



COVERT  
GESTURES

CRYPTO-ISLAMIC  
LITERATURE  
AN CULTURAL  
PRACTICE IN EARLY  
MODERN SPAIN

VINCENT BARLETTA

Vincent Barletta

Covert Gestures: Crypto-Islamic Literature as Cultural Practice in Early  
Modern Spain



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Forcibly expelled from Spain in the early seventeenth century, the substantial Muslim community known as the moriscos left out them a hidden yet incredibly rich corpus of manuscripts. Copied out in Arabic script and concealed in walls, false floors, and remote control caves, these little-known texts now give modern visitors an absorbing check out the cultural life of the moriscos during the hundred years between their forced conversion to Christianity and their eventual expulsion. *Covert Gestures* reveals the way the traditional Islamic narratives of the moriscos both formed and encoded a wide range of covert interpersonal activity characterized by a profound and persistent nervous about period and temporality. In its interdisciplinary strategy, Vincent Barletta's function is nothing significantly less than a rewriting of the cultural background of Muslim Spain, as well as a replotting into the future course of medieval and early modern literary studies. Utilizing a unique mixture of literary evaluation, linguistic anthropology, and phenomenological philosophy, Barletta explores the narratives as testimonials of past human encounters and discovers in them proof community resistance.



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