



DERANGED AS I AM

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Fiction

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Set on the island of Anjouan, Comoros, *Deranged As I Am* follows the story of a humble docker. With his ramshackle cart and patched-up clothes, he spends his days trying to find enough work to feed himself. This whirlwind of a novel takes place over just a few days, yet Zamir's poetic and energetic prose transports us to the docks, its noises, colours, and smells, and the dynamism of his language along with his powerful mix of genres, and the cleverness of his verbal invention perfectly serve this tragicomedy that makes us feel both joy and pity. Yet this lively and often darkly humorous prose does not draw away from the more serious themes of class, poverty, and exploitation that Zamir explores. A rich and significant text that questions literature and language itself, *Deranged As I Am* confirms the very original place Zamir occupies in French literature.

'Drenched in sunshine, dripping with sweat and blood, and resembles an island fable and a philosophical tale. Ali Zamir revitalises the French language...' —Jérôme Garcin, *L'Obs*

'Twisting, breaking, and subverting the rules of the French language from its disregarded fringes, in order to question it and open it up.' —Gladys Marivat, *Le Monde*

'A little gem of cruel, yet humorous poetry... the work of a wordsmith.' —Caroline Sauvage, *L'essor des idées*



Ali Zamir was born in Anjouan, Comoros and currently lives in Montpellier, France. *Deranged As I Am* is his third novel and winner of the 2019 Prix Roman France Télévisions.

Alice Banks is a translator from French and Spanish into English, based in Madrid. When she is not translating, Alice also writes on French and Spanish literature for various publications.

