



**British Nobel  
Laureates for  
Literature in the  
21st Century.**

Emilia Gałka

# V.S. Naipaul



V.S. Naipaul, in full Sir Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul, born in 1932, August 17, is a Trinidadian writer of Indian descent known for his pessimistic novels set in developing countries.

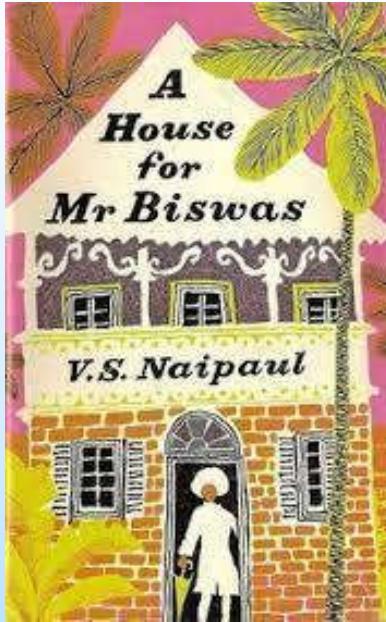
His literary works are mainly novels and short stories. They are contemporary social and political works dealing with the problems of India and Central and South American countries. He has been writing only in English. He recalled that his true homeland was English.

Descended from Hindu Indians who had immigrated to Trinidad as indentured servants, Naipaul left Trinidad to attend the University of Oxford in 1950. After completing his education, he worked for the BBC as a presenter from 1954 to 1956 and as a full-time fiction critic for the New Statesman from 1957 to 1961.

He settled in England, although he travelled extensively thereafter visiting Asia, Africa and both Americas.



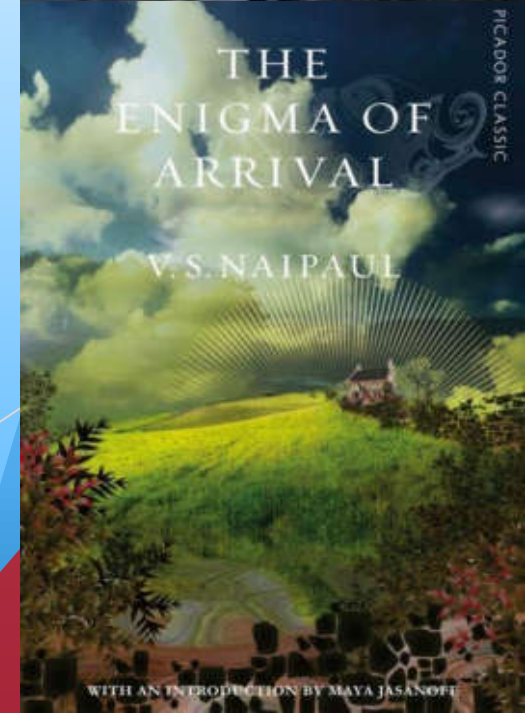
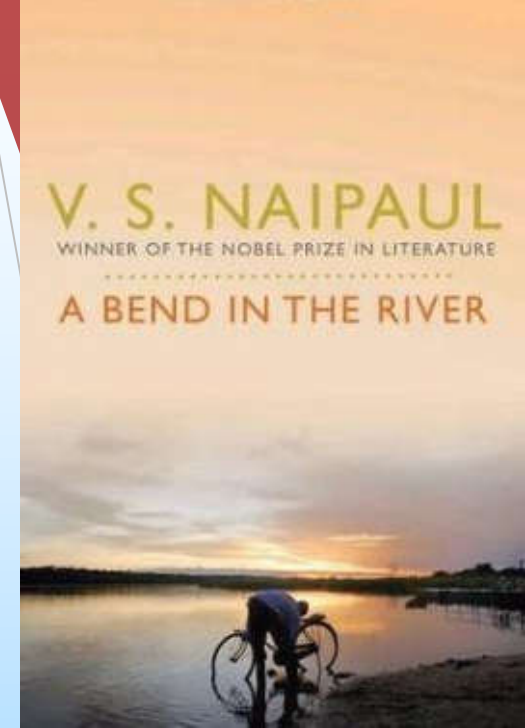
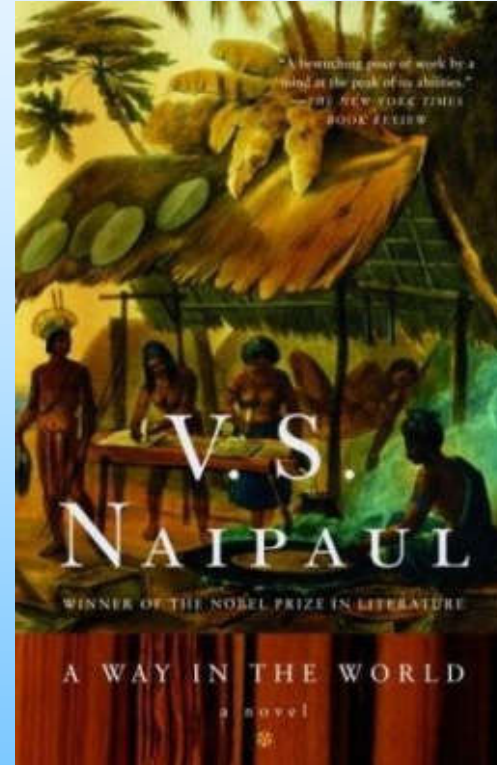
**New  
Statesman**



His earliest books - 'The Mystic Masseur' (1957), 'The Suffrage of Elvira' (1958) and 'Miguel Street' (1959) are ironic and satirical accounts of life in the Caribbean. His fourth novel, 'A House for Mr Biswas' (1961), also set in Trinidad, was a much more important work and won him major recognition. It centres on the main character's attempt to assert his identity and establish his independence as symbolized by owning his own house.



Naipaul's later works are increasingly pessimistic in tone. They contain records of the search for identity after leaving his homeland. Some works, such as 'Guerrillas' (1975) or 'A Bend in the River' (1980), are political, while, for example, 'The Enigma of Arrival' (1987), 'A Way in the World' (1994) – autobiographical.



