

rock flight Hasib Hourani

A Poetry Book Society Recommendation

'*rock flight* is relentlessly potent. Merging resistance and poetry, Hasib Hourani writes back—against the “suffocating state” and imperial forces. Be ready to be transformed by Hourani’s diasporic anticolonial poetics.'

— Don Mee Choi

'Here is a poetry of passion; a poetry of necessity; a poetry of survival, and a poetry-triumphant.'

— Maxine Beneba Clarke

'*rock flight* is a work of timelessness, rigour, precision, relationality and guts – just like its poet. A must-read for all of us who yearn and stretch and reach for a world beyond colonies, and an even more urgent read for those who don't.'

— Alison Whittaker



rock flight is a book-length poem that, over five chapters, follows a personal and historical narrative to compose an understated yet powerful allegory of Palestine’s occupation.

The poem uses refrains of suffocation, rubble, and migratory bird patterns to address the realities of forced displacement, economic restrictions and surveillance technology that Palestinians face both within and outside Palestine. It depicts a restlessness brought about by dispossession, and a determination to find significance in fleeting objects and fragments. It looks to the literary form as an interactive experience, and the book as an object in flux, inviting the reader to embark on an exploration of space, while limited by the box-like confines of the page. Formally claustrophobic, *rock flight* morphs into irony, declaring everything a box while refusing to exist within one.



Hasib Hourani, born in Bahrain in 1996, is a Lebanese-Palestinian writer, editor, arts worker and educator who lives in so-called Australia. His 2021 essay, ‘when we blink’ was shortlisted in the Liminal and Pantera Press Nonfiction Prize and appears in the anthology, *Against Disappearance*. *rock flight* is his first book.

For press enquiries please contact Rory Cook at rory@prototypepublishing.co.uk

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