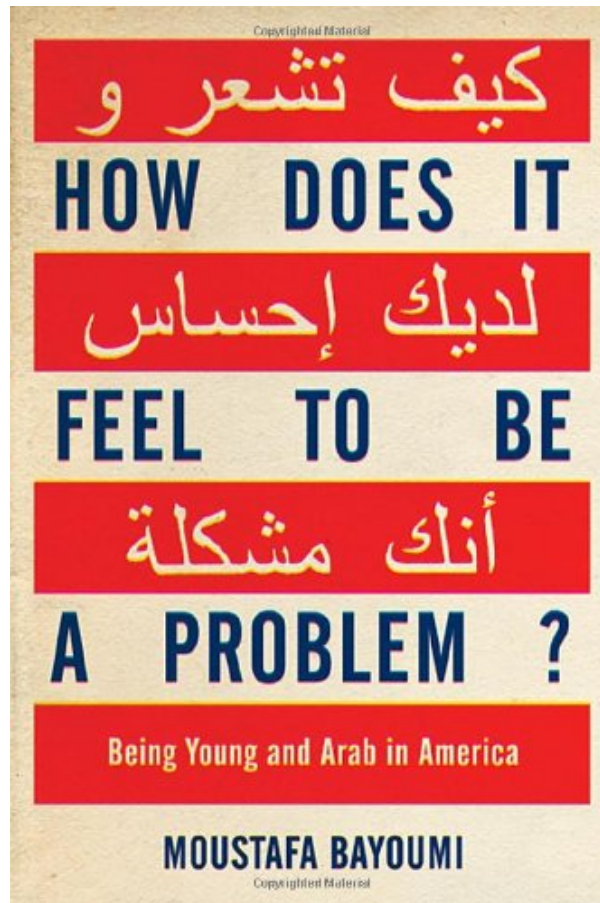
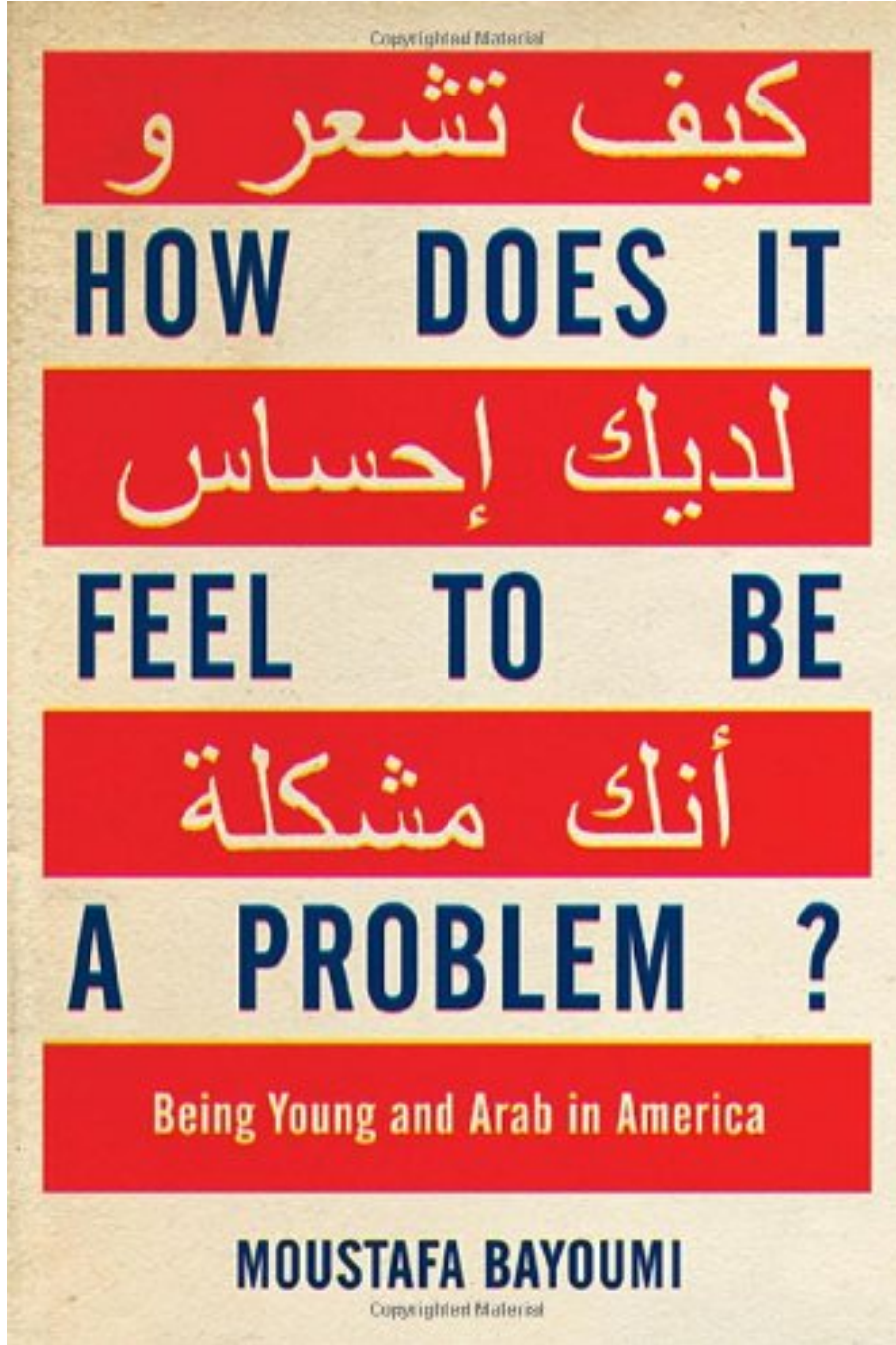


HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE A PROBLEM?: BEING YOUNG AND ARAB IN AMERICA BY MOUSTAFA BAYOUMI



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An eye-opening look at how young Arab- and Muslim- Americans are forging lives for themselves in a country that often mistakes them for the enemy

Just over a century ago , W.E.B. Du Bois posed a probing question in his classic *The Souls of Black Folk*: How does it feel to be a problem? Now, Moustafa Bayoumi asks the same about America's new "problem"- Arab- and Muslim-Americans. Bayoumi takes readers into the lives of seven twenty-somethings living in Brooklyn, home to the largest Arab-American population in the United States. He moves beyond stereotypes and clichés to reveal their often unseen struggles, from being subjected to government surveillance to the indignities of workplace discrimination. Through it all, these young men and women persevere through triumphs and setbacks as they help weave the tapestry of a new society that is, at its heart, purely American.

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- 304 pages

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- Used Book in Good Condition

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Important book to get a conversation about a racism and profiling

By K. Sue

I came across this book in an article in the local Sunday paper as the author will be appearing at Millersville University. First off, kudos to MU for making this book required reading for all its incoming freshman. They want to spotlight the Middle East and the experiences of Arabs in the US post 9/11. Second of all, as the American-born mother of three Arab American teens, who have been confronted with their Arab identity, I was very interested to know what else might they face and how others have dealt with it.

First of the writing is superb. It's intelligent but easily accessible. There's no dumbing down or superficial smarting up. It's a book that can be used in a university course as well as read but the average person who wants to educate themselves. There's no political agenda. The goal of the book is simply to inform.

The book contains the stories of 7 Arab American young people who live in Brooklyn. Some were born there. Others came at a young age. All are American citizens. Some are not easily recognized on the street as Arabs. Some wear traditional Muslim dress. Some are Christian. Some are Muslim. All have dealt with their Arab and American identities but in different ways. For someone, like me, who is well aware of the problems Arab Americans have faced, I can't say anything shocked me or surprised me. What impressed me was the profiles in courage that are presented. I really love that strong Arab women are presented fighting for their rights and not pictured as oppressed. I really respect and admire Yasmin for not giving up in her struggle and her father who supported her even when he wasn't always sure that what she wanted was in her best interest.

This book would be a great high school, college or book group selection to start a conversation about racism and profiling. The study questions at the end really help put yourself in the Arab shoes and make you

consider how you would react in these situations.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

We all have the same struggles, hopes, and dreams.....

By L. Hall

Raw, honest, thought-provoking. Would love to know what these young men and women are up to today, 9 years after the book was published.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Five Stars

By Mary Frances

everyone should read this book.

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