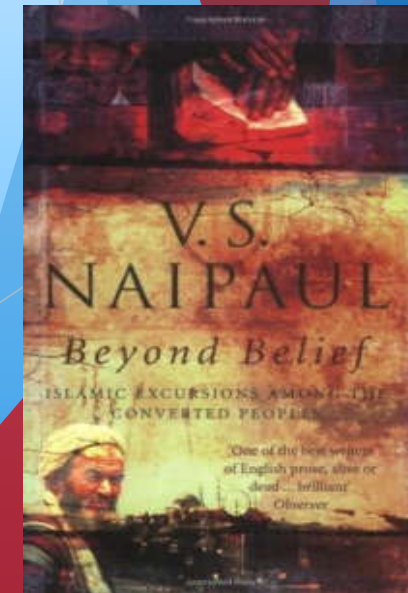
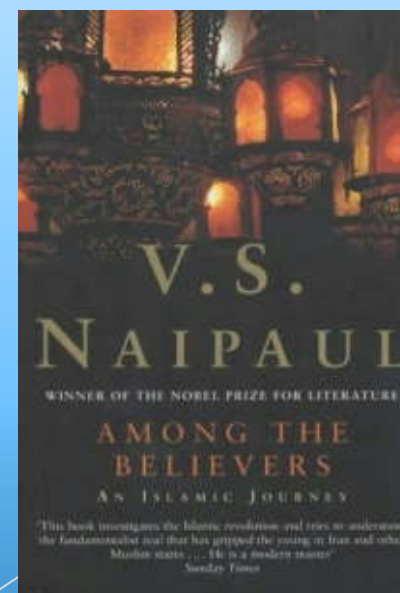
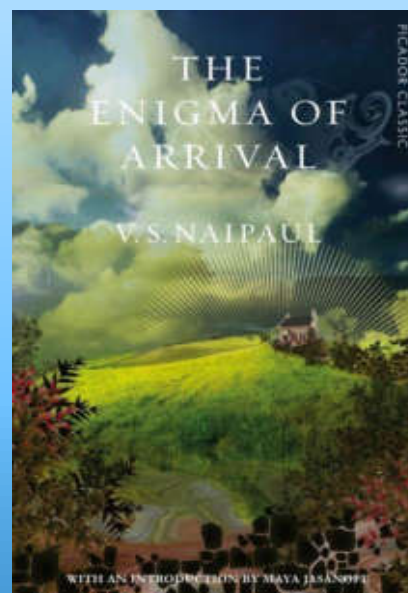
Naipaul takes an insightful look at Europe both from the perspective of Third World cultures and at those circles of civilization from a Westerner's point of view.



He has won many awards, including the Booker Prize (1971), the T.S. Eliot Prize (1986), and the David Cohen Award (1993). In 1990 he received a knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II.

In 2001, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. In his books 'Among the Believers' and 'Beyond Belief' he drew attention to the negative influence of Islamic fundamentalism on politics and social life in these countries.

In its justification, the Committee stated that it had awarded the prize for a unified point of view and incorruptible research that compel us to recognize the presence of a silent history.





Nobel laureate in literature V.S. Naipaul received a diploma, a medal and a check for 10 million Swedish kronor from the King of Sweden.



V.S. Naipaul passed away in 2018.



# Harold Pinter

Harold Pinter is a British playwright, screenwriter, director and actor. He was born on October 10, 1930, in London. He studied acting at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, but after some time he left to join as a professional actor. Pinter toured Ireland and England performing under the pseudonym David Baron. Harold Pinter is also known for his fight for human rights.

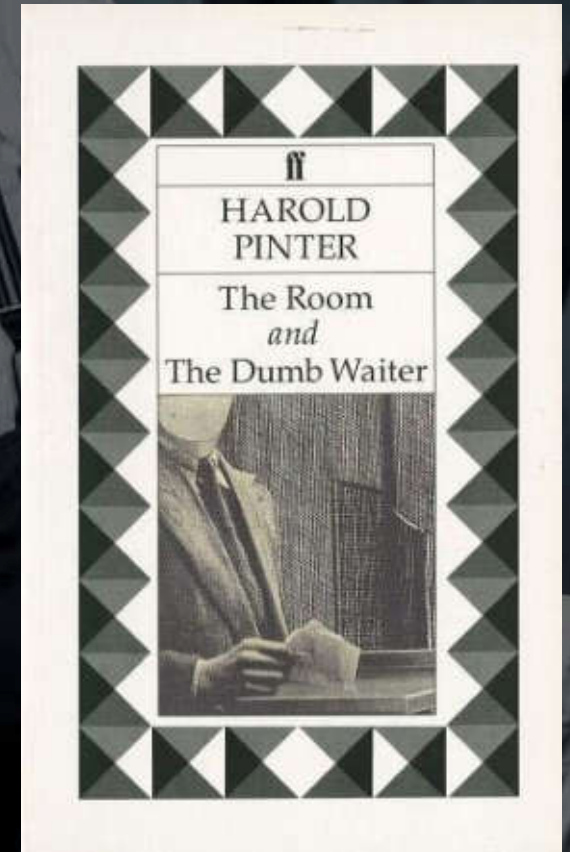


Pinter was also the creator of the so-called 'comedy of menace', which exposes the seeming nature of communication between people and man's helplessness in the face of both the outside world and his subconscious. His plays are known for their use of understatement and silence to convey the essence of a character's thoughts. His style, by now called Pinter's, has entered the language of art permanently. It is synonymous with something full of tension and understatement.

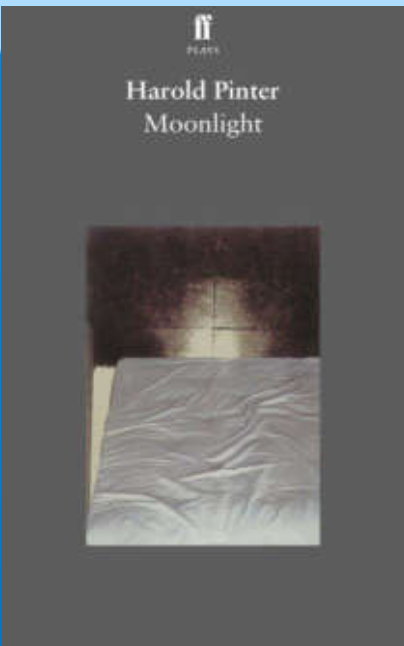


Frame from the play 'The Room'

His first play, 'The Room', was performed by students at the University of Bristol in 1957. This play and "The Dumb Waiter" are one-act dramas that established the mood of comic horror that was to appear mainly in his later works.



