The Sparrow 1 Mary Doria Russell

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a collection of essays examining how armed conflict functions as a subject theme metaphor symbol or plot device in popular works of speculative fiction including novels films television and video games speculative fiction genres such as science fiction fantasy utopian dystopian apocalyptic post apocalyptic supernatural horror superhero and alternative history is at this particular cultural moment incontrovertibly popular despite the fact that war and its social cultural political and moral consequences are often a driving force in speculative fiction narratives exerting outsized influence on character development structuring plot and conflict and serving as a vehicle to explore various themes there has been little critical attention given specifically to the intersection of these concepts wars we never fought remedies this problem as contributors analyze such popular texts as the star wars franchise ann leckie s imperial radch trilogy dune mary doria russell s the sparrow and children of god the expanse series captain marvel and the fallout game franchise these essays offer accessible and wide ranging critical insight into how and why creators of speculative fiction use war as a device within the diegetic worlds of their stories they also look at what the depictions of war and warriors within

these texts suggest regarding notions such as race class gender sexuality difference sociopolitical power and other cultural values contextualizing the culture in which these narratives are created and consumed wars we never fought demonstrates how the textual dramatization of entirely fictitious wars might reflect interrogate and even structure understanding of warfare in the real world

across the world from personal relationships to global politics differences cultural religious racial gender age ability are at the heart of the most disruptive and disturbing concerns while it is laudable to nurture an environment promoting the tolerance of difference creative encounters appreciating difference argues for the higher goal of actually appreciating difference as essential to creativity and innovation even if often experienced as stressful and complex even encounters that are apparently harmful and negatively valued arguments conflict war oppression usually heighten the potential for creativity innovation movement action and identity drawing on classic encounters that have played a significant role in the founding of the academic study of religion and the social sciences this book explores in some depth the dynamics of encounter to reveal both its problematic and creative aspects and to develop perspectives and strategies to assure encounters both include the appreciation of difference and also are recognized as creative and innovative the two examples most extensively considered show that the academic study of the peoples indigenous to north america and to australia involved creative constructions concoctions of primary examples in order to establish and give authority to academic theories and definitions rather than damning these examples as bad scholarship this book considers them to be encounters engendering creative constructions that are distinctive to academia yet their potential for harm must be understood most important to the book is a persistent development of perspectives and strategies for understanding and approaching encounters in order to assure the appreciation of difference is accompanied by the potential for creativity and innovation specific perspectives and strategies are related to naming moving gesture and play and particularly relevant to religion the development of an aesthetic of impossibles since these historical examples engage highly relevant present concerns the distinction of real and fake truth and lie map and territory the threading essays show how these more or less classic examples might contribute to appreciating these contemporary concerns that are generated in the presence of difference

in the twenty first century the debate about life on other worlds is quickly changing from the realm of speculation to the domain of hard science within a few years as a consequence of the rapid discovery by astronomers of planets around other stars astronomers very likely will have discovered clear evidence of life beyond the earth such a discovery of extraterrestrial life will change everything knowing the answer as to whether humanity has company in the universe will trigger one of the greatest intellectual revolutions in history not the least of which will be a challenge for at least some terrestrial religions which religions will handle the discovery of extraterrestrial life with ease and which will struggle to assimilate this new knowledge about our place in the universe some religions as currently practiced appear to only be viable on earth other religions could be practiced on distant worlds but nevertheless identify both earth as a place and humankind as a species of singular spiritual religious importance while some religions could be practiced equally well anywhere in the universe by any sentient beings weintraub guides readers on an invigorating tour of the world s most widely practiced religions it reveals what if anything each religion has to say about the possibility that extraterrestrial life exists and how or if a particular religion would work on other planets in distant parts of the universe

running into water is not just another woman s book it s an articulate and compelling call to women and mothers from every dialect of life for renewed purpose and hope we all desperately need water to sustain our physical lives just as we need god to sustain our spiritual

lives the idea of women immersed in god transformed through the practice of motherhood is as much as for who women will be as it is for who the next generation will become this endeavor demands that mothers not only be heartfelt women but intellectual ones engaging the world around them women in pursuit of god live lives that are anything but commonplace their mothering becomes anything but ordinary to be a woman mother and learner of christ applying his freedom and teaching to life is much more than good morality or a safe dull existence it is a profound resurrection to life as its meant to be angela blycker invites you to join her on this personal global thoughtful and applicable journey in running into water as she explores and interweaves the beliefs and questions about pursuing god gives evidence of practical implications of this in the lives of women internationally through the bold application of spiritual truths and presents insightful vision for intentional motherhood despite the continued struggles of women and children running into water shows that their pursuit of god is as powerful as a mighty rushing river winding in every direction breaking up dry ground in different ways and in various times but always with the intent to deliver life now and in the coming generations

some programs include also the programs of societies meeting concurrently with the association

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