



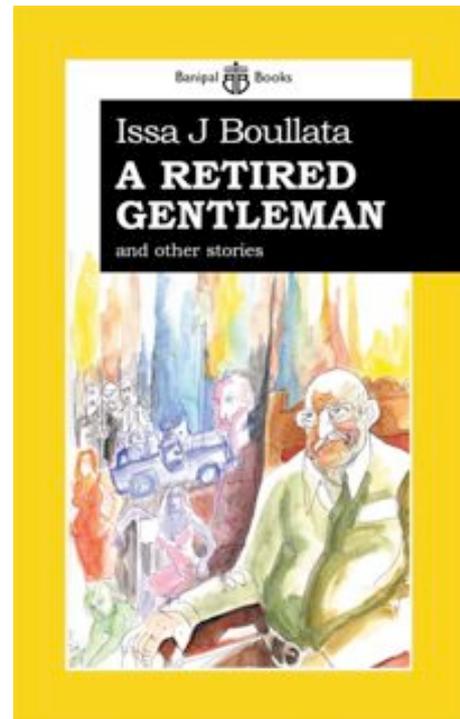
## Issa J Boullata

### A RETIRED GENTLEMAN and other stories

Issa J Boullata's characters are emigrants to Canada and the USA from Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt and Syria. George, Kamal, Mayy, Abdullah, Nadia, William, all have to begin their lives again, learn how to deal with their memories, with pasts that cannot be relived, with exile and loss.

How do you settle into a new life? What happens to all your old relations? How do you go about making new ones? Can you find happiness? Can you fall in love again?

This collection of tales looks resolutely and quietly at life's hopes, dreams and loves. It includes the author's essay *Books and I* about his literary influences.



After a lifetime working as a professor and a translator of Arabic literature, Palestinian scholar and author Issa J Boullata regales his readers with a rich medley of tales that will continue resonating long after the book is put down.

Issa J Boullata was born in Jerusalem. He is a writer, literary scholar and critic, an educator and translator who started his academic career with a PhD in Arabic literature from London University in 1969. Formerly Professor of Arabic Literature at McGill University in Montreal, he introduced and translated a groundbreaking poetry anthology *Modern Arab Poets, 1950-1975* (1976) and has translated a number of contemporary Arab authors including Jabra Ibrahim Jabra, Mohamed Berrada, Emily Nasrallah and Ghada Samman, winning translation awards for two of the works. His latest translation is the autobiography of the distinguished Palestinian intellectual, the late Hisham Sharabi. Issa J Boullata's writings in Arabic include a novel *A'id ila al-Quds [Returning to Jerusalem]* and a biography *Badr Shakir al-Sayyab: His Life and Poetry*. He is a contributing editor of *Banipal* magazine.