



widow named Rasheed that is arranged by her father wives. She survives in her fixed marriage and hope get better condition in her life.

However, it becomes worse when she has repeat miscarriage, It makes Rasheed becomes verbally and physically abusive. While the second female character named Laila,

While, the second female character named Laila, Laila represents the new modern face of Afghanistan. Her father, Hakim, is well educated teacher who holds progressive views about politics and women's rights. Growing up with mother seems careless to her forced Laila to become more independent. Education has always been a priority in encouragement from her parents to achieve her dreams. The simplicity in her life happened when war killed her parents. Rasheed help her and asks Mariam to nurse her back to health. After that Rasheed forced Laila to marry with him. Because of Laila cannot give Rasheed a son as like as he wants, she getting abuse like Mariam. Through the deeper analysis, this research reveals how the Mariam and Laila as victim. It also revealed that both of main characters are the victim but differently how they are victimized by the time.

Mariam Jo who becomes a victim as an illegitimate daughter, then she forced to married of Rasheed and get abusive from her husband. While Laila becomes victimize started war tragedy that killed her parents and continued with entraps marriage to be Rasheed second wife also getting abusive from her Rasheed too.

The struggle depicted by main characters in this story is performed in her survival against men's oppression, patriarchal society and Taliban laws in Afghanistan. In the novel, Taliban and Mujahideen believe that proper social

order relies on the curtailment of female rights. As Rasheed proclaims his masculinity to control over his wives. The similar of Mariam and Laila destiny that they always get abusive from Rasheed makes them have closer relationship. They want to be released from Rasheed abusive they tried to escape to Pakistan, hopes to get freedom and happiness in the other country, but their effort to escape from Rasheed failed. They returned to home by police. The accident happened when Rasheed beats Laila and tries to suffocate her. He comes to succeeding, when Mariam sees Laila being strangled to death, she finally understands the need to fight back. Mariam hits him twice with a shovel and it caused he killed. Laila and the children leave the following day, while Mariam stays to take the punishment for the murder. She is arrested by the Taliban and stoned to death, but Mariam feel happy and proud of herself. Mariam, for her part, is simply grateful for opportunity to know Laila and her children for as long as she could. It is only because of her heroic actions so that Laila and her family is able to survive and work for positive change in Afghanistan. She was leaving the world as a woman who had loved and been loved back, and Laila becomes a school teacher at the orphanage where Aziza once lived. And when Laila becomes pregnant, she decides that if she has a girl, she'll name her Mariam. The personal sacrifice shows just how much Mariam has changed since beginning of the story. Instead of being the victim, Mariam becomes a hero by protecting the ones she loves.

From the result of analysis of this novel as it has been explained above, we can see that Mariam Jo and Laila characters really depict the hard struggle done by women. Women are not always becoming the weak figure who can do nothing

to achieve her rights. female character's that does not easily come to an end and their character who never gives up with the difficulties coming into their life can inspire other women with such spirit of woman to do the same thing. Therefore, it is not too much to call Mariam Jo and Laila as the heroine character since she represents some good moral values inside herself.

The female character of Mariam Jo and Laila also indicates feminism in which decides themselves what they want to do for her own life. They choose themselves their way to get happiness in life. Additionally, she seeks the equality between men and women that women can get education and do what they want. Besides, they can survive in hard situation within capitalism and eventually release freely from oppression.





## SYNOPSIS OF THE STORY

Mariam, a young girl, lives in a small shack with her mother, Nana, outsider of the city of Heart in Afghanistan. Nana had worked as a housemaid for the wealthy cinema owner Jalil, Mariam's father, but after she became pregnant, Jalil cast her out to the shack. Jalil has multiple legitimate wives and children, but Mariam is an illegitimate "harami" or bastard. Jalil visits Mariam once a week, telling stories and bringing gifts. She adores him. Mariam's other friend, Mullah Faizullah, teaches her the Koran and listens to her problems.

Eventually, Mariam asks Jalil to take her to the cinema to see the new cartoon of Pinocchio. Jalil agrees to do so, but he does not come at the expected time. Mariam ventures into Heart herself. She sleeps outside Jalil's house waiting for him, but he will not see her. Jalil's chauffeur drives Mariam back home, where she finds that her mother has hanged herself.

