

Alamut Vladimir Bartol

The Assassins were a heretical Muslim sect. We think of them mostly in connection with political murder (their founder, Hasan-i-Sabbah, has been compared to Osama bin Laden), but there is much more to them than this. They had a remarkable esoteric philosophical system and their ideas were influential in Islam and even outside it. In this book I tell their story, from their foundation at the end of the eleventh century to their downfall 150 years later at the hands of the Mongols. Even that was not the end of them, for the Aga Khan is a lineal descendant of the Assassin Grand Masters.

A beguiling exploration of the joys of reading across boundaries, inspired by the author's year-long journey through a book from every country. Ann Morgan writes in the opening of this delightful book, "I glanced up at my bookshelves, the proud record of more than twenty years of reading, and found a host of English and North American greats starting down at me...I had barely touched a work by a foreign language author in years...The awful truth dawned. I was a literary xenophobe." Prompted to read a book translated into English from each of the world's 195 UN-recognized countries (plus Taiwan and one extra), Ann sought out classics, folktales, current favorites and commercial triumphs, novels, short stories, memoirs, and countless mixtures of all these things. The world between two covers, the world to which Ann introduces us with affection and no small measure of wit, is a world rich in the kind of narratives that engage us passionately: we meet an irreverent junk food-obsessed heroine in Kuwait, an explorer from Togo who spent years among the Inuit in Greenland, and a former child circus performer of Roma background seeking sanctuary in Switzerland. Ann's quest explores issues that affect us all: personal, political, national, and global. What is cultural heritage? How do we define national identity? Is it possible to overcome censorship and propaganda? And, above all, why and how should we read from other cultures, languages, and traditions? Illuminating and inspiring, *The World Between Two Covers* welcomes us into the global community of stories.

From its ancient nights as a clan of mystic diabolists to its present as a group of revered and feared assassins, the Assamites have maintained a special place in the World of Darkness.

Fast-paced and historically accurate, *Nefertiti* is the dramatic story of two unforgettable women living through a remarkable period in history. Nefertiti and her younger sister, Mutnodjmet, have been raised in a powerful family that has provided wives to the rulers of Egypt for centuries. Ambitious, charismatic, and beautiful, Nefertiti is destined to marry Amunhotep, an unstable young pharaoh. It is hoped that her strong personality will temper the young ruler's heretical desire to forsake Egypt's ancient gods. From the moment of her arrival in Thebes, Nefertiti is beloved by the people but fails to see that powerful priests are plotting against her husband's rule. The only person brave enough to warn the queen is her younger sister, Mutnodjmet. Observant and contemplative, Mutnodjmet has never shared her sister's desire for power. She yearns for a quiet existence away from family duty and the intrigues of court. But remaining loyal to Nefertiti will force Mutnodjmet into a dangerous political game; one that could cost her everything she holds dear. Teeming with love, betrayal, political unrest, plague, and religious conflict, *Nefertiti* brings ancient Egypt to life in vivid detail. "Meticulously researched and richly detailed . . . an engrossing tribute to one of the most powerful and alluring women in history." -Boston Globe

Historical research into the Armenian Genocide has grown tremendously in recent years, but much of it has focused on large-scale questions related to Ottoman policy or the scope of the killing. Consequently, surprisingly little is known about the actual experiences of the genocide's

victims. Daily Life in the Abyss illuminates this aspect through the intertwined stories of two Armenian families who endured forced relocation and deprivation in and around modern-day Syria. Through analysis of diaries and other source material, it reconstructs the rhythms of daily life within an often bleak and hostile environment, in the face of a gradually disintegrating social fabric.

A bilingual portrait of the "Queen of Salsa" describes her childhood in Cuba, her musical career, and her move to the United States, and explains how her music brought her native Cuba to the world.

As the country goes through various political upheavals from colony to socialist republic to civil war to peace and capitalism, the world outside seeps into Ludo's life through snippets on the radio, voices from next door, glimpses of someone peeing on a balcony, or a man fleeing his pursuers. A General Theory of Oblivion is a perfectly crafted, wild patchwork of a novel, playing on a love of storytelling and fable.

