned such as on page 125 when she said that abortion might be allowed in Islam within the first trimester and this is according to some Islamic scholars. She also says Islam is "totally against the murdering of a child after she has been born." Islam is totally against the killing of babies before they are born and the scholars Imam Al-Gazali and Ibn Jawziyyah are in agreement on that. The only exception is in the

case of a mother's life being in danger if she gives birth or in cases of a woman being raped. I could not even find a verse in the Quran that says a soul is breathed into the womb after 90 days, but even if it existed, I still don't think that would give a woman the right to abort her baby because her career has not taken off yet. The thing that I think Asma fails to do and the reason why many Muslims may have animosity towards her is her failure to criticize American foreign policy.

I have decidedly mixed reactions to this book. On the one hand, Asma Gull Hasan is a real charmer, and easy to like. She does give one hope that Muslims can join into American society. Her book may help people understand that forms of Islam and Muslims vary and they are not all violent fanatics. On the other hand, she doesn't deal with other varieties of Islam, and some Muslims have criticized her for being insufficiently devout. It is interesting to read this book along with Wafa Sultan's *A God Who Hates: The Courageous Woman Who Inflamed the Muslim World Speaks Out Against the Evils of Islam*. So although we may like Hasan, she doesn't speak for all Muslims. I distinguish here between Islam and individual Muslims, just as my abandonment of Christianity has not made me hostile to all Christians. Some are very liberal, and came here because they like the social and political atmosphere. Others despise the United States and don't want to integrate into civil society. It is possible and acceptable within some limits, to live by one's own rules, as the Amish do, but they accept the consequences of living out of the mainstream, and dissenters have to be free to leave. But there is the case of the cab drivers in Minnesota who are fighting to be allowed to refuse taxi service to anyone with alcohol in their possession, or a dog (such as a blind person with a seeing-eye dog), or the parents who wanted their children released from school early on Fridays, or others who demand to be permitted to refuse to handle alcohol or pork products in a grocery store, instead of say, finding a job where those products aren't sold.

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