

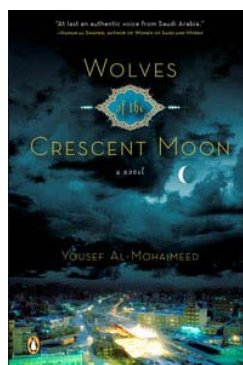
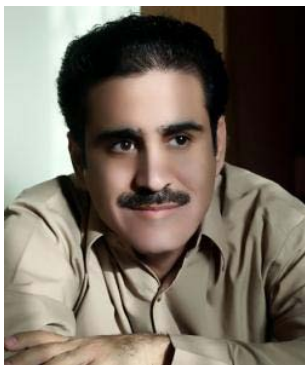
JAN MICHALSKI PRIZE FOR LITERATURE FINALIST 2010

Yousef Al-Mohaimeed ***Wolves of the Crescent Moon***

Following the trauma of losing an ear, Turad, a Saudi Bedouin, migrates to the city to try his luck. One day, he comes across a file left behind in a bus and he learns about the fate of a baby boy born out of wedlock and abandoned. In his revisits to his own past, he remembers meeting a Sudanese man, now in his sixties, a Sudanese brought to Saudi Arabia as a child and who then was castrated and turned into a slave. In his down and out existence, Turad meets dropouts and castaways, many of them having suffered mutilations of one sort or another: he has an ear missing; something is wrong with the face of the baby, now an adult and named Nasir ; the Sudanese man has no genitalia. In his itinerancy, Turad encounters immigrants living in the fringes of Saudi society, many of them inhumanely treated and savagely marginalized despite the petrodollar opulence.

This remarkable novel is unusual in its far-reaching indictment of the cruelty visited not only on immigrants living and working in Saudi Arabia, but also on the citizens of that country. No wonder this allegorical novel has so worried the authorities in Saudi Arabia that it is banned in the author's land.

Nuruddin Farah
Member of the Jury



Yousef Al-Mohaimeed
Wolves of the Crescent Moon
Novel
American University in Cairo 2007