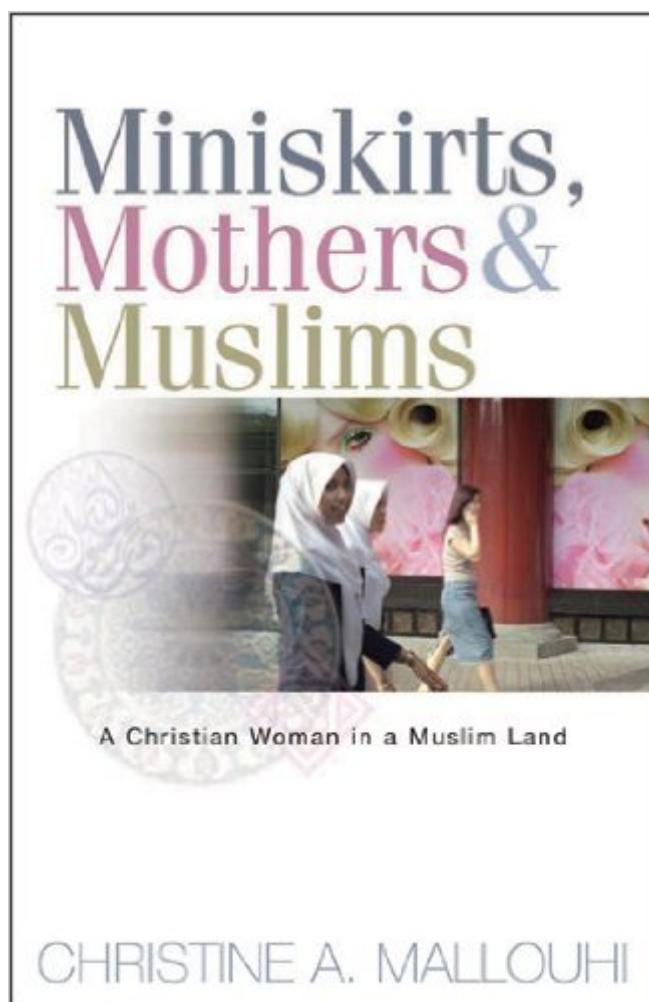


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# Miniskirts, Mothers, And Muslims: A Christian Woman In A Muslim Land



## **Synopsis**

A startling look at the Muslim world, through the eyes of a Western Christian in a Muslim family. For Christians who work with, live with, or minister to Muslims, this book helps explain the world of Muslim women. Topics include role models, segregation, restrictions, opportunities, family life, and unwritten rules.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I HIGHLY recommend this book for any woman working or wanting to work in an Middle East/Arab world. It even has implications for countries where Islam is more of a cultural thing than it is a strict religious attachment. Mallouhi has great perspective and will definitely open your eyes to the ways and thinkings of many Muslim cultures. While specifics will differ from Muslim country to Muslim country, the principles are the same. In order to be effective ministers, we need to understand those principles! You must read this book before starting a ministry overseas!

This book is meant to improve one's effectiveness at Christian ministry in Arab countries by teaching the principle that if you do not respect culturally established norms, you and your religion will not be seen with respect. If you're a non-Muslim who likes to (or wants to) see things from different perspectives, a careful reading of this book may give you some new material to wrap your open mind around. But it's important to note that Muslim is not synonymous with Arab, and this book almost exclusively concerns Arab countries.

I enjoyed this book and appreciated hearing about this author's particular experiences in various Arab countries, however, it is definitely a book for missionaries. It seems like she is advocating respect for Muslims, but mainly in order to open the door for them to be lead to Christianity. All in all I did enjoy the author's stories, and it was thought-provoking.

I've traveled in many Asian, non-Arab countries, as well as several European and North and South American countries. I've interacted with Muslims as well as others of many persuasions including religious and non-religious. I'd say even more so today than when the book first came out: These principles apply very appropriately to intercultural and inter-religious discussion in ANY country. Of course, not all Muslims have the same standards of modesty, for example and there is also great variety among Christians. The relevance is certainly not restricted to the Arab world, or even to the Arabs alone who come to live in the west or farther east, but also to Indians, Malay, Indonesians, Turkic, or Chinese. I recommend this book to anyone, including non-Christians, whose work or interest includes Muslims, or maybe even conservative Mennonites in Edmonton! Some Indonesian friends once shared with me that in their country of many cultures and languages, it is their custom when they have a guest over to research the cultural etiquette of their guest and then try to arrange food and decorum that will please the person from that culture. You don't have to be a Missionary or even a Christian to express such politeness and it will improve your mutual understanding.

Christine Mallouhi writes from the interesting perspective of a Western Christian missionary living in various, mostly Arabic-speaking Muslim countries. Learning over many years through trial and error and with the help of her Arabic, conservatively raised husband, the author repeatedly emphasizes and offers numerous examples of the importance of showing respect to other cultures in order to be respected and accepted in turn, especially important when one is trying to spread one's religious values. Although written to help other Christian missionaries understand how to be true to their faith and set a good example as Westerners as well, anyone can learn from this book about the fascinating world of Arabic cultures and how even within areas of one country Muslim Arabs cannot be pigeonholed into stereotypes. While some readers may dislike the advice to change one's dress and mannerisms to better fit in with a different culture, especially one which they find confusing and perhaps oppressive, one cannot deny the benefits of doing so - when in Rome, do as the Romans do - in order to gain understanding of a different culture, to make life easier, and to enjoy new friendships.

Christine's book is essential reading for anyone who wants to live in a Muslim country or community in such a way as to avoid causing offence. She has lived in many Middle Eastern and North African lands and has raised up her 2 boys there. She speaks from personal experience with many factual stories of real experiences to help both men & women learn how to build effective bridges of friendship in a Muslim culture.

In college my major was Islamic studies. I read a large amount of books on Islam. I believe this is the best book for anyone working with Muslims to gain a valid cultural perspective. If you are planning on working overseas in a Muslim country, this is a must read. It is very easy to read and not full of history. It is practical and right on. I would highly recommend this book.

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