

## **Late Pulitzer Prize-Winning Journalist Anthony Shadid Featured in *World Literature Today***

02/17/12

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: *World Literature Today*, (405) 325-4531

NORMAN, OKLA. – The March/April 2012 issue of *World Literature Today* will feature the work of the late Anthony Shadid, who died Feb. 16. For this issue, *WLT*'s Matt Carney interviews Shadid as part of a special section devoted to international literary journalism. Shadid discussed his forthcoming book, *House of Stone* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, March 2012), and reflected on his coverage of the Middle East as a journalist for the *Washington Post*, the Associated Press and *The New York Times*.

The interview showcases Shadid's courage as a reporter covering a troubled region and his response to the great challenges to humanity he witnessed during his years in the region. Despite the death and destruction all around him, Shadid developed a view of the Middle East that is both haunting and encouraging: "Can we reclaim something that is lost? Honestly, I tried not to answer that in a straightforward way at the end of [*House of Stone*], because I think what we do is we imagine something that compensates for that loss. . . . And because there's so much death, so much destruction, so much carnage, I have to ask: Is there a way to stop loss? Is there a way to reclaim what was lost? I still don't know the answer. We have to think of it in a different way, and I think that's where imagination comes in. It's the question that haunted me going into this experience, and still sticks with me. How do we stand loss?" (51, 55).

In a statement, University of Oklahoma President David L. Boren said, "The University of Oklahoma family is deeply saddened by the death of Anthony Shadid, one of our most outstanding former students. He was scheduled to receive an honorary degree at the OU commencement ceremony in May. He knew of our intent and planned to be with us at the Commencement ceremony. His death is a loss not only for Oklahoma but for the field of journalism both nationally and internationally. As a Pulitzer Prize-winner, he helped educate people around the globe about important issues and developments. Under these unusual circumstances, it is our plan to present his degree posthumously."

Shadid twice won the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting, in 2004 and 2010, for his coverage of the Iraq War. His experiences in Iraq were the subject for his 2005 book *Night Draws Near*, an empathetic look at how the war has impacted the Iraqi people beyond the clichés

of liberation and insurgency. *Night Draws Near* won the Ridenhour Book Prize for 2006. He also won the 2004 Michael Kelly Award, as well as awards from the Overseas Press Club and the American Society of Newspaper Editors. Shadid also was the recipient of the honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the American University of Beirut in 2011.

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