

Book Review

THE KITE RUNNER

Best fiction book by Khaled Hosseini.

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Ms Pooja Bhagwan

Assistant Professor of Commerce

Sri Guru Gobind Singh College, Chandigarh

Ms Kamalpreet Kaur

Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce

Govt. College of Commerce and Business Administration,
Chandigarh

“There is a way to be good again.” Based on one of the most acclaimed novels in recent memory, THE KITE RUNNER is a profoundly emotional tale of friendship, family, devastating mistakes and redeeming love. The Kite Runner is a fiction written by Khaled Hosseini. Khaled Hosseini is an American novelist and physician of Afghan origin. “The Kite Runner” was published in 2003 in 48 countries. Khaled Hosseini has been working to provide humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan through “The Khaled Hosseini Foundation”. The Kite Runner touches the heart and the mind of the reader. This is a tale of betrayal, cowardice and redemption. Hosseini’s writing is simple and powerful; a no frills, spare style which stuns. There are graphic scenes which involve child rape and molestation. The violence in the book is painful to read...and heartbreaking. The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini is a devastating, masterful and painfully honest story which makes you think hard about friendship, good and bad, rigid class system and relationship particularly of a father and a son. This novel emphasises more on Afghan history and culture. The book teaches us that it is very difficult to forgive our own self than to forgive others. The language used by the author binds the reader. This debut novel echoes the price of disloyalty in humanity and terrific realities of war.

Kite Runner is a heart wrenching tale of lost friendship and redemption. The story is about two boys Amir and Hassan, who grow up together in Afghanistan as brothers. Amir is a son of wealthy businessman, a Pashtun whereas Hassan belongs to low caste family group called ‘Hazara’. They lived their boyhood in the streets of Kabul playing Kites as Hassan was a successful ‘Kite Runner’. Hassan runs for the last cut kite for Amir saying “For you a thousand time over”. Hassan is an illiterate. The story puts the picture of the racial discrimination prevalent in Afghanistan during those days. The two young friends may be servant and masters are inseparable. Amir continuously uses his superior position to abuse Hassan and hides the fact that Hassan is beaten up and raped by teenage Pashtun bullies - a horror. Amir witnesses and does nothing to protect Hassan therefore converting his guilt into enmity. This incidence haunted Amir for rest of his life. His failure dictates his soul throughout the life. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan sends Amir’s family to America witnessing a lighter tune in terms of sustaining a father son relationship that fills the heart with joy. The theme of novel moves around the internal struggle that is span of Afghan story of 70’s to the Taliban rule in the late 90’s.

Amir returns to Afghanistan on the request of an old family friend who told him that "There is a way to be good again". Amir returns in disguise to Kabul to redress his childhood sins as he was challenged to protect a young life that is the life of Hassan's son who was badly treated by Pashtun. Somehow Amir manages to redress his sins in a direct way by saying those encouraging words again "For you a thousand times over". The story is gripping and emotional. It makes use of such references which touch eastern culture and societies. Description of Afghanistan makes you feel as if you are known to it.

The Kite Runner is powerful, proactive and best written story. The violence depicted in the Kite Runner is painful

and has the potential of leaving you in tears at times. In most of the parts the story feels real. The author has captured the essence of different cultures and has represented them well. The story is not a light read but too complex. It emphasizes on life's gruesome realities as the theme is very intense and upsetting. Through well-timed plot twists and revelations, Hosseini maintains a riveting pace that dares the reader to leave his story. The novel is a page-turner and hard to put down especially at the advanced parts where Amir re-visits Afghanistan. "*The Kite Runner*" is definitely one of the best novels we have ever read, and we think it will maintain that spot for quite some time.

Overall it is an impressive and passionate novel.