



# DE NIRO'S GAME



AUTHOR: RAWI HAGE  
PUB DATE: 2ND JULY 2007  
PRICE: £11.99  
ISBN: 9781905847228  
FORMAT: TRADE PAPERBACK  
RIGHTS: UK AND COMMONWEALTH  
EXTENT: 288 PAGES  
CATEGORY: LITERARY FICTION

WINNER: THE McAUSLAN FIRST BOOK PRIZE  
WINNER: THE PARAGRAPH HUGH  
MacLENNAN PRIZE

FINALIST: THE GILLER PRIZE  
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With his brilliant first novel, Rawi Hage plunges us into his breathtaking, timely, moving and genre-defying novel about two young men trying to survive war in Beirut, Lebanon, during the civil war of 1984.

Childhood best friends, Lebanese Christian boys Bassam and George are faced with two choices for survival: to leave their home and take a chance in a foreign city, or join the corrupt militia and gain a foothold in Beirut. Bassam becomes obsessed with leaving Beirut, and commits a series of petty crimes to fund his flight. George amasses power in the militia-ruled underworld, and lives a life of violence and crime for profit. Inevitably, their separate paths collide, explosively and tragically.

De Niro's Game illuminates civil-war era Lebanon, and in doing so sheds some light on an Arab world that is often misunderstood here in the West. Through flesh-and-blood characters, a gut-wrenching plot, and incandescent language Hage manages to get at the truth through his extraordinary work of fiction, which has the power to transcend the media images of the Middle East.

*'As if the TV screen suddenly dissolved and you found yourself drawn inside the Lebanon war in all its three dimensions. Vivid, dreamy prose. A fabulous book.'* Linda Grant, winner of The Orange Prize

Rawi Hage was born in Beirut, Lebanon, and lived through nine years of the Lebanese civil war. He emigrated to Canada in 1992. He is a writer, visual artist, and curator. His writing has appeared in numerous journals, and his visual art has been shown in galleries and museums around the world. Rawi Hage lives in Montreal.

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