

The background features a complex network of white nodes and connecting lines, resembling a constellation or a data network. The nodes are of varying sizes and are connected by thin white lines, creating a web-like structure. The background color transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. The text is centered and rendered in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

Ayesha at Last

Written by Uzma Jalaluddin

Published by mckeonandassociates

Table of Contents

Ayesha At Last Uzma Jalaluddin	1
Ayesha At Last Goodreads	2
Ayesha At Last Review	3
Ayesha At Last Vk	4
Ayesha At Last Ebook	5
Ayesha At Last A Novel	6
Ayesha At Last Epub	7
Ayesha At Last Movie	8
Ayesha At Last Us Release	9

Ayesha at Last

Ayesha at Last

By Uzma Jalaluddin

Ayesha At Last Uzma Jalaluddin

A modern-day Muslim Pride and Prejudice for a new generation of love.

Ayesha At Last Goodreads

Ayesha Shamsi has a lot going on. Her dreams of being a poet have been set aside for a teaching job so she can pay off her debts to her wealthy uncle. She lives with her boisterous Muslim family and is always being reminded that her flighty younger cousin, Hafsa, is close to rejecting her one hundredth marriage proposal. Though Ayesha is lonely, she doesn't want an arranged marriage. Then she meets Khalid who is just as smart and handsome as he is conservative and judgmental. She is irritatingly attracted to someone who looks down on her choices and dresses like he belongs in the seventh century.

Ayesha at Last

Ayesha At Last Review

Ayesha is torn between how she feels about the straightforward Khalid and the unsettling new gossip she hears about his family. Looking into the rumors, she finds she has to deal with not only what she discovers about Khalid, but also the truth she realizes about herself.

"You're very honest."

"I have been told it's one of my worst qualities." Ayesha is in her late twenties, unmarried and works for a living (*cue the muted gasps of horror*).

As a modern Muslim, she walks through life with her head held high. Her best friend has a live-in boyfriend, she teaches at a coed school and...she's lonely. Very lonely.

Her younger cousin, Hafsa, seems to have one arranged marriage proposal after another.

Ayesha swore to herself that she would never go that route...and yet

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Her younger cousin, Hafsa, seems to have one arranged marriage proposal after another.

Ayesha swore to herself that she would never go that route...and yet...she finds herself...not quite jealous, but wistful.

Khalid recently moved with his mother to Ayesha's neighborhood. He sees Ayesha every morning flying out of her house with a coffee in hand wearing a vibrant hijab.

Khalid is nothing if not devout (thanks to the heavy hand of his mother).

He finds comfort in the rigors of prayer, in wearing traditional clothing and even though some practices are a bit...odd... in the modern world (ie. being forbidden to touch or look at women), Khalid respects and honors the old ways.

And yet... he cannot seem to help himself when it comes to her. When Khalid sneaks a peek at Ayesha in her outlandishly purple hijab on those early mornings he feels...wistful.

Ayesha at Last

Khalid tries to brush these feelings away.

He has a comfortable job, a few friends and a mother to run everything for him. He's happy... or so he thought. "I will find you the perfect wife - modest, not too educated." Love often comes after marriage and his mother knows him better than anyone, so surely she'd know what's best for him.... or so he thought. "It is so difficult to find a truly well-trained girl these days. So many modern ideas about education and careers. When I was growing up, a girl knew her role." Despite his mother's best efforts, the two of them meet and suddenly... they don't feel quite so lost anymore.

However, while Ayesha may be devout, Kahlid is traditional.

And they clash.

Oh do they clash. "You have a job?" Khalid asked, surprised.

"I also dress myself, bathe myself, drive a car and have opinions about things," Ayesha said. Despite Ayesha's immediate dismissal and Kahlid's immediate disregard there is something....something that almost inexplicably draws them together. When he looked at her, he was not sure what he saw. But he was starting to feel something. And that special something weaves together their stories like no other.

With the marriage proposals coming in left and right, an identity theft leading to unimaginable consequences and (above all) Khalid's mother's meddling - how will the two of them even survive? Marriage is too important to leave to chance. This is one for the ages.

I am an absolute sucker for Pride & Prejudice remakes and this Muslim-Canadian version is absolutely divine.

This was honestly my first stayed-up-to-midnight-cause-I-gotta-find-out-the-end book of the year.

Ayesha's personality was perfect as an Elizabeth - strong, spunky and sassy.

Ayesha was wonderfully outspoken and yet true to her faith. I loved that.

