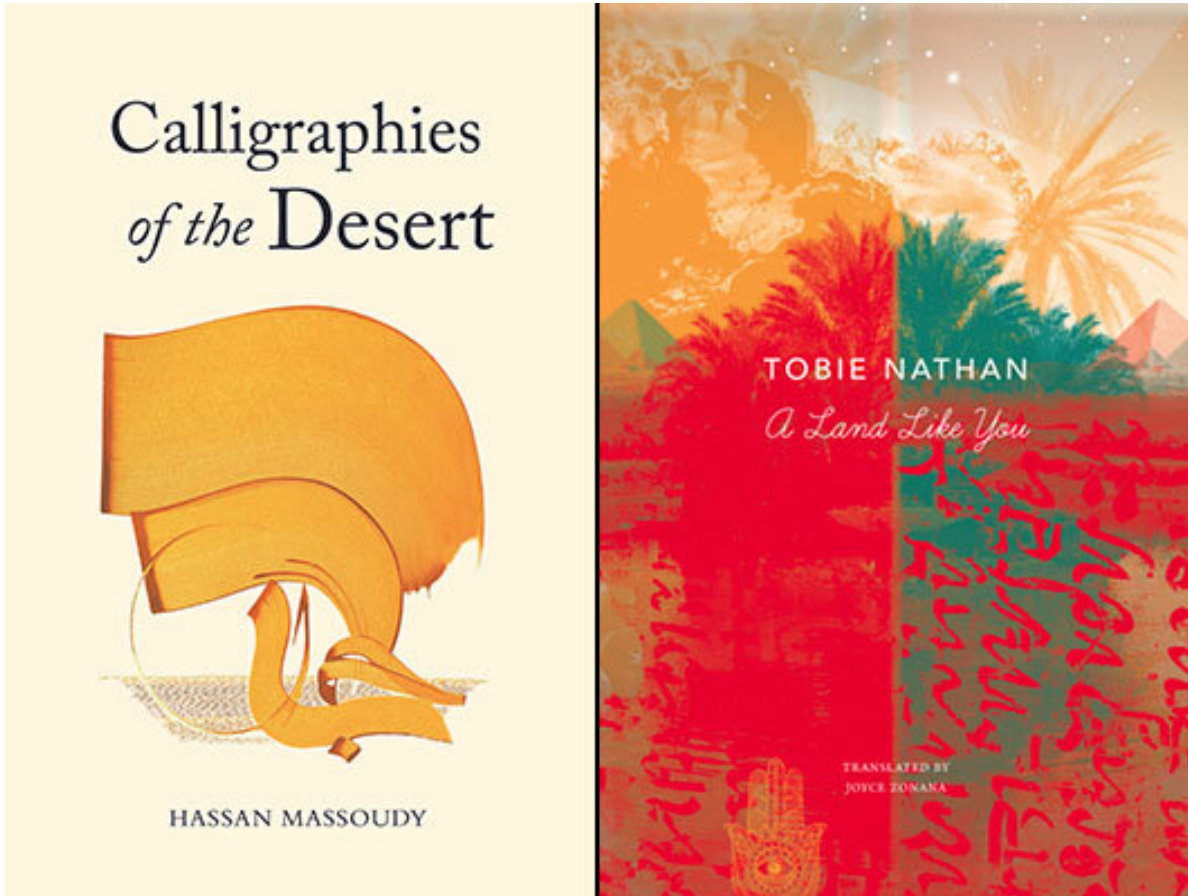


THE Markaz Review

TMR Newsletter 14 • December 28, 2020



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Hello Subscriber First Name!

What a year—a double whammy that came out of nowhere with a once-in-a-100-years pandemic and an economic collapse to almost (but not quite) rival the Great Depression. It's enough to warrant a *sheesh* and a *phen!* In any case I hope you've managed to enjoy the holidays and spend some quality time with family/friends either in person or online—I *know, it's not the same*, but these are unique circumstances, hopefully not to be repeated in our lifetimes.

Brighter lights and lighter times are ahead, friends, that's my gut instinct. Let us look toward the poets, the writers, the filmmakers, musicians, artists, comedians and other eccentrics, iconoclasts & visionaries, for inspiration and enlightenment.

Great timing by the way: There's a lot to read in TMR's fourth monthly issue, [*Homage to Small and Independent Presses*](#) (poetry, fiction & nonfiction), and this week we're offering you an **extra holiday gift** with a very special chapter, [**Cairo 1941: Excerpt from *A Land Like You***](#) by Tobie Nathan, translated by Joyce Zonana. Set in Cairo in the first half of the 20th century, the novel juxtaposes realistically rendered historical figures—among them King Farouk, Gamal Abdel Nasser, and Anwar Sadat—with vividly imagined fictional characters. Also new this week is a brief review of Iraqi artist Hassan Massoudy's latest book, [*Calligraphies of the Desert*](#), by Maece Seirafi.

