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"If anybody wants to know what is written in Arabic today but does not know Arabic, he or she just needs to read Banipal" – Stefan Weidner

BANIPAL PUBLISHING was founded in 1997 by two people passionate about literature, Iraqi author Samuel Shimon and British editor Margaret Obank, to publish inspiring works by contemporary Arab authors in the thrice-yearly **Banipal Magazine of Modern Arab Literature** in English translation, and from 2020 **Banipal revista de literatura árabe moderna** in Spanish translation.

Their books imprint, **Banipal Books**, was established in 2005 to publish decisive works – between two and four titles a year – selected from the wealth of Arabic memoir, fiction and poetry being published.

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The Cinderellas of Muscat

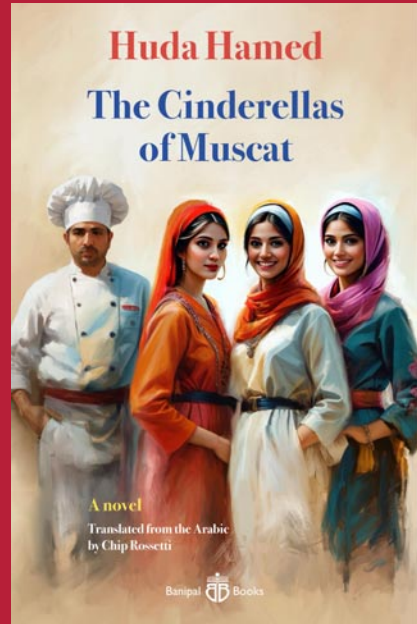
by Huda Hamed

Translated from the Arabic
by Chip Rossetti

“Huda Hamed posits an alternative within the tradition of oral storytelling and its association with magical worlds.”
Ammar Almamoun

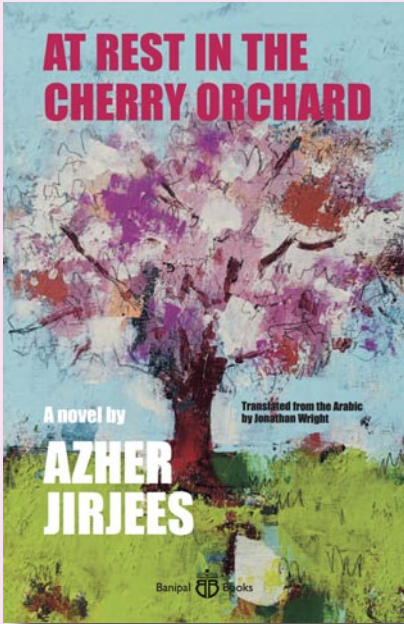
The modernisation of Muscat brought electricity and cement, but people’s spirits began to harden and dry up. One day Zubayda realises the female jinn have all disappeared. Life loses all its playfulness and joy until she and seven women friends decide to take over the powers of the lost jinn, transforming into enchanting storytelling Cinderellas. “The stories poured out one after the other like crystal grains, bouncing off each other and scattering”, revealing secrets until then suppressed, as on one special night they transform themselves. Though not searching for a prince, they meet together in Chef Ramon’s restaurant on Muscat’s beach front for a few hours of precious independence before midnight strikes.

Chip Rossetti is a translator of fiction by contemporary Arab authors, who include Mohamed Makhzangi, Diaa Jubaili, Sonallah Ibrahim, Ahmed Khaled Tawfik, Magdy Elshafee, Reem al-Kamali and now Huda Hamed. He is editorial director of the NYU Press’s Library of Arabic Literature bilingual book series.



Fiction • 224 pages • May 2025
B-format PB • Territories: World
ISBN: 9781913043452 • £11.99
eISBN: 9781913043469 • £6.99

Huda Hamed is an Omani writer and journalist, born in Rustaq, Oman, in 1981. She has a degree in Arabic literature from Aleppo University, Syria, and has published four novels and five short story collections. Her debut novel *Things are Not in Their Place* (2009) received the Sharjah Award for Arab Creativity and the Best Omani Novel Award, and was excerpted in *Banipal 44* (2012). Her next, *Who Counts the Stairs* (2014), was published as *I Saw Her in My Dreams* (Emerging Voices from the Middle East, Texas University Press) in 2023, translated by Nadine Sinno and William Taggart. Huda Hamed is managing editor of Oman’s quarterly cultural magazine *Niswa*.



At Rest in the Cherry Orchard

by Azher Jirjees

Translated from the Arabic
by Jonathan Wright

“This is a hymn to Baghdad, seen both from within and from afar. No one ever forgets their homeland and the pull of Iraq for Said, drawn at times into hallucinations and near delusion, remains overwhelming.” Alastair Niven

Iraqi Said Mardan, settled in Norway after having to flee Iraq over a joke about Saddam Hussein, is forever haunted by the ghost of his father, killed by the Iraqi regime before he was born. After the sudden death of his Norwegian wife he suffers increasing depression, headaches and frequent cruel, haunting nightmares, hallucinating and flipping from reality to unreality and back. He travels to Baghdad, where a mass grave, possibly holding his father’s remains, will be opened. Escaping a brutal encounter with one of the armed religious militias, he recalls the cherry orchard his Norwegian neighbour bought so that, according to old legend, when laid to rest there, he’d be reincarnated into a cherry tree.

Jonathan Wright is an award-winning translator of contemporary fiction by Arab authors, who include Basma Abdel Aziz, Mazen Maarouf, Amjad Nasser, Ahmed Saadawi, Hassan Blasim, Saud Alsanousi, Youssef Ziedan, Hamour Ziada, Khaled el-Khamissi and Rasha al-Ameer.



Fiction • 224 pages

May 2024

B-format PB

ISBN: 9781913043391 • £11.99

eISBN: 9781913043401 • £6.99

Territories: World

Azher Jirjees was born in Baghdad in 1973. In 2005, his satirical book about terrorist militias entitled *The Earthly Hell* resulted in an assassination attempt against him and he was forced to flee – eventually reaching Norway, where he now lives permanently. *At Rest in the Cherry Orchard*, his debut novel, was longlisted for the 2020 International Prize for Arabic Fiction. His second, *The Stone of Happiness*, was shortlisted for the IPAF prize in 2023. He works as a freelance translator between Arabic and Norwegian.

