



# HANI SELIM

*Author · Poet · Storyteller*

An International Civil Servant Gone Rogue

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## PRESS KIT — 2026

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# FACT SHEET

<b>Full Name</b>	Hani Selim
<b>Nationality</b>	Egyptian-American
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<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:info@haniselim.com">info@haniselim.com</a>
<b>Published Works</b>	5 (Literary Fiction, Poetry & Illustration)
<b>Languages</b>	English and Arabic
<b>Key Themes</b>	Identity, faith, love, displacement, cultural belonging, womanhood, Egyptian civilization, Muslim-American experience
<b>Education</b>	BA International Studies — The City College of New York MA Political Science (Human Rights) — Long Island University
<b>Available On</b>	Amazon, Apple Books, Kobo, Barnes & Noble, Google Books
<b>Social Media</b>	<a href="#">Instagram</a>   <a href="#">Facebook</a>   <a href="#">LinkedIn</a>   <a href="#">X (Twitter)</a>

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Hani Selim is an Egyptian-American author, poet, and storyteller whose life has been shaped by two cities — Cairo, where he was born, and New York, where he came of age — and by the vast, complicated space between them.

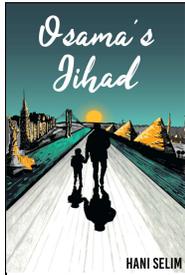
Before writing became his full-time vocation, Hani spent over a decade as an international civil servant — working across the United Nations Secretariat, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the UN Peacekeeping Office, and UNFPA's Arab States Regional Office, among others. He later worked at Meta and Baruch College. Among his most distinctive contributions was his work at UNFPA, where he served as co-creator and producer of two digital humanitarian ambassadors — Mariam and Nora — and the documentary #AWomanEvenHere, bringing the stories of women in crisis and conflict zones to global audiences.

Hani writes from the intersection of cultures, faiths, and identities — not as a neutral observer, but as someone who has lived the tensions and the beauty of belonging to more than one world. His work explores faith and doubt, love and loss, identity and displacement, with the honesty of a writer who has put his own life on the page.

In 2022, Hani returned to Cairo after three decades abroad. He now writes from Egypt, a country whose history, contradictions, and quiet resilience continue to shape everything he puts on the page. His work has been recognized by the Aqalam Foundation for Culture, Arts and Development, and has been covered by Al-Ahram, Egypt's oldest and most widely read newspaper.

*He is, in his own words, an international civil servant gone rogue.*

## BOOKS



### Osama's Jihad

Literary Fiction | First published April 2019

Arabic translation: جهاد أسامة | Releasing April 2026

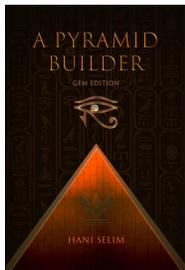
Available in English and Arabic — Print & Kindle on Amazon

It's not what you think. It's not what you're expecting. Osama's Jihad is a groundbreaking exploration of Muslim-American identity, unconditional love, and the complexity of faith — taking readers from New York City to Cairo to Makkah and back again, as Osama grows from childhood to manhood through a series of dizzying experiences. This April marks the novel's seventh birthday, celebrated with the release of its Arabic translation.



### جهاد أسامة — Arabic Edition

Arabic translation | Releasing April 2026



### A Pyramid Builder — GEM Edition

Literary Fiction | Rebranded edition releasing April 2026

بنو الهرم — Also available in Arabic

Aligned with the opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum

Available in English and Arabic — Print & Kindle on Amazon

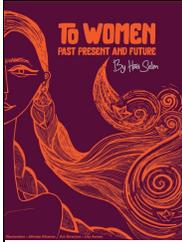
Mohamed is an Egyptian-American Egyptologist who returns to Cairo to study recently discovered artifacts that challenge everything he knows. A novel about homecoming, civilization, and what happens when the past refuses to stay buried. Releasing this April in a rebranded GEM Edition — a novel finding its moment as Egypt introduces itself to the world again.

*"When I walked into the Grand Egyptian Museum for the first time, I wasn't prepared for what I felt. I saw Egypt's future — not its past." — Hani Selim*



### بنو الهرم — Arabic Edition (طبعة المتحف)

Museum Edition — releasing April 2026



## **To Women: Past, Present and Future**

**Poetry & Illustration | Released January 2026**

**In collaboration with artist Al-Huda Khamis**

**Available in English — Print & Kindle on Amazon**

A poetic and visual tribute to the timeless spirit of womanhood. Hani Selim's words paired with original illustrations by Egyptian-American artist Al-Huda Khamis — a deeply personal celebration of the women who have shaped his life and his understanding of what it means to love.

# PRESS & RECOGNITION

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## Al-Ahram Daily

**Print & Online** | Egypt's oldest and most widely read newspaper

An in-depth feature interview exploring Hani Selim's literary work, his perspective on the international book fair circuit, and the cultural life of Arab and Muslim communities in America.