THE ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO WILD EDIBLE PLANTS describes the physical characteristics, habitat and distribution, and edible parts of wild plants. With color photography throughout, this guide facilitates the identification of these plants. Originally intended for Army use, this book serves as a survival aid for civilians, as well. It's an indispensable companion for hikers, campers, preppers, outdoor chefs, and people caught in the wild who are hungry.

[The Assassin Legends](#)

[La Vida de Celia Cruz](#)

[Beside Myself](#)

[French Short Stories for Beginners](#)

[The Warriors](#)

[3 Guns](#)

[The Automobile Club of Egypt](#)

[A Comparative Study](#)

[Clanbook](#)

[A Strategy to Heal and Transform the Middle East](#)

[An Essay on Husserl's Crisis of the European Sciences](#)

Once again the incomparable Gore Vidal interprets and animates history -- this time in a panoramic tour of the 5th century B.C. -- and embellishes it with his own ironic humor, brilliant insights, and piercing observations. We meet a vast array of historical figures in a staggering novel of love, war, philosophy, and adventure . . . "There isn't a page of CREATION that doesn't inform and very few pages that do not delight." -- John Leonard, The New York Times

Finding material for your French immersion can be a nightmare, but not anymore! French students regularly have to go through the toughest experiences to find proper reading material that isn't too tough for them - as teachers; we know this. This is why we've

created French Short Stories for Beginners to ensure that young and old students at the Beginner level can have yet another chance to immerse themselves into fun and interactive stories designer for you, the student. Twenty easy-to-read, entertaining and interesting stories await inside, along with the best tools to help you practice once you're done reading each tale. Our book will ensure you not only can read something that will expand your knowledge on French but that you will understand and be able to pick it apart piece by piece in your quest for learning. How French Short Stories for Beginners works: Each story is designed to keep you engaged and interested as well as using vocabulary that you will actually use. The summaries follow a synopsis in French and in English of what you just read, both to review the lesson and for you to see if you understood what the tale was about. At the end of those summaries, you'll be provided with a list of the most relevant vocabulary involved in the lesson, as well as slang and sayings that you may not have understood at first glance! Finally, you'll be provided with a set of tricky questions in French, providing you with the chance to prove that you learned something in the story. Don't worry if you don't know the answer to any - we will provide them immediately after, but no cheating! Do you think you can handle it? If the answer is yes, then you're definitely on your way to becoming a French speaker, and we'll certainly make that dream come true! We recommend this book for French learners at A2 level and above as it is designed for students with a basic understanding of French. So look no further! Pick up your copy of French Short Stories for Beginners Vol.2 and start learning French right now!

In British-occupied Egypt, on the eve of the 1952 revolution, respected landowner Abd el-Aziz Gaafar has fallen on hard times. Bankrupt, he moves his family to Cairo and takes a menial job at the Automobile Club, a luxurious lodge for its European members, where Egyptians appear only as fearful servants. When Abd el-Aziz's pride gets the better of him and he stands up for himself, he is subjected to a corporal punishment that ultimately kills him—leaving two of his sons obliged to work in the Club. As the nation teeters on the brink of change, both servants and masters are subsumed by social upheaval, and the Egyptians of the Automobile Club face a choice: to live safely but

without dignity as servants, or to risk everything and fight for their rights. Exuberant and powerfully moving, *The Automobile Club of Egypt* is an essential work of social criticism from one of the Arab world's greatest literary voices.

"On New Years' Eve 1938, the writer Abdulla Qodiriy is taken from his home by the Soviet secret police and thrown into a Tashkent prison. There, to distract himself from the physical and psychological torment of beatings and mindless interrogations, he attempts to mentally reconstruct the novel he was writing at the time of his arrest - based on the tragic life of the Uzbek poet-queen Oyhon, married to three khans in succession, and living as Abdulla now does, with the threat of execution hanging over her. As he gets to know his cellmates, Abdulla discovers that the Great Game of Oyhon's time, when English and Russian spies infiltrated the courts of Central Asia, has echoes in the 1930s present, but as his identification with his protagonist increases and past and present overlap it seems that Abdulla's inability to tell fact from fiction will be his undoing. *The Devils' Dance* - banned in Uzbekistan for twenty-seven years - brings to life the extraordinary culture of 19th century Turkestan, a world of lavish poetry recitals, brutal polo matches, and a cosmopolitan and culturally diverse Islam rarely described in western literature."--Publisher's description.