The Secrets of Folder 42

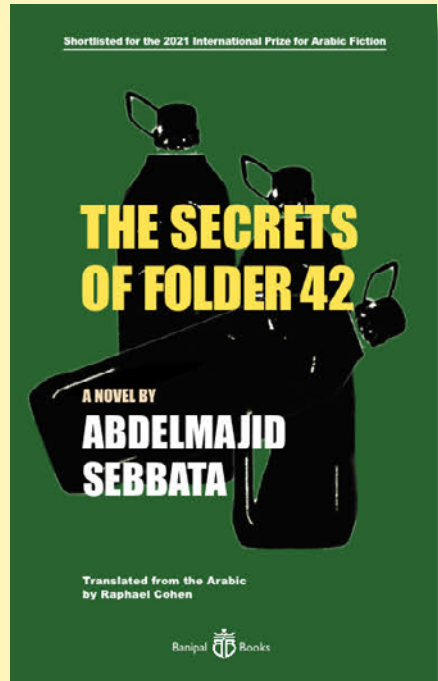
by Abdelmajid Sebbata


Translated from the Arabic
by Raphael Cohen

“A literary who-done-it that continues to surprise until the very last page, with clues to be found in Moscow, New York, Denver and Morocco.” Gretchen McCullough, author of *Confessions of a Knight Errant*

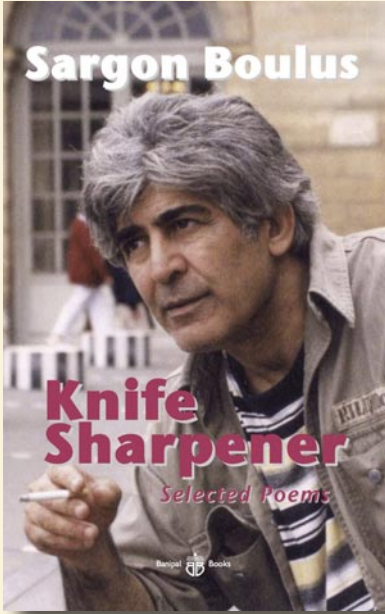
Abdelmajid Sebbata’s thriller-cum-literary jigsaw puzzle opens with the author forgetting his laptop and notebook in a taxi. Two quite separate storylines play out across continents and true historical events. In one, American novelist Christine McMillan and literature student Rachid Bennacer begin to investigate continually emerging pieces of the intricate puzzle. In the other, local chess champion Zouhair Belkacem, who’s been shunted off to medical school in Moscow by his wealthy mother to avoid a rape charge, returns to Morocco in time for a crunch day of spectacular interweaving when in a taxi he finds a laptop and notebook. Shortlisted for the 2021 International Prize for Arabic Fiction, this is the author’s first novel in English translation.

Raphael Cohen is a professional translator and lexicographer who studied Arabic and Hebrew at Oxford University and the University of Chicago. His translations for Banipal Books include *Birds of Naba*, *A Mauritanian Tale*, *The Madness of Despair*, and *Poems of Alexandria and New York*.



 Fiction • 368 pages
May 2024
Demy 216 x 135 mm PB
ISBN: 9781913043414 • £12.99
eISBN: 9781913043421 • £6.99
Territories: World

Abdelmajid Sebbata is an author, writer and translator from Morocco, born in Rabat in 1989. His novels are *Behind the Wall of JPassion* (2015), *Towards Zero 00:00* (2017), which won the 2018 Moroccan Book Award, and *The Secrets of Folder 42* (2020). His translations include Walter Tevis’s *The Queen’s Gambit* and two novels by the French thriller writer Michel Bussi, and his articles for print and online media discuss literary, cultural and historical topics.



Poetry • 152 pages
Reprint April 2024
first published July 2009

B-format PB

ISBN: 978-0-9549666-7-6 • £9.99

eISBN: 9781913043476 • £6.99

Territories: World

"His immense knowledge, especially in world poetry, established both his uniqueness as a poet and his pioneering nature, for he founded a new kind of poem and an atmosphere that did not exist before him" – Abdo Wazen

"Sargon Boulus was a representative of the mythological power of the land of Nmrud, water and Gilgamesh" – Ounsi el-Hage

Knife Sharpener by Sargon Boulus

Selected poems and essay
translated by the poet

Foreword by **Adonis**

Introduction by **Pat Boran**

Afterword by the publisher

Memorial photographs and tributes
by fellow poets

Knife Sharpener is a posthumous commemoration and celebration of Iraqi poet Sargon Boulus, and includes a collection of his poems, written between 1991 and 2007, that he translated himself, together with an essay, "Poetry and Memory", written a few months before he died.

Iraqi poet **Sargon Boulus** (1944-2007) remains one of the Arab world's best-known and influential of contemporary poets. Born into an Iraqi Assyrian family and growing up in Al-Habbaniyah, Kirkuk and Baghdad, he started publishing his own work in 1961, in the groundbreaking *Shi'r* [Poetry] magazine in Beirut.

After settling in San Francisco in the late 1960s, he started translating most major English-language modern poets into Arabic, and dedicated his life to reading, writing and translating poetry, sometimes making forays to Europe to meet up with fellow exiles and perform at festivals. He died in Berlin, October 2007.

Shadow of the Sun

by Taleb Alrefai

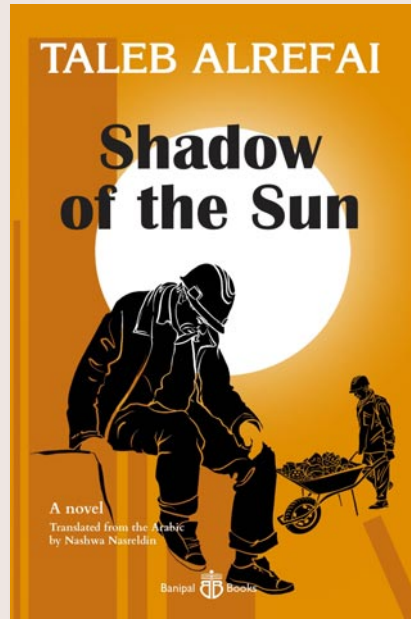
Translated from the Arabic
by Nashwa Nasreldin

TALEB ALREFAI: “Almost a historical document on my life and the lives of the workers with whom I lived for fifteen years, *Shadow of the Sun* presents a human landscape set in and reflecting Kuwait.”

Impoverished Egyptian teacher Helmy is desperate to find a better life for himself, his wife and little boy, seeing no future at home in Cairo. He dreams of working in oil-rich Kuwait, and its boom in construction being the answer, just like many thousands before him. He manages to borrow the huge cost of a visa and is at last on his way to Kuwait City.

He has no idea of the hellish nightmare, instead of the dream, that awaits him – the relentless summer sun with temperatures of 56°C and more, the choking dust and sweat, having to do construction work instead of teaching. And always, no money, and no answers from the many officials Helmy comes up against. Instead of achieving his dream, he falls into trap after trap.

The author is himself a character in the novel, an engineer with the construction company who is writing a novel about the humiliating and degrading experiences of the migrant foreign workers arriving in Kuwait to make their fortunes.



Fiction • 192 pages

October 2023

B-format PB

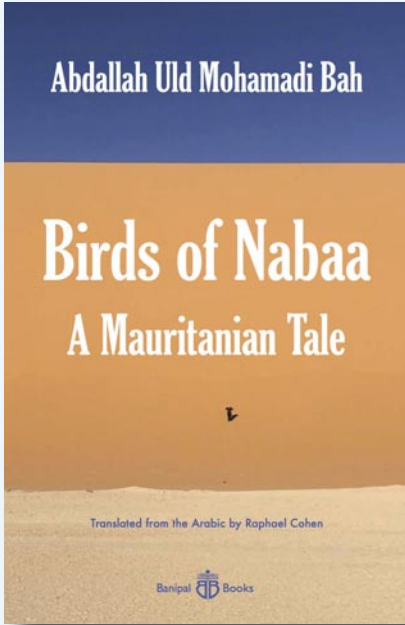
ISBN: 9781913043360 • £10.99 • \$17.99

eISBN: 9781913043377 • £6.99 • \$9

Territories: World

Taleb Alrefai is a Kuwaiti novelist and short-story writer. *Shadow of the Sun* (*Dhil al-Shams*, 2000 and 2012), was his first novel. To date he has published six short story collections and six novels, including *The Mariner* (see page 14 below).

