

Fragmentation or Hybridity: The Representation of Place and Identity in Leila Aboulela's Minaret and Diana Abu-Jaber's Arabian Jazz.

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Abstract

This thesis will discuss how new settings influence the creation of the characters' new identities in Leila Aboulela's *Minaret* (2005) and Diana Abo-Jaber's *Arabian Jazz* (1993). The researcher will study how these settings produce hybrid or fragmented identities. It also sheds light on how alienation, dislocation and the loss of sense of the time entrap the characters and thus motivate the development of these identities. The term "unhomeliness" (Bhabha, 1994) is used in literature to describe the feeling of not being at home even in your homeland because one loses the sense of belonging. This study explores diaspora and diasporic literature in order to study how the writer represents his unique identity and his own cultural background in the new place. In diasporic literature, the value of place is deeply considered due to the urgent need to be homed. Many writers and novelists have written about displacement, fragmented and hybrid identities, and dislocation dilemmas. Hence, this thesis deals with the spaces that the characters live within, and how they try to create their own third space. Through the sequence of events, the researcher will detect the evolution of the characters and how these conflicts result in fragmented identities and eventually help to shape new hybrid identities. Finally, the characters manage to find their third space.

Keywords: third space, heterotopia, diaspora, alienation, fragmentation, assimilation, hybridity, in-between, dislocation, displacement, unhomed, unhomelines