For hundreds of years Westerners have been fascinated by stories of the Assassins, their mysterious leader and their remote mountain stronghold at Alamut in Northern Iran. The legends first emerged in the 12th and 13th centuries, when Crusaders in Syria came into contact with the Nazari Isma'ilis, one of the communities of Shi'ite Islam who, at the behest of their leader Hassan Sabaa (mythologized as the "Old Man of the Mountain"), engaged in dangerous missions to kill their enemies. Elaborated over the years, the tales culminated in Marco Polo's claim that the "Old Man" controlled the behaviour of his self-sacrificing devotees through the use of hashish and a secret garden of paradise. So influential were these tales that the word "assassin" entered European languages as a common noun meaning "murderer". Daftary traces the origins and early development of the legends - as well as investigating the historical context in which they were fabricated and transmitted. As such, this book reveals an extraordinary programme of propaganda

rooted in the medieval Muslim world and medieval Europe's ignorance of this world. This book also provides the first English translation of French orientalist Silvestre de Sacy's famous 19th-century "Memoire" on the Assassins.

'Slavic Scriptures' traces the development of the Church Slavonic Version of the Christian Bible, a version still in active use today by the Russian Orthodox Church and considered authoritative by other Slavic Orthodox churches as well, from the very earliest translations by missionaries to the Slavs in the ninth century, through to the Slavic Bible controversies of the late twentieth century. It focusses particular attention on the work of the Byzantine saints Cyril and Methodius, the continuation of their initiatives in medieval Bulgaria, and the completion of their efforts in medieval and Enlightenment Russia. It provides basic information on Christian scriptures in general, and an extensive bibliography of works in a variety of languages, including English, which treat Church Slavonic Bible matters. The text of the study is aimed at a general readership interested in biblical issues as a whole, and particularly among the Slavs, while the apparatus explores scholarly ramifications and controversies of concern to those specializing in Slavic and biblical studies.

First published privately in 1929 as *The Middle Parts of Fortune*, *Her Privates We* is the novel of the Battle of the Somme told from the perspective of Bourne, an ordinary private. A raw and shockingly honest portrait of men engaged in war, 'that peculiarly human activity', the original edition was subject to 'prunings and excisions' because the bluntness of language was thought to make the book unfit for public distribution. This edition restores them. An undisputed classic of war writing and a lasting tribute to all who participated in the war, *Her Privates We* was originally published as written by 'Private 19022'. Championed by Ernest Hemingway, Ezra Pound, TS Eliot and TE Lawrence, it has become recognised as a classic in the seventy years since its first publication. Now republished, with an introduction by William Boyd, it will again amaze a new generation of readers with its depiction of the horror, the ordinariness and the humanity of war. This is what we dream of: to be so swept away, so poleaxed by a book that the breath is sucked right out of us. Brace yourselves. May 1565. Suleiman the Magnificent, emperor of

the Ottomans, has declared a jihad against the Knights of Saint John the Baptist. The largest armada of all time approaches the knights' Christian stronghold on the island of Malta. The Turks know the knights as the "Hounds of Hell." The knights call themselves "The Religion." In Messina, Sicily, a French countess, Carla La Penautier, seeks passage to Malta in a quest to find the son taken from her at his birth twelve years ago. The only man with the expertise and daring to help her is a Rabelaisian soldier of fortune, arms dealer, former janissary, and strapping Saxon adventurer by the name of Mattias Tannhauser. He agrees to accompany the lady to Malta, where, amid the most spectacular siege in military history, they must try to find the boy—whose name they do not know and whose face they have never seen—and pluck him from the jaws of Holy War. The Religion is the first book of the Tannhauser Trilogy, and from the first page of this epic account of the last great medieval conflict between East and West, it is clear we are in the hands of a master. Not since James Clavell has a novelist so powerfully and assuredly plunged readers headlong into another world and time. Anne Rice transformed the vampire novel. Stephen King reinvented horror. Now, in a spectacular tale of heroism, tragedy, and passion, Tim Willocks revivifies historical fiction.

