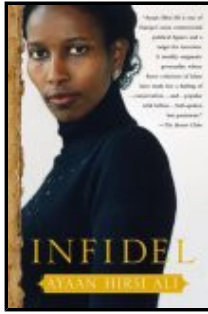


## Books, Cooks, Looks & Ms. Elani



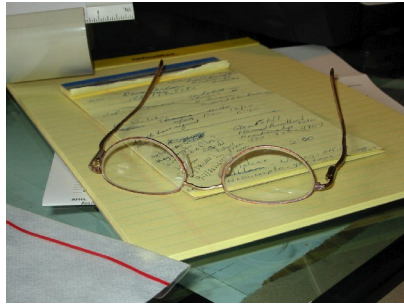
Dear Friends and Readers,

...disowned by her father and clan.

*Infidel*

by Ayann Hirsi Ali

ISBN 0743289684



As a whole, women of America are privileged. Though a certain percentage still live in poverty, have little education and are often single parents, women still live a life that is envied in places such as Saudia Arabia, Kenya and Somalia . Ayann Hirsi Ali's book, *Infidel*, is the story of her life, from the start when she was not expected to live due to her small birth weight, until she made history as one of the most admired and controversial political figures in Holland.

Hirsi Ali fled from the strict Muslim family after suffering female mutilation, brutal beatings and her arranged marriage, still believing strongly in her Muslim faith but knowing she had to escape in order to survive. Once in the Netherlands she sought, and obtained, citizenship in Holland. She obtained a college degree in political science. Though her family, friends and her own life were constantly threatened she fought for the rights of Muslim women and the reform of Islam. She was elected to the Parliament in Holland and

Her final triumph was in 2004 with the production of a short film Submission, Part 1, with Theo van Gogh. The film depicted the brutality of women, all allowed under the direct interpretations of the Quran. Verses were written on mannequins clothed in see through veils. The results of this film were unseen: twenty-four hour body guards were required to protect Hirsi Ali, she was asked to step down from the Parliament, her religious beliefs were attacked and she went into hiding, moving every few days.

The reader is pulled into her life and goes through the struggles she encounters as she tries to change the way the world sees the beliefs of women in a Muslim world. Though ultimately it is a celebration of one woman's ability to make others aware, it makes women realize that all must continue to speak up and fight for women's rights. Today Hirsi Ali lives in the United States and is a wonderful addition to our country.

*Ms. Elani*

continued to speak out on the wrongs of women. Eventually she was disowned by her father and clan.