



Mornings in Jenin: A Novel

By Susan Abulhawa

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Mornings in Jenin: A Novel By Susan Abulhawa

Mornings in Jenin is a multi-generational story about a Palestinian family. Forcibly removed from the olive-farming village of Ein Hod by the newly formed state of Israel in 1948, the Abulhejos are displaced to live in canvas tents in the Jenin refugee camp. We follow the Abulhejo family as they live through a half century of violent history. Amidst the loss and fear, hatred and pain, as their tents are replaced by more forebodingly permanent cinderblock huts, there is always the waiting, waiting to return to a lost home.

The novel's voice is that of Amal, the granddaughter of the old village patriarch, a bright, sensitive girl who makes it out of the camps, only to return years later, to marry and bear a child. Through her eyes, with her evolving vision, we get the story of her brothers, one who is kidnapped to be raised Jewish, one who will end with bombs strapped to his middle. But of the many interwoven stories, stretching backward and forward in time, none is more important than Amal's own. Her story is one of love and loss, of childhood and marriage and parenthood, and finally the need to share her history with her daughter, to preserve the greatest love she has.

Set against one of the twentieth century's most intractable political conflicts, *Mornings in Jenin* is a deeply human novel - a novel of history, identity, friendship, love, terrorism, surrender, courage, and hope. Its power forces us to take a fresh look at one of the defining conflicts of our lifetimes.

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Mornings in Jenin: A Novel By Susan Abulhawa Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #68756 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Bloomsbury
- Published on: 2010-02-15
- Released on: 2010-02-02
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.28" h x .96" w x 5.53" l, .63 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 352 pages

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