[*A Journey Through the Greatest Fictional Worlds Ever Created*](#)

[*A Novel of Persia and Palestine in the Time of the Crusades*](#)

[*Literary Wonderlands*](#)

[*The Religion*](#)

[*Daily Life in the Abyss*](#)

[*Assassins of Alamut*](#)

[*The Assassins of Alamut*](#)

[*The Devils' Dance*](#)

[*Me Llamó Celia*](#)

[*A History of Medieval Murder*](#)

[*The Basis of the Cult Classic Film*](#)

The ultimate book-lover's fantasy, this sparkling debut is a "delight of magic and literature, love and adventure" (Kat Howard) featuring a young scholar with the power to bring literary characters into the world. For his entire

life, Charley Sutherland has concealed a magical ability he can't quite control: He can bring characters from books into the real world. But when literary characters start causing trouble throughout the city and threatening to destroying the world, he learns he's not the only one with his ability. Now it's up to Charley and his reluctant older brother, Rob, to stop them--hopefully before they reach The End. Praise for *The Unlikely Escape of Uriah Heep*: "A star-studded literary tour and a tangled mystery and a reflection on reading itself; it's a pure delight."

--Alix E. Harrow, Hugo Award-winning author "This beautifully-written novel is an exploration of the power fiction wields -- the power to inform and to change, even to endanger, our everyday world." --Louisa Morgan, author of *A Secret History of Witches* "Equal parts sibling rivalry, crackling mystery, and Dickensian battle royale, it'll be one of your most fun reads this year." --Mike Chen, author of *Here and Now and Then*

When Dr. Nagashima loses his wife in a mysterious car crash, he is overwhelmed with grief but also an eerie sense of purpose; he becomes obsessed with reincarnating his dead wife. Her donated kidney is transplanted into a young girl with a debilitating disorder, but the doctor also feels compelled to keep a small sample of her liver in his laboratory. When these cells start mutating rapidly, a consciousness bent on determining its own fate awakens, bent on becoming the new dominant species on earth. *Parasite Eve* was the basis of the hugely popular videogame of the same name in the U.S. and has been cinematized in Japan.

WINNER OF THE MILKWEED PRIZE FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE WINNER OF THE 2013 PATERSON PRIZE FOR BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS ALA RAINBOW LIST RECOMMENDED BOOK AMELIA BLOOMER PROJECT LIST RECOMMENDED BOOK LAMBDA LITERARY AWARD FINALIST MINNESOTA BOOK AWARD FINALIST FORWARD REVIEWS BOOK OF THE YEAR HONORABLE MENTION

In the summer of 1926, sixteen-year-old Garnet Richardson is sent to a lake resort to escape the polio epidemic in the city. She dreams of indulging her passion for ornithology and visiting the famous new amusement park--a summer of fun before she returns for her final year of high school, after which she's expected to marry a nice boy and settle into middle-class homemaking. But in the country, Garnet finds herself under the supervision of equally oppressive guardians--her father's wealthy cousin and the matron's stuck-up daughter. Only a liberating job in a hat shop, an intense, secret relationship with a daring and beautiful flapper, and a deep faith in her own fierce heart can save her from the suffocating boredom of traditional femininity.

"*The Assassins of Alamut*" is a riveting tale painted on the vast canvas of life in Palestine and Persia during the 12th century, over vast snow covered mountains, through the frozen wastes of the winter plateau, and into the fabulous cities of Hamadan, Isfahan, and the Kingdom of Jerusalem.

Alfred Busi lives alone in his villa overlooking the waves. Famed in his tiny Mediterranean town for his music, he is mourning the recent death of his wife and quietly living out his days. Then one night, Busi is viciously attacked by an intruder in his own courtyard—bitten and scratched. He insists his assailant was neither man nor animal. Soon, Busi's account of what happened is being embellished to fan the flames of old rumor—of an ancient race of people living in the surrounding forest. It is also used to spark new controversy, inspiring claims that something must finally be done about the town's poor, whose numbers have been growing. In trademark crystalline prose, Jim Crace portrays a man taking stock of his life and looking into an uncertain future, while bearing witness to a community in the throes of great change.

