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# The Translator Leila Aboulela

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Arabian Jazz  
 A Novel  
 Goodness and the Literary Imagination  
 Masculinity in Leila Aboulela's the Translator  
 A Novel  
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 Harvard's 95th Ingersoll Lecture with Essays on Morrison's Moral and Religious Vision  
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*The Translator Leila Aboulela*

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## FORD RANDY

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*Arabian Jazz* Open Road + Grove/Atlantic  
 “A beautiful, daring, challenging novel” of a young Muslim immigrant—from the author of the New York Times Notable Book, *The Translator* (The Guardian). Leila Aboulela’s American debut is a provocative, timely, and engaging novel about a young Muslim woman—once privileged and secular in her native land and now impoverished in London—gradually embracing her orthodox faith. With her Muslim hijab and down-turned gaze, Najwa is invisible to most eyes, especially to the rich families whose houses she cleans in London. Twenty years ago, Najwa, then at university in Khartoum, would never have

imagined that one day she would be a maid. An upperclass Westernized Sudanese, her dreams were to marry well and raise a family. But a coup forces the young woman and her family into political exile in London. Soon orphaned, she finds solace and companionship within the Muslim community. Then Najwa meets Tamer, the intense, lonely younger brother of her employer. They find a common bond in faith and slowly, silently, begin to fall in love. Written with directness and force, *Minaret* is a lyric and insightful novel about Islam and an alluring glimpse into a culture Westerners are only just beginning to understand. “Lit up by a highly unusual sensibility and world view, so rarefied and uncompromising that it is likely to throw the reader out of kilter . . . Her delicacy of touch is to be complimented.”  
 —Chandras Choudhury, San Francisco

Chronicle

**A Novel** Grove Press

Experience World War 2 through the eyes of two very different women in this captivating New York Times bestseller by the author of *The Guest Book*. “A beautifully written, thought-provoking novel.”—Kathryn Stockett, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Help* In 1940, Iris James is the postmistress in coastal Franklin, Massachusetts. Iris knows more about the townspeople than she will ever say, and believes her job is to deliver secrets. Yet one day she does the unthinkable: slips a letter into her pocket, reads it, and doesn't deliver it. Meanwhile, Frankie Bard broadcasts from overseas with Edward R. Murrow. Her dispatches beg listeners to pay heed as the Nazis bomb London nightly. Most of the townspeople of Franklin think the war

can't touch them. But both Iris and Frankie know better... The Postmistress is a tale of two worlds—one shattered by violence, the other willfully naïve—and of two women whose job is to deliver the news, yet who find themselves unable to do so. Through their eyes, and the eyes of everyday people caught in history's tide, it examines how stories are told, and how the fact of war is borne even through everyday life.

### **Goodness and the Literary**

#### **Imagination** Routledge

During the last two decades of the twentieth century, U.S. Latina writers have made a profound impact on American letters with fiction in both mainstream and regional venues. Following on the heels of this vibrant and growing body of work, *New Latina Narrative* offers the first in-depth synthesis and literary analysis of this transethnic genre. Focusing on the dynamic writing published in the 1980s and 1990s by Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Cuban American, and Dominican American women, *New Latina Narrative* illustrates how these writers have redefined the concepts of multiculturalism and diversity in American society. As participants in both mainstream and grassroots forms of multiculturalism, these new Latina narrativists have created a feminine space within postmodern ethnicity, disrupting the idealistic veneer of diversity with which publishers often market this fiction. In this groundbreaking study, author Ellen McCracken opens the conventional boundaries of Latino/a literary criticism, incorporating elements of cultural studies theory and contemporary feminism. Emphasizing the diversity within new Latina narrative, McCracken discusses the works of more than two dozen writers, including Julia Alvarez, Denise Chávez, Sandra Cisneros, Cristina García, Graciela Limón, Demetria Martínez, Pat Mora, Cherríe Moraga, Mary Helen Ponce, and Helena María Viramontes. She stresses such themes as the resignification of master narrative, the autobiographical self and collective identity, popular religiosity, subculture and transgression, and narrative harmony and dissonance. *New Latina Narrative* provides readers an enriched basis for reconceiving the overall Latino/a literary field and its relation to other contemporary literary and cultural trends. McCracken's original approach extends the Latina literary canon—both the works to be studied and the issues to be examined—resulting in a valuable work for all readers of women's studies, contemporary American literature, ethnic studies, communications, and sociology.

