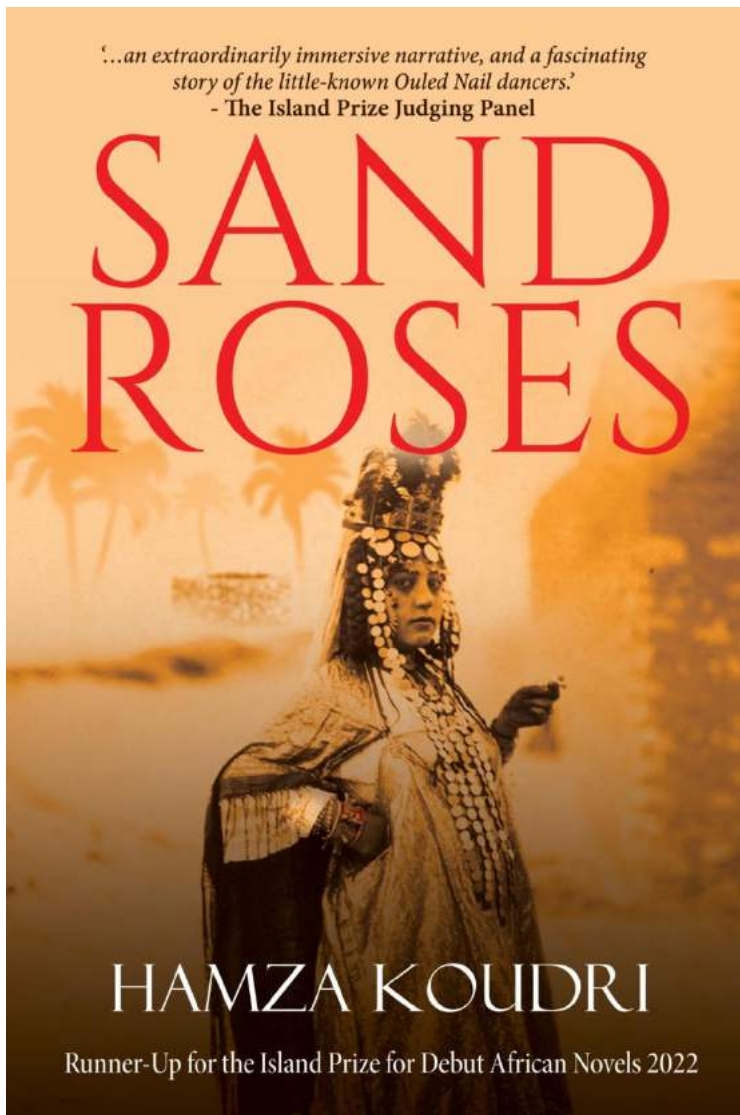


Sand Roses

Hamza Koudri



Tourists know it as the City of Joy. For Ouled Nail dancers, Bousaada is a city of horrors.

It is 1931 when two sisters arrive in Bousaada bursting with dreams of becoming successful dancers. But the city, occupied by the ruthless French colonial army, changes their lives forever.

When they kill a soldier in self-defense, Fahima and Salima must outsmart the French Colonel who will stop at nothing to uncover the truth. The sisters are driven further into a cycle of violence with every attempt to hide their crime. Risking their lives and the lives of their loved ones, the dancers find themselves at the heart of a civilizational clash.

SAND ROSES is a tale of resistance, sisterhood and the shameful past of two colliding nations. This extraordinarily immersive narrative thrusts its reader into the Algerian city of Bousaada during the 1930s and the story of the Nailiya dancers.

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Hamza Koudri has an MA in English Literature and Civilization and has been working in education and international development since 2008. Currently serving as the Country Director with the British Council in Algeria, he oversees a portfolio of English, STEM, higher education and cultural programmes, working closely with public sector teachers and institutions. Over the years, he has created and led courses and projects for youth and educators across the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region and beyond.

During a year-long fellowship in the United States, he also helped establish a mentorship programme for a social equity course at Penn State University and a teacher training certificate program for Indiana University. He also took a creative writing course with award-winning author, Elizabeth Kadetsky, during which time he started working on *Sand Roses*. Research for his novel took the better part of a decade, seeking traces of a muted past between the folds of visual documentation and oral histories. **In 2022, *Sand Roses* was shortlisted for the Island Prize for unpublished African authors.**

Hamza co-authored an article on “Social Responsibility Discretion in Algeria” highlighting unique management practices in the country. The article was published in “Responsible Management in Africa” with Emerald Publishing.

Hamza is happy to give interviews and write articles on the following topics related to *Sand Roses* and his copious research into the colonial history and contemporary debates that inspired his novel:

- Violence as a form of reclamation for the colonized
- Fiction’s role in decolonizing history and culture
- Sex work before colonialism in Algeria
- Naliya Dancer’s unique culture and recovering lost histories

Potential article titles:

- Buried History: Unearthing the Algerian Naliya Dancers
- The Lost Matriarchy of Algerian Dancers
- Sex work in North Africa: an unconventional practice or orientalist fetishism?
- Matriarchy and Machoism in the Sahara Desert
- Fighting Fire with Fire: the cost of resisting colonization in North Africa

Please get in touch with Holland House Books (Juni Kvarving, jk616@kent.ac.uk) for any queries.