Nashwa Nasreldin is a British Egyptian writer, editor, and translator of Arabic literature into English. She is the translator of the 2014 Sheikh Zayed Book Award-winning novel *After Coffee* by Abdelrashid Mahmoudi.



Birds of Nabaa, A Mauritanian Tale

**by Abdallah Uld
Mohamadi Bah**

Translated from the Arabic
by Raphael Cohen

Birds of Nabaa follows the physical and spiritual journeys of its narrator, who hails from Nabaa, a remote Mauritanian village, to life in Madrid, the Gulf states and Guinea, where his work as an embassy accountant takes him. Inspired by the Sahara of his childhood and the vagabond lives of the pre-Islamic poets, the narrator's constant life on the move in search of the inner stillness known to desert dwellers, leads him to the music, song and poetry central to Mauritanian life and to the spiritual universe of Sufism.

The mix of diverse characters joining him includes Teresa, his Brazilian neighbour in Madrid whom he taught to make tea the Mauritanian way; inspiring teacher Rajab in a blue face veil; Hussein the poet; Mariam, a postman between the living and the dead via cowrie shell readings; the exiled judge of Chinguetti; as well as his close friend, voracious reader and rebel Abdurrahman who wants to change the world; Abdel Hadi, the holy-fool sheikh with an encyclopaedic knowledge of Arab history and poetry; and Ould al-Taher, the first climate-change refugee. As desertification and drought take hold, the paradise of southern Mauritania and of Nabaa gradually decline and the waves of migration, always a feature of life in the Sahara, intensify.



Fiction • 192 pages

September 2023

B-format PB with flaps

ISBN: 9781913043438 • £10.99 • \$17.99

eISBN: 9781913043445 • £6.99 • \$9

Territories: World

Abdallah Uld Mohamadi Bah is a writer, novelist and journalist from Nabaghiya in southern Mauritania. As well as *Birds of Nabaa* (*Tuyur Nabaa*) his works include *Timbuktu wa Akhawatuha* (Timbuktu and her Sisters) and *Yawmiyat Sahafi fe Ifreeqiya* (Diary of a Journalist in Africa). He has been the West Africa correspondent for *al-Sharq al-Awsat* newspaper, later for MBC TV channel, and for *Aljazeera* in Africa. He is currently CEO of Sahara Media Group.

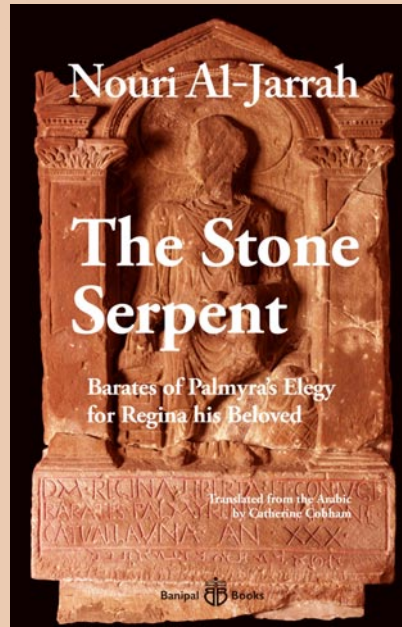
The Stone Serpent, Barates of Palmyra's Elegy for Regina his Beloved by Nouri al-Jarrah

Translated from the Arabic
by Catherine Cobham

Syrian poet Nouri al-Jarrah brings to life a story that can never again be lost in time after a single line in Aramaic on a tombstone fired his imagination. This inspiring epic poem awakens two extraordinary lovers, Barates, a Syrian from Palmyra, and Regina, the Celtic slave he freed and married, from where they have lain at rest beside Hadrian's Wall for eighteen centuries, and tells their unique story.

Barates' elegy to his beloved wife, who died young at 30, is, however, not about mythologising history. With the poet himself an exile in Britain for almost 40 years from his birthplace of Damascus, the poem forges new connections with today, linking al-Jarrah's personal journey with that of his ancient forebear Barates, who resisted slavery with love and freedom.

Barates' *Eastern Serenade* also questions whether the young Celtic fighters, the Tattooed Ones, were really barbarians, as they emerged from forest mists to defend their hills and rivers and their way of life from the Romans, and died or lay wounded at the twisting stone serpent that was Hadrian's Wall



Poetry • 112 pages

October 2022

B-format PB with flaps

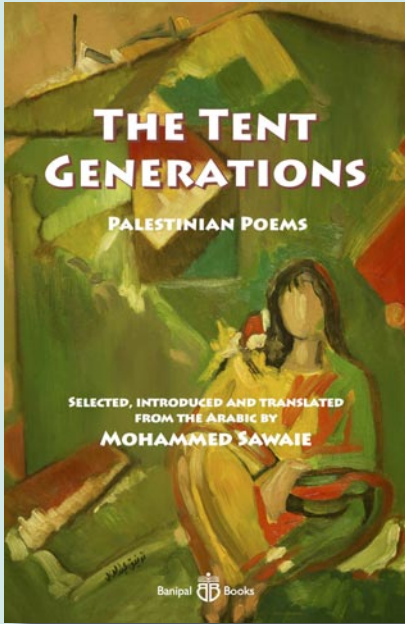
ISBN: 978-1-913043-29-2 • £10.99


eISBN: 978-1-913043-30-8 • £6.99

Territories: World

Nouri al-Jarrah was born in Damascus in 1956. His poetry draws on diverse cultural sources, and is marked by a focus on mythology, folk tales and legends. *A Boat to Lesbos and other Poems* (Banipal Books, 2018, tr Camilo Gómez-Rivas and Allison Blecker) was his first collection in English translation.

Catherine Cobham teaches Arabic language and literature at the University of St Andrews, Scotland, and has translated works by a number of Arab writers.



 Poetry • 160 pages
April 2022
B-format PB with flaps
PB ISBN: 978-1-913043-18-6 • £10.99
eISBN: 978-1-913043-19-3 • £6.99
Territories: World

Mohammed Sawaie is Professor of Arabic at the University of Virginia and a passionate reader of both English and Arabic on issues related to Arabic literary production, the Middle East generally and Palestine in particular. An authority on the sociolinguistic, historical, and grammatical aspects of Arabic, his *Fundamentals of Arabic Grammar* (Routledge, 2014) has helped transform the teaching of Arabic in North America.

The Tent Generations, Palestinian Poems

Selected, Introduced, and Translated from the Arabic by Mohammed Sawaie

The Tent Generations, Palestinian Poems gathers together works by a select number of Palestinian poets, over the past seven decades, that give expression to the Palestinian experience under Israeli rule and Israeli occupation, as well as the experience of dispersion and displacement from their homeland following the Nakba, the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, and the subsequent wars of 1967 and 1973.

These poems illuminate Palestinian responses to these tragic conflicts and wars that contributed to the loss of homeland, life under Israeli occupation, and the fragmentation and ruin of society and community. The poets in this collection span and represent different generations and narratives, different backgrounds, and different locations, some of whose voices have not been heard previously in English, and, by and large, others whose works are not previously translated into English.

