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Book Reviews

Soraya: The Other Princess

Title: Soraya: The Other Princess

Author: Saber Azam

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Reviewed by: Liz Konkel

Hollywood Book Reviews

Saber Azam explores Afghanistan's history over the past several decades through the eyes of a resilient and courageous woman named Soraya. The story has an honest voice as Azam captures the sorrow and tragedy that befell the people under the rulers, which began in the 1960s. This is inspired by the amazing life of Soraya Ludin, who at the time became the only woman from her country to graduate from the University of London. The book aims to explore two stories: the inefficiency and ignorance of Afghanistan's leaders, and, through Soraya's eyes, how women are perceived. The goal is to pay tribute to the amazing Afghan women through a fictional story that holds a lot of truth and heart.

Soraya's life is explored, beginning with her childhood, which lets you see the thoughtful, curious girl she was and how she became the amazing woman she is. The story traces her journey from childhood to adulthood, set against the backdrop of Afghanistan's political evolution. As a young girl, she was full of curiosity, which catalyzed the strong-willed woman who speaks her mind and her beliefs. Her carefree spirit is evident in the way she views the world and in her wish to fly like a bird to see everything. Her father is an influential figure in her life and her inspiration, as he nurtured her curiosity and answered all her questions, teaching her to value learning. He's also an important political figure who sought to do big things, such as highways, hydroelectric dams, and other revolutionary feats, which is a desire for progress and change that is passed on to Soraya.

Azam captures the essence of Afghanistan through details that explore the community, the people, and its beauty. These details are told with love and respect, addressing the political issues that have plagued the country over the decades with sincerity and honesty. The story weaves together two points: the changing politics of Afghanistan and the role of women through the inspiring tale of Soraya's life. The story weaves through Afghanistan's liberation and the leaders' failure, while also revealing the heart of the country through its spirit, forbearance, and beauty.

Soraya evolves from a young girl who speaks out in class over a dispute about a fact in American history to a resilient woman who doesn't back down to do what's right. Various important women are featured throughout, including Queen Soraya, who went unveiled in public, Indira Gandhi, who is described as a parallel to Soraya, and the unforgettable Simone Veil, who shares Soraya's determination and strong will. Her sense of wonder in the world is heightened throughout her travels, allowing her to learn and grow as she witnesses people's struggles.

Soraya: The Other Princess is an incredible story of courage, resilience, and inspiration that, though fictional, is told with honesty, integrity, and heart, shining a light on an extraordinary woman and showing the strength of Afghan women.