Memory of a Fish offers a series of vignettes into the early career of Mamdouh, a self-aware young man growing up in rural Jordan. Life is not always easy for Mamdouh and his community, who are dogged by bad luck and corruption within government circles, but Mamdouh deals with each set back in a humorous, honest and fatalistic fashion. We meet this engaging protagonist on the day he graduates from high school, and the subsequent erratic path he takes evokes moments from his childhood, which he describes with warmth and pathos. It is Mamdouh’s determination to hold onto the old fashioned values of his upbringing that endears us to this irrepressible individual. Olimat manages to convey images of a rural Middle Eastern world with touches of humanity, piercing observation and nostalgia. His prose captures a country of times past and how this way of life is being drastically altered by cynical profiteering individuals.

‘Blurb’ for Memory of a Fish by Suleiman Olimat

By Joanna Knight

Memory of a Fish offers a series of vignettes into the early career of Mamdouh, a self-aware young man growing up in rural Jordan. Life is not always easy for Mamdouh and his community, who are dogged by bad luck and corruption within government circles, but Mamdouh deals with each set back in a humorous, honest and fatalistic fashion. We meet this engaging protagonist on the day he graduates from high school, and the subsequent erratic path he takes evokes moments from his childhood, which he describes with warmth and pathos. It is Mamdouh’s determination to hold onto the old fashioned values of his upbringing that endears us to this irrepressible individual. Olimat manages to convey images of a rural Middle Eastern world with touches of humanity, piercing observation and nostalgia. His prose captures a country of times past and how this way of life is being drastically altered by cynical profiteering individuals.

تقدم رواية ذاكرة السمك سلسلة من الأحداث عن بداية حياة ممدوح الشاب الواعي بذاته والذي نشأ في ريف الأردن. ليست الحياة سهلة دائمًا على ممدوح ومجتمعه ، الذين يلازمهم سوء الحظ والفساد داخل الدوائر الحكومية ، لكن ممدوح يتعامل مع كل نكسة بطريقة فكاهية وصادقة وقدرية. نلتقي بهذا البطل الجذاب في اليوم الذي تخرج فيه من المدرسة الثانوية، والمسار اللاحق غير المنتظم الذي يسلكه يستحضر لحظات من طفولته ، والتي يصفها بالدفء والشفقة. إن إصرار ممدوح على التمسك بالقيم القديمة لتربيته هو ما يجعلنا نحب هذا الفرد الذي لا يمكن كبته. تمكن العليمات من نقل صور لعالم ريفي شرق أوسطي بلمسات إنسانية وملاحظة ثاقبة وحنين إلى الماضي, وكيف يتغير هذا الأسلوب في الحياة بشكل جذري من قبل الأفراد المستفيدين الساخرين.

Press Release for Memory of a Fish

Memory of a Fish offers a series of vignettes into the early career of Mamdouh, a self-aware young man growing up in rural Jordan. Life is not always easy for Mamdouh and his community, who are dogged by bad luck and corruption within government circles, but Mamdouh deals with each set back in a humorous, honest and fatalistic fashion. Mamdouh’s childhood is described with warmth and pathos, and his determination to hold onto the old fashioned values of his upbringing endear us to this irrepressible individual. Olimat manages to convey a colourful image of a rural Middle Eastern world with touches of humanity, piercing observation and nostalgia. His prose captures a country of times past and how this way of life is being drastically altered by cynical profiteering in