



The Secret Sky

Atia Abawi

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Fatima is a Hazara girl. She was raised to be obedient, to be dutiful, and to honour the traditions of her family, her village, and her religion. Samiullah is a Pashtun boy. He was raised to be a landowner, to increase his family's power, and to defend the traditions of his tribe, his village, and his religion.

They were not meant to fall in love.

But they do.

The Secret Sky Details

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From Reader Review The Secret Sky for online ebook

Sara Gochowski says

From the start, I want to make clear that this book is not a swoony, romantic YA novel. I mean, I think that should be pretty obvious given the setting and description, but you know what they say about assuming.

The Secret Sky is a powerful novel that you'll likely find difficult to read at times. Narrated by three characters, Fatima, Sami, and Rashid, Atia Abawi's debut chronicles the complicated romance between Fatima and Sami and the violent fallout. Rashid, Sami's cousin, narrates from outside of Fatima and Sami's relationship and, for me, was perhaps the most interesting character.

Rashid is a misguided youth who's moral compass is compromised by jealousy, anger, and hatred. It is Rashid who discovers the budding romance between Fatima and Sami and Rashid who manipulates the situation in an effort guarantee an outcome borne of hatred and violence. For me his character was interesting because I couldn't identify with his thought process and actions. I was fascinated this deeply flawed, deeply wrong individual. I wanted redemption for him; I wanted him to see the error in his ways.

I really felt for Sami and Fatima. I have a hard time understanding why two people who love and respect one another shouldn't be together, so the entire concept of their relationship being forbidden because they are from different cultural groups was really hard for me to stomach. Still, I feel better informed after reading The Secret Sky. I admit that I know very little about Afghanistan or the cultural groups that make up Afghani society. I have so much more left to learn, but, now, my interest is piqued. I hope that other readers - teens and adults alike - will read this novel and feel the need to go out and learn more about Sami and Fatima's world.

Recommended.

Christina (A Reader of Fictions) says

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The Secret Sky isn't a book I would ordinarily pick up. While I love diverse novels, I tend to steer clear of that little phrase "forbidden love," which in this context likely meant "sob story." In most cases, I like my love stories to end happily. The Secret Sky sounded really depressing, so I wasn't sure I was interested in it. Still, an ARC showed up unsolicited at my house. Still not sure, I tried a couple pages and didn't love the writing style. I determined to pass, but then the audio came to me and I listened and I'm very glad that I did. The Secret Sky IS depressing, but it also gave me a window on a society I know nothing about and didn't hit that point where it was so sad that I could not even anymore.

Really horrible things happen in The Secret Sky. I expected some unhappiness, because hello forbidden love, but I wasn't prepared for just how dark this book got. In light of that, it's amazing that it didn't really feel unrelentingly depressing or like a total condemnation of everything that Afghanistan is. Abawi manages to

balance the darkness with the light and to convey a sense that dark forces are on top now, but that there's a lot of good underneath.

The love story between Fatima and Sami is one I would classify as sweet. They manage some light banter, but mostly they're childhood friends transitioning into love. Unfortunately, they're not allowed to be together, because Sami is Pashtun and Fatima is Hazara. These two groups differ ethnically and do not get along because of their historical backgrounds. I'm really oversimplifying this, but if you're curious, google it because I am so not the best person to explain. The two just want to get married, but this desire sets a series of horrible events in motion.

Abawi makes a really unique decision with the storytelling in *The Secret Sky*. Ordinarily, a romance novel would have just the two points of view, those of the lovers. In this case, there's a third: Rashid. I was really startled by his perspective at first, because I wasn't expecting the villain of sorts to have a first person perspective. Rashid catches Sami and Fatima talking and assumes the worst. He believes God will punish them, but wants to help God out by telling on them.

Rashid and Sami were both off at school, but they reacted to the teachings in disparate ways. Rashid fell under the influence of the Taliban and became hugely judgmental. Sami hated the school and that element. These two are cousins and Rashid has always been jealous of Sami, who is the family favorite, so seeing Sami make a mistake he wants to take advantage.

