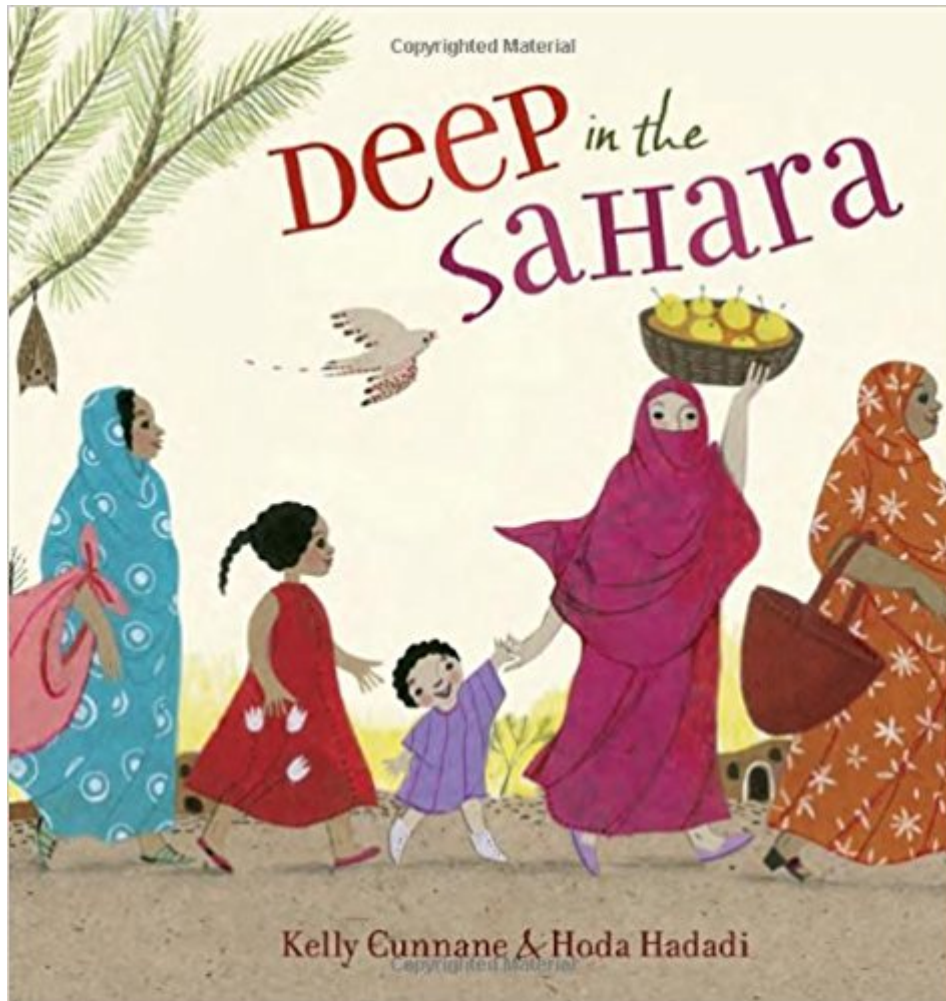




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# Deep In The Sahara



## Synopsis

"Poetic language, attractive illustrations and a positive message about Islam, without any didacticism: a wonderful combination," declares Kirkus Reviews in a starred review. Lalla lives in the Muslim country of Mauritania, and more than anything, she wants to wear a *malafa*, the colorful cloth Mauritanian women, like her mama and big sister, wear to cover their heads and clothes in public. But it is not until Lalla realizes that a *malafa* is not just worn to show a woman's beauty and mystery or to honor tradition that she realizes it is also worn for faith that Lalla's mother agrees to slip a long cloth as blue as the ink in the Koran over Lalla's head, under her arm, and round and round her body. Then together, they pray. An author's note and glossary are included in the back of the book.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 890L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Schwartz & Wade (October 8, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375870342

ISBN-13: 978-0375870347

Product Dimensions: 10.3 x 0.3 x 10.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #628,093 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Muslim #142 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Middle East #339 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Other Religious Fiction

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

**\*Starred Review\*** Lalla lives in Mauritania where the sun burns, the sands shift, and all answer the call to prayer. It is her wish to wear, like the women around her, a *malafa*, or airy, colorful cloth worn over clothes and covering the head. Lalla wants to wear the *malafa* for its beauty, but her mother explains that the cloth's purpose is for more than beauty. She tells her sister, Selma, that she wants to wear it to be mysterious; Selma laughs and says that isn't a good enough

reason. Neither is Lalla's desire to transition from a girl to a woman. Only when she tells her mother that I want a malafa so I can pray like you do does she receive her coveted cloth. Cunnane explains in an author's note that when she first lived in Mauritania, she believed wearing the veil was repressive, but the people's relaxed and colorful expression of their faith and culture changed her mind. She will certainly make readers think about their preconceived notions thanks to a text that is as thoughtful as it is charming. Hadadi, who is Iranian, creates paper collages with a whimsical beauty that work well with the story's sense of longing. The women, all individualized, exude true warmth, and readers will feel a quiet satisfaction when Lalla joins them. A special offering. Grades K-3. --Ilene Cooper

Starred Review, Kirkus Reviews, September 1, 2013: "Poetic language, attractive illustrations and a positive message about Islam, without any didacticism: a wonderful combination." • Starred Review, Publishers Weekly, September 9, 2013: "The warm, affirming portrait of Islam makes this a valuable resource for both Muslim audiences and a broader readership interested in potentially unfamiliar customs and observances of faith." Starred Review, School Library Journal, November 2013: "This book incorporates authentic cultural details in both the poetic text and the evocative illustrations [A] lovely original story." • Starred Review, Booklist, November 15, 2013: "The women, all individualized, exude true warmth, and readers will feel a quiet satisfaction when Lalla joins them. A special offering."

Beautifully illustrated! The illustrations are vibrant and captivating. Well written story line. Explains the concept of prayer and the reasoning behind hijab in a lovely manner.

Such a cute book to share!!! Great illustrations, my little girl loves pointing out the many details. Well written and Simple enough to keep my 3yr olds attention...I Just love how meaningful the colorful journey was for her to gain the full inner-standing!!! Yey Laila! Please publish another Islamic culture clarifying journey book for my little boy!!!!

Wonderful imagery and the illustrations are beautiful. It is a wonderful story told from the perspective of a child. A great piece to add to any library.

Amazing book! Great illustrations! My husband is from Mauritania and it was great to show our son something about where his father is from. Mashallah.

I was in Mauritania for a year with the Peace Corps (we were evacuated after a year and I moved to the Gambia) and this kid's book brought back so many memories. Beautifully illustrated.

My 9 year old daughter loved it.

Our 3.5 loves books, nice story

good

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