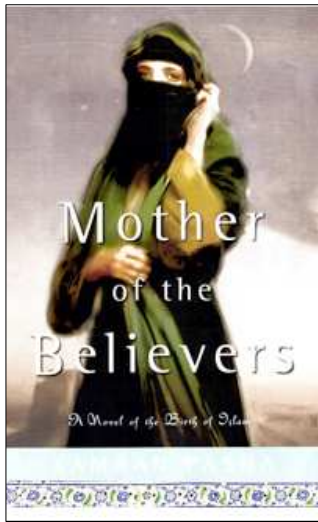


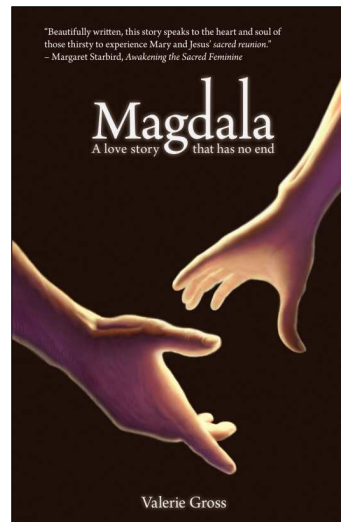
Mid-Manhattan Library  
presents

# A Writers' Dialogue

## Contemporary Writers Take on the Ancient Stories



with



**Kamran Pasha and Valerie Gross**

**Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
6:30 p.m. on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor**



New York  
Public  
Library

Mid-Manhattan Library  
40<sup>th</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
New York, NY 10016  
212-340-0837

**Kamran Pasha**, the author of *Mother of the Believers*, will join **Valerie Gross**, author of *Magdala*, to discuss their process in writing historical fiction about the births of their respective religions, Islam and Christianity.

What does it mean for today's writer to take on the ancient stories that tradition holds dear? Are there stories, in our culture or in our personal lives, too sacred to be retold? What is at stake, for the writer and for the reader? Where does the idea of creative freedom fit in to these questions?

**K**amran Pasha's book, *Mother of the Believers*, is a historical fiction tale showing the rise of Islam from the eyes of Prophet Muhammad's young wife Aisha. It was just published as part of a two book deal by Simon & Schuster's Atria Books.

Until recently, Kamran Pasha was a writer and producer for NBC's critically acclaimed television series *Kings*, a modern day retelling of the Biblical tale of King David. Previously he served as a writer on NBC's remake of *Bionic Woman*, and on Showtime Network's Golden Globe nominated series *Sleeper Cell*, about a Muslim FBI agent who infiltrates a terrorist group.

An expert on the Middle East, Mr. Pasha is one of the few successful Muslim screenwriters in Hollywood. In 2003, he set up his first feature script at Warner Brothers, an historical epic on the love story behind the building of the Taj Mahal. He is currently writing an epic film entitled *The Voyage of Ibn Battuta*, which follows the adventures of a famous Arab traveler who journeyed to China in the 14th century. This feature is being financed by the Moroccan government and produced by French production company Forecast Pictures.

Mr. Pasha holds a JD from Cornell Law School, an MBA from Dartmouth and an MFA from UCLA Film School. He spent three years as a journalist in New York City, writing for media companies such as Knight-Ridder. During his time as a reporter, Mr. Kamran interviewed prominent international figures such as Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.



**V**alerie Gross's book, *Magdala*, is a fictional re-interpretation of the story of Mary Magdalene and her life as priestess and beloved of Jesus. While devoting the past seven years to researching *Magdala*, including travel to Israel, Ms. Gross has also edited a wide range of women's projects, from works of scholarship through poetry to fiction. She currently facilitates women's circles and visits with women's book groups in the tri-state area. She holds a BA from Lang College and an MA in Media Studies from the New School. Prior to devoting herself full-time to writing, editing and teaching, Ms. Gross, a native Manhattanite, worked in higher education and in finance.



Elevators access the 6th floor after 6 p.m.  
All programs are FREE and subject to  
last minute change or cancellation.

