

## Yasmina Khadra

By Fouzia

Yasmina Khadra is one of the most celebrated authors in Algeria and France. His real name was Mohamed Moulessehoul. He was born in the south of Algeria on 10 January 1955 where he served in the army.

He started writing about his experiences protecting himself against censorship by adopting a female pseudonym YASMINA KHADRA, which means green Jasmin. These are his wife's first two names and she is the one who suggested that he used it. She told him, "When I married you I took your name for life, what if you took mine for posterity?"

He was anonymous for 4 years and nobody knew who he was and his readers thought that he was a woman because he would do interviews by fax only. When he retreated from the army he settled in France and he decided to lift the mask.

He has also written in French and many of his novels were best sellers and some of them were adapted to cinema. He received a lot of awards. He has been translated into 25 languages; his books in English include 'In the Name of Good', 'The Attacks', 'The Swallows of Kabul' and 'What the Day Owes the Night', which is my favourite book. After reading this book, you can't say if it is a love story told through the history of a country or if it is the history of a country told through a love story.

It starts with a hardworking, proud father who is trying very hard to provide for his family, like all Algerians in colonial Algeria. He is obliged to put his son Younes- Jonas, who is 9 years old, under his brother's care. The uncle marries a French woman who lives in the town. The boy goes to school and grows up among French people with whom he becomes friends and meet his first lover. But after the war he finds himself forced to take a stand as either Algerian or French.

What all characters have in common is their ultimate love for Algeria.

