

## 1: Review: Chicago by Alaa Al Aswany - Telegraph

*Alaa Al Aswany is the internationally bestselling author of The Yacoubian Building and Chicago. A journalist who writes a controversial opposition column, Al Aswany makes his living as a dentist in Cairo.*

Published in Egypt in as *Imarat Yaqubyan*, the novel has been a bestseller in Arabic. While Mahfouz had a greater success in English and French than in his mother tongue, the Arabic *Yacoubian* is now in its ninth edition. It has been filmed by Marwan Hamed with a care and expense unprecedented in the Egyptian cinema. Mahfouz set his novel in a poor working-class district, seeking to portray the changes wrought by the second world war, and the British Eighth Army, to sexual morals and long-lived social traditions. The *Yacoubian Building* unfolds in the former European quarter downtown at the time of the Gulf war. The *Yacoubian* building itself is a once-handsome art deco block on the boulevard known now as Talaat Harb, but here called by its old name of Suleiman Basha Street. With the opening of the country to foreign capital in the s, the downtown district became outmoded, and apartments in the building were let out as offices including the clinic where Alaa al Aswany first practised as a dentist. Whether in fact, or merely in fiction, old store-rooms on the roof of the building are rented in the novel to poor immigrants from the villages, so that Aswany manages to have both a middle-class apartment block and a teeming Mahfouzian alley in the air. The characters are a sort of compendium. On the roof, the shirtmaker Malak is working out a deep-laid plan to capture an apartment downstairs. When Taha proves too honest for the Police Academy, he drifts towards Muslim militancy and away from Buhayna, who is meanwhile finding that there are ways of making money out of men without ruining herself for the marriage market. If the characters, good and bad, educated or not, have a quality in common, it is a sort of big-city sophistication. The plotting is neat, the episodes are funny and sad, and there are deaths and weddings aplenty. For all the Mahfouzian decor - prostitution, hashish, homosexuality - there is none of the oddity, even clownishness, of character or the intensity of savour and texture of *Midaq Alley*. Mahfouz always doubted whether virtue could survive on an empty stomach. For Aswany, political probity and sexual virtue in Egypt have been obliterated by the British, the monarchy, the Nasserists, the clergy and now the nouveaux riches. As his unamiable political fixer Kamal el Fouli pronounces: The moment you take power, they submit to you and grovel to you and you can do what you want with them. Even Islamic militancy, or what the Egyptians call *gihad*, is just a drug like Black Label whisky or picking up police recruits or dope or groping young women on crowded buses in Tahrir Square. Yet Aswany is so good-natured that even his terrorist is allowed to enjoy, before his martyrdom, a paradisial marriage portrayed in the shimmering palette of *gihadi* bad taste. It is balanced by a wedding in a whisky bar, where a good-hearted French lady, a survivor of the good times, sings "La Vie en Rose". When Hagg Muhammad Azzam, desperate to protect his business interests, seeks a meeting with "the Big Man" at his cement Versailles, he is greeted not by a person but by a disembodied voice through a loudspeaker. The veil of power is intact.

## 2: Democracy is the Answer: Egypt's Years of Revolution - Alaa Al Aswany - Google Books

"Al Aswany writes about his Egyptian characters with charm, gentle humor, and genuine conviction." (New York Times Book Review) Read more From the Back Cover.

Eamonn McCabe What was your favourite book as a child and why? I thought it was fascinating and it had a very big influence on me. When you were growing up, were there books in your home? My father was a writer and a lawyer, and so he had many books. There was also a public library in the building where I lived, and as a kid I used to borrow books as well. Was there someone who got you interested in writing? I was his only child and so I was very close to him. When he was writing, I felt very excited about seeing him writing. He was still my father at this moment of writing, but he was also another person. He gave me books, and he discussed the books with me. What was the best advice given to you when you were starting out? By the time I was 19, I had already written some articles and my father told me: The day you discover that writing is no longer your first priority then you had better stop writing. I think people are born writers and they are lucky if they discover this. And I was lucky because I had a father who helped me along. Do you find writing easy? No, you see I am a writer and a dentist and I think writing is much more difficult than any other profession because you must be a hard worker and you must be devoted. You will never be able to do this unless you love writing more than anything else in life, and that was exactly the advice of my father. Does it get easier over time? No, it does not. It is as difficult as before; the problems just change. When you begin your career, you have a whole bunch of problems to face and then when you solve those, you discover new ones. What drives you to write now? You cannot stop writing. I believe the novelist is two persons at the same time. There is one person, who lives with other people and who does the things that other people do. And then, there is the novelist, who hides behind a very sensitive camera, noticing whatever they find exciting or interesting and keeping it for their writing. I am a novelist 24 hours a day. I always use the eyes of a novelist and I cannot imagine life without writing. What preparation do you do before you start to write? I write between 6. Friday is like Sunday in the west. Then, I work in the afternoons as a dentist for two to three days a week. Before , I had to work like any other dentist, but now I spend more time travelling because I have been translated into 21 languages and so I have to go almost everywhere in the world. What advice would you give to new writers? The most important thing is to be sure that you are talented. If you are sure you are, then you must ask yourself if you are willing to give up everything in life for writing. If the answer is yes, then you go and work hard and you will get what you want. But if you realise that you that you care about other things in life, then I think it is better not to waste time writing because you will never make it. Is there a secret to writing? There are secrets in any profession and the more you practice and get experience, the more you will know of its secrets. But in creative writing there are many mysterious aspects. For example, how the characters can become independent of you. This happens to me all the time. I see on the screen of my imagination, the characters doing what they decide to do, and I follow them. I cannot push them anymore, to do something that I want. What are you working on now? I am working on a novel set in Cairo in the s. It is going to deal with, the west and the Arab - cultural dialogue.

