

Etaf Rum	
(AUTHOR)	
A Woman Is No Man	
(BOOK TITLE)	
DATE	TIME
08 SEPT 2020	8:00PM EDT

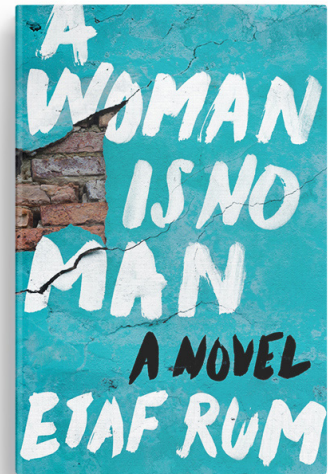
HOLLY FURTICK

Book Club!



HOLLY FURTICK

# Book Club!



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The daughter of Palestinian immigrants, Etaf Rum was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. She has a Masters of Arts in American and British Literature as well as undergraduate degrees in Philosophy and English Composition and teaches undergraduate courses in North Carolina, where she lives with her two children.

Etaf also runs the Instagram account [@booksandbeans](https://www.instagram.com/booksandbeans) and is also a Book of the Month Club Ambassador, showcasing her favorite selections each month.

*A Woman Is No Man* is her first novel.

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Three generations of Palestinian-American women in contemporary Brooklyn are torn between individual desire and the strict mores of traditional Arab culture in this powerful, heartbreaking, and hopeful debut novel—an emotionally resonant and culturally relevant story of love, secrets, courage, and duty that speaks to the lives and experiences of all women today, giving voice to the silenced and agency to the oppressed.

Set in an America that may feel removed yet is all too close at hand, *A Woman Is No Man* is a story of culture and honor, secrets and betrayals, love and violence. It is an intimate glimpse into a controlling and closed cultural world, and a universal tale about family and the ways silence and shame can destroy those we have sworn to protect. And above all, it is a tale of courage—of one young woman who bravely battles to find her voice and make her own choices.

**SETTING:** Brooklyn, New York



## **THEMES**

- Tradition
- Family
- Culture & Gender Expectations
- Reading/Books
- Abuse and oppression of women
- Depression

## **MAIN CHARACTERS**

- Fareeda, Mother-in-law
- Isra, Daughter-in-law
- Deya, Daughter
- Adam, Husband of Isra
- Khaled, Father-in-law
- Sarah, Isra's aunt that ran away
- Nadine and Omar, Brother and Sister-in-Law
- Nora, Layla and Amal, Other 3 daughters of Isra

## **MEMORABLE SCENES**

- Isra's first look at America and the house/basement (with no windows) she would be living in.
- Isra & Adam's first night alone together.
- Isra running away after being beaten.
- Isra throwing herself down the stairs.
- Sarah running away.
- Deya skipping school to meet Sarah at the book store.
- Deya reading the article about her parents.
- The train station with Isra and her daughters (also talked about from Deya & Nora's memory).

## **QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS**

- Which character did you root for the most?
- Which character did you feel sorry for?
- What did you learn about Palestinian culture that you did not realize?
- Do you agree with Fareeda's decision to lie to the girls?
- Did you like the ending?
- Did you like the title?



## QUOTES

- “It’s the loneliest people who love books the most.”
- “A real choice doesn’t have conditions. A real choice is free.”
- “Where I come from, voicelessness is the condition of my gender, as normal as the bosoms on a woman’s chest, as necessary as the next generation growing insider her belly.”
- “It took more than one woman to do things differently. It took a world of them.”