



The Roses in My Carpets

By Rukhsana Khan

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For a young refugee living with loss and terror-filled memories, time is measured by the next bucket of water, the next portion of bread, and the next call to prayer. Here, where everything - walls, floor, courtyard - is mud, a boy's heart can still long for freedom, independence, and safety. And here, where life is terribly fragile, the strength to endure grows out of need. But the strength to dreams comes from within.

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The Roses in My Carpets By Rukhsana Khan Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This realistic story follows a day in the life of a young Afghani refugee who takes solace in the beautiful carpets he weaves. In a recurring nightmare, the boy narrator flees with his mother and younger sister, Maha, from the bomber planes that killed his father, then awakes to find himself in a safe but impoverished camp. At dawn, a muezzin calls him to prayer; he then attends school, followed by another call to prayer and finally goes off to his long-awaited practice of carpet weaving. For him, weaving is a skill that ensures "my family will never go hungry" and an outlet that allows him to create a world of color and beauty ("Everything in camp is a dirty brown, so I do not use brown anywhere in my carpets"). When Maha is injured by a truck, the boy must set aside his weaving to come to his family's aid. Khan hints at the boy's powerful emotions in spare prose, and handles her difficult subject matter sensitively. Himler (Fly Away Home) paints the family with dignity and warmth, enveloping them in earth-colored, rosy tones and the details of daily life. Readers will appreciate the candor of author and artist in their depiction of refugee life and the family's hope in the midst of such conflict; however, they will need an adult's help to explain some of its larger themes. Ages 5-8. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From School Library Journal

Grade 2-3-A young Afghan describes his grim life in the refugee camp where he lives with his mother and younger sister. Their food is bread and water or tea; their hut is made of mud. His father was killed in the war while plowing the field. The child's only joy is learning to weave carpets, into which he incorporates intricate rose patterns. One day his sister is hit by a truck. That night, after learning that she will survive, he dreams of jets crossing the sky and dropping bombs, but unlike his earlier nightmares of suffering a direct hit, he now dreams that the three find a space "the size of a carpet" where no bombs can strike. Within the space are roses. The restrained watercolor illustrations skillfully convey both the physical setting and emotional impact of the story. However, the plot is thin, the text is somewhat flat, and young readers will long for more details about this boy's life. The book's best use may be by teachers, pairing it with Florence Parry Heide's more richly woven Sami and the Time of the Troubles (Clarion, 1992).

Diane S. Marton, Arlington County Library, VA

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About the Author

Rukhsana Khan brings us to the reality that faces so many of the world's children. This story was inspired by her meeting with one unforgettable boy and his family. Rukhsana Khan is the author of *Muslim Child* and *Bedtime Ba-a-alk*. She lives in Toronto, Ontario.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

William Murphy:

Book will be written, printed, or outlined for everything. You can recognize everything you want by a publication. Book has a different type. As it is known to us that book is important thing to bring us around the world. Beside that you can your reading proficiency was fluently. A publication The Roses in My Carpets will make you to be smarter. You can feel more confidence if you can know about anything. But

some of you think this open or reading a book make you bored. It is not necessarily make you fun. Why they can be thought like that? Have you trying to find best book or appropriate book with you?

Andre Botsford:

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Freddie Straughter:

Why? Because this The Roses in My Carpets is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will surprise you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who write the book in such incredible way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book have got such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I were you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

Joseph Carter:

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