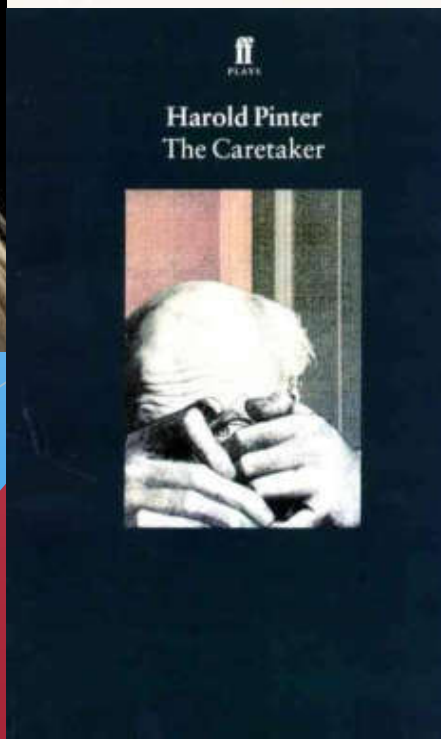
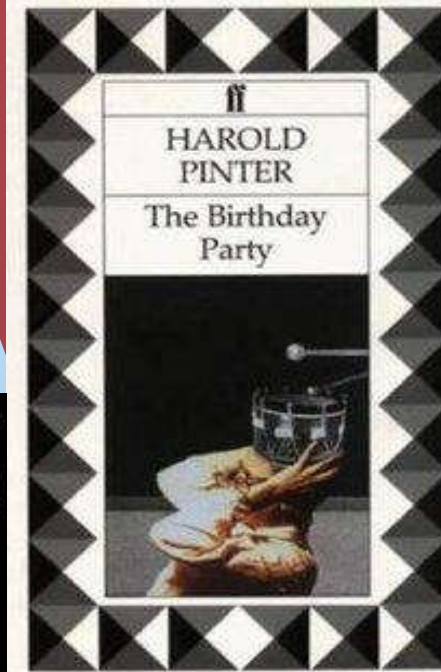
Pinter's second play, 'The Birthday Party' (1958), was not a success, despite a positive review in The Sunday Times. However, after the success of 'The Caretaker' (1960), 'The Birthday Party' was again played in theatres and was positively received.



Harold Pinter is the author of more than 30 plays, including 'The Birthday party', 'The Caretaker', 'The Lover' and 'Moonlight'. Pinter's dramas, especially those from the 1950s and 1960s, show people in absurd situations. It is often shown how the lives of ordinary people can suddenly turn into a nightmare.



Poster from the Polish production of 'The caretaker'



He became an associate director of the Royal National Theatre in 1973. His later plays were shorter, repeatedly recognised as allegories of oppression. Harold Pinter was twice nominated for an Academy Award (Oscar) in the category of the adapted screenplay (for 'The French Lieutenant's Woman', based on the novel by John Fowles - 1981 and 'Betrayal' - 1983).



In 2005 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature for uncovering the chasm beneath everyday talk and forcing entry into closed spaces of oppression.





Statue of Franz Kafka

In 2005 he also received the Franz Kafka Award, which honours contemporary writers who address their work to all readers regardless of their background, nationality, religion or culture.

In January of the same year, Pinter announced that he was giving up writing plays because he had decided to become involved in political activity.

Harold Pinter died in December 2008.



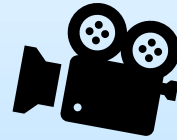
# Doris Lessing

Doris Lessing is a British writer whose novels and short stories are largely concerned with people involved in the social and political upheavals of the 20th century. She was born on 22.10.1919. Her prose is deeply autobiographical, and a large part of her novels and short stories are set in Africa.





In 1956 Lessing was banned from entering Southern Rhodesia and South Africa because of her views. Her work includes dozens of novels, essays and short stories, mainly with psychological and moral themes. Two of them have been filmed.

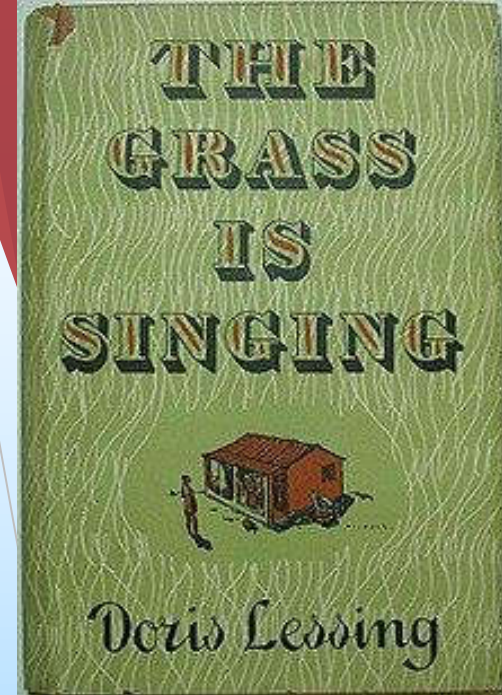
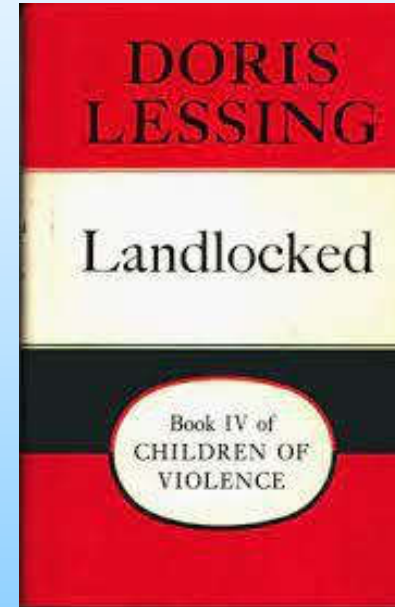


In her early adult years, she was an active communist.

In 'Pursuit of the English' (1960) tells of her initial months in 'England and Going Home' (1957) describes her reaction to Rhodesia on a return visit. In 1994 she published the first volume of an autobiography, 'Under My Skin'.

Her first published book, 'The Grass Is Singing' (1950), is about a white farmer and his wife and their African servant in Rhodesia. Among her most substantial works is the series 'Children of Violence' (1952–69), a five-novel sequence that centres on Martha Quest, who grows up in southern Africa and settles in England.

Doris Lessing



DORIS  
LESSING

THE MEMOIRS OF A SURVIVOR

'Original and astonishing...her most remarkable book'  
NEW STATESMAN



DORIS  
LESSING

THE GOLDEN NOTEBOOK

'Euphoric, exhilarating, full of promise and provocation.'  
VOGUE



Alfred  
&  
Emily



DORIS LESSING

Winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature 2007

The second period is more psychological. It includes

'The Golden Notebook' (1962), in which a woman writer attempts to come to terms with the life of her times through her art, is one of the most complex and the most widely read of her novels.

