



جائزة الشيخ زايد للكتاب  
Sheikh Zayed Book Award

## Winning & Shortlisted Titles

# RIGHTS GUIDE

## 2022



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جائزة الشيخ زايد للكتاب  
Sheikh Zayed Book Award

## ONE OF THE ARAB WORLD'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS LITERARY PRIZES

“Since its first edition in 2006, the Sheikh Zayed Book Award has proved to be a beacon of culture and literature, recognised and respected internationally as a champion of creativity. Through this inspirational Award, we honour the memory of our nation’s founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, whose far-reaching vision for the UAE was intrinsically linked to the cornerstones of culture, knowledge and human development.”

**HE Mohamed Khalifa  
Al Mubarak**

Chairman of the Department of  
Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi



جائزة الشيخ زايد للكتاب  
Sheikh Zayed Book Award

## DIVERSE, INFLUENTIAL CREATORS

“With each edition, the Sheikh Zayed Book Award further advances the cultural ecosystem in the Arab world, highlighting brilliant works of intellectual, linguistic, and creative diversity. One of our main aims is to support creators, and it is our hope that this platform will serve to introduce these authors to wider audiences, not only in the region but around the globe.”



HE Dr. Ali bin Tamim

Secretary-General of Sheikh Zayed  
Book Award and Chairman of Abu  
Dhabi Arabic Language Centre





## ABOUT THE SHEIKH ZAYED BOOK AWARD



جائزة الشيخ زايد للكتاب  
Sheikh Zayed Book Award

The Sheikh Zayed Book Award commemorates the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Founding President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, and his pioneering role in promoting national unity and development. The Award, and its associated accolades, are presented annually to outstanding writers, intellectuals, and publishers, as well as young talent whose writing and translation in humanities objectively enriches Arab intellectual, cultural, literary and social life.

The Sheikh Zayed Book Award, at the Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre, is an independent cultural initiative administered by Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi.





جائزة الشيخ زايد للكتاب  
Sheikh Zayed Book Award

# 2022 AWARD WINNERS

## LITERATURE

**Maisoon Sager, UAE**

EYE ON EGYPT: CAFÉ RICHE  
(MAQ'HA REESH, AIN ALA MASSR)

Nahdet Misr Publishing, 2021

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## CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

**Maria Dadouch, Syria**

THE MYSTERY OF THE GLASS BALL  
(LOGHZ AL KORA AL ZUJAJIYA)

Dar Al-Saqi, 2021

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## YOUNG AUTHOR

**Mohamed Al-Maztouri, Tunisia**

BEDOUINISM IN ANCIENT ARABIC POETRY  
(AL BADAWA FI AL SHE'ER AL ARABI AL  
QADEEM)

Manouba University and the GLD Foundation,  
2021

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## TRANSLATION

**Ahmed Aladawi, Egypt**

ENGLISH-TO-ARABIC TRANSLATION OF 'THE  
RISE OF HUMANISM IN CLASSICAL ISLAM  
AND THE CHRISTIAN WEST'

Madarat for Research and Publishing, 2021

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## LITERARY & ART CRITICISM

**Mohamed Aldahi, Morocco**

THE NARRATOR AND THE SOULMATE: FROM  
ACTING TO FAKING  
(AL SARID WA TAW AM AL ROOH: MIN AL  
TAMTHEEL ILA AL ISTINAA)

Le Centre Culturel du Livre, 2021

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## PUBLISHING & TECHNOLOGY

**Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt**

"This new library is the largest of its time  
and contains millions of books in multiple  
languages and a digital archive."

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## CULTURAL PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

**Dr. Abdullah Al-Ghathami,  
Saudi Arabia**

Professor of Criticism and Theory at King  
Saud University

## ARAB CULTURE IN OTHER LANGUAGES

**Dr. Muhsin J. Al-Musawi,  
Iraq / United States**

THE ARABIAN NIGHTS IN CONTEMPORARY  
WORLD CULTURES: GLOBAL  
COMMODIFICATION, TRANSLATION, AND  
THE CULTURE INDUSTRY

Cambridge University Press, 2021



جائزة الشيخ زايد للكتاب  
Sheikh Zayed Book Award

# TRANSLATION GRANTS

## More Opportunities:

Translation grants are available for shortlisted and winning titles in Literature and Children's categories.

## Literature and Children's Titles

The Sheikh Zayed Book Award launched the translation fund initiative in 2018 to promote the spread of Arabic literature around the world, as the initiative provides financial funding of up to 19,000 US dollars per winning title and is available to all publishing houses working to publish books in foreign languages.

Funding is available for translation of all literature and children's titles that have won the Sheikh Zayed Book Award, as well as shortlisted literature and children's titles starting in 2021.

[CLICK FOR MORE INFO](#)

# TRANSLATION GRANTS

SZBA's translation grant aims to increase the number of Arabic books that are translated, published and distributed abroad. Funding is available for translation of all literary and children's titles that have won or have been shortlisted for the Sheikh Zayed Book Award.

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## DEADLINE:

Applications are accepted all year round. Notification is made after 2-3 months of application date.

## FORMAL REQUIREMENTS:

- The applicant must be a publisher in a country other than the Middle East
- The signed contract between the publisher and rights holder for the Arabic edition, and between the publisher and translator must be included.
- Funding is available to world languages. The translation shall normally be carried out directly from Arabic. An exception can be made in the event of special circumstances, such as a lack of qualified translators from Arabic or that the book is already translated to English. SZBA may in some cases review the quality of the translation before the translation fund is paid.
- The quality of the book must be of an acceptable calibre and a quality assessment will be carried out by SZBA Scientific committee. The applicant must submit a promotional plan to the translated work.

## SUPPORT MATERIALS:

- Brief profile of your press and publishing mandate
- Budget
- Promotional plan
- An up-to-date biography of the translator(s), including relevant translation and publication credits

## GRANT AMOUNT:

A maximum of approximately US\$19,000 per title; plus a supplement, if applicable, to cover specific promotion and production costs:

- Translation-related costs, up to a maximum of US\$10,000 per title.
- For translations of literary works, the cost of promoting the translated book, up to a maximum of US\$5,000 per translated title
- For translations of illustrated books containing at least 50% photos and/or illustrations (e.g. children's books, graphic novels, illustrated books etc.), production costs per translated title of up to US\$4,000 and promotion costs per translated title of up to US\$4,000

## PAYMENTS:

If your application is approved, you will then need to register as a supplier with the Department of Finance, Abu Dhabi (instructions will be provided to you).

Payment will be provided upon the completion and submission of a final copy of the translated work to the Award's Officer.

## DECISION PROCESS:

The Scientific Committee of the Sheikh Zayed Book Award reviews all grant applications and makes the final decision about which applications to approve.

## HOW TO APPLY:

[Download the application form](#) and email it with all the support materials required to [info@zayedaward.ae](mailto:info@zayedaward.ae) with the subject line "Translation Funding"



# TITLES ELIGIBLE FOR TRANSLATION GRANTS

## LITERATURE WINNERS

- EYE ON EGYPT: CAFÉ RICHE (Maq'ha Reesh, Ain Ala Massr) by Maisoon Saqer (UAE)
- IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ENAYAT AL ZAYYAT (Fee Athar Enayat Al Zayyat) by Iman Mersal (Egypt)
- THE PENULTIMATE CUP (Belkas ma Qabl Al Akheera) by Moncef Ouhaibi (Tunisia)
- THE SELF - BETWEEN EXISTENCE AND CREATION by Bensalem Himmich (Morocco)
- REMORSE TEST (Ikhtibar al-nadam) by Khalil Sweileh (Syria)
- SUMMER RAINS (Amtar Sayfiyyah) by Ahmad Al Qarmalawi (Egypt)
- THE AUTUMN OF INNOCENCE (Khareef al Bara'a) by Abbas Beydoun (Lebanon)
- BEYOND WRITING (Ma Wara'a al-Kitaba) by Ibrahim Abdelmeguid (Egypt)
- THE MADMEN OF BETHLEHEM (Majaneen bait lahem) by Osama Alaysa (Palestine)
- AFTER COFFEE (Ba'd Al Qahwah) by Abdel Rasheed Mahmoudi (Egypt)
- DEVELOPED CONCEPTS OF A POETIC THEORY: LANGUAGE, MUSIC AND MOVEMENT (Mafaheem Muwasa'a Li Nazaryah Shi'ryah) by Mohammad Miftah (Morocco)
- CALL OF WHAT WAS FAR by Ibrahim al Kouni (Libya)
- THE PRINCE AND THE PASSAGE OF THE IRON DOORS (Kitab al-Amir: masalik abwab al-hadid) by Wacini Laredj (Algeria)