#### **Masculinity in Leila Aboulela's the**

**Translator** Boydell & Brewer Ltd  
Jordanian immigrant Matussem Ramoud and his two daughters live in a poor, mostly white town in upstate New York, where "ethnics" are few and far between, in this story about the individual search for self and for home. A first novel. Reprint.

#### **A Novel** Harper Collins

In the original text alongside the English translation, Adaf blends contemporary colloquial Hebrew, Arabic, and old Aramaic with biblical, Talmudic, and Rabbinic intertextualities. The collection is a powerful lamentation for Adaf's sister, Aviva, who died at 43. Written from a witness of Israeli society, the daily violence taking place makes the grief reverberating through the poems both personal and palpable.

#### **Lyrics Alley** Springer

Examines the representations of migration in African literature, film, and other visual media, with an eye to the stylistic features of these works as well as their contributions to debates on migration

#### **To Love the Orientalist** Routledge

Translated People, Translated Texts examines contemporary migration narratives by four African writers who live in the diaspora and write in English: Leila Aboulela and Jamal Mahjoub from the Sudan, now living in Scotland and Spain respectively, and Abdulrazak Gurnah and Moyez G. Vassanji from Tanzania, now residing in the UK and Canada. Focusing on how language operates in relation to both culture and identity, Steiner foregrounds the complexities of migration as cultural translation. Cultural translation is a concept which locates itself in postcolonial literary theory as well as translation studies. The manipulation of English in such a way as to signify translated experience is crucial in this regard. The study focuses on a particular angle on cultural translation for each writer under discussion: translation of Islam and the strategic use of nostalgia in Leila Aboulela's texts; translation and the production of scholarly knowledge in Jamal Mahjoub's novels; translation and storytelling in Abdulrazak Gurnah's fiction; and translation between the individual and old and new communities in Vassanji's work. Translated People, Translated Texts makes a significant contribution to our understanding of migration as a common condition of the postcolonial world and offers a welcome insight into particular travellers and their unique translations. *The Good Muslim* Rochester Studies in African H

'Bursting with creativity, wit and intelligence' Brian Eno How can you tell if your neighbour is speaking Muslim? Is a

mosque a kind of hedgehog? Can I get fries with that burka? You can't trust the media any longer, but there's no need to fret: Don't Panic, I'm Islamic provides you with the answers. Read this book to learn how you too can spot an elusive Islamist. Discover how Arabs (even 21-year-old, largely innocuous and totally adorable ones) plant bombs and get tips about how to interact with Homeland Security, which may or may not involve funny discussions about your sexuality. Commissioned in response to the US travel ban, Don't Panic, I'm Islamic includes cartoons, graffiti, photography, colouring in pages, memoir, short stories and more by 34 contributors from around the world. Provocative and at times laugh-out-loud funny, these subversive pieces are an explosion of expression, creativity and colour.

Contributors: Hassan Abdulrazzak, Leila Aboulela, Amrou Al-Kadhi, Shadi Alzaqzouq, Chant Avedissian, Tammam Azzam, Bidisha, Chaza Charafeddine, Molly Crabapple, Carol Ann Duffy, Moris Farhi, Negin Farsad, Joumana Haddad, Saleem Haddad, Hassan Hajjaj, Omar Hamdi, Jennifer Jajeh, Sayed Kashua, Mazen Kerbaj, Arwa Mahdawi, Sabrina Mahfouz, Alberto Manguel, Esther Manito, Aisha Mirza, James Nunn, Chris Riddell, Hazem Saghieh, Rana Salam, Karl Sharro, Laila Shawa, Bahia Shehab, Sjóon, Eli Valley, Alex Wheatle.

