



## NEWS RELEASE

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### ***Women of Karantina* on the Longlist for the 2015 FT/OppenheimerFunds Emerging Voices Awards**

12 June 2015, Cairo, Egypt—Nael Eltoukhy’s “darkly funny” (*Chicago Times*) novel *Women of Karantina*, translated by Robin Moger and published in 2014 by the American University in Cairo Press, has been selected for the fiction longlist of the 2015 FT/OppenheimerFunds Emerging Voices Awards, announced today in the *Financial Times*.

Chosen by a panel of distinguished international judges, the Emerging Voices Awards are given this year for extraordinary artistic work in three categories, from three regions—fiction from Africa and the Middle East, films from the Asia-Pacific region, and visual arts from Latin America and the Caribbean.

*Women of Karantina* is a satiric epic about crime and excess set in a future Alexandria, introducing the reader to a teeming cast of pimps, dealers, psychotics, and half-wits, that has been widely praised for its inventiveness, pace, and subversive humor. *Ahram Online* calls it “a new twist in the evolution of the form of the Egyptian novel itself,” while the *Chicago Tribune* writes that the author “simultaneously revels in and mourns the dark underbelly of Alexandria, where the locals live and fight. This is a side of Alexandria that is hardly glimpsed, let alone explored with Eltoukhy’s brand of incisive humor.”

Nael Eltoukhy is a 36-year-old Egyptian writer who was born in Kuwait. His first collection of short stories was published in 2003, and he is the author of four novels. He is also a journalist, blogger, and a translator of books from Hebrew into Arabic. Known for his sharp sense of humor and his unlimited passion for the songs of Umm Kulthum, the films of Woody Allen, and the novels of Franz Kafka, he has been described as “a serious guy with a light touch” and a “post-modern novelist.”

The names of the three finalists in the fiction category will be announced on 7 August, and the winner will be declared at the awards ceremony to be held in New York on 5 October.

*Women of Karantina* is available at AUC Press Bookstores and all other good bookstores in Egypt, and worldwide through all major booksellers.

*Currently the AUC Press publishes sixty new books annually and offers more than eight hundred titles in print, making it the region's leading English-language publisher. Its books are readily available online, in physical form, through the AUC Press website ([aucpress.com](http://aucpress.com)), and in electronic form, through the AUC Press e-Store ([ebooks.aucpress.com](http://ebooks.aucpress.com)). They are also sold online through Amazon and AUC Press's regional distributors.*