The third period is the time of the inspiration of science fiction. For instance, 'The Memoirs of a Survivor' (1975) is a prophetic fantasy that explores psychological and social breakdown.

Doris  
Lessing



the  
*Sweetest  
Dream*

'It would be hard to exaggerate  
the splendour of this book' (THE TIMES)



On 11 October 2007, Doris Lessing was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, justifying her choice with the statement saying that her epic prose is an expression of women's experiences. She presents them with a certain distance, and scepticism, but also with fire and visionary power. She was the oldest person to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

She died on 17 November 2013 in London at the age of 94.

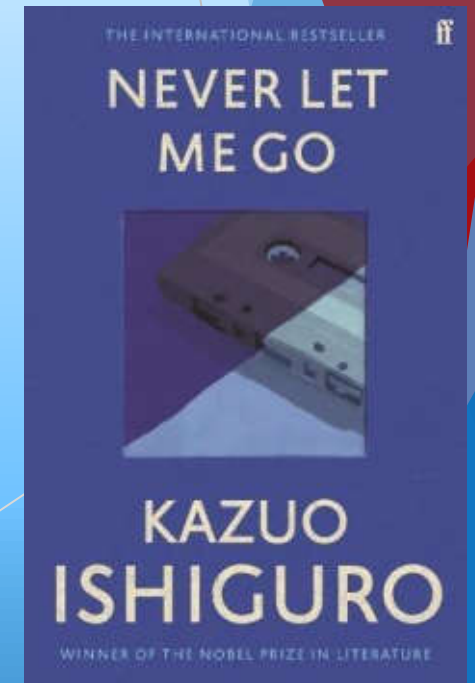
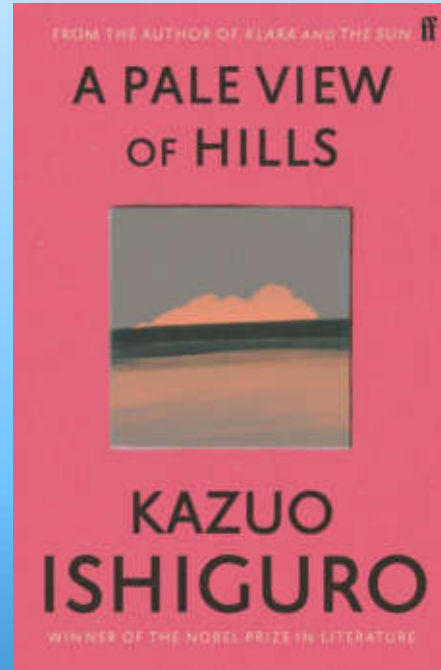
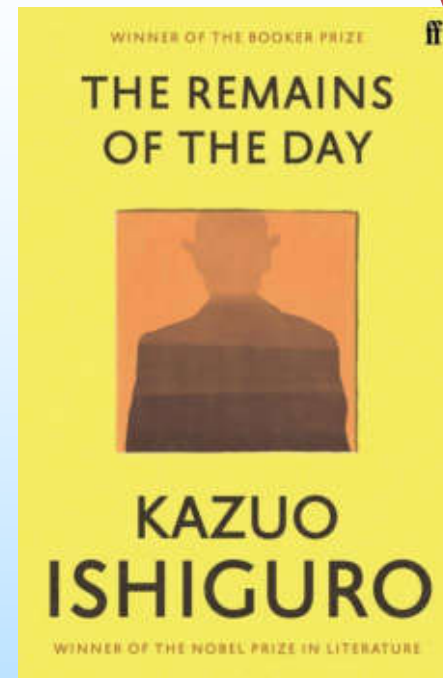
# Kazuo Ishiguro

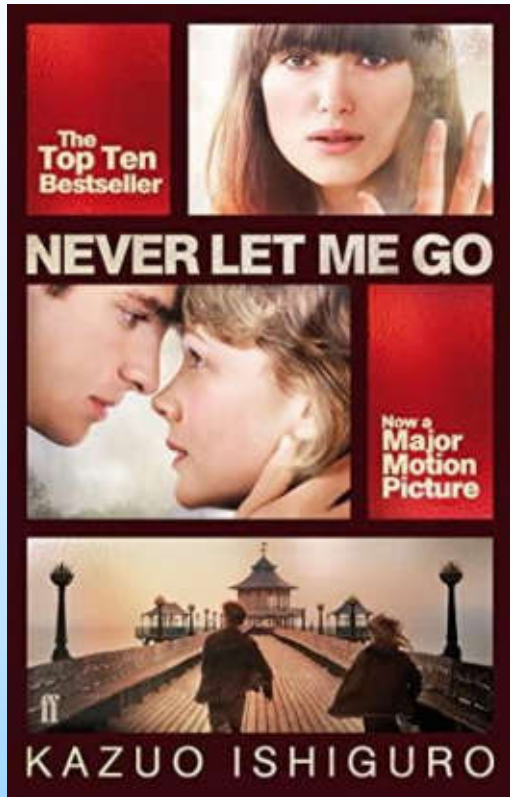
Kazuo Ishiguro, born November 8, 1954, is a Japanese-born British novelist known for his lyrical tales of regret fused with subtle optimism.

He is the author of novels and a collection of short stories. Nagasaki and Japan have remained important points of reference – it was there that Ishiguro set his first two novels.

