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# Semspare Elif Shafak

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Live and Die Like a  
Man St. Martin's  
Griffin

From the award-winning author: A “wonderfully ambitious” novel of West Africa, told through the struggles and dreams of four extraordinary women (The Guardian). When a cousin offers Abie her family’s plantation in the West African village of Rofathane in Sierra Leone, she leaves her husband, children, and career in London to reclaim the home she left behind long ago.

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With the help of her four aunts—Asana, Mariama, Hawa, and Serah—Abie begins a journey to uncover the past of her family and her home country, buried among the neglected coffee plants. From rivalries between local chiefs and religious leaders to arranged marriages, manipulative unions, traditional desires, and modern advancements, Abie’s aunts weave a tale of a nation’s descent into chaos—and their own individual struggles to claim their destiny. Hailed by Marie Claire as “a fascinating evocation of the experience of African women, and all that

has been gained—and lost—with the passing of old traditions,” Ancestor Stones is a powerful exploration of family, culture, heritage, and hope. “This is [Forna’s] first novel, but it is too sophisticated to read like one.” —The Guardian Breakfast with Buddha Penguin A “magical, marvellous” epic of an empire in collapse: Book one in the acclaimed Ottoman Quartet by the award-winning Turkish author and political dissident (La Stampa, Italy). Tracking the decline and

fall of the Ottoman empire, Ahmet Altan’s Ottoman Quartet spans fifty years from the end of the nineteenth century to the post-WWI rise of Atatürk as leader of the new Turkey. In Like a Sword Wound, a modern-day resident of Istanbul is visited by the ghosts of his ancestors, finally free to tell their stories “under the broad, dark wings of death.” Among the characters who come to life are an Ottoman army officer; the Sultan’s personal doctor; a scion of the royal house whose Western education brings

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him into conflict with his family's legacy; and a beguiling Turkish aristocrat who, while fond of her emancipated life in Paris, finds herself drawn to a conservative Muslim spiritual leader. As their stories of intimate desire and personal betrayal unfold, the society that spawned them is transforming and the sublime empire disintegrating. Here is a Turkish saga reminiscent of *War and Peace*, written in lively, contemporary prose that traces not only the social currents of the

time but also the erotic and emotional lives of its characters. "An engrossing novel of obsessive love and oppressive tyranny, a tale of collapse that dramatizes the fateful moments of an empire and its subjects."  
—Publishers Weekly (starred review)  
Sofia Stanford University Press  
A REESE'S BOOK CLUB PICK  
Winner of the 2022 BookTubers Silver Medal in Fiction \*  
Shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction "A wise novel of love and

grief, roots and branches, displacement and home, faith and belief. Balm for our bruised times."  
-David Mitchell, author of *Utopia Avenue* A rich, magical new novel on belonging and identity, love and trauma, nature and renewal, from the Booker-shortlisted author of *10 Minutes 38 Seconds in This Strange World*. Two teenagers, a Greek Cypriot and a Turkish Cypriot, meet at a taverna on the island they both call home. In the taverna, hidden beneath

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garlands of garlic, chili peppers and creeping honeysuckle, Kostas and Defne grow in their forbidden love for each other. A fig tree stretches through a cavity in the roof, and this tree bears witness to their hushed, happy meetings and eventually, to their silent, surreptitious departures. The tree is there when war breaks out, when the capital is reduced to ashes and rubble, and when the teenagers vanish. Decades later, Kostas returns. He is a botanist looking for native species, but really, he's searching for lost love. Years later a *Ficus carica* grows in the back garden of a house in London where Ada Kazantzakis lives. This tree is her only connection to an island she has never visited--- her only connection to her family's troubled history and her complex identity as she seeks to untangle years of secrets to find her place in the world. A beautifully written, and delicately constructed story of love, division, transcendence, history, and ecology-consciousness, *The Island of Missing Trees* is Elif Shafak's best work yet.