## CHILDREN'S WINNERS

- THE MYSTERY OF THE GLASS BALL (Loghz al Kora al Zujajiya) by Maria Dadouch (Syria)
- AN ARTIST'S JOURNEY (Rehlat Fannan) by Mizouni Bannani (Tunisia)
- THE LILAC GIRL (Al-Fatat Al-Laylakeyya) by Ibtisam Barakat (Palestine / USA)
- I DREAM OF BEING A CONCRETE MIXER by Hussain Al Mutawaa (Kuwait)
- THE DINORAF (al-dinoraf) by Hessa Al Muhairi (UAE)
- HATLESS (Bila qubba'a) by Lateefa Buti (Kuwait)
- THE BOY WHO SAW THE COLOR OF AIR (Al-Fata al-ladhi Absara Lawna al-Hawa') by Abdo Wazen (Lebanon)
- GOLD RING (Siwari Al-Dhahab) by Qais Sedki (UAE)
- THE JOURNEY OF BIRDS TO QAF MOUNTAIN by Huda Al-Shawwa Qadoumi (Kuwait)
- A JOURNEY ON PAPER by Mohammed Ali Ahmad (Egypt)



# TITLES ELIGIBLE FOR TRANSLATION GRANTS

## SHORTLISTED TITLES, 2022

### LITERATURE:

- STRANGERS AT HOME (Ghorbat Al Manazil) by Ezzat El-Kamhawi (Egypt)
- COMPOSITION BIOGRAPHY: THOUGHTS AND CONFUSION CARRY ME (Wa Tahmelany Hayraty Wa Dh'anony. Seerat Altakween) by Said Bengrad (Morocco)

### CHILDREN'S:

- A LAUGHING SUN (Shams Tadhak) by Bayan Al Safadi (Syria)
- MY DATE WITH THE LIGHT (Maw'idi maa al Noor) by Raja Malah (Morocco)

## SHORTLISTED TITLES, 2021

### LITERATURE:

- TO LOVE LIFE (Aan Ta'ashaq Al Hayat) by Alawiya Sobh (Lebanon)
- THE PASSENGERS HALL (Ghorfat Al Mosafreen) by Ezzat El-Kamhawi (Egypt)

### CHILDREN'S:

- THE EMERALD GARDEN (Hadyqat Al Zomorrod) by Raja Malah (Morocco)
- THE BEAST AND THE BLACKBERRY (Al Ghool wa Nabtat Al Olayq) by Naseeba Alozaibi (UAE)

### YOUNG AUTHOR:

- YALDA NIGHT (Laylat Yalda) by Ghada Al-Absi (Egypt)
- WHAT I LEFT BEHIND (Ma Tarkto Khalfy) by Shatha Mustafa (Palestine)

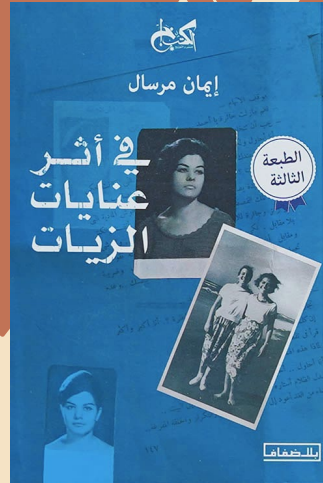
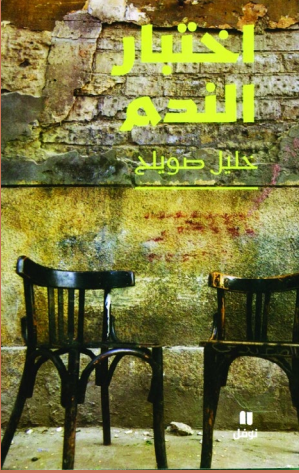
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Sheikh Zayed Book Award



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Sheikh Zayed Book Award



GET TO KNOW  
THE WINNING  
TITLES

2022 Rights Guide  
LITERATURE

Discover more at:  
[zayedaward.ae](http://zayedaward.ae)



## A look back at an iconic place in Cairo and an important era of transformation in Egypt

The book opens a unique door to the history of Cairo and its journey from a social and cultural perspective and aims to build a new and different narrative for this history—one that shows Cairo as a cosmopolitan, multicultural city.

Cairo's Café Riche has a deep cultural history and a broad creative and social heritage. Saqer describes it as "the site where endless friendships are established between the café and history."

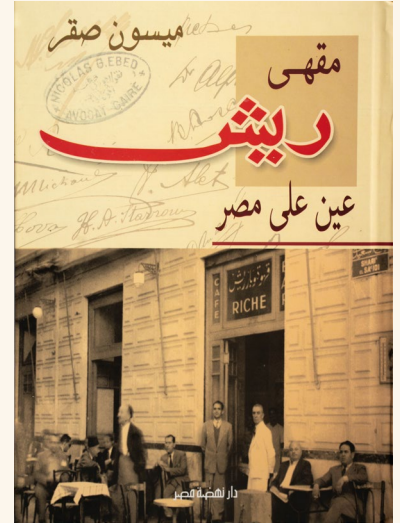
Saqer's narrative is not just about the small café, but rather constitutes observance and analysis of the presence of this café in the history of Egypt and how we can view many events surrounding it.

Here there is no separation between the political and the cultural, between the historical, the social, and the artistic.

The book combines history and narrative, which makes it a documented historical biography on the one hand and a creative work on the other. It also documents an important era in Egypt's cultural history by examining the cultural and social transformations in modern Egyptian history and highlighting prominent intellectuals and creators associated with the café and the history of intellectual life in Egypt.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Maisoon Saqer is a poet, novelist and artist who has published several collections of poetry in classical Arabic and has previously won the C.P. Cavafy International Prize for Poetry. Her novels *Raihana* (2003) and *A Pearl in My Mouth* (2016) were previously shortlisted for the Sheikh Zayed Award. Her professional background includes working at the Cultural Complex in Abu Dhabi in the Department of Culture, Arts, and Publishing, and at the Ministry of Information and Culture as Director of the Cultural Department.



## EYE ON EGYPT: CAFÉ RICHE

Maisoon Saqer,  
UAE

[CLICK FOR MORE INFO](#)

### TITLE INFORMATION:

#### **Publisher:**

Nahdet Misr Publishing

#### **Original Title:** Maq'ha Reesh,

Ain Ala Massr

#### **Original Language:** Arabic

**Publication Date:** 2021

**ISBN:** 9789771460404

**Pages:** 656

World rights available

## Identity, feminism, mystery: a narrative on the life of Egyptian writer Enayat Al Zayyat

'In the Footsteps of Enayat Al-Zayyat' traces the life of Egyptian writer Enayat Al-Zayyat, who died in 1963, four years before the release of her only novel. Instead of a traditional biography, this narrative searches for a young woman whose family burned all her personal documents, including the draft of her second novel.

Mersal combines different writing techniques such as fictional narration, academic research, interviews, fiction, and fragments of the autobiography of the author of the novel.

The book deals with important political, social and cultural issues. We read about the history of psychiatry in modern Egypt, divorce and the continued suffering of women with the Personal Status Law, the changing geography of Cairo alongside changes in political regimes. In the library of the German Archaeological Institute, where Enayat worked, we find her unpublished second novel and unknown stories of German scientists fleeing Nazism to Cairo. We also see how Enayat's neglected tomb reveals the life story of her great-grandfather, Ahmed Rashid Pasha, and the disasters buried in the genealogy tree.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Egyptian poet, writer, academic and translator Iman Mersal works as an Associate professor of Arabic literature and Middle Eastern studies at the University of Alberta, Canada and currently resides in Marseille, France, where she holds the Albert Camus chair at IMÉRA, the Institute for Advanced Study of Aix-Marseille University until July 2021, while working on a book entitled *Al Laknah: Al Sawt fee Ghair Makaneh* (Accent: the Displaced Voice). An anthology of her works was translated into more than twenty languages and she has five poetry collections published. Her most recent published works include *Hatta Atakhlla Aan Fekrat Al Boyot* (Until I Abandon the Idea of Homes) in 2013, *Kayfa Taltaem: Aan Al Omoma wa Askhbahuha* (How

to Amend: On Motherhood and its Ghosts) in 2017, and *Fee Athar Enayat Al Zayyat* (In the Footsteps of Enayat Al-Zayyat) in 2019. Her book, *Mamar Moetem Yaslooh fee Talom Al Raks* (A Dark Path Suitable for Learning to Dance), is one of the most important poetry books issued by the generation of the nineties in Arabic poetry.



## IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ENAYAT AL ZAYYAT

Iman Mersal,  
EGYPT

[CLICK FOR MORE INFO](#)

### TITLE INFORMATION:

#### Publisher:

Al Kotob Khan Library

#### Original Title:

Fee Athar Enayat Al Zayyat

#### Original Language:

Arabic

#### Publication Date:

2019

#### ISBN:

9789778031027

#### Pages:

244

World rights available

## Moncef Ouhaibi's poetry collection fuses modernity with Arab intellectual tradition

Rich in artistic, philosophical, literacy and historic values, Ouhaibi's poems offer readers rich experiences, not just poetically but with the imparting of crucial knowledge, too, as his writing is steeped in his own extensive personal experiences.

The Penultimate Cup begins with an autobiographical piece entitled "The Family", in which the poet chronicles his ancestral home and gives an account of his family life and childhood before poetry. "The Family" becomes a venue where his family members—those who influenced him the most—arrive in succession: his father, the village chief; his grandfather, the astrologer; his uncle, the chess player; his mother and the rest. The places where he lived fashion the corners of the poem like furniture.

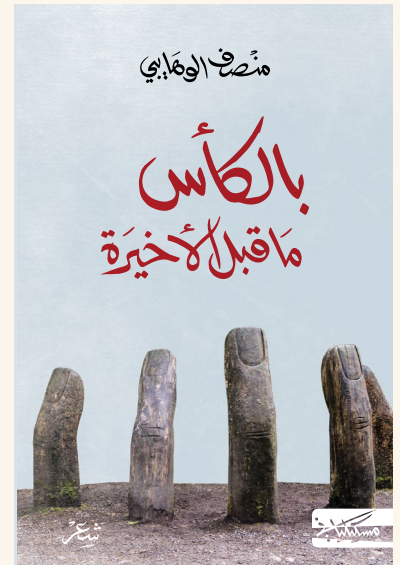
Ouhaibi's poetry combines several art genres, with few of the poems relying on narratives to merge reality with fiction. Poetic imagery is in abundance, his words transform into virtual art, music and philosophical ideas. "The Scream" poem for example, relates not to the sound of a person in pain but his image, which reminds the reader of the famous painting by Norwegian artist Edvard Munch. "Oh Youssef," writes Ouhaibi, "take my hand, while I scream like Munch in the wilderness".

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Moncef Ouhaibi, born in 1949 in Tunisia, is Professor of Arabic Literature at the Universities of Kairouan and Sousse and a permanent member of the Tunisian Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts.

He has published numerous poetry books in both Arabic and French, as well as writing short films and documentaries, notably *En attendant Averroès* (Waiting for Averroès), *Paul Klee à Hammamet* (Paul Klee in Hammamet), *Devant les portes de Kairouan* (Before the gates of Kairouan), and *Pays qui me ressemble* (Country that looks like me), which has been translated into several languages. He has been nominated for several prizes including the

Comar d'Or literary prize, the Okaz Poet award for Arab poetry, and the Nikos Gatsos literary prize.



## THE PENULTIMATE CUP

Moncef Ouhaibi  
TUNISIA

[CLICK FOR MORE INFO](#)

### TITLE INFORMATION:

#### **Publisher:**

Meskeliani Publishing and Distribution

**Original Title:** Belkas ma Qabl Al Akheera

**Original Language:** Arabic

**Publication Date:** 2019

**ISBN:** 9789938240757

**Pages:** 425

World rights available



## Celebrated Moroccan writer Bensalem Himmich diffuses his autobiography with literary and intellectual dimensions.

Himmich opens his book with a discussion on autobiographical writing, followed by chapters on the author's early life, starting with his childhood in Meknes. The heroic figures of his "rebellious youth" are Marx and Sartre, and the challenges of these and other radical thinkers, in both Arabic and European languages, find their way into his doctoral thesis, *Ideological Patterns in Islam: Ijtihad and History* (in Arabic, 1990).

Subsequent chapters move into the domain of creation, with four categories reflecting the author's literary, intellectual, linguistic, and cultural interests. Starting with an epigraph of Italo Calvino, the "literary" chapter focuses on the novel, its history, and its complexities.

The penultimate chapter entitled "My Polemics" offers four of his own polemical stands: on fundamentalist trends—specifically Islam and "Islamism"; on the prevalence in Moroccan publications of the Latin alphabet; and issues with the well-known *littérateurs* Adonis and Youssef Ziedan.

The work closes with the author's reflection on the emergence of a new and negative cultural "hegemony", the awareness of which he attributes to Edward Said and the latter's interpretation of the work of Franz Fanon.

### ADDITIONAL RECOGNITION FOR BENSALEM HIMMICH:

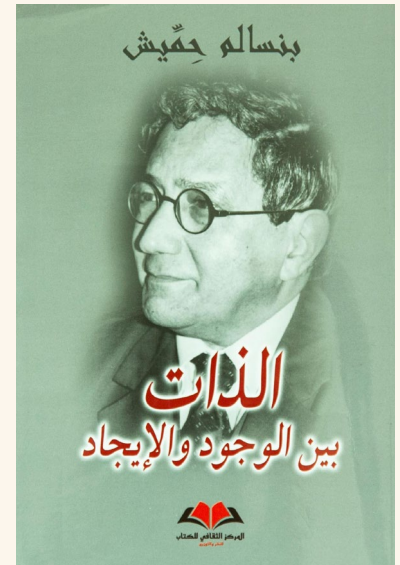
- Books translated into English include *The Polymath* and *The Theocrat*
- Short- and longlisted for the International Prize for Arabic Fiction
- Two-time winner of the Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature
- Winner of the Grand Atlas Award of the Embassy of France in Morocco
- Winner of the Sharjah-UNESCO Prize for Arab Culture

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Himmich is an intellectual and author, and the former Minister of Culture for Morocco. He attained his PhD in Philosophy from the University of Paris. Writing in both Arabic and French, several of his novels have been translated into other languages.

The Writers' Union of Egypt chose Himmich's novel *The Theo-*

*crat* (Majnoun Al Hukm) as one of the 100 best novels of the 20th century. His novel *Mu'athibati* was shortlisted for the Arab Booker International Award. Himmich has spoken at several Arab, European, and American forums, and received the grand award of the French Academy of Toulouse in 2011.



## THE SELF: BETWEEN EXISTENCE AND CREATION

Bensalem Himmich  
MOROCCO

[CLICK FOR MORE INFO](#)

### TITLE INFORMATION:

#### Publisher:

Centre Culturel Du Livre

**Original Title:** Al Dhat

**Original Language:** Arabic

**Publication Date:** 2018

**ISBN:** 9789954705391

**Pages:** 239

World rights available

## This semi-autobiographical novel offers a first-hand look at life and loss during the Syrian civil war

The novel offers an intimate view of the Syrian civil war tragedy and takes the reader on a trip through Damascus and down memory lane. Drawing on his experience as a journalist, poet and novelist, Sweileh writes about the psychological conflicts amid the shattered reality of place and society using language that is full of imagery.

The protagonist is a brilliant writer who is navigating a new, war-torn reality. While reminiscing about his past, he shows us what everyday life is like in Damascus—at once brutal and boring—and laments the missed opportunities and destruction the conflict has caused in his country.

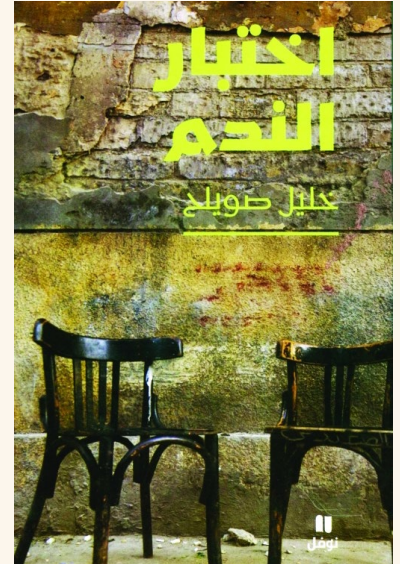
This work is an important addition to the Syrian literature, both for its subject matter and a unique use of narrative tools and vocabulary.

