

Monsieur Ibrahim and the Flowers of the Koran & Oscar and the Lady in Pink

By Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt

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Set in the 1960s in Paris' Jewish quarter, *Monsieur Ibrahim and the Flowers of the Koran* is about a troubled Jewish boy, Moses, or Momo, who strikes up an unlikely friendship with a solitary Muslim shopkeeper named Monsieur Ibrahim. Momo's hilarious yet heart-wrenching story begins when he loses his virginity in a bordello at the age of 11. Ibrahim offers Momo his ear and advice and gradually teaches the precocious boy that there is more to life than whores and stealing groceries. When Momo's father, a passive-aggressive lawyer who neglects his son's well being, disappears and is found dead, Ibrahim adopts the orphaned boy. The two decide to make a trip across Europe to the birthplace of Monsieur Ibrahim that brings them to the most important crossroads of their lives. As this deeply funny and exquisitely crafted plot unravels, it reveals how we learn the most essential lessons of life and death when we expect them the least.

Oscar and the Lady in Pink gives us an entirely different tale of love and courage. Oscar is ten years old and dying of leukemia. He knows that his bone marrow transplant has failed, but the only person in the hospital who will talk to him about dying is his beloved Mamie-Rose, an elderly volunteer who visits the sick children. When it becomes clear that Oscar's time is growing short, Mamie-Rose gives him an idea: he should pretend that every day he lives represents the passage of ten years, and at the end of each day he should write down his experiences as a letter to God so that he might feel less alone. With Mamie-Rose as his guide, Oscar begins an uplifting journey through days made fuller by the richness of his imagination and spirit.

Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt has given us two illuminating tales about suffering, love, compassion, and faith in both God and humanity. These stories are guaranteed to make readers laugh, cry, and stop to reflect on the grace and wonder that can be found in every heart.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
Those who believe that America has had an undue influence on France need look no further for evidence than the two short novellas collected here. Schmitt, a French writer making his English-language debut, has produced stories with the arc and tone of Hollywood tearjerkers. In the title novella, a Muslim shopkeeper befriends a lonely Jewish boy named Moses, aka Momo. Momo's mother vanished when he was young, and his father, a failed lawyer, stays around only long enough to tease Momo with stories of Popol, his supposedly perfect older brother. Ibrahim, the shopkeeper, takes Momo under his wing, instructing him about life, love and the old ways of a country he's left behind. Schmitt, an accomplished playwright, is clearly accustomed to having actors fill in the blanks in his work, because without them the characters remain as thin as cardboard, vague sketches of well-meaning intercultural understanding. The second novella, "Oscar and the Lady in Pink," repeats the tale of an abandoned boy and a surrogate parent, this time set in a hospital ward. Ten-year-old Oscar, a cancer patient known as the Bald Egg, turns to an elderly hospital volunteer named Mamie-Rose for comfort. As Oscar moves toward his inevitable end, he tries to build relationships, though fleeting, with those around him. While some of the scenes between Oscar and his fellow child-patients are genuinely moving, the overall conceit - the story is told in the form of letters to God - is so sentimental that it crushes the more subtle elements.
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From the Publisher
As movie goers will see in the film version of Monsieur Ibrahim and the Flowers of the Koran (Sony Pictures Classics, starring Omar Sharif in theaters February 2004), this novella is one of two illuminating tales about suffering, love, compassion, and faith in both God and humanity. These stories are guaranteed to make every reader laugh, cry, and stop to reflect on the grace and wonder that can be found in every heart.

About the Author
Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt

Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt's bestselling novels and plays have been produced in 35 countries. The stage adaptation of *Oscar and the Lady in Pink*, starring Danielle Darrieux, is an enormous success in Paris, and *Monsieur Ibrahim and the Flowers of the Koran* has been made into a motion picture starring Omar Sharif.

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Book is to be different for every single grade. Book for children until adult are different content. As you may know that book is very important normally. The book Monsieur Ibrahim and the Flowers of the Koran & Oscar and the Lady in Pink seemed to be making you to know about other expertise and of course you can take more information. It is rather advantages for you. The book Monsieur Ibrahim and the Flowers of the Koran & Oscar and the Lady in Pink is not only giving you much more new information but also to become your friend when you truly feel bored. You can spend your spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship together with the book Monsieur Ibrahim and the Flowers of the Koran & Oscar and the Lady in

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Benjamin Hoffman:

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Richard Graham:

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