

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9911101589903321
Titolo	The beloved in Middle Eastern literatures : the culture of love and languishing / / edited by Alireza Korangy, Hanadi Al-Samman, Michael Beard
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London ; ; New York : , : Bloomsbury Publishing, , 2017
ISBN	9781350988484 1350988480 9781786722263 1786722267
Edizione	[First edition.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (369 pages) : illustrations
Disciplina	809.933543
Soggetti	Love in literature Middle Eastern literature - History and criticism
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Compliant with Level AA of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. Content is displayed as HTML full text which can easily be resized or read with assistive technology, with mark-up that allows screen readers and keyboard-only users to navigate easily.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
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Sommario/riassunto

"In the long literary history of the Middle East, the notion of 'the beloved' has been a central trope in both the poetry and prose of the region. This book explores the concept of the beloved in a cross-cultural and interdisciplinary manner, revealing how shared ideas on the subject supersede geographical and temporal boundaries, and ideas of nationhood. The book considers the beloved in its classical, modern and postmodern manifestations, taking into account the different sexual orientations and forms of desire expressed. From the pre-Islamic 'Udhri (romantic unrequited love), to the erotic same-sex love in thirteenth century poetry and prose, the divine Sufi reflections on the topic, and post-revolutionary love encounters in Iran, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, *The Beloved in Middle Eastern Literatures* connects the affective and cultural with the political and the obscene. In focusing on the diverse manifestations of love and tropes of the lover/beloved binary, this book is unique in foregrounding what is often regarded as a 'taboo subject' in the region. The multi-faceted outlook reveals the variety of philological, philosophical, poetic and literary forms that treat this significant motif."--Bloomsbury Publishing.
