

# Growing Up Feminist in Muslim Land: A Journey of Identity and Liberation

Ayesha Mattu's memoir, *Growing Up Feminist in Muslim Land*, is a powerful and moving account of her experiences growing up as a feminist in a Muslim-majority country. Mattu, who is now a professor of gender studies at the University of California, Berkeley, writes with a rare candor and vulnerability about the challenges and rewards of living an authentic life in a society that often seeks to silence women's voices.

*Growing Up Feminist in Muslim Land* is a coming-of-age story that follows Mattu from her childhood in Pakistan to her adolescence in the United States and her eventual return to Pakistan as an adult. Along the way, she grapples with questions of faith, identity, and gender. She explores the ways in which Islam has been used to justify the oppression of women, and she challenges the patriarchal structures that persist in many Muslim societies.



## **Growing Up Feminist in a Muslim Land** by Amira Nowaira

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 336 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 79 pages  
Lending : Enabled

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Mattu's writing is both personal and political. She draws on her own experiences to illuminate the larger issues facing Muslim women today. She writes about the challenges of wearing the hijab, the importance of education for girls, and the fight against gender-based violence. She also writes about the beauty and diversity of Muslim culture, and she celebrates the strength and resilience of Muslim women.

*Growing Up Feminist in Muslim Land* is a must-read for anyone who is interested in understanding the complex and often contradictory experiences of Muslim women. It is a powerful and inspiring story of one woman's journey toward self-discovery and liberation.

### **Growing Up in Pakistan**

Ayesha Mattu was born in Lahore, Pakistan, in 1975. Her parents were both devout Muslims, and she was raised in a traditional household. From a young age, Mattu was aware of the different expectations that society had for boys and girls. Boys were expected to be strong and independent, while girls were expected to be docile and obedient.

Mattu began to question these gender roles at a young age. She was frustrated by the way that women were treated as second-class citizens in her society. She was also troubled by the way that Islam was used to justify the oppression of women.

When Mattu was 13 years old, her family moved to the United States. This was a major turning point in her life. In the United States, she was exposed to a different way of life. She saw women who were strong, independent, and successful. She also saw women who were open about their sexuality and their bodies.

Mattu's experiences in the United States led her to question many of the beliefs that she had been raised with. She began to see that there was more than one way to be a Muslim woman. She also began to understand the importance of fighting for her rights.

## **Returning to Pakistan**

After graduating from college, Mattu returned to Pakistan. She was eager to use her education to help improve the lives of women in her home country. She worked with a number of organizations that were dedicated to promoting gender equality. She also wrote about her experiences as a feminist in Pakistan.

Mattu's work in Pakistan was not without its challenges. She faced opposition from both conservative Muslims and from Western feminists. Some conservative Muslims accused her of being a traitor to her faith. Some Western feminists accused her of being too apologetic toward Islam.

Despite the challenges, Mattu continued to work for the rights of Muslim women. She believed that Islam was a religion of justice and equality, and she was determined to fight for the rights of women within the framework of her faith.

## **The Power of Storytelling**

*Growing Up Feminist in Muslim Land* is a powerful and inspiring story. It is a story about the challenges and rewards of living an authentic life in a society that often seeks to silence women's voices. It is a story about the importance of education, the fight for gender equality, and the power of storytelling.

Mattu's memoir is a valuable contribution to the growing body of literature on Muslim women. It is a book that will challenge readers to think critically about the issues facing Muslim women today. It is also a book that will inspire readers to fight for justice and equality for all.

## Discussion Questions

1. What are the challenges that Muslim women face today?
2. How can we work to promote gender equality in Muslim societies?
3. What is the role of storytelling in the fight for social justice?



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