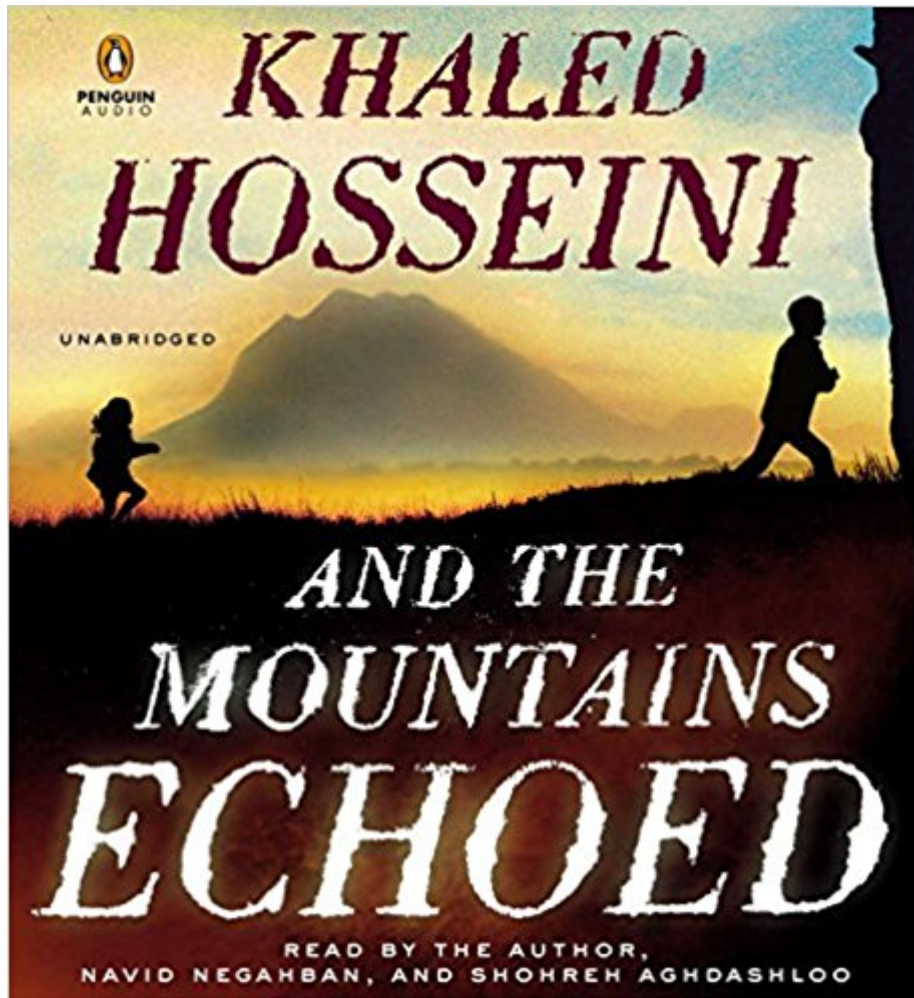




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And The Mountains Echoed



Synopsis

On May 21, 2013, the new novel from Khaled HosseiniKhaled Hosseini, the #1 New York Times-bestselling author of *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, has written a new novel about how we love, how we take care of one another, and how the choices we make resonate through generations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An Best Book of the Month, May 2013: Khaled Hosseini's *And the Mountains Echoed* begins simply enough, with a father recounting a folktale to his two young children. The tale is about a young boy who is taken by a div (a sort of ogre), and how that fate might not be as terrible as it first seems. It's a brilliant device that firmly sets the tone for the rest of this sweeping, heartbreaking, and ultimately uplifting novel. A day after he tells the tale of the div, the father gives away his own daughter to a wealthy man in Kabul. What follows is a series of stories within the story, told through multiple viewpoints, spanning more than half a century, and shifting across continents. The novel moves through war, separation, birth, death, deceit, and love, illustrating again and again how people's actions, even the seemingly selfless ones, are shrouded in ambiguity. This is a masterwork by a master storyteller. --Chris Schlupe --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Khaled Hosseini's third novel is told via a series of interlinking stories beginning in an Afghanistan village in 1952 when an impoverished man named Saboor is faced with the prospect of

giving up one of his children in order to survive. From this crucial moment, the narrative expands, as Saboor's decision impacts his descendants and acquaintances for generations to come. Author Khaled Hosseini and narrators Navid Negahban and Shohreh Aghdashloo alternate reading duties. Of the three, the author speaks with the clearest elocution, though his reading, while precise, is also stiff at times – and this may take listeners out of the story. Negahban and Aghdashloo, who deliver the bulk of the narrative, are more emotive and hand in performances that are more likely to capture and keep listener attention. A Riverhead hardcover. (May)

Summary: Pari and Abdullah are as close as siblings can be. Abdullah loves his sister so much, she is almost his daughter. So when the powers that be tear them apart, both of their lives are irrevocably changed. Years down the road we meet friends, doctors, chauffeurs, people whose lives are changed through this one event. What unfolds is a story that crosses oceans, teaching us what it means to love and care.

