# **Miramar**

SkandalonInfinite AltarsMiramarMiramarMiramarThe Miramar SeductionMiramar bolsilloMiramar T. R. Hummer James Brasfield Naguib Mahfouz William Budd Trites W. B. Trites Keeling Jordan

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in christian theology a skandalon is a distraction from grace a maze of error where we wander pointlessly wasting our lives to the ancient greeks a skandalon was the trigger of a trap t r hummer s labyrinthine new collection encompasses these meanings and more as its poems take various paths some beguiling some grotesque some instructive some opaque to unexpected destinations undergirding the collection is a series of progressive vignettes entitled victims of the wedding which follows the quarrels and couplings of a human man and woman as well as the angel and demon who observe them skandalon presents poems that consider the subtle tragic and ridiculous responses of creatures who lose themselves in a world they had wrongly imagined to be their own

in his second poetry collection infinite altars james brasfield tracks restless interplays of light on a fallen feather outside an italian chapel the surface of the gowanus canal and a forest footpath after an evening of rain atmospheric and reflective these poems travel with equal ease through the world of fine arts and the places where we live highlighting the vivid sights and sounds of each in turn at a sudden encounter with everyday beauty serenity suffuses through the author something of that calmness goes with us back into the world brasfield s poems invite readers to embrace these unexpected and arresting experiences

this highly charged fable set in alexandria egypt in the late 1960s centers on the guests of the pension miramar as they compete for the attention of the young servant zohra zohra is a beautiful peasant girl who fled her family to escape an arranged marriage she becomes the focus of jealousies and conflicts among the miramar s residents who include an assortment of radicals and aristocrats floundering in the wake of the egyptian revolution it becomes clear that the uneducated but strong willed zohra is the only one among them who knows what she wants as the situation spirals toward violence and tragedy the same sequence of events is retold from the perspective of four different residents in the manner of akira kurosawa s rashomon weaving a nuanced portrait of the intricacies of post revolutionary egyptian life

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