

Justine

Lawrence Durrell

With a new introduction by André Aciman

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30 June 2020, £19.99 audio

Rediscover one of the twentieth century's greatest romances: a seductive tale of four tangled lovers in wartime Egypt, with a new introduction by André Aciman author of *Call Me By Your Name* and *Find Me*.

Alexandria: the great winepress of love. Trams, palm trees, and watermelon stalls lie honey-bathed in sunlight; in darkened bedrooms, sweaty lovers unfurl. But in a world trembling on the brink of war, passion and death are inextricable. When a penniless Anglo-Irish schoolteacher begins an affair with Justine – a married Egyptian lady of unparalleled glamour – their partners, Melissa and Nessim, are sucked into a whirlpool of jealousy and violence.

One of the twentieth century's greatest romances, rich in political and sexual intrigue, Lawrence Durrell's scandalous 'investigation of modern love' set the world alight in 1957 and – as André Aciman reveals – it burns just as brightly today.

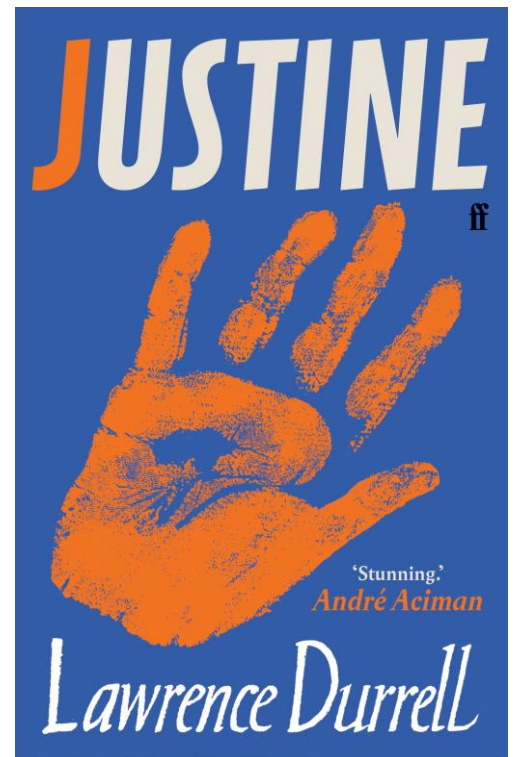
'A masterpiece.'
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For further information please contact Marie-Louise Patton on
077 8537 3994 or marie-louise.patton@faber.co.uk.



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'Lushly beautiful...One of the most important works of our time.'

NYTB

'Triumphant [in its] beauty, cruelty, menace, mystery, decadence. . . '

SPECTATOR

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*, 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*.

Durrell's first major novel, *The Black Book*, was published in 1938 in Paris, where he befriended Henry Miller and Anaïs Nin – and it was praised by T. S. Eliot, who published his poetry in 1943. A wartime sojourn in Egypt inspired his bestselling masterpiece, *The Alexandria Quartet* (*Justine, Balthazar, Mountolive and Clea*) which he completed in his new home in Southern France, where in 1974 he began *The Avignon Quintet*. When he died in 1990, Durrell was one of the most celebrated writers in British history.

André Aciman is the bestselling author of *Call Me By Your Name*, *Out of Egypt*, *Eight White Nights*, *False Papers*, *Alibis*, *Harvard Square*, *Enigma Variations*, and, most recently, *Find Me*.

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