

Chief Complaint

A Country Doctor's Tales of Life in Galilee

Hatim Kanaaneh

With these short stories, Hatim Kanaaneh explores the changing, precarious, and ever-shrinking world of Palestinians living in Israel. As his village's first Western-trained physician, Kanaaneh had intimate access to his neighbor's lives, and he chronicles them here in a fictionalized collection of vignettes. His cunningly crafted stories reveal the struggles, triumphs, memories, and hopes of the indigenous Palestinian community living in a state that neither acknowledges their past nor supports their future.

Following a diagnostic scheme used by physicians worldwide, each story is titled with the "chief complaint" of its protagonist. Taken together, the stories poignantly convey the indigenous Palestinian community's foundational chief complaint: its conflicted relationship with the state of Israel.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hatim Kanaaneh was raised in the Palestinian village of Arrabeh. After earning his medical degrees at Harvard University, he returned home to head the region's governmental health office and served as the only area physician. He helped establish The Galilee Society, an NGO addressing the health needs of the rural population. Kanaaneh documented those efforts in an earlier book, *A Doctor in Galilee: The Life and Struggle of a Palestinian in Israel* (Pluto Press, 2008). *Chief Complaint* is his first work of fiction.

ACCOLADES

"In this cleverly crafted novel, Dr. Hatim Kanaaneh, creates a dazzling tapestry of Palestinian life in the Galilee through a series of short stories told through a gateway of physical ailments, or 'chief complaints,' of his characters, who are also his patients. Each chapter is a portrait of a native son or daughter of the land struggling with the continuity of their indigenous society after coming under the foreign rule of conquering Zionists. In this captivating page turner, Dr. Kanaaneh reminds us that the Palestinians who remained after the Nakba are the essential part of the native society that gave a lie to the Israeli myth of 'a land without a people.'"

—Susan Abulhawa, author of *Mornings in Jenin* and *My Voice Sought the Wind*

"These vividly observed and always humourously recounted tales of a Palestinian doctor's labours are at once a medical compendium of suffering and, more significantly, a testament to the Palestinian community's will to endure and thrive in the face of oppression. Hatim Kanaaneh is a master storyteller, whose intimate portraits of village life contain far bigger truths about the Israeli Palestinian conflict than any dry political analysis."

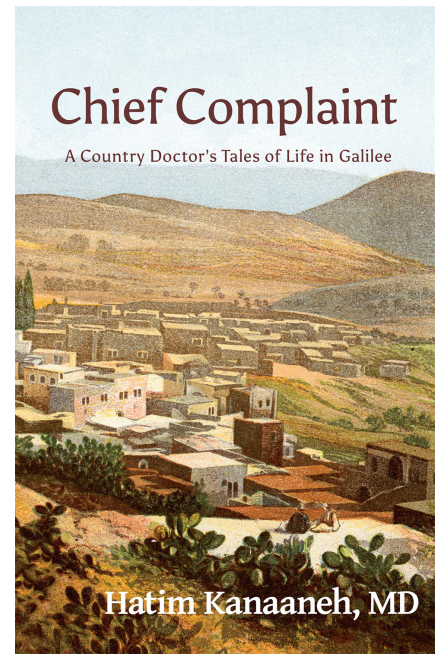
—Jonathan Cook, author of *Disappearing Palestine: Israel's Experiments in Human Despair*

"A deep and insightful portrait of a little-known community: the Palestinians citizens of Israel. No one can fail to be charmed by these intimate, first-hand accounts of illness and health in an Arab village living in the shadow of Israeli discrimination."

—Ghada Karmi, author of *Married to Another Man: Israel's Dilemma in Palestine*

"In the style of the enchanting tales from *One Thousand and One Nights*, Hatim Kanaaneh captivates the reader with his stories about his practice as a (Harvard-educated) village doctor in a traditional Arab town in Israel. *Chief Complaint* interweaves tales of illness and healing with loss of traditions and evolving family relationships. This gem of a book illustrates how social change and political discrimination and oppression are not only played out in the body politic, but also inside the bodies of the villagers."

—Bessel Van Der Kolk, author of *The Body Keeps the Score: Mind, Brain and Body in the Healing of Trauma*



SUBJECT CATEGORY
Fiction / History: Israel & Palestine

PRICE
\$20.99

ISBN
9781935982340

PAGE COUNT
256

SIZE
5.5 x 8.5

FORMAT
Paperback

PUBLICATION DATE
02/01/2015

US DISTRIBUTION
Publishers Group West
1-866-400-5351
www.pgw.com • ips@ingramcontent.com

CANADA DISTRIBUTION
Publishers Group Canada
1-800-663-5714
customerservice@raincoast.com

EUROPE DISTRIBUTION
IPS_International.Orders@ingramcontent.com

UK DISTRIBUTION
Turnaround Publisher Services Ltd
020-8829-3000 • orders@turnaround-uk.com

◆ **PM PRESS** ◆
P.O. Box 23912 • Oakland, CA 94623
www.pmpress.org • info@pmpress.org
510-703-0327

PM

PM Press is an independent, radical publisher of critically necessary books for our tumultuous times. Our aim is to deliver bold political ideas and vital stories to all walks of life and arm the dreamers to demand the impossible. Founded in 2007 by a small group of people with decades of publishing, media, and organizing experience. We're old enough to know what we're doing and young enough to know what's at stake.