



Gate of the Sun

By *Elias Khoury*

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***A New York Times Book Review* Notable Book of the Year**

One of *Kansas City Star's* 100 Noteworthy Books of the Year

***A Boldtype* Notable Book of the Year**

***A Christian Science Monitor* Best Book of the Year**

***A San Francisco Chronicle* Best Book of the Year**

Drawing on the stories he gathered from refugee camps over the course of many years, Elias Khoury's epic novel *Gate of the Sun* has been called the first magnum opus of the Palestinian saga.

Yunes, an aging Palestinian freedom fighter, lies in a coma. Keeping vigil at the old man's bedside is his spiritual son, Khalil, who nurses Yunes, refusing to admit that his hero may never regain consciousness. Like a modern-day Scheherazade, Khalil relates the story of Palestinian exile while also recalling Yunes's own extraordinary life and his love for his wife, whom he meets secretly over the years at Bab al-Shams, the Gate of the Sun.

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Gate of the Sun By Elias Khoury Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

First published in 1998 in Arabic by a Beirut publisher, and then translated into Hebrew and French, this book was *Le Monde Diplomatique's* Book of the Year in 2002; Khoury's ambitious, provocative, and insightful novel now arrives in the U.S. Well researched, deeply imagined, expressively written and overtly nostalgic, the book uses the lyrical flashback style of *1001 Arabian Nights* to tell stories of Palestine. At a makeshift hospital in the Shatila refugee camp on the outskirts of Beirut, Dr. Khalil sits by the bed of his gravely ill, unconscious friend and patient, Yunes, a Palestinian fighter, and reminisces about their lives in an attempt to bring him back to consciousness. The collage of stories that emerges, ranging from the war of 1948 to the present, doesn't have a clear beginning or end, but narrows the dizzying scope of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to comprehensible names and faces, including sympathetically tough and pragmatic women. Davies has translated Naguib Mahfouz and does a nice job with the lyrical, outsized text. Khoury, born in 1948 in Beirut, has authored 11 other novels (*The Little Mountain* and *The Kingdom of Strangers* are available in translation) and published numerous essays; he now teaches at NYU each spring. A film version of the book was shown in New York in 2004.

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Review

"Few have held to the light the myths, tales, and rumors of both Israel and the Arabs with such discerning compassion . . . *Gate of the Sun* is an imposingly rich and realistic novel, a genuine masterwork." *The New York Times Book Review*

"Brilliant." *Edward Said, author of Orientalism*

"Humanity and compassion are what give this rich and teeming narrative its shape, creating a work that in its essence is a heartfelt plea for sanity and peace." *The Christian Science Monitor*

"[A] stunning novel . . . A literary masterpiece on par with the work of Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish and Egyptian novelist Naguib Mahfouz." *Tikkun*

"After Elias Khoury's *Gate of the Sun*, readers can no longer pretend that Palestine is merely a fugitive state of mind, a convenient Arab myth, a traumatic tribal memory, and somebody else's problem. This remarkable novel out of Lebanon, a skillful reshuffling of the *1001 Nights* with a doctor in a refugee camp playing the part of Scheherazade, fills in the blank spaces on the Middle Eastern map in our Western heads." *John Leonard, Harper's*

"The Stories are not propaganda--they are the all too real lives of people yearning for justice or escape; whose plight lies at the heart of so much conflict in the Middle East and beyond. Perhaps only a novelist could tell it this way." *The Times (London)*

"In *Gate of the Sun* a character dreams of writing a 'book without a beginning or end . . . an epic of the Palestinian people,' based on the stories of every village, and starting from the 'great expulsion of 1948.' Elias Khoury's monumental novel is in a sense that groundbreaking book." *The Guardian (U.K.)*

About the Author

Elias Khoury is the author of eleven novels including *The Journey of Little Gandhi*, *The Kingdom of Strangers*, and *Yalo*. He is a professor of Middle Eastern and Islamic studies at New York University, and editor in chief of the literary supplement of Beirut's daily newspaper, *An-Nahar*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Amy Sims:

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in each way. By being competitive right now, people have do something to make these individuals survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a publication your ability to survive boost then having chance to stay than other is high. For you who want to start reading the book, we give you this particular Gate of the Sun book as starter and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

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Spent a free a chance to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book can be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the book untitled Gate of the Sun can be great book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

Kimberly Duda:

Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book mainly book entitled Gate of the Sun your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe unfamiliar for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a e-book then become one type conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get just before. The Gate of the Sun giving you an additional experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful details for your better life in this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind will be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary investing spare time activity?

Kelly Edge:

In this age globalization it is important to someone to receive information. The information will make anyone to understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information easier to share. You can find a lot of references to get information example: internet, newspapers, book, and soon. You can observe that now, a lot of publisher that print many kinds of book. The book that recommended to your account is Gate of the Sun this reserve consist a lot of the information in the condition of this world

now. This particular book was represented how do the world has grown up. The language styles that writer use to explain it is easy to understand. The actual writer made some analysis when he makes this book. Honestly, that is why this book appropriate all of you.

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