

Mohammed Suerte Bennani  
Abstracts from interviews

« It was a lucky opportunity to write *L'Arc, una suerte*.

My daughter lost a tooth, the mouse came, scribbled few words on a sheet, and she was moved. I let you imagine who was the little mouse in this fairy tale.

We all have a book in our hearts, especially at 45 years old.

My book, *L'Arc*, is inevitably enriched by my lifetime experiences and those of others.

As for space, I was always attracted by science fiction novels, planets and stars, the immensely small versus the immensely big ... »

« It's a fiction, based sometimes on real facts. It is about hybridity, as the space shuttle engine, loaded by chemical propulsion, but in the same time, using nuclear power to move in the outer space ; it's about identity as my name, a mixing of andalusian origin, moroccan, and muslim roots ; it's about identities, so rich thanks to their diversities, but yet so personal, which make them unique.

Some critics said that the book is ambivalent, or even ambiguous.

But life is like that, not extremely white, nor deeply black ; rarely you will find the good against the evil ; and who is the evil ? You see, that is exactly why we are so happy to live...»

« They are all fictional characters. All but five, as former President Ronald Reagan, and the incredible physicist and thinker, Robert Freinman. »

« We, doctors and specially surgeons are often humanists. Our job is to observe, understand, treat and possibly cure the patient. I see that with pride and humility, because I realize each single day, progress, but also limits and sometimes drifts of science. Inevitably, this approach has an impact in the book. Those who read it, will realize that we are all vulnerable at some point or another in our lives. The

passengers of the shuttle Arrow, the crew are indeed moving characters. »

« It is an incredible opportunity, an immense pleasure to write. You look deep within yourself seeking answers, trying to understand the world around ; you structure and put thoughts into words. The magic of words. Also, I realised that somewhere, I was seeking for posterity I don't get when treating the patient, because in this case, it is between you and him and it's wonderful. A book, specially a fiction, is between you and the people, it is between you and the history ; it is different and wonderful too. »

« Writing l'Arc was a way to enforce my work in a different direction, where people don't expect to find me, where I didn't either ; It was an achievement, an other arrow to my quiver. »