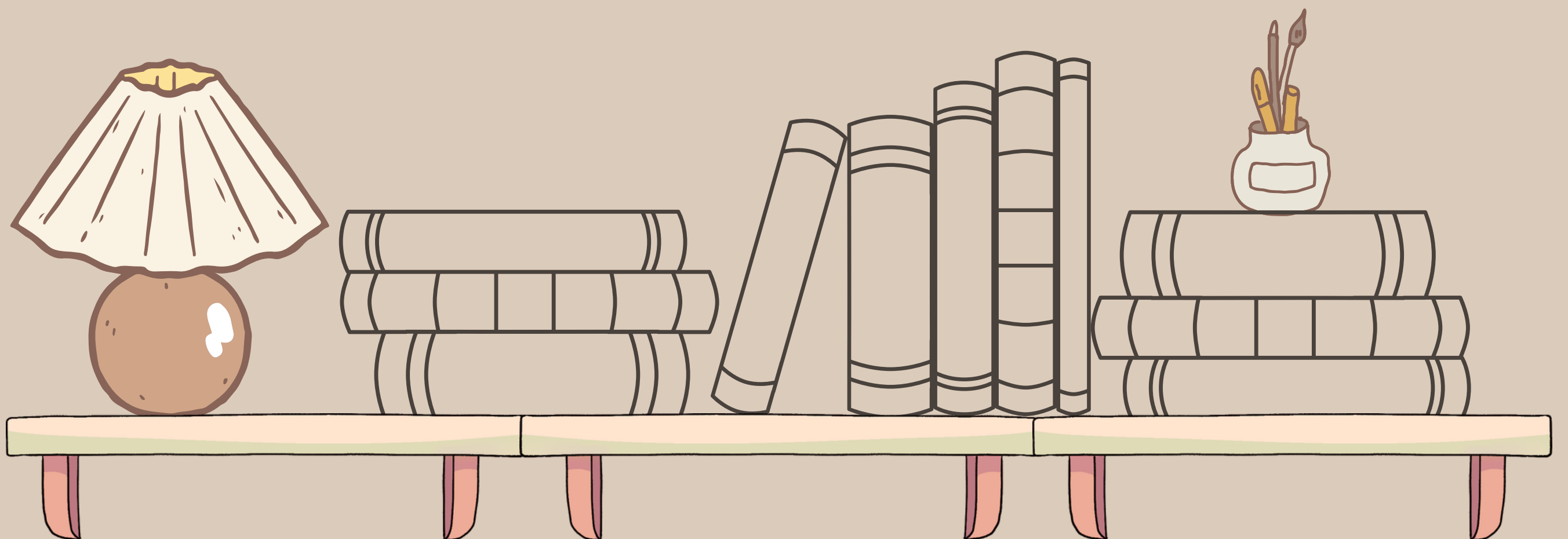


Inter Faith Week Reading Resource

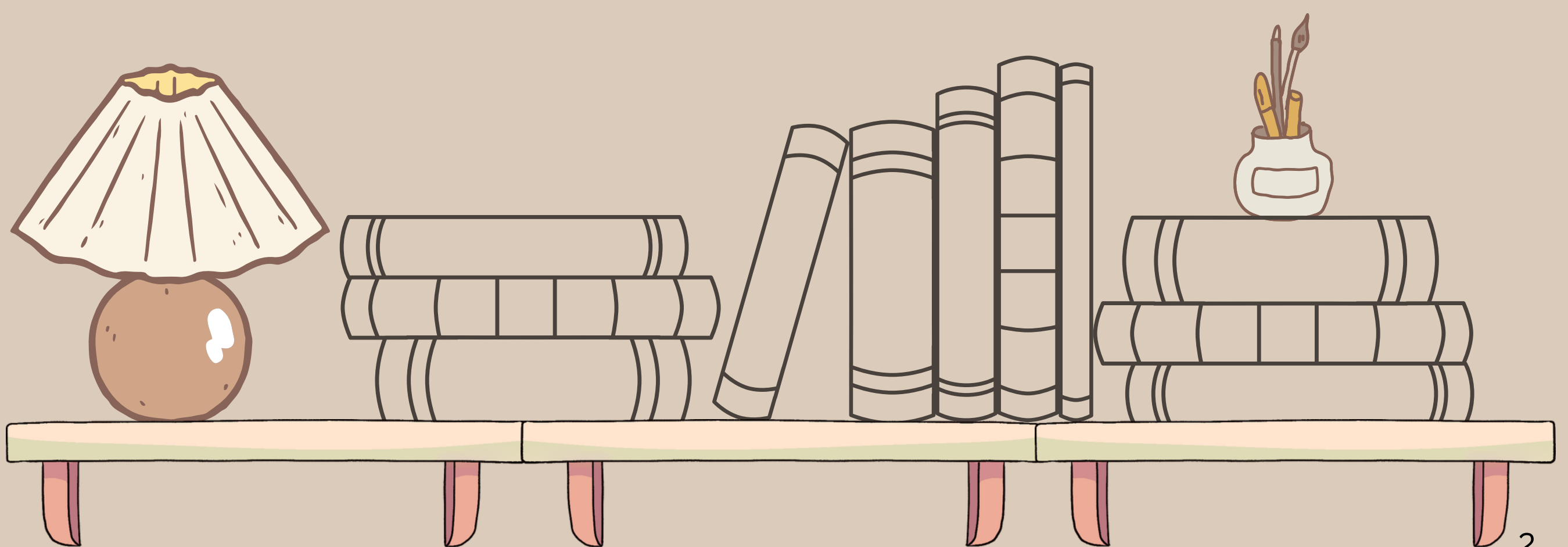
A list of recommendations for interfaith books,
both fiction and non-fiction.

Produced by the Youth Advisory Panel
for Inter Faith Week 2026



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Introduction to Inter Faith Week and the Youth Advisory Panel

Inter Faith Week (IFW) 2026 runs from Sunday 8th November to Sunday 15th November.

IFW is the national focal point for strengthening interfaith relations and promoting understanding of the many faith communities across the UK. It creates opportunities for people to connect across differences for the common good, and reminds us that more unites us than divides us.

This year, the theme is "Lighting the Way for a Shared Future". It draws on the symbolism of light across faiths and traditions, including the spirit of Diwali during IFW 2026.

Light is just one example of the many ways our different traditions overlap and complement one another. It reflects the shared hope and belief that even in challenging times, communities can come together to build understanding, trust and friendships.

The IFW 2026 Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) created this resource. The YAP comprises 36 dedicated, diverse young adults aged 18-35, representing a range of faiths, beliefs and regions across England. The Youth Advisory Panel plays a vital role in ensuring young people's voices are at the heart of Inter Faith Week and, through this resource, aims to engage younger people in interfaith work through literature.



Overview of the reading list

Fiction and poetry

Sacha Lamb - When the Angels Left the Old Country

"This 'queer immigrant fairytale' tells the story of a Jewish angel and demon who travel to New York in search of a missing girl. It's a whimsical read full of lovable characters, all with their own perspectives on faith."

Shannon Chakraborty: The Adventures of Amina Al-Sirafi

"I love Amina Al-Sirafi because although she's a sarcastic, sword-fighting female pirate, her faith is really important to her."

Herman Hesse: Siddhartha

"Hermann Hesse's Siddhartha draws on Hinduism, Buddhism and elements of the Dharmic faiths. It teaches that wisdom and faith come through an individual search that transcends religious boundaries. It stresses peace, cooperation and self-knowledge."

