

Winner



The
Man
Booker
International
Prize
2019

Celestial Bodies

Jokha Alharthi



Winner of the Man Booker International Prize 2019

'A richly imagined, engaging and poetic insight into a society in transition and into lives previously obscured.'
-The Man Booker International Prize judges

Celestial Bodies by Jokha Alharthi, translated by Marilyn Booth, has won the Man Booker International Prize 2019.

PRAISE FOR CELESTIAL BODIES

- 'Fascinating.'
-The Guardian
- 'Brings a distinctive and important new voice to world literature.'
-The Irish Times
- 'Compelling.'
-Women In Translation
- 'Blends the rhythms of daily life with magic and legend.'
-Muhammad Barrada
- 'Delivers the reader immediately into the world of the marginal, forgotten, most subaltern sectors of society.'
-Ibrahim al-Hajari
- 'A beautifully written and very moving story.'
-Nicola Sturgeon



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jokha Alharthi is the author of two previous collections of short fiction, a children's book, and three novels in Arabic. Fluent in English, she completed a PhD in Classical Arabic Poetry in Edinburgh, and teaches at Sultan Qaboos University in Muscat. She has been shortlisted for the Sahikh Zayed Award for Young Writers and her short stories have been published in English, German, Italian, Korean, and Serbian.



ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Translated by Professor Marilyn Booth of the Oriental Institute and Magdalen College, Oxford University, who received a translation grant from the Anglo Omani Society.

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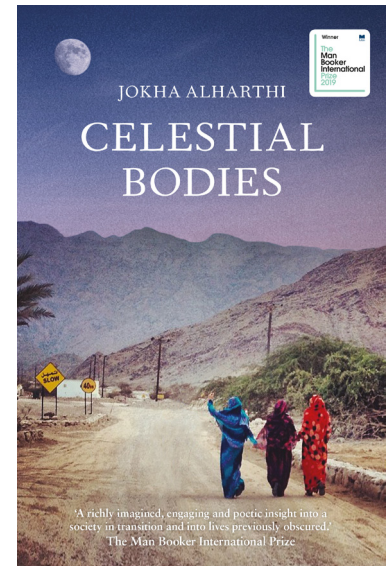
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ABOUT THIS BOOK

Celestial Bodies is set in the village of al-Awafi in Oman, where we encounter three sisters: Mayya, who marries Abdallah after a heartbreak; Asma, who marries from a sense of duty; and Khawla who rejects all offers while waiting for her beloved, who has emigrated to Canada. These three women and their families witness Oman evolve from a traditional, slave-owning society slowly redefining itself after the colonial era, to the crossroads of its complex present. Elegantly structured and taut, *Celestial Bodies* is a coiled spring of a novel, telling of Oman's coming-of-age through the prism of one family's losses and loves.

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Winner of the Man Booker International Prize 2019
- The first novel by an Omani woman to be translated into English
- Jokha Alharthi had a sold out event at Edinburgh International Book Festival, 2018
- Selected for Goodreads 'The Read Around the World' book club
- Translated from the original Omani novel Sayyidat al-Qamar
- Winner of The best Omani novel, 2010



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