

## Balthasars Odyssey Amin Maalouf

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Gardener to the King Harvill Secker  
Wolves invade the seaside resort town of Santa Vavara in Eastern Europe, killing thousands of people, but no one will talk of it except a Latin professor known as the Old Man. Narrated by a French journalist. By the author of *Desire in Language*.

Le périple de Baldassare  
Farrar, Straus and Giroux  
An imaginary autobiography of the famous geographer, adventurer, and scholar Hasan al-Wazzan. He wrote the first trilingual dictionary and *Description of Africa*.

Lenin's Embalmers Alianza Editorial  
There are ninety-nine names for God in the Koran, is it possible that there is a secret one-hundredth name? In this tale of magic and mystery, of love and danger, Balthasar's ultimate quest is to find the secret that could save the world. Before the dawn of the apocalyptic 'Year of the Beast' in 1666, Balthasar Embriaco, a Genoese Levantine merchant, sets out on an adventure that will take him across the breadth of the civilised world, from Constantinople, through the Mediterranean, to London shortly before the Great Fire. Balthasar's urgent quest is to track down a copy of one of the rarest and most coveted books ever printed, a volume called 'The Hundredth Name', its contents are thought to be of vital importance to the future of the world. There are ninety-nine names for God in the Koran, and merely to know this most secret hundredth name will, Balthasar believes, ensure his salvation.

Women Houghton Mifflin Harcourt P  
"It's the women who upset the applecart. Between themselves they talk only about the practicalities of life", declares Duras in this collection of her transcribed conversations with friend Jerome Beaujour. Some of her free-ranging meditations are short and deceptively simple, while many are autobiographical and reveal her most intimate thoughts about motherhood, her struggle with alcohol, her love for a young man, and more.

Transnational Spaces and Identities in the Francophone World U of Nebraska Press  
Beirut39 is a project which aims to select and celebrate 39 of the best young Arab writers as a centrepiece of the Beirut World Capital festivities in April 2010. Following the successful launch of 'Bogota 39', which identified many of the most interesting upcoming Latin American talents, including Wendy Guerra, Junot Diaz (Pulitzer Prize), Santiago Roncagliolo and Juan Gabriel Vasquez (short-listed for the IFFP), Beirut39 will bring to worldwide attention the best work from the Arab world. The book will be published in English throughout the world (except the Arab world) by Bloomsbury, and in Arabic throughout the world and in English in the Arab World by Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Publishing.

Balthasar's Odyssey Gardners Books  
Baldassarre Embriaco è l'erede di una famiglia di librai che, proveniente da Genova, si è stabilita nella cittadina di Gibelleto, nel Levante musulmano, trovando terreno fertile per i loro affari. Dopo la recente morte del padre Tommaso, ora tocca a Baldassarre gestire il negozio di famiglia e fare fronte alle richieste dei suoi clienti. Anche alle più strane, come quella di un libro miracoloso al cui interno verrebbe rivelato il centesimo nome di Allah. Un volume in grado di compiere miracoli e salvare chi lo possiede persino dall'Apocalisse, che alcuni prevedono imminente, mancando pochi mesi al fatidico 1666, l'anno della "Bestia". Baldassarre, uomo colto e raffinato, è scettico a riguardo ma, quando un misterioso mendicante gli dona un libro che sembra proprio il testo tanto ricercato, inizia a dubitare delle sue certezze e, quando è costretto a venderlo a un cliente

ricco e potente, decide che deve recuperarlo per poterne svelare il mistero. Inizia così un lungo e avventuroso viaggio che conduce il protagonista – accompagnato dai due nipoti e da una donna di cui si è invaghito – attraverso tutto il Mediterraneo e ancora più in là, fino all'antica patria.

Do I Belong? A&C Black  
The United States is losing its moral credibility. The European Union is breaking apart. Africa, the Arab world, and the Mediterranean are becoming battlefields for various regional and global powers. Extreme forms of nationalism are on the rise. Thus divided, humanity is unable to address global threats to the environment and our health. How did we get here and what is yet to come? World-renowned scholar and bestselling author Amin Maalouf seeks to raise awareness and pursue a new human solidarity. In *Adrift*, Maalouf traces how civilisations have drifted apart throughout the 20th century, mixing personal narrative and historical analysis to provide a warning signal for the future.

The Glass Woman Penguin UK  
Magical realism can lay claim to being one of most recognizable genres of prose writing. It mingles the probable and improbable, the real and the fantastic, and it provided the late-twentieth century novel with an infusion of creative energy in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and beyond. Writers such as Alejo Carpentier, Gabriel García Márquez, Isabel Allende, Salman Rushdie, Ben Okri, and many others harnessed the resources of narrative realism to the representation of folklore, belief, and fantasy. This book sheds new light on magical realism, exploring in detail its global origins and development. It offers new perspectives of the history of the ideas behind this literary tradition, including magic, realism, otherness, primitivism, ethnography, indigeneity, and space and time.