Attar of Nishapur: The Conference of the Birds

"This poem follows a group of birds on a spiritual journey in search of their Shah; it explores ideas which transcend faith boundaries - love, self-discovery and transformation in the quest for a divine truth."

Mikhail Bulgakov: The Master and Margarita

"A Russian classic, involving two stories. Bulgakov is an interesting writer for this as the son of a Russian Orthodox theologian."

Windows of the Heavens: Henry G. Brinton

"Brinton highlights how interfaith cooperation and shared values can unite people to promote tolerance and protect the environment"

Non-fiction

Mitch Albom - Have a Little Faith: A True Story

"A Rabbi is asked to give a eulogy for someone from his home town, and he reconnects with his faith again. The book follows him on this journey, during which he meets a pastor who reshapes how he thinks about faith in hard times."
(name/faith/region)

Séan Richardson - Unorthodox: LGBT+ Identity and Faith

"I found this book both thought-provoking and moving. It offers a powerful insight into the challenges of navigating faith, sexuality and identity. I particularly appreciated its honest, personal perspectives, which encourage empathy and reflection, and challenge us to question our own assumptions." (name/faith/region)

Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner - The Faith Club

"The Faith Club weaves the story of three women, their three religions, and their urgent quest to understand one another."

Duane R. Bidwell - When One Religion Isn't Enough: The Lives of Spiritually Fluid People

"An exploration into the lives of people who embrace two or more religious traditions, and what this growing community tells us about change in our society."

Anchal Malhotra - Remnants of a Separation: A History of Partition through Material Memory

"This book explores experiences of trauma, survival, and coexistence through the everyday objects preserved and maintained during partition."

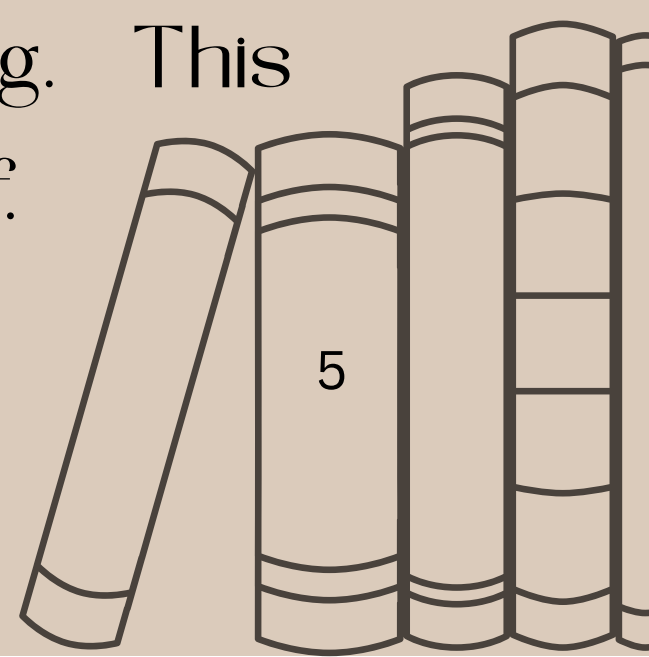
How you can use this resource.

This resource draws on the Youth Advisory Panel's emphasis on highlighting fiction and non-fiction texts that celebrate the interfaith ethos.

This resource recommends books for both bookstores and individuals that strengthen interfaith relations, especially during IFW.

Here are some suggestions on how to use this resource:

- Put up our fiction and non-fiction posters
- Make a display table for IFW reading
- Have your own recommendations? Let our shortlist inspire you to create your own IFW 'TBR'
- Expand on 2026's IFW Theme. What other books in your personal collection/bookstore could offer glimpses of light in dark times, or tap into themes of solidarity and connection across communities?
- Create a Reading List Bingo/Reading Challenge to encourage people to engage with the literature.
- Connect on Social Media! Help us spread the word by sharing/reposting IFW Reels and Social media Posts. Use the hashtag #InterFaithWeek2026, and tag our instagram account @ifweek
- You can also find lots of other resources on IFW online, with events and plenty of ways to get involved.
- Start Conversations - IFW is only the beginning. This conversation is for everyone, regardless of faith or belief.

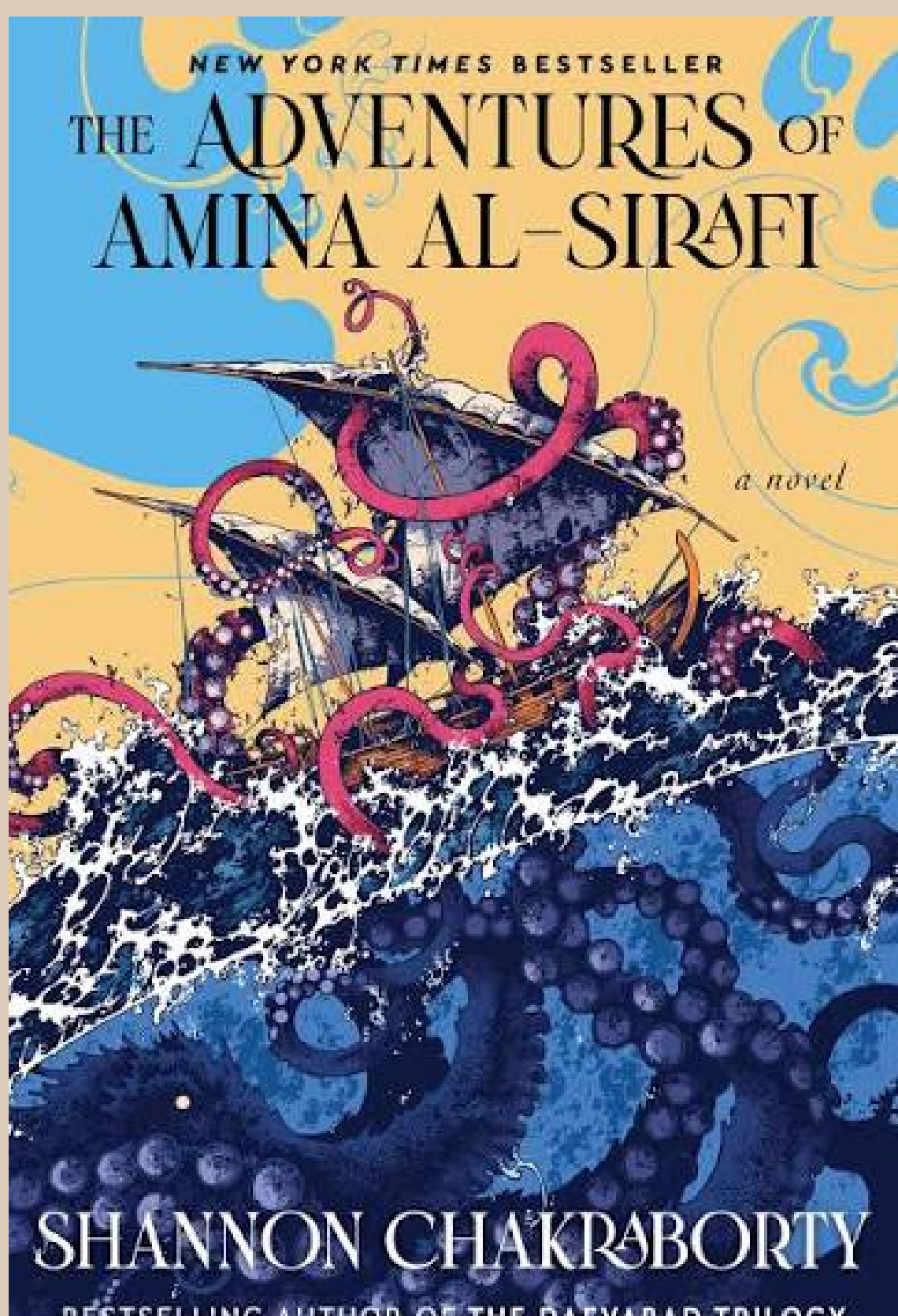


Fiction



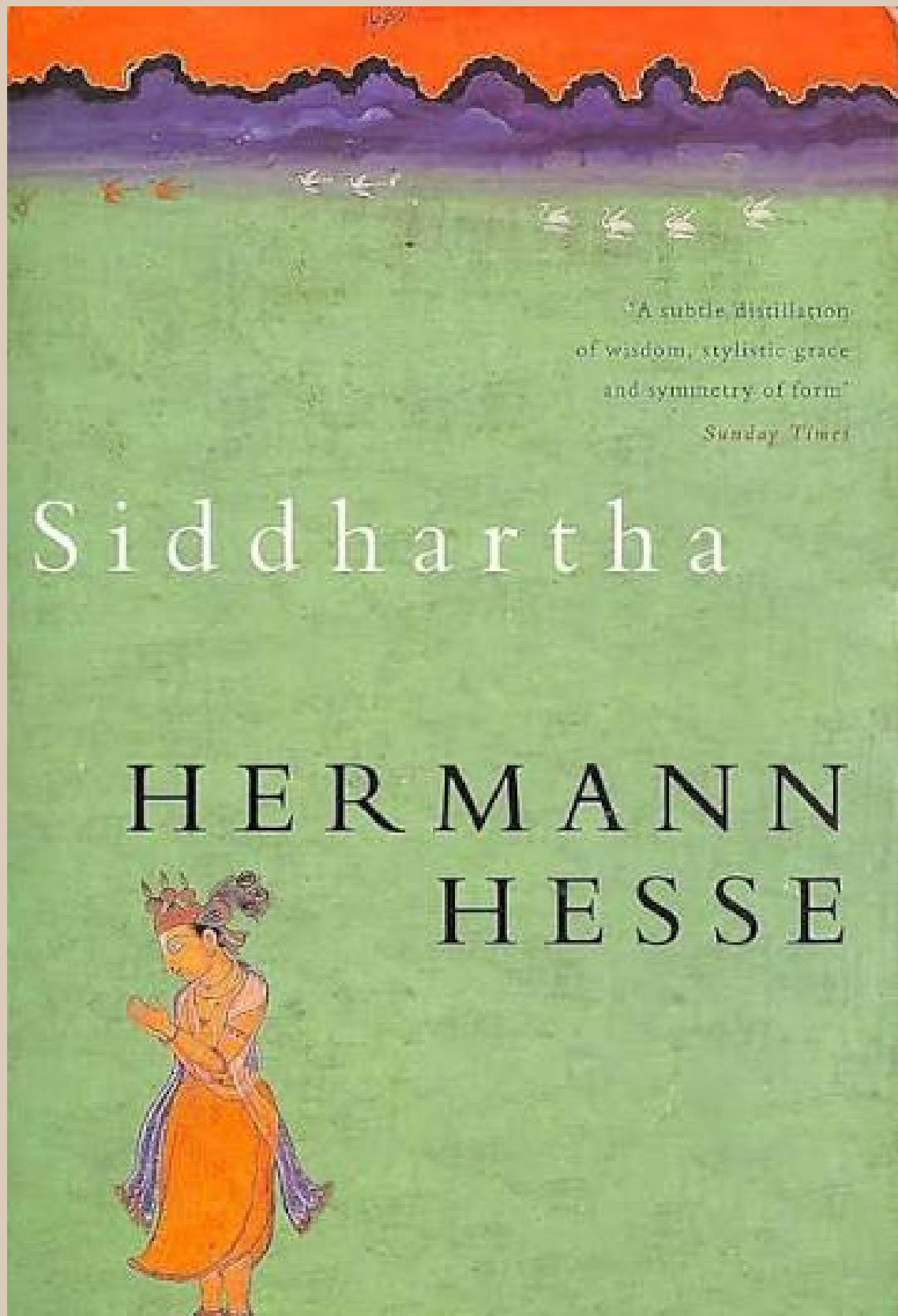
When the Angels Left the Old Country - Sacha Lamb

When the Angels Left the Old Country by Sacha Lamb is a rich and imaginative novel that draws on Jewish folklore, history, and traditions while exploring themes of migration, belonging, and identity. Through the unlikely companionship of an angel and a demon, the story invites readers to consider how people with different perspectives can learn from and support one another. From an interfaith perspective, this book can encourage conversations about coexistence, compassion, and how diverse identities strengthen communities.



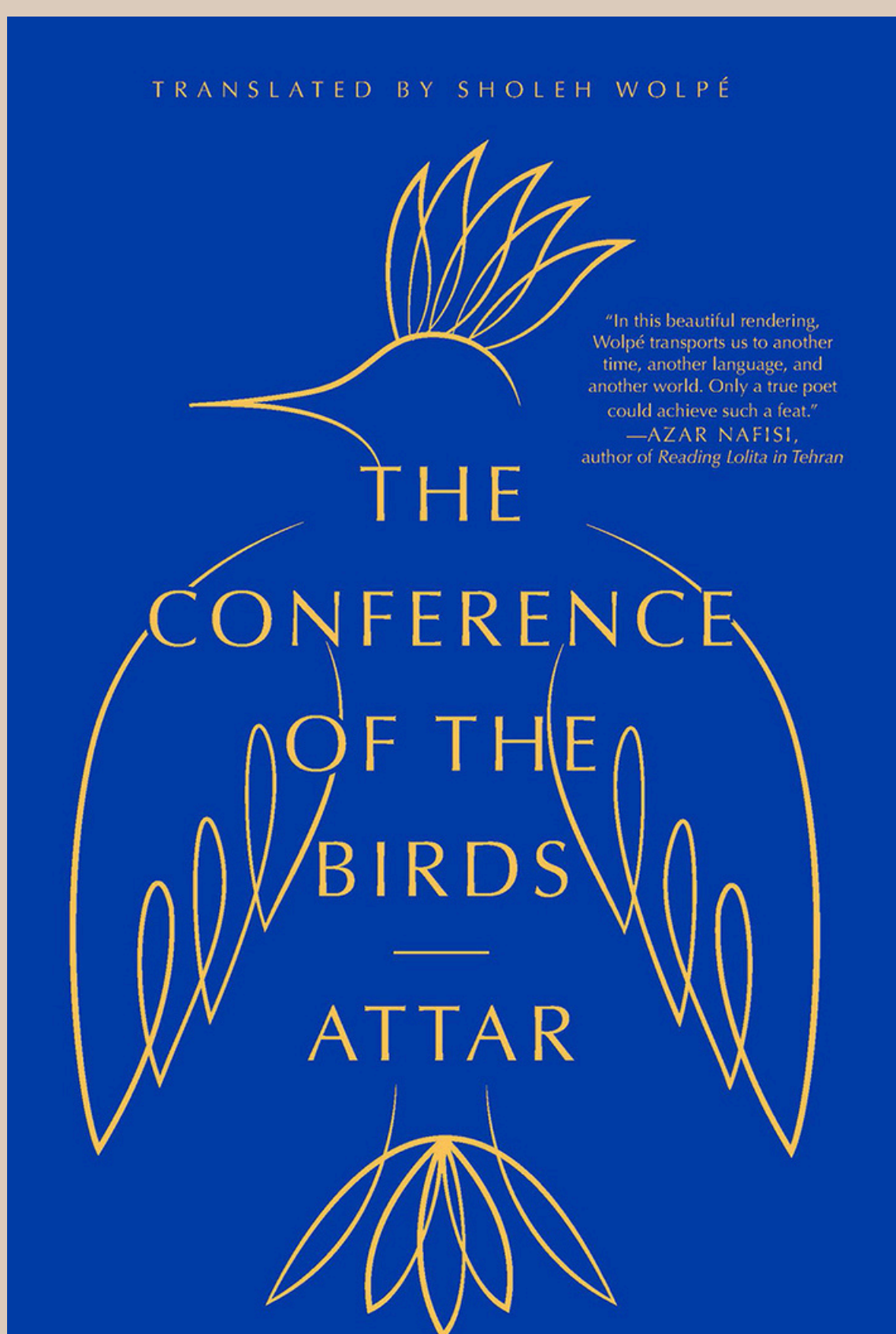
The Adeventures of Amina Al-Sirafi - Shannon Chakraborty

Shannon Chakraborty's The Adventures of Amina al-Sirafi offers a compelling portrayal of a Muslim protagonist whose faith is naturally woven into her experiences as a mother, leader, and adventurer. Set in the rich cultural and religious landscape of the medieval Indian Ocean, the novel offers a nuanced depiction of Islamic traditions while exploring universal themes of identity, responsibility, and belonging. Rather than reducing faith to stereotypes or obstacles, the story shows how religious belief shapes everyday choices, relationships, and moral questions.



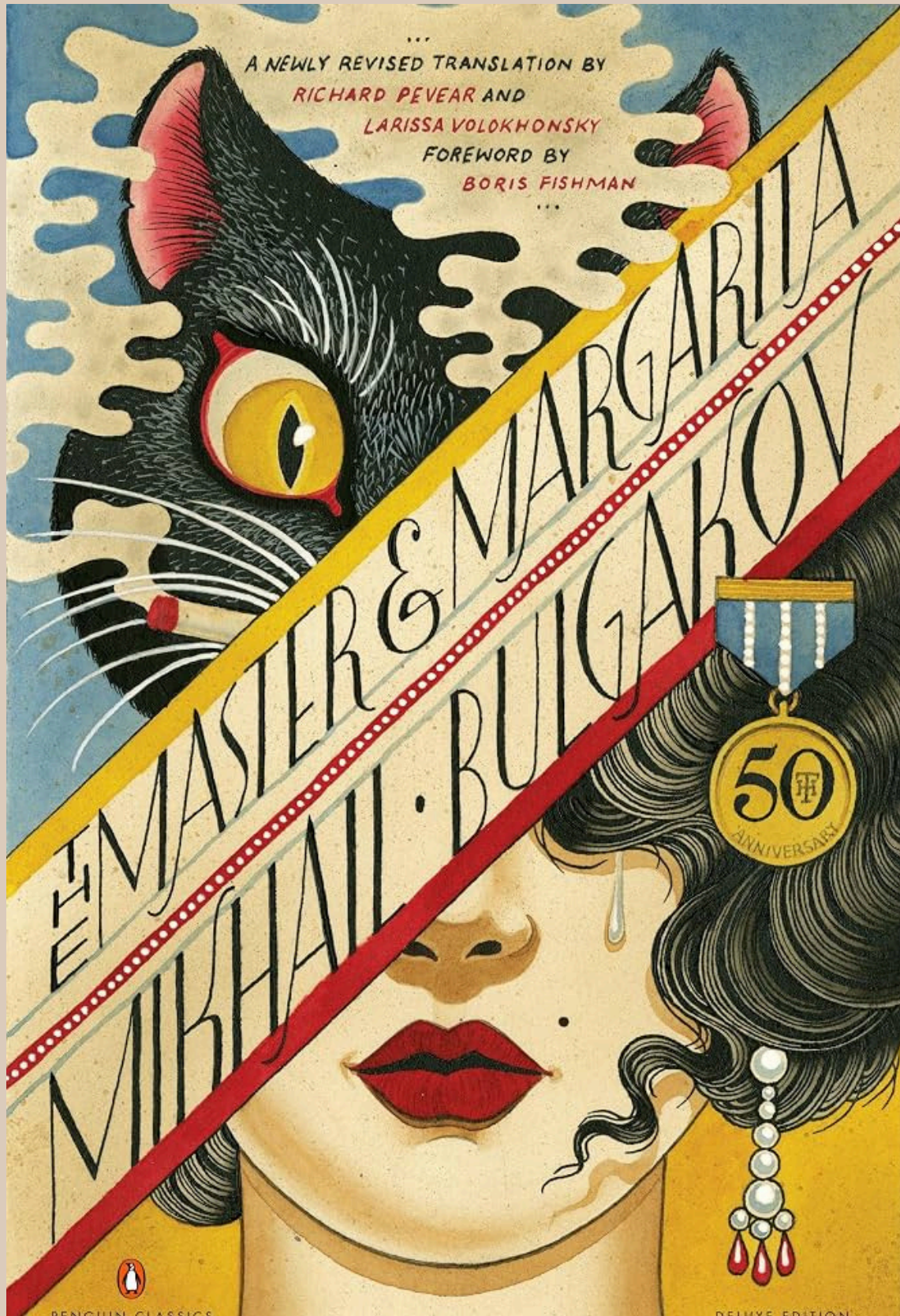
Siddhartha - Hermann Hesse

Hermann Hesse's *Siddhartha* is a thoughtful exploration of spiritual growth, self-discovery, and the search for meaning, inspired by Buddhist philosophy and South Asian religious traditions. The novel invites readers to reflect on universal questions about wisdom, compassion, purpose, and the nature of human fulfillment. For Interfaith Week, *Siddhartha* offers an accessible way to explore Buddhist-inspired ideas while fostering dialogue about the many paths people take to seek understanding, connection, and inner peace.



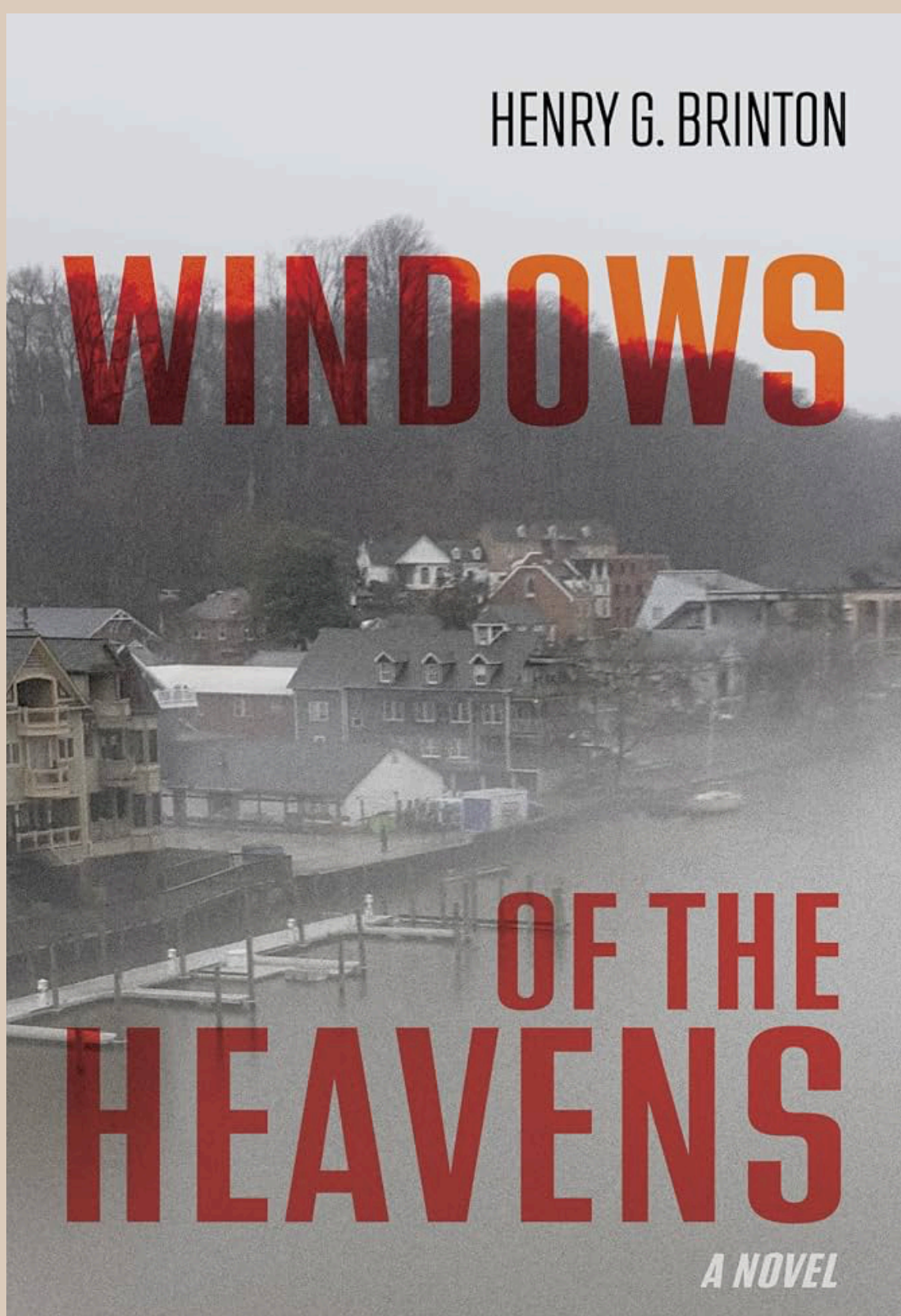
The Conference of the Birds - Farid al-Din Attar

Farid al-Din Attar's *The Conference of the Birds* is a timeless classic of Sufi literature that explores spiritual growth, self-discovery, and the search for deeper truth. At its heart is a powerful story of friendship, empathy, and love across religious boundaries, showing how human connections can transcend differences in faith and culture. This text can enhance interfaith dialogue by offering a valuable opportunity to engage with Islamic literary traditions while encouraging dialogue about common humanity and mutual respect between communities.



The Master & Margarita - Mikhail Bulgov

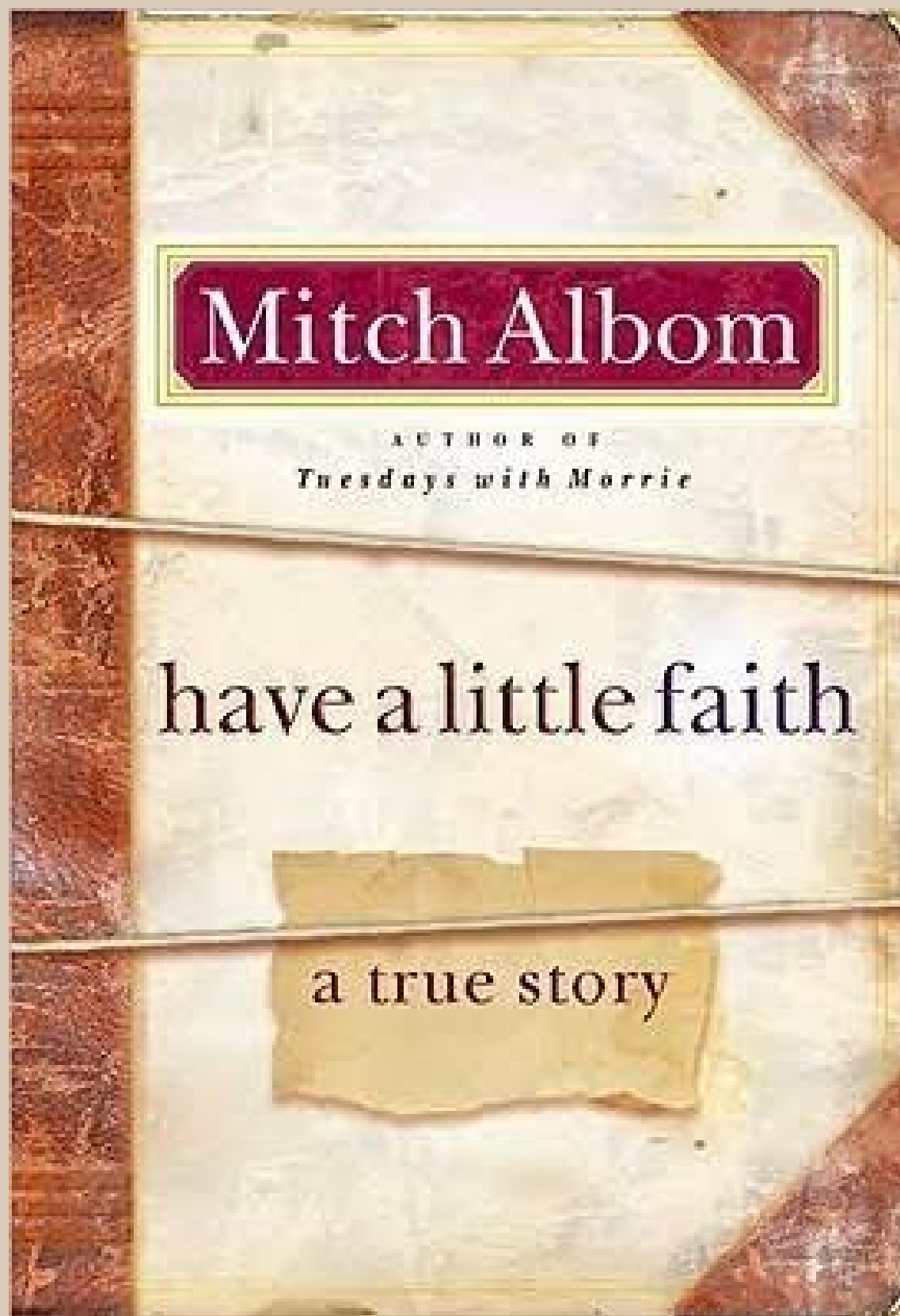
Mikhail Bulgakov's *The Master and Margarita* is a thought-provoking novel that weaves together questions of faith, morality, justice, and human nature through satire, fantasy, and historical narrative. Alongside its exploration of Soviet atheism and censorship, the novel includes a powerful retelling of the story of Pontius Pilate and Jesus, inviting readers to reflect on belief, conscience, and spiritual truth. For Interfaith Week, the novel offers an opportunity to explore how literature can foster dialogue on ethical responsibility, religious understanding, and the enduring search for meaning across traditions.



