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Image not available forColor: To view this video download Flash Player The British Book Awards or Nibbies is the definitive event for honouring the commercial successes of publishers, authors and bookshops. It succeeds 2016's British Book Industry Awards.The Nibbies brings together books of the year with trade accolades such as publisher of the year and book retailer of the year. There are six individual books of the year awards: children's; debut fiction; fiction; non fiction – lifestyle; non-fiction – narrative and crime & thriller. An overall book of the year is then chosen from the individual winners.The idea behind the books of the year is to celebrate the whole journey from the author's mind to the reader's hand, and showcase the range and depth of modern publishing. It's about the story itself, but also the way that the publishing contributes both to the story telling and to finding an audience.The original Nibbies was launched in 1990 by Fred Newman, founder and editor of Publishing News. In 2017, The Bookseller acquired the Nibbies and it now organises the annual awards alongside its magazine, online and conference business.There have been many notable winners over the years. Faber was the first publisher of the year in 1990 and in 2016 the honour went to Transworld. JK Rowling's Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince scooped book of the year in 2006 and in 2015 a resurgent Waterstones was named book retailer of the year. ... edit descriptions of this character edit descriptions of this character Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. edit descriptions of this character Nana is buried, and Mullah Faizullah tries to comfort Mariam - but Mariam is beyond comfort. After the funeral ceremonies, Jalil offers Mariam a room in his house, but her feelings toward him have turned angry, negative. Mariam also gets the feeling that in Jalil's house, everyone's cold eyes are upon her. Mariam does not leave her bedroom except to use the bathroom. Food is brought to her. Jalil comes to see her and makes insincere attempts to incorporate Mariam into the family. Mariam realizes that she does not belong in Jalil's house, but she feels that she has nowhere else to go. Nilofaur, one of Jalil's daughters, comes into Mariam's room to play with a gramophone. She tells Mariam that her mother told her that Mariam is not really her sister. That said, Nilofaur tells Mariam that she doesn't mind if Mariam is in fact her true sister. She also says that a jinn made Nani kill herself and that Mariam should not hold herself responsible. Bibi Jo visits. Mullah Faizullah visits and further tries to console Mariam that Nana's death was not Mariam's fault. Mullah Faizullah implies that Nana had a troubled youth, but Mariam still blames herself. Soon after, Jalil and his wives tell Mariam that she has a suitor named Rasheed who is friends with Jalil and lives in Kabul. Jalil seems ashamed by the situation, but his wives seem enthusiastic. Mariam says she does not want to marry, and she understands then that the marriage is just an attempt to get rid of her. Mariam asks if she could live with Mullah Faizullah, but the wives refuse. The thought of household chores and sexual intimacy disgusts Mariam. Mariam learns that she is to be married tomorrow, and Jalil has already agreed. Mariam protests, but Jalil does nothing to stop the arrangement. Afsoon locks Mariam in her room for the night. On the day of the wedding, Mariam sees Rasheed for the first time. He is a hulking man. During the wedding, the mullah asks if there are any objections, but Jalil remains silent. Mariam does not answer that she agrees to marry Rasheed until Jalil prods her to respond. The marriage contract is signed. Jalil tries to encourage Mariam that Kabul is beautiful, but Mariam confronts Jalil about being ashamed of her and tells Jalil that the relationship between the two of them is over. Mariam and Rasheed board the bus for Kabul, and Jalil tries to get Mariam's attention from outside of the bus. Mariam pays no attention to him, and she and Rasheed leave for Kabul. Rasheed and Mariam arrive back at Rasheed's house in Kabul. The modest house is on a messy street, but the house seems very large in comparison to the kolba. However, Mariam misses her old life. Rasheed tells Mariam that he prefers to sleep alone and shows Mariam her own room. Mariam is relieved. Rasheed asks if Mariam if he scares her, and she lies to him for the first time, telling him that he does not. Mariam stays in bed most of the time, feeling displaced in her new surroundings. She feels homesick, and Mariam becomes extremely nervous about eventually having to have sex with Rasheed. After coming home from work, Rasheed tells Mariam about his day and tells her the news from the streets. After a week, Rasheed tells Mariam that she needs to start acting like a wife and stop crying all the time. Mariam begins to clean, cook, and shop for food. The women at the market whisper about Mariam and one woman, Fariba, introduces herself and her son Noor. She says her husband is Hakim, and she invites Mariam over to her house. All of the women begin taking interest in Mariam. Mariam is overwhelmed, but Fariba keeps the crowd back as best as she can .Mariam tries to run away from the crowd, but she scrapes her knee and gets lost on her own