Review: Another hit from Khaled Hosseini! Truly, this man knows how to weave a story. And *The Mountains Echoed* is a less brutal novel than *Kite Runner* or *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, but the story is no less meaningful nor less heartbreaking. Each chapter is written from the POV from a different character, and one chapter actually has two different POVs intertwined. Each POV is a different character's journey, but they are all related to each other. Unlike the other two novels, this book does not center around regional conflicts. Hosseini delicately tells us stories of individuals who are going through real life journeys. They love, they die. They acquire dream jobs, and real life illnesses. The story is about individuals and how they relate to one another. Sure, the Taliban and the Russians are mentioned but only as a part of the setting. And since the story takes place in four different countries, we see a vast array of settings that help give more richness to the story.

One of the major themes of this novel is appearance vs. reality. The beautiful are empty, the morally repugnant are heroes. What may seem like a good idea at the time is actually the worst idea. The characters are also morally ambiguous, much like the main character in *Kite Runner*. One of the strengths of Hosseini is he sneaks characters into our hearts so that we may begin to understand their bad and ugly choices. You cannot hate the characters because they are only human. Hosseini does a fantastic job creating unique voices for each of the POVs. Dare I say, even better than GRRM? The storytelling style even changes, from how a father tells his son a bedtime story, to how a woman gives an interview. It's quite remarkable.

One little issue I had was Idris' chapter. Although touching, it had little to do with the larger story. Even Markos' chapter fit. But Idris' chapter wasn't quite like the rest; it fit lyrically, but not contextually. I cannot say more without giving the plot away. We already know Hosseini knows how to tell a story. But he has surprised us

yet again by showing us that not only can he write one story, but he can create a novel quilted from the stories of nine different characters. Of course, my recommendation is READ!Sex:N/AViolence: None, although mentioned peripherally.Rating: 5 out of 5 starsQuote: Beauty is an enormous, unmerited gift given randomly, stupidly.

I am very careful when awarding five stars to any book. Most books, even if I really enjoy them, don't come up to the level of amazing; this book did. My view of Afghanistan, like I assume most people, is tainted by the wars, first the Soviet Union and more recently our invasion. Hosseini paints a much different picture by drawing characters and telling stories that put things into perspective. Although all of the divergent stories touch upon each other, they don't come to happy conclusions just to satisfy the readers desire for justice or at least resolution. This is what sets this book apart-it refuses to patronize the reader. I was moved to tears in the end, not because I had been manipulated to feel that way, but because the emotions and situations are so real and poignant.I bookmarked a couple of paragraphs that were especially beautifully written. "...every time I see that picture, the last time two years ago, I can't help but see two people together out of a sense of genetic duty, doomed already to bewilder and disappoint each other, honor-bound to defy the other.""I should have been more kind. That is something a person will never regret. You will never say to yourself when you are old, Ah, I wish I was not good to that person. You will never think that."As close to perfect as writing gets.

I Still remember when I read The Kite Runner and how much I loved it, and I wasn't the only one. The book became almost an instant classic and really showed the world the Afganistan of the past and how the country used to be. When Hosseini released his second book I was both excited and worried that the author would dissappoint me but I was so wrong. I loved the second book more, and I think that might be because I am a woman and that book was a story about the struggle of 2 woman under Taliban rule pre Gulf War 2. After reading it I began to wait patiently for the next book to come out. I ran out of patience and gave up, thinking that a the author wasn't going to write anymore. When I heard from a friend that Hosseini was coming out with another book I was extremely excited, and even pre ordered the book. Unfortunately I did not love it. There were too many characters and storylines going on, and I got tired of jumping from one character to the next though different phases of their lives and never knew where the story would take me next, and not in a good way. The best parts of Hosseini's previous works was that he created these beautiful flawed complex characters that you became emotionally invested in. With this book there were just

too many. I am sorry, I want to love this book so badly. The author escaped the curse of the sophomore slump, but maybe due to the success of his previous novels he tried something more ambitious than what he might have been ready for. I still love his books and if he rights another I will buy it but with hope that he will go back to his original formula.

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