Handal’s ephemeral moment came to her at a young age, when she realised that the pen provided her with a field of infinite possibilities, that a blank page was limitless and she could write to benefit those around her. Thus, she began a journey within words with that not only sought to plant even the smallest seed of consciousness in sleeping minds, but also to inspire. “There is a lot to be done (regarding the Palestinian situation) and I don’t know is the fact that her time in captivity, it is important to find whatever outlet open to me to tell the stories of the countless residents of the prisoners’ faces can only be described as beauty. I see, sometimes that I’m an Arab in America is hard. There is the constant battle of challenging misconceptions, which I hope through my writing I can play my part in changing this.” She explains that if there were no means, representative of the Arab world, “I am an Arab woman. I have been reported on Khalil Gibran, Handal certainly has her work done. ‘The Prophet’s Book of Poetry’ which encouraged men and women to seek knowledge.” A pivotal moment for Ridley was when she read the Prophet’s (Peace be upon him) last sermon. “It was truly breathtaking and I was deeply moved by it. In the way he advocated equality and justice– no one had superior position over anyone else, and could only gain a higher rank through a process of true and just conduct. It is an relevant today as it was 1400 years ago.” During her research process, Ridley found that her life was naturally beginning to change. She stopped smoking and drinking and found that she suddenly had a clearer purpose to her life. “I had always been an activist, even before I was a journalist and before my conversion to Islam, but after I became a Muslim, my activism took on a different meaning. Now, the people suffering in Palestine, whose cause I had supported for a long time, with any victims, they were my Muslim brothers and sisters, and I felt as if I had a religious duty to the global community regardless of where you’re from or the colour of your skin. The Islamic statelessness makes Western feminism pale in significance.” Despite her passion for her beliefs, Ridley is a firm believer of the Prophet’s saying that “If I see an injustice taking place, I can’t remain silent.” She says, “I’m not being a pest but at the same time, I’m not scared. If I see it, I’ll speak up, I’ll leave it in God’s hands.” Unpretentious and passionate, Ridley has dedicated not just her career, but her life to getting a voice for what she believes can. She has words to those who are helpless and standing firm beside justice. Upon her conversion and subsequent donning of the hijab, many career doors were closed in her face but instead of letting it faze her, she has carried a new career for herself; one that encompasses who she is now. Inspiring and informed, empowering and empowered, she is a woman who cannot get any further away from the Muslim woman stereotype.

Ridley was a journalist and long before her conversion to Islam, she had begun a journey woven with words that not only sought to plant even the smallest seed of consciousness in sleeping minds, but also to inspire. “There is a lot to be done (regarding the Palestinian situation) and I don’t know is the fact that her time in captivity, it is important to find whatever outlet open to me to tell the stories of the countless residents of the Palestines and then seeing the reality of what went on within, Handal is anxious to shed light on her country.” That, along with the need to defend the Arab culture in a land that holds less than favourable views of it, inspires her to write whatever flows out of her heart– regardless of whether it ruffles feathers or not. “Sometimes I write from the pain, I write because I feel a void, I write because I want to control what I’m writing it, it pours out of me. Other times it’s has a solid purpose for instance it can be a conscious effort to highlight the richness of my culture that is abundant with beauty. I see, sometimes that I’m an Arab in America is hard. There is the constant battle of challenging misconceptions, which I hope through my writing I can play my part in changing this.” She explains that if there were no means, representative of the Arab world, “I am an Arab woman. I have been reported on Khalil Gibran, Handal certainly has her work done. ‘The Prophet’s Book of Poetry’ which encouraged men and women to seek knowledge.” A pivotal moment for Ridley was when she read the Prophet’s (Peace be upon him) last sermon. “It was truly breathtaking and I was deeply moved by it. In the way he advocated equality and justice– no one had superior position over anyone else, and could only gain a higher rank through a process of true and just conduct. It is an relevant today as it was 1400 years ago.” During her research process, Ridley found that her life was naturally beginning to change. She stopped smoking and drinking and found that she suddenly had a clearer purpose to her life. “I had always been an activist, even before I was a journalist and before my conversion to Islam, but after I became a Muslim, my activism took on a different meaning. Now, the people suffering in Palestine, whose cause I had supported for a long time, with any victims, they were my Muslim brothers and sisters, and I felt as if I had a religious duty to the global community regardless of where you’re from or the colour of your skin. The Islamic statelessness makes Western feminism pale in significance.” Despite her passion for her beliefs, Ridley is a firm believer of the Prophet’s saying that “If I see an injustice taking place, I can’t remain silent.” She says, “I’m not being a pest but at the same time, I’m not scared. If I see it, I’ll speak up, I’ll leave it in God’s hands.” Unpretentious and passionate, Ridley has dedicated not just her career, but her life to getting a voice for what she believes can. She has words to those who are helpless and standing firm beside justice. Upon her conversion and subsequent donning of the hijab, many career doors were closed in her face but instead of letting it faze her, she has carried a new career for herself; one that encompasses who she is now. Inspiring and informed, empowering and empowered, she is a woman who cannot get any further away from the Muslim woman stereotype.