*My Bird* Vintage Canada  
 Focusing on the experiences of one particular family living in one particular house during these historic events, Ayse Kulin mixes fact and fiction, soap opera and Tolstoy, to bring to light the effects of such political upheaval on a nominally comfortable and affluent household:

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the monied and intellectual class who find that their stake in Turkish life and culture is far more precarious than they could have guessed. *The Architect's Apprentice* HarperCollins UK The 24 Preludes, one in each major and minor key, are among Chopin's most masterful works. Ranging from miniatures for intermediate-level students to lengthier works for advanced pianists, the Preludes were written in a monastery during the winter of 1839. The preface to this historically informed edition contains a thorough discussion of pedaling, tempo, ornamentation and rubato in Chopin's piano music in general and the

preludes specifically. Also included is an outstanding CD recording from the Naxos label by internationally renowned artist Idil Biret. She has made more than 70 recordings and has received numerous awards including: Lily Boulanger Memorial, Boston; Harriet Cohen - Dinu Lipatti gold medal, London; Chevalier de l'Ordre du Merite, France; State Artist, Turkey and many others. The Gaze Open Road + Grove/Atlantic A beautiful and compelling novel, Elif Shafak's *The Gaze* considers the damage which can be inflicted by our simple desire to look at others "I

didn't say anything. I didn't return his smiles. I looked at him in the wide mirror in front of where I was sitting. He grew uncomfortable and avoided my eyes. I hate those who think fat people are stupid.' An obese woman and her lover, a dwarf, are sick of being stared at wherever they go, and so decide to reverse roles. The man goes out wearing make up and the woman draws a moustache on her face. But while the woman wants to hide away from the world, the man meets the stares

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from passers-by head on, compiling his 'Dictionary of Gazes' to explore the boundaries between appearance and reality. Intertwined with the story of a bizarre freak-show organised in Istanbul in the 1880s, *The Gaze* considers the damage which can be inflicted by our simple desire to look at others. "Beautifully evoked" - *The Times* "Original and Compelling" - *TLS* "Plays with ideas of beauty and ugliness like they're Rubik's cubes" - Helen Oyeyemi

"Entertaining and affecting" - *Publishers' Weekly* Elif Shafak is the acclaimed author of *The Bastard of Istanbul* and *The Forty Rules of Love* and is the most widely read female novelist in Turkey. Her work has been translated into more than thirty languages. She is a contributor for *The Telegraph*, *Guardian* and the *New York Times* and her TED talk on the politics of fiction has received 500 000 viewers since July 2010. She is married with two children and

divides her time between Istanbul and London. [The Forty Rules of Love](#) Penguin UK An anthropologist deconstructs the notion of masculinity using twenty years of field research in the Cairo neighborhood of al-Zawiya. Watching the revolution of January 2011, the world saw Egyptians, men and women, come together to fight for freedom and social justice. These events gave renewed urgency to the fraught topic of gender in the Middle East. The role of women in public life, the meaning of manhood, and the future of gender inequalities are hotly debated by religious figures, government

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officials, activists, scholars, and ordinary citizens throughout Egypt. *Live and Die Like a Man* presents a unique twist on traditional understandings of gender and gender roles, shifting the attention to men and exploring how they are collectively “produced” as gendered subjects. It traces how masculinity is continuously maintained and reaffirmed by both men and women under changing socio-economic and political conditions. Over a period of nearly twenty years, Farha Ghannam lived and conducted research in al-Zawiya, a low-income neighborhood not far from Tahrir Square in northern Cairo.

Detailing her daily encounters and ongoing interviews, she develops life stories that reveal the everyday practices and struggles of the neighborhood over the years. We meet Hiba and her husband as they celebrate the birth of their first son and begin to teach him how to become a man; Samer, a forty-year-old man trying to find a suitable wife; Abu Hosni, who struggled with different illnesses; and other local men and women who share their reactions to the uprising and the changing situation in Egypt. Against this backdrop of individual experiences, Ghannam develops the concept of masculine trajectories to account for the

various paths men can take to embody social norms. In showing how men work to realize a “male ideal,” she counters the prevalent dehumanizing stereotypes of Middle Eastern men all too frequently reproduced in media reports, and opens new spaces for rethinking patriarchal structures and their constraining effects on both men and women. Praise for *Live and Die Like a Man* “In a book that lives up to its name, anthropologist Ghannam explores what it means to be a man . . . . Her thick descriptions, amassed over 20 years of research, will make readers laugh, cry, and gasp at the lives of these individuals . . . . By examining the construct of manhood,

Ghannam is charting new territory in Middle Eastern studies. Summing Up: Highly recommended.” —CHOICE “With its focus on masculinity, Farha Ghannam’s thoughtful ethnography, *Live and Die Like a Man*, makes important interventions into the anthropological scholarship on gender, childhood, and family in the Middle East . . . . Her ethnographic sensibility perfectly grasps the dynamic and complex intertwining of male and female ways of being and self-presentation and how that interrelationship forms men’s lives.” —*International Journal of Middle East Studies* Penguin *emspare*

UK Istanbul is now one of the planets hippest cities. Its art is sought after by international collectors, its fashion is feted on catwalks, and its design and architecture are widely admired by critics and public alike. Compiled by some of the regions leading movers and shakers, this groundbreaking book gives readers an inside guide to Istanbul’s new cultural landscape, its history and artistic heritage, accompanied throughout by stunning images from the lenses of leading photographers.

