

Resilience Summer Book Club
July 2020
***A Woman Is No Man* by Etaf Rum**

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Rum use the setting to help the reader empathize with the characters and their lives?
2. How did the combination of both outside oppression and inner community silence affect the characters ability to seek help, healing, and justice?
3. What factors do you see play out for the characters in this novel that keep the cycles of violence going through three generations of this family?
4. What were some of the cultural clashes between the family members born and raised in Palestine and the characters born and raised in New York City? How did these clashes help either break or perpetuate the silence and violence in their family?
5. Fareeda and Khaled left Palestine after losing everything in the Israeli occupation of their homes and spending years in a refugee camp. What does this book have to say about how large-scale violence affects interpersonal familial relationships for generations?

**These questions are just to start us off. Feel free to bring your own questions and observations!*

Further Readings:

On *A Woman Is No Man*:

- ❖ [In Etaf Rum's 'A Woman Is No Man' The prison of domesticity is hard to escape \(Washington Post\)](#)
- ❖ [Uncovering the Secrets of Palestinian-American Women \(North Carolina Public Radio\)](#)
- ❖ [Palestinian American's Debut Novel on three generations of Arab women honored by the New York Times \(The Arab American News\)](#)
- ❖ [For Better or Worse, New Novel Shows 'A Woman Is No Man' \(NPR\)](#)

On Etaf Rum:

- ❖ [Culture Complications: A Q&A with Etaf Rum on "A Woman is No Man"](#)
- ❖ [Etaf Rum's Journey from Arranged Marriage to New York Times Bestseller List \(POPSUGAR.\)](#)
- ❖ [Palestinian-American seeks to rewrite the narrative in debut novel \(The News & Observer\)](#)

Books like *A Woman Is No Man*:

- ❖ [The best books by Arabs in 2019 \(TheNewArab\)](#)