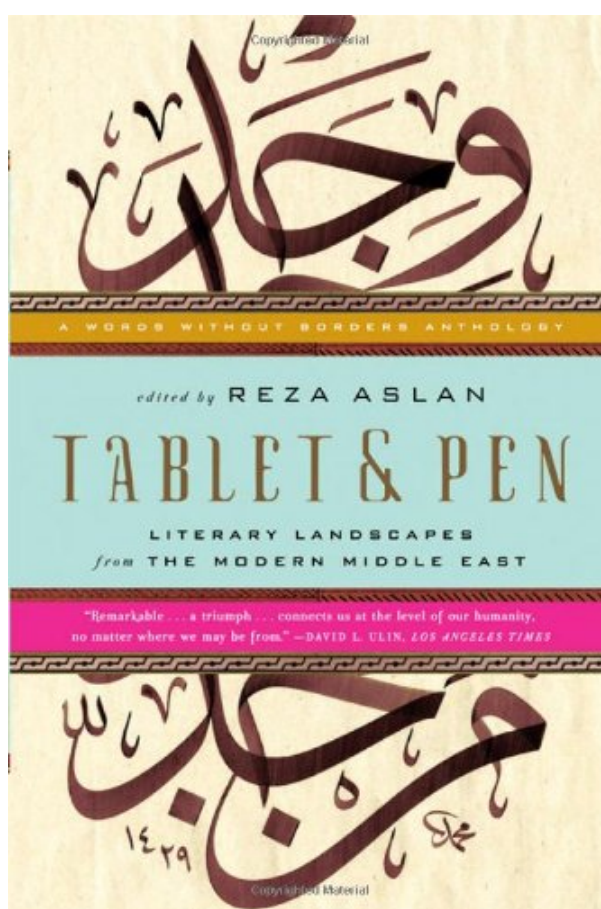
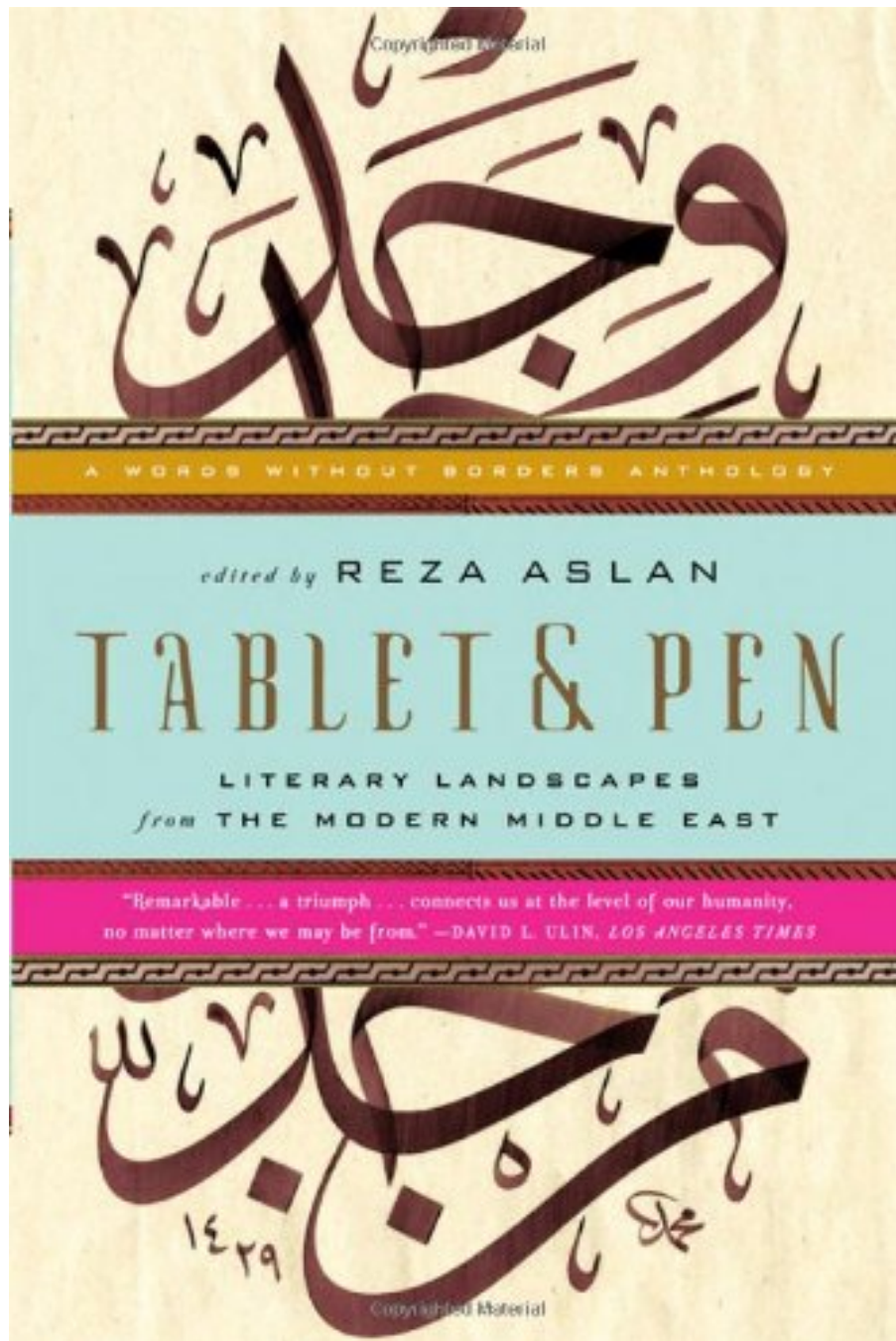


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A Words Without Borders Anthology

“Remarkable . . . a triumph . . . connects us at the level of our humanity, no matter where we may be from.”?Los Angeles Times

The countries that stretch along the broad horizons of the Middle East?from Morocco to Iran, from Turkey to Pakistan?boast different cultures, different languages, and different religions. Yet the literary landscape of this dynamic part of the world has been bound together not by borders and nationalities, but by a common experience of Western imperialism. Keenly aware of the collected scars left by a legacy of colonial rule, the acclaimed writer Reza Aslan, with a team of four regional editors and seventy-seven translators, cogently demonstrates with *Tablet and Pen* how literature can, in fact, be used to form identity and serve as an extraordinary chronicle of the disrupted histories of the region.

Acting with *Words Without Borders*, which fosters international exchange through translation and publication of the world’s finest literature, Aslan has purposefully situated this volume in the twentieth century, beyond the familiar confines of the Ottoman past, believing that the writers who have emerged in the last hundred years have not received their full due. This monumental collection, therefore, of nearly two hundred pieces, including short stories, novels, memoirs, essays and works of drama?many of them presented in English for the first time?features translated works from Arabic, Persian, Urdu, and Turkish. Organized chronologically, the volume spans a century of literature?from the famed Arab poet Khalil Gibran to the Nobel laureates Naguib Mahfouz and Orhan Pamuk, from the great Syrian-Lebanese poet Adonis to the grand dame of Urdu fiction, Ismat Chughtai?connected by the extraordinarily rich tradition of resplendent cultures that have been all too often ignored by the Western canon.

By shifting America’s perception of the Middle Eastern world away from religion and politics, *Tablet and Pen* evokes the splendors of a region through the voices of its writers and poets, whose literature tells an urgent and liberating story. With a wealth of contextual information that places the writing within the historical, political, and cultural breadth of the region, *Tablet & Pen* is transcendent, a book to be devoured as a single sustained narrative, from the first page to the last. Creating a vital bridge between two estranged cultures, "this is that rare anthology: cohesive, affecting, and informing" (Publishers Weekly).

Includes the writings of Kahlil Gibran, Tawfiq al-Hakim, Nâzim Hikmet, Ismat Chughtai, Muhammad Iqbal, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, Forugh Farrokhzad, Ahmet Hamdi Tanpınar, Ya?ar Kemal, Ghassan Kanafani, Mahmoud Darwish, Adonis, Ahmad Shamloo, Naguib Mahfouz, Orhan Pamuk, and more.

- Sales Rank: #81746 in Books
- Published on: 2011-11-21
- Original language: English

- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.10" h x 1.30" w x 5.50" l, 1.05 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 657 pages

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25 of 32 people found the following review helpful.

A Sumptuous, Beautiful, and Ingenious M lange of Subaltern Literary Genius & A Significant Step In "Re-Humanizing" The Orient

By ReaderWriter

Among his many great accomplishments, it is worth mentioning that Reza Aslan is a Truman Capote Fellow in Fiction at the Iowa Writers' Workshop; This is the same "Iowa Writers' Workshop" which brought us gems, like Marilynne Robinson and Sandra Cisneros, and whose writers have earned countless Pulitzer prizes.

I urge anyone reading this review to click the "Look Inside" feature above.

Just read the "Author Biographies"(starting on page 611) and you will come to understand the sheer magnitude and diversity of middle-eastern literature we have been missing out on- and the importance of such an anthology!

Reza Aslan is a sophisticated and charismatic advocate of cultural pluralism and an invaluable moderate voice in the twilight of religious and political reformation.

Watch him discuss this book (and provide some comic-relief) on this clip from The Colbert Report:

[...]

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

A gem. A must have in your personal library collection. About the human beings in the Middle East

By Fazeel Chauhan

The book is beautiful. A great scholarly work, with about 77 translators. They have done a lot of work in selecting the best, from the huge amount of literature out there in the middle east. A truly enjoyable book, which I initially got from the library, then had to purchase a copy of my own. Could not resist. A gem. Listening to the junk news every day in America, You feel like so cut off from this immense world which exists in the middle east. The beauty of every day life. The richness in writing, which I often find lacking in the the West among literature in English. This books gives a positive perspective of the people of the Middle east and makes them human

6 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

Interesting Read

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