From the New Book, A River Dies of Thirst: Journals (Archipelago, 2009)
"This remarkable collection of Mahmoud Darwish’s poems and prose meditations is both lyrical and philosophical, questioning and wise, full of irony and protest and play. “Every beautiful poem is an act of resistance.” As always, Darwish’s musings on unrest and loss dwell on love and humanity; myth and dream are inseparable from truth. “Truth is plain as day.” Throughout the book, Darwish returns frequently to his ongoing and often lighthearted conversation with death. Catherine Cobham teaches Arabic language and literature at St Andrews University, Scotland, and has translated a number of Arab authors, including Naguib Mahfouz, Yusuf Idris, Fuad al-Takarli, Hanan al-Shaykh and Liana Badr.”—Publisher