

Contents

Introduction 9

I. Queer Istanbul

1. Istanbul: Queer Desires Between Muslim Tradition and Global Pop 29

12 points 29

Turkey's Transitional Periods: Kemalist Modernization,
Military Coups, Queer Activism 32

Sex Between Men: Ottoman Tradition and Turkish Everyday Life 36

Istanbul at Night: Queer Literature, Arabesk Music, and Gay Bars 46

2. Architecture of Seduction, or: What (Really) Goes On in the Hamam? 65

Travelers' Hamam Fantasies 67

Lady Montagu Visits the Hamam 76

Harem Suare: Fictions within Fictions 81

Hamam: The Official Tour Guide Version 85

After Sex Is before Sex: The Hamam as Sacred Space of Transition 90

Hamam: Architecture of Seduction 96

Archives of Feeling: *Hamam's* Queer Temporality 102

II. Istanbul and the Queer Stage

3. "But we are all androgynous:" James Baldwin's Staging America in Turkey .. 113

Speaking from Another Place 113

The Reluctant Queer 116

Stranger in the City 118

Freaks at the Welcome Table 121

4. "Built for Europeans who came on the Orient Express:"	
Queer Desires of Extravagant Strangers in Sinan Ünel's <i>Pera Palas</i>	129
"a fucking palace:" Grand Hotel	129
"Where memory is, theatre is:" Harem as Memorial	136
"a place without a place:" Queer Space	142
"A kiss is just a kiss?" Extravagant Strangers	150

III. Transnational Queer Poetics

5. "The Wonder of Thy Beauty:" Bayard Taylor's <i>Poems of the Orient</i>	
as an Intermediary Between German Romanticism and American Gentility	163
The Arabian Indifference to Time—Moving From East to West	163
From West to East to West—Cross-Cultural Counterpoints	165
"Wahlheimatliteratur"—Taylor Reading Rückert Reading Goethe	168
"Unwinding the Turban:" <i>Poems of the Orient</i> as American Pastoral	174
Emblematic Male Oriental Beauty—Emulating Hafiz	181
Taylor's Travels to the Orient—Expanding Genteel Expectations	185
6. Bastardized History: Elif Shafak's Transcultural Poetics	193
Comic Survival or the Endless Repeat Melody	193
Elegiac Metropolis or "A Bridge in Between"	199
Edible City, or the Etho-Poetics of Food and Sex	206

IV. Performing Queer Turkish Cultures

7. Precarious Masculinities in the New Turkish Cinema	217
From Yeşilçam to New Turkish Cinema:	
Black Turks and Nationalist Masculinity	219
Precarious Masculinities in the New Turkish-German Cinema:	
The Melodramatic Penis and Trans-Masculinity	224
8. Arabesk: Nomadic Tales, Oriental Beats, and Hybrid Looks	237
Arabesk's Impurity: From Anatolia to Istanbul	238
From Tatlıses's Nostalgic Anatolian Machismo to Emrah's Sexed-Up Hard Body	242
Flamboyant Transgression? Bülent Ersoy	245
Orientalized Pop-Export: Tarkan	249

This book is dedicated to my Istanbulite friends and students.

