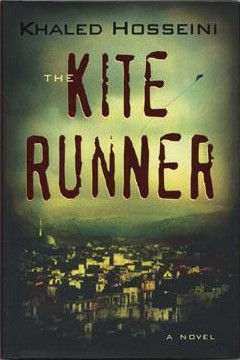
*The Kite Runner*

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*This article is about the novel. For the film, see* [*The Kite Runner (film)*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Kite_Runner)*. For the play, see [Kite Runner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Kite_Runner)*

*[(play).](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Kite_Runner)*

**The Kite Runner**



First edition cover (US hardback)

**Author** [Khaled Hosseini](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Kite_Runner)

**Cover artist** Honi Werner

**Country** United States

**Language** English

**Genre**

* Historical fiction
* Drama
* Classic
* Coming-of-age

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***The Kite Runner*** is the [first novel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Kite_Runner) by [Afghan-American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Kite_Runner) author [Khaled Hosseini](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Kite_Runner).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Kite_Runner#cite_note-1) Published in 2003 by [Riverhead Books](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Kite_Runner), it tells the story of Amir, a young boy from the [Wazir Akbar Khan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Kite_Runner) district of [Kabul](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Kite_Runner). The story is set against a backdrop of tumultuous events, from the fall of [Afghanistan's monarchy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Kite_Runner) through the [Soviet military intervention](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Kite_Runner), the exodus of [refugees](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Kite_Runner) to [Pakistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Kite_Runner)and the United States, and the rise of the [Taliban](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Kite_Runner)regime.

Hosseini has commented that he considers *The Kite Runner* to be a father-son relationship story, emphasizing the familial aspects of the narrative, an element that he continued to use in his later works.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Kite_Runner#cite_note-KH_interview-2) Themes of guilt and redemption feature prominently in the novel,[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Kite_Runner#cite_note-Guthmann-3) with a pivotal scene depicting an act of sexual assault that happens against Hassan that Amir fails to prevent. The situation as a whole was the main reason why Amir and Hassan's friendship ended. The latter half of the book centers on Amir's attempts to atone for this transgression by rescuing Hassan's son two decades later.

*The Kite Runner* became a bestseller after being printed in paperback and was popularized in book clubs. It appeared on the [*New York Times*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Kite_Runner)bestseller list for over two years,[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Kite_Runner#cite_note-Italie-4) with over seven million copies sold in the United States.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Kite_Runner#cite_note-NPR-5) Reviews were generally positive, though parts of the plot drew significant controversy in Afghanistan. A number of adaptations were created following publication, including a [2007 film of the same name](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Kite_Runner), several stage performances, and a graphic novel.

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