*Reading Lolita in Tehran* Penguin UK “During the height of the Ottoman Empire twelve-year-old Johan arrived in Istanbul to become an animal tamer to the white elephant Chota, befriend the sultan’s beautiful daughter, and become an apprentice to Sinan, the empire’s chief architect. As they build masterpieces, dangerous undercurrents begin to emerge, with jealousy erupting among Sinan’s four apprentices”--



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Happiness for  
Beginners Cambridge  
University Press  
The Happiness of  
Blond People by  
bestselling, multi-  
award-winning  
novelist Elif Shafak,  
author of *The Bastard*  
of Istanbul, is a  
powerful essay on  
immigration,  
multiculturalism and  
the experience of  
Muslims in Europe -  
available only as a  
Penguin Short. "You  
know, I never  
understand. How  
come their children  
are so quiet and well  
disciplined?" "Yeah,"  
said the distressed  
father, his voice  
suddenly softer.  
"Blond children  
never cry, do they?"  
As Elif Shafak stands  
in line at the airport,  
she overhears a  
Turkish father  
expressing to a friend  
his bewilderment at

the cultural differences  
he's experienced since  
immigrating to  
northern Europe. Is it  
true, she wonders, that  
the citizens of these  
countries are  
genuinely happier?  
Why do people leave  
their homes for other  
countries? And what  
lessons can we all  
learn, for the creation  
of truly harmonious  
societies, from the  
experiences of  
immigrants? In the  
light of the recent  
backlash against  
multiculturalism and  
the influx of millions  
of Muslims into  
Europe from the east,  
this powerful and  
personal essay uses  
the lived experience  
of immigrants to  
examine this most  
hotly debated subject.  
Elif Shafak is the  
acclaimed author of  
the award-winning  
*The Gaze* and *The*

*Bastard of Istanbul*  
and is the foremost  
female author in  
Turkey. She is a  
contributor for the  
Telegraph, Guardian  
and The New York  
Times and her TED  
talk on the politics of  
fiction has received  
over 300,000 views  
since July 2010. She  
is the recipient of nine  
prestigious  
international honours  
and awards including  
the Chevalier dans  
l'Ordre des Arts et  
Lettres, long-listing  
for the Orange Prize  
for Fiction and the  
Maria Grazia Cutuli  
Award. She is married  
with two children and  
divides her time  
between Istanbul and  
the UK.  
*The Creative Brain*  
Bloomsbury  
Publishing USA  
This book offers an  
exploration of  
masculinity in the

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literature of the Arab East (Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Syria, and Iraq) in the context of a specific set of anxieties about gender roles and sexuality in Arab societies. While gender studies in the area have focused primarily on the situation of women, the treatment of Arab men as gendered subjects has fallen behind. Samira Aghacy's rich analysis presents gender relations not within a fixed biological mold but rather as a complex phenomenon fraught with ambivalence and operating within particular historical and geopolitical settings. Through a series of close readings of twenty contemporary Arabic novels, Aghacy

presents a mosaic of masculinities that challenges the generally held view of an essentialized archetypal Arab man and that mirrors a contested vision of manliness where men figure in diverse sociocultural environments. This groundbreaking work reveals the volatile nature of masculinity and its inextricability from femininity. Madam Atatürk Penguin  
In this powerful story of life, love, and the demands of marriage and motherhood, Fariba Vafi gives readers a portrait of one woman's struggle to adapt to the complexity of life in modern Iran. The narrator, a housewife and young mother living in a low-income neighborhood

in Tehran, dwells upon her husband Amir's desire to immigrate to Canada. His peripatetic lifestyle underscores her own sense of inertia. When he finally slips away, the young woman is forced to raise the children alone and care for her ailing mother. Vafi's brilliant minimalist style showcases the narrator's reticence and passivity. Brief chapters and spare prose provide the ideal architecture for the character's densely packed unexpressed emotions to unfold on the page. Haunted by the childhood memory of her father's death in the basement of her house while her mother ignored his entreaties for help, the narrator believes she relinquished her

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responsibility and failed to challenge her mother. As a single parent and head of household, she must confront her paralyzing guilt and establish her independence. Vafi's characters are emblematic of many women in Iran, caught between tradition and modernity. Demystifying contemporary Iran by taking readers beyond the stereotypes and into the lives of individuals, Vafi is one of the most important voices in Iranian literature. My Bird heralds her eagerly anticipated introduction to an English-speaking audience.

