

Other Colours – Essays and a Story by Ohran Pamuk.  
Translated by Maureen Freely.  
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Ohran Pamuk is arguably Turkey's greatest living writer and his claim to that description is amply justified by this personal collection of his writings in Other Colours.

These pieces, some very short, cover a wide range of subjects under the broad headings of Life, Art, Books and Cities. The joy of this collection is that it can be dipped into as well as read from cover to cover, and several of the passages deserve to be read and re-read, such is their power and quality. It is always invidious in a collection such as Other Colours to single out specific passages as being better than others, but subjectivity is unavoidable and I will succumb to the temptation!

Of particular note are: What I Know about Dogs, Earthquake, Salman Rushdie: the Satanic Verses and the Freedom of the Writer and the PEN Arthur Miller Speech. But my favourites are the opening essay The Implied Author, a very personal piece about the process and importance of writing, and My Father, about the death of Pamuk's father, which is a marvellous tribute from a son to a father and ends with a powerful, jolting thought.

Other Colours is a wonderful assemblage of the work of one of the world's great writers, and an excellent introduction to his writing for anyone who has not yet had the pleasure of reading his novels.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh