
An Unnecessary Woman Rabih Alameddine

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The Art of Misdiagnosis Beacon Press

Finalist for the 2021 National Book Award (Fiction) “A virtuosic portrait.” –New York Times Book Review “A tender, glowing novel.” –Anthony Doerr, Guardian, “Best Books of the Year” “Pages that are polished like jewels.” –Scott Simon, NPR, “Books We Love” “Lit from within.” –Mark Athitakis, Los Angeles Times, “Best Fiction Books of the Year” “A touching, tightly woven story from an always impressive author.” –Kirkus (starred review), “Best Fiction of the Year” “Radiates the heat of a beating heart.” –Vox “A poignant, unforgettable novel.” –Hernan Diaz From prize-winning, acclaimed author Laird Hunt, a poignant novel about a woman searching for her place in the world and finding it in the daily rhythms of life in rural

Indiana. “It was Indiana, it was the losses that she cannot outrun. Set dirt she had bloomed up out of, it was who she was, what she felt, how she thought, what she knew.” As a girl, Zorrie Underwood's modest and hardscrabble home county was the only constant in her young life. After losing both her parents, Zorrie moved in with her aunt, whose own death orphaned Zorrie all over again, casting her off into the perilous realities and sublime landscapes of rural, Depression-era Indiana. Drifting west, Zorrie survived on odd jobs, sleeping in barns and under the stars, before finding a position at a radium processing plant. At the end of each day, the girls at her factory glowed from the radioactive material. But when Indiana calls Zorrie home, she finally finds the love and community that have eluded her in and around the small town of Hillisburg. And yet, even as she tries to build a new life, Zorrie discovers that her trials have only begun. Spanning an entire lifetime, a life convulsed and transformed by the events of the 20th century, Laird Hunt's extraordinary novel offers a profound and intimate portrait of the dreams that propel one tenacious woman onward and the

against a harsh, gorgeous, quintessentially American landscape, this is a deeply empathetic and poetic novel that belongs on a shelf with the classics of Willa Cather, Marilynne Robinson, and Elizabeth Strout. ***A Heart So White*** Knopf A “captivating, perceptive, and empathic novel of New York” told with “panache and mischievous ebullience” (Booklist, starred review). In this retelling of Balzac's Parisian classic *Cousin Bette*, Sarah Shulman spins her revenge story in Mad Men–era New York City. Bette, a lonely spinster, has worked as a secretary at an ad agency for thirty years. Her only real friend is her apartment neighbor Earl, a black, gay actor with a miserable job in a meatpacking plant. Shamed and disowned by their families, both find refuge in New York and in their friendship. Everything changes when Hortense, Bette's wealthy niece from Ohio, moves to the city to pursue her own acting career. Her arrival reminds Bette of her scandalous past

and the estranged Midwestern family she left behind. When Hortense's calculating ambitions cause a rift between Bette and Earl, Bette uses her connections in the television ad world to destroy those who have wronged her. Textured with the grit and gloss of midcentury Manhattan in the days before the Civil Rights and Feminist Movements, *The Cosmopolitans* "balance[s] the hopes of an entire era on the backs of a fragile relationship. . . Jarring and beautiful, this is a modern classic" (Kirkus Reviews, starred review).

The Interpreter Anchor In *The Cinnamon Shops and Other Stories*, Bruno Schulz describes in fantastical, mythologised terms the cloth merchant's shop where he grew up and the bizarre antics of his father, such as turning the attic into an aviary and expounding strange theories on mannequins. Two sides of the Galician town of Drohobycz are seen: the old town full of ancient mystery is contrasted with newer districts that have sprung up in response to oil mining in the area. The language is poetic, heady and oneiric, employing a rich system of imagery incorporating books and

labyrinths.

The Old Woman and the River New Directions Publishing

A harrowing account of the last three months of Benazir Bhutto's life October, 2007. Pakistan's former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto returns home after eight years of exile to seek political office once more. Assigned to cover her controversial arrival is TV journalist Ali Sikandar, the estranged son of a wealthy landowner from the interior region of Sindh. While her presence ignites fierce protests and assassination attempts, Ali finds himself irrevocably drawn to the pro-democracy People's Resistance Movement, a secret that sweeps him into the many contradictions of a country still struggling to embrace modernity. As Shah weaves together the centuries-old history of Ali's feudal family and its connection to the Bhuttos, she brilliantly reveals a story at the crossroads of the personal and the political, a chronicle of one man's desire to overcome extremity to find love, forgiveness, and even identity itself.