**Farewell Academic Studies Press**

In a small town on the edge of the

Caspian Sea, Edmond Lazarian and his best friend Tahereh pass their days playing together, drifting between the delights of beachcombing and the joys of the sherbet shop.

Although Edmond is Armenian and Tahereh is the Muslim daughter of the school's janitor, they remain blissfully unaware of the disquiet that ripples the surface calm of their close-knit community. Yet years later, when Edmond's daughter chooses a Muslim to marry, tensions inevitably build.

Unable to keep sidestepping the prejudices around him, Edmond is

finally forced to make a choice, and one that will haunt him for years to come. For fans of Anne Tyler, *The Space Between Us* is a poignant, wistful story about belonging and otherness, pride and prejudice, and the pressures and family expectations that inform our decisions. Brilliantly painting the landscape of intricate social conventions and private emotional conflict, Pirzad has produced an intimate portrait of ordinary Iranians living everyday lives.

[Istanbul Contrasts](#)

Algonquin Books

An instant best

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seller since its debut in 1992, Nermin Bezmen's *Kurt Seyt & Shura* is a classic of contemporary Turkish literature, a sweeping romantic drama set around the time as the splendor of Imperial Russia is obliterated in the wake of the Great War. Bezmen tells the story of two star-crossed lovers fleeing the wave of devastation wreaked by the Bolshevik Revolution-- and does so with great sensitivity: one half of this couple who sought refuge in the capital of the dying Ottoman Empire was her grandfather. Translated into 12 languages, *Kurt Seyt & Shura* inspired a

sumptuous T.V. series that continues to enchant millions of viewers across the world. With the publication of this novel in the United States, English-speaking fans will now be able to read the true story of this great love affair, which triumphed over so much adversity yet failed to overcome human fallibility. *Kurt Seyt*: The son of a wealthy Crimean nobleman, is a dashing first lieutenant in the Imperial Life Guard. Injured on the Carpathian front and later sought by the Bolsheviks, he makes a daring escape across the Black Sea. Too

proud to accept payment for the boatful of arms he hands over to the Nationalists, he faces years of struggle to make a new life in the Turkish Republic rising from the embers of the dying Ottoman Empire. All he has is his dignity and love. *Shura*: An innocent sixteen-year-old beauty enchanted by Tchaikovsky's music and Moscow's glittering lights, falls in love with Seyt. A potential victim of the Bolsheviks due to her family's wealth and social standing, she is determined to follow her heart and accompanies Seyt

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on his perilous flight over the Black Sea. Their love is the only solace to their crushing homesickness for a land and family they will never see again, two lovers among hundreds of thousands of White Russian migrants trying to eke out a living in occupied Istanbul.

Space Between Us

Europa Editions

One rainy afternoon in Istanbul, a woman walks into a doctor's surgery. 'I need to have an abortion', she announces. She is nineteen years old and unmarried.

What happens that afternoon will change her life.

Twenty years later,

Asya Kazanci lives with her extended family in Istanbul. Due to a mysterious family curse, all the Kazanci men die in their early forties, so it is a house of women, among them Asya's beautiful, rebellious mother Zeliha, who runs a tattoo parlour; Banu, who has newly discovered herself as clairvoyant; and Feride, a hypochondriac obsessed with impending disaster. And when Asya's Armenian-American cousin Armanoush comes to stay, long hidden family secrets connected with Turkey's turbulent past begin to emerge.

'Wonderfully magical, incredible, breathtaking...will have you gasping with disbelief in the last few pages'

Sunday Express 'A beautiful book, the finest I have read about Turkey' Irish Times

'Heartbreaking...the beauty of Islam pervades Shafak's book' Vogue

*Face to Face*  
Syracuse University Press

Shortlisted for the 2019 Booker Prize  
Named a Best Book of the Year by Bookpage, NPR, Washington Post, and The Economist  
A moving novel on the power of friendship in our darkest times, from internationally renowned writer and speaker Elif Shafak.