After Nana's funeral, Jalil takes Mariam in, but she no longer adores him. Jalil's wife tells Mariam that Mariam is to be married off to a shoe shop owner named Rasheed in Kabul. Mariam protests to no avail, Mariam and Rasheed marry and go to Kabul. At first, Rasheed is sweet and brings her gifts. Mariam gets pregnant seven times but loses the baby each time due to a health complication. Over time, Rasheed becomes verbally and physically abusive. At one point, Jalil tries to visit Mariam in Kabul, but she will not see him.

Laila is born sometimes after the marriage of Mariam and Rasheed. She lives in their neighborhood. Since her youth Laila has a close male friend named

Tariq. Tariq lost one of his legs from a land mine. As Tariq and Laila grow up, she falls in with him.

Ahmad and Noor, Laila's two older brothers, leave to fight for the Mujahideen in the jihad. After they are killed, Laila's mother Fariba is never the same. As conflict turns to war in Kabul, living conditions become difficult for everyone. Despite her father Hakim's emphasis on attending school, Laila must quit because the streets are too dangerous. She is tutored at home. Hakim wants to leave Afghanistan, but Fariba will not leave the land for which her sons have died. Tariq's family, however, moves to Pakistan, and Laila feels devastated-before Tariq left, he and Laila had sex. Tariq asked Laila to come with him and marry him, but Laila could not leave her father.

A few weeks after Tariq's family leaves, Laila is almost hit by a bullet. This event wakes Fariba to ongoing risks of living in Kabul, so she agrees to move. While they pack a bomb hits Laila's home and she is the sole survivor of the blast knocked unconscious.

Laila awakens in Rasheed's and Mariam's house. They took care of her as she healed. After a few days, Abdul Sharif comes and brings news that Tariq had been hospitalized and then died. Laila feels devastated again.

As Rasheed's daily behavior changes, Mariam perceives that Rasheed is courting Laila. She protests, but he does not care. Mariam asks Laila if she would accept Rasheed's hand in marriage and Laila accept it, but at that time she is pregnant and wants Rasheed to think that the baby is his. Laila and Rasheed marry



and tension arises between Mariam and Laila. Rasheed puts Laila on a pedestal and make fun of Mariam in order to impress Laila.

Once Laila announced that she was pregnant, Rasheed was ecstatic. He prayed for a boy and held Laila in even higher esteem but Laila has a baby girl, Aziza and Rasheed feels disgusted by the smells and sounds that fill the house. Rasheed soon neglects the baby and implies that he knows the baby is not his.

Soon after the birth, Rasheed demands that Laila have sex with him. Laila refuses because the doctor ordered her not to do so for six weeks. Rasheed blames Mariam, however and tries to beat Mariam. Laila blocks his blow, the first time anyone has ever stood up for Mariam. The tension between Mariam and Laila thus lifts, Mariam appreciates Laila for defending her. They develop a friendship.

The Taliban come to power and strict laws are placed on women. The laws are even more severe than Rasheed has been. Women no longer may travel without men and in general just about all their freedom has been taken away.

Laila had planned to run away from Rasheed soon after Aziza was born. She had begun stealing money from Rasheed in order to put her plan into action. After her friendship with Mariam develops, she invites Mariam to run away with them. To do so, they find a man who seems willing to act as their relative when they buy tickets to Pakistan, but he tells the authorities. They are taken to a police station and are returned home. Rasheed locks them in separate, hot rooms with no food or water for a day. He threatens to kill the three if they attempt to run away again.

Laila becomes pregnant again and gives birth to a boy, Zalmai. Rasheed adores and spoils Zalmai and he worships Rasheed. Rasheed's shop burns down and the family goes further into debt. Rasheed searches for work elsewhere but has trouble. The family comes close to starvation. Mariam tries to reach Jalil for help, but she finds that he is dead.

Aziza is put into an orphanage so that she can be fed. Rasheed escorts Mariam, Laila and Zalmai to visit Aziza, but their visits become less and less frequent. Eventually Rasheed refuses to go at all, so Laila risks the walk alone, often suffering beatings by the Taliban. Rasheed finds a job at a hotel and can sustain the family again.

One day after visiting Aziza at the orphanage, Laila sees Tariq standing at the front door of Rasheed's house. Laila is ecstatic. She weeps and hugs Tariq. Tariq and Laila visit together over the next few days and Tariq describes his past. He went through a refugee camp, both of his parents died and he spent time in prison. He became a hotel janitor. Laila tells Tariq about Aziza and her marriage to Rasheed and Tariq does not blame her for marrying.

