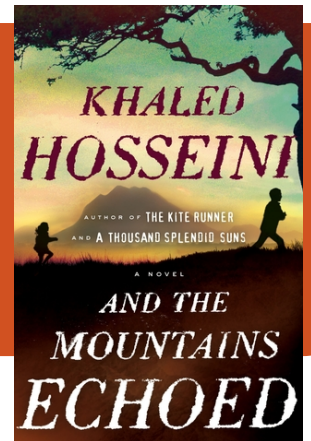




And the Mountains Echoed

Khaled Hosseini



Author Background

Khaled Hosseini was born in Kabul, Afghanistan, in 1965. In 1970 Hosseini and his family moved to Iran where his father worked for the Embassy of Afghanistan in Tehran. In 1973 Hosseini's family returned to Kabul, where Hosseini's youngest brother was born.

When Hosseini was 11 years old, he and his family moved to Paris, France. They were unable to return to Afghanistan because of the Saur Revolution in which the communist party seized power through a bloody coup in April 1978.

Instead, a year after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1980, the family sought political asylum in the USA and made their residence in San Jose, California.

Hosseini graduated from Independence High School in 1984 and enrolled at Santa Clara University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in biology in 1988. The following year, he entered the University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine, where he earned his M.D. in 1993.

He practiced medicine for over ten years, until a year and a half after the release of his first book, *The Kite Runner*.

Hosseini is currently a Goodwill Envoy for the UNHCR. He has been working to provide humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan through the Khaled Hosseini Foundation.

Hosseini lives in Northern California with his wife, Roya, and their two children.

Book Summary

In 1952 ten-year-old Abdullah and his younger sister, Pari, are everything to each other. What happens to them, at the despairing hand of their father, will test the unshakable bonds of family and irrevocably change not just their own lives, but those of multiple generations.

In this tale revolving around not just parents and children but brothers and sisters, cousins and caretakers, Khaled Hosseini explores the many ways in which families nurture, wound, betray, honour, and sacrifice for one another, and how often we are surprised by the actions of those closest to us, at the times that matter most.

Following its characters and the ramifications of their lives and choices and loves around the globe—from Kabul to Paris to San Francisco to the Greek Island of Tinos—the story expands gradually outward, becoming more emotionally complex and powerful with each turning page.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ *And the Mountains Echoed* introduces us to Saboor and his children Abdullah and Pari, and the shocking, heartbreaking event that divides them. From there, the book branches off to include other characters and storylines before circling back to Abdullah and Pari. How do each of the other characters relate back to the original story? What themes is the author exploring by having these stories counterpoint one another?
- ❖ What would you say are the three main themes of the book?
- ❖ Which character did you find the most sympathetic? Which the least?
- ❖ The oak tree in Shadbagh plays an important role for many different characters. What is its significance in the story? What do its branches represent?
- ❖ The book raises many questions about the wavering line between right and wrong, and whether it is possible to be purely "good" or purely "bad." What do you think after reading the novel: Are good intentions enough to create good deeds? Can positive actions come from selfish motivations? Can bad come from positive intent? How do you think this novel would define a good person? How would you define one?
- ❖ Discuss the question of wrongdoing and right in the context of the different characters and their major dilemmas in the book: Saboor and his daughter Pari; Parwana and her sister, Masooma; the expats, Idris and Timur, and the injured girl, Roshji; Adel, his warlord father, and their interactions with Gholam and his father (and Abdullah's half-brother), Iqbal; Thalia and her mother. Do any of them regret the things they have done? What impact does it have on them?

References

- ❖ Goodreads: https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/569.Khaled_Hosseini
- ❖ Penguin Random House: <https://bit.ly/3vTPZIK>
- ❖ Reading Group Guides: <https://bit.ly/2TG3Gwt>
- ❖ JUGS bookclub: <https://bit.ly/3uO1ekj>