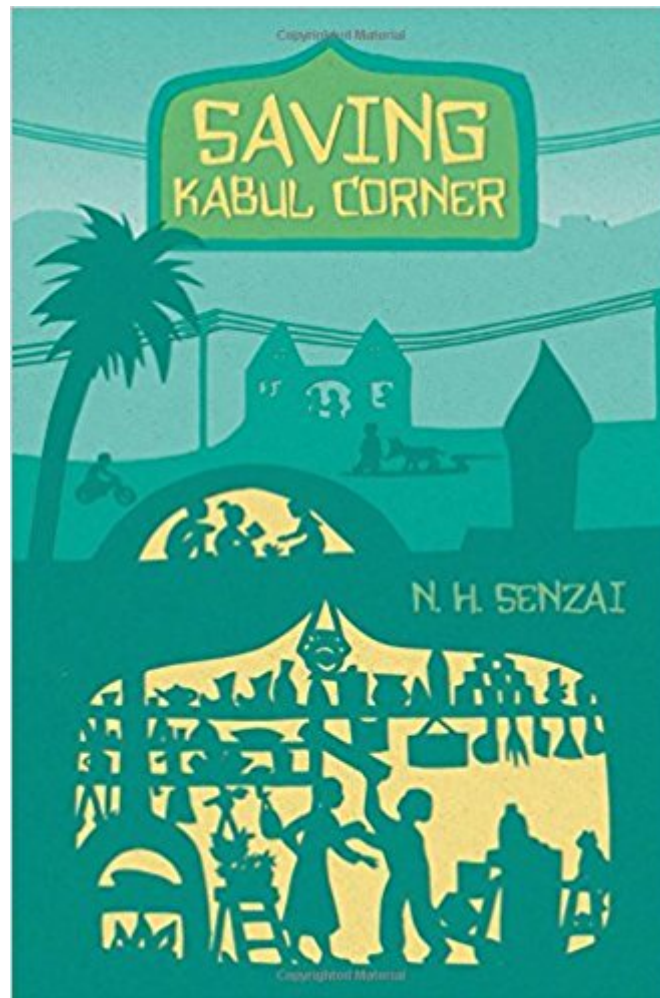




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Saving Kabul Corner (The Kabul Chronicles)



Synopsis

From Afghanistan to America, family matters most in this “empowering mystery” (>), a companion to *Shooting Kabul*, which >called a “story with much to offer.” A rough and tumble tomboy, twelve-year-old Ariana couldn’t be more different from her cousin Laila, who just arrived from Afghanistan with her family. Laila is a proper, ladylike Afghan girl, one who can cook, sew, sing, and who is well versed in Pukhtun culture and manners. Arianna hates her. Laila not only invades Ariana’s bedroom in their cramped Fremont townhouse, but she also becomes close with Mariam Nurzai, Ariana’s best friend. Then a rival Afghan grocery store opens near Ariana’s family store, reigniting a decades-old feud tracing back to Afghanistan. The cousins, Mariam, and their newfound frenemy, Waleed Ghilzai, must ban together to help the families find a lasting peace before it destroys both businesses and everything their parents have worked for. “Senzai successfully weaves the dynamics of Afghan culture, history and political wranglings into a classically American mystery story (>).”

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0880 (What’s this?)

Series: The Kabul Chronicles

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books; Reprint edition (February 3, 2015)

Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

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Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Middle East #418 in Books > Children’s

Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism #10298

in Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr 4 “Twelve-year-old Ariana is California tomboy who dreams of having a room

of her own. When her polite, pretty, perfect cousin Laila arrives from Afghanistan and steals Ariana's best friend and her personal space, she is less than thrilled. To make matters worse, the family store, Kabul Corner, is vandalized and business is going terribly. When a rival Afghan grocery opens up nearby and a decades-old feud between the two stores is reignited, Ariana must learn to get along with her cousin and her family's enemy in order to solve the mystery of who is sabotaging their livelihoods. While this title is not quite as fast paced as Senzai's *Shooting Kabul* (S & S, 2010), the mystery coupled with Ariana's struggles in middle school will keep readers interested. Several characters from *Shooting Kabul* return, but this companion title can be enjoyed on its own. Ariana's voice is relatable and her feelings of unsureness and frustration will be familiar to readers. While all of the main characters share an immigrant experience to some degree, the different struggles that each character faces makes for a more nuanced and compelling read. It is refreshing to see such a vastly multicultural cast in children's literature, and no character is portrayed as stereotypical or overly generalized. The glossary of terms in the back is also a nice touch. Recommended for any fan of multicultural literature or realistic fiction. --Ellen Norton, White Oak Library District, Crest Hill, IL --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Despite a bevy of parallel plots and some improbably neat resolutions, middle-grade readers should enjoy this multicultural suburban mystery. Twelve-year-old Ariana's happy life starts to go awry when her cousin Laila arrives from Afghanistan, full of cultural charm, perfect manners, and a bilingual fluency that makes adults coo and Ariana cringe and even sweeps away Ariana's best friend. To make matters worse, the cute new boy in school is from a rival family of Ariana's: his father opens up a new Afghani grocery store in the same strip mall, and just like that an old feud between the families is resurrected. When both stores are vandalized, the children unite, and with some clever sleuthing they unravel the mystery and put the feud to rest. Adolescent misconceptions, Taliban kidnapping, and local Fremont politics swirl together to interrupt any notions readers may have about sleepy suburban life. A touch of romance provides a satisfying fairy-tale ending. Grades 4-7. --Amina Chaudhri --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I loved this book it was full of mystery and fun. It had a big twist which keep me reading till the very end.

My students read *Shooting Kabul* by N.H. Senzai and asked to get this follow up. They liked the book, but seemed to enjoy *Shooting Kabul* better.

Good and easy book to read, it was fun to catch up on characters from the first book, "Shooting Kabull."

Excellent read, especially if one has served in Afghanistan!

This sequel to Shooting Kabul was good, but Shooting Kabul was better. Make sure to read them both, but not necessarily in order, because it doesn't really matter.

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