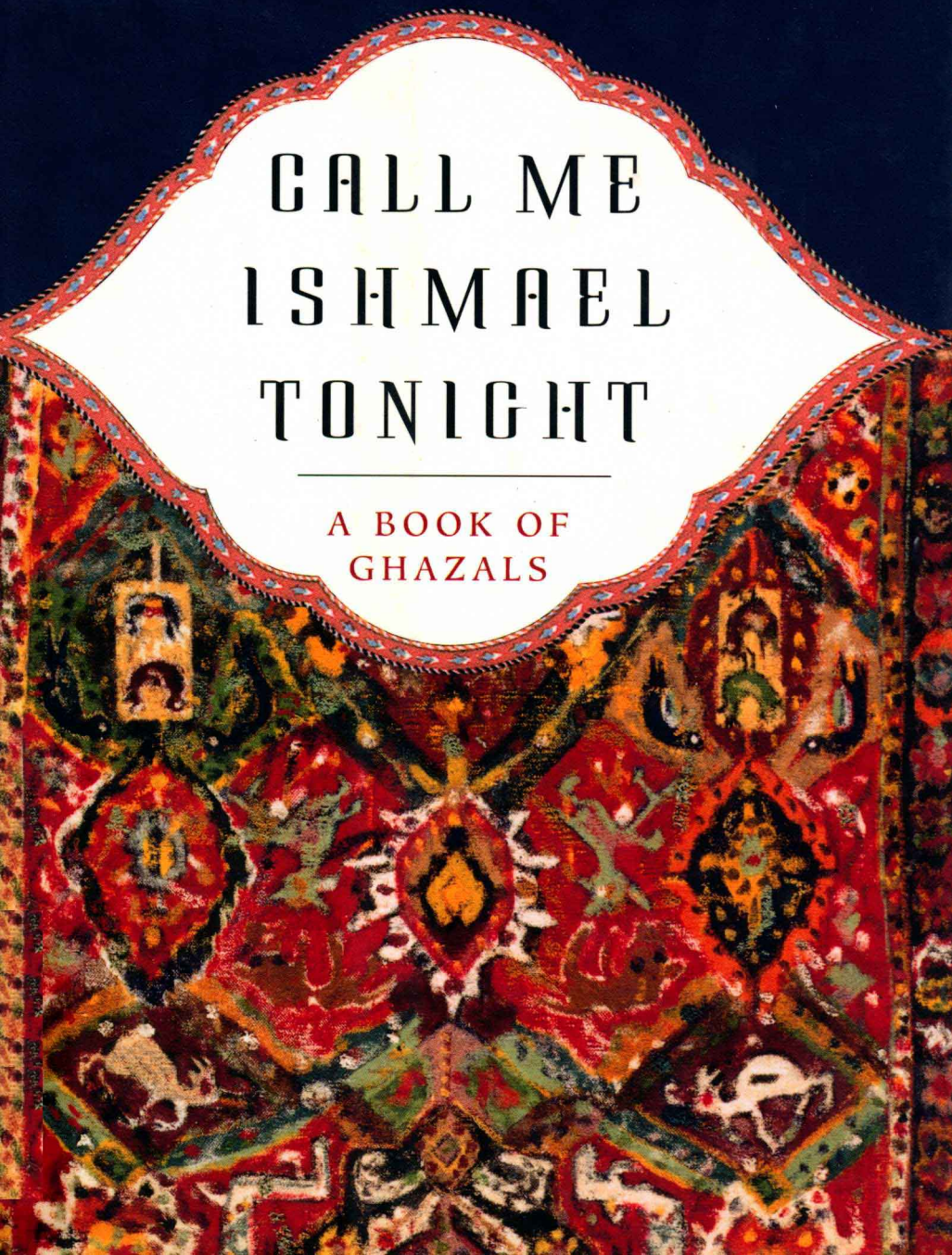


Agha Shahid Ali

FINALIST FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD

CALL ME
ISHMAEL
TONIGHT

A BOOK OF
GHAZALS



CALL ME ISHMAEL TONIGHT

ALSO BY AGHA SHAHID ALI

POETRY

Rooms Are Never Finished

The Country Without a Post Office

The Beloved Witness: Selected Poems

A Nostalgist's Map of America

A Walk Through the Yellow Pages

The Half-Inch Himalayas

In Memory of Begum Akhtar & Other Poems

Bone-Sculpture

TRANSLATION

The Rebel's Silhouette: Selected Poems

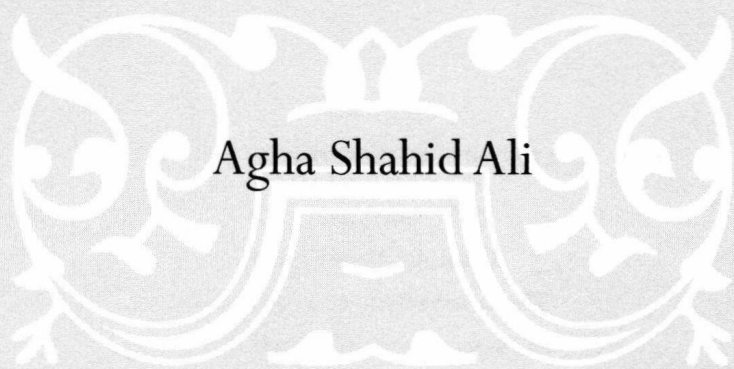
(Faiz Ahmed Faiz)