Windows of the Heavens - Henry G. Brinton

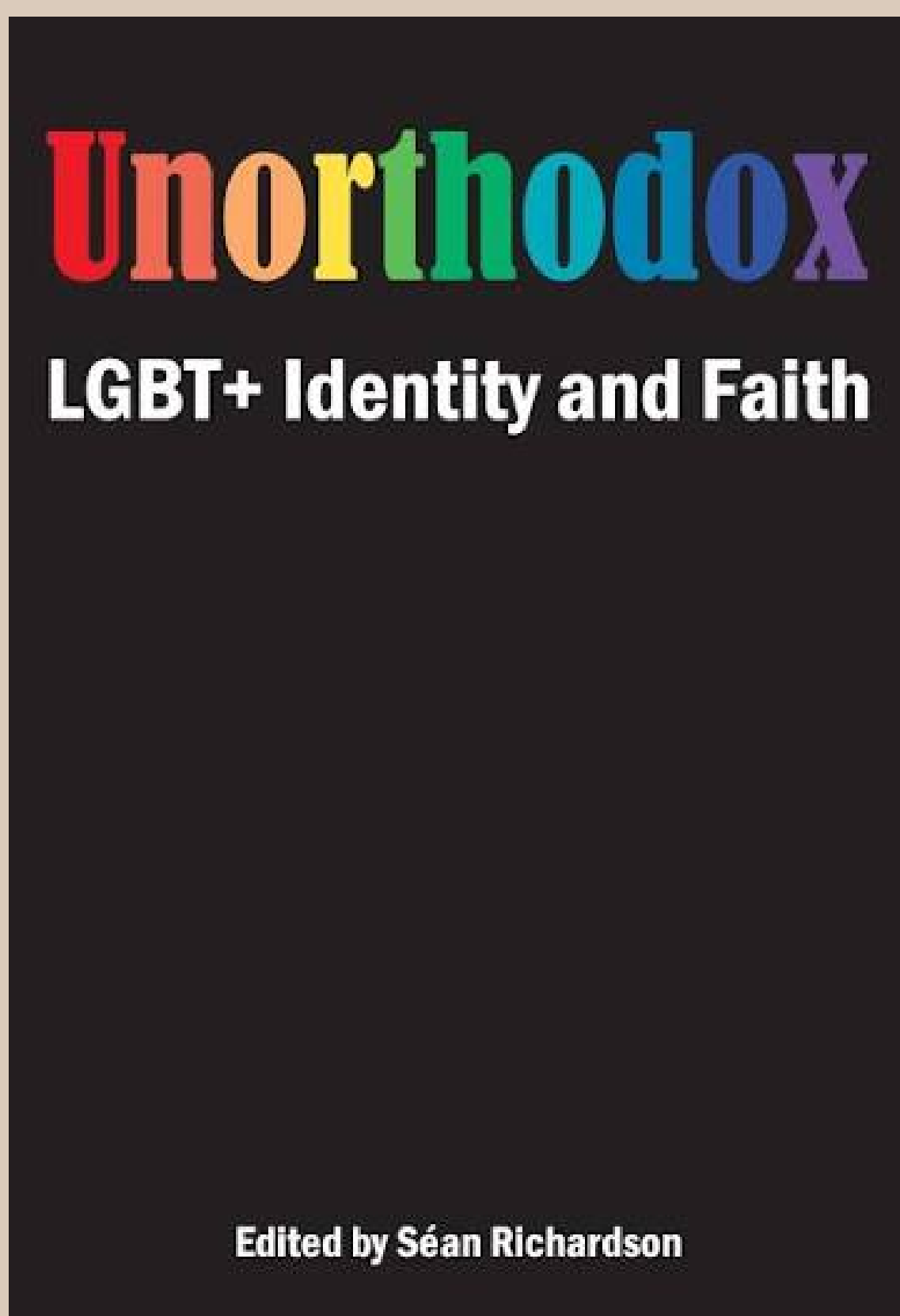
Windows of the Heavens by Henry G. Brinton explores the importance of interfaith understanding, tolerance and cooperation. It highlights how people from different religious backgrounds can unite through shared values and mutual respect. Brinton also addresses climate change and sustainability, emphasising the shared responsibility of all faiths to protect the environment and care for God's creation. Ultimately, he shows how religion can bring people together to tackle both social and environmental challenges.

Non-Fiction



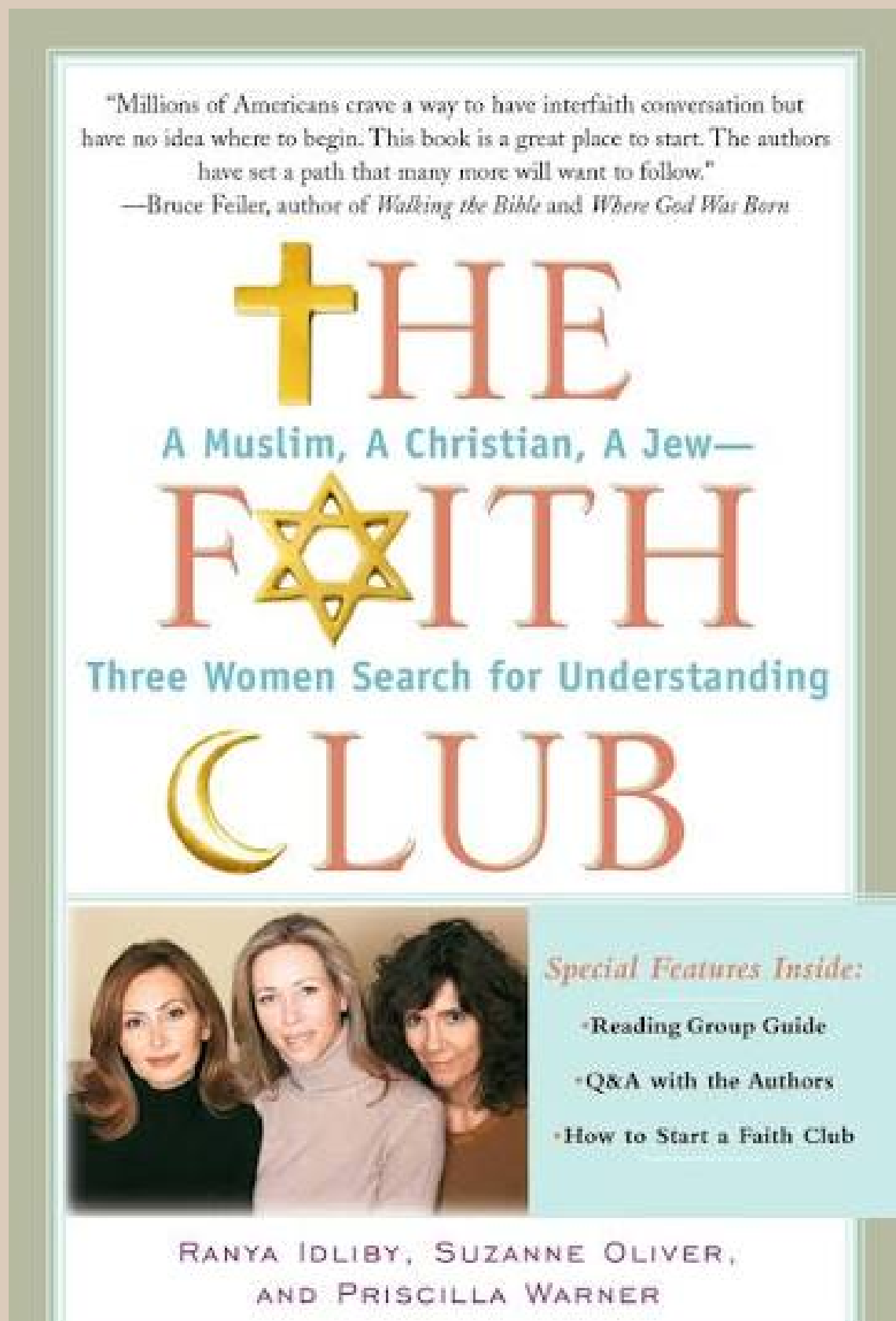
Have a Little Faith - Mitch Albom

Mitch Albom's *Have a Little Faith: A True Story* explores faith, death, and the meaning of life through the experiences of two very different religious leaders: Rabbi Albert Lewis, a Jewish rabbi, and Henry Covington, an African American Christian pastor. Although they come from different religious traditions and backgrounds, both men share a commitment to helping others and finding meaning through faith. Albom shows that different religions can share values such as compassion, forgiveness, service, and hope. The book presents an interfaith perspective by emphasizing that faith does not have to divide people; instead, differences can create opportunities for understanding and connection.