It's written in a reversed biographical manner, shedding light on specific historical periods from the current age of its author to his childhood years. The novel presents descriptions of the narrator, and the names of his friends, the places he used to visit in an extraordinary descriptive style.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Khalil Sweileh was born in 1959, in the city of Hasaka, Syria. In addition to writing, he is renowned journalist. Sweileh's portfolio includes multiple works in poetry including Prefaces, That Was the Scene, and Tracing the Marks. He has also written numerous novels including Stationer of Love, Express Mail, The Gazelle Will Come to You, and The Barbarians' Paradise.

Sweileh has won a number of literary and journalism awards, including The Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature for his novel Writing Love (2009)—which was translated into English and published by the American University in Cairo Press—and the Arab Journalism Award (2010).



## REMORSE TEST

### Khalil Sweileh

### SYRIA

[CLICK FOR MORE INFO](#)



UKRAINIAN EDITION

### TITLE INFORMATION:

#### Publisher:

Hachette Antoine / Naufal

**Original Title:** Ikhtibar al-nadam

**Original Language:** Arabic

**Publication Date:** 2017

**ISBN:** 9786144386712

**Pages:** 248

#### Rights Sold:

- German - Sujet Verlag
- Ukrainian - Nora-Druk Publishers

## Using music as a thread to connect past and present, his novel explores the clash between tradition and modernity.

The novel addresses the current Arab youth crisis, in which young people find themselves torn between fundamentalism and modernity.

Author Ahmad Al Qarmalawi infuses his latest book with music, both traditional and new. The characters in his novel must choose between the pursuit of materialism versus spiritual balance. They face the impact of modernization on heritage and arts versus the need to protect and preserve their traditional culture.

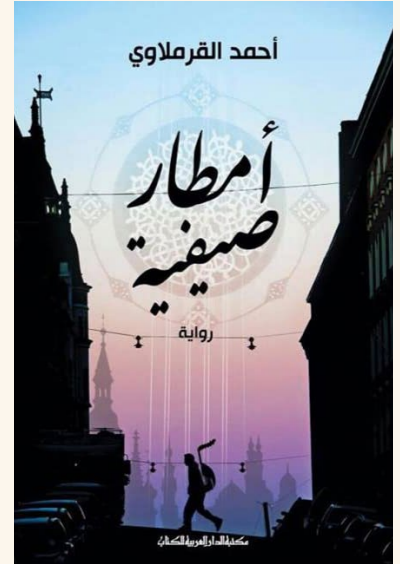
Giving readers a true sense of Islamic culture, Qarmalawi writes about the history of music from Sufism to the present era of electronic musical arts and modern technologies. The story offers the choice between traditions and modern sciences, material consumption and spiritual elevation. The novel highlights the interrelations between the music and the soul, and the sublimity of the spirit versus covetousness. Al Qarmalawi displays an extensive knowledge in music that creates a tangible setting in which to explore the paradoxes of modern life.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Ahmad Al Qarmalawi was born in Cairo in 1978 and moved with his family to Kuwait in his early childhood, where he received his elementary and secondary education. He graduated from the International American School in 1996, then moved back to Egypt to study Architecture at the American University in Cairo, and later continued his post-graduate studies in University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

He has been active in creative writing since 2012, when he published his first work, a collection of short stories called *The First of Abbas*. He followed it with his first novel, *The Last Post*, published in 2014 by Al Dar Al Masriah Al Lubnaniah. Al Qarmalawi published two more novels to date: *Destiny*

in 2015 and *Summer Rains* in 2017, which won him the Sheikh Zayed Book Award. Besides writing, he is an avid painter and a musician. He is married and has three sons.



## SUMMER RAINS

Ahmad Al  
Qarmalawi  
EGYPT

[CLICK FOR MORE INFO](#)



### TITLE INFORMATION:

#### Publisher:

Dar Al Masriah Al Lubnaniah

**Original Title:** Amtar Sayfiyyah

**Original Language:** Arabic

**Publication Date:** 2016

**ISBN:** 9789772937370

**Pages:** 220

#### Rights Sold:

- Italian - Round Robin
- Ukrainian - Anetta Antonenko Publishers



## A tragic father-son story during the Arab Spring explores religious extremism and masculinity.

The novel opens with a letter from Ghassan to his cousin, describing how his father Massoud strangled his mother to death when Ghassan was just three years old. Afterward, Massoud flees the village in southern Lebanon. For 18 years, no one hears from him.

Meanwhile, Massoud has moved to southern Syria, where he remarried and had two more sons. During the Arab Spring, the militant groups fighting the Syrian regime transform him into a religious extremist.

In the second half of the novel, Massoud returns to the village in southern Lebanon. He brings with him a group of men. Together they seize control of the village and terrorize its inhabitants. They begin murdering the villagers in the name of religion. One of Ghassan's friends is among the victims. He decides that he must kill his father, avenging the death of his friend and the deaths of the other villagers. In the end, he fails and is beheaded by Bushra's son, his cousin, who has joined Massoud's thugs.

Beydoun captures the shifting points of view in a family shattered by the tyranny of normative masculinity and the resulting violence. The victims are women, of course, but also the men like Ghassan who reject these social and cultural expectations. The novel also portrays the rise of religious extremism and the terrorism it can inspire, which wreaks havoc on the lives of ordinary people.

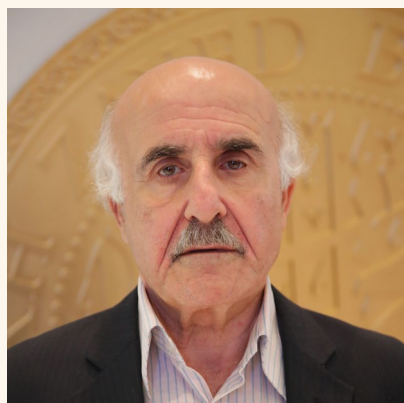
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Abbas Beydoun is well known in the Arab world as a poet, journalist, and literary critic. He was born in the village of Sur in southern Lebanon in 1945 to a family passionate about literature. He studied Arabic Literature at Beirut Arabic University and received his master's degree in literature in Sorbonne, France.

Beydoun started his writing career as a poet and has published numerous poetry collections, including *Critique of Pain*, *Overdose of Time*, *Glass Graveyards*, *Chambers*, *A Ticket for Two*, and *The Metaphysics of the Fox*.

His poetry has been translated into Italian, German, French, and English. His narrative style blends

the volatile reality with a hint of fantasy. In 2002, Beydoun published his first novel, *Blood Test*, which was translated into English and published by Syracuse University Press. His second novel, *The Album of Loss*, was inspired by his own life story.



## THE AUTUMN OF INNOCENCE

Abbas Beydoun  
LEBANON

[CLICK FOR MORE INFO](#)

### TITLE INFORMATION:

#### Publisher:

Dar Al Saqi

**Original Title:** Kharif al-Bara'ah

**Original Language:** Arabic

**Publication Date:** 2016

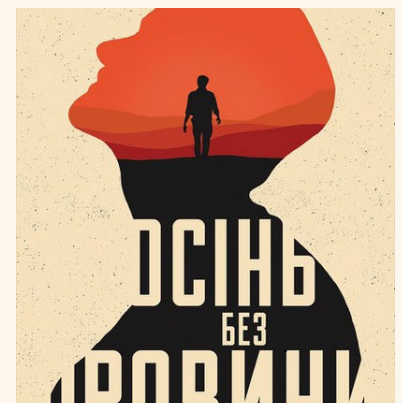
**ISBN:** 9786144258811

**Pages:** 192

#### Rights Sold:

- Ukrainian - Anetta Antonenko Publishers

### UKRAINIAN EDITION



## One of Egypt's leading literary voices on how political, social, cultural events of the last 40 years influenced his writing

Ibrahim Abdelmeguid, called "the quintessential writer about Alexandria" by The National newspaper, looks back over his decades-long writing career in this book, which he calls a "literary autobiography." In it, he reflects on the social, political, and cultural influences in Egypt and elsewhere that have shaped him as a writer.

He shares his views on major political events, such as the 1967 defeat after the Six-Day War, and explanations of their profound impact on his personal life and works of fiction. Abdelmeguid devotes a portion of his work to discussing the development of his views on Egypt's second president, Gamal Abdel Nasser, over the course of his turbulent tenure in office.

