

THE KITE RUNNER: A GRAPHIC NOVEL



Adult Graphic Novel

By Khaled Hosseini

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Book summary:

The biography of an Afghan American's turbulent life.

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains inexplicit sexual assault; graphic violence; inexplicit child molestation; hate including racism; mild/infrequent profanity; and alcohol use.

3 /5

Minor Restricted
BookLooks Review Rating

Page	Content
7	<p>Soldiers are leaning against a tank as a young boy walks by. One of the soldiers says, "YOU! THE HAZARA! I KNEW YOUR MOTHER, DO YOU KNOW THAT?" Another soldier says, "YEAH...ALL OF US KNEW HER, REAL GOOD...WE TOOK HER BY THAT CREEK OVER THERE! HA, HA, HA!"</p>
21	<p>"AT SCHOOL THEY TAUGHT US THAT DRINKING ALCOHOL IS A SIN, FATHER. IF...IF THAT'S TRUE, IT MEANS THAT YOU ARE A SINNER AND THAT...THAT..."</p>
26	<p>Two boys fall on the ground in the street. Someone outside the frame says, "LOOK WHO'S HERE, CRAWLING LIKE WORMS THROUGH THE BAZAAR ALLEYWAYS..."</p>
27	<p>Three young men are standing in front of the two boys that had fallen on the ground. One of the young men says, "A FINE PAIR OF LITTLE FAIRIES GOING AROUND HAND IN HAND! AREN'T THEY CUTE, GUYS?"</p>
28	<p>One of the young men described above puts a studded ring on his right fist. He is saying, "OH YES, YOU DO BOTHER ME. YOU MAKE MY STOMACH TURN. IF IDIOTS LIKE YOU AND YOUR FATHER DIDN'T TAKE THESE PEOPLE IN, WE'D BE RID OF THEM BY NOW. AFGHANISTAN IS THE LAND OF PASHTUNS. IT ALWAYS HAS BEEN. ALWAYS WILL BE. WE ARE THE TRUE AFGHANS, NOT THIS FLAT-NOSE HERE." "THE HAZARAS POLLUTE OUR HOMETLAND. THEY DIRTY OUR BLOOD. AND TODAY YOUR BLODD WILL DIRTY THE DUST."</p>
32	<p>One of the young boys described above is listening to his father saying, "I HAD DOCTOR KUMAR COME STRAIGHT FROM NEW DEHLI. HE'S A PLASTIC SURGEON." The doctor asks the boy, "DO YOU KNOW WHAT PLASTIC SURGEONS DO, HASSAN?" "SO, YOU SEE, PLASTIC SURGEONS MAKE CORRECTIONS TO SMALL PHYSICAL DEFECTS OF THE BODY...OR THE FACE." Hassan replies, "OH..." The boy is touching his face by his nose and his father says, "I REALIZE IT'S AN UNUSUAL GIFT. BUT AFTER TOMORROW YOUR HARELIP WILL BE ONLY A MEMORY." Hassan says, "BUT...I...THIS..." The father says, "OH NO. IT WON'T HURT A BIT. YOU KNOW WHY? BECAUSE THE DOCTOR WILL GIVE YOU A MEDICINE TO PUT YOU TO SLEEP. NOW LET'S GO."</p>
42	<p>Three young men are standing over a young boy talking to him at the end of an alley. The boy's back is to a wall. He has a frightened look on his face. One of the young men says, "I'VE CHANGED MY MIND. I'M LETTING YOU KEEP THE KITE, HAZARA. I'LL LET YOU KEEP IT SO IT WILL ALWAYS REMIND YOU OF WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO. WALI, KAMAL, HOLD HIM!"</p> <p>The illustration on the middle-right side of the page depicts a young man unzipping his jeans while two other young men have their hands on the boy's arms and back. The boy's head is turned away from the young man unzipping his jeans who is saying, "TURN HIM AND GET HIS PANTS DOWN!"</p> <p>The illustration on the bottom of the page depicts the young boy with his eyes closed and a tense expression on his face. There is a young man on either side of him holding his arms and the other young man is standing behind the boy. The young man standing behind the boy is saying, "BRAVO, THAT'S RIGHT, NO</p>

Page	Content
	<p>STRUGGLING. THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO. AND YOU TWO, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID?"</p> <p><i>See Figure 1.</i></p>
43	<p>The right-side of the boy's face is pressed against the brick wall and he's biting his knuckle with an expression of pain on his face. Someone speaking outside the frame says, "READY HAZARA?"</p> <p>The illustration on the top-middle of the page depicts a boy looking over a brick wall at a man shown from the thighs downward. His pants are around his ankles.</p> <p>The young boy peering over the wall is running away. The text on the image reads: I RAN AWAY. I RAN AWAY BECAUSE I WAS A COWARD.</p> <p>The illustration on the middle-left side of the page depicts a young boy with the right side of his face being pressed into the ground by someone else's hand and another pair of hands holds his left fist and back down.</p> <p>The illustration on the middle-right side of the page depicts the same boy described above in the same position and a more pained expression on his face.</p> <p><i>See Figure 2.</i></p>
44	<p>The illustration on the bottom-right side of the page depicts a boy holding a blue kite. He is looking at the snow on the ground littered with footprints and splatters of blood.</p>
45	<p>The illustration on this page depicts the boy described above holding a blue kit looking toward the boy who was assaulted, as he walks away. There is a large splatter of blood on the back of his pants with drips down the back of the leg and small splatters in the snow.</p>
98	<p>"THE TALIBAN WENT TO THE HOUSE. HASSAN EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT HE WAS KEEPING IT FOR ME, BUT THEY WOULDN'T BELIEVE HIM. THEY SAID HE WAS A THIEF. A LIAR, JUST LIKE ALL HAZARAS. HASSAN REFUSED TO LET THEM HAVE IT, SO THEY TOOK HIM OUTSIDE..."</p> <p>"NO!"</p> <p>"MADE HIM KNEEL..."</p> <p>"GOD NO!"</p> <p>"AND THEY SHOT HIM AT THE BASE OF THE NECK."</p>
105	<p>"WE ARE SEARCHING FOR THIS BOY."</p> <p>..."LOFTAN, PLEASE. HIS NAME IS SOHRAB. HIS FATHER HASSAN WAS MY BROTHER. HE KNOWS HOW TO READ AND WRITE. AND HE'S GOOD WITH THE SLINGSHOT. I'M HIS UNCLE...I CAN TAKE HIM WITH ME TO PAKISTAN!"</p> <p>..."I WANT TO BELIEVE YOU, YOU LOOK SINCERE...AND DESPERATE. BUT...YOU MAY WELL BE TOO LATE."</p> <p>"TOO LATE? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!"</p> <p>"THERE IS A TALIB OFFICIAL. HE VISITS ONCE EVERY MONTH OR TWO. HE BRINGS CASH WITH HIM, NOT A LOT...BUT BETTER THAN NOTHING AT ALL. USUALLY HE'LL TAKE A GIRL, BUT NOT ALWAYS."</p> <p>"WHAT?! AND YOU LET HIM?!"</p>

Page	Content
	<p>"I HAVE NO CHOICE." "YOU CALL YOURSELF A DIRECTOR? YOU SHOULD PROTECT THE CHILDREN. INSTEAD, YOU'RE SELLING THEM!" ..."WHAT...HAPPENS TO THE CHILDREN HE TAKES?" "SOMETIMES THEY COME BACK. SOMETIMES THEY DON'T."</p>
110	<p>"BROTHERS AND SISTERS! WE ARE HERE TODAY TO CARRY OUT SHARI'A. TO CARRY OUT JUSTICE. WE LISTEN TO WHAT GOD SAYS. AND WHAT DOES GOD SAY? THAT EVERY SINNER MUST BE PUNISHED IN A MANNER BEFITTING OF HIS SIN. IT IS NOT I, NOR MY BROTHERS, WHO SAY THESE WORDS, BUT GOD HIMSELF! AND WHAT MANNER OF PUNISHMENT BEFITS THE ADULTERER? HOW SHALL WE PUNISH THOSE WHO DISHONOR THE SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE? HOW SHALL WE ANSWER THOSE WHO THROW STONES AT THE WINDOWS OF GOD'S HOUSE? WE SHALL THROW STONES BACK!"</p> <p>The illustration on the top-right side of the page depicts a woman in a burka being held by two men. The illustration on the bottom-left side of the page depicts the woman in the burka with her hands bound by rope behind her back; a large rock striking the back of her neck as she is falling forward. The illustration on the bottom-middle of the page depicts the same woman falling forward and several rocks are flying toward her.</p>
111	<p>The illustration on the top-left side of the page depicts a pile of rocks on the ground. There is a hand protruding out from the pile with a pool of blood on the ground.</p>
116	<p>The illustrations on the top-right side and the remainder of the page, depict two men fighting each other.</p>
117	<p>The illustrations on this page depict one of the men being hit with a rock from a slingshot shot by a boy.</p>
128	<p>The illustration on the top of the page depicts a man looking into a bathroom. A boy is lying with his head resting on the edge of the bathtub with blood running down his left wrist and splashing on the floor. The bathwater is red. <i>See Figure 3.</i></p>
130	<p>"IT'S OKAY. HE'S QUITE RIGHT. PEOPLE WILL ASK. THIS IS THE ANSWER: MY FATHER SLEPT WITH HIS SERVANT'S WIFE. SHE BORE HIM A SON NAMED HASSAN. HASSAN, MY BROTHER, IS DEAD NOW, AND THIS BOY IS HIS SON."</p>

Profanity	Count
Goddamn	3
Piss	1



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3