From a master historian, the definitive account of history's first terrorists An offshoot of the Ismaili Shi'ite sect of Islam, the Assassins were the first group to make systematic use of murder as a political weapon. Established in Iran and Syria in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, they aimed to overthrow the existing Sunni order in Islam and replace it with their own. They terrorized their foes with a series of dramatic murders of Islamic leaders, as well as of some of the Crusaders, who brought their name and fame back to Europe. Professor Lewis traces the history of this radical group, studying its teachings and its influence on Muslim thought. Particularly insightful in light of the rise of the terrorist attacks in the U.S. and in Israel, this account of the Assassins--whose name is now synonymous with politically motivated murderers--places recent events in historical perspective and sheds new light on the fanatic mind.

The basis for the cult-classic film *The Warriors* chronicles one New York City gang's nocturnal journey through the seedy, dangerous subways and city streets of the 1960s. Every gang in the city meets on a sweltering July 4 night in a Bronx park for a peace rally. The crowd of miscreants turns violent after a prominent gang leader is killed and chaos prevails over the attempt at order. *The Warriors* follows the Dominators making their way back to their home territory without being killed. The police are prowling the city in search of anyone involved in the mayhem. An exhilarating novel that examines New York City teenagers, left behind by society, who form identity and personal strength through their affiliation with their "family," *The Warriors* weaves together social commentary with ancient legends for a classic coming-of-age tale. This edition includes a new introduction by the author.

Abandoned at birth because he has the face of a "prize boar," the unnamed narrator of *Guarding Hanna* knows only a local Berlin gang as family. Patriarch Maestro acts as surrogate father, employing him to collect debts and perform thuggish tasks. Except for brief moments interacting with the gang, "the beast" spends his life

alone, wandering Berlin's streets and sleeping in its vast housing projects. This changes in a flash when one of Maestro's sons is implicated in a crime. The only hope of saving him is to protect the sole witness, beautiful but eccentric Hanna Wyoczik. Maestro calls on "the beast" to move in with her until the trial. But never having spent more than five minutes in a social situation with any human being, much less a woman, he quickly finds the basic tasks of human interaction and social intercourse insufferable. Yet Hanna's unfazed reaction to her guardian, and her witty account of philandering ex-husbands and a nympho mother, soon confound and captivate him. Could love be rearing its head? Miha Mazzini weaves simple scenes into a meaningful and darkly hilarious novel, relentlessly poking and prodding at the human condition without losing sight of the characters' humanity.

[Parasite Eve](#)

[The Ismaili Assassins](#)

[Genocide Diaries, 1915-1918](#)

[The Assassins](#)

[Myths of the Isma'ilis](#)

[The Unlikely Escape of Uriah Heep](#)

[Her Privates We](#)

[The Official U.S. Army Illustrated Guide to Edible Wild Plants](#)

[A General Theory of Oblivion](#)

[Silhouette of a Sparrow](#)

A major modern conundrum is how the Arab/Israel conflict remains unresolved and, seemingly, unresolvable. In this inspirational book, Rabbi Michael Lerner suggests that a change in consciousness is crucial. With clarity and honesty, he examines how the mutual demonization and discounting of each sides' legitimate needs drive the debate, and he points to new ways of thinking that can lead to a solution. Lerner emphasizes that this new approach to the issue requires giving primacy to love, kindness, and generosity. It calls for challenging the master narratives in both Israel and Palestine as well as the false idea that "homeland security" can be achieved through military, political, economic, or media domination. Lerner makes the case that a lasting peace must prioritize helping people on all sides (including Europe and the U.S.) and that real security is best achieved through an ethos of caring and generosity toward "the other." As many spiritual leaders have taught, problems like these cannot be solved at the same level at which they originated—one must seek higher ground, and that becomes a

central task for anyone who wants a sustainable peace. *Embracing Israel/Palestine* is written for those looking for positive, practical solutions to this ongoing dilemma. From the Trade Paperback edition.

In his last work, "*Crisis of the European Sciences and Transcendental Phenomenology*", Edmund Husserl formulated a radical new approach to phenomenological philosophy. Unlike his previous works, in the "*Crisis*" Husserl embedded this formulation in an ambitious reflection on the essence and value of the idea of rational thought and culture, a reflection that he considered to be an urgent necessity in light of the political, social, and intellectual crisis of the interwar period. In this book, James Dodd pursues an interpretation of Husserl's text that emphasizes the importance of the problem of the origin of philosophy, as well as advances the thesis that, for Husserl, the "crisis of reason" is not a contingent historical event, but a permanent feature of a life in reason generally.

