

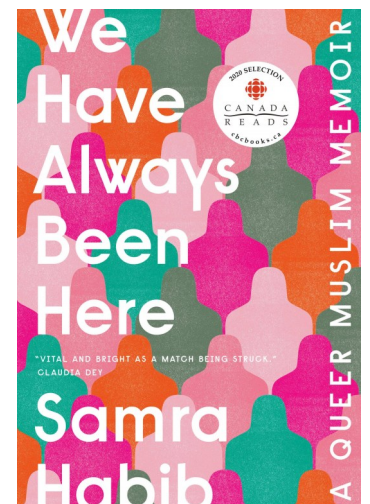
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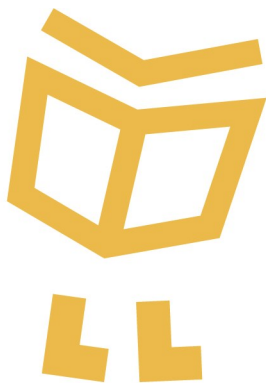
We Have Always Been Here Samra Habib

Discussion Questions

1. The author details their childhood in Pakistan and the differences between men and women. How do you think this shaped the author's life following their move to Canada?
2. Discuss the incident that the author says caused them to "[lose] their right to be a child." What do you think of how the author's parents handled this?
3. The author discovers that they have been betrothed to her cousin, Nasir, at age 10 and then gets married at 16. Discuss their relationship and its eventual end.
4. The author discusses two other significant relationships with men: Peter, who they move in with and later marry as a way to get out of their parent's control, and Alex, a queer man who they share a polyamorous relationship with. How are these relationships different? In what ways are they similar?
5. Discuss the author's relationship with their parents. How does it change over the course of their memoir?
6. How does the author's trip to Japan change things in their life?
7. "I could hardly believe I was coming back to my faith in the same neighbourhood where I attended my first drag show. Minutes away from a cluster of lesbian bars and leather clubs, I was meeting myself again in my thirties." Discuss this quote and the author's decision to begin attending Unity Mosque.
8. Do you have a chosen family? How do connections with chosen family differ from those with biological family members?



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About the Author

Samra Habib (they/them) is a writer, photographer, and activist. As a journalist they've covered topics ranging from fashion trends and Muslim dating apps to the rise of Islamophobia in the US. Their writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and *The Advocate*, and their photo project, "Just Me and Allah," has been featured in *Nylon*, *i-D*, *Vanity Fair Italia*, *Vice*, and *The Washington Post*. Samra works with LGBTQ organizations internationally, raising awareness of issues that impact queer Muslims around the world. *We Have Always Been Here* is their first book.

Via Penguin Random House Canada (<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/565780/we-have-always-been-here-by-samra-habib/9780735235007>)

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