

## Mohamed “Moe” Shalabi

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**AGENT:** Kat Kerr, The Donald Maass Literary Agency

**BIO:** I’m a Pushcart nominated, Tin House workshopped Palestinian-American author of literary and speculative fiction. My stories, both short and longform, are inspired by my diverse background and upbringing in the Middle East. I am currently working on a fantasy novel that pits the kingdoms of the mystical Jinn against one another, written in the style of *A Game of Thrones*. Additionally, I’m drafting various near-future science fiction projects that deal with fresh topics in the genre, as well as exploring other speculative ideas such as horror rooted in my culture. When I’m not working on my multitude of manuscripts, I work as a full-time consultant in Washington, D.C.

### PUBLICATIONS

- *The Coward’s Gambit* (F) – Palestine Writes (November 2024)
- *Hereafter Inc.* (SF) – Hyphen Punk Issue #9 (October 2023)
- *The Bayk’s Zar* (F) – Superstition Magazine Issue #30 (October 2022)
- *Money Dump* (F) – Reed Magazine Issue #155 (May 2022)
- *The Embroideress* (F) – Zoetic Press (December 2021)
- *Krauthammer’s One-sided Israeli History* (NF) – The Washington Post (October 2016)
- *Palestina* (F) – The Nonbinary Review (July 2015)

### WRITING ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Passport of Witness – July 2024**  
Published an article in the *Passport of Witness* project that was acquired by several art institutions and exhibits across the country, including Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, Stanford University, Tufts, Amherst, and Brown.
- **Tin House Summer Workshop, Portland, OR – July 2024**  
Entered the highly competitive workshop with my literary fiction project under the tutelage of Zaina Arafat, author of *You Exist Too Much*.
- **Novel Bookcamp Workshop, Milwaukee, WI – June 2024**  
Awarded a scholarship to attend the Novel Bookcamp Workshop in Wisconsin to workshop my adult fantasy which received massive acclaim from the writing instructors consisting of traditionally published authors, literary agents, and literary magazine editors.
- **Futurescapes Writing Workshop – November 2023**  
Received acceptance from the competitive Futurescapes workshop for my adult fantasy novel. The workshop, which is catered to authors of speculative fiction, was led by traditionally published authors and publishing professionals (agents and editors) and helmed by author R.F. Kuang of *The Poppy Wars* series.

- **Margins Writing Conference, Denver, CO – August 7, 2022**  
Leading a writing workshop entitled *Stranded in Submission Limbo: A Different Type of Torment* wherein I discuss the process of submitting a manuscript to publishing houses and how to cope with the lengthy waiting periods and rejection. I will also provide best practices to combat imposter syndrome during the submission process.
- **AWP Writing Conference, Philadelphia, PA – March 23-26, 2022**  
Co-lead a panel entitled *Agented and On-Submission: A Special Kind of Torture*. During the panel, I read a sample of my own manuscript and offered advice on how to survive the submission process and how to work on the next project while waiting for responses from Editors.
- **Agent Moe YouTube Channel – January 1, 2021-Present**  
Scripted and filmed several episodes of a YouTube series aimed at unraveling the publishing world. I filmed videos on writing query letters, using comparable titles, word counts and proper novel lengths based on genre, and delineated how to find literary agents. Efforts to continue the channel are ongoing.
- **Writing for Games – September 2020**  
Attended classes mentored by world-known narrative designer Susan O'Connor (Tomb Raider, Bioshock). Authored scripts for speculative games. Developed Twine narratives using creative writing techniques.
- **Netflix MESSIAH – July 2016 – December 2019**  
Consulted the show writer on language and tradition-specific sections of the script. Conducted comprehensive research on multiple topics pertaining to the Levant region of the Middle East, specifically Israel/Palestine for the Netflix show MESSIAH. Gathered a list of important suggestions and changes that could improve particular scenes, especially culturally problematic ones. Correctly translated common phrases and idioms into Arabic and Palestinian dialect. Offered extensive suggestions on inquiries of lifestyle, history, politics and religions in the MENA region.
- **Talcott Notch Literary Agency (Junior Agent) – November 2016-June 2017**  
Reviewed unsolicited and solicited manuscripts for publication as a junior literary agent. Compiled a successful marketing plan for the book. Requested and evaluate query letters from possible clients for representation. Wrote reader's reports on completed manuscripts and book proposals.
- **Folio Literary Agency – June-December 2016**  
Reviewed unsolicited and solicited manuscripts for publication as an intern. Compiled a successful marketing plan for nonfiction books. Wrote reader's reports on completed manuscripts and book proposals. Compiled lists of potential ideas for nonfiction proposals. Communicated with clients to facilitate signing of agency contracts.
- **Raya Literary Agency – January-August 2015**  
Reviewed unsolicited and solicited Arabic-language manuscripts for publication as an intern. Wrote reader's reports on completed manuscripts and book proposals.

## **AWARDS & MENTORSHIPS**

- Tin House Summer Workshop Alumnus (2024) – *Mentored by Zaina Arafat, You Exist Too Much.*
- **The Writing Barn Rainbow Weekend Intensive (2019)** – Mentored by Amy Rose Capetta, Cory McCarthy, and literary agent Jim McCarthy.
- **AWP Writer to Writer Mentorship Program (2017)** – Mentored by the author Neil Connelly.
- **Pushcart Prize Nomination (2015)** – *Palestina*

## EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, TX  
M.S., Applied Cognition and Neuroscience

**May. 2016**  
GPA: 3.76

The University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, TX  
B.S., Neuroscience & Brain Sciences

**Dec. 2012**  
GPA: 3.93