Alamut takes place in 11th Century Persia, in the fortress of Alamut, where self-proclaimed prophet Hasan ibn Sabbah is setting up his mad but brilliant plan to rule the region with a handful of elite fighters who are to become his "living daggers." By creating a virtual paradise at Alamut, filled with beautiful women, lush gardens, wine and hashish, Sabbah is able to convince his young fighters that they can reach paradise if they follow his commands. With parallels to Osama bin Laden, *Alamut* tells the story of how Sabbah was able to instill fear into the ruling class by creating a small army of devotees who were willing to kill, and be killed, in order to achieve paradise. Believing in the supreme Ismaili motto "Nothing is true, everything is permitted," Sabbah wanted to "experiment" with how far he could manipulate religious devotion for his own political gain through appealing to what he called the stupidity and gullibility of people and their passion for pleasure and selfish desires. The novel focuses on Sabbah as he unveils his plan to his inner circle, and on two of his young followers — the beautiful slave girl Halima, who has come to Alamut to join Sabbah's paradise on earth, and young ibn Tahir, Sabbah's most gifted fighter. As both Halima and ibn Tahir become disillusioned with Sabbah's vision, their lives take unexpected turns. *Alamut* was originally written in 1938 as an allegory to Mussolini's fascist state. In the 1960's it became a cult favorite throughout Tito's Yugoslavia, and in the 1990s, during the Balkan's War, it was read as an allegory of the region's strife and became a bestseller in Germany, France and Spain. Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, the book once again took on a new life, selling more than 20,000 copies in a new Slovenian edition, and being translated around the world in more than 19 languages. This edition, translated by Michael Biggins, is the first-ever English translation.

The word *Assassin* was brought back from Syria by the Crusaders, and in time acquired the meaning of murderer. Originally it was applied to the members of a Muslim religious sect — a branch of the Ismailis, and the followers of a leader known as the Old Man of the Mountain. Their beliefs and their methods made them a by-word for both fanaticism and terrorism in Syria and Persia in the 11th and 12th centuries, and the subject of a luxuriant growth of myth and legend. In this book, Bernard Lewis begins by tracing the development of these legends in medieval and modern Europe and the gradual percolation of accurate knowledge concerning the Ismailis. He then examines the origins and activities of the sect, on the basis of contemporary

Persian and Arabic sources, and against the background of Middle Eastern and Islamic history. In a final chapter he discusses some of the political, social and economic implications of the Ismailis, and examines the significance of the Assassins in the history of revolutionary and terrorist movements.

« ... je partage l'humanité en deux catégories fondamentalement différentes : une poignée de gens qui savent ce qu'il en est des réalités et l'énorme majorité qui ne sait pas. » Retranché dans sa citadelle dominant la plaine, le grand maître Hassan Ibn Sabbâh mène, à la fin du XIe siècle, une guerre sainte en Iran. Il n'a que peu de soldats et seuls ses proches le connaissent intimement. Parti de presque rien, sans armée, sans terre et sans guère d'appuis à la cour, il dominera le monde. Des hommes seront prêts à mourir pour lui avec le sourire aux lèvres. Des foules entières se prosterneront sans combattre. Un millénaire plus tard, la manipulation des masses, telle qu'il la pratiqua, continue d'ébranler les empires modernes. Mélange d'aventures et de philosophie politique, Alamut n'évoque la violence des complots d'alors que pour mieux renvoyer aux problèmes cruciaux des civilisations modernes.

The British bestseller Straw Dogs is an exciting, radical work of philosophy, which sets out to challenge our most cherished assumptions about what it means to be human. From Plato to Christianity, from the Enlightenment to Nietzsche and Marx, the Western tradition has been based on arrogant and erroneous beliefs about human beings and their place in the world. Philosophies such as liberalism and Marxism think of humankind as a species whose destiny is to transcend natural limits and conquer the Earth. John Gray argues that this belief in human difference is a dangerous illusion and explores how the world and human life look once humanism has been finally abandoned. The result is an exhilarating, sometimes disturbing book that leads the reader to question our deepest-held beliefs. Will Self, in the New Statesman, called Straw Dogs his book of the year: "I read it once, I read it twice and took notes . . . I thought it that good." "Nothing will get you thinking as much as this brilliant book" (Sunday Telegraph).