#### **The Translator** Open Road + Grove/Atlantic

The Interpreter is Dominique, a genius with language who, despite her professional brilliance, has not yet found her own voice. When she overhears a whispered conversation about the suppression of AIDS breakthrough, the interpreter's mantra rings in her ears: 'Confidentiality. Your vow is as solemn as the Hippocratic Oath. As sacred as a nun's marriage to Jesus.' But Dominique's best friend Mischa is HIV positive. Drawn into a passionate love affair with Nicholas Manzini, an Italian doctor, Dominique slowly begins to discover her own voice. But her dilemma remains—and will test both her strength of character and the depth of her love for Nicholas.

#### **The Postmigrant Condition** Saqi Books

Through interviews with leading writers (including Ahdaf Soueif and Hanif Kureishi), this book analyzes the writing and opinions of novelists of Muslim heritage based in the UK. Discussion centres on writers' work, literary techniques, and influences, and on their views of such issues as the hijab, the war on terror and the Rushdie Affair.

#### **British Muslim Fictions** Saqi Books

Focusing on British novels about the

Muslim immigrant experience published after 9/11; this book examines the promise as well as the limits of 'British Muslim' identity as a viable form of self-representation, and the challenges - particularly for women - of reconciling non-Western religious identity with the secular policies of Western states.

*Minaret* University of Arizona Press

The work of a novelist and translator collide in this visionary and hilarious debut from acclaimed French writer Brice Matthieussent. *Revenge of the Translator* follows Trad, who is translating a mysterious author's book, *Translator's Revenge*, from English to French. The book opens as a series of footnotes from Trad, as he justifies changes he makes. As the novel progresses, Trad begins to take over the writing, methodically breaking down the work of the original writer and changing the course of the text. The lines between reality and fiction start to blur as Trad's world overlaps with the characters in *Translator's Revenge*, who seem to grow more and more independent of Trad's increasingly deranged struggle to control the plot. *Revenge of the Translator* is a brilliant, rule-defying exploration of literature, the act of writing and translating, and the often complicated relationship between authors and their translators.

#### **Season of Migration to the North**

PublicAffairs

An enchanting, heartfelt novel about three Muslim women in search of freedom, faith, and happiness, from Scottish Book Award and Caine Prize-winning author Leila Aboulela. In her adventurous new novel, New York Times Notable author Leila Aboulela delivers a lively portrait of three women who embark on a journey of self-discovery while grappling with the conflicting demands of family, duty, and faith. When Salma, Moni, and Iman—friends and active members of their local Muslim Women's group—decide to take a road trip together to the Scottish Highlands, they leave behind lives often dominated by obligation, frustrated desire, and dull predictability. Each wants something more out of life, but fears the cost of taking it. Salma is successful and happily married, but tempted to risk it all when she's contacted by her first love back in Egypt; Moni gave up a career in banking to care for her disabled son without the help of her indifferent husband; and Iman, in her twenties and already on her third marriage, longs for the freedom and autonomy she's never known. When the women are visited by the Hoopoe, a sacred bird from Muslim and Celtic literature, they are compelled to

question their relationships to faith and femininity, love, loyalty, and sacrifice. Brilliantly imagined, thoughtful and wise, Bird Summons confirms Leila Aboulela's reputation as one of our finest contemporary writers.

*The Kindness of Enemies* Harper Collins

When Salma becomes pregnant before marriage in her small village in the Levant, her innocent days playing the pipe for her goats are gone for ever. She is swept into prison for her own protection. To the sound of her screams, her newborn baby daughter is snatched away. In the middle of the most English of towns, Exeter, she learns good manners from her landlady, and settles down with an Englishman. But deep in her heart the cries of her baby daughter still echo. When she can bear them no longer, she goes back to her village to find her. It is a journey that will change everything - and nothing. Slipping back and forth between the olive groves of the Levant and the rain-slicked pavements of Exeter, *My Name is Salma* is a searing portrayal of a woman's courage in the face of insurmountable odds.