So many heroines seem to abandon their family and traditions in favor of adventure. To me, it often feels like a way to streamline the writing.

I adored that the author took the time and effort to create such a tight knit family and had the close relatives always weaving in and out of the story.

Khalid was truly an inspiring character. The way he came to life within just a few short pages really set the tone for the novel. Are they afraid of me? Khalid wondered. When Shelia looks at me, what does she see? I truly felt his struggle to remain true to his faith and yet adjust to a world that holds it in such

Ayesha at Last

little regard.

I feel like the media portrayal of devout Muslims is so far skewed that it is an absolute rarity to see anything without the word "terrorist" attached to it on the news.

It's horrible that without positive representation, painful assumptions are made and inaccuracies are propagated as truth.

As for the plot - it remains true to the original and yet is entirely unique.

The intricacies and petty dramas between Ayesha's family and Khalid's was so incredibly fun to read. I devoured every shocking reveal.

And the humor! Oh I would be doing the book a huge disservice if I did not mention the humor. It was absolutely perfect.

It had so many witty and dry one-liners scattered in that - such as Khalid's first arranged-marriage meeting. "Did you talk to her or stare at the floor?" she asked lightly.

"It wasn't just me. Everyone was staring at the floor. They had a really nice carpet." All in all - this book was brilliant.

Perfect and everything that is right with the literary world. I cannot wait for it to be published so I have an excuse to read it over and over. "I don't think this is the end of the story for you With thanks to Berkley Publishing for a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

All quotes come from an unedited proof and are subject to change upon publication. ...more

Ayesha at Last

Ayesha At Last Vk

The editors don't do this book any favors comparing it to Pride and Prejudice. Other than a similar quote at the beginning and two headstrong characters, there aren't many similarities until you get to the end. The comparison was actually a distraction, as I kept looking for similarities that weren't there. If anything, this reminds me more of a Shakespearean comedy with its mistaken identities.

I'm not usually a fan of women's literature, but I found this book engaged both by head and my heart. The editors don't do this book any favors comparing it to Pride and Prejudice. Other than a similar quote at the beginning and two headstrong characters, there aren't many similarities until you get to the end. The comparison was actually a distraction, as I kept looking for similarities that weren't there. If anything, this reminds me more of a Shakespearean comedy with its mistaken identities.

I'm not usually a fan of women's literature, but I found this book engaged both by head and my heart. I cared for both of the main characters and enjoyed the way the story plays out.

This story is told in third person narrative and swings from Ayesha's life to Khalid's.

Jalaluddin does a great job of painting the scene, giving us the rich details to see the rooms, the food, the clothing.

I also appreciated the way she shows us both the casual and direct prejudice that Khalid encounters as a conservative Muslim and his being forced to choose between assimilation and his religious beliefs. Flip side, he initially looks down his nose at Ayesha, who has a more modern viewpoint.

This is a fairly standard romance novel, but it's done well. It's a fun, mostly light story. Think more along the lines of Crazy Rich Asians than P&P.

My thanks to netgalley and Berkley Books for an advance copy of this book. ...more

Because while it is a truth universally acknowledged that a single Muslim man must be in want of a wife, there's an even greater truth: To his Indian mother, his own inclinations are of secondary importance. All the stars for this debut Canadian author! Ayesha at Last was without a doubt my most anticipated 2018 release. Come on, a modern P&P set in Toronto and featuring two Muslim characters. It was absolutely perfect and I was all too sorry when it was finished. The characters (main and secondary) , the
Because while it is a truth universally acknowledged that a single Muslim man must be in want of a wife, there's an even greater truth: To his Indian mother, his own inclinations are of secondary importance. All the stars for this debut Canadian author! Ayesha at Last was without a doubt my most anticipated 2018 release. Come on, a modern P&P set in Toronto and featuring two Muslim characters. It was absolutely perfect and I was all too sorry when it was finished. The characters (main and secondary) , the

Ayesha at Last

plot, the comedy and the romance. I need this to be a movie-ASAP! I laughed, I cried, and I fell in love.
...more

Ayesha at Last

Ayesha At Last Ebook

3.5 stars

I'll admit I almost passed on this book because I thought does the world really need yet another modern day retelling of Pride and Prejudice? Thankfully, I went ahead and read this book anyway and I can honestly say it feels like something fresh and different and not something I have read a hundred times before.