The book is divided into a brief introduction and four chapters. Abdelmeguid guides the reader through his literary career, moving masterfully between the factual and the meditative. He explores how each of his novels and many of his short stories was conceived. He also describes cultural, political, and social contexts in which his writing evolved and was received by literary critics and casual readers.

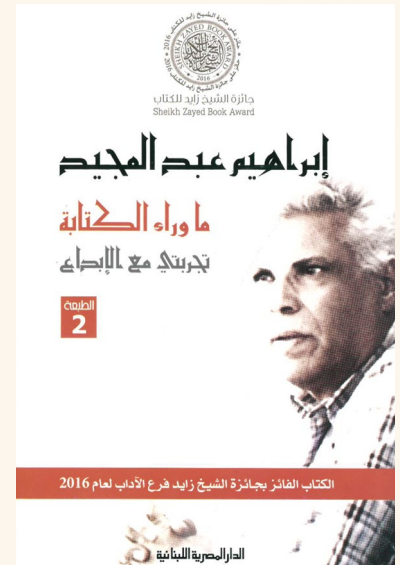
Beyond Writing is a rare and important addition to the modern Arabic literary map. Few Arab authors are willing to so transparently share their writing process, preferring to highlight the polished final product while concealing the hard work that brought it into existence. Readers are lucky that it is a writer as prominent, thoughtful, and engaging as Abdelmeguid is willing to draw back the curtain.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Ibrahim Abdelmeguid was born in Alexandria in 1946. He graduated from the faculty of Arts with a Philosophy degree before relocating to Cairo in 1974 where he began his writing career.

Abdelmaguid has written more than 15 novels, five collections of short stories, and several theatre plays. He wrote numerous novels including *No One Sleeps in Alexandria*, *Birds of Amber*, and *The House of Jasmine*. His works have been translated to English, German, Italian, Spanish and French. He has received numerous prizes

and accolades including Naguib Mahfouz prize from AUC press in 1996 and the Prize of State in 2007 for his contributions to literature.



## BEYOND WRITING

Ibrahim  
Abdelmeguid  
EGYPT

[CLICK FOR MORE INFO](#)

### TITLE INFORMATION:

#### Publisher:

Dar Al Masriah Al Lubnaniyah

**Original Title:** Ma Wara'a Al-Kitaba

**Original Language:** Arabic

**Publication Date:** 2014

**ISBN:** 9789774278884

**Pages:** 334

World rights available

## Adopting the story-within-a-story structure of Arabian Nights, this is a novel of Palestinian oppression

This remarkable novel eloquently brings together fictional characters alongside real-life historical figures in a complex portrayal of Bethlehem and the Dheisheh Refugee Camp in the West Bank. The common thread connecting each tale is madness, in all its manifestations.

These accounts of individuals and communities provide a gateway into the histories of the city of Bethlehem and Palestine. They paint a picture of the centuries of political oppression that the Palestinian people have endured, from the days of the Ottoman Empire to the years following the Oslo Accords, and all the way to 2012 (when the novel was written).

The novel is divided into three sections, each containing multiple narratives. The first section, "The Book of a Genesis," describes the physical spaces and origins of Bethlehem and Dheisheh Refugee Camp. The second section, "The Book of the People Without a Book", follows parallel narratives of the lives of the patients in a psychiatric hospital in Bethlehem, the mad men and women roaming the streets of the city, and those imprisoned by the Israeli authorities. The third and final section, "An Ephemeral Book," follows individuals—Palestinian and non-Palestinian—who are afflicted by madness following the Oslo Accords in 1993. These stories narrate the loss of land and the accompanying loss of sanity in the decades of despair and violence.

Alaysa's crisp, lucid prose and deft storytelling chart a clear path through the chaos with dark humor and wit. The result is an important contribution to fiction on the Palestinian crisis that approaches the Palestinians, madness, and Palestinian spaces with compassion and depth.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Osama Alaysa is an author and journalist from Bethlehem, Palestine. He has worked for numerous Arab and regional newspapers. He has published three novels, two collections of short stories, and seven research studies on Palestinian history.

He was imprisoned a number of times in various Israeli prisons in the periods 1978–1982 and 1989–1991, as well as having been prevented from traveling. Although he sees his personal experience as insignificant in comparison to the suffering of many Palestinians, he nonetheless perceives it as having

a profound impact upon his life, and this he reflects in many of his short stories and novels."



## THE MADMEN OF BETHLEHEM

Osama Alaysa,  
PALESTINE

[CLICK FOR MORE INFO](#)



FRENCH EDITION



UKRAINIAN EDITION

### TITLE INFORMATION:

#### Publisher:

Hachette Antoine / Naufal

**Original Title:** Majanin Bayt Lahm

**Original Language:** Arabic

**Publication Date:** 2013

**ISBN:** 9789953269641

**Pages:** 254

#### Rights Sold:

- French - Belleville Éditions
- Georgian - Intelekti Publishing
- Ukrainian - Anetta Antonenko Publishers







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Sheikh Zayed Book Award



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## During the pandemic, apartment building residents confront isolation

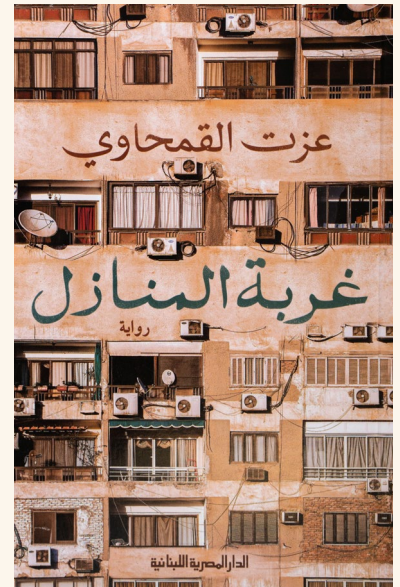
The novel brings together residents of a multi-story building. In a world besieged by COVID-19, Ezzat El-Kamhawi's new novel places its main characters in a fictional world dominated by isolation and obsessions, where people are forced to surrender to a crushing flood of memories.

### FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:

"The novel explores the pandemic and its impacts on social life in Egypt, by presenting examples of the people who suffered from the disease. Structurally, it interacts with other literary genres and combines realism and fantasy."

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Ezzat El-Kamhawi is an Egyptian novelist, born on December 23, 1961, he has published 15 books. His novel Beit El Deeb (The Wolf's House) won the Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature in 2012 and was translated to English and Chinese, while Madinat Al Lathah (The City of Pleasure) and Al Aar men Al Difatayn (Shame on the Two Bank) were translated into Italian. In 2018, his novel Yakfi Annana Ma'an (At Least We are Together) was shortlisted by the Sheikh Zayed Book Award. His works were the subject of several university theses, the most recent of which are: Identity in the novels of Ezzat El-Kamhawi – a thesis by researcher, Hoda Abdullah Abu Al-Maati, with which she obtained a doctorate degree from Suez Canal University in 2020.



## STRANGERS AT HOME

Ezzat El-Kamhawi,  
EGYPT

[CLICK FOR MORE INFO](#)

### TITLE INFORMATION:

#### **Publisher:**

Al Dar Al Masriah Al Lubnaniah

**Original Title:** Ghorbat Al  
Manazil

**Original Language:** Arabic

**Publication Date:** 2021

**ISBN:** 9789777953320

**Pages:** 208

World rights available

## An exploration of the significance of narrative in understanding our lives and culture.

The book is a story that combines childhood living in the 1960s deserts, before current forms of technology and virtualization. In this narrative text, it was not a matter of resurrecting a moment in a fleeting life in a non-stop chronology, but of shaping it into concepts that reconstruct it in an abstract way.

The text does not present an individual story, but rather redraws the boundaries of an entire generation's experience, a generation that saw the light after Morocco's independence, with all of its subsequent achievements, failures, victories, and tragedies.