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In the pulsating moments after she has been murdered and left in a dumpster outside Istanbul, Tequila Leila enters a state of heightened awareness. Her heart has stopped beating but her brain is still active—for 10 minutes 38 seconds. While the Turkish sun rises and her friends sleep soundly nearby, she remembers her life—and the lives of others, outcasts like her. Tequila Leila's memories bring us back to her childhood in the provinces, a highly oppressive milieu with religion and traditions, shaped by a polygamous family with two mothers and an increasingly authoritarian father. Escaping to Istanbul, Leila makes her way into the sordid

industry of sex trafficking, finding a home in the city's historic Street of Brothels. This is a dark, violent world, but Leila is tough and open to beauty, light, and the essential bonds of friendship. In Tequila Leila's death, the secrets and wonders of modern Istanbul come to life, painted vividly by the captivating tales of how Leila came to know and be loved by her friends. As her epic journey to the afterlife comes to an end, it is her chosen family who brings her story to a buoyant and breathtaking conclusion. *How to Stay Sane in an Age of Division* Simon and Schuster Birds Without Wings traces the fortunes of one small community in southwest Turkey

(Anatolia) in the early part of the last century—a quirky community in which Christian and Muslim lives and traditions have co-existed peacefully over the centuries and where friendship, even love, has transcended religious differences. But with the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire and the onset of the Great War, the sweep of history has a cataclysmic effect on this peaceful place: The great love of Philothei, a Christian girl of legendary beauty, and Ibrahim, a Muslim shepherd who courts her from near infancy, culminates in tragedy and madness; Two inseparable childhood friends who grow up playing in the hills above the town suddenly find

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themselves on opposite sides of the bloody struggle; and Rustem Bey, a wealthy landlord, who has an enchanting mistress who is not what she seems. Far away from these small lives, a man of destiny who will come to be known as Mustafa Kemal Atatürk is emerging to create a country from the ruins of an empire. Victory at Gallipoli fails to save the Ottomans from ultimate defeat and, as a new conflict arises, Muslims and Christians struggle to survive, let alone understand, their part in the great tragedy that will reshape the whole region forever.

**Like a Sword Wound** Penguin UK  
"Lupton enters the highly charged ring where the best psychological

detective writers spar... Like Kate Atkinson, Patricia Highsmith and Ruth Rendell... Both tear-jerking and spine-tingling, *Sister* provides an adrenaline rush that could cause a chill on the sunniest afternoon." —The New York Times Book Review  
When her mom calls to tell her that Tess, her younger sister, is missing, Bee returns home to London on the first flight. She expects to find Tess and give her the usual lecture, the bossy big sister scolding her flighty baby sister for taking off without letting anyone know her plans. Tess has always been a free spirit, an artist who takes risks, while conservative Bee couldn't be more different. Bee is used to watching out for

her wayward sibling and is fiercely protective of Tess (and has always been a little stern about her antics). But then Tess is found dead, apparently by her own hand. Bee is certain that Tess didn't commit suicide. Their family and the police accept the sad reality, but Bee feels sure that Tess has been murdered. Single-minded in her search for a killer, Bee moves into Tess's apartment and throws herself headlong into her sister's life--and all its secrets. Though her family and the police see a grieving sister in denial, unwilling to accept the facts, Bee uncovers the affair Tess was having with a married man and the pregnancy that resulted, and her

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difficultly with a stalker who may have crossed the line when Tess refused his advances. Tess was also participating in an experimental medical trial that might have gone very wrong. As a determined Bee gives her statement to the lead investigator, her story reveals a predator who got away with murder--and an obsession that may cost Bee her own life. A thrilling story of fierce love between siblings, *Sister* is a suspenseful and accomplished debut with a stunning twist.

Stone Dreams

Penguin

At the behest of his sister, Otto Ringling finds himself reluctantly accompanying her

guru, an enigmatic Mongolian monk, on a trip through Middle America to their childhood home, introducing his passenger to some American "fun" along the way.

A Migrating Bird:

A Short Story

from the

collection, Reader,

I Married Him

Bloomsbury

Publishing USA

A short story by

Elif Shafak from

the collection

Reader, I Married

Him: Stories

inspired by Jane

Eyre.