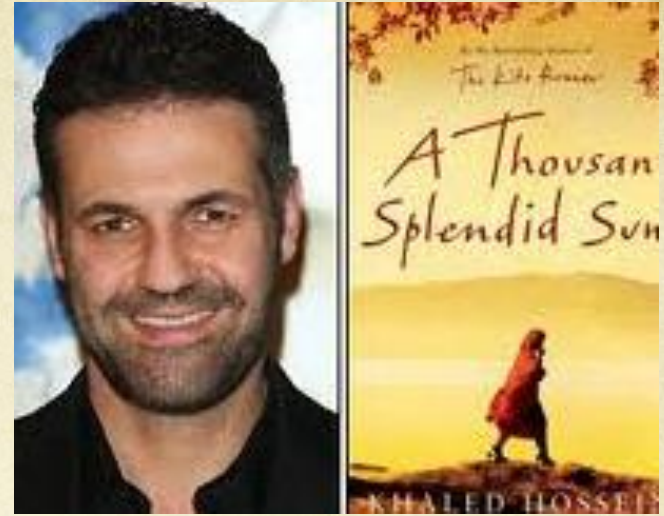


Khaled Hosseini



- Born in Kabul, Afghanistan in 1965
- His father worked as a diplomat for the Afghan Foreign Ministry and his mother taught high school
- He and his parents were relocated to Paris in 1976 because of his father's job.

Hosseini Continued

- They wanted to return to Kabul four years later, but Afghanistan had already experienced a bloody Communist coup and an invasion by the Soviets, so they received political asylum from the United States instead.
- Hosseini and his parents settled in San Jose, CA where he graduated from high school and Santa Clara University with a degree in Biology.

Hosseini Continued

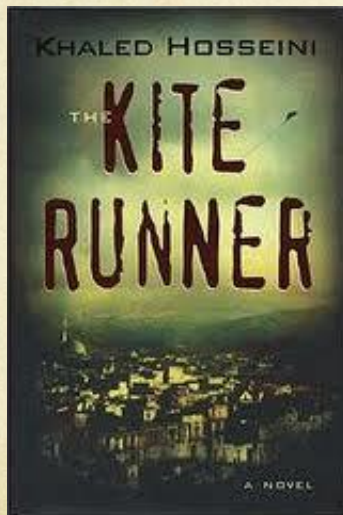
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees named Hosseini a goodwill envoy in 2006. A trip made with the UNHCR in 2007 inspired him to begin his own group, The Khaled Hosseini Foundation, to provide humanitarian aid in Afghanistan.
- Hosseini lives in northern California with wife Roya and two children.
- His 3rd book is due out in May of 2013

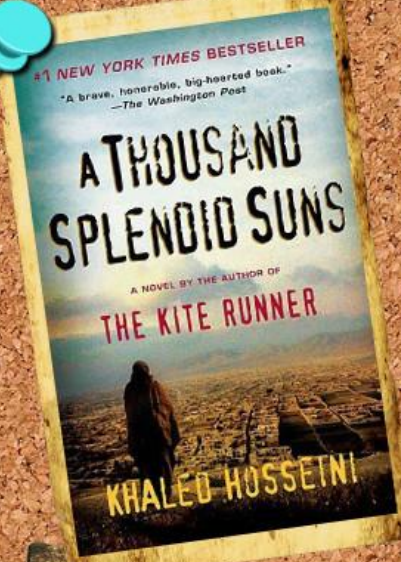
Kite Runner

- After graduating medical school and while doing his internship, Hosseini began writing The Kite Runner which was published in 2003.
- Kite Runner was adapted for film in 2007



- The American Library Association reports that The Kite Runner is one of its most-challenged books of 2008, with multiple attempts to remove it from libraries due to "offensive language, sexually explicit, and unsuited to age group."
- Kite Runner and Thousand Splendid Suns have sold over a combined 37 million copies





A Thousand Splendid Suns

By: Khaled Hosseini

Afghanistan



In Afghanistan women had many hardships...