street. She feels more alone at this point than ever before in her life. When Rasheed returns home and compliments her dual, Mariam feels proud. Then, Rasheed tells Mariam that "a woman's face is her husband's business only" and gives her a burqa to wear, which horrifies Mariam. Analysis: Again, the theme of shame is explored through Jalil as he casts Mariam out of his house during the darkest point in her life. Not only does he send Mariam out of his house, but he sends her to a whole new city, which allows Mariam to symbolically disconnect from him. Jalil speaks and acts in a manner that suggests some regret for his actions, though his feelings of paternal responsibility can not overcome his feelings of shame and the pressure put upon him by his wives. Mariam is given no choice whatsoever in her marriage, but rather it is forced upon her. She is young and scared, and she is clearly not truly in love with Rasheed. Afghan culture, however, does not equate marriage with true love, but rather with convenience and necessity. Mariam's role is clearly defined by Rasheed when he asks her to "act like a wife." He demands that she clean and cook, and he will ultimately require her to participate in sex that he forces upon her. Yet, the beginning of their marriage and the start of their new lives does not seem so terrible, providing an element of hope to this section of the novel. Though Mariam is not happy with her situation, she is recognized as a legitimate wife, whereas in Jalil's house she was considered an illegitimate daughter. The tone used in this section reveals Mariam's reservations toward interacting with her new husband, and her nervousness about her new role as a wife. Yet, she does take pleasure in pleasing Rasheed, like when he is satisfied with her dual. Also affecting Mariam's new position is Rasheed's requirement that Mariam wear a burqa, which would hide her identity from the world beyond Rasheed. This declaration by Rasheed ultimately symbolizes that Mariam's new life is limited to Rasheed and Rasheed alone. The requirement of Mariam's burqa foreshadows Rasheed's selfish, protective nature, which will ultimately result in abuse. Fariba's introduction to Mariam in the market is a new experience for her, as Mariam has never had peers who attempted to reach out to her, since her old friends were all significantly older. Additionally, Fariba's standing as the first woman that Mariam meets in Kabul is significant. This meeting foreshadows how the lives of the two families will intertwine later in the novel, once Laila, Fariba's daughter, becomes Rasheed's second wife. Jump to ratings and reviewsMariam is only fifteen when she is sent to Kabul to marry the troubled and bitter Rasheed, who is thirty years her senior. Nearly two decades later, in a climate of growing unrest, tragedy strikes fifteen-year-old Laila, who must leave her home and join Mariam's unhappy household. Laila and Mariam are to find consolation in each other, their friendship to grow as deep as the bond between sisters, as strong as the ties between mother and daughter. With the passing of time comes Taliban rule over Afghanistan, the streets of Kabul loud with the sound of gunfire and bombs, life a desperate struggle against starvation, brutality and fear, the women's endurance tested beyond their worst imaginings. Yet love can move people to act in unexpected ways, lead them to overcome the most daunting obstacles with a startling heroism. In the end it is love that triumphs over death and destruction. A Thousand Splendid Suns is a portrait of a wounded country and a story of family and friendship, of an unforgiving time, an unlikely bond, and an indestructible love. 39620 people are currently reading985621 people want to readHosseini 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, and Hosseini's youngest brother was born in July of that year.In 1976, when Hosseini was 11 years old, Hosseini's father obtained a job in Paris, France, and moved the family there. They were unable to return to Afghanistan because of the Saur Revolution in which the PDPA communist party seized power through a bloody coup in April 1978. Instead, a year after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, in 1980 they sought political asylum in the United States and made their residence in San Jose, California.Hosseini graduated from Independence High School in San Jose 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 completed his residency in internal medicine at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles in 1996. He practiced medicine for over ten years, until a year and a half after the release of The Kite Runner.Hosseini is currently a Goodwill Envoy for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). He has been working to provide humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan through the Khaled Hosseini Foundation. The concept for the foundation was inspired by the trip to Afghanistan that Hosseini made in 2007 with UNHCR.He lives in Northern California with his wife, Roya, and their two children (Harris and Farah).Displaying 1 - 30 of 86,928 reviewsJuly 1, 2011 Like diamonds and roses hidden under bomb rubble, this is a story of intense beauty and strength buried under the surface of the cruel and capricious life imposed upon two Afghani women. She remembered Nana saying once that each snowflake was a sigh heaved by