

CONTENTS

Contents	v
A Note on the Women Writing Africa Project <i>Tuzyline Jita Allan, Abena P. A. Busia, and Florence Howe</i>	xv
Preface <i>Moha Ennaji and Abena P. A. Busia</i>	xix
INTRODUCTION <i>Amira Nowaira, Azza El Kholy, Marjorie Lightman, Zahia Smail Salhi, Fatima Sadiqi, Khadija Zizi, Moha Ennaji, Nadia El Kholy, and Sahar Hamouda</i>	i
 THE ANCIENTS: FIFTEENTH CENTURY BCE TO FOURTH CENTURY CE	
<i>Hatshepsut, MY FALCON RISES HIGH</i> Egypt 15th Century BCE Hieroglyphic	63
<i>Ankhesen-pa-Atun, A PROPOSAL OF MARRIAGE</i> Egypt 14th Century BCE Hittite	64
<i>Anonymous, LOVE SONGS</i> Egypt 14th–12th Centuries BCE Hieratic Script	65
<i>Anonymous, LAMENT OF ISIS AND NEPHTHYS</i> Egypt c. 300 BCE Hieratic Script	69
<i>Philista, Daughter of Lysias, A COMPLAINT</i> Egypt 220 BCE Greek	70
<i>Nikaia, Daughter of Nikias, REQUEST FOR A GUARDIAN</i> Egypt 218 BCE Greek	71
<i>Apollonous, ABOUT A LITTLE GIRL</i> Egypt c. 100 CE Greek	73
<i>Ptolema, LETTER TO A BROTHER</i> Egypt 2nd Century CE Greek	74

<i>Saint Vivian Perpetua, I AM A CHRISTIAN</i> Tunisia 203 CE Latin	75
<i>Aurelia Thaisous, A MOTHER SEEKS LEGAL INDEPENDENCE</i> Egypt 263 CE Greek	79
<i>Statulenia Julia, TO THE MEMORY OF AELIA SECUNDULA</i> Ancient Mauretania, Now Modern Morocco 299 CE Latin	80
<i>Saint Syncletica, LET WOMEN NOT BE MISLED</i> Egypt 4th Century CE Greek	81
 ISLAM: SEVENTH CENTURY TO EIGHTEENTH CENTURY 	
<i>Om Makina, LETTER TO A WOMAN FRIEND</i> Egypt 8th Century Arabic	87
<i>Anonymous, A PLEA FOR MONEY</i> Egypt c. 9th–10th Century Arabic	88
<i>Mabriyya Al-Aghlabiya and Khadija Ben Kalthoum,</i> TWO TUNISIAN POEMS Tunisia 9th Century, 11th Century Arabic	89
<i>Astour Heyob, FREEING A SLAVE WOMAN</i> Egypt 1003 Arabic	91
<i>Sara, Daughter of Abboud Al-Nahid,</i> USING THE RIGHT OF SEVERANCE Egypt 1069 Arabic	91
<i>Hafsa Bint Al-Haj Al-Rakuniya, LOVE POEMS</i> Morocco 1160 Arabic	92
<i>Fatma-Setita, CONSOLATION AND OTHER POEMS</i> Egypt c. 1492–1494 Arabic	95
<i>Ana de Melo, ESCAPING THE INQUISITION</i> Morocco 1559 Portuguese	97

<i>Lalla Kbnata Bint Bakkar</i> , TWO POLITICAL LETTERS Morocco 1729, 1736 Arabic	98
<i>Lalla Fatima</i> , LETTER ABOUT FEMALE SLAVES Morocco 1764 Arabic	100
<i>Shebrazad</i> , STRUGGLE FOR A THRONE Morocco c. 1792 Arabic	101
 NINETEENTH CENTURY TO EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY 	
<i>Anonymous</i> , <i>LA'RUBIYAT</i> , OR WOMEN'S SONGS Morocco Early 19th Century Arabic	105
<i>Aisha Al-Taymouria</i> , POEM TO MY DAUGHTER Egypt 1884 Arabic	108
<i>Kharboucha</i> , AISSA THE FOX Morocco 1895 Arabic	110
<i>Labiba Hashim</i> , THE EASTERN WOMAN: HOW SHE IS AND HOW SHE SHOULD BE Egypt 1898 Arabic	113
<i>Zeinab Fawwaz</i> , THE CHOICE OF A HUSBAND Egypt 1899 Arabic	116
<i>Malak Hifni Nassef</i> , POLYGAMY Egypt 1910 Arabic	119
<i>Tawgrat Walt Aissa N'Ayt Sokhman</i> , RESISTANCE Morocco Early 1920s Berber	123
<i>Saphia Zagloul</i> , LETTER FROM EXILE Egypt 1922 French	124
<i>Helmeya Yousry</i> , RESPONSE TO REACTIONARIES Egypt 1925 Arabic	126