## 3: Books by Alaa Al Aswany (Author of Ø`ÙŠÙfØ§Ø-Ù`)

Alaa Al Aswany has 27 books on Goodreads with ratings. Alaa Al Aswany's most popular book is Ø`ÙŠÙfØ§Ø-Ù`.

## 4: Review: The Yacoubian Building by Alaa al Aswany | Books | The Guardian

*The Yacoubian Building.* by Alaa al Aswany. pp, Fourth Estate, £ The Yacoubian Building is the sort of dense neighbourhood novel which, though quite out of style when set in London or.

## 5: Results for Alaa-Al-Aswany | Book Depository

*Alaa al-Aswany (Arabic: ﺃﻟﺔ ﺃﺳﻮﺍﻧﻲ ﺃﻟﻲ ﺃﺳﻮﺍﻧﻲ), Egyptian Arabic (Masri) "ﺃﻟﺔ ﺃﺳﻮﺍﻧﻲ ﺃﻟﻲ ﺃﺳﻮﺍﻧﻲ" (born ) is an Egyptian writer, and a founding member of the political movement Kefaya.*

### 6: About | NYC | Alaa Al Aswany's Creative Writing Workshop

*Alaa Al Aswany interviewed by Jonathan Heawood, English PEN at the London Book Fair, , podcast Watch a video interview with Alaa al Aswany talking about Chicago on The Interview Online Interview with Alaa al Aswany at the World Book Club.*

### 7: The Yacoubian Building - free PDF, CHM, EPUB, FB3

*Alaa Al Aswany. Photograph: Eamonn McCabe What was your favourite book as a child and why? When I was a child, I studied at a French school, and I loved La Fontaine's Fables about animals. I.*

### 8: Alaa Al Aswany - Wikipedia

*These disparate lives careen toward an explosive conclusion in Alaa Al Aswany's remarkable international bestseller. Teeming with frank sexuality and heartfelt compassion, this book is an important window on to the experience of loss and love in the Arab world.*

### 9: The Yacoubian Building (Alaa Al Aswany) - book review

*Alaa Al Aswany is a staggeringly brave person. He is also, as I have learned by reading this book, a gifted novelist whose fiction brings us more closely than many of us might like to present day facts.*

*Filetype pocket guide to public speaking Work, Family, and Leisure How high the moon diane reeves sheet music Mary balogh ligeiramente perigoso The design and analysis of parallel algorithms selim g.akl Brauer: oils, gouaches, watercolours, and etchings. Terminological clarification Whats right with feminism An insulated community? the community institutions and the Cold War, 1965-1970 8 GOLDEN SECTION SITES 215 Up Close with the Spirit (Gameday Devotions) Atonement (Matthew 13:31-33 and Lk. 13:18-21) Chicago and the cat at the county fair Camilla Chameleon Embroidered Alphabets The history of Rasselas, Prince of Abissinia The little green avocado book The treasure of the seas An invitation to indian cooking The impact of international diversification Human trafficking in vietnam SpongeBob LovePants Oxford encyclopedia of global change Memorial address by Daniel Goodwin, Jr. Deming books the new economics Dreams from his mother Anne of Green Gables A Little Princess Analog integrated circuit design 2nd edition international student version Nanomechanical cantilever biosensors : conceptual design, recent developments, and practical implementati Black, white, and in color Key titles for integrating celebrations and holidays into the social studies curriculum Descriptive time table of the tour of Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York ac Mark levine the jazz theory book espaÃ±ol Holsters for Combat and Concealed Carry Pattern electric guitar Essential of Vietnams business law Food safety: Oversight of the FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine Franciscan missionaries in Hispanic California, 1769-1848 Beverly Hills, 90210 factfile The children of Egypt*