"A fascinating history . . . The Medieval conflict between Christians and Muslims has many similarities to the Middle East today."—Firetrench The Ismaili Assassins were an underground group of political killers who were ready to kill Christians and Muslims alike with complete disregard for their own lives. Under the powerful control of an enigmatic grand master, these devoted murderers often slayed their victims in public, cultivating their terrifying reputation. They assumed disguises and their weapon of choice was a dagger. The dagger was blessed by the grand master and killing with it was a holy and sanctified act; poison or other methods of murder were forbidden to the followers of the sect. Surviving a mission was considered a deep dishonor and mothers rejoiced when they heard that their Assassin sons had died having completed their deadly acts. Unsurprisingly, their formidable reputation spread far and wide. In 1253, the Mongol chiefs were so fearful of them that they massacred and enslaved the Assassins' women and children in an attempt to liquidate the sect. The English monarch, Edward I, was nearly dispatched by their blades and Richard the Lionheart's reputation was sullied by his association with the Assassins' murder of Conrad of Montferrat. The Ismaili Assassins explores the origins, actions and legacy of this notorious sect.

Enriched with eyewitness accounts from Islamic and Western sources, this important book unlocks the history of the Crusades and the early Islamic period, giving the reader entry into a historical epoch that is thrilling and pertinent. "An inherently fascinating, deftly written, and impressively informative read from beginning to end."—Midwest Book Review
Rarely has 'migration literature' been understood as 'literature on the topic of migration', which is an approach this book adopts by presenting a comparative analysis of contemporary texts on experiences of migration.

[Embracing Israel/Palestine](#)

[20 Captivating Short Stories to Learn French & Grow Your Vocabulary the Fun Way!](#)

[Slavic Scriptures](#)

[The Formation of the Church Slavonic Version of the Holy Bible](#)

[Nefertiti](#)

[A Radical Sect in Islam](#)

[The Melody](#)

[Alamut](#)

[Waking Up to Boys](#)

[Straw Dogs](#)

[Contemporary Migration Literature in German and English](#)

Alamut takes place in 11th Century Persia, in the fortress of Alamut, where self-proclaimed prophet Hasan ibn Sabbah is setting up his mad but brilliant plan to rule the region with a handful elite fighters who are to become his "living daggers." By creating a virtual paradise at Alamut, filled with beautiful women, lush gardens, wine and hashish, Sabbah is able to convince his young fighters that they can reach paradise if they follow his commands. With parallels to Osama bin Laden, Alamut tells the story of how Sabbah was able to instill fear into the ruling class by creating a small army of devotees who were willing to kill, and be killed, in order to achieve paradise. Believing in the supreme Ismaili motto "Nothing is true, everything is permitted," Sabbah wanted to "experiment" with how far he could manipulate religious devotion for his own political gain through appealing to what he called the stupidity and gullibility of people and their passion for pleasure and selfish desires. The novel focuses on Sabbah as he unveils his plan to his inner circle, and on two of his young followers — the beautiful slave girl Halima, who has come to Alamut to join Sabbah's paradise on earth, and young ibn Tahir, Sabbah's most gifted fighter. As both Halima and ibn Tahir become disillusioned with Sabbah's vision, their lives take unexpected turns. Alamut was originally written in 1938 as an allegory to Mussolini's fascist state. In the 1960's it became a cult favorite throughout Tito's Yugoslavia, and in the 1990s, during the Balkan's War, it was read as an allegory of the region's strife and became a

bestseller in Germany, France and Spain. Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, the book once again took on a new life, selling more than 20,000 copies in a new Slovenian edition, and being translated around the world in more than 19 languages. This edition, translated by Michael Biggins, is the first-ever English translation.

