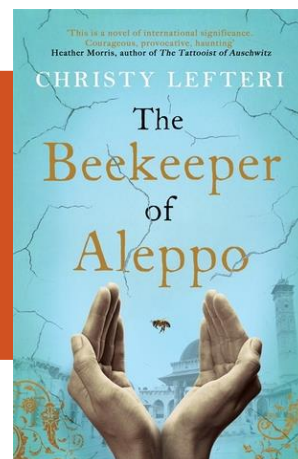




The Beekeeper of Aleppo

Christy Lefteri



Author Background

Christy Lefteri was born in 1980 to Cypriot refugees who fled Cyprus following the partition of 1974.

Brought up in London, she released her first novel, *A Watermelon, a Fish and a Bible* in 2010.

The Beekeeper of Aleppo is her second novel and was born out of her time working as a volunteer at a Unicef support refugee centre in Athens. *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* became a Sunday Times bestseller and the winner of the 2020 Aspen Words Literary Prize.

Christy is currently a lecturer in creative writing at Brunel University. Her third novel *Songbirds* was released in 2021.

Book Summary

Nuri is a beekeeper; his wife, Afra, an artist. They live a simple life, rich in family and friends, in the beautiful Syrian city of Aleppo – until the unthinkable happens. When all they care for is destroyed by war, they are forced to escape. But what Afra has seen is so terrible she has gone blind, and so they must embark on a perilous journey through Turkey and Greece towards an uncertain future in Britain. On the way, Nuri is sustained by the knowledge that waiting for them is Mustafa, his cousin and business partner, who has started an apiary and is teaching fellow refugees in Yorkshire to keep bees.

As Nuri and Afra travel through a broken world, they must confront not only the pain of their own unspeakable loss, but dangers that would overwhelm the bravest of souls. Above all – and perhaps this is the hardest thing they face – they must journey to find each other again.

Moving, powerful, compassionate, and beautifully written, *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* is a testament to the triumph of the human spirit. Told with deceptive simplicity, it is the kind of book that reminds us of the power of storytelling.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ What did you like best about this book?
- ❖ What did you like least about this book?
- ❖ How did you feel about the story being written from the first-person perspective of Nuri? Did you think this added to the story?
- ❖ Lefteri weaves together two different timelines, one starting in Aleppo in 2015 and one in England the following year. How did you find this style of writing?
- ❖ Would you read another book by this author? Why or why not?
- ❖ If you got a chance to ask the author of this book one question, what would it be?
- ❖ How do you think the author's history has influenced her storytelling?
- ❖ What do you think the main message of this story is?

References

- ❖ <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/posts/meet-the-author/meet-the-author-christy-lefteri>
- ❖ <https://www.beekeeperofaleppo.com/the-beekeeper-of-aleppo/>
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