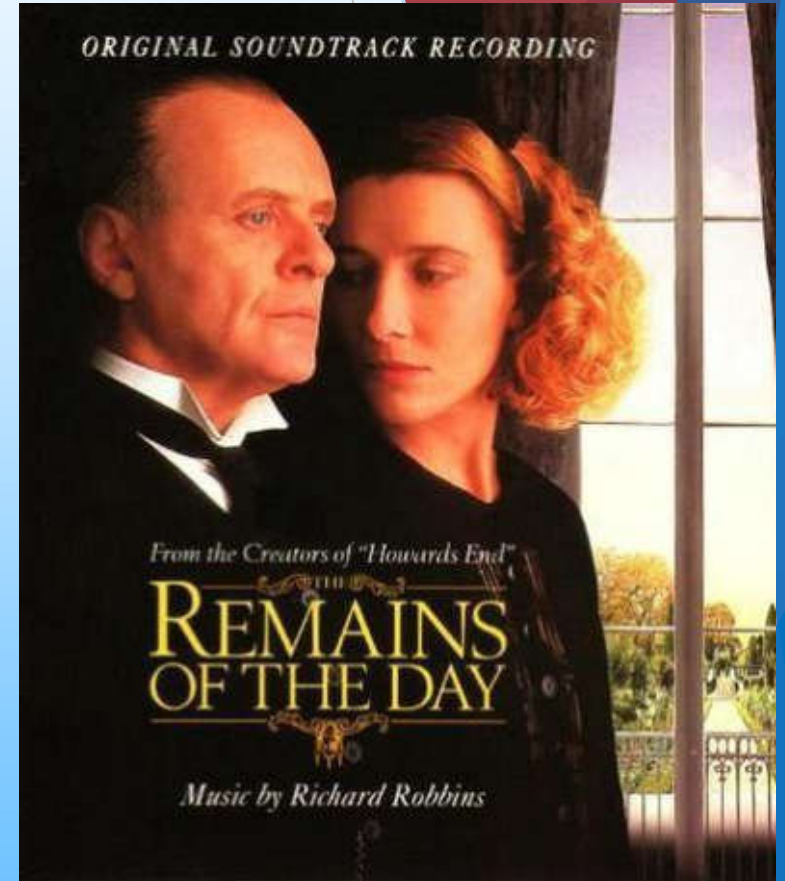


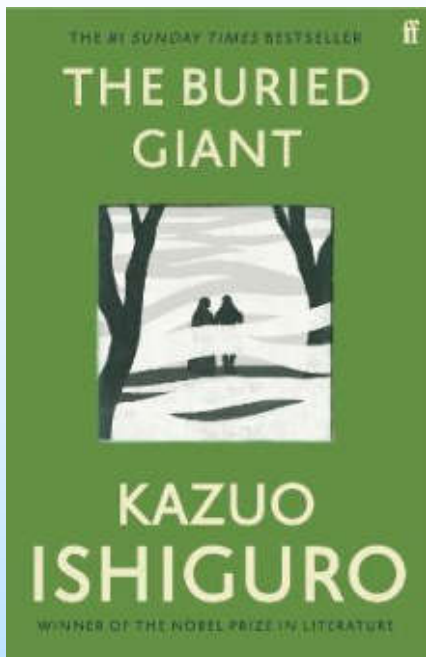
Ishiguro's first novel, 'A Pale View of Hills' (1982), details the postwar memories of a Japanese woman trying to deal with the suicide of her daughter. Ishiguro's Booker Prize-winning 'The Remains of the Day' (1989; film 1993) is a first-person narrative, the reminiscences of an elderly English butler whose prim mask of formality has shut him off from understanding and intimacy. With the publication of 'The Remains of the Day', Ishiguro became one of the best-known European novelists at just 35 years of age.



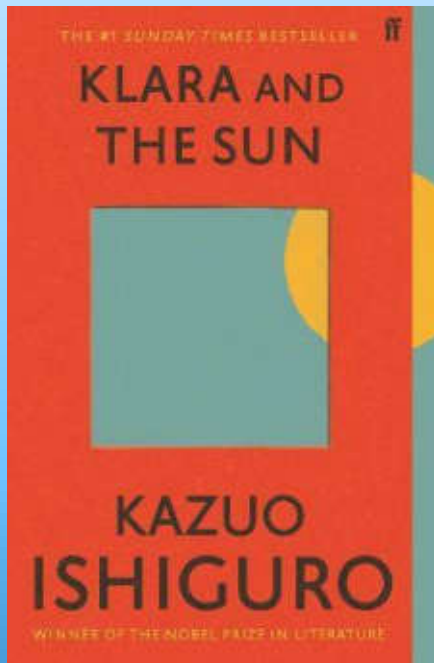
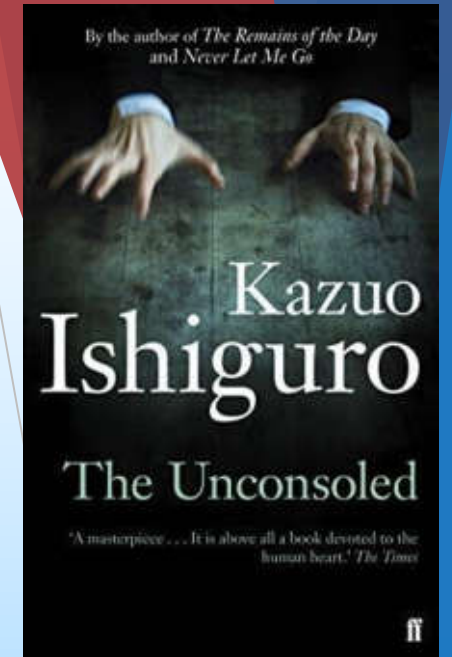


The popularity of the writer was undoubtedly increased by the famous film adaptations of his works - 'The Remains of the Day' which was honoured with 8 Oscar nominations, with Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson, and 'Never Let Me Go' with Keira Knightley and Carey Mulligan.



