

BOOKS

RETURNING TO HAIFA

A tale of despair and hope amid the Palestinian catastrophe

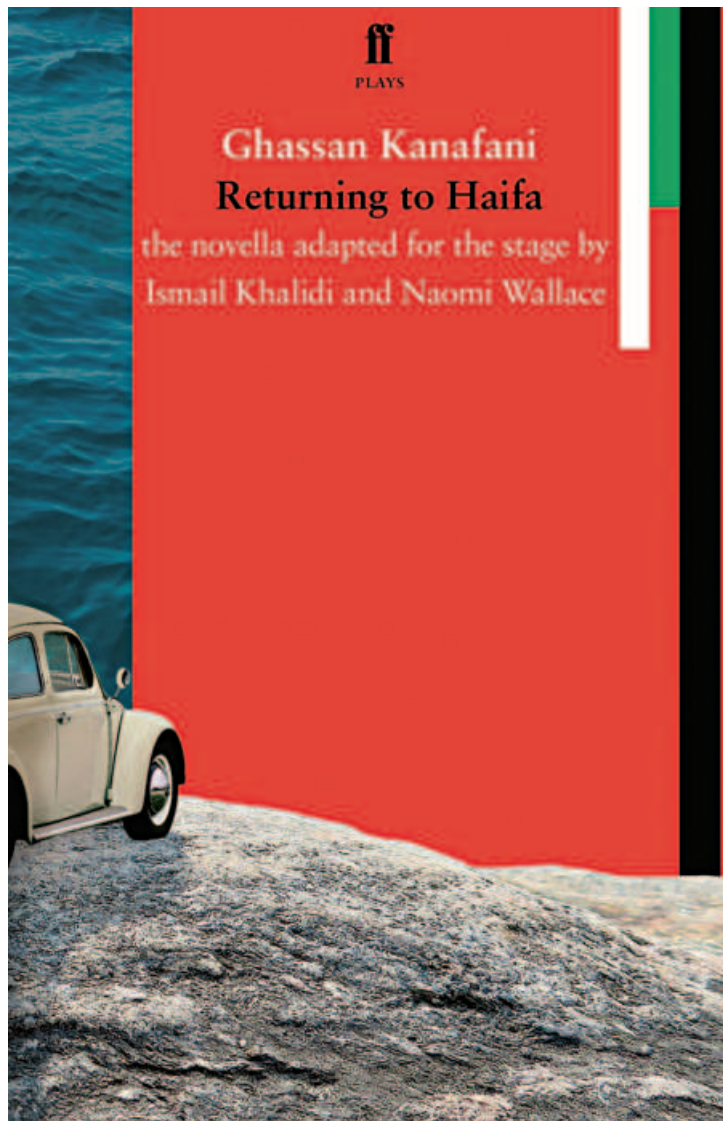
MD. NAYEEM HAIDER

What is a homeland? The place of your birth from which you have been expelled? A land that you once inhabited but can never be yours again? Is it the blood-soaked soil of charred villages and captured towns made empty of their inhabitants?

Such descriptions of a homeland barely begin to scratch the surface of Palestinian trauma. And yet, despite everything, can their homeland be more than a place of constant loss and suffering? Ghassan Kanafani, an icon of Palestinian resistance, tackles this existential question with thought-provoking nuance in his novella, *Returning to Haifa*.

The story follows Said and his wife Safiyya, two Palestinians who had to flee Haifa in the wake of the terrifying bloodshed of the Arab-Israeli War of 1948. To their unendurable sorrow and shame, in the chaos and confusion of that mad day, they had left behind Khaldun, their infant son, whom they were duty-bound to protect. This personal tragedy serves as an intimate allegorical representation of the much greater tragedy—the loss of Palestine and, with it, the hope and dignity of its displaced inhabitants.

Returning to Haifa, despite its short page count, fleshes out its characters with great detail. It takes the reader on a haunting journey through the shame of Palestinian defeat and subjugation and yet, simultaneously, displays with pride their inexhaustible resolve and unshakeable faith in the face of both catastrophe and setback.



LETTER

Dear Campus,
Starting university has been a rollercoaster ride so far. But honestly, it's not as bad as I thought it'd be. Initially, I thought it'd be hard to make friends and blend in but I can proudly say that I've met quite a few talented and interesting individuals. Academics haven't challenged me yet but that may be because I'm only starting out. However, the most hectic thing so far has been the schedule and the commute to campus. I have classes six days a week. Overall, it has been a mix of both good and bad but I can only hope it gets better.

Sincerely,
Kabid Shiam
1st year, Media, Communications, and Journalism
North South University

RESPONSE

Dear Kabid,
The beginning of your undergrad journey marks the start of a new chapter in your life. What makes it exciting are the boundless possibilities. There is no better time than now to explore and expand one's horizon. Through these new endeavours, you'll discover more about yourself and meet more people. However, try to have fun. Too often, we are told to stay focused while losing sight of what really matters to us. Going forward, it will continue to be a combination of "good and bad" but we hope the good propels you to new highs and outweighs the bad.

Regards,
Campus

OPPORTUNITIES

US Embassy – Global UGRAD: Fully funded, non-degree academic exchange program

ELIGIBILITY

Enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student in good standing at any accredited university



Has at least one year remaining at their home university at the conclusion of the Global UGRAD program;

Completed secondary education in their home country

A solid command of written and spoken English

Visit bd.usembassy.gov/30643/to-apply

DEADLINE: DECEMBER 15, 2023

BRAC – BRIDGE Internship Programme January 2024



ELIGIBILITY

Graduation from any discipline from any reputed university

Bachelor's degree or students at least in their last semester

Exposure to extracurricular activities preferred

Visit brac.net/bridge-internship-to-apply

DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 18, 2023

BJIT Ltd. – Intern (Business Development)

ELIGIBILITY

Age 22 to 26 years, only females



Good understanding of the latest marketing trends and techniques

Excellent verbal and written communication skills

Basic knowledge of LinkedIn and social media

Good academic results or highly skilled in English Writing

Visit jobs.bdjjobs.com-to-apply

DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 25, 2023

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