an aggrieved woman somewhere in the world. That all the sighs drifted up the sky, gathered into clouds, then broke into tiny pieces that fell silently on the people below. As a reminder of how people like us suffer, she'd said. How quietly we endure all that falls upon us. Staggeringly beautiful and deep and rich and sad and frightening and infuriating. There's a lot I want to say about this book and so I cry your pardon if this review is a bit of a rambler. You should definitely read this book. I'll probably repeat this again, but I want to make sure I don't forget to say it. Buy the book and read it. I love good historical fiction, especially when set in places and/or periods of which I am not very familiar. Afghanistan certainly fit that description, which makes me feel a significant amount of personal shame given how intertwined the country has been with the history of the U.S. over the last 30 years. That same time frame is also the primary focus of the novel so I feel like I got a real taste of the history of this mysterious time. That said, the historical events described in the novel are merely spice for the narrative and are clearly not the entrée at this literary feast. However, I would likely recommend this book for the historical component alone even if I didn't like the rest of the novel. ..oh, but I did so much like the rest of the novel. The story revolves around two women, Mariam and Laila, born 20 years apart, but whose lives are intertwined through the events of the novel. Mariam (born in 1959) is the illegitimate daughter of a wealthy merchant named Jalil who has 3 wives and 9 "legitimate" children. Mariam's mother, Nana, was a servant in Jalil's house whose affair with Jalil resulted in Mariam. As you might expect, the 3 wives were less than enthused and Nana and Mariam were forced to live on the outskirts of town, making Nana a bitter often cruel person to Mariam. The other main character is Laila (born in 1978) who lives in the same area as Mariam. Laila's story begins with her close friendship with a boy named Tariq who loses a leg to a Soviet land mine when he's 5 years old. Years later, with Kabul under constant rocket attacks, Laila's family decides to leave the city. During an emotional farewell, Laila and Tariq make love. Later, as her family is preparing to depart Kabul, a rocket kills her parents and severely injures Laila. I don't want to spoil the plot by giving away too many details, so let me just say that through a series of mostly tragic circumstances, Mariam and Laila both end up married to a serious scumbag named Rasheed. I want to clarify that last remark because I think it goes to the most chilling aspect of the novel for me. One of the novel's primary strengths is the bright light the author shines on the nasty way women are treated in countries like Afghanistan. Now not being knowledgeable enough about the culture to make a well-informed analysis, I strongly suspect that the character of Rasheed, while made somewhat worse for dramatic effect, is close enough to what was "the norm" as to be positively sickening. Thus, when I say scumbag (which I whole-heartedly mean), part of the emotional impact of Rasheed's actions came from my not seeing them as cartoonish, but as part of an "institutional evil" that was all too common. Bottom-line, Rasheed is an ignorant, mean-spirited, petty little pile of assbarf who will make even the most serene and passive reader feel like loading the .45 with hollow points and performing a gunpowder enema on his sorry, wretched chair cushion. Anyway, once Mariam and Laila find themselves together, the story deepens as these two women slowly learn first to live with each other and later to depend upon each other as they face almost daily challenges, mostly from their abusive husband. She lived in fear of his shifting moods, his volatile temperament, his insistence on steering even mundane exchanges down a confrontational path that, on occasion, he would resolve with punches, slaps, kicks, and sometimes try to make amends for with polluted apologies, and sometimes not. The lives of these women is an epic journey in every sense of the word and I felt like I was on a journey of my own as I road along with them. While there is much of darkness and pain throughout the book, Hosseini never allows the emotional tone of the story to descend in melodrama. There is little self-pity or wallowing in grief. There is pain, there is loss but there is no surrender. Instead, these women absorb tremendous blows (both figuratively and literally) and continue to live. There is a great passage near the end of the book that I am going to hide with a spoiler because it reveals the final fate of one of the characters, but it is simply a perfect summation of the strength and dignity that is the heart of this story. Mariam wished for so much in those final moments. Yet as she closed her eyes, it was not regret any longer but a sensation of abundant peace that washed over her. She thought of her entry into this world, the harami child of a lowly villager, an unintended thing, a pitiable, regrettable accident. A weed. And yet she was leaving the world as a woman who had loved and been loved back. She was leaving it as a friend, a companion, a guardian. A mother. A person of consequence at last. No. It was not so bad, Mariam thought, that she should die this way. Not so bad. This was a legitimate end to a life of illegitimate belongings. This is a gorgeous, beautiful story that is made all the more so by its tremendous importance. Read it....you will be happy you did. 5.0 Stars. HIGHEST POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION!! P.S. I listened to the audio version of this as read by Atossa Leoni and she was brilliant. If you listen to audio books, this is definitely one where the narrator enhances the experience of the novel. 