<i>Mounira Thabet</i> , WOMEN'S RIGHTS Egypt 1925 Arabic	128
<i>Mririda N'Ayt Atiq</i> , TWO DEFIANT POEMS Morocco 1927 Berber	131
<i>Blanche Bendaban</i> , VISITING A DEAD MOTHER Algeria 1930 French	134
<i>Asma Fahmy</i> , HIGHER EDUCATION FOR WOMEN Egypt 1934 Arabic	141
" <i>Al Fatat</i> ," ON YOUNG WOMEN'S EDUCATION Morocco 1935 Arabic	144
<i>Soheir El-Qalamawi</i> , A FURIOUS WOMAN Egypt 1935 Arabic	146
<i>Nahed Taha Abdel Ber</i> , THE LOST HOPE Egypt 1936 Arabic	149
<i>Nabaweya Moussa</i> , YES TO EDUCATION AND NO TO MARRIAGE Egypt 1937 Arabic	150
<i>Bchira Ben Mrad</i> , HONORING DR. TAWHIDA BEN CHEIKH Tunisia 1937 Arabic	154

MID-TWENTIETH CENTURY

<i>Bady'a Sabbab-Allah</i> , LETTER TO A FRIEND Egypt 1942 Arabic	159
<i>Malika El-Fassi</i> , AN IMPORTANT STEP FOR GIRLS' EDUCATION Morocco 1942 Arabic	160
<i>Fatma Ne'mat Rashed</i> , SHOULD WOMEN ENTER AL-AZHAR? Egypt 1946 Arabic	162

<i>Huda Shaarawi</i> , LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER Egypt 1946 Arabic	164
<i>Lalla Aisha</i> , A PRINCESS SPEAKS, UNVEILED Morocco 1947 Arabic	167
<i>Doria Shafik</i> , THE BEST TYPE OF PUBLICITY Egypt 1947 Arabic	171
<i>Habiba Guessoussa</i> , AN OPENING SPEECH Morocco 1947 Arabic	173
<i>Eugenie Sinano Horwitz</i> , TALES FROM THE ZOGHEB SAGA Egypt 1949 French	175
<i>Alia Khsasiya</i> , WOMEN'S EMANCIPATION Morocco 1950 Arabic	184
<i>Aisha Abdel Rahman</i> , THE HEIRESS Egypt 1953 Arabic	187
<i>Zhor Lhiyania, Fatima Ali Mernissi, Hiba Elbaqali, Aziza Kerzazi, and Fatima Bourqadia</i> , TO LALLA RADIA, OUR ETERNAL LIGHTHOUSE Morocco 1955 Arabic	191
<i>Djamila D��b��che</i> , ALIENATION Algeria 1955 French	193
<i>Fatima Kabbaj</i> , REMOVAL OF THE VEIL AND DECENCY Morocco 1956 Arabic	197
<i>Baya Hocine</i> , SENTENCED TO DEATH Algeria 1957 French	199
<i>Assia Djebar</i> , THERE IS NO EXILE Algeria 1959 French	201
<i>Djamila Boupacha</i> , TESTIMONY OF TORTURE Algeria 1960 French	211

<i>Zhor Zerari</i>, TWO PRISON POEMS	213
Algeria 1960 French	
<i>Galila Reda</i>, I NO LONGER LOVE PASSIONATELY	216
Egypt 1965 Arabic	
<i>Wadida Wassef</i>, AUNT NOOR	218
Egypt c.1965 English	
<i>Fadhma Ait Mansour Amrouche</i>, OUTCAST AND EXILE	224
Algeria 1968 French	
LATE TWENTIETH CENTURY	
<i>Khnata Bennani</i>, COME BACK IN TWO WEEKS	231
Morocco 1975 Arabic	
<i>Rabha Moba</i>, I WANT TO TELL YOU	235
Morocco 1977 Berber	
<i>Saida Menebhi</i>, TWO POEMS: PRISON AND THE PROSTITUTES	240
Morocco 1977 French	
<i>Zainab Al-Ghazali</i>, TORTURE IN PRISON	244
Egypt 1978 Arabic	
<i>Amina Wabib</i>, THE ROSE	247
Morocco 1980 Arabic	
<i>Aicha Mekki</i>, ON PROSTITUTION	248
Morocco 1980 French	
<i>El-Hajja Rqia</i>, FATMA AND THE OGRESS	250
Morocco Mid 1980s Berber	
<i>Fatima Tabaamrant</i>, WAKE UP, SISTERS	254
Morocco 1983 Berber	
<i>Fatima Mernissi</i>, WOMEN AND POLITICAL ISLAM	255
Morocco 1987 French	

