
Balthasars Odyssey Amin Maalouf

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The Old Man and the Wolves Harvill Secker

An ambitious novel set in 1665, the tumultuous eve of the Year of the Beast, when the world was supposed to come to an end. Antiquarian merchant and sage Balthasar must go on an odyssey in search of a book that holds the secret of God's hundredth name, which is the key to the survival of the world.

Origins Pantheon
With the bravura storytelling and pungent authenticity of detail she brought to her acclaimed *Lymond Chronicles*, Dorothy Dunnett, grande dame of the historical novel, presents *The House of*

Niccolò series. The time is the 15th century, when intrepid merchants became the new knighthood of Europe. Among them, none is bolder or more cunning than Nicholas vander Poele of Bruges, the good-natured dyer's apprentice who schemes and swashbuckles his way to the helm of a mercantile empire. In 1461, Nicholas is in Florence. Backed by none other than Cosimo de' Medici, he will sail the Black Sea to Trebizond, last outpost of Byzantium, and the last jewel missing from the crown of the Ottoman Empire. But trouble lies ahead. Nicholas's stepdaughter--at the tender age of thirteen--has eloped with his rival in trade: a Machiavellian Genoese who races ahead of Nicholas, sowing disaster at every port. And time is of the essence: Trebizond may

fall to the Turks at any moment. Crackling with wit, breathtakingly paced, *The Spring of the Ram* is a pyrotechnic blend of scholarship and narrative shimmering with the scents, sounds, colors, and combustible emotions of the 15th century.

Adrift Saqi

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.

The First Century After Beatrice
Routledge
Does the hundredth even exist?)
Merely to know that hundredth

name, Balthasar is convinced, is the key to salvation, both for himself and the human race." .
Pesmi Grasset

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.

The Gardens Of Light Scribner
Paper Fiction

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 Samurai Houghton
Mifflin Harcourt P

In the 19th Century, a sheik's son is forced to flee Lebanon because of a power struggle. He finds refuge in Cyprus and plots against his enemies with the aid of the French and the British. A tale of palace intrigues by the author of *Leo Africanus*.

The Interrogation Simon and Schuster

Beginning in childhood, one of our strongest and most fundamental human emotions is the desire to belong. This emotion extends beyond merely the self, affecting on a macro scale at a political level. Since its foundation in 1957, the European Union has encouraged people across its member states to feel a sense of belonging to one united international community--with very mixed results. Today, faced with the fracturing impact of the migration crisis, threats of terrorism, and rising tensions, governments within and outside the EU now seek to impose a different kind of belonging through policies of exclusion and border control. In this collection of personal essays, a diverse group of novelists, journalists, and activists reflect on their own individual senses of citizen belonging. In creative and disarming ways, they confront the challenges of nationalism, populism, racism, and

fundamentalism and offer fascinating insights into some of the most pressing questions of our day: Why do people fear growing diversity? Is there truly a European identity? Who determines who belongs? ? Literary, accessible, and timely, *Do I Belong?* provides unique commentary on an insufficiently understood and defining phenomenon of our age.

Balthasar's Odyssey

Arcade Publishing

Jean Levi gives a fascinating account of two Great Men who lose both love and honor in their bitter, long struggle for power over a disintegrating empire.

Gardener to the King Grove Press

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 in to 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.

Uneven Centuries Vintage

Origins, by the world-renowned writer Amin Maalouf, is a sprawling, hemisphere-spanning, intergenerational saga. Set during the last quarter of the nineteenth century and the first quarter of the twentieth—in the mountains of Lebanon and in Havana, Cuba—*Origins* recounts the family history of the generation of Maalouf's paternal grandfather, Boutros Maalouf. Maalouf sets out to discover the truth about why Boutros, a poet and educator in Lebanon, traveled across the globe to rescue his younger brother, Gabrayel, who had settled in Havana. What follows is the gripping excavation of a family's hidden past.

Maalouf is an energetic and amiable narrator, illuminating the more obscure corners of late Ottoman nationalism, the psychology of Lebanese sectarianism, and the dynamics of family quarrels. He moves with great agility

across time and space, and across genres of writing. But he never loses track of his story's central thread: his quest to lift the shadow of legend from his family's past. *Origins* is at once a gripping family chronicle and a timely consideration of Lebanese culture and politics.

Ports of Call Bloomsbury Publishing USA

A graceful story of love across an insuperable gulf and a powerful allegory for the conflict that has beset the Middle East for the last half century. To call your son Ossyane is like calling him Rebellion. For Ossyane's father it is a gesture of protest by an excited Ottoman prince, for Ossyane himself it is a burdensome responsibility. At eighteen he leaves Beirut to study in Montpellier, far away from his father's revolutionary aspirations for him. But it is 1938, and when war breaks out in Europe, Ossyane is drawn into the Resistance. His return to Beirut is a rebel hero's welcome after all, and a joyful reunion with Clara, whom he first met in France. But if one war has brought the Jewish-Muslim couple together, another, much closer to home, is destined to separate Ossyane from the people and the world that he loves.

Beirut 39 Bloomsbury UK

Starting in 1970, Jean Genet—petty thief, prostitute, modernist master—spent two years

in the Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan. Always an outcast himself, Genet was drawn to this displaced people, an attraction that was to prove as complicated for him as it was enduring. Prisoner of Love, written some ten years later, when many of the men Genet had known had been killed, and he himself was dying, is a beautifully observed description of that time and those men as well as a reaffirmation of the author's commitment not only to the Palestinian revolution but to rebellion itself. For Genet's most overtly political book is also his most personal—the last step in the unrepentantly sacrilegious pilgrimage first recorded in *The Thief's Journal*, and a searching meditation, packed with visions, ruses, and contradictions, on such life-and-death issues as the politics of the image and the seductive and treacherous character of identity. Genet's final masterpiece is a lyrical and philosophical voyage to the bloody intersection of oppression, terror, and desire at the heart of the contemporary world.

Do I Belong? Kevin

Revolinski

Hemingstein becomes so obsessed with the works of his favorite author, Ernest Hemingway, that he searches for the suitcase of manuscripts lost by Hemingway's first wife on a Paris train in 1922

Arab Historians of the Crusades (Routledge Revivals) Columbia University Press

Part travelogue, part memoir, *The Yogurt Man Cometh* is the story of Kevin Revolinski's year-long adventure as an English teacher in Turkey. Revolinski relates in candid style his encounters in a foreign culture, all told with an open mind and a sense of humor.

An enjoyable read for anyone who has spent time in Turkey or who plans to do so.

Lenin's Embalmers Random House

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.

Balthasar's Odyssey: A Novel Farrar, Straus and Giroux

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.

The Yogurt Man Cometh: Tales of an American Teacher in Turkey George Braziller
"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 rancoeur, 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.

Disordered World New York Review of Books

"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.

Le périple de Baldassare

Abacus

Born in a Mesopotamian village in the third century, the son of a Parthian warrior, Mani grows up in a volatile and dangerous world. As battle rages for control over the Middle East between the great Roman and Persian empires, as Jews and Christians, Buddhists and Zoroastrians fight for ascendancy, Mani- painter, mystic, physician and prophet- makes his way through the battlefields to preach to his incandescent doctrine of humility, tolerance and love, a doctrine that comes to be known as Manicheanism. A vivid glimpse of the ancient world in all its perfumed splendour and cruelty, an elegantly philosophical discourse on the fall of man, **THE GARDENS OF LIGHT** is a story of great beauty and resonance, exquisitely told.