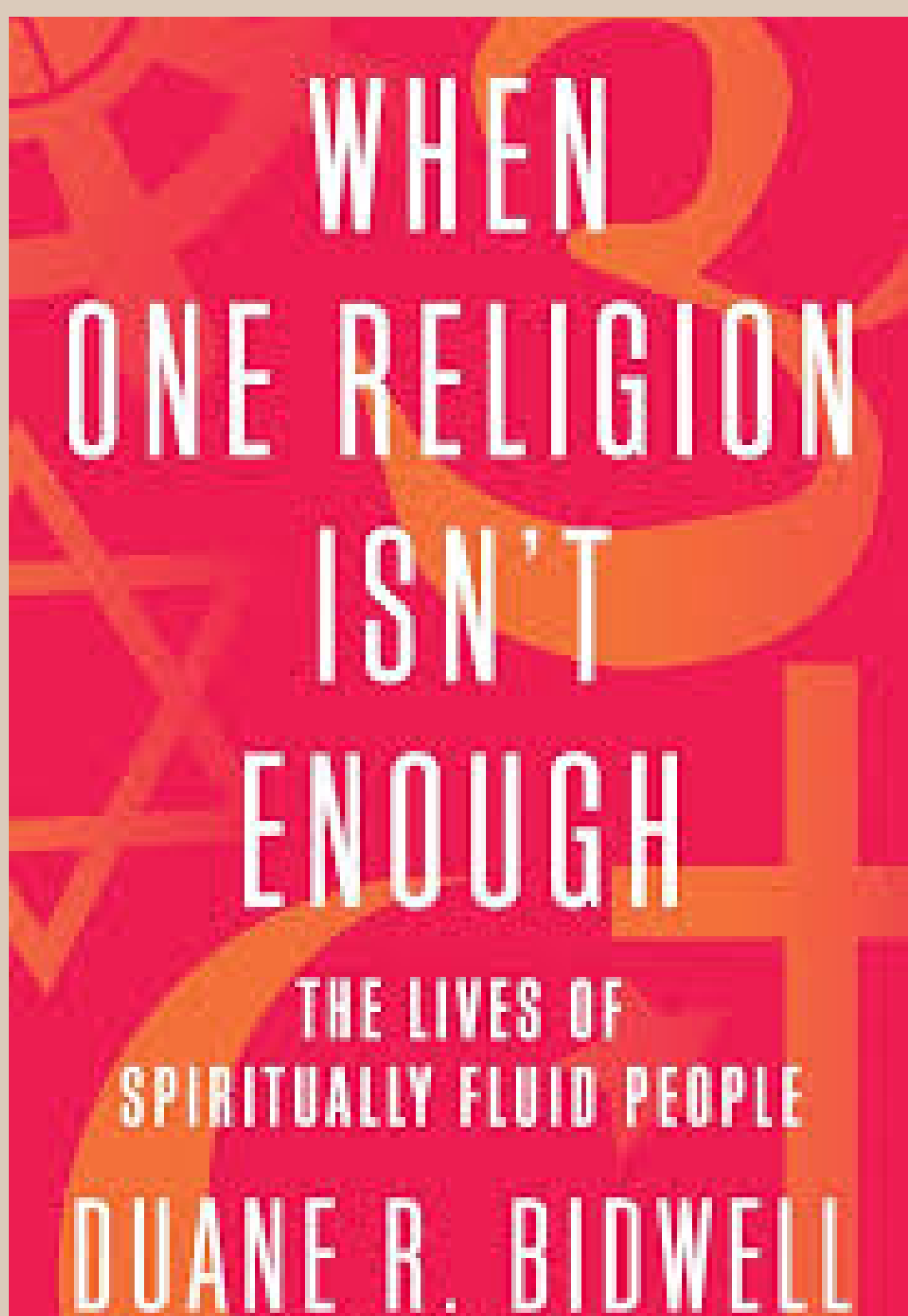
Unorthodox: LGBTQ+ Identity and Faith - Séan Richardson

Unorthodox: LGBTQ Identity and Faith, edited by Sean Richardson, explores how LGBTQ+ people navigate identity within different religious traditions. From an interfaith perspective, the book highlights how Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and other faiths can approach LGBTQ+ identity in different ways. It encourages interfaith dialogue and shows that faith and LGBTQ+ identity can coexist, while promoting greater understanding, acceptance, and respect across religious differences.



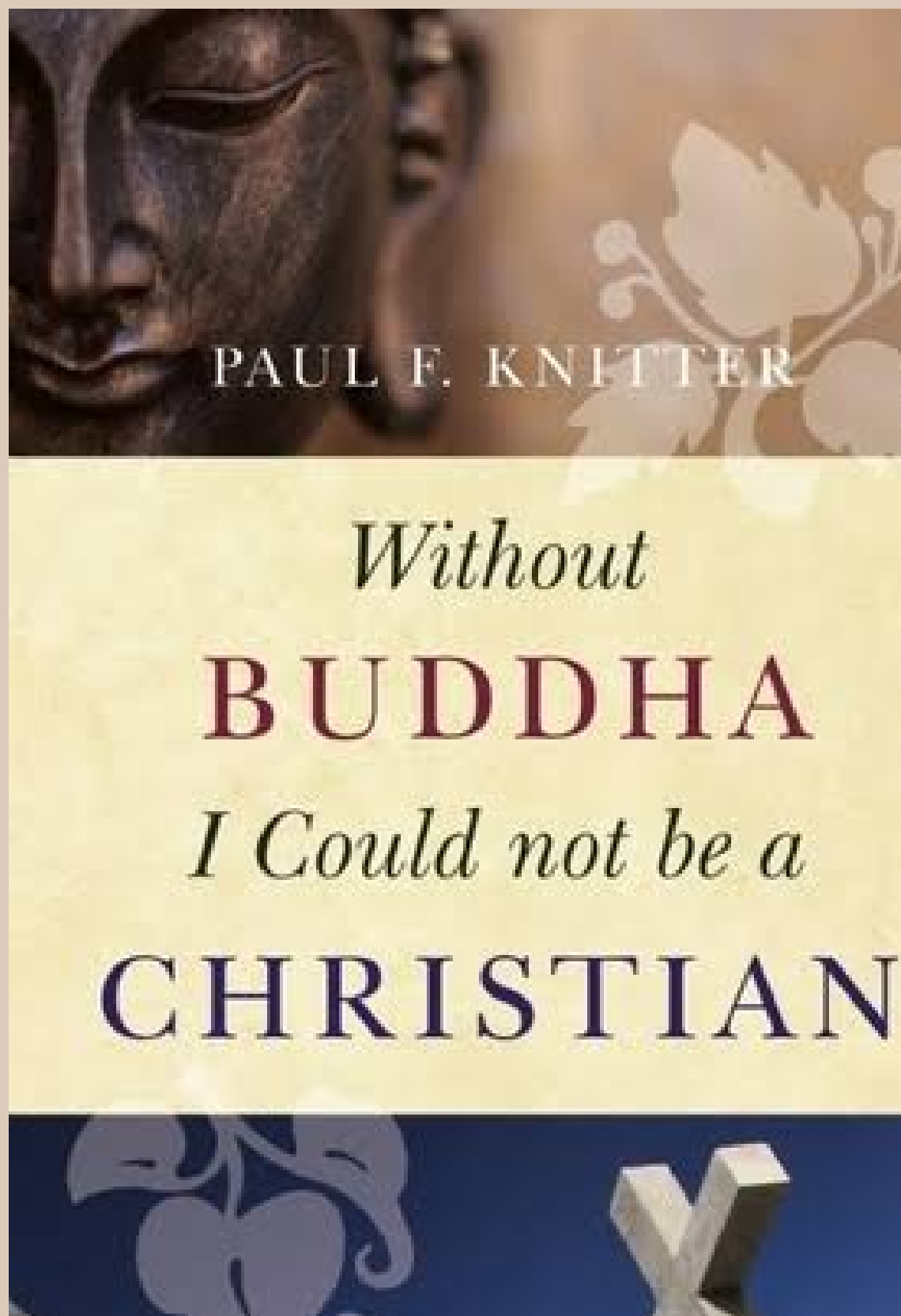
The Faith Club = Idliby, Oliver and Warner

