

# THE CLOTHESLINE SWING

Ahmad Danny Ramadan



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*'A remarkable read. Danny Ramadan opens a world for his readers and guides them through it with sensitivity and suspense.'*  
Bernhard Schlink, author of #1 New York Times Bestseller *The Reader*

## The epic story of two lovers anchored to the memory of a dying Syria

*'When I was a boy, I used to write stories to save my own life; now I'm telling you those same stories in hopes of saving yours...'*

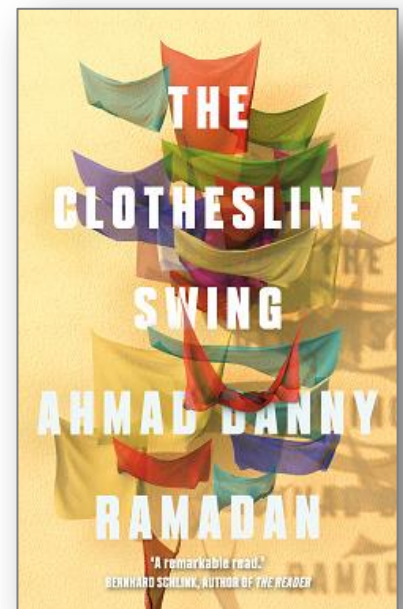
Two elderly men lie on a bed in a house in Vancouver. One is clinging to the last bit of life left inside him. The other, his lover, nearly eighty years old, recounts the fading memories of a life and a love forged urgently and passionately amid the tension of war-torn Damascus.

*'Tell me a story' you say.*

Hakawati, the storyteller, prolongs their precious time together by relaying remembered fables to his dying partner. Each night he weaves stories of his childhood in Old Damascus, of the cruelty he has endured for his sexuality, of his disturbed and spiteful mother, of running away from home, of the tyranny of war, of his fated meeting with his lover. He says, 'Every stage of my life feels like the story of a different man, each one a man I don't know well.'

Meanwhile Death himself, in his dark cloak, shares the house with the two men, eavesdropping on their secrets as he awaits their final undoing.

*The Clothesline Swing* is an enthralling tale of love and courage that weaves through the mountains of Syria, the valleys of Lebanon, the encircling seas of Turkey, the heat of Egypt and finally, to the hope of a new home in Canada. Permeated with the spirit of *One Thousand and One Nights*, this inventive story of love and darkness is a truly magical debut – brave and bold, it sparkles with life.



*'By turns sombre, fantastical, violent and tender, Ahmad Danny Ramadan's English-language debut is a gay son's conflicted love letter to Syria...'*  
The Globe and Mail



**Ahmad Danny Ramadan** is a Syrian-Canadian author, public speaker, storyteller and an LGBTQ-refugee activist. His debut novel, *The Clothesline Swing*, was published to acclaim in Canada in 2017. It won Canada's 2018 Independent Publisher Gold Medal for LGBT Fiction, and was shortlisted for the 2018 Lambda Award for Gay Fiction, among numerous other accolades.

Danny will be in the UK for event and media appearances from May 20th to May 24th  
[www.dannynamadan.com](http://www.dannynamadan.com)

For further information, review copies and interview requests please contact:

Sue Amaradivakara: [sue@prcollective.co.uk](mailto:sue@prcollective.co.uk) / +447786 626492 · Katherine Stroud: [kstroudpr@gmail.com](mailto:kstroudpr@gmail.com) / +447780112964

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### **About The Indigo Press**

The Indigo Press is an independent publisher of fiction and creative non-fiction, headquartered at the legendary John Murray building in London. Founded in 2017 by Susie Nicklin and Publishing Director Allah Wakatama Allfrey, it brings together a conversation-starting curation of books offering bold ideas and beautifully crafted stories from around the world.

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### **About the MILD Group**

Founded by CEO Susie Nicklin, MILD brings together a dynamic portfolio of book businesses that include award-winning independent bookshop Dulwich Books (founded in 1982), long established international rights specialists The Marsh Agency (founded in 1994), publishing house The Indigo Press (founded in 2017), and Live Lit, a thriving year-round programme of events that includes three literary festivals. Each business operates individually whilst sharing expertise across their teams, for an enterprising approach to publishing from acquisition to retail and promotion.

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