The narrator in the text does not present ready-made theories; instead, he captures life in its events and facts and elevates it to an abstract level pending contemplation. The event in the text is an excuse for restoring life in the form of a "human experience," and that is the outlet for returning academic knowledge to its role as an incubator for people's concerns as depicted by their narratives, stories, and beliefs. What people experience by instinct; the story turns into another story constructed in the abstract. We do not simply live, we also contemplate our own living, and this is the sublime function of narration.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Born in in the desert of Berkane, a city in eastern Morocco, Said Bengrad holds a BA in Arabic literature. He received a doctorate at the Sorbonne in Paris, and another doctorate at Moulay Ismail University in Meknes. He is one of a group of professors who co-founded the semiotic and linguistic studies magazine "Alamat" in the early 1990s, which was published in 1994 and is still published on a regular basis today. Bengrad is currently a professor of semiotics at Mohamed V University in Rabat. He's the author of 20 books and has translated 17 others.



## COMPOSITION BIOGRAPHY: THOUGHTS AND CONFUSION CARRY ME

Said Bengrad,  
MOROCCO

[CLICK FOR MORE INFO](#)

### TITLE INFORMATION:

#### Publisher:

Le Centre Culturel Du Livre

**Original Title:** Wa Tahmelany Hayraty Wa Dh'anony. Seerat Altakween

**Original Language:** Arabic

**Publication Date:** 2021

**ISBN:** 9789920627887

**Pages:** 342

World rights available

# 2021 LITERATURE SHORTLIST



## TO LOVE LIFE

Alawiya Sobh, LEBANON

A metaphoric story of a dancer's body that betrays her and Arab cities enduring social unrest.

World rights available

### TITLE INFORMATION:

**Publisher:**

Dar Al Adab Publishing & Distribution

**Original Title:** Aan Ta'ashaq Al Hayat

**Original Language:** Arabic

**Publication Date:** 2020

**ISBN:** 9789953897028

**Pages:** 352



## THE PASSENGERS' HALL

Ezzat El-Kamhawi, EGYPT

A reflection of travel as an essential human experience and a metaphor for the journey of life and death.

World rights available

### TITLE INFORMATION:

**Publisher:**

Al Dar Al Masriah Al Lubnaniah

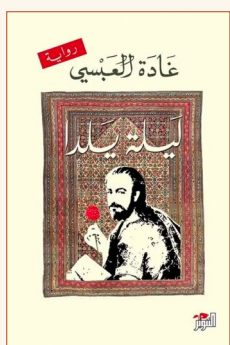
**Original Title:** Ghorfat Al Mosafreen

**Original Language:** Arabic

**Publication Date:** 2020

**ISBN:** 789777952675

**Pages:** 240



## YALDA'S NIGHT

Ghada Al-Absi, EGYPT

An imagined story of the night that Persian poet Hafez al Shirazi died.

World rights available

### TITLE INFORMATION:

**Publisher:**

Dar Al Tanweer

**Original Title:** Laylat Yalda

**Original Language:** Arabic

**Publication Date:** 2018

**ISBN:** 9786144720257

**Pages:** 256



## WHAT I LEFT BEHIND

Shatha Mustafa,  
PALESTINE

A Palestinian student examines her memories, family relationships, and individuality.

World rights available

### TITLE INFORMATION:

**Publisher:**

Hachette Antoine / Naufal

**Original Title:** Ma Tarkto Khalfy

**Original Language:** Arabic

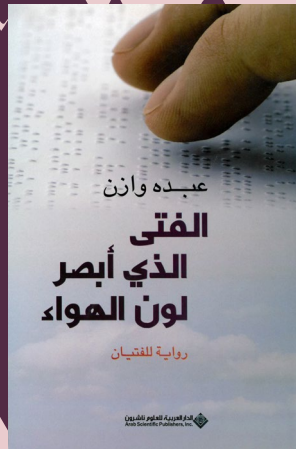
**Publication Date:** 2020

**ISBN:** 9786144695432

**Pages:** 168



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## Mysterious and exciting middle-grade adventure story set in the desert

Ghassan Al Ghurairi had to accompany his old grandfather to the Leewy Museum in the middle of the desert. They are attending a ceremony honoring his grandfather, who spent his entire life in service of the desert.

As they head to their destination onboard an ancient train, Ghassan came across a conspiracy plotted by the criminal Aqrabawi and his bald friend—disguised as two elderly women—to poison the oasis's water supply. In place of the ecological life in the desert, they want to make way for an international resort and take over the place.

Although Ghassan doesn't mean to confront this conspiracy alone, he finds himself embroiled face-to-face with the criminals.

Fortunately for him, a girl appears at his side to help. Sophia Al-Adnani from Chiparazumpia is also heading with her grandfather and his great eco-friendly invention, the glass ball, to the Leewy Museum, where her grandfather is to be honored.

The two children are able to hold off the criminals initially, but not for long, as Aqrabawi and his friend soon reappear—this time deadest on revenge against the two children.

Ghassan and Sophia resist in the face of intimidation and threats, and, using clever intrigue, they manage to disarm the conspirators and escape seconds before the desert guards arrive and arrest the criminals.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Maria Dadouch is a children's author and screenwriter based between the United States and Syria, who has published over 50 books in the Arab world and the USA. She has previously received the Claire Carmichael Scholarship for Fiction, the Katara Prize for Arabic Novels, the Khalifa Award for Educational Creativity, the Shoman Award for Science Fiction, the Arab Publishers' Forum Prize, the Daybreak Award for Picture Books, and was featured on the Etisalat Prize shortlist. Dadouch's screenwriting includes the comedy series Maraya and the animation channel Spacetoon.

She also worked as editor-in-chief for the children's magazine Fulla Magazine. She completed her BA in Creative Writing at University of California, Los Angeles in 2016.



## THE MYSTERY OF THE GLASS BALL

Maria Dadouch,  
SYRIA

[CLICK FOR MORE INFO](#)



### TITLE INFORMATION:

**Publisher:**  
Dar Al-Saqi

**Original Title:** Loghz al Kora al Zujajiya

**Original language:** Arabic

**Publication Date:** 2021

**ISBN:** 9786140321885

**Pages:** 104

**Age Range:** 9+ years

World rights available

## Imagery and metaphor work together to show children the value of belonging to a community

'An Artist's Journey' emphasises the values of loyalty and belonging to one's homeland, speaking to teens in an eloquent and beautiful language while raising contemporary issues of illegal immigration and problems faced by expatriates, as well as the value of art and cultural integration.

It's an interesting story told by an enlightened grandmother in the Hakawati style. She uses sound effects, masks and drawing tools while narrating the tale. Told from the perspective of small and colourful birds, the story is a miniature example of desired civic life in our Arab Islamic societies based on the values of justice, equality, respect for the supremacy of law, tolerance, love, cooperation, national identity, and defending the homeland.

This work encourages educators and pedagogists in general to teach in different ways, such as using art to encourage children to pursue knowledge, acquire life skills and develop their intelligence.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Professor of Education Sciences at the Higher Institute for Applied Studies in Humanities in Sbeitla, Tunisia. Bannani won the Regional Creativity Prize for Child Literature in Kasserine in 1999. He published two collections of short stories entitled Humma Al Ardh (The Fever of the Earth) in 1989, and Mawawil Aaed men Dhefat Al Nar (Mawawil of the One who Returned from the Shore of Fire) in 1996, in addition to a novel entitled Doroob Al Hawan (Paths of Humiliation). He also published a group of literary works for children and teens, including Sorah Laysat Kalswar (A Picture Like No Other), and Turab Al Watab (The soil of the homeland), Rehlat Fannan (An Artist's Journey) and others. Bannani works as a literary and artistic consultant at Al Moanasah Publishing House, and

has participated in establishing the branch of the Union of Tunisian Writers in Kasserine in 1997 and chaired it until 2017.



## AN ARTIST'S JOURNEY

Mizouni Bannani,  
TUNISIA

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### TITLE INFORMATION:

#### Publisher:

Dar Al Mua'nasa Publishing

**Original Title:** Rehlat Fannan

**Original language:** Arabic

**Publication Date:** 2020

**ISBN:** 9789973985002

**Pages:** 144

**Age Range:** 9+ years

#### Rights Sold:

- English - Bookland Press
- French - Bookland Press

## Inspired by the life of Palestinian artist Tamam Al-Akhal

The Lilac Girl is a magical realism children's tale, written as a tribute to the life and work of renowned Palestinian artist Tamam al-Akhal.

Tamam, the narrator, sets out one night, in her imagination, to visit her childhood home in the city of Jaffa, which she and her family were driven out of in 1948. When she knocks on the door, a girl answers and refuses to let Tamam in. After turning away in despair, Tamam decides to paint a picture of her long-lost home, using her tears that now fall in every colour, only to see that the colours of the house itself have begun running after her, stripping it bare of colour like a tree shorn of its autumn leaves.