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## Aqalam Foundation for Culture, Arts and Development — Cairo, 2025

**Institutional Honor**

The Foundation launched its Purposeful Creativity initiative with a formal literary seminar dedicated to A Pyramid Builder, featuring discussion by Dr. Ahmed Salah Hashem (literary critic), Prof. Dr. Qadreya Saeed (professor of science fiction literature), and Dr. Sari Al-Jabali (poet and critic), moderated by journalist Hossam Abu Al-Ala. Hani Selim was formally honored with the Foundation's institutional shield by Foundation President Dr. Saadia Al-Adly.

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## Al Shams — Morning Television

**Television Interview**

Hani Selim appeared on the morning program Al Shams for a conversation about the role of women in building strong societies — directly connected to the themes of his poetry collection To Women: Past, Present and Future.

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## Podcast — Season 3, Episode 10

**Podcast Feature**

A full episode dedicated to Hani Selim's literary journey, his published works, and his reflections on cultural life in America as an Egyptian-American author.

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## Grand Egyptian Museum Visit — Viral Coverage

**Video & Press**

"I saw Egypt's future — not its past. A civilizational project that places Egypt at the center of the world." Hani Selim's first visit to the Grand Egyptian Museum generated significant media attention across Egyptian outlets.

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## READER TESTIMONIALS

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*“At its simplest, Hani Selim's novel is a study on existence. Forced into action by a traumatic family event, Osama recounts his life story so that his son might have the privilege of honesty. Selim accomplishes a degree of intrigue throughout: just when the reader thinks they have come to understand Osama and his family, the author introduces yet another twist.”*

— Winter Bloom

*“The self-hatred and self-doubt that a homosexual has to endure in order to survive in an Arab, Muslim country... The racism and suspicion that a Muslim/Arab faces when living abroad... The psychological toll of growing up torn between two fundamentally opposite cultures... Osama's Jihad has it all and a lot more!”*

— Karim Strougo

*“If you are familiar with the Muslim culture, this book will challenge those beliefs. If you are not familiar, you will learn more than you expected to. This is a great read for everyone!”*

— Tiffany Violette Caouette

# INTERVIEW TOPICS

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## 1. Muslim-American Identity

What does it mean to grow up between two cultures, two faiths, two worlds? Hani brings a lived, nuanced perspective that goes beyond headlines and stereotypes.

## 2. The Grand Egyptian Museum & Egyptian Civilization

As the author of *A Pyramid Builder*, Hani offers a unique perspective on what the GEM means culturally, historically, and symbolically — having visited the museum and described it as "Egypt's future, not its past."

## 3. Writing as an Act of Survival

Hani wrote multiple books while navigating grief, professional upheaval, and personal loss. He speaks honestly about creativity as a lifeline.

## 4. Women, Womanhood and the Arab World

From co-creating UNFPA's female digital ambassadors to producing #AWomanEvenHere to writing *To Women: Past, Present and Future* — Hani has centered women's experiences throughout his career.

## 5. Returning Home — The Egyptian Diaspora Experience

After three decades abroad, Hani returned to Cairo. He speaks about rediscovering a country through adult eyes and finding that distance gave him the clarity to write about Egypt honestly.

## 6. Independent Publishing in the Arab World

Navigating the publishing landscape as an independent, bilingual author — the challenges, the opportunities, and translating your own work.

## 7. The United Nations — From Civil Servant to Storyteller

Over a decade inside some of the world's most powerful international institutions. Hani speaks candidly about what he learned and why he chose writing over diplomacy.

## 8. Cultural Diplomacy Through Literature

How stories build bridges that institutions cannot — and how fiction about Muslim, Arab, and Egyptian characters creates empathy in ways that policy never can.

## 9. Collaboration in Art — The Story of *To Women*

What happens when a writer and a visual artist create something together? Hani discusses his collaboration with illustrator Al-Huda Khamis.

## SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

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1. You've described the Grand Egyptian Museum as "Egypt's future, not its past." What did you mean, and how does it connect to *A Pyramid Builder*?
2. *Osama's Jihad* was considered a bold title. What reaction did you expect, and what actually happened?
3. You spent over a decade at the United Nations before becoming a full-time author. What was the moment you knew you had to leave?
4. You translated *Osama's Jihad* into Arabic yourself. What was that experience like — emotionally and linguistically?
5. You returned to Cairo after thirty years abroad. How has Egypt changed, and how have you changed in relation to it?
6. *To Women: Past, Present and Future* is deeply personal. Who are the women in your life that shaped it?
7. What do you think Arabic-language literature is missing that you are trying to contribute?
8. Your work at UNFPA centered women in crisis — how does that experience live in your fiction and poetry?
9. What do you want readers to feel after finishing *Osama's Jihad* for the first time?
10. What does homecoming mean to you — as a person and as a writer?
11. You are both Egyptian and American. When someone asks where you are from, what do you say?
12. What is the role of literature in a time of rising cultural tension and polarization?
13. What is next for Hani Selim?

# PRESS CONTACT

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