

The Situation of Arab Women in Fadia Faqir's *My Name Is*

Salma and Willow Trees Do Not Weep

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Abstract

This thesis primarily aims to center on the experiences of the Muslim female protagonists in both Arab and Western societies, Salma and Najwa in each of the following two novels: *My Name is Salma* (2007) and *Willow Trees Do Not Weep* (2014) by the Jordanian writer Fadia Faqir. The protagonists in these novels encounter numerous challenges and endure various forms of oppression and discrimination by the Arab and Western societies. This thesis also explores the role, situation of Arab women in both novels *My Name is Salma* (2007) and *Willow Trees Do Not Weep* (2014). Faqir also represents Arab women in her novels whether they conform to the norms of their society or not, in addition, to highlight whether women are tyrannical, revealing the true identity of Arab women and their relationship to society. This thesis is based on Feminist theory specifically intersectional feminism, which is a theoretical framework, it was developed by the African – American law professor and civil rights

activist Kimberle Crenshaw, and it recognizes and examines how various social categories, such as race, gender, class, and others, intersect and interact to create unique and interconnected systems of oppression, this theory emphasizes that individuals may experience different forms of discrimination simultaneously due to the complex interplay of these intersecting identities. This theory is used in this literary work to analyze the position of Muslim women in both Arab and western societies in Fadia Faqir's novels *My Name is Salma* (2007) and *Willow Trees Do Not Weep* (2014). , After that I will include my findings in the conclusion.

Key Words: Arab Women, Oppression, Race, Immigration Status, Intersectionality.