Ayesha Shamsi lives in Canada and is working as teacher even though she has dreams of being a poet. Her cousin Hafsa is younger than Ayesha but she has already rejected numerous 3.5 stars

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Ayesha Shamsi lives in Canada and is working as teacher even though she has dreams of being a poet. Her cousin Hafsa is younger than Ayesha but she has already rejected numerous marriage proposals. Enter Khalid, who Ayesha kinda sorta likes but also kinda sorta hates because he comes across as super judgmental. But now that he is set to marry Hafsa, Ayesha's feelings towards him don't even matter, right? RIGHT?

It took me a pretty long time to warm up to Khalid and I much preferred Ayesha's parts of the story. I do wonder if I would have liked the book a tad more if the focus would have only been on Ayesha rather than being split among multiple characters. I love how the book featured Muslim characters and the different ways the author was able to weave that into the story really sets this book apart from typical romances. Definitely recommend giving this one a chance even if you feel like you have read one too many modern day retellings of classic books. This one is worth a read in my opinion.

I won a free advance copy of this book in a giveaway but was under no obligation to post a review. All views expressed are my honest opinion. ...more

Ayesha at Last is a modern-day retelling of Pride and Prejudice with a Muslim main character. I loved it!
â•• â•• â•• â••

Ayesha is a modern Muslim and dreams of being a poet, but she has to forgo those dreams at the moment to pay her uncle back. Sheâ€™s become a teacher.

Ayesha lives with her Muslim family who constantly remind her of potential marriage and that one of her cousins is currently turning down yet another marriage proposal.

Ayesha at Last

Ayesha meets Khalid, and she is struck by his charm instantly. But *Ayesha at Last* is a modern-day retelling of *Pride and Prejudice* with a Muslim main character. I loved it!

Ayesha is a modern Muslim and dreams of being a poet, but she has to forgo those dreams at the moment to pay her uncle back. She becomes a teacher.

Ayesha lives with her Muslim family who constantly remind her of potential marriage and that one of her cousins is currently turning down yet another marriage proposal.

Ayesha meets Khalid, and she is struck by his charm instantly. But at the same time, she is turned off by how conservative and judgmental he can be. His family is also the subject of gossip in the community.

Will Ayesha find love with the flawed Khalid? Will Khalid fall for a modern Muslim woman, one who tests the boundaries of his faith and that of his devout family? Ayesha is devout, too, but Khalid is practicing the Muslim faith entirely in the traditional sense until he meets Ayesha.

I absolutely loved the culture embedded in *Ayesha at Last*. It was a learning experience that one can be Muslim and devout but also traditional versus non traditional. The back and forth between the two families was so much fun. The humor was precious and witty, and I loved how similar, but yet original, this felt by comparison to *Pride and Prejudice*.

Overall, this is a stunning and enlightening retelling, one that I will cherish my experience, and I'm so grateful this story was told. I hope we will see more retellings of this quality in the future from Jalaluddin. Sign me up!

I received a complimentary copy. All opinions are my own.

My reviews can also be found on my blog: www.jennifertarheelreader.com ...more

Ayesha at Last

Ayesha At Last A Novel

AN OWNVOICES STORY ABOUT A MUSLIM WOMAN IN TORONTO THATS ALSO A PRIDE AND PREJUDICE RETELLING ????? THIS BOOK IS EVERYTHING IVE EVER WANTED + IS PROBABLY ABOUT TO BE THE MOST RELATABLE THING IVE EVER READ

needless to say, i am EXCITED AS HELL

i meant to write this a very long time ago and then i forgot oops hehe

MINOR SPOILERS AHEAD

this book honestly had great potential. judging by the synopsis alone, it basically sounded like the greatest book that would ever grace my life.

when i picked it up, i became instantly invested in the story but somewhere along the way, between the teeny tiny font and the excessively long sentences, my emotional attachment slowly withered away to nothing

muslim rep/stereotypes

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muslim rep/stereotypes

- i thought this had a strong start, it showed muslims in their daily life, where the majority of their problems revolved around ridiculous family politics (!!finally!!) and not so much about their race or their colour of skin (which was included too, but to a very BELIEVABLE amount)

- i liked how khalid's character was standing up for himself and his beliefs from the very start (that was so :) to see)

- i loved the close knit family ties and the many different family dynamics we got to see

- i liked how the mosque was given page time and it was shown how the community came together for events and programs