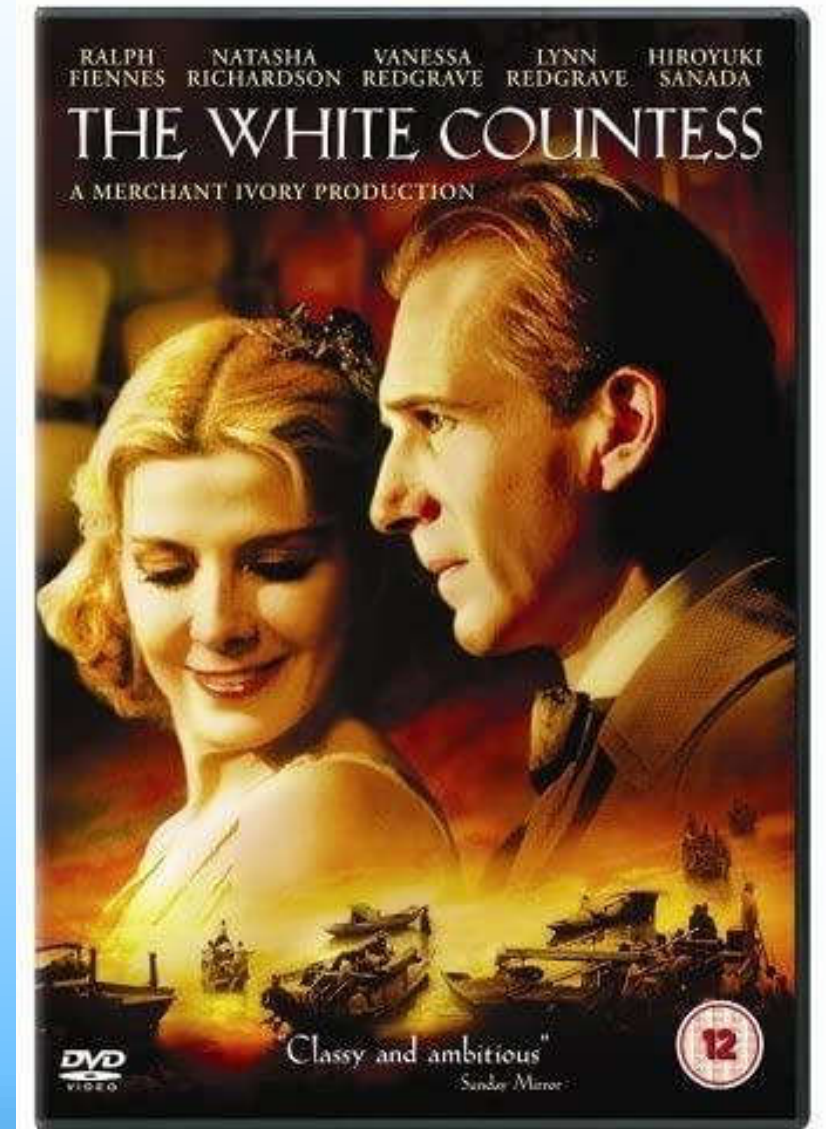
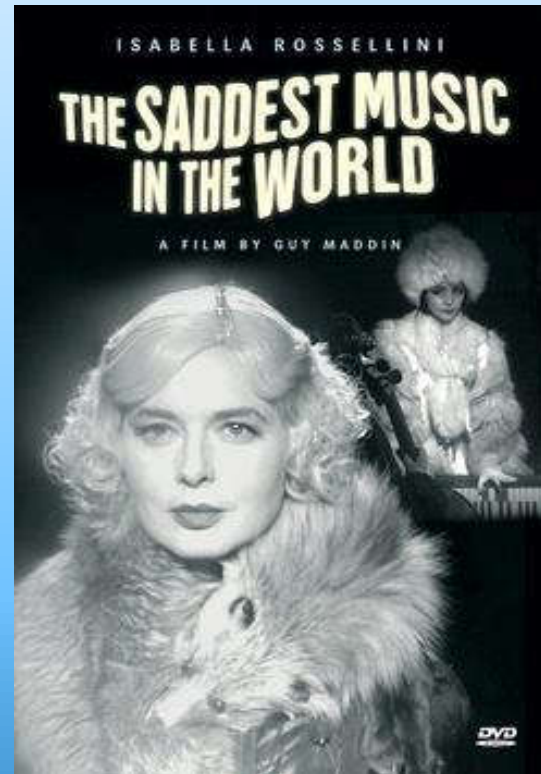


His other novels include 'The Unconsoled' (1995), 'When We Were Orphans' (2000), and the volume of short stories 'Nocturnes', in which he wrote of his youthful dreams of a career as a musician (2009). In 2015, after ten years of silence, Ishiguro published the novel 'The Buried Giant', a universal parable about the power of memory, revenge, love and war. The writer's latest work is the book 'Klara and the Sun', published in 2021.



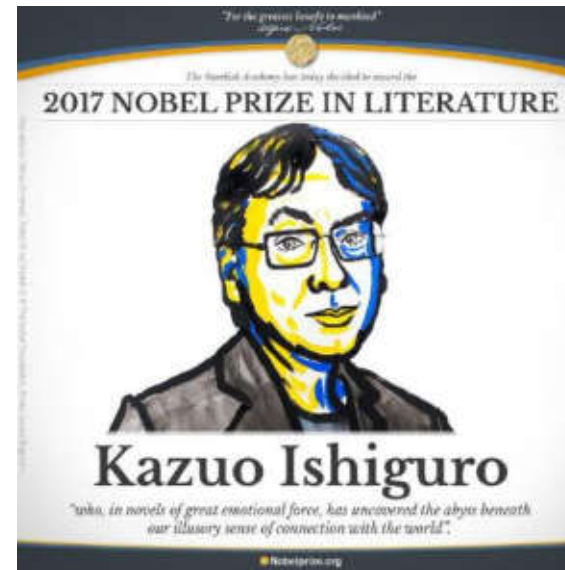


Like Harold Pinter (who wrote the first, never-realised screenplay for 'The Remains of the Day'), Ishiguro also wrote for the cinema. Among his original film scripts are James Ivory's 'The White Countess' and 'The Saddest Music of the World' by Canadian director Guy Maddin.





In 2017, Kazuro Ishiguro was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature for lifetime achievement. In its justification, the Swedish Academy stressed that Kazuo Ishiguro in his novels exposes the abyss hiding beneath our illusory sense of connection with the world.



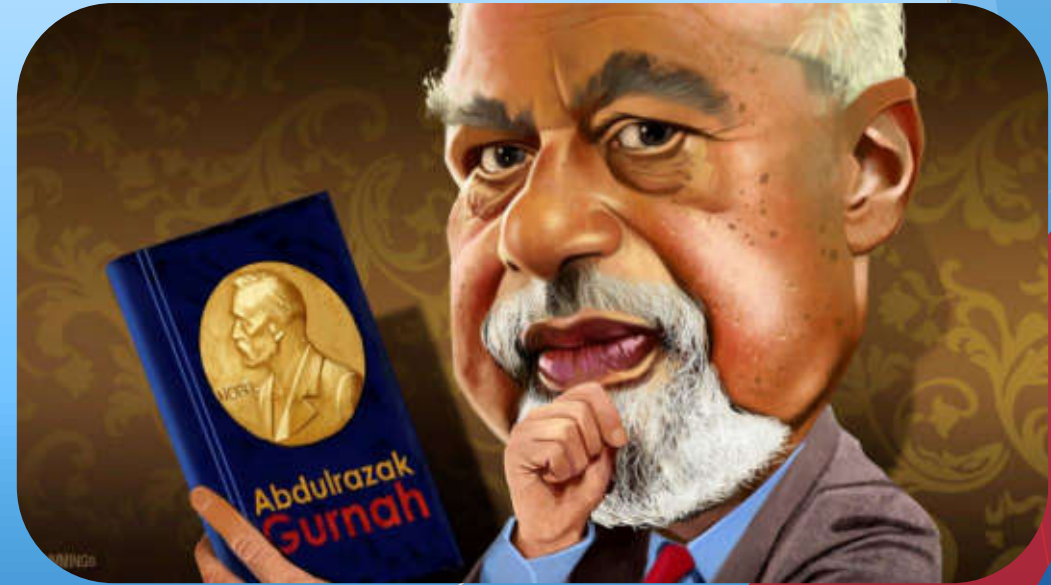
# Abdulrazak Gurnah

Novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah was born in 1948 on the island of Zanzibar off the coast of East Africa. He came to Britain as a student in 1968. He is on the advisory board of the journal *Wasafiri* and lives in Canterbury, after retiring as a professor of English at the University of Kent. In his works, he addresses issues of emigration, familiar from his own experience.



