

## **A Thousand Splendid Suns**

**Khaled Hosseini**

**Reviewed By: Afsana Rahman, 16**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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This book left me with a whirlwind of emotions after I finished it. In fact, I think it was one of the few books that I've read almost causing me to cry at some points. The story takes place during the turmoil in Afghanistan, from Soviet rule to after the Taliban take-over. It focuses on the lives of two women, Mariam and Laila, as they cope with the challenges of war, loss, fate, and family. Born in different generations, the women's futures are changed and intertwined in drastic ways after a series of unfolding events.

I don't recommend this book to everyone. It is not for the faint-hearted. It deals with dark themes such as abuse, expected from a book with the environment of war and chaos in the background. It is heart-wrenching and bittersweet. And, it is so powerful. *A Thousand Splendid Suns* examines the development of two very strong women in unconventional situations. It examines many themes of family, the horrors of war, and patriarchy. It showed how these women endured the many obstacles that they had to face in amidst such a dynamic society. I've never read a book like it. Hosseini's storytelling is that, that it doesn't make you, it forces you to read his other works.

*A Thousand Splendid Suns* was truly a captivating, eye-opening read. If you are looking for a book to remember, I recommend this book. I did not read this book recently. I read it years ago, at the pinnacle of my childhood. I still remember details of the book as if I read it yesterday. Thus, regarding a target audience, I think this would be a great read for teens (ages 15 and up). It has a bit of history, social commentary, and a unique story like none other. It opened up many doors of understanding for me and it is a book that I do not regret reading. Give the book a chance- and it may open many new levels of knowledge of the varying cultures and struggles individuals face in such a diversified world.

Recommended Titles:

*Kite Runner*- Khaled Hosseini

*Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* -Anne Frank

*The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*- John Boyne

*Trail of Broken Wings*- Sejal Badani