The Secret Sky, however, is not all about the horrors of the Taliban. It's also about the good people, like the Mullah who helps the two. Islam is not the villain here. I think what makes the story easier to palate in part is Rashid's character arc. While he caused everything, he also learns throughout the story, and I came to feel a bit sorry for him, because he honestly didn't expect for things to go the way they did. He was naive and idealistic in the worst way.

The other thing that really made *The Secret Sky* work for me was the audiobook format. I'm not sure if the writing style would have been my thing, and I can't comment on how well the perspectives are done. The audiobook narration, however, is fabulous for sure. Both Ariana Delawari and Assaf Cohen do a great job capturing the personalities of their characters. Assaf plays both male roles, but I think he distinguishes between Rashid and Sami well, imbuing Rashid's voice with rage. This is one of those cases where I think the audiobook really brought the book to life for me.

I highly recommend *The Secret Sky*, particularly in audiobook format. Those who cry easily in books might want to prepare some tissues.

Janet says

The book "Secret Sky" relates to "A Long Walk to Water", though in more of a visible way. Both books mention two main tribes, and how they are enemies, or at least indifferent. But in these two books, in some way, the protagonist(s) closed the gap, and came together. In the book ALWTW, Salva Dut, the main character, is Dinka, yet at the end of the book, decides to help the enemy tribe, the Nuer. He helps drill holes for them, to make their lives better, so they'll never have to walk miles for water again. In "The Secret Sky", the two main characters, Fatima and Samiullah, are lovers. Yet they are from different tribes, and culture is against them. Still they fight against society, and follow their hearts.

Nadia says

Not your average love story, I'd say. Romance, persecution, pride and suffering. The story is heavy (as nearly all Afghan stories are) but pulls at the heart with hope.

Fuzaila says

"THIS IS LOVE: TO FLY TOWARD A SECRET SKY,
TO CAUSE A HUNDRED VEILS TO FALL EACH MOMENT.
FIRST TO LET GO OF LIFE.
FINALLY, TO TAKE A STEP WITHOUT FEET."

-Jalal ad-Din Rumi

Because this book is set in Afghanistan, from where comes great writers like Khaled Hosseini, I picked this book with enthusiasm. Not much of my expectations were met though.

OVERVIEW

Samiullah and Fathima are childhood friends. He is a Pashtun boy and she is a Hazara girl. They should have known better than to grow fond of each other. But still, they can't resist falling in love. In the land of Taliban, love like theirs is not greeted without contempt. Samiullah's cousin Rashid is bent down on punishing them for their offensive act of falling in love. It is not only them but also their families who must face the consequences. Will their love survive? Would Rashid be condescending enough to spare their love, and life?

My thoughts

- ☒ ~ **The premise was promising** - A tale of forbidden love in Afghanistan. But the story felt short of love. Samiullah and Fatima's love story felt just like a 'story' to me, almost forced. Not that I expected any romance. But still, I didn't understand their love and couldn't sympathize for them.
- ☒ ~ **The characters lack a certain depth.** I couldn't feel for any of them. I didn't feel any grief or pain on the deaths.
- ☒ ~ **The writing felt... flat.** I was emotionless throughout the book. Even if the story was touchy, it earned no sympathy from me. Absolutely none.
- ☒ ~ I liked the way Atia Abawi blended common observations into her story. It added to the appeal. Like this -

"I don't stare. Instead I quickly grab some raw dough and stick it to my mouth before running off, barely in time to save myself from a swat from my aunt's rolling pin."

Or even this,

"Behind him is the four-year-old concentrating on a plate full of nuts and candy, obviously afraid of dropping it. Mullah Sarwar kisses him after he successfully sets the plate down in front of us"

☒ ~ **The narrative was very clever.** The way it alternates between Samiullah, Rashid and Fathima's perspective, let's us know what was happening behind the scenes.

☒ ~ **There was nothing new to the story.** I could predict every part of it, even the deaths.(view spoiler). It was a huge turn-off for me. I'm not usually a I-know-what-is-gonna-happen sort of reader. But this book was plain and lacked intensity, I had it all figured out.