- but here's where my cons come in

Ayesha at Last

- going back to khalid and his way of dressing, a couple characters kept saying how HE was so judgemental and yet they were CONSTANTLY judging his style of dress (his ankle-length robe) and the fact that he grew his beard??? like hypocrisy much
- and his whole development was the fact that he changed both those things to appease the people in his life and i was just baffled why THAT part of him had to be erased. what happened to self-acceptance??
- khalid's mother started off being the stereotypical, involved indian mother and quickly morphed into this ~witch~ of a character that was out to ruin ayesha's life
- she played into a lot of stereotypes (the evil, controlling, possessive mother) and opened manyyyy cans of worms that i never felt were properly addressed (literally, her and her daughter's relationship)

the romance

- in my opinion, as a 'halal' romance, i think it was done quite well
- the scene where they were making roti with the grandmother hfkjdahfkjah
- there were scenes where they were with each other and you got to see the internal dilemma they were battling out due to the situation (the name switch) they got themselves into
- and i just WISH it stopped there because that was HONESTLY enough for a lighthearted romance novel
- but no, we had to get trash-man tarek involved
- did tarek's character even need to exist? the only answer is no

trying to do too much

- the biggest flaw i found with this book was that it was trying to do EVERYTHING in the world and then some. it tackled racism in the workplace, halal (and,,,,not so halal) relationships, arranged marriages, family disownment, alcoholism, theft, faking identity, self-righteousness & sleazy dudes, daddy issues, masjid politics etc. etc.
- and i just felt it didnt need to do all that
- if it stuck to telling a romance story, between two people who would never guess themselves to be compatible, then i would have been concise and enjoyable and not this disaster that ended up happening
- and for a book that really went long and hard on explanations and internal dialogue, the ending wrapped up much too quickly to be even remotely realistic

the writing

- it's very much 'day-in-the-life' sort of writing and while i appreciated that most of the time, the book felt HUGE
- it felt drawn out and exaggerated and i really really thought it had so much potential to be something amazing but a lot was lost within the excessive descriptions and the unrealistic drama
- listen, jane austen knew what she was doing when she wrote pride & prejudice and i think that if the author stayed closer to that narrative, the story would have been so much more enjoyable
- why cant we just have a cute muslim love story between brown kids without all the excess trash in between????????????????

Ayesha at Last

idk where this fits in, but there were some character inaccuracies i noticed while reading (i cant remember more than this example :(but there were moments when khalid was talking like a 14th century philosopher and then the next minute hes speaking slang and i was just,,,,,bro are you okay? - i know it's supposed to tie into his character, like the socially awkward guy who's trying to fit in, but still, that's a wild jump to make in one conversation

and yet, the book was funny. it made me laugh out loud. it had it's charming moments, it had it's cute moments.

but i wish khalid's character development wasn't him giving up who he was for the girl he liked. i wish ayesha would stop having these extreme opinions of everyone while telling them they were too judgemental. i wish tarek didn't exist. i wish the book focused on the romance instead of trying to do a million things. i wish a lot of things

~this review is a disaster and so am i, but what else is new?? ...more

Ayesha at Last

Ayesha At Last Epub

I had the opportunity to read this adorable book before it releases to the world!

World, you are in for a treat!

FRTC

The ARC of this book was provided by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

3.75/5 stars

[Full review here](#)

When I saw that this book was a Pride and Prejudice retelling featuring two Muslim characters living in Canada I knew I had to read it. I'm always up for a nice retelling with some good representation. This novel did not feel like a debut at all, the author Uzma Jalaluddin really did a good job, I was quite impressed.

I must say I struggled a bit in the first third of the book. The ARC of this book was provided by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

3.75/5 stars

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When I saw that this book was a Pride and Prejudice retelling featuring two Muslim characters living in Canada I knew I had to read it. I'm always up for a nice retelling with some good representation. This novel did not feel like a debut at all, the author Uzma Jalaluddin really did a good job, I was quite impressed.

I must say I struggled a bit in the first third of the book. I think it was due to the two main characters not interacting very much with each other and also to some of Khalid's behaviours. To be honest in the beginning I totally agreed with Ayesha, he was too judgemental and I did not like the way he took one look at Ayesha and assumed everything about her life. I'm happy to say he redeemed himself and understood that sometimes it's not really nice to assume and to judge people without knowing the full picture. I liked how Ayesha and Khalid's story was dealt with, they did not fall madly in love straightaway, just like Elizabeth and Darcy. The little moments they shared were really cute and sweet. (view spoiler)[When he gave her the leather-bound notebook to write her poetry in I became teary-eyed. (hide spoiler)]

The author also included a lot of things that Muslim people have to go through, such as discrimination in the work place. Sheila was the real rotten apple in there and we knew it from day one. I'm just glad Khalid stood up for himself with the help of his friends.

