

LITERATURE FROM THE LANDS OF THE POMEGRANATE



THE ATTACK

Yasmina Khadra

Fic Khad

Amin Jaafari, an Israeli-Arab doctor, is a healer, not a fighter. His wife is killed in a suicide bombing and the police believe she is the bomber. This is a tale of the devastating effects of terrorism and betrayal by the author of *The Swallows of Kabul*.

CASPIAN RAIN

Gina Nahai (Gina Barkhordar-Nahai)

Fic Naha

Narrated by 12-year old Yaas as a memoir, this is the tale of an Iranian family spinning out of control during the decade before the revolution. Illustrating the conflict between tradition and modernism and the struggles between classes, Nahai, who left Iran as an adolescent, gives us a haunting view of silenced women.

THE CRY OF THE DOVE

Fadia Faqir

Fic Faqi

Left pregnant after an illicit love affair, Saalma, a young Bedouin woman from Hima in the Levant, flees her people to escape the honor killing waiting for her at the hands of her tribe and seeks asylum in England.

DE NIRO'S GAME

Rawi Hage

Fic Hage

East meets West in this poetic and terse tale filled with American action heroes and ancient Arabic imagery. This is the story of two best friends from childhood who are now men living in war-torn Beirut. What comes afterwards?

GATE OF THE SUN

Elias Khoury (Ilyas Khuri)

Fic Khur

Using flashbacks modeled on 1001 Arabian Nights, this is a collage of stories from Palestine from the war of 1948 to the present. Realistic, yet told with compassion, this novel's main character, a doctor reminiscing about his life plays the part of Scheherazade and will keep you just as entranced.

THE HAKAWATI

Rabih Alameddine

Fic Alam

Osama al-Kharrat returns to Beirut from America to stand vigil by his father's deathbed. His grandfather was a hakawati, a storyteller, and his stories are interwoven with classic tales of the Middle East, reimagined and totally captivating.

MAPS FOR LOST LOVERS

Nadeem Aslam

Fic Asla

Taking place in a Pakistani enclave in England, this disturbing novel illustrates the conflict between modern mores and Islamic custom. A young Pakistani couple goes missing and it appears they've been the victims of honor killing.

A PIGEON AND A BOY

Meir Shalev

Fic Shal

This novel intertwines two love stories, Israel's history from before the 1948 war of independence to the present, and homing pigeons in a beautiful tale of home, love, memory and survival. Written by one of Israel's most celebrated authors, this novel won that country's Brenner Prize.

THE SEPTEMBERS OF SHIRAZ

Dalia Sofer

Fic Sofe

Sofer was forced to flee post-revolutionary Iran at the age of ten after his father was unjustly imprisoned and related her family's experiences in this semiautobiographical novel. In 1981, a Jewish businessman is imprisoned in Iran, accused of being a Zionist spy. He spends months in prison and readers will not only learn of his travails but of his wife and two children as well.

A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS

Khaled Hosseini

Fic, CD, Cass, Q Hoss

Three decades of Afghanistan in turmoil as experienced by two women, this novel portrays both personal and national tragedies. This author of *The Kite Runner* managed to give us another great book, but focused this tale on misogyny supported by custom and law.

THE WASTED VIGIL

Nadeem Aslam

Fic Asla

The prices paid by a cast of characters living in current Afghanistan are very high, as is the tension portrayed throughout this novel. Lyrical, yet gritty, this tale portrays life in the war-torn country as it's lived by some very real protagonists, including local villagers, jihadists, the Taliban and American expatriates.

ZUBAIDA'S WINDOW: A NOVEL OF IRAQI EXILE

Iqbal al-Qazwini (Iqbal Qazwini)

Fic Zuba

This first novel in English by an Iraqi to focus on the 2003 invasion describes the tortured psyche of a woman displaced by war but still longing for her homeland. Exiled to Berlin by Saddam Hussein, this author's protagonist also lives in Germany, but stays connected to her homeland by watching the invasion of Iraq on television.