



**Contemporary Plays from Iraq: A Cradle; A  
Strange Bird on Our Roof; Cartoon Dreams;  
Ishtar in Baghdad; Me, Torture, and Your Love;  
Romeo and Juliet in Baghdad; Summer Rain; The  
Takeover; The Widow**

*A. Al-Azraki, Monadhil Daoud Albayati, Abdul Razaq al Rubai, Ali Abdel-Nabi Al-Zaidi, Rasha Fadhil,  
Awatif Naeem, Abdul-Kareem Mahdi Saleh, Kareem Shghidel, Hoshang Waziri*

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*Contemporary Plays from Iraq* is a ground-breaking collection of Middle Eastern drama translated into English for the very first time. With works from both established and emerging male and female playwrights, written in country and in exile, this volume offers current Iraqi perspectives on a war and occupation that have significantly impacted the Middle East and the rest of the world. Dealing exclusively with contemporary plays originating from Iraq, this anthology gives under-studied Arabic political theatre the attention it deserves and provides a general introduction that sets the plays within their cultural and historical contexts. The plays are preceded by introductions from the playwrights themselves, further enriching each piece for the enjoyment and understanding of the reader.

The volume is introduced and translated by **James Al-Shamma**, Assistant Professor at Belmont University, US, and **A. Al-Azraki**, an Iraqi playwright.

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