The only colour that remains in Jaffa after Tamam's magical departure is a blend of the red of rage, the blue of despair, and the yellow of defeat, all of which combine into a lilac hue that tints Tamam's house and the city of Jaffa the long night through. (Banipal Magazine)



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Ibtisam Barakat is a bilingual Palestinian-American poet, artist, translator, educator and the author of the critically acclaimed memoirs, *Tasting the Sky*, a *Palestinian Childhood* (FSG/2007) and *Balcony on the Moon*, *Coming of Age in Palestine* (FSG/Macmillan 2016). The two memoirs combined won more than thirty awards and honors, including the International Reading Association's best book award; the Middle East Council's best book award, and the Arab-American Museum's best book award. Her Arabic language books include *The Letter Ta' Escapes*, which won the

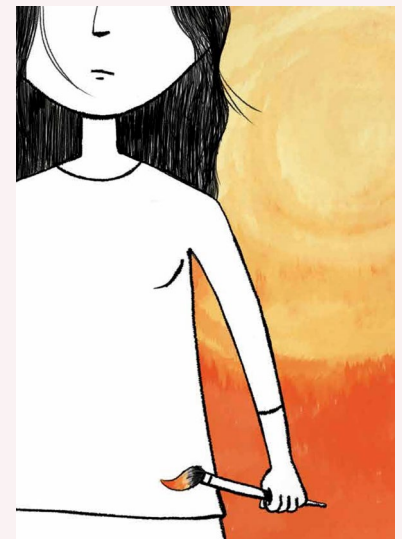
Euro-Mediterranean Anna Lindh Foundation's best book award for children's books in Arabic. Her most recent books include *The Jar* that became a *Galaxy*, which was the title for Palestine's national reading campaign in 2019, and *The Lilac Girl*.



## THE LILAC GIRL

Ibtisam Barakat,  
PALESTINE / USA

[CLICK FOR MORE INFO](#)



### TITLE INFORMATION:

#### Publisher:

Dar Al Mua'nasa Publishing

**Original Title:** Rehlat Fannan

**Original Language:** Arabic

**Publication Date:** 2020

**ISBN:** 9789938240757

**Pages:** 425

**Age Range:** 9+ years

#### Rights sold:

- German - Sujet Verlag
- Greek - Strange Days Books

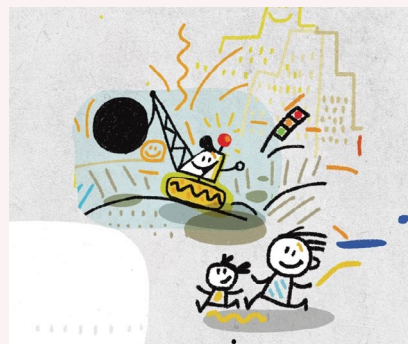


## An uplifting tale about the power of friendship, finding your place in the world, and realising your dreams

Tumbledown is a little demolition truck growing up in a loving family. His parents go to work every day demolishing buildings with their big wrecking balls. But soft-hearted Tumbledown doesn't like to destroy. He'd rather build things. He dreams of being a cement mixer.

When Tumbledown cries, his wrecking ball swings out and destroys everything it touches. His soft heart can't skip a beat without leaving a trail of destruction. At school other students laugh at him, but still he won't let go of his dream.

Tumbledown can never be a cement mixer, but maybe there are other ways, better suited to his nature. After some searching, the Wise Old Crane finds a new job for Tumbledown at a construction site using his wrecking ball to smooth out the cement on the ground. It's hard work but Tumbledown is finally happy, and he grows stronger with every passing day.



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Al Kuwaiti writer and photographer born in 1989, Almutawaa attained a Bachelor's degree in Literature and Criticism from the College of Arabic Language at the University of Kuwait, minoring in Philosophy. He started his literary career as a poet in 2009, and has participated in many poetry events and festivals. In 2015, he began writing short stories and won first place in the "University Poet and Story Teller" category at the University of Kuwait. Almutawaa then moved on to novels, publishing his first, Turab, at the end

of 2017, and his children's novel, I Dream of Being A Concrete Mixer, in 2018.



## I DREAM OF BEING A CONCRETE MIXER

Hussain Al Mutawaa,  
KUWAIT

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GERMAN EDITION

### TITLE INFORMATION:

#### Publisher:

Al-Hadaek Group

**Original Language:** Arabic

**Publication Date:** 2018

**ISBN:** 9786144391457

**Pages:** 40

**Age Range:** 4-8 years

#### Rights Sold:

- English - Bookland Press
- French - Bookland Press
- German - Sujeet Verlag

## A little dinosaur goes looking for his family and finds identity, belonging, and acceptance

An egg has hatched, and what comes out of it? A chicken? No. A turtle? No. It's a dinosaur. But where is his family?

In this picture book by educator and author Hessa Al Muhairi, with illustrations by Sura Ghazwan, a dinosaur sets out in search of animals like him. He finds plenty of animals, but none that look the same . . . until he meets the giraffe. This story teaches children about accepting differences using carefully crafted language.

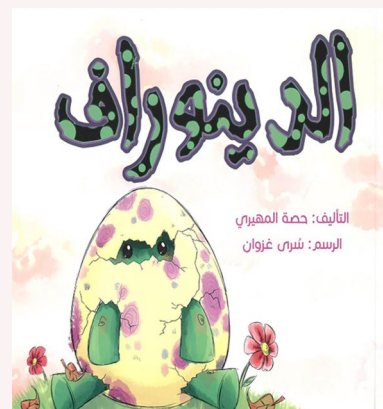


### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Hessa Al Muhairi holds a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and two master's degrees from Deakin University in Australia, one in Science in Education Management and the other in Policy. She has been working as a nursery teacher since her graduation. Al Muhairi participated in numerous children's literature workshops and managed a number of training programs. She has two published books for children: *Whose Footprints are These?* and *The Dinoraf*.

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR:

Iraqi children's stories writer and illustrator Sura Ghazwan holds a bachelor's degree in English Translation. She was born in 1989 and has been working as a professional book illustrator and comic artist for several years. She specializes in children's book illustrations, cartoon and games drawings, and works as a freelancer for a number of magazines, institutions, publications and companies in UAE, Iraq, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Her work has been recognised in several exhibitions and awards.



## THE DINORAF

Hessa Al Muhairi,  
UAE

[CLICK FOR MORE INFO](#)



ENGLISH / ITALIAN / ARABIC  
EDITION

### TITLE INFORMATION:

#### Publisher:

Dar Al Mua'nasa Publishing

**Original Title:** Rehlat Fannan

**Original Language:** Arabic

**Publication Date:** 2020

**ISBN:** 9789938240757

**Pages:** 425

**Age Range:** 9+ years

#### Rights Sold:

- English, French, Italian - Marcos y Marcos

## Encourages children to think independently through innovation and creativity

The main character is a young girl named Hatless who lives in the City of Hats. Here, all of the people are born with hats that cover their heads and faces. The world inside of their hats is dark, silent, and odorless.

Hatless feels trapped underneath her own hat, and one day she takes it off. As she takes in the beauty of her surroundings, the other inhabitants of the city ostracize her. It is not long before they ask her to leave.

Rather than giving up or getting angry, Hatless feels sad for her friends and neighbors who are afraid to experience the world outside of their hats. She comes up with an ingenious solution: if she can stay, she will wear a hat as long it is one she makes herself. The people of the City of Hats agree, so Hatless weaves a hat that covers her head but does not prevent her from seeing the outside world. She offers to loan the hat to the others.

One by one, they try it on and are enchanted by the beautiful world around them. The people celebrate by tossing their old hats in the air.

Buti's language is eloquent and clear. She strikes a skilled narrative balance between revealing Hatless's inner thoughts and letting the story unfold through her interactions with other characters.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Lateefa Buti is a Kuwaiti author specialized in children's literature. Her portfolio includes from stand-alone novels, theatrical works, publications in magazines and periodicals, as well as works in radio and television. She has several independently published works including *The Mermaid and My Country* and *Ininkayo*, in addition to theatrical acts such as *Juha's Gate* and *Salma the Princess of the Sea*.

Buti is also a regular contributor to the well-known magazine *Al Arabi Al Sagheer* and worked on a number of radio-based programs and series targeting adolescents. He works in television were mainly with *Al Jazeera Children*

Channel and *Al Baraem Channel*, focusing on the cultural heritage and folklore of the Arab region.



