

*Hijab Butch Blues* by Lamya H.

Book club at Comstock Township Library Thurs. 3/28/24 at 5:30 PM

Discussion questions

\*Note that the author uses both she and they pronouns. Please use either one during our discussion. I have used they/them pronouns in the questions below.

- 1) Did you finish the book? What was your overall opinion of it?
- 2) Did you have a favorite essay or story?
- 3) What are Lamya's experiences of being queer, Muslim, and an immigrant like? How do those experiences and identities compare and differ from one another?
- 4) Lamya expresses different aspects of their identity in different settings. Do you find yourself expressing yourself similarly, where you act a certain way or discuss certain topics in only in specific situations or with specific people? Have you found a community you can be completely yourself around?
- 5) As a child, Lamya questions why God is always gendered as male. They continue to study the Quran throughout adult life and interpret it their own way, including thinking of God as genderqueer. Did you ever question or reinterpret the cultural or religious teachings that you grew up with?
- 6) If you were to write your memoir, are there any books, folktales, or stories that would frame it, like how Lamya used the stories of the Quran to structure their memoir?
- 7) Did reading *Hijab Butch Blues* open your eyes to any new perspectives?
- 8) Are there any questions you would ask the author if you could?

9) The title of the book is based off Leslie Feinberg's 1993 book *Stone Butch Blues*. Have you read *Stone Butch Blues*? Have you read much queer literature, or are you interested in queer literature?

10) Would you recommend *Hijab Butch Blues* to others?

## Resources

Author interviews:

Haines, Nina. (2023). Sapp-Lit in conversation with Lamya H. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPFSTQXE45o> (approx. 1 hour long video on Youtube).

Sultan, Sabir. (2023). The Pen Ten: An interview with Lamya H. *Pen America*. <https://pen.org/the-pen-ten-an-interview-with-lamya-h/>

Other essays from Lamya, linked from her website:

<https://www.lamyah.com/essays>