Review

Chronology: Nuruddin Farah
F. Fiona Moolla

1947 Family moves to Kallafo in the Ogaden (British-occupied; handed over soon afterwards to Ethiopian control). Attends Qur’anic school.
1960 Independence gained from Britain and Italy—now Republic of Somalia.
1963 Due to war, family moves from the Ogaden to Mogadishu; Farah completes secondary school education.
1966 Attends Panjub University, Chandigarh, India. Studies Literature and Philosophy, funded by an Indian government scholarship.
1969 Marries Chitra Muliyil (Indian student). Receives BA degree. Returns to Somalia, where Muhammed Siyad Barre is in power after military coup. Writes the play A Dagger in Vacuum—denied licence to produce it.
1972 First marriage ends. Somali is codified as written language.
1975 Postgraduate study continued at University of Essex. Play The Offering, written in lieu of thesis, produced at Essex.
1976 Novel A Naked Needle published. Warned by brother not to return to Somalia after enraging Barre regime by publishing A Naked Needle—moves to Italy for next three years.
1976–9 Translator and English language teacher in Rome and Milan.
1978 A Spread of Butter broadcast by BBC African service.
1979 Novel Sweet and Sour Milk published. Moves to Los Angeles; writes film scripts.
1980 Sweet and Sour Milk wins English-speaking Union Literary Award.
1982 Yusuf and His Brothers written and produced at Jos, where he is Visiting Reader at the university.
1983 Novel Close Sesame published; work begun on novel Maps.
1984 German broadcasting commissions his play Tartar Delight. Moves to Gambia; completes Maps.
1986 Maps published. Moves to Khartoum, Sudan, where he teaches at the University. First draft of Gifts written there.
1989 Moves to Kampala, Uganda.

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.17159/2309-9070/revl.v.57i1.8081

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1995  Son, Kaahiye, born.

1996  After twenty-two years' exile, returns to Somalia.


1999  Moves to Cape Town, South Africa.

2000  Publishes *Yesterday, Tomorrow: Voices from the Somali Diaspora*.

2001  Wins the Italian Premio Mondello prize for best foreign author.

2003  Second prize winner of the Lettre Ulysses Award for the Art of Reportage.

2004  Publishes *Links*.

2005  Wins the Italian Premio Napoli award for the Italian translation of *Links*.

2010  Publishes *Knots*. Winton Chair in the Liberal Arts University of Minnesota. (Till 2012.)

2011  Publishes *Crossbones*.

2013  Sister working for UNICEF in Kabul, Afghanistan, killed in a bomb blast.

2014  Publishes *Hiding in Plain Sight*. Wins South African Lifetime Achievement Award.

2017  Awarded Honorary Doctorate by alma mater, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India.

2018  Publishes *North of Dawn*.

2019  Awarded the third Lee Hochul Literary Prize for Peace at a ceremony in Seoul, South Korea.