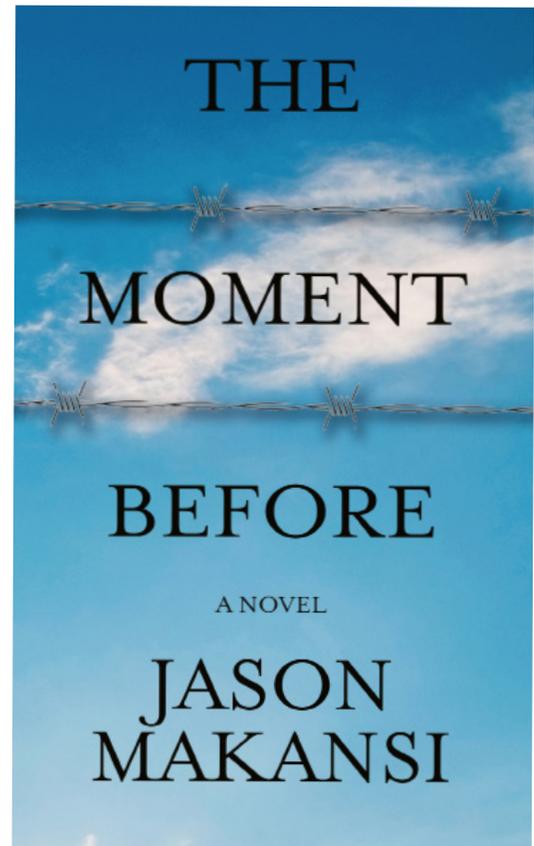


America's global ambitions are reduced to one father, his daughter, and the two men who seek to reunite them.

When Elias Haddad is tricked into returning to his home in Syria and leaving behind his beloved daughter Cheryl Halia, he is detained upon his arrival and conscripted into Assad's army. Thus begins a forty-year geopolitical odyssey from hell which culminates in his captivity in Guantanamo during America's post-9/11 War on Terror.

In her search for her father, Cheryl meets John Veranda, an idealistic lawyer who gives up his family's land, risks his marriage, and abandons aspirations for his hometown's future for a relationship with Cheryl neither are fully prepared for.

Stuart Eisenstat, a dedicated federal bureaucrat, thinks he's doing an old friend a favor when he picks John's hometown as the perfect site for relocating Guantanamo detainees only to come face to face with the personal cost of America's global ambitions.



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Title: *The Moment Before*

Author: Jason Makansi

Imprint: Blank Slate Press

Pub Date: March 13, 2018

Trim Size: 6 x 9; **Pages:** 360

Paperback ISBN: 9781943075423 | **Price:** \$16.95

E-Book ISBN: 9781943075430 | **Price:** \$9.99

For ordering inquiries:

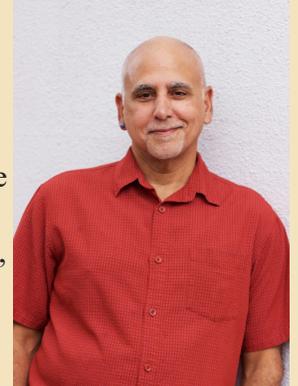
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Jason Makansi, author of four non-fiction books relating to business, energy/environmental issues, and mathematical modeling, has published short stories in a variety of literary journals and collections, including Big Muddy, Dos Passos Review, Lost River, Marginalia, Mizna: Prose, Poetry, and Art Exploring Arab America, London Journal of Fiction, Rainbow Curve, and Arabesques. He is a 2009 alumnus of the Sewanee Writers Conference, reviewed short story collections for The Short Review for many years, and is currently a contributing editor for River Styx literary journal and Associate Editor for December literary magazine. In his spare time, he plays the viola in community orchestras, plays piano for fun, and rides his bike as often as he can.



Published by Blank Slate Press, an imprint of Amphora Publishing Group
4168 Hartford Street | Saint Louis, MO 63116 | 314.606.7981
amphoraepublishing.com

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