



P R E F A C E :

THE CAL POLY SHARED READING PROGRAM

About the Author: Khaled Hosseini

" ... provides a vivid glimpse of life in Afghanistan over the past quarter century." - *Library Journal*

Khaled Hosseini was born in Kabul, Afghanistan in 1965. He is the oldest of five children. His father worked for the Afghan foreign ministry and his mother was a teacher of Farsi and History at a large girls high school in Kabul. In 1976, Khaled's family was relocated to Paris, France, where his father was assigned a diplomatic post in the Afghan embassy. The assignment would return the Hosseini family in 1980, but by then Afghanistan had already witnessed a bloody communist coup and the Soviet invasion. Khaled's family, instead, asked for and was granted political asylum in the U.S. He moved to San Jose, CA, with his family in 1980. They lived on welfare and food stamps for a short while, as they had lost all of their property in Afghanistan. His father took multiple jobs and managed to get his family off welfare. He attended Santa Clara University and graduated from UC San Diego School of Medicine. Khaled is married, has two children (a boy and a girl, Haris and Farah). He has been in practice as an internist since 1996 but his first love has always been writing. Khaled's vivid, and fond, memories of peaceful pre-Soviet era Afghanistan led partially to the writing of *The Kite Runner*, his first novel.

Khaled Hosseini



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