Danube Random House Trade Paperbacks

In 1940 Varian Fry traveled to Marseille carrying a list of imperiled artists and writers he hoped to rescue within a few weeks. Instead, he ended up staying in France working

under the veil of a legitimate relief organization to procure false documents, amass emergency funds, and set up an underground railroad

Your Face Tomorrow Random House

In this "wonderfully rich" (San Francisco Chronicle) novel from the author of the internationally bestselling *The Oracle of Stamboul*, a young man journeys from California to Cairo to unravel centuries-old family secrets. "This book is a joy." —Rabih Alameddine, author of the National Book Award finalist *An Unnecessary Woman*

WINNER OF: THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION'S SOPHIE BRODY AWARD • THE NATIONAL JEWISH BOOK AWARD IN FICTION • THE SAMI ROHR PRIZE FOR JEWISH LITERATURE

- Named One of the Ten Best Books of the Year by the BBC
- Longlisted for the Northern California Independent Booksellers Association Fiction Prize
- A Penguin Random House International One World, One Book Selection
- Honorable Mention for the Middle East Book Award

Joseph, a literature student at Berkeley, is the son of a Jewish mother and a Muslim father. One day, a mysterious

package arrives on his doorstep, pulling him into a mesmerizing adventure to uncover the centuries-old history that binds the two sides of his family. From the storied Ibn Ezra Synagogue in Old Cairo, where generations of his family served as watchmen, to the lives of British twin sisters Agnes and Margaret, who in 1897 leave Cambridge on a mission to rescue sacred texts that have begun to disappear from the synagogue, this tightly woven multigenerational tale illuminates the tensions that have torn communities apart and the unlikely forces that attempt to bridge that divide. Moving and richly textured, *The Last Watchman of Old Cairo* is a poignant portrait of the intricate relationship between fathers and sons, and an unforgettable testament to the stories we inherit and the places we are from. Praise for *The Last Watchman of Old Cairo* “ A beautiful, richly textured novel, ambitious and delicately crafted, *The Last Watchman of Old Cairo* is both a coming-of-age story and a family history, a wide-ranging book about fathers and sons, religion, magic, love, and the essence of storytelling. This book is a joy. ” —Rabih Alameddine, author of the National Book Award finalist

An Unnecessary Woman

“ Lyrical, compassionate and illuminating. ” —BBC

“ Michael David Lukas has given us an elegiac novel of Cairo—Old Cairo and modern Cairo. Lukas ’ s greatest flair is in capturing the essence of that beautiful, haunted, shabby, beleaguered yet still utterly sublime Middle Eastern city. ” —Lucette

Lagnado, author of *The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit* and *The Arrogant Years*

“ Brilliant. ” —The Jerusalem Post

[Koolaid's](#) SCB Distributors

"Already an international sensation: a debut novel that tells a love story set in two countries in two radically different moments in time, bringing together a young man, his mother, a boa constrictor, and one capricious cat. In 1980s Yugoslavia, a young Muslim girl is married off to a man she hardly knows, but what was meant to be a happy match goes quickly wrong. Soon thereafter her country is torn apart by war and she and her family flee. Years later, her son, Bekim, grows up a social outcast in present day Finland, not just an immigrant in a country suspicious of foreigners, but a gay man in an unaccepting society. Aside from casual hookups, his only friend is a boa constrictor whom, improbably--he is terrified of snakes--he lets roam his

apartment. But during a visit to a gay bar, Bekim meets a talking cat who moves in with him and his snake. It is this witty, charming, manipulative creature who starts Bekim on a journey back to Kosovo to confront his demons, and make sense of the magical, cruel, incredible history of his family. And it is this that, in turn, enables him finally, to open himself to true love--which he will find in the most unexpected place."--

The Cosmopolitans Simon and Schuster

'The Interpreter isn't merely the sequel to *New Finnish Grammar* and *The Last of the Vostyachs*: it is a singular and deeply felt thesis, a warped manifesto of sorts, derived from a career spent immersed in languages. For Marani is up to his old tricks. Like in its predecessors, the novel comes dripping in satire, but this time of a more avowedly self reflexive nature...

