

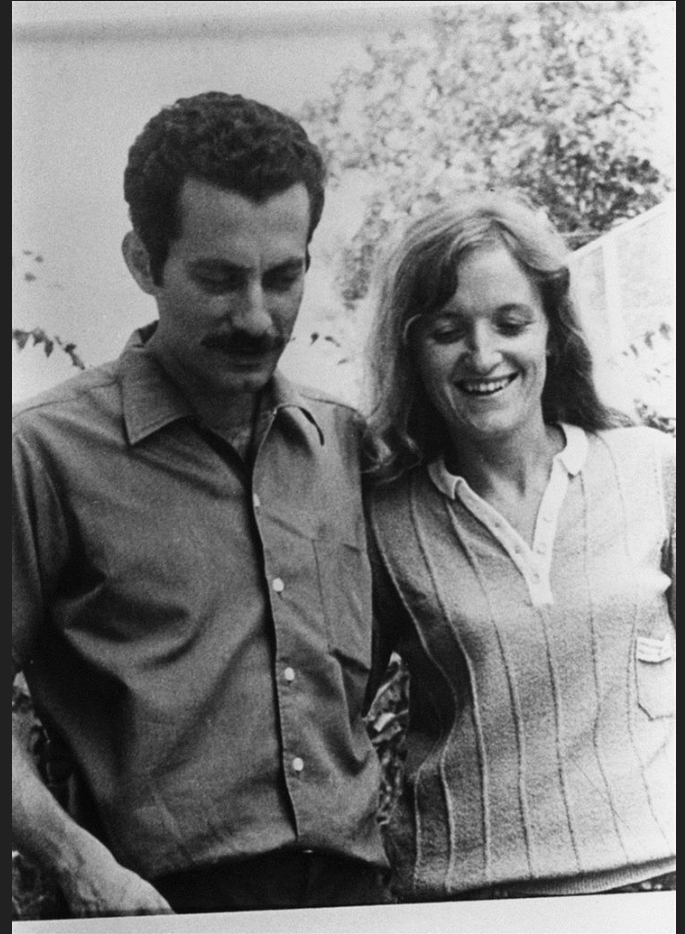
Ghassan Kanafani

The Land of Sad Oranges



Early Life

- Born in 1936 in Acre
- Son of lawyer; third of eight children
- During 1948 Arab-Israeli War, his family fled to Lebanon
- Settled in Damascus, Syria
- Received UNRWA teaching certificate in 1952
- Enrolled in Department of Arab Literature at University of Damascus
- Met George Habash in 1953
- Lived in Kuwait then moved to Beirut
- Married Anni Høver in 1961
- Assassinated by Mossad in 1972



Literary Works

“Letter from Gaza,” 1956

Umm Saad, 1969

“The Land of Sad Oranges,” 1958

Return to Haifa, 1970

“If You Were a Horse...” 1961

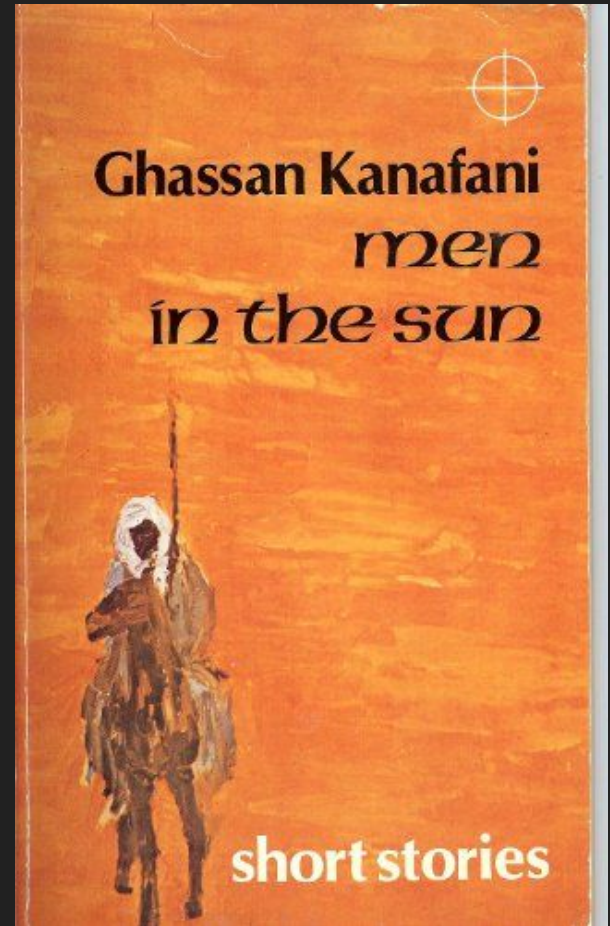
“The Falcon,” 1961

Men in the Sun, 1962

“A Hand in the Grave,” 1962

All That’s Left to You, 1966

On Zionist Literature, 1967



The Land of Sad Oranges

- Published in 1958
- Oranges represent Palestine, family, land, and martyrs.
- Depression of being a refugee
- A child gaining consciousness of his situation
- Intimate relationship between a person and their oranges.
- If a Palestinian is separated from their land, they are lost.



“The groves of orange trees followed each other in succession along the side of the road.”

“And all the orange trees that your father had abandoned to the Jews shone in his eyes, all the well-tended orange trees that he had bought one by one were printed in his face and reflected in the tears that he could not control...”

*“Pain had begun to undermine the
child’s simple mind.”*

*“The happy, united family we left behind,
with the land, the house, and the martyrs
killed defending them.*”

“You were huddled there, as far from your childhood as you were from the land of the oranges--the oranges that, according to a peasant who used to cultivate them until he left, would shrivel up if a change occurred and they were watered by a strange hand.”

Haidar Eid

Associate professor of postcolonial
and postmodern literature at
al-Aqsa University.

What is the solution? 75 years
later, would a Palestinian state
mean anything now?



References

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