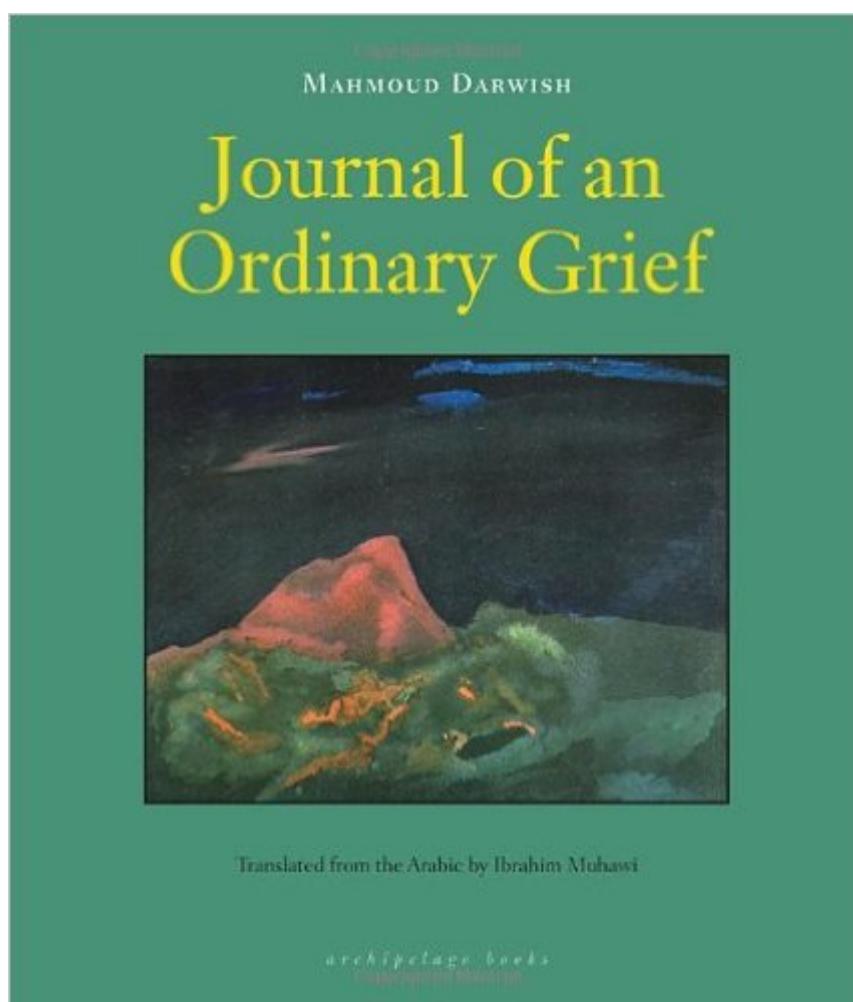


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# Journal Of An Ordinary Grief



## Synopsis

"Every beautiful poem is an act of resistance," asserts Darwish. Both voice of the Palestinian people and one of the most transcendent poets of his generation, Mahmoud Darwish also wrote several remarkable volumes of autobiographical essays over the course of his life. First published in Beirut in 1973, these probing essays ask vital questions about the existentially complex realities the Palestinians in Israel face and the ambiguity of Darwish's own identity as an Israeli Palestinian. They call upon myth, memory, and language to delve into the poet's experience of house arrest, his encounters with Israeli interrogators, and the periods he spent in prison. Meditative, lyrical, rhythmic, Darwish gives absence a vital presence in these linked essays. Journal is a moving and intimate account of the loss of homeland and, for many, of life inside the porous walls of occupation—no ordinary grief.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Palestinian people have spent much of the last century in eternal limbo. "Journal of an Ordinary Grief" is a translation, expertly done from the original Arabic by Ibrahim Muhawi, of Mahmoud Darwish's papers he has written since 1973, granting insight into the minds of the Palestinians who live in Israel and what the whole conflict means for them. Insightful and scholarly reading, "Journal of an Ordinary Grief" is a read that really shouldn't be missed for those intrigued by the conflict of the middle east.

This is a wonderful collection of essays from an Arab poet that has been translated into English. His

essays provide us with solemn and poignant insights into the Palestinian people and the dignity with which they bear their tragedies. Some of his essays provide a good historical map to the current Palestinian homeland situation, the loss felt by her people and what it means to them, living within the walls of occupation. Darwish has a soulful voice, one I would like to hear more often.

The name Mahmoud Darwish stimulates anticipation and love for his vision and imagery. A world class poet in diaspora from the long occupied Palestinian homeland...no longer amongst us but with his readers and fans at every page.

It's a beautiful translation of a very painful situation... the creation of the State of Israel from the point of view of the great Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish, who was displaced as a child. If you are Jewish, and want to understand the Palestinian view I'd say this is a must read.

Good, thoughtful writing about being a Palestinian.

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