Although these poems cannot resolve the deep contradictions and disagreements that divide Palestinians and Israelis today, Mohammed Sawaie shows in this collection how these poets use poetry to describe their relationship to the Palestinian people, their homeland, and the presence of an Israeli occupier in their midst.

Things I Left Behind

by Shada Mustafa


Translated from the Arabic
by Nancy Roberts

This is young Palestinian author Shada Mustafa's debut novel – a free-flowing narrative that interrogates, in short, direct sentences, the memories of growing up, falling in love, that keep forcing themselves out to be reckoned with. Through ceaseless questioning, and the seemingly random revisiting of each of the four “things” she has left behind, the narrator redeems her life from the inexplicable pain and tragic anguish that was her childhood in an occupied and divided land and family. In so doing, Mustafa creates a unique writing style while at the same time allowing the narrative its original, cathartic function, liberating herself from her past, and finding her true self.

Why was she always having to cross the Qalandia checkpoint to see her dad or her mom? Why did they divorce? Why was her mom angry? How could she make her happy? Why was her dad a different man when he came out of the occupier's prison? What was more important, the cause or the people? The questions become more urgent when she becomes a student and falls in love.

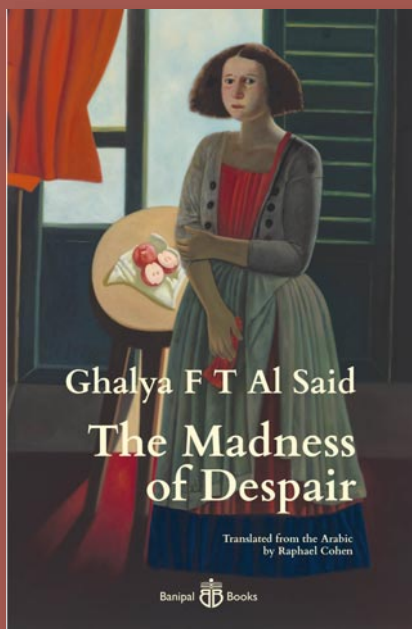
his short novel, original in its subject as much as its narrative technique, has been singled out from the start by being shortlisted for the 2021 Sheikh Zayed Book Award for Young Authors.



 Novel • 144 pages
May 2022
B-format PB with flaps
PB ISBN: 978-1-913043-26-1 • £9.99
eISBN: 978-1-913043-27-8 • £6.99
Territories: World

Shada Mustafa is a Palestinian writer, born in 1995. She graduated from the Faculty of Architecture at the American University of Beirut (AUB), and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Geographical Development Studies at the Free University of Berlin.

Nancy Roberts is an award-winning translator of novels by contemporary Arab authors. Her most recent translation is *The Slave Yards* by Najwa Bin Shatwan (2020).



The Madness of Despair

by Ghalya F T Al Said

Translated from the Arabic
by Raphael Cohen

"A talented and inventive storyteller, with a well developed sense of tragedy and comedy" – Susannah Tarbush

Living in London, far from their Arab homelands, Nafie and his young wife Maliha become good friends with Doctor Nadim, a fellow exile. In the twists and turns of the friendship, the men's nostalgia for their old lives – and their old ways of living – are in constant conflict with Maliha's ambition to live and love freely now she's in London.

Though ready to throw off the constraints of her arranged marriage at the slightest turn, Maliha is ill-prepared for the fire of emotions that overcomes her, leading to unforeseen consequences for all three.

A powerful narrative revealing how psychological suffering and cultural displacement can upset the most ordinary of aspirations for life and love.

Raphael Cohen is a professional translator and lexicographer who studied Arabic and Hebrew at Oxford University and the University of Chicago. His translations include novels by George Yarak, Eslam Mosbah, Ahlem Mosteghanemi, Mohamed Salmawy and Mona Prince.



Fiction • 256 pages

September 2021

B-format • PB with flaps

ISBN PB: 978-1-913043-12-4 • £11.99

ISBN HB: 978-1-913043-21-6 • £22

eISBN: 978-1-913043-13-1 • £6.99

Territories: World

Ghalya F T Al Said is a novelist who studied in Oman and the UK, and has a PhD in International Relations from the University of Warwick. She has published poems, short stories and six novels. Her novels focus on immigrants in foreign, usually Western, settings and their attempts to cope and adapt to conflicting concepts of belief and culture. *The Madness of Despair* is her first novel in English translation and one of four set in the UK.

Sarajevo Firewood

by Saïd Khatibi

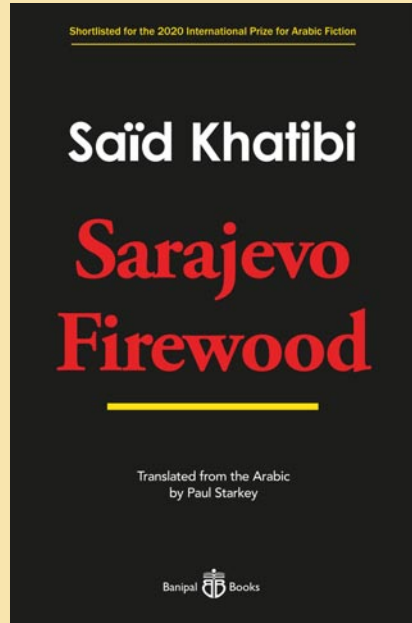
Translated from the Arabic
by Paul Starkey

This courageous and extraordinary novel is a labyrinthine journey, with Algeria at one pole, Bosnia at the other, and Slovenia serving as neutral ground in-between.” Ammiel Alcalay

Sarajevo Firewood, which was shortlisted for the International Prize for Arabic Fiction (IPAF) award in 2020, explores the legacy of the recent histories of two countries – Algeria and Bosnia and Herzegovina – both of which experienced traumatic, and ultimately futile, civil wars in the 1990s.

The novel narrates the lives of two main characters, with their friends and families: Salim, an Algerian journalist, and Ivana, a young Bosnian woman, both of whom have fled the destruction and hatred of their own countries to try to build a new life in Slovenia. As Ivana pursues her goal of writing her ‘dream play’, Khatibi’s novel brings to life in fictional form the memories and experiences of the countless ordinary people who survived the atrocities linking the two countries.

As such, it represents both a lasting memorial to the thousands of dead and ‘disappeared’ of the two countries’ civil conflicts, and a powerful and novel exploration of the experience of exile to which so many have been subjected over the last few decades.



Fiction • 320 pages

September 2021

B-format PB with flaps

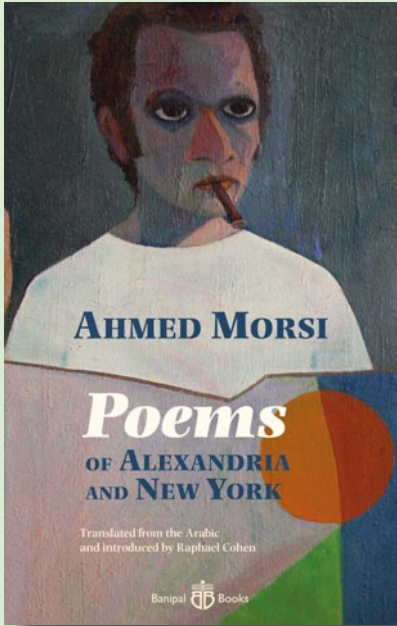
ISBN: 978-1-913043-23-0 • £11.99


eISBN: 978-1-913043-24-7 • £6.99

Territories: World

Saïd Khatibi is a novelist, travel writer, translator and cultural journalist, born in 1984 in Bou Saada, Algeria. He writes in Arabic and French and translates between both. He has a BA in French Literature from the University of Algiers and an MA in Cultural Studies from the Sorbonne. He has three novels in Arabic.