VERDICT

I liked the book but did not like the book. I liked it because it successfully portrays the ethnic cultural differences and the hardships of women's life in Afghanistan. Other than that there wasn't much that appealed to me in this book.

Katie says

There were a couple times that I thought I wouldn't be able to finish *The Secret Sky*, not because it is a bad or poorly-written book, but because it landed gut-punches with its gritty realism. It's a love story, yes, but one of forbidden love in a country where simply being seen in the presence of the opposite sex can result in public beatings, bodily mutilation, or even death. Fatima is a Hazara, a Shia, and a peasant farmer's daughter. Samiullah (Sami for short) is a Pashtun, a Sunni, and the son of a landowner. It is tough enough to fight against the differences in ethnic cultures, religions, lifestyle, and social class, but when you mix in two sets of parents who believe in the strict order of things *and* that they know what's best for you, you are literally in for the fight of your life.

The Secret Sky is told from three points-of-view, which was surprising. Not only do we see the world through Fatima and Sami's eyes, but we also see the world in darker tones, through the eyes of Sami's cousin, Rashid, who has been away at *madrasa*, an Islamic religious school. Unlike Sami, who also was away at the madrasa but returned home early, Rashid relished in learning the ways of the Taliban, and has returned home full of misplaced ego and burning hate. When he spies Fatima and Sami talking alone in the woods, he entreats the sadistic Mullah Latif to seek public punishment for the sin of - of what? For those of us blessed to be born into free societies, it's mind-boggling that what Fatima and Sami did (um, *talk*) could be considered a sin. Little does Rashid know, however, that Mullah Latif doesn't just stop at public "punishment." No, he's out for blood. When Sami and Fatima get wind of the danger they're in, they spirit away together in the middle of the night, with Mullah Latif and his murderous goonies hot on their heels.

Now, of course, there's a lot more than happens during and after the short paragraph above, but I won't want to give away the whole story. *The Secret Sky* is filled with heart-breaking scenes and graphic descriptions of the many heartaches that the many of the people of Afghanistan endure on a daily basis. (This is where I must say that some scenes are not for the faint of heart.) Not only are you prohibited from doing normal, everyday things Americans take for granted, like being able to speak to a friend of the opposite sex out in the

open, or walk down the street as a single woman, but for the Afghani teenager, even your *life* is not your own. Sami's father drives this home when he tells Sami:

"Zoya, this is not a world where you can do whatever you want [...] You cannot dream of something and think you can have that in reality. [...] You can't just change everything in your life and lineage because you *want* something."

This statement stuck out to me because my parents taught me just the opposite: With hard work and focus, and by doing the right thing, I could achieve and have just about anything I want. They also taught me to be happy with what I *do* have, and this ideal is certainly found throughout the book as well.

The characters in *The Secret Sky* are well-written, and I found myself thinking about Fatima, Sami, Afifa (Fatima's adorable baby sister), and Rashid in between readings and even long after I closed the book. I like that the characters were all written as *humans* and not some either/or version of a human. Rashid was not wholly evil, Fatima's mother did some shocking things, and even one of Mullah Latif's goonies wasn't a total goon.

The romance between Sami and Fatima was, at first, a little too sudden, as there wasn't enough back-story of their time together as children, but as the story went on, I fell in love with their love. I also believe that what they went through is a true representation of what a lot of couples in that part of the world have to go through just to be together. And there's no guarantee that either of them will make it out alive.

The Secret Sky did not necessarily end on a happily-ever-after note. And, really, after everything that happens in the book, how can it? It *does* however, end with hope, and that is one thing that the Afghani people hold onto and believe in, despite the horrors outside their doors. Atia Abawi, drawing from her personal experiences in Afghanistan as a foreign correspondent, was true to her characters and true to the people of Afghanistan, and there's not much more you can ask for than that.

I highly recommend *The Secret Sky* for its authenticity, its boldness, and its complexity. It may be difficult to read at times, but I urge you to look your fear and disgust in the eye and not flinch away - just like the people of Afghanistan do every single day.