2006-2010 audiobook ebooks August 16, 2021 "A face of grievances unspoken, burdens gone unprotested, a destiny submitted to and endured." This must have been the longest time I had waited to review a fiction after finishing the book. Even after a week, I still haven't fully recuperated from the emotional blow of A Thousand Splendid Suns... Painful, heartbreaking, but quite beautiful in a very sad way. Hosseini has improved upon what he did with Kite Runner, if that's even possible, in every conceivable way imaginable to give the reader another masterpiece! I loved every little thing about this book. "Learn this now and learn it well, my daughter: Like a compass needle that points north, a man's accusing finger always finds a woman." When I finished Kite Runner before, it became clear how impactful Hosseini's story telling is: It was tragic yet beautiful in a unique way. I had thought I was prepared to pretty much anything the author could throw at me after that. But A Thousand Splendid Suns, for me, was a far more difficult read. Unlike in Kite Runner, Hosseini does not hold back when it comes to unfolding Mariam and Laila's story. Saying that reading through the abuse and other privations of the two protagonists was shocking would be a huge understatement. Everything felt too real to be consoled otherwise. In the Afterwards section, I did come across about Hosseini's work in UNHCR, and maybe it's his firsthand experience that made the portrayal this authentic. "It's our lot in life, Mariam. Women like us. We endure. It's all we have." The author continues to use his simple, and straightforward writing style which suits perfectly to the atmosphere he creates in these stories. But, even if one finds the writing style to be lacking in flavor, when the story telling is this good, most would never be bothered by anything else. And when you add Hosseini's flawless character development, it's impossible not to fall in love with this book. But where I saw the most significant improvement is in the plot, which stole the spotlight away from character department. The life story of the two protagonists -Mariam and Laila- allows the reader to peak in to a couple of lives heavily affected not only by war, but their journey amidst various domestic difficulties, providing the reader with another unique opportunity to empathize with Afghan people, and specifically from a woman's point of view this time. Instead of coming across hateful stories about Taliban and terrorism in general, it's enlightening to see the events from a perspective like this, which enables any reader to understand the bitter reality, along with the fact that countless thousands of people are experiencing worse circumstances in such countries. Even though it is fiction, I think it's commendable, and remarkable, what Hosseini does with these stories, as they help shift any reader's opinion about the people who are affected by wars in such countries. "People, she believed now, shouldn't be allowed to have new children if they'd already given away all their love to their old ones. It wasn't fair." Everything else that was good about Kite Runner is still here, from pace, flow of events, and handling of emotions to the ending. Oh, that ending! I rarely admire a sad ending, but Hosseini is definitely the exception. During the middle part of the book, even though I loved everything, I didn't see myself giving a rating higher than 4-stars, but the concluding chapters broke me down and changed everything. Now I feel like there aren't enough starts to do justice. "As she closed her eyes, it was not regret any longer but a sensation of abundant peace that washed over her."One last time, Mariam did as she was told." It's not every day that I get to shelf two consecutive books from the same author as all-time-favorites. Honestly, I was not expecting this to be better than the first, and thought there might even be some repetitiveness. This is anything but that! If you loved Kite Runner, it is most likely that you will have an even better reading experience with this ATSS. However, be warned that the emotional impact this delivers is far more profound, leaving one with tears for quite a while. Unlike with Kite Runner, the luxury of hiding the despicable actions of villains, which left many horrific events to readers' imagination, is gone. But at the end of the day, just like with Kite Runner, it's worth every second... it's worth the heartbreak... it's worth every tear... Another must-read-for-all from Hosseini. "A young Mariam is sitting at the table making a doll by the glow of an oil lamp. She's humming something. Her face is smooth and youthful, her hair washed, combed back. She has all her teeth." "The little girl looks up. Puts down the doll. Smiles. Laila jo?" all-must-read favorites favorites-fictionJanuary 27, 2008For the last two months I have been putting off reading this book. For starters, I bought the book at an