THIS YEAR’S FEATURED WORK

Exit West

Mohsin Hamid

What if there were secret doors connecting your country to others? What if we stopped guarding those doors? *Exit West* by Mohsin Hamid tells the story of two independent people, Nadia and Saeed, who make a connection in night school and fall in love. But their city descends into war, and soon they find themselves passing through one of the secret doors. Their story is about what it feels like to be uprooted and forced to “exit” your home to face the unknown. Will their connection survive in these new circumstances? Set against the backdrop of migrant lives and guided by compassionate intelligence, this beautiful novel inspires big thinking about what it means to be a global citizen.
Mohsin Hamid was born in 1971 in Lahore. His first novel, *Moth Smoke* (2000), told the story of an ex-banker and heroin addict in contemporary Lahore. It was published in 14 languages and became a cult hit in Pakistan, where it was made into a telefilm. His second novel, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* (2007), recounted a Pakistani man’s abandonment of his high-flying life in New York. Published in over 30 languages, it became a million-copy international bestseller and was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize. His third novel, *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia* (2013), was a love story and an exploration of mass-urbanization and global
Asia (2013), was a love story and an exploration of mass urbanization and global economic transformation—in the apparent guise of a self-help book. It won the Tiziano Terzani Prize, was shortlisted for the DSC Prize and Germany's International Literary Award. His fourth novel, Exit West, is a New York Times Bestseller and was a finalist for the Man Booker Prize.

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'Literature is not an action, it's a continent. A place in which we can get lost, be in exile, find a home, fall in love or be expelled. A place one can colonize, decolonize, migrate to, and from. Or just lay down on our backs and give names to the clouds.

Literature is like Planet Earth, in that we need it. But unlike Planet Earth, it also needs us to exist.'

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