## HATLESS

Lateefa Buti,  
KUWAIT

[CLICK FOR MORE INFO](#)



FRENCH EDITION

### TITLE INFORMATION:

#### Publisher:

Seedan Media

**Original Title:** Bila Qubba'ah

**Original Language:** Arabic

**Publication Date:** 2015

**ISBN:** 9789996653186

**Pages:** 32

**Age Range:** 6-9 years

#### Rights Sold:

- English - Darf Publishers
- French - Bookland Press



## A blind teenager in Lebanon finds strength and friendship among an unlikely group

Growing up in a small Lebanese village, Bassim's blindness limits his opportunities, despite his family's love and support.

So at thirteen years old, Bassim leaves his village to join the Institute for the Blind in a Beirut suburb. There, he comes alive and discovers talents he didn't know he had.

Thanks to his newly developed self-confidence, Bassim wins a short story competition sponsored by the Ministry of Education and is hired to work at the Institute for the Blind.

At the Institute, Bassim, a Sunni Muslim, forms a strong friendship with George, a Christian. Cooperation and collective support are central to the success of each student at the Institute and overcome religious differences.

The Boy Who Saw the Color of Air is also a book about Lebanon and its treatment of people with disabilities as well as the unique religious and cultural environment of Beirut.

Wazen's lucid language and the linear structure he employs result in a coherent and easy-to-read narrative. The Boy Who Saw the Color of Air is an important contribution to a literature in which people with disabilities are underrepresented. In addition to offering a story of empowerment and friendship, this book also aims to educate readers about people with disabilities and shed light on the indispensable roles played by institutions like the Institute.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Abdo Wazen was born in Beirut, Lebanon in 1957. In addition to writing poetry and novels, he's a French-to-Arabic translator and the well-known culture editor of Al-Hayat newspaper.

His first collection of poems, The Locked Forest, was published in 1982. Since then, Wazen has published a number of other poetry collections, and a memoir, An Open Heart, after he had major heart surgery in 2010. The Lebanese Ministry of Interior seized copies of his 1993 book, The Garden of Sensation on accusations of licentiousness. He's translated the poetry of Jacques Prevert and Na-

dia Twueni into Arabic. In 2005, he received the Culture Journalism Award from the Dubai Press Club.



## THE BOY WHO SAW THE COLOR OF AIR

Abdo Wazen,  
LEBANON

[CLICK FOR MORE INFO](#)

### TITLE INFORMATION:

#### Publisher:

Arab Scientific Publishers, Inc

**Original Title:** Al-Fata al-ladhi Absara Lawna al-Hawa'

**Original Language:** Arabic

**Publication Date:** 2011

**ISBN:** 9786140103412

**Pages:** 119

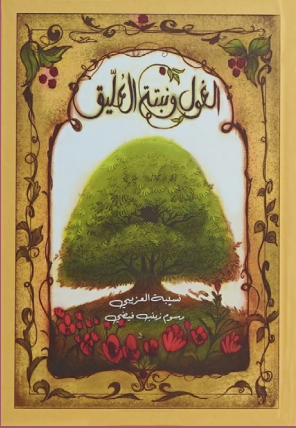
**Age Range:** Teen

#### Rights Sold:

- English - Bookland Press
- Ukrainian - Anetta Antonenko Publishers



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## A collection of engaging and educational poetry for children about the objects around them

These poetic tales for children address things around us such as the wall, the stone, the ear, the river, and others, humanize them, and present them as free verse poetry. It also includes an audio CD containing song versions of the tales, all of which are loaded with pedagogical, aesthetic, and humanitarian messages.

The importance of "A Laughing Sun" stems from its adoption of the poetic tale in most poems. It carries implications for reverence of science, arts, freedom, and human diversity, and highlights the beauty of nature and the protection of the environment. The poems are replete with a sense of cheerfulness and humor, and the collection focuses on the imagination and stimulates both scientific and creative thinking.



### A LAUGHING SUN

Bayan Al Safadi,  
SYRIA

[CLICK FOR MORE INFO](#)



#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Born in Syria in 1956, Bayan Al Safadi holds a BA in Arabic Language and Arts and a diploma in management. His first work for children was publishing in "Osama" magazine when he was just 20 years old. He's also written award-winning children's songs, and his texts are used in elementary school curricula across the Arab world. He's published 14 books for children and 7 books for adults, including poetry and academic works.



#### TITLE INFORMATION:

##### Publisher:

Dar Al Banan

**Original Title:** Shams Tadhak

**Original Language:** Arabic

**Publication Date:** 2020

**ISBN:** 9786144550632

**Pages:** 23

World rights available



## A young girl overcomes poverty, disability, and loss by finding optimism and strength

The character of the novel "My Date with the Light" was born with a rare disease that gradually eliminates her sense of sight. From an early age, she realized that she was in a struggle with time and loss. Who said that this little girl in that remote village between its harsh mountains and deep valleys will one day be able to turn her date with darkness into a date with light, insight, and hope?

She left her village in search of scientific horizons and dreamy expanses. Twenty years later, she decided to return to her hometown, believing in her role in assisting the children of her village.

In her cabin, between the night silence and train whistles, she begins to tell her life story so we can learn about the details of her childhood, her handicap, her family, her village that languishes in poverty and destitution... To witness how she was finally able to make her way towards achieving her dream with rare courage, and touch the light of success, despite losing sight.

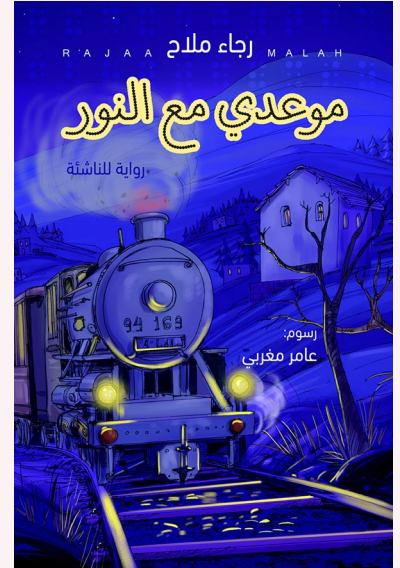


### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

An architect from Morocco, Raja Malah holds a master's degree in city planning from the University of Paris X - France. Besides her work as an architect in Dubai, she writes for teenagers and children.

Her most important books include Hadyaty La Eed Miladak (My gift for your birthday), Ajnehat Taaeraty (The wings of my plane), and Hadyqat Al Zomorrod (The Emerald Garden). Two of her books have been translated into French: Antologia Al Shaer Al Imarati Al Moaaser

(Ontology of contemporary Emirati poetry) and Ayna Kano Yaktoboon (Where were they writing).



## MY DATE WITH THE LIGHT

Raja Malah,  
MOROCCO

[CLICK FOR MORE INFO](#)

### TITLE INFORMATION:

#### Publisher:

Dar Al Moualef and Maalem

**Original Title:** Maw'idi maa al Noor

**Original Language:** Arabic

**Publication Date:** 2022

**ISBN:** 9786144562857

**Pages:** 107

**Age Range:** 9-12 years

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# 2021 CHILDREN'S LITERATURE SHORTLIST



## THE EMERALD GARDEN

Raja Malah, MOROCCO

A child's memory of his grandmother's garden turns into a magical experience.

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### TITLE INFORMATION:

**Publisher:**

Dar Al Moualef and Maalem

**Original Title:** Hadyqat Al Zomorrod

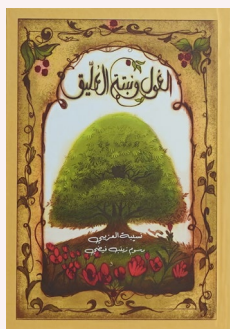
**Original Language:** Arabic

**Publication Date:** 2019

**ISBN:** 9786146542284

**Pages:** 40

**Age Range:** 10+ years



## THE BEAST AND THE BLACKBERRY

Naseeba Alozaibi, UAE

Appearances are deceiving, in this story about a beast who is more than he appears to be.

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### TITLE INFORMATION:

**Publisher:**

Dar Ashjar Publishing and Distribution

**Original Title:** Al Ghool wa Nabtat Al Olayq

**Original Language:** Arabic

**Publication Date:** 2019

**ISBN:** 9789948362708

**Pages:** 156

**Age Range:** 10+ years



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