Characters
Mariam-the child of Jalil and Nana; the second wife of Rasheed
Nana-Mariam's mother
Mullah Faizullah-Mariam's Koran teacher and friend
Jalil-Mariam's father
Laila-daughter of Hakim and Fariba; the third wife of Rasheed; the mother of

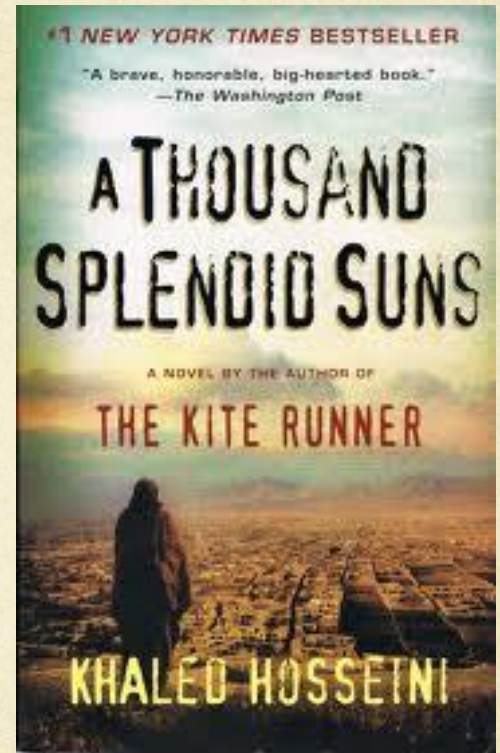


Major Themes:
1. Strength of women
2. Loyalty and Devotion
3. Discrimination of women

Quotes
"Like a compass needle that always points north, a man's accusing finger always finds a woman. Always. You remember that, Mariam."
"God's words will never betray you, my girl."

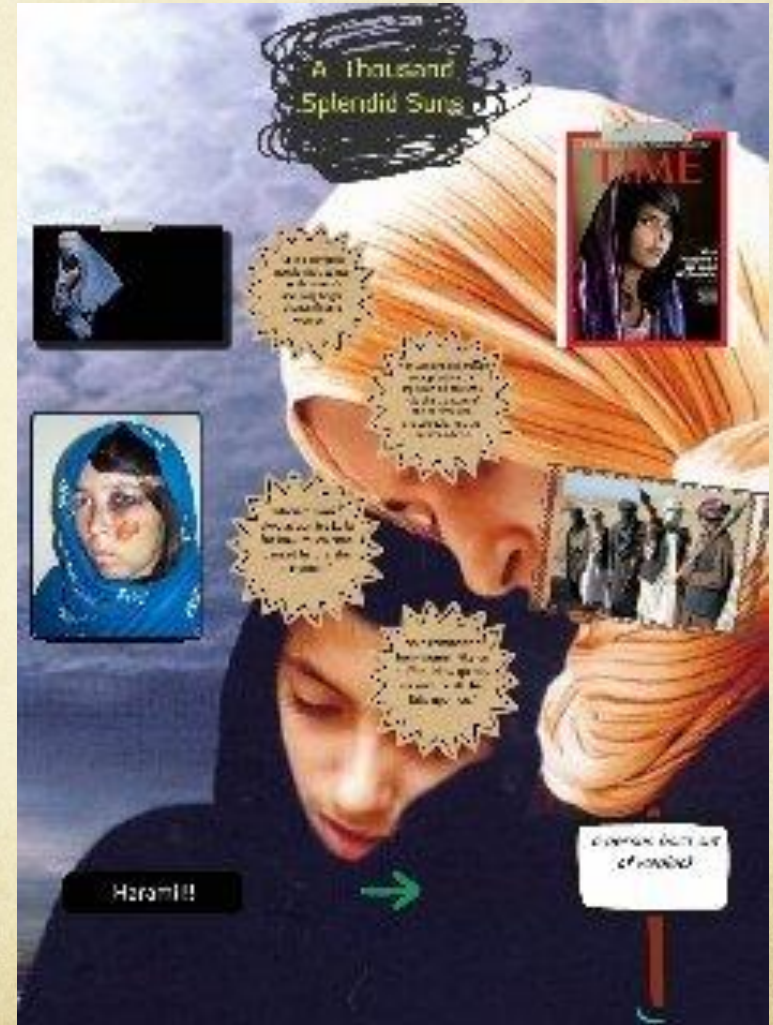
Thousand Splendid Suns

- A Thousand Splendid Suns was published in May 2007
- Hosseini cites his influences as Persian poetry that he read as a child, Persian translations of *Alice in Wonderland*, and his fond childhood memories of Afghanistan in the peaceful pre-soviet era.



A Thousand Splendid Suns

- Spans the years of 1960-2003
- Tells the story of two Afghan women, Miriam and Leila, and how their lives and struggles intertwine



Themes

- Strength of women
- Loyalty/Devotion
- Oppression/Discrimination of women

Afghanistan



Middle East



Title Source: “Kabul”

- Title is from a 17th century poem called “Kabul” by Persian poet Saib-e-Tabrizi
- “Kabul” (Translation by Josephine Davis)
- Ah! How beautiful is Kabul encircled by her arid mountains
And Rose, of the trails of thorns she envies
Her gusts of powdered soil, slightly sting my eyes
But I love her, for knowing and loving are born of this same dust

My song exalts her dazzling tulips
And at the beauty of her trees, I blush
How sparkling the water flows from Pul-I Bastaan!
May Allah protect such beauty from the evil eye of man!