A primordial, universal language is the trick, and it is this which, and it is this with which Marani's interpreter, the shape-shifter at the heart of this masked ball of a novel, purports to have 'infected' Felix. His 'incomprehensible blather' might in fact be 'the ancient language of Eden, the one in which the serpent spoke to Adam'. Marani's ideas are typically far-reaching and provocative.' Thea Lenarduzzi in *The Times Literary Supplement* 'This is more of a romp than the other two novels,

more comedic, albeit a very dark kind of comedy; part investigation into the properties of language, part thriller. The only lead Bellamy has is a list of seemingly random cities: Vancouver, San Diego, Papeete, Vladivostok, Odessa ... At one point he is sent to a sinister therapeutic institution, where patients are taught languages unknown to them in order to address their problems (Bellamy is assigned Romanian. Each language has its own therapeutic effect, but “ English is the language of cowards and queers, ” says an inmate angrily at one point, which is certainly a new way of looking at it). When we find out what links the list of cities together we realise that we have, in a most enjoyable way, been subject to a kind of superior shaggy dog story. Marani understands the appeal of the idea of the primordial language, but knows well enough that it is a Snark, a chimera, which is why the novel ends the way it does, why it is deliberately not as haunting as Grammar and Vostyachs, and also why Marani says this is the last time he ’ ll address the subject in fiction. It is excellently translated by Judith Landry, who I hope is not suffering like Marani ’ s characters. ’ Nick Lezard’s Choice in The Guardian A Season for Martyrs Pan Macmillan Award-winning novelist and poet Gayle Brandeis ’ s wrenching memoir of her

complicated family history and her mother ’ s suicide Gayle Brandeis ’ s mother disappeared just after Gayle gave birth to her youngest child. Several days later, her body was found: she had hanged herself in the utility closet of a Pasadena parking garage. In this searing, formally inventive memoir, Gayle describes the dissonance between being a new mother, a sweet-smelling infant at her chest, and a grieving daughter trying to piece together what happened, who her mother was, and all she had and hadn ’ t understood about her. Around the time of her suicide, Gayle ’ s mother had been working on a documentary about the rare illnesses she thought ravaged her family: porphyria and Ehlers-Danlos syndrome. In *The Art of Misdiagnosis*, taking its title from her mother ’ s documentary, Gayle braids together her own narration of the charged weeks surrounding her mother ’ s suicide, transcripts of her mother ’ s documentary, research into delusional and factitious disorders, and Gayle ’ s own experience with misdiagnosis and illness (both fabricated and real). Slowly and expertly, *The Art of Misdiagnosis* peels back the complicated layers of deception and complicity, of physical and mental illness in Gayle ’ s family, to show how she and her mother had misdiagnosed one another. Gayle ’ s memoir is both a compelling search into the

mystery of one ’ s own family and a life-affirming story of the relief discovered through breaking familial and personal silences. Written by a gifted stylist, *The Art of Misdiagnosis* delves into the tangled mysteries of disease, mental illness, and suicide and comes out the other side with grace.

The Wrong End of the Telescope Grove/Atlantic, Inc. In 2003, Osama al-Kharrat returns to Beirut after many years in America to stand vigil at his father’s deathbed. As the family gathers, stories begin to unfold: Osama’s grandfather was a hakawati, or storyteller, and his bewitching tales are interwoven with classic stories of the Middle East. Here are Abraham and Isaac; Ishmael, father of the Arab tribes; the beautiful Fatima; Baybars, the slave prince who vanquished the Crusaders; and a host of mischievous imps. Through Osama, we also enter the world of the contemporary Lebanese men and women whose stories tell a larger, heartbreaking tale of seemingly endless war, conflicted identity, and survival. With *The Hakawati*, Rabih Alameddine has given us an Arabian Nights for this century. [The Order of the Day](#) Modern Library After the ceasefire in 1988, the devastation to the landscape of Iraq wrought by the longest war of the twentieth century—the Iran-Iraq War—becomes visible. Eight years of fighting have turned nature upside down, with vast wastelands