Zalmai is unhappy about the visits. He tells Rasheed that Laila has allowed Tariq to see her face and Rasheed becomes enraged. Rasheed beats Laila and tries to suffocate her. He comes to succeeding, but Mariam hits him twice with a shovel, killing him.

After Rasheed's death, Laila is determined to leave Kabul. She asks Mariam to come with her and Tariq to Pakistan, but Mariam refuses, if Mariam

were to leave, the Taliban would search for both of them to find the murderer, but Mariam cannot let the children live in such danger. She also could not look at Zalmai every day knowing she had killed his father. Laila and Zalmai pick up Aziza and leave town. They never see Mariam again.

Mariam eventually is caught and put into a prison run by the Taliban. She tries to explain that she was defending herself when she killed Rasheed but the judges sentences Mariam to death. She is publicly executed.

Laila and Tariq marry and start a new life in Pakistan. They work for the same hotel at which Tariq worked before and they live in a shack behind the hotel. Laila reveals to Aziza that Tariq is her father and they bond instantly. Zalmai is at first adverse to Tariq, but he warms up.

After the terrorist attacks on the United States in 2001 and the onset of President George Bush's "War on Terror", which has toppled the Taliban, Laila hears that conditions in Kabul are improving. She wishes to return and contribute. Tariq agrees.

Laila stops in Heart first and visits Mullah Faizullah's son and the kolba. Mullah Faizullah's son gives Laila box that Jalil left for Mariam. The box contains a letter apologizing and providing an update for Mariam. The box also contains cash in American dollars and a copy of Pinnocchio on video.

Laila, Tariq, Aziza and Zalmai move into a townhouse in Kabul. Laila teaches at the orphanage and Tariq works for an NGO (non-governmental organization) that fits land mine victims with prosthetic limbs. Laila always feels



## BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

Khaled Hosseini is the best bestselling Afghan born America author of *the Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. He was born in Kabul, Afghanistan, on March 4, 1965. His father was an Afghan diplomat who worked at the Afghan Foreign Ministry and his mother, a high school teacher taught Farsi and History in a large Kabul school. The family moved to Paris in 1967 when the foreign Ministry gave relocation orders to Hosseini's father. Instead of returning to Kabul in 1980, the family sought political asylum in the United States due to the terrible conditions in Afghanistan after the invasion of the Soviet army. They were granted the asylum and they moved to San Jose, California in September, 1980. In 1984, Hosseini graduated from Independence High School moving on to studying Biology at Santa Clara University. He graduated with Bachelors in Biology in 1988 after which he attended the university of California-San Diego's School of Medicine where he completed his M.D. in 1993. Having undergone residency in internal medicine at Cedars-Sinai medical center in Los Angeles, Hosseini became a physician and practiced medicine during the years of 1996 and 2004. He conceived the idea of and began writing *the Kite Runner* while making a living as a medical practitioner in 2001.

*The Kite Runner* was published in 2003, immediately becoming an international bestseller. The novel was published in 70 countries, however, never in Afghanistan. While some parts of the novel are based on Hosseini's childhood, it's otherwise a work of fiction. According to Nielsen BookScan, *The Kite Runner* secured the number three best selling position in the United States in 2005. It was

also produced as an audio book recorded in Hosseini's voice. In 2007, *The Kite Runner* was adapted to screen bearing the same title as the novel. Hosseini made a brief appearance in a scene towards the end of the movie.

While *The Kite Runner* focuses mainly on relationships between men, Hosseini's second novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* revolves around the relationship between two women. It was released in 2007. With positive reviews from leading sources, the novel has so far been published in 60 countries and set to be made into a movie by producer Scott Rudin and Columbia Pictures who have acquired its rights.

Having set both his novels in Afghanistan, Hosseini's devotion to his homeland extends beyond his writings. His activism for a better Afghanistan is proof of his love for the country. Since 2006, Hosseini has served as a goodwill ambassador to the United Nations Refugee Agency, UNHCR. His official website also contains information and links to many aid organizations helping Afghanistan in addition to the Khaled Hosseini Foundation which provides humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan. The foundation came into being after a trip Hosseini made Afghanistan in 2007. Having gone there for the first time in twenty seven years, Hosseini was immensely disturbed to discover the situation of the country he was born in.

Described as a smart minded handsome man by interviewers, Khaled Hosseini was declared the famous Afghan in the world by Time Magazine. He lives in Northern California with his wife, Roya and their two children.

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