

Translated from Arabic by the author
Fiction
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sinan Antoon is a writer, translator and associate professor of Arabic literature at NYU. He founded *Jadaliyya*, which publishes cultural commentary on issues affecting the Arab world. Antoon is the author of several poetry collections and five novels including *The Corpse Washer*, which won The Arabic Literature Prize 2017 and the World Arab Institute-Lagardère (France). Antoon left Iraq in 1991 after the Gulf War and currently lives in New York.

Notes from a Lost Country

SINAN ANTOON

‘One of the great fiction writers of our time’

**Alberto Manguel, author of
*A History of Reading***

KEY SALES POINTS

- Author is an award-winning novelist, poet and translator, widely regarded as one of the most important contemporary voices in Arabic literature
- A haunting story of exile and resilience, where two Iraqis in New York confront memory, trauma and belonging
- Backed by strong international recognition, with coverage expected across major literary outlets and endorsements from leading writers

OUTLINE

Sami, a retired doctor, lives with his son and grandchildren in Brooklyn. But Sami keeps losing his way. Every day he sinks deeper into dementia and old memories of life in Iraq before the war.

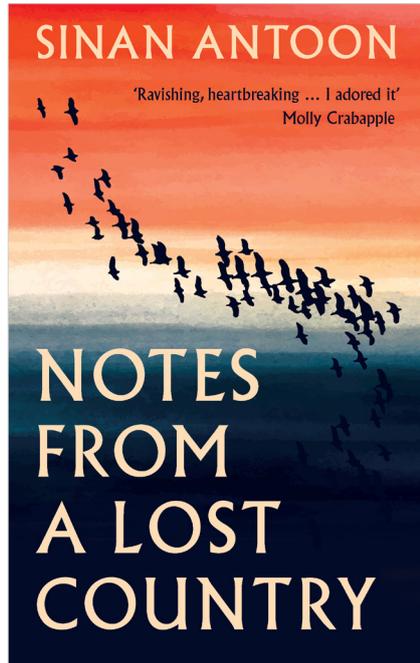
Omar arrives in the US with a fake identity and no friends or family. Having run away from the Iraqi army, he has been branded a deserter and had his ear brutally cut off. Omar carries this mark of shame with him and refuses to talk about the past. He dreams of getting his ear, and his dignity, back.

When their paths cross, at least one of them knows that they have met before – if only he could remember where. Exploring the aftermath of war and how the past haunts new beginnings, *Notes from a Lost Country* is a moving and achingly beautiful portrait of life in exile.

SAQI

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PRAISE



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‘A soulful novel that deepens the more you stay with it ...
One can think of few other novels that depict
the surrealism of migration.’

Ken Chen, author of *Juvenilia*

‘Ravishing, heartbreaking, and often absurd
... I adored it.’

**Molly Crabapple, author of *Here Where
We Live Is Our Country***

‘Antoon is a master storyteller.’

Maaza Mengiste, author of *The Shadow King*

‘One of the most acclaimed authors in the Arab world.’

Al-Ahram Weekly

‘Antoon leads a hallucinatory investigation into the
territories of memory and tragedies ... A deep reflection
on exile and the power of books.’

Mathias Enard, author of *Compass*

‘From one of Iraq’s finest writers, a tender, audacious
novel that traces the long afterlife of war and the quiet,
reparative power of listening.’

**Azareen Van der Vliet Oloomi, author of *Call Me
Zebra and Savage Tongues***

‘With his gift for creating unforgettable, layered
characters, Antoon leaves readers with echoes that linger
long after the final page.’

**Hassan Abdulrazzak, British Iraqi playwright and
fellow of the Royal Society of Literature**

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