Theresa Barton

Women in Islamic Traditions

Reflection for week 14.9.15

Victimhood and Humanity: Inadequately Coexistent

The film adaptation of Phoebe Glöckner’s highly autobiographical *Diary of a Teenage Girl* is at once a wrenching and a charming take on the narrator’s sexual adventures as an adolescent in 1970’s San Francisco. At the exact same instant the tenacious narrator succeeds in her pursuit of a love affair with her mother’s handsome older boyfriend, a disgusting thirty-year-old man rapes a fifteen year old minor. One camera angle captures her as human, present - if misguided and naive; the other projects her as the necessary but indistinct backdrop to a crime committed by the *subject.* Half enunciated questions of the derogatory, subhuman connotations of victimhood, raised by the *Diary,* came into focus during my reading of Chandra Monanty’s *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism.*