

Red, White, and Blue

Mona Khalil

About the Work:

Author Mona Khalil offers a collection of reflective poetry rooted in love and telling the story of her life, from childhood through present day. *I Write Letters in my Thoughts* is a synoptic view into one person's journey through love, life, and ultimately towards liberation. Her poems are a testament to the power of storytelling as a historic healing method for communities who are often told to be quiet and patient. *I Write Letters in my Thoughts* allows us to realize that we are enough and that enough is enough; suffering is not our destiny, love is not impossible, and freedom is what we make it.

About the Author:

Mona Khalil is a daughter, sister, and friend in diaspora. She is a first-generation Egyptian-Guyanese-American. She served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco working in youth and community development. Mona works diligently at fostering welcoming and supportive environments while empowering people of color to embrace their full selves. She is an advocate for all historically underserved communities. At Tesla, she worked on Global Business Operations. And was the Founder and President of Tesla's Intersectionality Employee Resource Group (ERG). As of 2017, Mona published *I Write Letters in my Thoughts*, a collection of introspective poetry rooted in strength, vulnerability, and courage. She currently works as a Sr. Program Manager in Inclusion Recruiting at LinkedIn.

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America promotes their work,
After their death.
Without recognizing the agony it inflicted;
Robbed them of
Freedom, faith, and dignity.

They publicize,
Speaking up as being anti-American.
Disgracing our humility
Is anti-American.

Born and raised in America.
Brown and Muslim in America,
Mixed race growing up in America.
Arab, Black, Latina in America.

Indigenous people of America,
Immigrants and refugees
Built a home in America,
All laid the bricks of America.

America made us through our
Hardships and lessons,
Learning resilience through America's beatings.

Treated as less than
Rockets' red glare,
Bombs bursting in air,
Whiteness is a currency.

America taught me spirituality and sexuality.
Make people uncomfortable,
Less open to human beings.

America made me unlearn
And learn I am more,
Suppressing me, glorified me.
I am greatness.