Balthasar's Odyssey Vintage  
Named a Best Book of Fall by Vulture,

Chicago Review of Books and Amazon  
From the award-winning author of the bestselling epic Ibis trilogy comes a globetrotting, folkloric adventure novel about family and heritage *Bundook*. Gun. A common word, but one that turns Deen Datta's world upside down. A dealer of rare books, Deen is used to a quiet life spent indoors, but as his once-solid beliefs begin to shift, he is forced to set out on an extraordinary journey; one that takes him from India to Los Angeles and Venice via a tangled route through the memories and experiences of those he meets along the way. There is Piya, a fellow Bengali-American who sets his journey in motion; Tipu, an entrepreneurial young man who opens Deen's eyes to the realities of growing up in today's world; Rafi, with his desperate attempt to help someone in need; and Cinta, an old friend who provides the missing link in the story they are all a part of. It is a journey that will upend everything he thought he knew about himself, about the Bengali legends of his childhood, and about the world around him. Amitav Ghosh's *Gun Island* is a beautifully realized novel that effortlessly spans space and time. It is the story of a world on the brink, of increasing displacement and unstoppable transition. But it is also a story of hope, of a man whose faith in the world and the future is restored by two remarkable women.

**The First Century After Beatrice** Princeton University Press

'Beirut39' is a Hay Festival project which aims to select and celebrate 39 of the best young Arab writers as a centrepiece of the Beirut World Capital festivities in April 2010. Following the successful launch of 'Bogotá 39', which identified many of the most interesting upcoming Latin American talents, including Wendy Guerra, Junot Diaz (Pulitzer Prize), Santiago Roncagliolo and Juan Gabriel Vásquez (short-listed for the IFFP), 'Beirut 39' will bring to worldwide attention the best work from the Arab world. The judges will select from more than 300 submissions and the writers' names will be unveiled in September 2009. The book will be published in English throughout the world (except the Arab world) by Bloomsbury, and in Arabic throughout the world and in English in the Arab World by Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Publishing.

### **Magical Realism and Literature**

Bloomsbury UK

A mysterious and captivating tale of love, fear and superstition set in the Icelandic wilderness . . . 'An Icelandic Jane Eyre' SUNDAY TIMES 'Gripped me in a cold fist. Beautiful' SARA COLLINS 'Enthralling' STACEY HALLS 'Moving and atmospheric' LAURA PURCELL

\_\_\_\_\_ 1686, Iceland. When Rósa is betrothed to Jón Eiríksson, she is sent to a remote village. There she finds a man who refuses to speak of his recently deceased first wife, and villagers who view her with suspicion. Isolated and disturbed by her husband's strange behaviour, her fears deepen. What is making the strange sounds in the attic? Who does the mysterious glass figure she is given represent? And why do the villagers fear the fast-approaching winter? . . . \_\_\_\_\_ 'A perfect, gripping winter read. I loved it' SOPHIE MACKINTOSH 'Crackles with tension. Moving and atmospheric, I couldn't put it down' LAURA PURCELL 'Memorable and compelling. A novel about what haunts us - and what should' SARAH MOSS, author of *GHOST WALL* 'Evocative, compelling, with a brilliant twist' DAILY EXPRESS 'Intensely written and atmospheric, with an unusual setting' DAILY MAIL 'A chilling tale' GOOD HOUSEKEEPING 'Like a ghost story told around a winter fire' TIM LEACH, author of *SMILE OF THE WOLF* **SHORTLISTED FOR THE HISTORICAL WRITERS ASSOCIATION DEBUT AWARD**

### **The Gardens Of Light** Random House

"As gardener to His Majesty, Jean-Baptiste de La Quintinie is master of his own domain, the royal fruit and vegetable garden. Louis' generals might proclaim the power of France abroad, but La Quintinie's espaliers and vegetable plots assert nothing less than man's mastery over nature; a garden that can feed a thousand at a sitting, standards of pruning that in three hundred years have never been surpassed."--Jacket. *Arab Historians of the Crusades* (Routledge Revivals) Cambridge University Press

An international best-seller with more than one million copies in print and a winner of France's Prix Goncourt, *The Lover* has been acclaimed by critics all over the world since its first publication in 1984. Set in the prewar Indochina of Marguerite Duras's childhood, this is the haunting tale of a tumultuous affair between an adolescent French girl and her Chinese lover. In spare yet luminous prose, Duras evokes life on the margins of Saigon in the waning days of France's colonial empire, and its representation in the passionate relationship between two unforgettable outcasts. Long unavailable in hardcover, this edition of *The Lover* includes a new introduction by Maxine Hong Kingston that looks back at Duras's world from an intriguing new perspective--that of a visitor to Vietnam today.

### *Beirut39* Pantheon

The recapture of Jerusalem, the siege of Acre, the fall of Tripoli, the effect in Baghdad of events in Syria; these and other happenings were faithfully recorded by Arab historians during the two centuries of the Crusades. First published in English in 1969, this book presents 'the other side' of the Holy War, offering the first English translation of contemporary Arab accounts of the fighting between Muslim and Christian. Extracts are drawn from seventeen different authors encompassing a multitude of sources: The general histories of the Muslim world, The chronicles of cities, regions and their dynasties Contemporary biographies and records of famous deeds. Overall, this book gives a sweeping and stimulating view of the Crusades seen through Arab eyes.