***"This is love: to fly toward a secret sky, to cause a hundred veils to fall each moment. First to let go of life. Finally, to take a step without feet."* - Jala ad-Din Rumi**

? Kaira ? says

characters - One thing for sure, they are one dimensional. From the beginning to the end, I see no character development, even to the leads, especially to the leads, I mean. I really want to describe them as unrealistic characters but I believe I am not in the right place to say so because I haven't met Afghanistan people.

You know what, throughout the whole novel, I felt like I was reading a typical Wattpad story due to how the characters acted and how the story flows. Okay, I will not argue at how young they are to elope or whatsoever. Also, this story is the west version of "Romeo and Juliet" minus the love-at-first-sight and the tragic death of the lovers.

plot - like I said, it kinda resembles "Romeo and Juliet", star-crossed lovers. Boy meets girl and fell madly in love with each other but due to their families, they cannot be together. But of course, no one and nothing can stop them, and so they decided to elope and get married by a mullah (a priest) which is the male protagonist's friend. See? very Romeo and Juliet.

anyways, it was overall cliche but a fast-paced novel. I seriously just read this in a span of few hours or so.

writing style - The only thing I can really commend the author is her ability to change POV quickly. At least, in that way, we can get to know the trio better. besides, it's not like you'll stumble upon a lot of novels that has a 1st person pov.

however, this book gave us a quick glimpse of how hard is it for women to live in Afghanistan. It only indicates that we shouldn't take our freedom for granted nor should we abuse it.

ending - the ending was vague, I mean, are they finally safe or what? It seems like the ending was rushed. I mean, was the publisher running out of paper?

Joyce says

A beautiful story about forbidden love.

Annette says

The Secret Sky broke my heart and literally made me sick.

We are in current day Afghanistan. Sami is Pashtun and a member of the land owner's family. Fatima is Hazara, and her family works the land. They begin sneaking around seeing each other alone, which is strictly forbidden. Even though they have barely touched each other, when Sami's cousin Rashid sees them together, his misguided beliefs about religion and the influence of the Taliban cause him to report what he has seen to the powerful leader, Mullah Latif. Rashid wants the two of them properly punished, but what happens causes much violence and begins an avalanche of events that threaten everyone involved. Rashid, now disillusioned with his beloved Taliban, becomes wrapped up in the violence and sees no way out. Fatima and Sami have no choice but to sacrifice everything.

If The Secret Sky doesn't invoke some powerful emotions in the reader, I don't know what will. I felt angry, and literally sick to my stomach at times. And always sympathetic. Living under constant threats, knowing that at any minute your life can be completely changed, or even taken from you, is too hard for me to relate to. But The Secret Sky does a good job giving you a taste of what life is like for many people in Afghanistan.

And, while the religious zealots were scary, nothing shocked me more than the behavior of Fatima's mother. I AM a mother, and I totally cannot fathom.....

Abawi does a good job of depicting Afghanistan as a beautiful place with many different peoples who are very kind and just want to live their lives as they see fit. The pacing is brisk, and there's never a dull moment.

The Secret Sky is a classic story of young people rebelling against their arranged marriages, but the consequences are deeply disturbing. Teens who enjoy these types of stories won't want to miss The Secret Sky.

Ally says

The Secret Sky: A Novel of Forbidden Love in Afghanistan has a ridiculously long subtitle. Seriously, it is too long and annoyingly so. For now, I will call it The Secret Sky instead of the full (and fun) title. It is like calling Queen Elizabeth II her full majestic name and all those other titles I can't bother remembering for the sake of my life and mind.

Now, knowing about Afghanistan's history would certainly help when one reads The Secret Sky. Afghanistan was invaded by the Soviet Union back in 1979. It is a crazy war (and all wars are crazy, mind you). After the Soviet Union left Afghanistan, the Taliban (which interestingly means "students") takes control of Afghanistan (though not right away, but I'm not going to explain that). So the book is set in an area which is controlled by the Taliban.

Told from three characters (three much different voices), The Secret Sky stars a romance that reminds me of the starcrossed lovers, Juliet and her Romeo. Sami and Fatima are the two lovers, who come from different ethnic groups. (Sami is the guy, Fatima the lady. I know. The names are strange and weird.) The romance is odd, and there is this... sort of difference between other YA romance and this romance. This romance has a much different spark and burn. It is delightful to see a much different relationship that still has the markings of many old romances (most notable, Romeo and Juliet).

