

The Little coffee shop of Kabul

By Deborah Rodriguez

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Genre and Subject

Friendship fiction

Life in Afghanistan fiction

Synopsis

One little café. Five extraordinary women . . .

In a little coffee shop in one of the most dangerous places on earth, five very different women come together. Sunny, the proud proprietor, who needs an ingenious plan – and fast – to keep her café and customers safe . . . Yazmina, a young pregnant woman stolen from her remote village and now abandoned on Kabul's violent streets . . . Candace, a wealthy American who has finally left her husband for her Afghan lover, the enigmatic Wakil . . . Isabel, a determined journalist with a secret that might keep her from the biggest story of her life . . . And Halajan, the sixty-year-old den mother, whose long-hidden love affair breaks all the rules. As these five discover there's more to one another than meets the eye, they form a unique bond that will for ever change their lives and the lives of many others.

Author Biography

Deborah Rodriguez is the author of the international bestsellers *The Little Coffee Shop of Kabul*, *Return to the Little Coffee Shop of Kabul*, *The Zanzibar Wife*, *Island on the Edge of the World* and *The Moroccan Daughter*. She has also written two memoirs: *The Kabul Beauty School*, about her life in Afghanistan, and *The House on Carnival Street*, on her experiences following her return to America. She spent five years teaching and later directing the Kabul Beauty School, the first modern beauty academy and training salon in Afghanistan.

Deborah also owned the Oasis Salon and the Cabul Coffee House, and is the founder of the nonprofit organization Oasis Rescue, which aims to teach women in post-conflict and disaster-stricken areas the art of hairdressing.

She currently lives in Mazatlán, Mexico, where she owns Tippy Toes salon and spa.

Discussion Starters

Who was your favourite character, and why?

Of all the characters in the story, who do you think was the most brave and/or inspiring?

A working title for this novel was *The Seventh Dove*. What does Halajan's story about the doves mean, and why does it have such a strong effect on Sunny?

'Every character in the novel is hiding something.' Do you agree with this statement?

Discuss each character's secrets and subterfuges.

Five women are at the heart of this novel. But what do you think of the representation of men?

Did anything surprise you about the portrayal of Yazminda and Halajan? What facets of their characters stood out for you?

What was the most shocking thing you learnt about life for women in Afghanistan?

If you liked this book, you may also like...

- *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri
- *The Kite Runner* By Khaled Hosseini

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