

Vanished

The Mysterious Disappearance of Mustafa Ouda, Second Edition

Ahmed Masoud

An engaging and thought-provoking work by a writer deeply rooted in the continuing travails of the society he grew up in.

Omar, a young Palestinian in Gaza's largest refugee camp, spends his life searching for his long-vanished father, aided by his loyal friend, Ahmed. Omar soon finds himself precariously tangled in the many arms of Israel's violent occupation of Gaza in the 1980s and 1990s, as swirling tides of resistance arise, clash, and threaten to engulf it.

Vanished, first published by Rimal Books in Cyprus in 2015, is a powerful first novel from the British Palestinian writer, playwright, and theater director Ahmed Masoud. It was shortlisted for the MEMO Palestine Book Awards in London in 2015, where the awards jury described it as "fast-paced and compelling." It went on to win numerous plaudits from international media.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ahmed Masoud is a writer, poet, and director who grew up in Gaza, Palestine and moved to the UK in 2002, and the author of the novels *Vanished: The Mysterious Disappearance of Mustafa Ouda* and *Come What May*. He has written and directed numerous theater and radio dramas and founded and ran the Al Zaytouna Dance Theatre (2005–13), for whom he wrote and directed many productions that toured in the UK and Europe. His latest artistic initiative is called PalArt Collective.

ACCOLADES

"[A]n accomplished novel that, quietly and without didacticism, gets to the heart of the terrible sacrifices demanded of a people living in a state of permanent, unrelenting siege."

—*The New Internationalist*

"*Vanished* is a recommended read and Masoud's is a sensitive and intelligent voice. It tells a story that could play out well on the screen."

—Selma Dabbagh, the Electronic Intifada

"There are many bittersweet references to the idea of loss and return; the lost country, the lost father. The resolution of those themes, when it comes, towards the end of the novel, is both startling and unexpected."

—Rebecca Sowray, in *Louder Than War*

"Mixing a thriller story with the reality of life in the Palestinian occupied territories. *Vanished* is a novel which can be enjoyed by a wide public, not only by people interested in the Arab world."

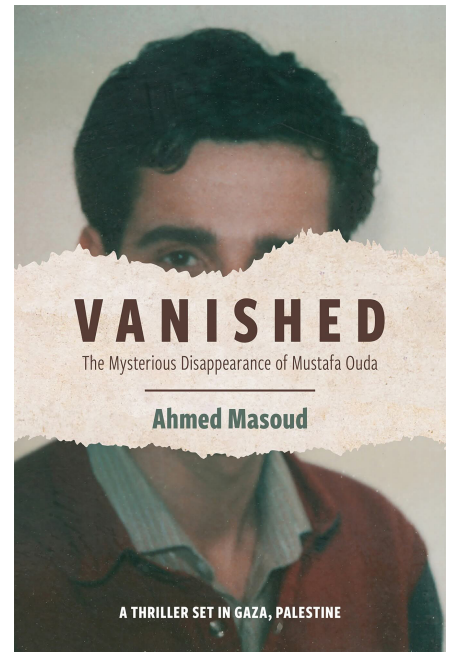
—*Banipal*

"Masoud is skillful at building up suspense; he drops no early hints of what happened to Omar's father."

—*The Jordan Times*

"It's hard to imagine how the characters in this book, like the residents of Gaza themselves, manage to lead normal lives in a very abnormal, besieged society."

—*Times of Israel*



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