A glorious collection that delves deep into the inception, influences, and literary and historical underpinnings of nearly 100 of our most beloved fictional realms. *Literary Wonderlands* is a thoroughly researched, wonderfully written, and beautifully produced book that spans four thousand years of creative endeavor. From Spenser's *The Fairie Queene* to Wells's *The Time Machine* to Murakami's *1Q84* it explores the timeless and captivating features of fiction's imagined worlds including the relevance of the writer's own life to the creation of the story, influential contemporary events and philosophies, and the meaning that can be extracted from the details of the work. Each piece includes a detailed overview of the plot and a "Dramatis Personae." *Literary Wonderlands* is a fascinating read for lovers of literature, fantasy, and science fiction. Laura Miller is the book's general editor. Co-founder of Salon.com, where she worked as an editor and writer for 20 years, she is currently a books and culture columnist at Slate. A journalist and a critic, her work has appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Harper's*, the *Guardian*, and the *New York Times Book Review*, where she wrote the "Last Word" column for two years. She is the author of *The Magician's Book: A Skeptic's Adventures in Narnia* and editor of the Salon.com *Reader's Guide to Contemporary Authors*.

My Summer To-Do List: Practice wakeboard front flip Host late-night island party Build a bonfire Seduce Todd!!! Chelsea's more comfortable strapped onto her wakeboard on Lake Tahoe than laced into platform espadrilles—or flirting with Todd, the adorable watersports instructor she's been crushing on for years. So instead she concentrates on winning this summer's Northwest Extreme Watersports Competition. That is, until Sebastian, a hot Brazilian tennis prodigy, wakes her up to the fact that she can get a boy. But can she get the one she really wants, even if she's competing against him for the gold?

Now in paperback, a page-turning and darkly brilliant psychological thriller about the fragility of what makes us who we are. Six-year-old Helen and Ellie are identical twins, but Helen is smarter, more popular, and their mother's favorite. Ellie, on the other hand, requires special instruction at school, is friendless, and is punished at every turn. Until they decide to swap places--just for fun, and just for one day--and Ellie refuses to switch back. Everything of Helen's, from her toys to her friends to her identity, now belongs to her sister. With those around her oblivious to her plight, the girl who used to be Helen loses her sense of self and withdraws into a spiral of behavioral problems, delinquency, and mental illness. In time, she's not even sure of her memory of the switch. Twenty-five years later, she receives a call that threatens to pull her back into her sister's dangerous orbit. Will she take this chance to face her past?

After barely surviving a barrage of ultra-violence and being burned by those closest to them in 2 GUNS, the lives of ex-undercover agents Bobby Trench and Marcus Steadman get even more chaotic when the pair again cross paths in the pages of 3 GUNS, writer Steven Grant's follow-up to his 2006 crime caper. Now, after racing headlong across the Southwest, desperately outrunning Feds and mobsters alike while trying to clear their names, Trench and Steadman are pulled into another impossible situation: brokering gun deals between the Russians and anti-government revolutionaries...from opposite sides. And little do they know, a Third Gun has her eyes set on the ultimate prize--and she won't go down without a fight. "Surprisingly tender." -- The New York Times Book Review. Set in Kabul under the rule of the Taliban, this extraordinary novel takes readers into the lives of two couples: Mohsen, who comes from a family of wealthy shopkeepers whom the Taliban has destroyed; Zunaira, his wife, exceedingly beautiful, who was once a brilliant teacher and is now no longer allowed to leave her home without an escort or covering her face. Intersecting their world is Atiq, a prison keeper, a man who has sincerely adopted the Taliban ideology and struggles to keep his faith, and his wife, Musarrat, who once rescued Atiq and is now dying of sickness and despair. Desperate, exhausted Mohsen wanders through Kabul when he is surrounded by a crowd about to stone an adulterous woman. Numbled by the hysterical atmosphere and drawn into their rage, he too throws stones at the face of the condemned woman buried up to her waist. With this gesture the lives of all four protagonists move toward their destinies. The Swallows of Kabul is a dazzling novel written with compassion and exquisite detail by one of the most lucid writers about the mentality of Islamic fundamentalists and the complexities of the Muslim world. Yasmina Khadra brings readers into the hot, dusty streets of Kabul and offers them an unflinching but compassionate insight into a society that violence and hypocrisy have brought to the edge of despair.

[The World Between Two Covers: Reading the Globe](#)

[The Swallows of Kabul](#)

[Assamite](#)

[A novel](#)

[Thoughts on Humans and Other Animals](#)

[Guarding Hanna](#)

[Crisis and Reflection](#)

[Creation](#)

[Way To Will Power, The](#)

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