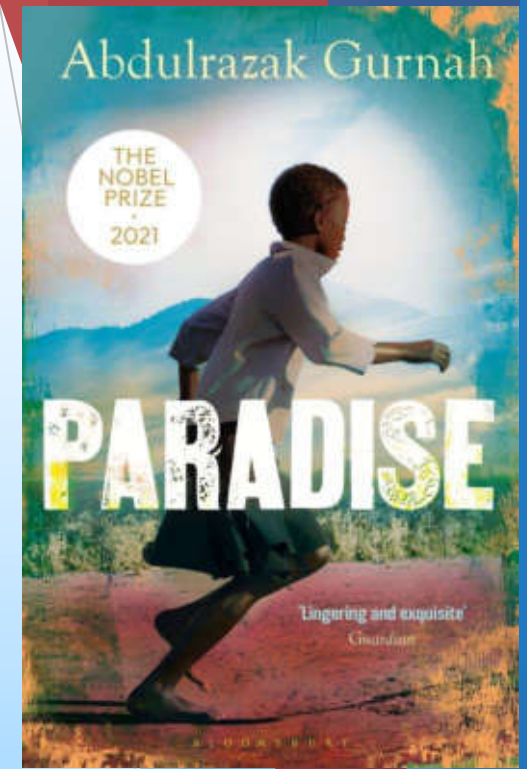
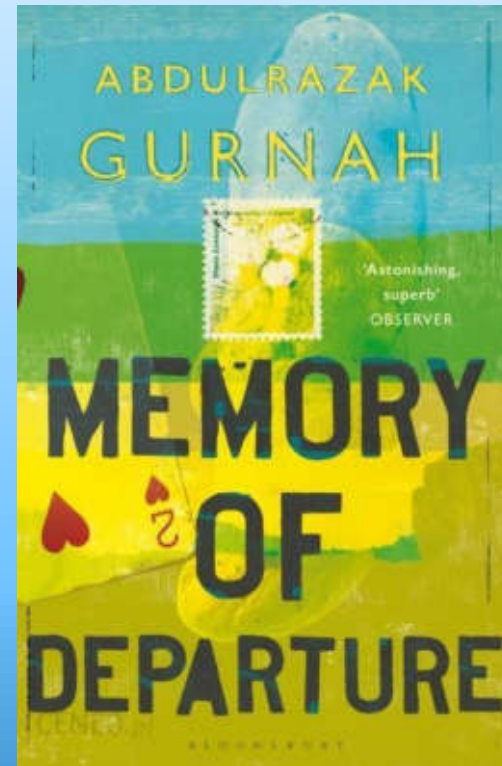
Abdulrazak Gurnah's works often depict alienated people who do not feel comfortable in a new place and those who, returning to their native land, find with sadness that it is no longer their home.

The author himself can be laconic. He summed up his work in three words: belonging, rupture and dislocation.



In his first novel 'Memory of Departure' in 1987, the protagonist wondered what made him leave his hometown in Africa.

In his 1994 novel 'Paradise', on the other hand, he wrote about earlier times, for example at the turn of the 20th century, when Western powers were competing for colonies in East Africa. This book is based on the memoirs of Gurnah's father and the author was nominated for the Booker Prize for it.

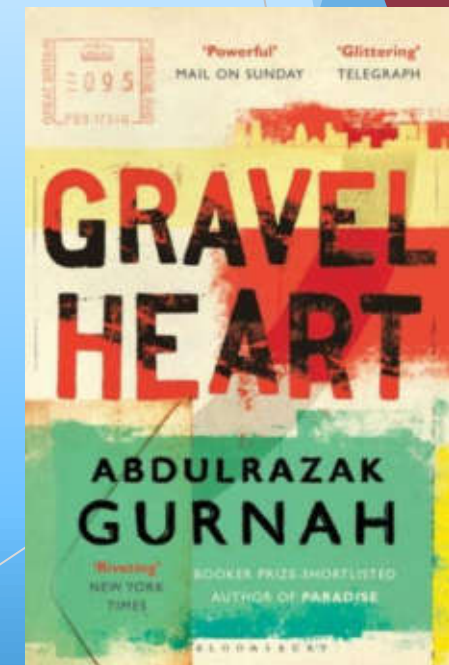
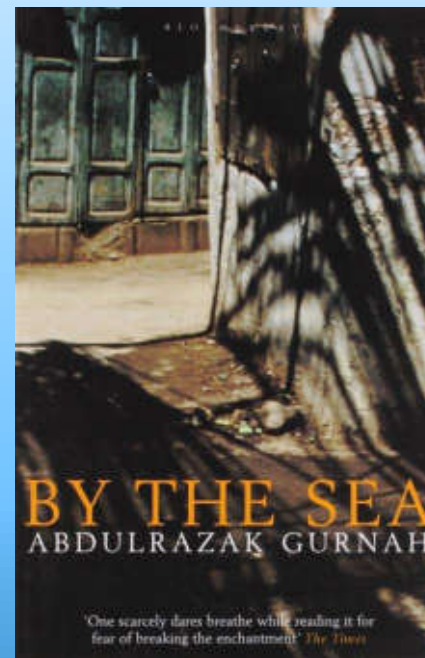
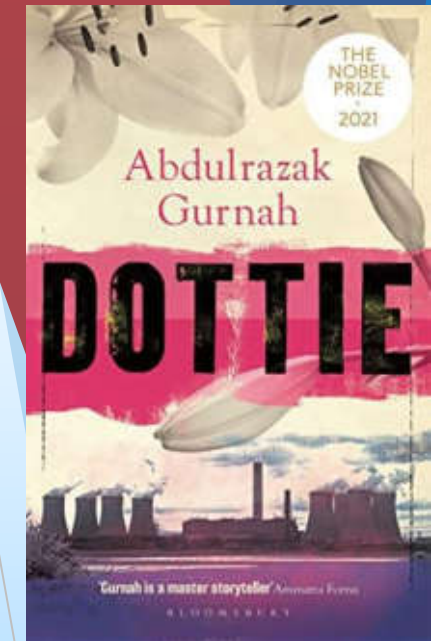
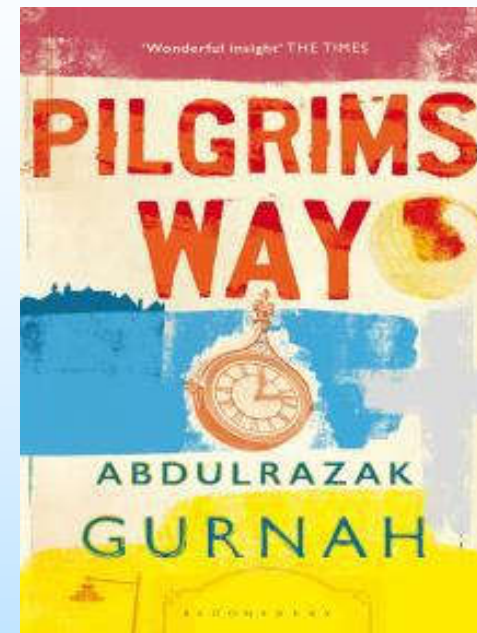