<i>Amina Arfaoui</i> , THE GRAMOPHONE Tunisia 1987 French	259
<i>Samira Tolba Abdel Tawab</i> , MOTHER GOAT: A FOLK TALE Egypt 1989 Arabic	266
<i>Salwa Bakr</i> , WORMS IN THE ROSE GARDEN Egypt 1992 Arabic	268
<i>Communal</i> , TAKE MY BRACELET AND OTHER SONGS Tunisia 1992 Arabic	275
<i>Latifa Jbabdi and L'Union de L'Action Féminine</i> , ONE MILLION SIGNATURES Morocco 1992 Arabic	277
<i>Fatma Kandil</i> , THORNY SPACES SUDDENLY MOVING Egypt 1993 Arabic	279
<i>Latifa Al-Zayyat</i> , IN HER OWN MIRROR Egypt 1993 Arabic	280
<i>Nawal El Saadawi</i> , WRITING AND FREEDOM Egypt 1993 Arabic	285
<i>Malouma Bint Moktar Ould Meidah</i> , AN ARTIST WHO UNSETTLES: AN INTERVIEW AND A SONG Mauritania 1993 Arabic	294
<i>Mubaraka Bint Al-Barra</i> , DEFIANCES: AN INTERVIEW AND A POEM Mauritania 1994 Arabic	296
<i>Radwa Ashour</i> , ACCUSED OF HERESY Egypt 1994 Arabic	300
<i>Naima Boucharef</i> , WHY WAS MY SON ASSASSINATED? Tunisia 1994 French	305
<i>Moufida Tlati</i> , BREAKING SILENCE Tunisia 1994 Arabic	308

<i>Tassadit Yacine and Nouara,</i> WHY SOME WOMEN WRITE POETRY Algeria 1995 French	311
<i>Buthayna Khadr Mekky,</i> RITES Sudan 1996 Arabic	315
<i>Fathia El Assal,</i> WHO IS FATHIA EL ASSAL? Egypt 1997 Arabic	320
<i>Samira El Ghaly El Hajj,</i> THE MAGIC JOURNEY Sudan 1997 Arabic	322
<i>Huda Lutfi,</i> FRAMED WOMEN Egypt 1999 English	323
<i>Fatma Ramadan,</i> LULLABY TO A DAUGHTER Egypt 1999 Arabic	325

THE NEW CENTURY

<i>Leila Abouzeid,</i> TWO STORIES OF A HOUSE Morocco 2000 Arabic	329
<i>Tafidab Mahmoud Abdel Aghany,</i> GAMALEK, THE MASTER OF ALL BIRDS Egypt 2001 Arabic	332
<i>Safia Orabo,</i> LOVE AND MILITANCY: ORAL TESTIMONIES Morocco 2001 Berber	335
<i>Maria Bent Itto Brabim,</i> TWO SLAVES, MOTHER AND DAUGHTER Morocco 2001 Berber	338
<i>Rabea Qadiri,</i> SONGS OF SEPARATION AND UNION Morocco 2001 Arabic	340
<i>Lalla Mina Lamrani,</i> TWO FEISTY TALES Morocco 2001 Arabic	344

<i>Hafsa Bekri-Lamrani</i> , THE CALL OF HAGAR Morocco 2001 English	346
<i>Ekkal Baraka</i> , SO AS NOT TO FORGET THE DREAMS OF QASIM AMIN Egypt 2002 Arabic	348
<i>Hadda N'Ayt Hssain</i> , O BRIDE: BERBER WEDDING SONG Morocco 2003 Berber	351
<i>Samia Serageldin</i> , LOVE IS LIKE WATER Egypt 2003 English	352
<i>Faiza W. Shereen</i> , GIFTS OF TIME Egypt 2003 English	362
<i>Azza Filali</i> , DUO Tunisia 2003 French	380
<i>Nouzha Skalli-Bennis</i> , PROGRESS FOR WOMEN IS PROGRESS FOR ALL! Morocco 2004 Arabic	383
<i>Communal (Lalla Fatima)</i> , THE FLOWER OF ALL EARTHLY CREATURES Morocco 2004 Tashelhit	386
<i>Yaëlle Azagury</i> , A JEWISH MOROCCAN CHILDHOOD Morocco 2007 English	388
<i>Mona Abousenna</i> , GIRLS' HONOR AND INTELLECTUALS' SHAME Egypt 2007 Arabic	394
<i>Mona Makram-Ebeid</i> , RIGHTS OF POLITICAL REPRESENTATION Egypt 2007 English	397
<i>Mona Nawal Helmi</i> , FROM THIS DAY FORTH, I WILL CARRY MY MOTHER'S NAME Egypt 2006 Arabic	399

Editors and Other Contributors	403
Permissions, Acknowledgments, and Sources	411
Authors Listed by Country	424
Index	425