*A Novel!* Deep Vellum Publishing

"A versatile prose stylist... [Aboulela's] lyrical style and incisive portrayal of Muslims living in the West received praise from the Nobel Prize winner J. M. Coetzee... [she is] a voice for multiculturalism."—New York Times It's 2010 and Natasha, a half Russian, half Sudanese professor of Islamic studies, is researching the life of Imam Shamil, the 19th century Muslim leader who led the anti-Russian resistance in the Caucasian War. When shy, single Natasha discovers that her star student, Oz, is not only descended from the warrior but also possesses Shamil's priceless sword, the Imam's story comes vividly to life. As Natasha's relationship with Oz and his alluring actress mother intensifies, Natasha is forced to confront issues she had long tried to avoid—that of her Muslim heritage. When Oz is suddenly arrested at his home one morning, Natasha realizes that everything she values stands in jeopardy. Told with Aboulela's inimitable elegance and narrated from the point of view of both Natasha and the historical characters she is researching, *The Kindness of Enemies* is both an engrossing story of a provocative period in history and an important examination of what it is to be a Muslim in a post 9/11 world.

*Don't Panic, I'm Islamic* Bloomsbury Paperbacks

This collection brings together contributions from translation theorists, linguists, and literary scholars to promote interdisciplinary dialogue about

untranslatability and its implications within the context of globalization. The chapters depart from the pragmatics of translation practice and move on to consider the role of the translator's voice and the translator as author in specific literary works. The volume as a whole seeks to study and at times dramatize the interplay between translation as a creative practice and its place within the dynamic between local and global examining case studies across a wide variety of literary genres and traditions across regions. By highlighting the complex interface between translation practice and theory, translator and author, and local and global, this book will be of particular interest to graduate students and scholars in translation studies and literary studies.

*Harvard's 95th Ingersoll Lecture with Essays on Morrison's Moral and Religious Vision* Holt Paperbacks

A New York Times Notable Book:

"Aboulela's lovely, brief story encompasses worlds of melancholy and gulfs between cultures" (Kirkus Reviews, starred review). American readers were introduced to the award-winning Sudanese author Leila Aboulela with *Minaret*, a delicate tale of a privileged young African Muslim woman adjusting to her new life as a maid in London. Now, for the first time in North America, we step back to her extraordinarily assured debut about a widowed Muslim mother living in Aberdeen who falls in love with a Scottish secular academic. Sammar is a Sudanese widow working as an Arabic translator at a Scottish university. Since the sudden death of her husband, her young son has gone to live with family in Khartoum, leaving Sammar alone in cold, gray Aberdeen, grieving and isolated. But when she begins to translate for Rae, a Scottish Islamic scholar, the two develop a deep friendship that awakens in Sammar all the longing for life she has repressed. As Rae and Sammar fall in love, she knows they will have to address his lack of faith in all that Sammar holds sacred. An exquisitely crafted meditation on love, both human and divine, *The Translator* is ultimately the story of one woman's courage to stay true to her beliefs, herself, and her newfound love. "A story of love and faith all the more moving for the restraint with which it is written." —J. M. Coetzee

*Interviews with Contemporary Writers* Anchor

From one of our most important contemporary Chinese authors: a novel of language and love that tells one young Chinese woman's story of her journey to the West—and her attempts to understand the language, and the man, she adores.

Zhuang—or “Z,” to tongue-tied foreigners—has come to London to study English, but finds herself adrift, trapped in a cycle of cultural gaffes and grammatical mishaps. Then she meets an Englishman who changes everything, leading her into a world of self-discovery. She soon realizes that, in the West, “love” does not always mean the same as in China, and that you

can learn all the words in the English language and still not understand your lover. And as the novel progresses with steadily improving grammar and vocabulary, Z's evolving voice makes her quest for comprehension all the more poignant. With sparkling wit, Xiaolu Guo has created an utterly original novel about identity and the cultural divide.  
[The Things I Would Tell You](#) Random

House

After a year of living separate lives, Anju is reunited with Sudha in America and they must deal with establishing new relationships with their families in India and with men and women outside the Indian immigrant community.

*Wildflower Hill* Grove Press

The TranslatorOpen Road + Grove/Atlantic

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