airport in Taiwan, which meant it didn't have a due date in which meant it took a backseat to many books that I didn't have the luxury of reading whenever.Additionally, because I've heard so much about this book already, I almost didn't want to read it at all. I've heard that it's depressing, that it's not as good as The Kite Runner, and that it's basically a novel about the brutal treatment of women in Afghanistan.You know when you read a book or see a film that has had great reviews and you finish feeling disappointed because it didn't live up to the hype? My experience reading this book was the complete opposite. I loved it. I didn't feel the message of the book was one of brutality or depression, but of hope and the toughness of the human spirit.There are plenty of awful scenes to lend credence to its reputation. While the story's time frame spans thirty years, the main focus of the novel are two woman, a generation apart, whose lives cross as they become the wives of the same man, Rasheed. The elder, Mariam, was born to a servant woman out of wedlock and is raised in banishment, ignorance and eventual rejection during the years the Afghani government was controlled by the communists. She finds herself forced to marry a much older man after her mother commits suicide. Laila, fifteen years younger and raised by intellectual parents, enters the marriage under much different circumstances. Alone after a bomb destroys her home and kills her parents, and pregnant by her childhood love who has fled the country, she marries Rasheed in a desperate attempt to save her unborn child.The writing engrossed me. Much like the Kite Runner, Hosseini magically puts the reader in the city, neighborhood and house of his characters. Much to his credit, I found myself torn between wanting to yell at Laila to hush up, so that she'd avoid another beating, and kicking Rasheed myself, because he is a despicable brute.Mariam, one of the most tragic characters in literature, makes this book what it is; a story of love and strength. She, who didn't have an easy day in her life, allows herself to be touched by the love of Laila and her children. In return, she performs the ultimate act of love and saves a family.I appreciate Hosseini's portrayal of a part of the world that is under so much scrutiny: Afghanistan, and the city of Kabul where the story takes place, have a long history of wars and occupations which result in a great chasm between different ethnic tribes, Islam, economic classes and gender. Hosseini uses this novel to tell the story of Afghani women and the hardships that face them with each generation change.As a woman, I feel blessed to have been given confidence and opportunities. I truly cannot imagine what it would be like to live under the conditions the women in this book live under. I am grateful to be born to the family I was born into and have the life I have been given. Laila didn't have the same luxuries, but she was lucky to have her father and her teacher boyfriend, who encouraged her to be independent and to think for herself. Mariam, however, was not so lucky. She was the product of a single night of passion between a married man and a woman who was not his wife. Mariam's mother, Nana, was a servant in Jalil's house, where the cook was her lover. Mariam was illegitimate and a sin. December 4, 2013August 2007I was riding in a cab in Bombay recently, and a bookseller foot approached that I have, in the past, shooed away. I was in a hurry, I was in a foreign country, I was in a traffic light with a stack of books. I did my best they to look at the boy, but I couldn't help it. He was waving several books in my face and shouting caught my eye. I thought my glance was discreet, but he saw me look, and it was game over. The light turned green right and the boy starts running with the cab yelling 'Memsahib! Memsahib!'. We're picking up speed... I'm so scared he's going to get his foot runover so I grab whatever I could from my wallet and somehow get it into his hands. In return he tosses a random book at me through the window as he's getting further & further away from the cab. I look to see what I ended up with. It was A Thousand Splendid Suns, which I was planning on buying anyways. The cab driver asked me how much I ended up giving the boy. 'A hundred and fifty rupees,' I said, which is barely $4. The cab driver says in return, 'You paid a hundred rupees too much!'. Hardly, I thought to myself. That boy worked his butt off. The best part is because the book is disguised as a Bollywood movie, I can't wait to see the look on my wife's face when I show her the book and my recollection of the story is completely different from what you read. ...more, January 2008Read the book on my way to Vietnam a few days ago. Loved it. Unbelievably sad. Incredibly moving. I was missing a few pages here and there. Coincidentally, the friend I'm traveling with brought the same book on our trip so I had access to the missing pages. (and another coincidence - our Mekong Delta guide was carrying a copy of the Kite Runner. We were like, "Hey, we have the same book!") Anyway, I'm rambling. Anyway, I'm sure this book was great. I'm sure I'll read it when I get back. But I'm not in the right frame of mind for it right now. Maybe I'll read it in a few months. Anyway, I'm sure it's great. Anyway, I'm rambling. Anyway, I'm sure I'll read it when I get back