The Faith Club explores the power of interfaith dialogue through the friendship of three women from Muslim, Christian, and Jewish backgrounds. By sharing their beliefs, traditions, and personal experiences, the book shows how honest conversation can challenge assumptions, build understanding, and reveal common ground across religious differences. At its heart, it is a story about listening, respect, and the possibility of friendship between people of different faiths.



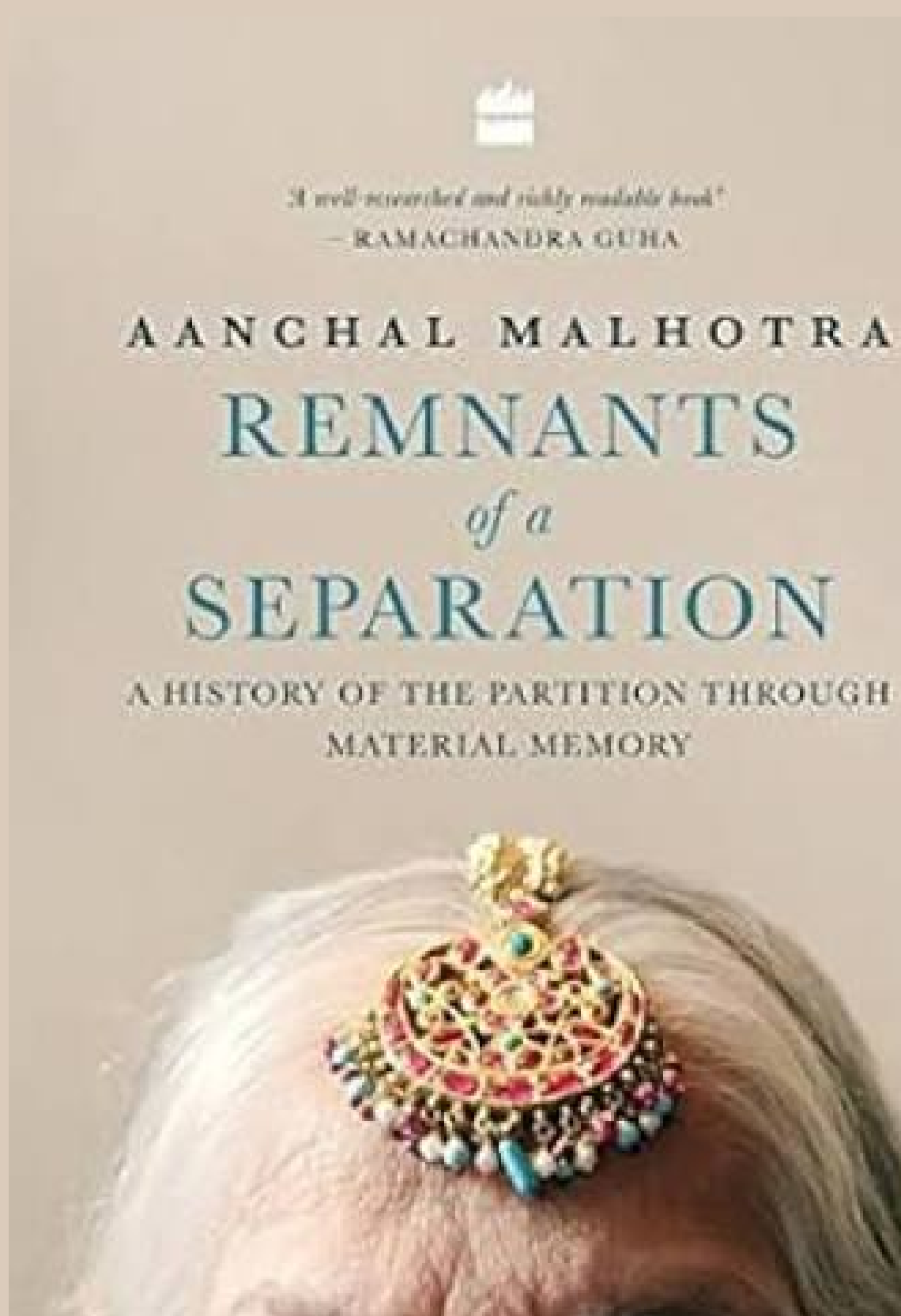
When One Religion Isn't Enough - Duane R. Bidwell

When One Religion Isn't Enough explores faith as something that can be enriched through encounters with people of different religious traditions. Its interfaith context challenges the idea that religious identity exists in isolation, instead highlighting how dialogue, shared experiences, and exposure to other beliefs can deepen our understanding of spirituality. The book invites readers to consider what we can learn when we move beyond religious boundaries and engage openly with diverse faith perspectives.



Without Buddha I could not be a Christian - Paul E. Knitter

Without the Buddha, I Would Not Be Christian explores how engagement with Buddhism can reshape and deepen Christian faith. Its interfaith perspective highlights the value of encountering another religious tradition not as a threat to one's own beliefs, but as an opportunity for reflection, dialogue, and spiritual growth. The book demonstrates how interfaith engagement can open new ways of understanding Christianity while fostering greater respect and appreciation for religious diversity.



Remnants of a Separation = Aanchal Malhotra

Remnants of Separation by Aanchal Malhotra explores the personal memories and inherited stories shaped by the Partition of India. Through its interfaith context, the book brings together experiences from Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh communities, revealing how Partition disrupted shared lives and relationships across religious boundaries. By foregrounding individual memories and connections, it highlights both the painful legacy of religious division and the enduring human bonds that can transcend it.

Further Resources

We hope you found this resource helpful!

For more ideas and to support Inter Faith Week,
visit:

Website: <https://www.interfaithweek.org/>

Instagram: @ifweek

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ifweek

