

Rula Jurdi's novel, *Mi'at Ra'sha (One Hundred Flutters)*, published by al-Adab Press, Beirut, 2021, received four reviews from distinguished writers and literary critics. Here are excerpts from the reviews.

1- Christo el Morr, "Rula Jurdi's Journey in Search for Self and Meaning," *al-Akhbar Daily*, September 4, 2023, https://www.al-akhbar.com/Literature_Arts/369268/-رلى-الجردى-رحلة-البحث-عن-الذات-والمعنى

"There is beauty and splendor in the journey Rula Jurdi takes us through, from the expulsion of Mardiros with his Armenian family from their home, to his life as a singer at the Turkish *vali*'s court, to his castration....and finally, his reemergence as a Sufi chanter in Tripoli where he meets Lama's grandfather.....Maybe in the end, Lama means to say that if we return to ourselves, if we find a way to play the keys of 'our pianos', we would have understood love and life.....a life open to one hundred flutters."

* *Dr. Christo el Morr is the head of the Canadian Lebanese Academic Forum (CLAF) and Professor of Health Infomatics at York University*

2- Salman Zayn al-Din, "Rula al-Jurdi Tarsim taḥawwulāt al-ḥayāt fī "Mi'at Ra'sha", April 7, 2021 *al-Nahar al-Arabi*, <https://www.annahar.com/arabic/culture/books-authors/04072021042308013>

"The meanings in the title "one hundred flutters" and in the novel are multiple. They are the flutters in the bird's body at the moment of death; the Sufi body overpowered by divine love; the embryo's heart beating; and the musician's fingers striking the piano.....the novel makes for a fulfilling and enjoyable reading"

* *Salman Zayn al-Din is a Lebanese journalist, poet, literary critic and novelist.*

3- Shirin AbuNega, "Rula Jurdi's protagonist rebuilds her self between loss and happiness," *Independent Arabiyya*, August 6, 2021, <https://www.independentarabia.com/node/248226/>-ثقافة/بطلة-رلى-الجردى-ترمم-ذاتها-المنقسمة-بين-فقدان-واستعادة

"Music, through its magnificent presence and enforced absence, evokes a way to read personal and collective history, to read the dissonance in the city's space.....Lama's detached world is rekindled by Yoska's music in a cold city in east America".

* *Dr. Shirin Abou el-Naga is a professor of English literature at Cairo University, Egypt. She is also a novelist and a literary critic.*

4- Somar Shehadeh, "One Hundred Flutters (*Mi'at Ra'sha*) by Rula al-Jurdi: Loss makes the Narrative", al-'Arabī al-Jadīd, November 3, 2021, <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/culture/%22مئة-عشة-لرلى-الجردى-الفقد-يصنع-الحكاية>

"She [Lama] was face to face, at that critical moment in her career, with all forms of loss, the deepest being the loss of music and the piano she learnt to play in Tripoli, in the middle of her family's poverty, and it felt like an "excess in hope".....The things that made Lama are lost things. Even the novel unfolds in a lost time. It is real time but trailed through a time of unfulfilled hopes, through waiting for what does not happen."

* *Somar Shehadeh is a Syrian novelist and literary critic who won the Tayyeb Saleh Award and Naguib Mahfouz Prize for his novel al-Hijrān.*