OTHER

Ravishing DisUnities: Real Ghazals in English

(Editor)

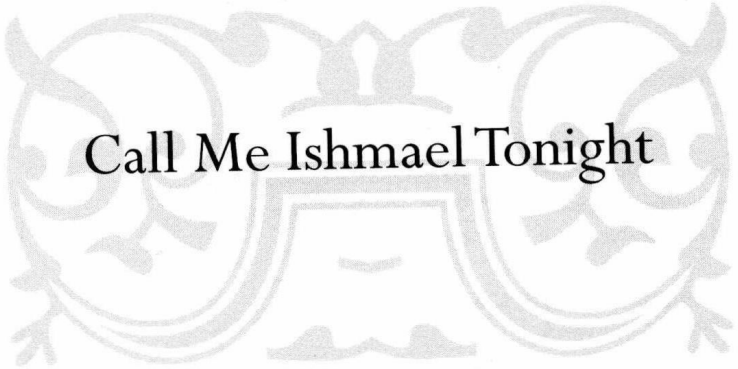
T. S. Eliot as Editor



Agha Shahid Ali



W. W. NORTON & COMPANY NEW YORK LONDON



Call Me Ishmael Tonight

A B O O K O F G H A Z A L S

Copyright © 2003 by Agha Shahid Ali Literary Trust

All rights reserved

Printed in the United States of America

First Edition

For information about permission to reproduce selections from
this book, write to Permissions, W. W. Norton & Company Inc.,
500 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10110

Manufacturing by The Courier Companies, Inc.

Book design by Chris Welch

Production manager: Andrew Marasia

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication-Data

Agha, Shahid Ali, date.

Call me Ishmael tonight: a book of ghazals / Agha Shahid Ali. — 1st ed.

p. cm.

ISBN 0-393-05195-1

1. Ghazals, American. I. Title.

PR9499.3.A39 C35 2003

821'.914—dc21

2002015950

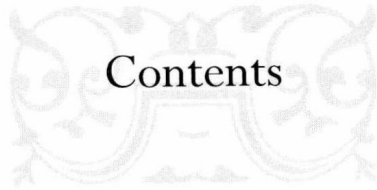
W. W. Norton & Company Inc., 500 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10110

www.wwnorton.com

W. W. Norton & Company Ltd., Castle House, 75/76 Wells Street, London W1T 3Q

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

for Christopher Merrill


A decorative floral border with intricate scrollwork and leaf patterns, framing the word "Contents" in the center.

Contents

I Have Loved	23
Arabic	24
For You	26
By Exiles	28
Of It All	30
In Real Time	32
Of Fire	34
Things	36
Shines	38
My Word	40

From The Start	42
Angels	44
Of Water	46
As Ever	48
Land	50
Not All, Only A Few Return	52
Even The Rain	53
Water	55
Of Snow	57
Air	59
About Me	60
In Marble	62
Bones	64
In	66
Beyond English	68
Of Light	70
Stars	72
For Time	73
God	75

Forever	77
After You	79
In Arabic	80
Tonight	82
Existed	84



Acknowledgments

Ghazals traditionally do not have titles, and most of these, in earlier or later versions, appeared simply under “Ghazal.” For convenience, I have now titled most of them after their refrains.

Acumen: “Of Water”

The Annual of Urdu Studies: “Angels,” “By Exiles,” “In,” “Of It All,”
“Of Water”

Antioch Review: “In Marble”

Boston Review: “In Real Time”

Chicago Review: “Angels”

Grand Street: “Arabic”

Interim: “About Me”

Massachusetts Review: “Tonight”

Many Mountains Moving: “Of Fire”

The Nation: “Not All, Only A Few Return,” “Forever”

The New Republic: “My Word”

The New Yorker: “Beyond English,” “Of Snow”

The Paris Review: “For You”

Partisan Review: “From the Start”

Persimmon: “In Real Time”

Poetry: “Land,” “Of Light”

Poetry Pilot: “From The Start”

Quarterly West: “Of Water”

Slate: “For Time”

Salt Hill Journal: “In Arabic”

TriQuarterly: “By Exiles,” “Of It All”

Verse: “Bones,” “God”

Washington Post Book World: “In Arabic”

Western Humanities Review: “Shines”

Yale Review: “Even The Rain”

Some of these ghazals also appeared in the following anthologies:

The New Bread Loaf Anthology of Contemporary American Poetry
("In Arabic," "Of Water"), *The Norton Anthology of Love*
("From The Start"),

and in two previous collections of the author:

The Beloved Witness: Selected Poems ("Arabic") and *The Country Without
a Post Office* ("Arabic," "Tonight").