Paul Starkey is an award-winning translator and Emeritus Professor of Arabic, Durham University, UK.



 Poetry • 126 pages
September 2021
B-format paperback
PB ISBN: 978-1-913043-15-5 • £10.99
eISBN: 978-1-913043-16-2 • £6.99
Territories: World

Ahmed Morsi is a poet and artist, born in Alexandria, Egypt in 1930. He studied there in the studio of Silvio Becchi, becoming a part of Alexandria's literary and artistic society. In Cairo, he co-founded and was editor-in-chief of the famous avant-garde literary magazine *Galerie '68* and designed stage sets for the Cairo Opera House. In 1974, he moved to New York City, painting, printmaking, and later returning also to poetry.

Poems of Alexandria and New York by Ahmed Morsi

Introduced and translated from the Arabic by Raphael Cohen

Ahmed Morsi is a renowned painter as well as a prolific art critic, journalist, translator, and, as this book reveals to a new audience, a consummate poet, with his debut collection published at the age of 19.

Poems of Alexandria and New York, Ahmed Morsi's first volume in English translation, captures the modernity and empathy at the heart of all his works, his surrealistic humour, and his visions of the dramas of ordinary life. It comprises two of his best known collections, *Pictures from the New York Album* and *Elegies to the Mediterranean*, both written when he resumed writing poetry following a break of nearly 30 years after the calamitous Arab defeat in the 1967 Six-Day War.

The former opens up the city of New York, his home since the mid-1970s and where he still lives and works, while the latter takes readers deep into abiding memories of the Mediterranean city of his birth, Alexandria, Egypt.

Raphael Cohen is a professional translator and lexicographer who studied Arabic and Hebrew at the Universities of Oxford and Chicago. He has translated a number of works by contemporary Arab poets

Fadhil Al-Azzawi's Beautiful Creatures

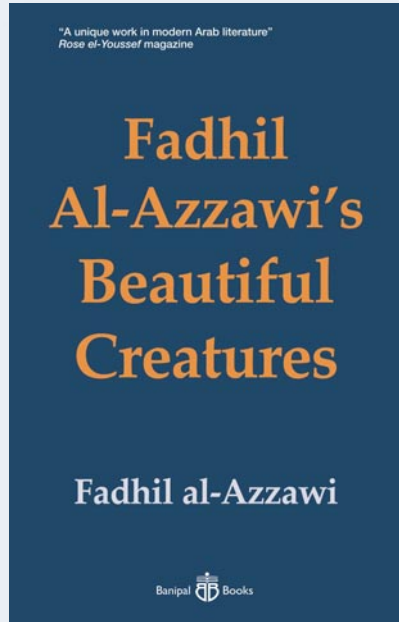
by Fadhil Al-Azzawi

Translated from the Arabic
by the author and edited
by Hannah Somerville

This open work was written in defiance of the "sanctity of genre" and to raise the question of freedom of expression in writing. First published in Arabic in 1969 to great acclaim, it has been variously called a novel or a prose poem, while the author calls it an epic in prose, divided as it is into cantos.

In mid-1960s Iraq such an open-ended form, in which different genres could come together and blend into each other, was difficult to even imagine. For Fadhil al-Azzawi it was the core of a new vision of life after the country's tough political experiences, especially the bloody coup of February 1963, and then abysmal defeat in the June 1967 Six-Day War.

The preface to the original Arabic edition noted: "Everything in this open novel returns to itself and acquires its own particular innocence, even in language, so that the novel becomes a poem, a play, a film, a painting and a piece of music all at once without ever meaning to [. . .] It talks about itself in its own very particular way, where it says nothing specific so that it can say everything."



Open work • 152 pages

September 2021

B-format HB and PB

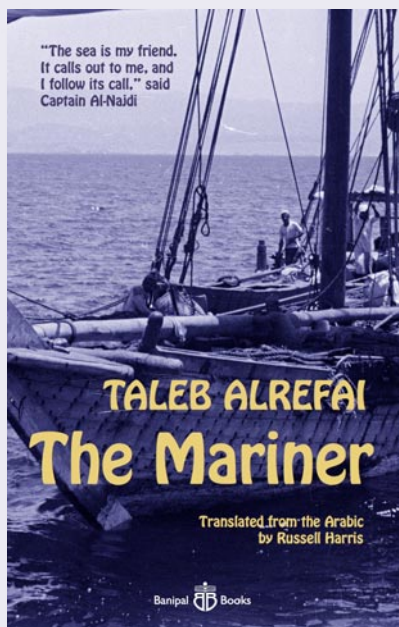
ISBN HB: 978-1-913043-22-3 • £20


ISBN PB: 978-1-913043-10-0 • £9.99

eISBN: 978-1-913043-11-7 • £6.99

Territories: World

Fadhil al-Azzawi was born in Kirkuk, Iraq, in 1940. His innovative works blend Arabic literary tradition with western modernism and postmodernism. His published works number more than thirty, including novels, poetry, essays and many literary translations into Arabic. He was arrested many times by the country's military regime for his political and cultural activities and spent three years in jail. He left Iraq in 1977, and lives in Berlin.



 Fiction • 160 pages
April 2020
B-format paperback
ISBN: 978-1-913043-08-7 • £9.99
eISBN: 978-1-913043-09-4 • £6.99
Territories: World

Taleb Alrefai is a Kuwaiti novelist and short story writer, born in 1958. His novels include *Shadow of the Sun* (1998), see page 5 above for Banipal Books English edition, *Petty Thefts* (2011), *The Dress* (2009), *Here* (2015) and *Scent of the Sea* (2001) for which he won the Kuwaiti State Prize for Literature in 2002. He is founder of the AlMultaqa Prize for the Arabic Short Story, run in partnership with the American University in Kuwait, where he teaches creative writing.

The Mariner by Taleb Alrefai

Translated from the Arabic
by Russell Harris

Taleb Alrefai turns a spotlight on Kuwait's pearl-fishing history in this enthralling fictional re-telling of that fateful day, 19 February 1979, when the country's famous dhow shipmaster Captain Al-Najdi is lost at sea in a treacherous storm.

In between fishing for seabream with two friends, the retired mariner looks back on how the sea has been calling him since childhood, on the punishing work of pearl-divers, and how he became a captain at 14.

As he recalls his voyages around the Arabian Peninsula, some with renowned Australian sailor Alan Villiers, he meditates on how the sea was abandoned when pearl-fishing ended with the discovery of synthetic pearls and oil. Meanwhile, howling winds and enormous black waves suddenly erupt and quickly engulf the small fishing boat.

Russell Harris is a translator of literary works from French and Arabic. His translations include works by Naguib Mahfouz, Alaa al-Aswany and Tawfiq al-Hakim.

