



# These are not Oranges, My Love

*By Iman Mersal*

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**These are not Oranges, My Love** By Iman Mersal

“Mersal offers an exquisite daughter-to-father poem. Titled “The Clot,” this sequence radiates with a combination of tenderness, humor and anguish unmatched in contemporary Arabic poetry.”—From the Introduction by Khaled Mattawa

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## **These are not Oranges, My Love** By Iman Mersal Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

"Iman Mersal's singing of the dark shimmers; her charting of the cold warms at least this heart. She shows us how love exists against itself, how the human heart is often in conflict with its own nature, and how this imperfect state survives its own imperfections and rises to something resembling joy. Khaled Mattawa's translation should not only be commended on its fidelity, but its exceptional talent and sensitivity. He has once more confirmed himself to be one of the best translators of Arabic verse working today." —Hisham Matar

"In reading *These Are Not Oranges, My Love*, one encounters a rare sensibility, formed in a remote village near the sleeping snake of the Nile, on the streets of Cairo, and later in the snows of Alberta. Here is a poetry for the twenty-first century: a manual of survival, dispatches from *The City of the Dead* and *The Department of Antiquities*, reports from the front of body, dislocation and selfhood. Her disclosures are intimate, her proclamations surprising and there is nothing predictable about how she sees the world. However, it is in the vibrancy of her language that she signals the presence of a new and important poet among us. Khaled Mattawa has my gratitude for bringing her work across the bridge from Arabic to English." —Carolyn Forché

"A wonderfully odd and vivid mix of humor and pain, Mersal's work captures the contemporary complexities of an individual at a crucial point of cultural confluence, but also the timeless complexity of the poet trying to fit the world into words. Mattawa's translations bring all of this alive in an English so quick and natural that you forget that you're reading a translation. All in all, it's a real gift to contemporary poetry." —Cole Swensen

### **Review**

"My ignorance assumed, under no circumstances that I know of would Iman Mersal veil her face. But I know the beauty of her poetry is often in shadow, often almost hidden from the reader, suddenly revealed in bright Egyptian sunlight that hurts the eye and challenges the mind. Her publisher and English translation editor, we had one little quarrel. She thought the photograph she gave me on request was a little too true for the book – she wanted her face not to be seen so clearly. And so with alluring reluctance, her art connects the modern and traditional, sadly murderous Arabic worlds, the proud and shameful, past and present, her personal joy and suffering. It is a reluctance for which only a master could find the language." (Stanley Moss)

### **About the Author**

IMAN MERSAL was born in 1966 in the northern Egyptian Delta. She is the author of four books of poems in Arabic: *Characterizations*, *A Dark Alley Suitable for Dance Lessons*, *Walking As Long As Possible* and *Alternative Geography*. Iman Mersal immigrated to Canada in 1999. She is currently an assistant professor of Arabic at the University of Alberta.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

**Maria Macdonald:**

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive at this point, people have do something to make them survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a publication your ability to survive enhance then having chance to stand up than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading any book, we give you this These are not Oranges, My Love book as beginning and daily reading book. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

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