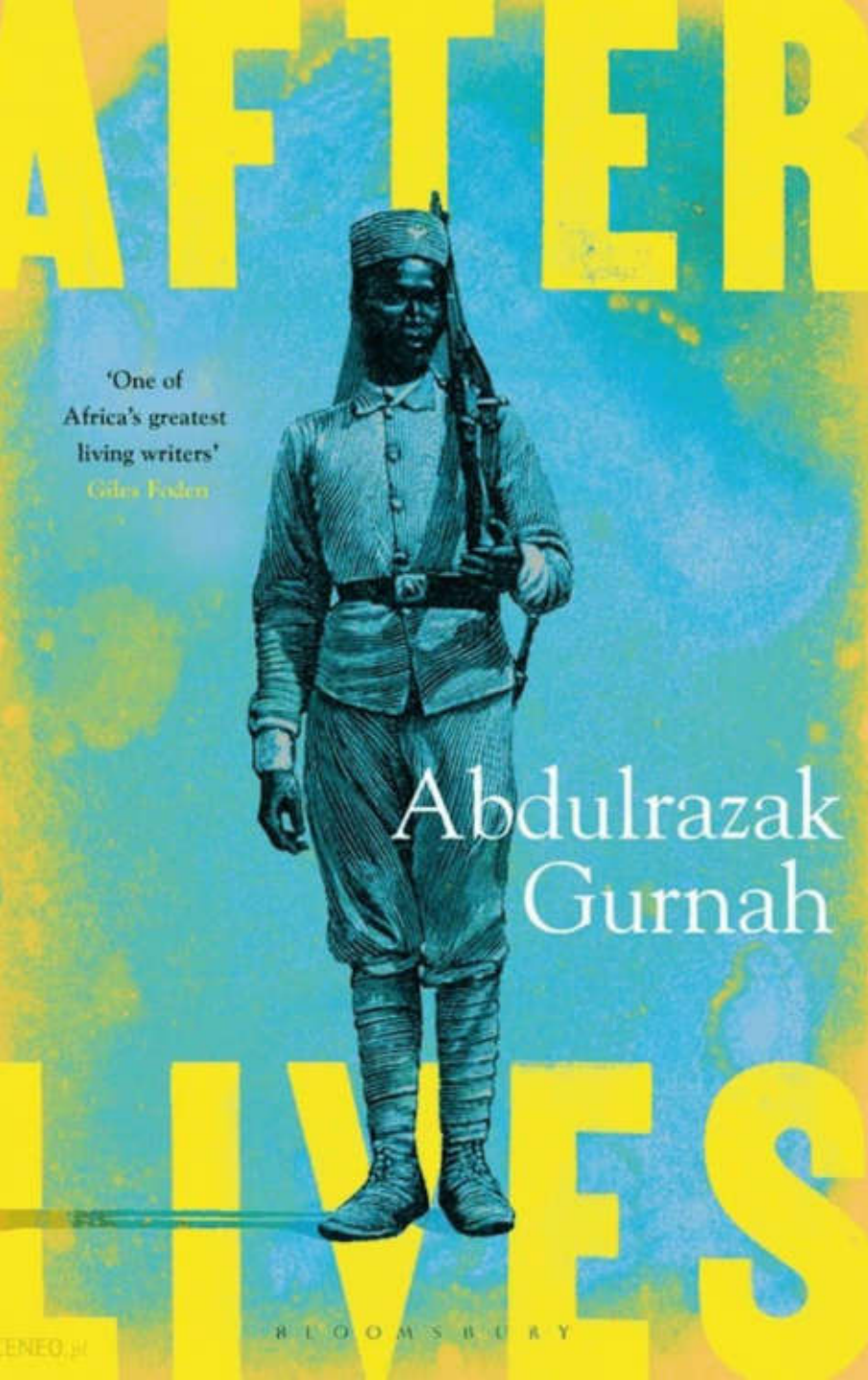
As much as he wrote about Africa, he also wrote about England. The hero of his second novel 'Pilgrim's Way' (1988) is a young migrant.

The character finds himself in an English town and cannot get rid of the feeling of alienation. The boy drops out of university and starts working

as a nurse in a hospital, but still has the impression that to the locals he will always be inferior. However, in 'By the Sea' from 2001 he drew a portrait

of a refugee, who in his old age has to find shelter far away from his homeland.





In his last published novel, 2020's 'Afterlives', he focused on Germans trying to catch up with colonialism in Africa shortly before the First World War. He was afterwards hailed by British critics as one of the most outstanding living African writers.

Abdulrazak Gurnah is the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2021.

In justifying the selection, the Swedes said that Gurnah looked at the refugee experience, focusing on identity, consciousness and self-esteem.

The protagonists of his books are torn between cultures, continents, the life they have had and the one that awaits them. This state gives them a constant sense of instability and disruption that they cannot shake off.





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