Mansi: A Rare Man in His Own Way

by Tayeb Salih

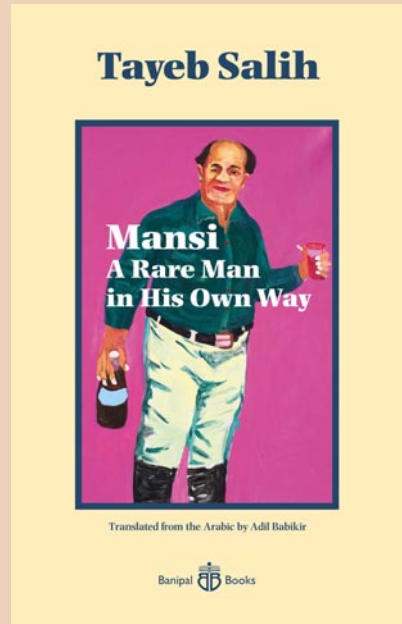
Introduced and translated from
the Arabic by Adil Babikir


“This is a flavourful and entertaining memoir of Salih’s friendship with a shape-shifting, rule-breaking character who treated life as an “endless laugh”. His picaresque portrait of the Egyptian-born writer, actor, teacher and adventurer known as “Mansi” abounds in high spirits, tall stories, character sketches and outlandish plot-twists.”
Boyd Tonkin

With humour, wit and erudite poetic insights, Tayeb Salih shows another side to his writing in this affectionate memoir of his exuberant and irrepressible friend Mansi Yousif Bastawrous, sometimes known as Michael Joseph and sometimes as Ahmed Mansi Yousif.

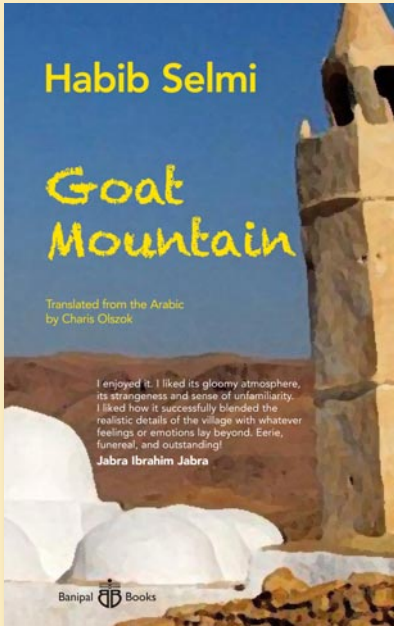
Playing Hardy to Salih’s Laurel, Mansi takes centre stage among memorable 20th-century arts and political figures, including Samuel Beckett, Margot Fonteyn, Omar Sharif, Arnold Toynbee, Richard Crossman and even the Queen, but always with Salih’s poet “Master” al-Mutanabbi ready with an adroit comment.

Adil Babikir is a Sudanese translator and writer, based in the UAE. His translations include *Modern Sudanese Poetry* (2019); *The Jungo: Stakes of the Earth* by Abdelaziz Baraka Sakin (2015); *Literary Sudans: an Anthology of Literature from Sudan and South Sudan* (2016).



 **Memoir • 184 pages**
April 2020
B-format PB with flaps
ISBN: 978-0-9956369-8-9 • £9.99
eISBN: 978-0-9956369-9-6 • £6.99
Territories: World

Tayeb Salih (1929–2009) is internationally renowned for his *Season of Migration to the North* (tr. Denys Johnson-Davies), which was declared ‘the most important Arabic novel of the 20th century’ by the Arab Literary Academy in 2001.



Goat Mountain by Habib Selmi

Translated from the Arabic
by Charis Olszok


"I enjoyed this book. I liked its gloomy atmosphere, its strangeness and sense of unfamiliarity. Eerie, funereal, and outstanding!" – Jabra Ibrahim Jabra

In *Goat Mountain*, Habib Selmi's first novel, published in Arabic in 1988, a young man's journey begins in a dilapidated old bus that takes four hours to reach Al-'Ala, from where he takes a long ride on mule back, accompanied by a mysterious older man who is to play an important part in the young man's new life as a teacher.

They finally arrive at Goat Mountain, a forlorn and dusty Tunisian desert village. The school is a single room. The youth passes the first night in the house of his uncommunicative guide, whose name is Ismail . . .

He grows more uneasy and depressed as Ismail becomes ever more powerful until, with a new truck and his own private army, Ismail dominates village life and casts a menacing shadow over the young man.

Charis Olszok is a Lecturer in Modern Arabic Literature and Culture at the University of Cambridge and a translator of modern Arabic fiction.

 Fiction • 92 pages
April 2020
B-format paperback
ISBN: 978-1-913043-04-9 • £10.99
eISBN: 978-1-913043-05-6 • £6.99
Territories: World

Habib Selmi was born in 1951 in Al-'Ala, near the city of Kairouan in Tunisia, and since 1981 has lived in Paris, France. His writing career started with short stories, before starting a new experience – writing *Goat Mountain*, published in Beirut in 1988. Selmi is now an acclaimed author of a dozen novels, with translations into English, French, German, Italian and Malayalam.

A Boat to Lesbos by Nouri al-Jarrah

Translated from the Arabic
by Camilo Gómez-Rivas
and Allison Blecker

A Boat to Lesbos is a powerful epic poem, written while thousands of Syrian refugees were enduring frightening journeys across the Mediterranean before arriving on the small island.

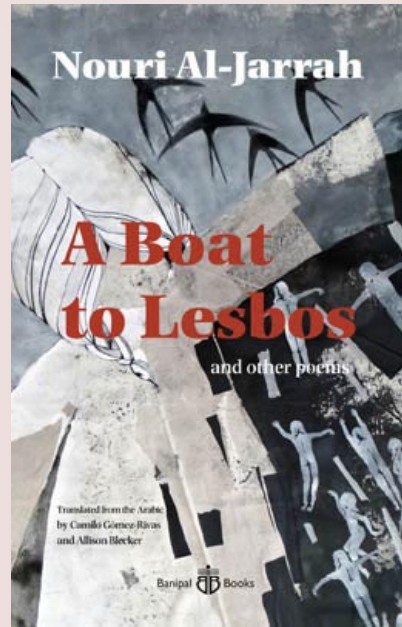
Set out like a Greek tragedy, it is passionate and dramatic witness to the horrors and ravages suffered by Syrian families forced to flee their destroyed country, seen through the eye of history, the poetry of Sappho and the travels of Odysseus.

It also includes poems written while the poet visited Lesbos during the refugee crisis. In addition to the original Arabic edition and this English one of *A Boat to Lesbos* there are translations into French, Spanish, Italian, Greek, and Turkish. This is Nouri al-Jarrah's first collection in English translation.

- The cover painting and twenty black and white works inside are by Syrian artist Reem Yassouf.

Camilo Gómez-Rivas is Associate Professor of Mediterranean Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz.

Allison Blecker is a research associate at Swarthmore College, USA.



Poetry • 120 pages
April 2018
B-format paperback
ISBN: 978-0-9956369-4-1 • £9.99
Territories: World

"The delicate, heart-breaking poems in A Boat to Lesbos find in Sappho's exile a common bond between the island's most famous poet and Syrians escaping civil war" – Ruth Padel

Nouri al-Jarrah was born in Damascus in 1956. His poetry draws on diverse cultural sources, and is marked by a focus on mythology, folk tales and legends. He attracted attention with his debut collection of poems, *The Boy* (1982) and has become an influential poetic voice on the Arab literary scene.



