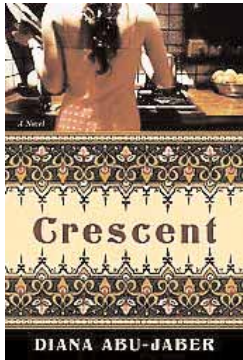


Diana Abu-Jaber
Crescent

Crescent is filled with romantic and culinary delights, the tradition of storytelling and a love story, as it tells the story of American-born Sirine's romance with Iraqi scholar Hanif in Los Angeles's Arab community. The novel extends its reach well beyond the personal story of two people who fall in love to look at Saddam Hussein's dictatorship when Hanif decides he must return to find the imprisoned brother and missing sister he left behind in Iraq.



Asne Seierstad
The Bookseller of Kabul



In one of the best books of reportage of Afghan life after the fall of the Taliban, Norwegian journalist Seierstad tells how he spent three months living with the Kabul bookseller Sultan Khan in the spring of 2002, observing the public and private worlds of Kabul's people as a country rebuilds itself.

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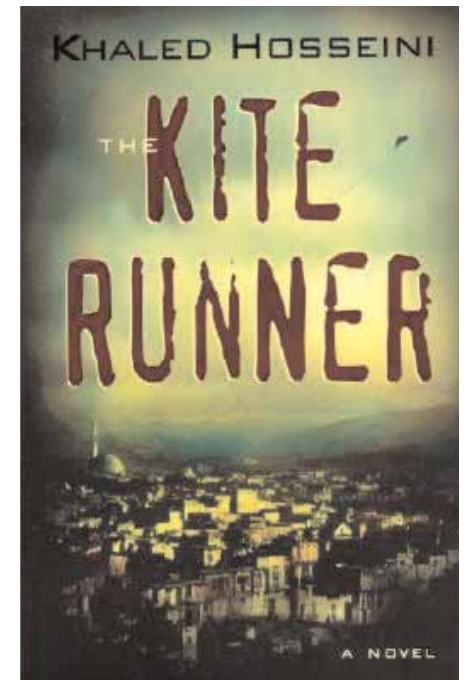
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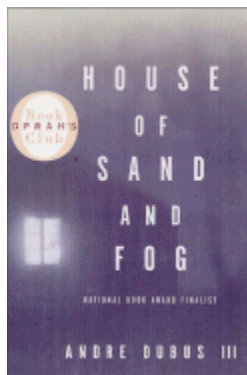
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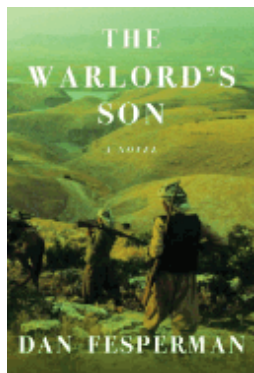
Opportunity knocks for an Iranian immigrant in California when the county offers for sale a seized house at a bargain price. It will serve as a launching pad for his real-estate business. When the county discovers it made an error, the drug-addicted woman who owned the house demands its return, but the Iranian refuses. Unfortunately for him, the woman's lover is a policeman who takes the law into his own hands.



FESPERMAN, DAN THE WARLORD'S SON

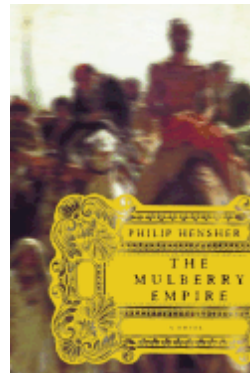
A burned-out war correspondent hoping for a last hurrah in Afghanistan, Skelly arrives on the Afghan border just as American bombs begin falling on the ruling Taliban. Seeking the scoop of a lifetime as witness to the capture of "the biggest fish of them all," he links up with an exiled warlord's quixotic expedition. Guiding Skelly's way is Najeeb, a tribal Pakistani with his own objective-U.S. visas for his girlfriend and

himself, promised by Pakistani intelligence if he acts as an informant. A harrowing crossing into Afghanistan is only the beginning of trouble for the two men. Their journey quickly escalates into a race for their lives as they are pulled into a vortex of intrigue, betrayal, and violence. Finally, only their loyalty to each other holds out the possibility of survival for either of them.

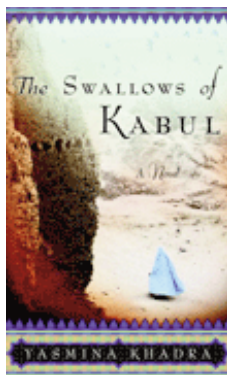


HENSHER, PHILIP THE MULBERRY EMPIRE: OR THE TWO VIRTUOUS JOURNEYS OF THE AMIR DOST MOHAMMED KHAN

In the spring of 1839, some fifty thousand British forces entered Afghanistan with "the full pomp of Empire," possessed of the certainty that they would replace the Amir with someone less hostile toward their ally, the King of the Punjab. Three years later, a single British horseman rode out of the Afghan mountains into India-the sole survivor of the original vast contingent. "The Mulberry Empire" is the story of the politics and people on both sides of this conflict.



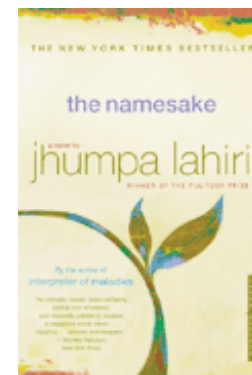
KHADRA, YASMINA *The SWALLOWS of KABUL*



Set in Kabul under the rule of the Taliban, this novel takes readers into the lives of two couples on opposite sides of the religious conflict. All of their lives have been altered by the Taliban, and a dramatic incident involving the stoning of an adulterous woman brings them together in a story of absurd cruelty and transcendent love and sacrifice.

lahiri, jhumpa **the namesake**

Lahiri portrays the immigrant experience, the clash of cultures, the conflicts of assimilation, and, most poignantly, the tangled ties between generations. The Namesake takes the Ganguli family from their tradition-bound life in Calcutta through their fraught transformation into Americans. Lahiri reveals not only the defining power of the names and expectations bestowed upon us by our parents, but also the means by which we slowly, sometimes painfully, come to define ourselves.



ROERS, WALTER J. **THE PACT**

In the tradition of "To Kill a Mockingbird", "The Pact" examines the disillusionment eight-year-old Mike experiences when he comes up against the sometimes fatal fallibility of adults. Growing up in Minneapolis during the 1940s, Mike gains brutal insight into the struggles of his alcoholic father and other deeply troubled adults, the limits of love, and the nuances of loyalty. With its honest and compassionate exploration of childhood friendship and the lasting consequences of our actions on our lives and those we touch, "The Pact" will appeal to readers of all ages.

