



Memory in the Flesh (Modern Arabic Writing)

By Ahlam Mosteghanemi

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This prize-winning novel, the first to be written by an Algerian woman in Arabic, is concerned with Algeria's struggle against foreign domination as well as its post-independence struggle with itself and the fate of revolutionary ideals in a post-revolutionary society.

The story, spanning more than four decades of Algerian history, from the 1940s to the 1980s, revolves around a love affair between Khaled, the middle-aged militant who turns to painting after losing his left arm in the struggle, and the fiction writer and young daughter of his friend the freedom fighter Si Taher, all brilliantly told through Khaled's voice.

It was features such as this convincing embodiment of a male voice alongside narrative techniques in which the author subtly joins the achievements of world literature with that of local storytelling and traditional modes of narration that particularly impressed the judges who awarded this novel the Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Mosteghanemi is remarkable in her ability to embody convincingly a male voice who constructs this extraordinary tale of passion." - Ferial Ghazoul, Al-Ahram Weekly

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: Arabic

About the Author

Ahlem Mosteghanemi received her B.A. in Arabic literature from the University of Algiers in 1973, and was awarded a doctorate in sociology from the Sorbonne in 1982. She is the author of *Memory in the Flesh* (AUC Press, 1999), which was awarded the Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature.

Users Review

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