being left behind. In southeastern Iraq, along the shores of the Shatt al-Arab River, the groves of date palm trees have withered. No longer bearing fruit, their leaves have turned a bright yellow. There, Iraqi forces had blocked the entry points of the river's tributaries and streams, preventing water from flowing to the trees and vegetation. Yet, surveying this destruction from the sky, a strip of land bursting with green can be seen. Beginning from the Shatt al-Arab River and reaching to the fringes of the western desert, several kilometers wide, it appears as a lush oasis of some kind. The secret of this fertility, sustaining villages and remaining soldiers, is unclear. But it is said that one old woman is responsible for this lifeline. *A Thousand Times You Lose Your Treasure* Ballantine Books
One of the Los Angeles Times Top 10 California Books of 2020. One of Publishers Weekly's Top 10 Fiction Books from 2020. Longlisted for the Carnegie Medal for Excellence and the Joyce Carol Oates prize. One of Exile in Bookville's Favorite Books of 2020. In *The Last Great Road Bum*, Héctor Tobar turns the peripatetic true story of a naive son of Urbana, Illinois, who died fighting with guerrillas in El Salvador into the great American novel for our times. Joe Sanderson died in pursuit of a life worth writing about. He was, in his words, a "road bum," an adventurer and a storyteller, belonging to no place, people, or set of ideas. He was born into a childhood of middle-class contentment in Urbana, Illinois and died fighting with guerillas in Central America. With these facts,

acclaimed novelist and journalist Héctor Tobar set out to write what would become *The Last Great Road Bum*. A decade ago, Tobar came into possession of the personal writings of the late Joe Sanderson, which chart Sanderson's freewheeling course across the known world, from Illinois to Jamaica, to Vietnam, to Nigeria, to El Salvador—a life determinedly an adventure, ending in unlikely, anonymous heroism. *The Last Great Road Bum* is the great American novel Joe Sanderson never could have written, but did truly live—a fascinating, timely hybrid of fiction and nonfiction that only a master of both like Héctor Tobar could pull off. [The Cinnamon Shops and Other Stories](#) [Open Road + Grove/Atlantic](#)
A profound meditation on accepting, and celebrating, one's solitude. Whether seeking more time for solitude or suffering what seems a surfeit of it, readers will find the best of companions here. Fenton Johnson's lyrical prose and searching sensibility explores what it means to choose to be solitary and celebrates the notion, common in his Roman Catholic childhood, that solitude is a legitimate and dignified calling. He delves into the lives and works of nearly a dozen iconic "solitaries" he considers his kindred spirits, from Thoreau at Walden Pond and Emily Dickinson in Amherst, to Bill Cunningham photographing the streets of New York; from Cézanne (married, but solitary nonetheless) painting Mont Sainte-Victoire over and over again, to the fiercely self-protective Zora Neale Hurston. Each character portrait is

full of intense detail, the bright wakes they've left behind illuminating Fenton Johnson's own journey from his childhood in the backwoods of Kentucky to his travels alone throughout the world and the people he has lost and found along the way. Combining memoir, social criticism, and devoted research, *At the Center of All Beauty* will resonate with solitaries and with anyone who might wish to carve out more space for solitude. *An Unnecessary Woman* Simon and Schuster
Two young men, Jim, the naive, scholarly son of a Dublin shopkeeper, and Doyler, a rough working boy, struggle with issues of political, religious, and sexual identity in the year leading up to the Easter uprising of 1916. *The Last Watchman of Old Cairo* Picador
Stork Mountain tells the story of a young Bulgarian immigrant who, in an attempt to escape his mediocre life in America, returns to the country of his birth. Retracing the steps of his estranged grandfather, a man who suddenly and inexplicably cut all contact with the family three years prior, the boy finds himself on the border of Bulgaria and Turkey, a stone's throw away from Greece, high up in the Strandja Mountains. It is a place of pagan mysteries and black storks nesting in giant oaks; a place where every spring, possessed by Christian saints, men and women dance barefoot across live coals in search of rebirth. Here in the mountains, the boy reunites with his grandfather. Here in the mountain, he falls in love with an unobtainable Muslim girl. Old ghosts come back to life and

forgotten conflicts, in the name of faith and doctrine, blaze anew. Stork Mountain is an enormously charming, slyly brilliant debut novel from an internationally celebrated writer. It is a novel that will undoubtedly find a home in many readers' hearts.

Holding the Light
Grove/Atlantic, Inc.

Osama al-Kharrat left Lebanon at 16 to escape the civil war. He returns after some years, much changed, to find his father bedridden and his family, friends and enemies gathered close, gossiping, making peace, and above all telling stories.

Hakawati means storyteller, and Osama's grandfather was one of the best. From Uncle Jihad to the family doctor Tin Can, each member of Osama's circle is joined in a vigil that crosses continents, spans centuries, celebrates love, recounts war, and creates an epic picture of the region: one that is both mythic and painfully real.

"Listen. Let me take you on a journey beyond imagining. Let me tell you a story..."

Austerlitz Grove Press

"A richly imagined novel about a half-Russian, half-Sudanese professor whose studies of a 19th-century Muslim leader become a portal into his world." —Travel + Leisure It's 2010 and Natasha, a half-Russian, half-Sudanese professor of Islamic studies, is

researching the life of Imam Shamil, the nineteenth-century Muslim leader who led the anti-Russian resistance in the Caucasian War. When shy, single Natasha discovers that her star student, Oz, is not only descended from the warrior but also possesses Shamil's priceless sword, the Imam's story comes vividly to life. As Natasha's relationship with Oz and his alluring actress mother intensifies, Natasha is forced to confront issues she had long tried to avoid—that of her Muslim heritage. When Oz is suddenly arrested at his home one morning, Natasha realizes that everything she values stands in jeopardy. Told with Aboulela's inimitable elegance and narrated from the point of view of both Natasha and the historical characters she is researching, *The Kindness of Enemies* is both an engrossing story of a provocative period in history and an important examination of what it is to be a Muslim in a post 9/11 world.

"A versatile prose stylist . . . [Aboulela is] a voice for multiculturalism." —The New York Times

I Love You but I've Chosen Darkness Farrar, Straus and Giroux An American woman determined to learn the Arabic language travels to the Middle East to pursue her dream in this "witty memoir" (Us Weekly). The shadda is the key difference between a pigeon (hamam) and a bathroom (hammam). Be careful, our professor advised, that you don't

ask a waiter, 'Excuse me, where is the pigeon?' —or, conversely, order a roasted toilet . . . If you've ever studied a foreign language, you know what happens when you first truly and clearly communicate with another person. As Zora O'Neill recalls, you feel like a magician. If that foreign language is Arabic, you just might feel like a wizard. They say that Arabic takes seven years to learn and a lifetime to master. O'Neill had put in her time. Steeped in grammar tomes and outdated textbooks, she faced an increasing certainty that she was not only failing to master Arabic, but also driving herself crazy. She took a decade-long hiatus, but couldn't shake her fascination with the language or the cultures it had opened up to her. So she decided to jump back in—this time with a new approach. In this book, she takes us along on her grand tour through the Middle East, from Egypt to the United Arab Emirates to Lebanon and Morocco. She's packed her dictionaries, her unsinkable sense of humor, and her talent for making fast friends of strangers. From quiet, bougainvillea-lined streets to the lively buzz of crowded medinas, from families' homes to local hotspots, she brings a part of the world thousands of miles away right to your door—and reminds us that learning another tongue leaves you rich with so much more than words. "You will travel through countries and across centuries, meeting professors and poets, revolutionaries, nomads, and nerds . . . [A] warm and hilarious book." —Annia Ciezadlo, author of *Day of Honey* "Her tale of her 'Year of Speaking Arabic Badly' is a genial and revealing pleasure." —The Seattle Times

No Touching Createspace
Independent Publishing
Platform

An obsessive introvert in Beirut, eschewed by her family and neighbors for her divorced status and lack of religious reverence, quietly translates favorite books into Arabic while struggling with her aging body until an unthinkable disaster threatens what little life remains to her. By the best-selling author of *The Hakawati*. 20,000 first printing.

An Unnecessary Woman Other Press, LLC

Religion in Europe is currently undergoing changes that are reconfiguring physical and virtual spaces of practice and belief, and these changes need to be understood with regards to the proliferation of digital media discourses. This book explores religious change in Europe through a comparative approach that analyzes Atheist, Catholic, and Muslim blogs as spaces for articulating narratives about religion that symbolically challenge the power of religious institutions. The book adds theoretical complexity to the study of religion and digital media with the concept of hypermediated religious spaces. The theory of hypermediation helps to critically discuss the theory of secularization and to contextualize religious change as the result of multiple entangled phenomena. It considers religion as being connected with secular and post-secular spaces, and media as embedding material forms,

institutions, and technologies. A spatial perspective contextualizes hypermediated religious spaces as existing at the interstice of alternative and mainstream, private and public, imaginary and real venues. By offering the innovative perspective of hypermediated religious spaces, this book will be of significant interest to scholars of religious studies, the sociology of religion, and digital media.