Magazine of Modern Arab Literature
www.banipal.co.uk

Banipal Magazine of Modern Arab Literature was created back in 1998 in response to the massive lack of translation of Arabic literature into English then.

It was always a completely independent magazine that relied for its continued publication on the individual efforts of those who set out to fill the void, to bridge the gap between Arabic literature and world literature and build a base of readers who would love and value contemporary literature of authors who lived in or came from the Arab world.

The magazine published 75 illustrated issues between 1998 and 2022, presenting works of thousands of authors, the vast majority translated into English from Arabic.

BANIPAL

Magazine of Modern Arab Literature

Many print back issues are still available, while institutions and libraries are the only possible subscribers to the digital archive.

Go to the **back issues page** to check out the years and the issues available.



A few of the available back issues.

An Iraqi in Paris

by Samuel Shimon

Translated from the Arabic by
Christina Phillips and Piers
Amodia with the author

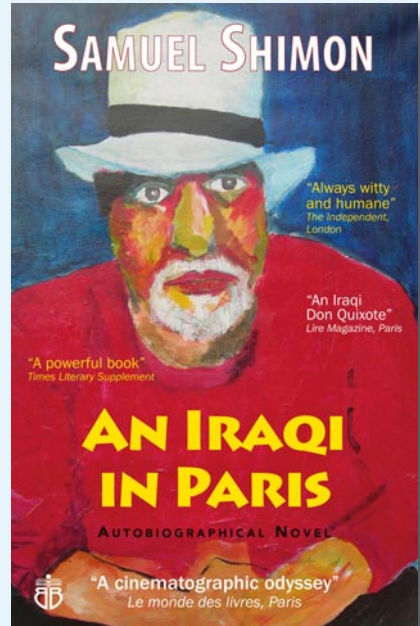
“It is a manifesto of tolerance. It is a text more like the taste of wine: sweet and sour, biting, exhilarating, strong and flowing. Such a novel gives the saga of Iraqi (and Arab) exile a literary value we have been waiting for for such a long time”

Yussef Bazzi, *Al-Mustaqbal* newspaper

A fully revised third edition in translation of this best-selling ‘gem of autobiographical writing’ in the Arab world, by an author who has been called ‘a relentless raconteur’, ‘a modern Odysseus’, ‘the Iraqi Don Quixote’.

Provisionally leaving Iraq just before Saddam Hussein installs himself as President, the Assyrian boy dreams of becoming a Hollywood film-maker after his hero John Ford.

But after arrest and torture in Syria – accused of being a Jewish spy on account of his name, similar treatment in Jordan, and escaping execution in Lebanon by armed militia, he eventually lands up on the streets of Paris. There he meets up with Jean Valjean and tries to escape his fate as a homeless refugee with wit, humour and amorous adventures, all the while writing the story of his childhood, his deaf-mute father Kika, and film buff Kiryakos.



Fiction • 282 pages

November 2016

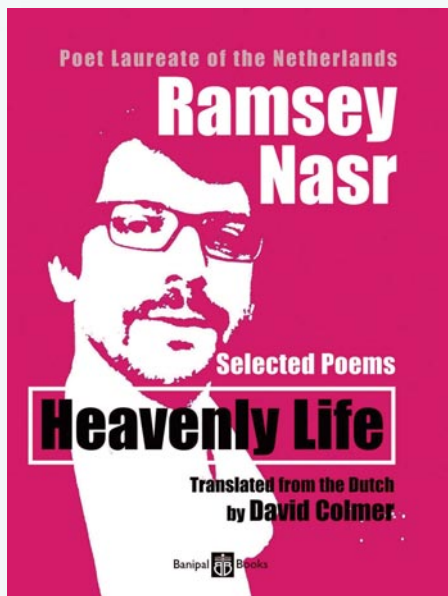
B-format paperback

ISBN: 978-0-9574424-8-1 • £9.99

Territories: World

Samuel Shimon was born into an Assyrian family in 1956 in Al-Habbaniyah, Iraq. He left Iraq in 1979 to go to Hollywood and become a film-maker, and got as far as Damascus, Amman, Beirut, Nicosia, Cairo, Tunis and Paris, before settling in London, where he lives and works, co-founding Banipal magazine of modern Arab literature in 1997.

Christina Phillips is Associate Professor in Arabic and Comparative Literature, University of Exeter, UK; **Piers Amodia** is a translator from Arabic and Italian.



Poetry • 180 pages
November 2010
Paperback 198 x 148mm
ISBN: 978-0-9549666-9-0 • £7.99
Territories: World

Ramsey Nasr is an award-winning poet, essayist, dramatist and actor, born 1974 in Rotterdam into a Palestinian-Dutch family. As city poet of Antwerp in 2005 his appearances were attended like pop concerts. In 2009 he was voted Poet Laureate of the Netherlands.

Heavenly Life, Selected Poems by Ramsey Nasr

Translated from the Dutch
by David Colmer
Foreword by Ruth Padel and
Introduced by Victor
Schiferli

The poems in *Heavenly Life* were selected by the poet from his collections and from works written as poet laureate. They include the poem which voted Nasr into his Poet Laureate post in the Netherlands in 2009. Another is a three-part poem inspired by the life of Dmitri Shostakovich and based on his "Sonata for Viola and Piano".

The title poem "Heavenly Life" was written to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Gustav Mahler's birth and is based on his Fourth Symphony, the four sections of the poem echoing the structure, tone and length of its movements. It is named after *Das Himmlische Leben*, the song that forms the symphony's finale.

David Colmer is an award-winning translator of Dutch literature into English from a wide range of genres. He has dynamically recreated in English the patterns and sounds of Ramsey Nasr's inventive, bold and thoughtful poems. He was joint-winner of the 2010 IMPAC prize for his translation of *The Twin* by Gerbrand Bakker.

Shepherd of Solitude

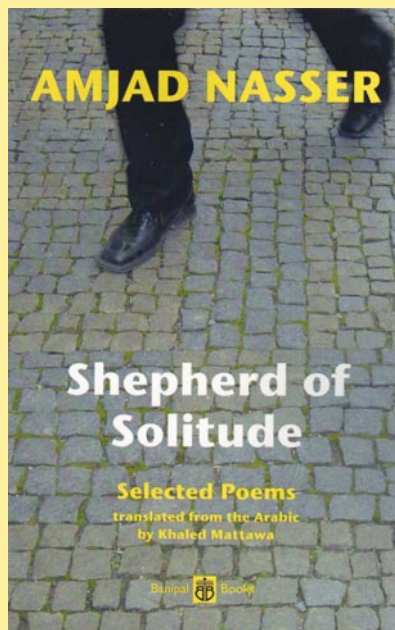
by Amjad Nasser

Introduced and translated
from the Arabic
by Khaled Mattawa

"With his unusually wide and expressive range Amjad Nasser unites the varied facets of his experience in a discourse at once perceptive, critical, tender, and ironically comic" Alfred Corn