### *Summer Rain* Orient Blackswan

A French entomologist, attending a symposium in Cairo, finds a curious kind of bean being on a market stall. It is claimed the beans, derived from the scarab beetle, have magic powers; specifically the power to guarantee the birth of a male infant - and when the entomologist does some research into the matter, discovering the incidence of female birth has become increasingly rare, he is left in no doubt that the world has entered into a critical phase of its history. As this beloved daughter Beatrice approaches maturity, the entomologist and his partner question the validity of gender bias, and attempt to redress the growing imbalance before it reaches irreversible proportions. But in the poverty and famine of the South, where male children can mean the difference between survival and starvation, the popularity of the scarab beans is already taking devastating effect.

### *The Crusades Through Arab Eyes*

Ballantine Books

Corre el año de 1666, año del Anticristo y, para muchos ¿agoreros, iluminados¿, el del fin de los tiempos. Descendiente de genoveses afincados en el Líbano, Baldassare Embriaco no logra sustraerse al clima generalizado de inquietud y emprende un viaje en busca de un libro que puede servir de protección en caso de que sobrevengan las catástrofes que se anuncian. El viaje de Baldassare llevará a éste por el Mediterráneo hasta Londres, y en su transcurso le saldrán al paso el miedo, el engaño y la desilusión, pero también el amor.

### *Balthasar's Odyssey Proof* Abacus

"Ce que la présence de cette femme a apaisé en moi, ce n'est pas la soif charnelle d'un voyageur, c'est ma détresse originelle. Je suis né étranger, j'ai vécu étranger et je mourrai plus étranger encore. Je suis trop

orgueilleux pour parler d'hostilité d'humiliations, de rancœur, de souffrances, mais je sais reconnaître les regards et les gestes. Il y a des bras de femmes qui sont des lieux d'exil, et d'autres qui sont la terre natale." Parti sur les routes en 1665, le narrateur de cette histoire, Baldassare Embriaco, Génois d'Orient et négociant en curiosités, est à la poursuite d'un livre qui est censé apporter le Salut à un monde désemparé. Sans doute est-il aussi à la recherche de ce qui pourrait encore donner un sens à sa propre existence. Au cours de son périple, en Méditerranée et au-delà, Baldassare traverse des pays en perdition, des villes en feu, des communautés en attente. Il rencontre la peur, la tromperie et la désillusion ; mais également l'amour, à l'heure où il ne l'attendait plus. Amin Maalouf a déjà publié six romans : *Léon l'Africain*, *Samarcande*, *Les Jardins de lumière*, *Le Premier Siècle après Béatrice*, *Le Rocher de Tanios* (Prix Goncourt 1993) et *Les Echelles du Levant*.

**Leo Africanus** Farrar, Straus and Giroux

In the 21st Century, a drug that guarantees the birth of boys--originally developed to reduce Third World populations--leads to a worldwide shortage of women. The result is an explosion of male violence, wars, and the sale of women on the black market. The narrator is a French entomologist trying to eradicate the drug.

*The Samurai* Bloomsbury Publishing USA

Born into a Christian minority in Lebanon and since settled in France, acclaimed writer Amin Maalouf claims a unique position in global conversation. His first book, *The Crusades through Arab Eyes*, was a critical and commercial success and remains in print after 20 years. In *Disordered World*, Maalouf combines his command of history with a critical perspective on contemporary culture East and West-joining them with a fierce moral clarity and a fluid, propulsive style. In this "disordered world" of ours, Maalouf argues, the human race faces any number of urgent threats: climate change, global financial crisis, humanitarian disasters. Yet these threats have not united us. In fact, tensions are rising between the Arab world and the West. This is not, Maalouf maintains, a "clash of civilizations." We lack ideological debate because there seems to be no common ground on which to start discussion. Rather, our civilizations are exhausted, declined into moral incompetence. The West has betrayed its enlightenment values, even as it pushes democracy abroad. The Arab world, nostalgic for its golden era, has rushed toward radicalism. Maalouf eruditely examines a century of confrontations between our cultures, from the secularization of Turkey under Ataturk, through Nasser and the Suez Crisis, the Six Day War, the Camp David Accords and the assassination of Sadat, and the U.S. wars on Afghanistan and Iraq. We keep adapting, Maalouf argues, our ancestral prejudices for contemporary scenarios. But in a voice that is intelligent, impassioned, and remarkably hopeful, Maalouf imagines that in the face of common challenges, we might just invent a

new conception of the world we all share.

*The Yogurt Man Cometh: Tales of an American*

*Teacher in Turkey* La Nave di Teseo Editore spa  
Passionate and promiscuous intellectual warriors - the "samurai" for whom "writing is the only lasting act of pleasure and war combined." Readers will instantly recognize finely sketched and often searing portraits of some of this century's most influential minds: Lacan, Derrida, Barthes, Althusser, and many others. With an authorial voice that modulates between the erotic and the meditative, the ironic and the rancorous, *The Samurai* moves from Paris to Mao's China.