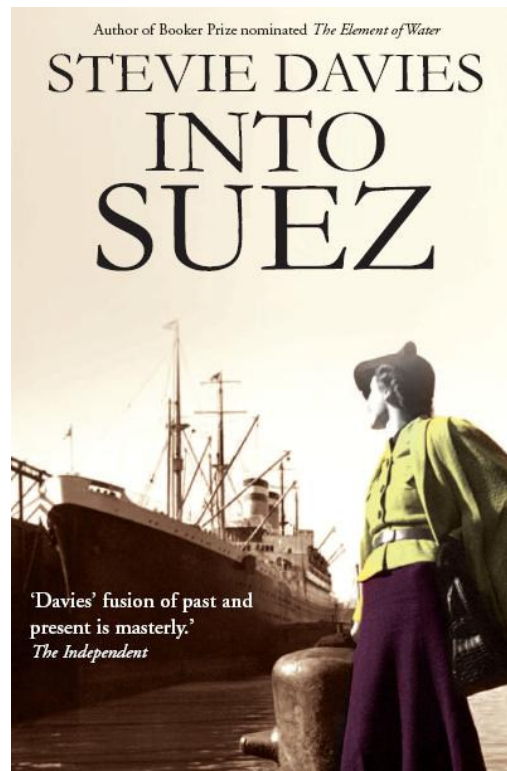


Into Suez

By Stevie Davies

Into Suez is a dual narrative novel that tells not only of the complicated relationship of the British Empire with Egypt over the Suez Canal, but also of the sometimes more complicated relationship between parent and child.

The year is 1949; Great Britain, victorious but bankrupt after WWII, attempts to assert itself as an Imperial power by claiming ownership of the Suez Canal. Egypt's struggle against its British occupiers strongly parallels the **recent invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq**. When Israel declares its statehood and drives out the Arab population, Joe, a RAF sergeant, his wife Alisa and daughter Nia leave Wales for Egypt.



Joe is the everyday working man, in whom **racism and misogyny** become a sickness. Alisa is an **independent, free thinking woman** yearning to explore her new homeland of Egypt. It's here that she meets Mona, a Palestinian woman who opens Alisa's eyes to what lies beyond the horizon. It is when Joe's closest friend is murdered by Egyptian **terrorists** that the once happily married couple see their relationship take a downward tragic fall.

Nia, looking back in old age, follows in her parents' wake to sail the Suez. It's on this journey where Nia will face difficult life lessons, lessons about love, lessons about loyalty, and most importantly, lessons about family.

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PARTHIAN



Stevie Davies was born in Swansea, Wales and spent much of her childhood **travelling from Egypt to Scotland to Germany.**

In 2001 she returned to Swansea to lecture at Manchester University where she earned her degree. She is Director of Creative Writing Swansea University.

Stevie is both a **Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature** and a **Fellow of the Welsh Academy.**

Into Suez is Stevie's eleventh novel; her novels have been shortlisted and won several literature awards—including the Booker Prize, the Fawcett Society Book Prize and the Orange Prize. Her 2001 novel *The Element of Water* was the winner of the Arts Council of Wales Book of the Year Award 2002.

Stevie is a unique voice in literature that finds inspiration for her works from a wide variety of sources. **"You write out of your deepest self, the one that has lived and suffered and pondered and grown - but your first obligation is to an empathetic bonding with the world out there, its people and the creaturely life on our shared planet. Your own experience furnishes knowledge - and then you must imagine,"** she says.

For *Into Suez*, Stevie found inspiration from her own **nomadic childhood travelling the world.** **"I was in Egypt as a very small child, looking through the grid of wire netting over the window and seeing an Arab walking out into the desert - and wondering about him - who was he? Where was he going?"**

With her **firm feminist beliefs**, her ability to **raise debate of modern day wars** by looking at history and tie it all together with the roots of her stories planted deep in the human heart, Stevie offers a fresh voice to literature. While many writers clamour to be a best-seller, Stevie herself says, **"I've never written a best seller - that is in the lap of the gods. I've been on prize lists and that is a very good feeling. Originality is in the conceiving individual mind and the way you write the narrative."**

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