



Saints and Misfits

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Book Club Discussion Questions

1. What did you like most and least about the book?
2. Which characters did you love/hate? Is there a character that you especially related to?
3. Does the Muslim community in the book look like the one you grew up in (if you grew up in a Muslim community)?
4. Janna calls herself a misfit. In what sense is she a misfit?
5. The author uses a unique system for her chapter titles. What do the chapter titles reflect about the way Janna views her world? Is she right?
6. Why does Janna treat her brother the way she does? What about Nuah?
7. The relationship between clothing and supposed religiosity comes up again and again. What is Janna's view? Are we a community that is excessively concerned with visual representations of faith?
8. In a lot of ways, Janna occupies two worlds—the world of school and Tats and the world of the mosque and Fizz. Is she two different people in the two spaces or does she manage to stay authentic?
9. Farooq takes advantage of a double standard when he (implicitly) posts about Janna on Facebook. How does this kind of a double standard show up elsewhere in the novel? What in Janna's world contributes to or perpetuates it? What about in our world?
10. This book is published by a mainstream (i.e. non-Islamic) publishing house. What do you think of the representation of a North American Muslim Community/of North American Muslims/of hijabis and niqabis?
11. On page 184, Janna describes Aliya as “a jolly, wholesome, triangular-scarf-wearing, kind soul.” How is Janna's description based on hijab shape different from judging people based on the traditional-ness of their clothing?
12. Direct us to a scene to read together.
13. Share a favorite quote.