



## Our Lady of Alice Bhatti

By Mohammed Hanif

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### Our Lady of Alice Bhatti By Mohammed Hanif

Mohammed Hanif delivers a shockingly funny new novel set in steaming Karachi, about second chances, thwarted ambitions and love found in the most unlikely places.

The patients of the Sacred Heart Hospital for All Ailments need a miracle. Alice Bhatti may be just what they're looking for. She's the daughter of a part-time healer in the French Colony, Karachi's infamous Christian slum, and it seems she has, unhappily, inherited his part-time gift. With a bit of begrudging but inspired improvisation, Alice begins to bring succor to the hospital's overflowing patients. But all is not miraculous. Alice is a Christian in an Islamic world, ensnared in the red tape of hospital bureaucracy, trapped by the caste system, and torn between her patients, her father and her husband—who is about to drag Alice into a situation so dangerous that perhaps not even a miracle will be able to save them.

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### Editorial Review

From Bookforum

Our Lady of Alice Bhatti imbues all its moments with unsparing warmth and almost unbearable pathos.

—Jess Row

Review

"Relentlessly readable. . . . A comedy for those who think, a tragedy for those who feel. . . . Hanif does Karachi better than Rushdie does Bombay. . . . Perhaps Pakistan's brightest English-language voice."

—*The Guardian*

"Rambunctious, vulgar, funny, and moving, Alice Bhatti wields enormous emotional punch. . . . Right now the world could do with more books that portray Pakistanis that way."

—*Time*

"In this bold, uncompromising novel, Hanif draws a compassionate and despairing portrait of a nation in bedlam."

—*Financial Times*

About the Author

Mohammed Hanif was born in Okara, Pakistan. He graduated from the Pakistan Air Force Academy as Pilot Officer but subsequently left to pursue a career in journalism. He has written for stage, film and BBC Radio. His first novel, *A Case of Exploding Mangoes*, was long-listed for the Man Booker Prize, short-listed for The Guardian First Book Award and won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Novel. He was the head of the BBC Urdu Service in London and now works as their special correspondent based in Karachi.

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