Transplanted Gender Norms and Their Limits in Monica Ali’s Brick Lane

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ASIATIC-IUM JOURNAL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
Volume: 12  Issue: 1  Pages: 59-77  Special Issue: SI
Published:  JUN 2018
Document Type: Article

Abstract
In Brick Lane (2003), Monica Ali describes both the spatial and metaphysical geography of Bangladeshi immigrants living in the diaspora in Britain. Face-to-face with immigrant anxieties as well as material constraints in the host society, diasporic patriarchy seeks to transplant gender norms of its country of origin and imposes domestic seclusion on women under its control. Against such a cultural backdrop, Ali depicits the problem of identity and gendered expectations of women in the diaspora. There is a persistent concern over women’s nomadic existence in patriarchal society and over their profound loss of confidence and cultural belonging. This specific, cultural pattern finds a concrete expression in Ali’s description of the transplantation of Bangladeshi gender ideology in London, as the novel unravels its limits and inefficacy in the postcolonial world of information technology.

Keywords
Author Keywords: Monica Ali; diasporic anxiety; transplanted gender norms; the Bangladeshi diaspora in Britain; permeable seclusion; diasporic patriarchy

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Publisher
INT ISLAMIC UNIV MALAYSIA, DEPT ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE, JALAN GOMBAK, SELAYANG, SELANGOR, 50728, MALAYSIA

Categories / Classification
Research Areas: Literature
Web of Science Categories: Literature

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Showing 30 of 39  View All in Cited References page

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<table>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>30</td>
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<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By: Cormack, Alistair</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>68</td>
</tr>
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<td>By: Hall, S.</td>
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Showing 30 of 39   View All in Cited References page