

BookMarks

Presumed Guilty: Why We Shouldn't Ask Muslims to Condemn Terrorism

By Todd H. Green
Fortress, 194 pp.,
\$16.99 paperback

From Sean Hannity to Barack Obama to Pope Francis, people of influence are asking Muslims—both leaders and everyday people of faith—to condemn terrorism. Todd Green, a former U.S. State Department adviser on Islam who teaches religious studies at Luther College, argues that there are three reasons Christians shouldn't demand that Muslims denounce terrorism. Such demands falsely connect Islam with terrorism, ignore the ways in which most Muslims are already denouncing terrorism, and deflect attention from the history of violence and terror perpetrated by Christians. Green addresses tough issues (from *jihad* to waterboarding) with a simple underlying mandate, that we “love our Muslim neighbors as ourselves.”

A Place for Us: A Novel

By Fatima Farheen Mirza
SJP for Hogarth, 400 pp., \$27.00

This gorgeous debut novel chronicles the fierce love and many misunderstandings within a Shi'ite Muslim family living in Southern California. As Hadia, Huda, and Amar grow up, they struggle to define their relationship to Islam, their strict parents, and one another. Fatima Farheen Mirza shifts between perspectives and across timelines, revealing gradually the details of events and the characters' emotions. Woven throughout the novel are deep questions. Can family members save one another? Are there sins so bad that they can't be forgiven? Of God's 99 names, how do we balance the Avenger and the Firm with the Forgiving and the Patient? At its heart, this is a story about sin, mercy, and the depth of divine and human love.



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