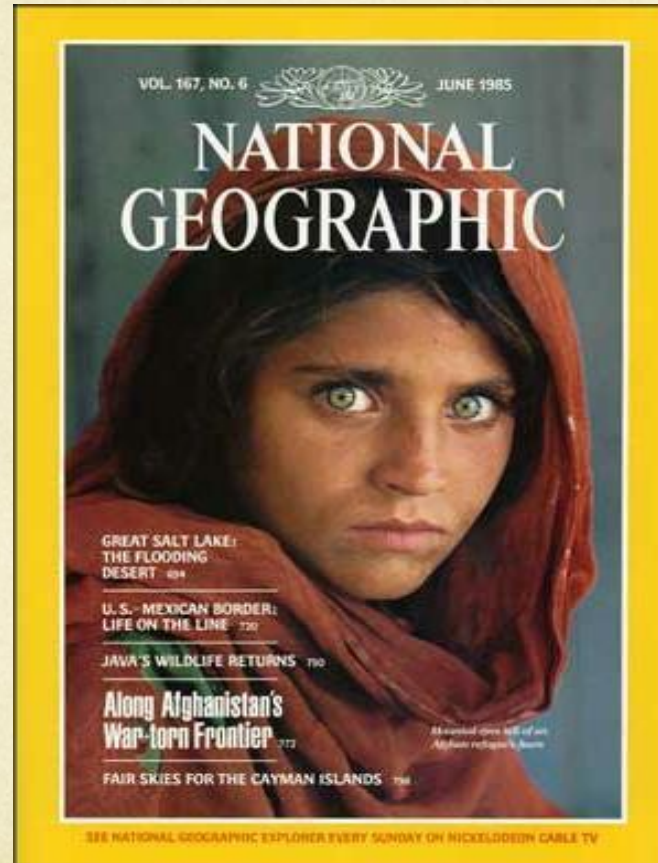
○ Khizr chose the path to Kabul in order to reach Paradise
For her mountains brought him close to the delights of heaven
From the fort with sprawling walls, A Dragon of protection
Each stone is there more precious than the treasure of Shayagan

Every street of Kabul is enthralling to the eye
Through the bazaars, caravans of Egypt pass
One could not count the moons that shimmer on her roofs
And the **thousand splendid suns** that hide behind her walls

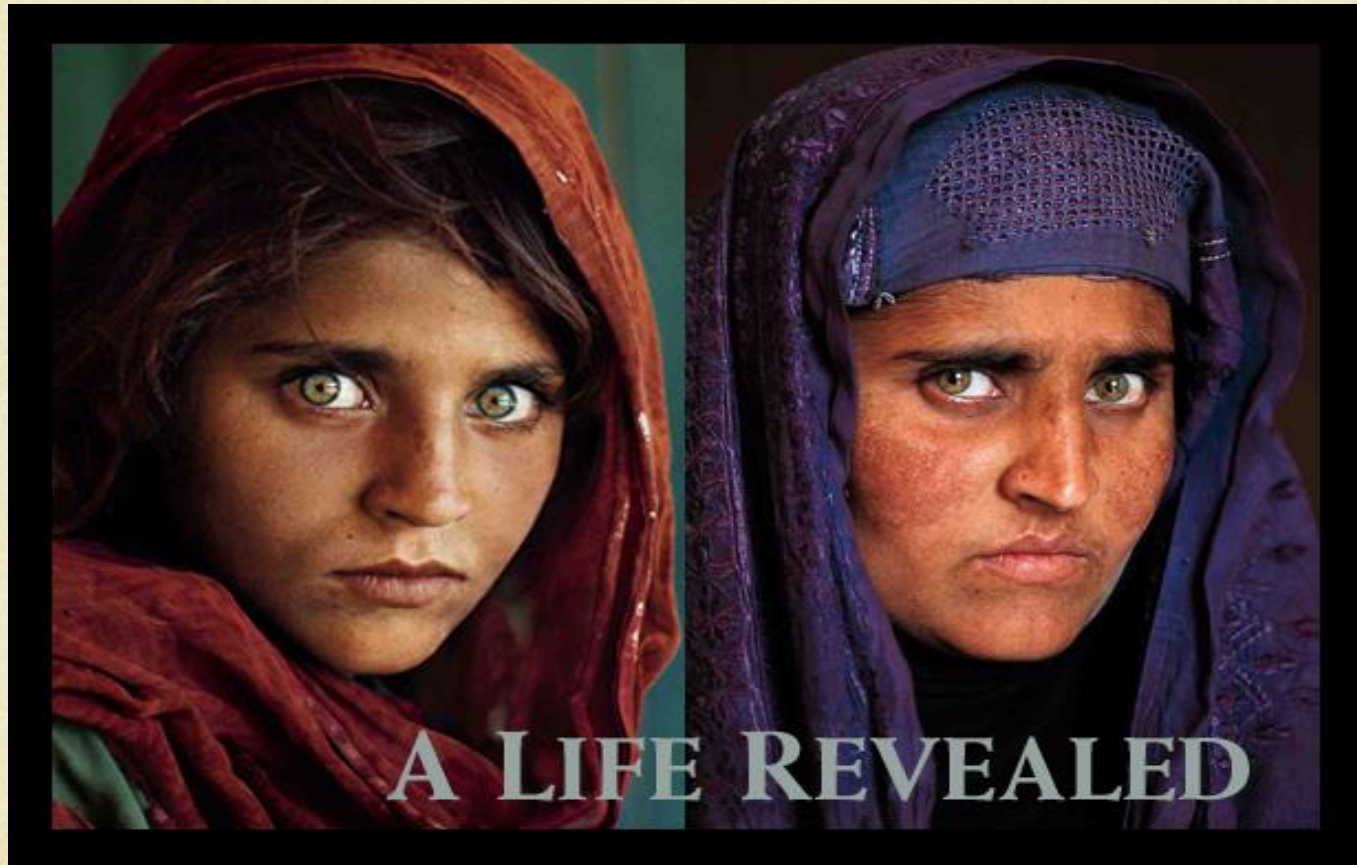
Her laughter of mornings has the gaiety of flowers
Her nights of darkness, the reflections of lustrous hair
Her melodious nightingales, with passion sing their songs
Ardent tunes, as leaves enflamed, cascading from their throats

