Cliffs Color About the Author for THE KITE RUNNER

Khaled Hosseini

Khaled Hosseini was born in Kabul, Afghanistan in 1965. His father was a diplomat for the Afghan Foreign Ministry, and his mother was a high school teacher.

In 1976, the Hosseini family moved to Paris, France. When the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan occurred in 1980, they sought political asylum in the United States and settled in Fremont, California. The immigrant experience in *The Kite Runner* is autobiographical, based on the difficulties that Hosseini and his parents experienced in California.

In 1984, Hosseini graduated from high school, having become fluent in English by this time. Putting his personal aspirations of becoming a writer on hold, Hosseini decided to pursue medicine. In 1989, he graduated from Santa Clara University with a bachelor's degree in biology and graduated from UC San Diego School of Medicine in 1993.

Around this time, Hosseini also returned to writing short stories. One short story, started in 1997 and called "The Kite Runner," was rejected by *The New Yorker*, *Atlantic Monthly*, and *Esquire*. Four years later, Hosseini expanded the short story into his first novel — *The Kite Runner*.

The Kite Runner earned a number of popular and critical awards, including the Borders Original Voice Award, the *San Francisco Chronicle* Best Book of the Year Award, and the South African Boeke Prize. A film version of *The Kite Runner* released in 2007 to mixed critical reviews.

Hosseini's second novel, A *Thousand Splendid Suns*, was published in 2007. Hosseini lives in Northern California with his wife and children.

Get More Teacher Resources at CliffsNotes.com®