

Balthazar, Clea and Mountolive Lawrence Durrell

*With new introductions by **Alaa Al Aswany, William Boyd and Elif Shafak***

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New editions of Lawrence Durrell's modern classics, *Balthazar*, *Clea* and *Mountolive*, with introductions by Alaa Al Aswany, William Boyd and Elif Shafak.

Balthazar

As the threat of world war looms over the city of Alexandria, an exiled Anglo-Irish schoolteacher unravels his erotic obsession with two women: Melissa, a fragile dancer, and Justine, a glamorous married Egyptian woman.

Through conversations with Balthazar, a doctor and mystic, these intricate love affairs are cast in an ominous, sinister new light, as his private fixations become entangled with a mysterious murder plot ...

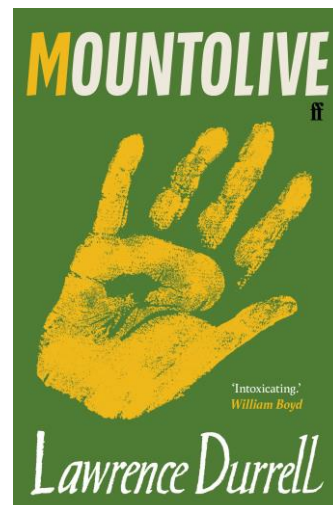
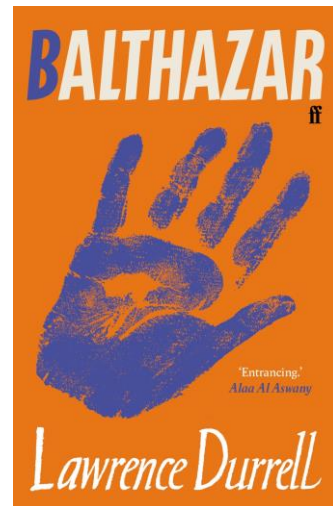
Mountolive

David Mountolive, a young English diplomat, has been obsessed with Egypt ever since a youthful love affair. Returning to Alexandria as British Ambassador just before World War Two, he unravels an intricate political and religious conspiracy - one that connects a web of wildly different characters, including an exiled schoolteacher and glamorous Egyptian couple. Mountolive gradually exposes the sinister underbelly of these tangled relationships, their deceptions and betrayals mirroring the explosive turmoil of the modern Middle East - and the result is Durrell's most cinematic masterpiece.

Clea

David Mountolive, a young English diplomat, has been obsessed with Egypt ever since a youthful love affair. Returning to Alexandria as British Ambassador just before World War Two, he unravels an intricate political and religious conspiracy - one that connects a web of wildly different characters, including an exiled schoolteacher and glamorous Egyptian couple. Mountolive gradually exposes the sinister underbelly of these tangled relationships, their deceptions and betrayals mirroring the explosive turmoil of the modern Middle East - and the result is Durrell's most cinematic masterpiece.

For more information please contact Marie-Louise Patton at marie-louise.patton@faber.co.uk.



Lawrence Durrell was a British novelist, poet, dramatist, and travel writer. Born in 1912 in India to British colonial parents, he was sent to school in England and later moved to Corfu with his family – a period which his brother Gerald fictionalised in *My Family and Other Animals* – later filmed as *The Durrells in Corfu* – and which he himself described in *Prospero's Cell*. The first of Durrell's island books, this was followed by *Reflections on a Marine Venus* on Rhodes; *Bitter Lemons*, on Cyprus, which won the Duff Cooper Memorial Prize; and, later, *The Greek Islands*.

Alaa Al Aswany was born in 1957. A dentist by profession, he is the internationally bestselling author of *The Yacoubian Building* – which sold over one million copies worldwide – *Chicago*, *The Automobile Club of Egypt* and *The Republic of False Truths*.

William Boyd is the author of sixteen novels and five volumes of short stories. His work has been published around the world and translated into over thirty languages. In addition, some eighteen of his screenplays have been produced for film and television.

Elif Shafak is an award-winning British-Turkish novelist. She writes in both Turkish and English, and has published 19 books, 12 of which are novels. Her work has been translated into 54 languages. Her latest novel *10 Minutes 38 Seconds in this Strange World* was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and RSL Ondaatje Prize; and chosen Blackwell's Book of the Year. Shafak holds a PhD in political science and she has taught at various universities in Turkey, the US and the UK, including St Anne's College, Oxford University, where she is an honorary fellow.

'Durrell has written about a dozen real love stories, entwined them, and explored them with a truly Proustian ferocity ... Superb.' *Observer*

'Lushly beautiful ... His style glows ... One of the most important works of our time.' *New York Times Book Review*

'It is hard now to recapture the impact half a century ago of these novels' heat, luxuriance and profanity [or] his descriptions of Alexandria — its beauty, cruelty, menace, mystery, decadence...' *Spectator*