And I, I sing in the gardens of Jahanara, of Sharbara
And even the trumpets of heaven envy their green pastures

Famous photo of Afghan girl



Originally photographed in a refugee camp in Pakistan in 1985.



Sharbat Gula

- Photographed in 1985, and then in 2002
- How they found National Geographic's "Afghan Girl"
- http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2002/03/0311_020312_sharbat.html

Conflict in Afghanistan (1978–present):

- Soviet war in Afghanistan (1979–1989)
- Afghan Civil War (1989–1992, 1992–1996, 1996–2001) – Government collapse
- Afghan Civil War 1996–2001=Taliban period
- War in Afghanistan (2001–present) – ISAF/NATO involvement

Soviet Union invades in 1979; Soviet withdrawal in 1989



Soviet War in Afghanistan

- The Soviet war in Afghanistan lasted nine years from December 1979 to February 1989. Part of the Cold War, it was fought between Soviet-led Afghan forces against multi-national insurgent groups called the mujahideens.
- The insurgents received military training in neighboring Pakistan, China, and billions of dollars from the United States, Saudi Arabia, and other countries. The decade long war resulted in millions of Afghans fleeing their country, mostly to Pakistan and Iran. Hundreds of thousands of Afghan civilians were killed in addition to the participants in the war.

Results of the War

- Before the war, Afghanistan was already one of the world's poorest nations. The prolonged conflict left Afghanistan ranked 170 out of 174 in the UNDP's *Human Development Index*, making Afghanistan one of the least developed countries in the world.
- Once the Soviets withdrew, US interest in Afghanistan ceased. The US decided not to help with reconstruction of the country, instead handing the interests of the country over to US allies Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. Pakistan quickly took advantage of this opportunity and forged relations with warlords and later the Taliban, to secure trade interests and routes.

U.S. Involvement

- Following the September 11 attacks inside the United States in 2001, NATO intervened in Afghanistan under Operation Enduring Freedom. The purpose of this was to defeat Al-Qaeda, remove the Taliban from power and create a viable democratic state.



Languages

- Farsi = spoken in Iran, also known as Persian
- Urdu = official language of Pakistan
- Pashto = spoken in Afghanistan, also known as Afghani

Polygyny

(*def.* having more than one wife at a time)

- Semitic culture permitted polygyny, and it was especially common in Arabian society
- Muhammad was married to one woman during prime of his life, Khadija. After her death, he took many wives. Most of these marriages were to cement political alliances. Others were marriages to widows who had fallen in combat.

Women's Rights

- The Qu'ranic message improved the status of all women: wives, daughters, mothers, widows, and orphans.
- Qu'ran permits a man to marry four wives, provided he can support and treat them equally.
- Islam acknowledges that women can inherit property and even seek divorce in some circumstances.

Woman wearing burqa



Woman wearing hijab



war continues...



Current president Hamid Karzai