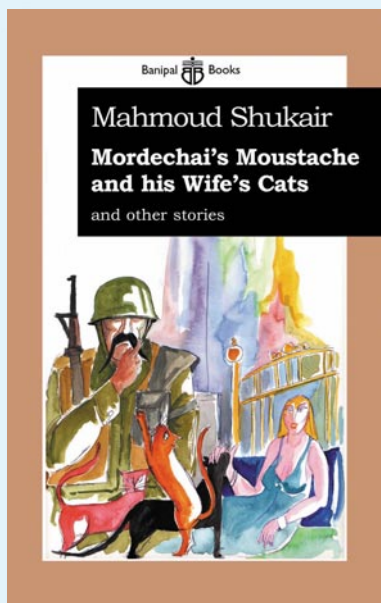
This is the first English-language collection for this major modern Arab poet, who lived most of his life outside his home country of Jordan. The poems were selected by the poet and translator from his works over the years 1979 to 2004. At times a powerfully existential chronicle of exile, *Shepherd of Solitude* conjures a new understanding of Arab life, from war-torn Beirut, to castles in Andalusia, to Bedouin Jordan, to a London suburb. Amjad Nasser blends his Bedouin Arab heritage with European literary modernism producing an enthralling range of vivid, thoughtful and intimate poems.

Khaled Mattawa (b 1964) is a major poet and translator and has received many prizes and Fellowships for his works. He is author of seven books of his own poetry and essays, many translations of contemporary Arabic poetry, and co-editor of two anthologies of Arab American literature.



Poetry • 186 pages
July 2009
B-format paperback
ISBN: 978-0-9549666-8-3 • £7.95
Territories: World

Amjad Nasser was born in Jordan in 1955, and died in 2019 from cancer. A major contributor to the Arabic literary and poetry scene, he published over ten volumes of poetry, four travel memoirs and two novels. He received a number of literary prizes, among them the Mohammed al-Maghout Prize for Poetry (2006), the Prize for Creative Writing in Jordan (2008), the Ibn Battuta Prize for Travel Writing (2009) and the Mahmoud Darwish Award for Literary Creativity (2019).




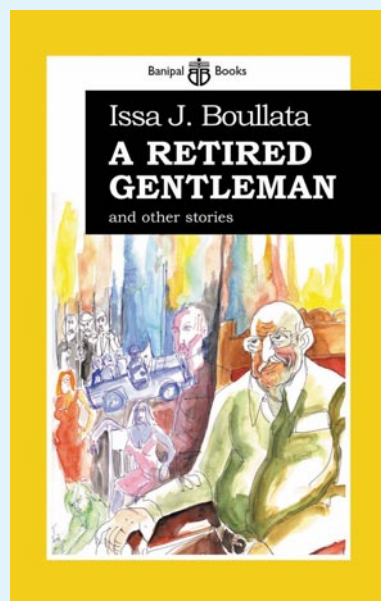
Mordechai's Moustache and his Wife's Cats, and other stories by Mahmoud Shukair

Translated from the Arabic by Issa J Boullata,
Christina Phillips, Elizabeth Winslow and
Elizabeth Whitehouse

"Shukair's gift for absurdist satire is never more telling than in the hilarious title story" Judith Kazantsis

This first major publication in English translation of one of the most original of Palestinian storytellers enralls, surprises and even shocks.


 Short Stories • 124 pages • July 2007
ISBN: 978-0-9549666-3-8 • £7.99
B-format PB • Territories: World



A Retired Gentleman, and other stories by Issa J Boullata

The Jerusalem-born author, scholar, critic, and translator creates a rich medley of tales by emigrants to Canada and the US 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 their pasts . . . 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?

 Short Stories • 120 pages • July 2007
ISBN: 978-0-9549666-6-9 • £7.99
B-format PB • Territories: World

The Myrtle Tree

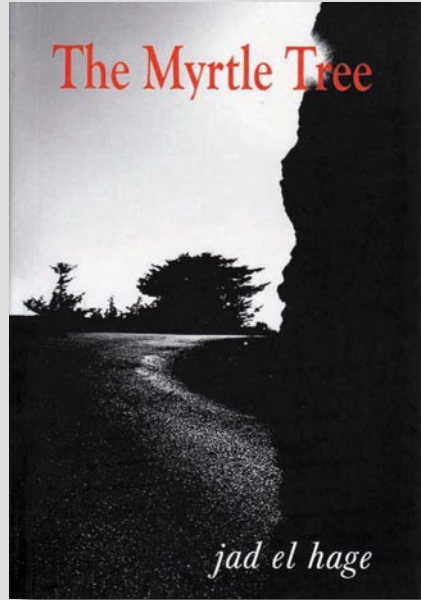
by Jad El Hage

"Better than any political analysis, this remarkable novel, set in a Lebanese mountain village, conveys with razor-sharp accuracy the sights, sounds, tastes and tragic dilemmas of Lebanon's fratricidal civil war. A must read for anyone who wants to understand and grasp what makes this small country the astonishingly vital and diverse place it is."

Patrick Seale



Novel • 296 pages • April 2007
ISBN: 978-0-9549666-4-5 • £9.99
A5-format PB • Territories: World

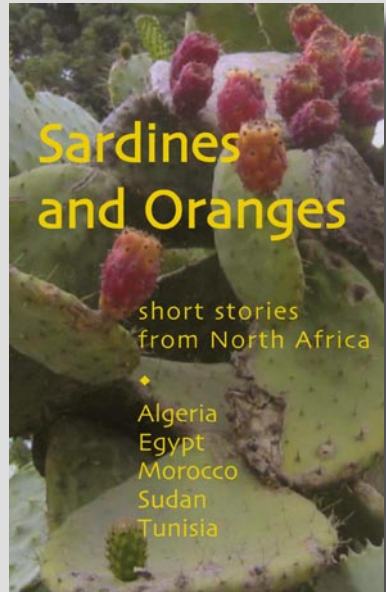


Sardines and Oranges, short stories from North Africa

Edited and introduced by Peter Clark. The 26 stories are by 21 authors: Latifa Baqa, Ahmed Bouzfour, Rachida el-Charni, Mohamed Choukri, Mohammed Dib, Tarek Eltayeb, Mansoura Ez-Eldin, Gamal el-Ghitani, Said al-Kafrawi, Idriss el-Kouri, Ahmed el-Madini, Ali Mosbah, Hassouna Mosbahi, Sabri Moussa, Muhammad Mustagab, Hassan Nasr, Rabia Raihane, Tayeb Salih, Habib Selmi, Izz al-Din Tazi and Mohammed Zefzaf. Translations are from the Arabic except for Mohammed Dib's story,

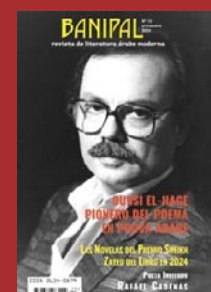
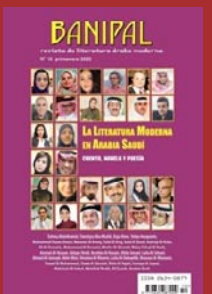
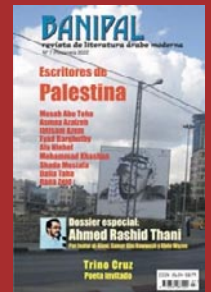


Short Stories • 222 pages • Oct 2005
ISBN: 978-0-9549666-1-4 • £7.99
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