Ayesha at Last

Overall it was a nice book with good representation. The pride and prejudice elements were there, but there was also much more included that you would not expect and that will surprise you in the most wonderful way! ...more

Ayesha at Last

Ayesha At Last Movie

This was such a great Pride and Prejudice retelling!

The perfect blend of sweet and swoony, this modern retelling was everything my P&P obsessed heart needed. I especially loved that this was centered around Muslim characters and family's. It was so great getting to learn about Ayesha and Khalid's culture and different (but also very relatable) perspectives on marriage, life and love.

From nearly the first page, I was completely drawn in and I found myself unable to put this book down for ho

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From nearly the first page, I was completely drawn in and I found myself unable to put this book down for hours. I read this nearly in one sitting and I was stunned when I would pause to drink water or check the time only to realize that I hadn't moved in hours. Ayesha is such a relatable character and I love that throughout this book we get to go on this journey with not only Ayesha but Khalid as well and watch them grow.

So why 4 stars? Around 75% into the book I started to lose my steam a bit and things started to drag a little. Not that it wasn't enjoyable, because I still was having a great time but at the same time I was starting to become impatient to have all the drama end already. I also wish there was a bit more romance in this book. Because of the plot and the characters, I knew that this wasn't going to be a steamy read by any means and the little moments we got made my heart skip a beat a few times but still...I wanted a little more. And finally, my last (and this is a bit silly) complaint is the emphasis the book seemed to put on Ayesha's age and how she's this "old maiden" and too old for the hero even though she's only a year older than him. I do understand it, and understand that it's a cultural thing but after the second time, it became a bit annoying.

Ayesha at Last was a fantastic debut from the author and is the perfect romance to read if you're a fan of Pride and Prejudice and looking for a more modern take, that still sticks to all the things we love most about the classic. I cannot wait to read more from this author!

*Arc given in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!! ...more

Ayesha at Last

I enjoyed reading AYESHA AT LAST. Ayesha is a young woman whose Muslim family immigrated to Canada from India. Ayesha works as a teacher to pay back money she owes to her rich uncle. Her uncle has a spoiled daughter who wants a hundred marriage proposals before she accepts anyone, while Ayesha does not want an arranged marriage. What follows is an interesting story where certain truths come out. I recommend this book!

Ayesha at Last

Ayesha At Last Us Release

It pains me to rate this so low considering all the excitement I had surrounding this title, not to mention the brilliant diversity in this particular retelling, but..

If this story had been just about Ayesha and Khalid, with the former's delightful grandparents thrown into the mix, I probably would've rated this much higher. But then it also wouldn't have been as true to the PRIDE & PREJUDICE retelling. Or.. maybe it could've been! All I know is there were so many villains, so many unpleasant It pains me to rate this so low considering all the excitement I had surrounding this title, not to mention the brilliant diversity in this particular retelling, but..

If this story had been just about Ayesha and Khalid, with the former's delightful grandparents thrown into the mix, I probably would've rated this much higher. But then it also wouldn't have been as true to the PRIDE & PREJUDICE retelling. Or.. maybe it could've been! All I know is there were so many villains, so many unpleasant characters, and I was just bothered and frustrated by it all.

But even some of the non-villains were just.. annoying. The drama was really turned up and I know this is fictional but I was really uncomfortable, not to mention fairly rage-y, over the discrimination in the workplace plot line. Like.. no, I'm sorry. I just can't see that going as far as it did; and maybe I'm extra sensitive about it because this took place in my hometown? I'm not saying I'm naive enough to believe things like this don't happen in some form or another, as much as we think we're all above it, but it just went too far.

I think what it comes down to, more than anything, is while I'm aware that most of these caricatures existed in the original, I'm honestly starting to wonder if I just can't get behind the book anymore; if maybe I wouldn't even like the original if I tried to read it today. Maybe I should just stick to movie or TV adaptations from now on.

I love that this book exists for the representation it brings, I did enjoy the changes to the family structures the author made, could appreciate the Toronto setting (even if it only amounted to random references to Timbits and a fairly loose, though accurate, description of Scarborough..), but.. lots of butts.

** I received an ARC from Edelweiss and the publisher (thank you!) in exchange for an honest review. **
...more

Mini review:

DNF

Ayesha at Last

GR Ultimate Summer Reading Challenge: Diversify Yourself.

When I heard about this book I was really excited! Unfortunately I didn't care for it.

As a Pride and Prejudice retelling I felt this was really strong at. I wasn't invested and didn't care much for the characters.

Regardless I still high recommend. It just wasn't for me.