



# JOSEPH'S BOX by Suhayl Saadi

## Praise for Suhayl Saadi:

'A wonderfully audacious, linguistically elastic, verbally inventive, joyously irreverent work of literature.' **Alan Taylor, Sunday Herald** on *Psychoraag*

'*Psychoraag* is not just *Midnight's Children*-meets-*Trainspotting* because Saadi is more thoughtful than Welsh or Rushdie.' **Angus Calder, Sunday Herald** on *Psychoraag*

'[An] ambitious first novel ... A book about race and invisibility, voice and silence, whose central theme is the question of whether anyone out there is actually listening.'

**Ali Smith, The Guardian** on *Psychoraag*

[www.josephsbox.co.uk](http://www.josephsbox.co.uk)

## KEY SELLING POINTS

A truly original epic work of fiction that takes us on a quest across Scotland, England, Italy and Pakistan. Drawing on a wide range of cultural and spiritual references, blending Western literature and Arabo-Persian storytelling, this is an extraordinary, unique novel with subtle touches of magical realism.

- Long-awaited second novel from this well-respected and multi-talented maverick
- A multi-national, multi-cultural novel that blends the best of western and eastern literary traditions
- Dedicated book website: [www.josephsbox.co.uk](http://www.josephsbox.co.uk)

## THE BOOK

Recently bereaved Zuleikha Chashm Framareza MacBeth wades into the Clyde one morning and recovers a large box, with which she becomes obsessed. The discovery brings her together with Alex, a lute-playing clerk, and they manage to open the box – only to find six more boxes inside, each of which can be opened only by following a cryptic clue. The clues lead Zulie and Alex on a physical and emotional journey, modulated through music, across Glasgow, Argyllshire, Lincolnshire, Sicily, Lahore, and finally the frozen peaks of the 'Roof of the World'. Meanwhile Zulie, a troubled doctor, has been sucked into the vortex of the terminally ill Archie MacPherson, an ambivalent, visionary Second World War airman and Glasgow shipyard worker. In the manner of a lord of misrule, Archie's dying consciousness begins to shape and ultimately define Zuleikha and Alex's quest as they progress through the seven Sufi stations of sacrifice, truth, power, obedience, life, memory and beauty. Drawing on a wide framework of cultural and spiritual reference, uniquely blending contemporary Western literature and traditional Arabo-Persian storytelling, this is an extraordinary and ambitious novel with a visceral sensuality and subtle touches of magical realism, in the vein of Okri, Murakami and Pamuk.

## THE AUTHOR

Suhayl Saadi is a novelist and stage and radio dramatist based in Glasgow. His short story collection, *The Burning Mirror* (2001) was shortlisted for the Saltire First Book Prize and his first novel *Psychoraag* (2004) won a PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Literary Award, was short-listed for the James Tait Black Memorial Prize and the Pakistan National Literary Award, was nominated for the Dublin-based Impac Prize and was acclaimed by The List magazine and Scottish Book Trust as one of the Top 100 Scottish books of all time. *Joseph's Box* is his third book.

## DETAILS

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