I would be utterly remiss if I didn't remind you that **the end of the year is here, and we really, truly and without a doubt need your financial support to continue publishing The Markaz Review in 2021.** Please consider a tax-deductible contribution dated by 12/31/2020 (only 4 days left!). Kindly write TMR or The Markaz Review in the memo line of your check, make it payable to our fiscal sponsor, MPV, and the mail goes to MPV, 1626 Wilcox, Suite 702, Los Angeles CA 90028-6206.

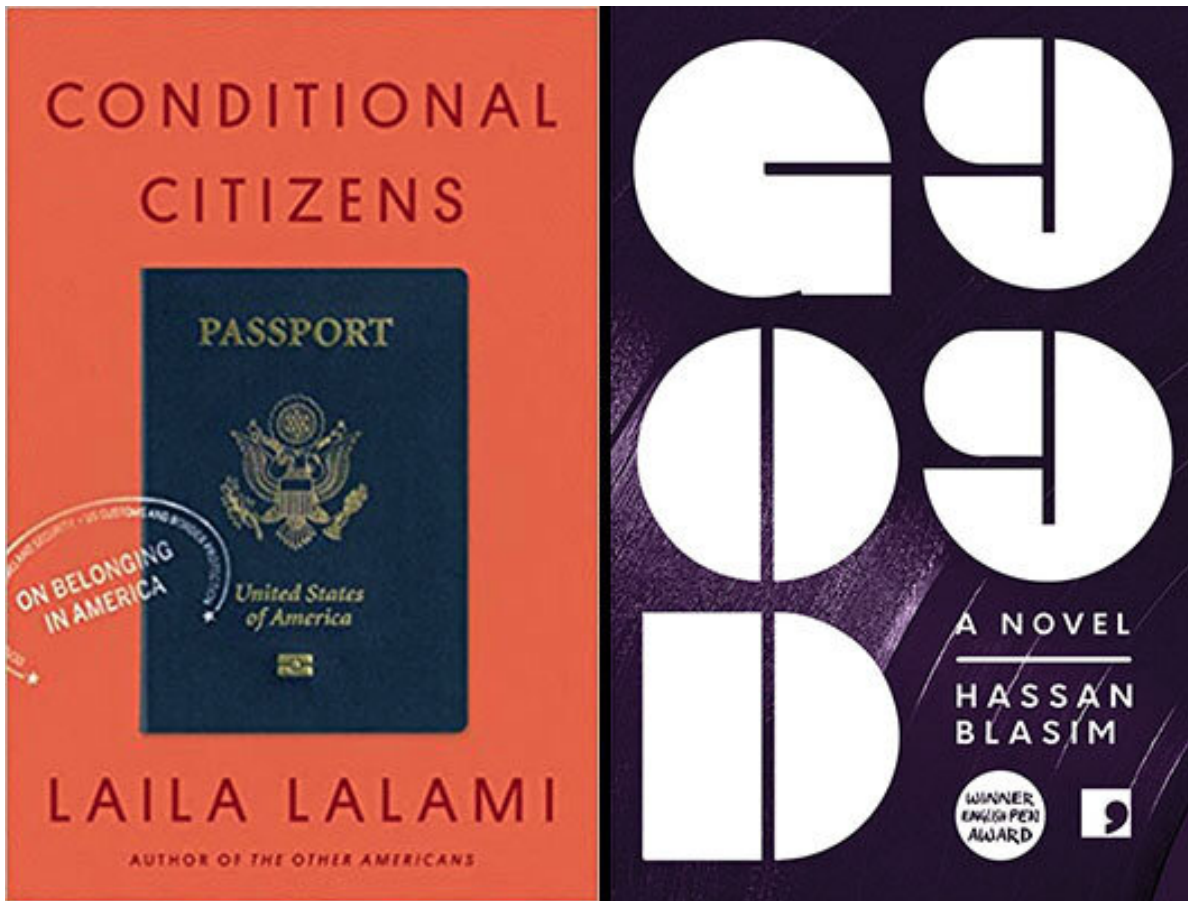
You can also choose to support with either a one-time or monthly contribution [online](#). Supporters will be treated to the new upcoming private membership section where special bonuses will become de rigueur.

Thanks for reading, sharing and [supporting TMR](#).

—Jordan Elgrably, Editor.

[See the TMR N.4 Table of Contents here.](#)

TMR 4 • Homage to Small and Independent Presses
+ Trembling Landscapes: Between Reality and Fiction: Eleven Artists from the Middle East*



TMR BookGroup January and February 2021 selections

[TMR BookGroup](#) is reading:

Most recently the BookGroup (free & open to all), read and discussed Ayad Akhtar's *Homeland Elegies* and Malu Halasa's *Mother of All Pigs*. In 2021 the BookGroup meets on Zoom every last Sunday of the month and will discuss Laila Lalami's *Conditional Citizens* on Jan. 31, 2021 and Hassan Blasim's novel *God 99* on Feb. 28, 2021.

[Go here](#) or to join the group, send an email to books@themarkaz.org.

[The Markaz Review Call for Submissions](#)

We welcome your queries—literary, creative, personal essays, reviews, interviews and columns. Query the editor@themarkaz.org.

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