The world building is vivid, and I can imagine the setting easily. It is vibrant in its beauty, but the harshness of Fatima and Sami's enemies sharpens the contrast between light and darkness. It is really cool (and surprisingly shocking) balance to have in a book. Abawi definitely pulls off the balance, making it really nice and simple.

One of the best parts of The Secret Sky is the violence and the horror. Yes, I know that it is ironic to say this, but I have to say it. It is chilling, and it frequently reminds me that The Secret Sky has a much more deadlier world with gruesome parts and bits. Some parts remind me of a Christian novel (except it isn't, because the characters are Muslim), especially the prayers in the book. (I won't go into too many details about that.)

Overall, The Secret Sky has a sort of adorable and awkward romance that hampers the plot and speeds up the conflict's arrival. Some characters are great while others fall behind. (Rashid and Fatima are great. Sami, not so much.) The book is definitely great with its details, and it manages to remain suspenseful and entertaining while being dark.

Rating: Three out of Five

Rosanne Hawke says

I really enjoyed The Secret Sky (I love the title too, from Rumi). Simply but competently written it tells the story of star-crossed lovers in Afghanistan where even falling in love before marriage is against the law, let

alone loving someone from a different tribe. Love tales in this part of the world usually end very badly so I was scared to read on in places. Written from three points of view and graphic and tense in parts, it is not only for YA but adults too. It also gives understanding of the culture and religion. Four and a half stars.

Ian Wood says

This is the complete review as it appears at my blog dedicated to reading, writing (no 'rithmatic!), movies, & TV. Blog reviews often contain links which are not reproduced here, nor will updates or modifications to the blog review be replicated here. Graphic and children's reviews on the blog typically feature two or three images from the book's interior, which are not reproduced here.

Note that I don't really do stars. To me a book is either worth reading or it isn't. I can't rate it three-fifths worth reading! The only reason I've relented and started putting stars up there is to credit the good ones, which were being unfairly uncredited. So, all you'll ever see from me is a five-star or a one-star (since no stars isn't a rating, unfortunately).

I rated this book WARTY!

WARNING! MAY CONTAIN UNHIDDEN SPOILERS! PROCEED AT YOUR OWN RISK!

I picked this up at the library because it looked like it would be really interesting - and really different. It's set in Afghanistan and is a story of forbidden love between Fatima (of one tribe), and Samiullah (of another tribe) living under a brutal religious regime. The author has actually lived in Afghanistan, so I was hoping for a lot of local color and insights, but in the end all I got was a bog-standard American-style YA novel and I really didn't appreciate that.

We still hear much about Afghanistan - it seems like every alpha male in every TV show, movie, and novel is boringly a special forces soldier who did at least one or two tours in Afghanistan. I know it's awful there, particularly for women, which is why I thought that this story - written by an honorary Afghani woman who has lived in Kabul, would have something new and different to say, but the story was exactly the same as your typical trope story of this nature written by any other author. The big question for me was: why? This could have been so much more.

Rather than being tied to a time and place, It could have been set anywhere at any time (and I don't mean that as a compliment). It could have been written by anyone. Other than a reference here and there to a tandoor (oven), or a payron (smock), or some other such object, or an Afghani phrase dropped here and there, there was no reason for it to be set in Afghanistan. The setting was rendered into a mere gimmick instead of being an integral and enthralling part of the story. Worse than this, the author shows nothing, tells all.

I found it odd that every time mom or dad was referred to in this novel, we got the Afghani term of endearment for it, but when an aunt shows up, she's consistently referred to as 'Aunt'! Weird. Unless, of course, the Afghani word for aunt is aunt, which I somehow doubt. I'm not a fan of novels set in foreign places where the author's sole idea of creating a foreign atmosphere is merely to drop a local language word or phrase into the narrative and immediately afterwards translate it for us. It becomes irritating and metronomic, and it's a constant reminder that we're reading a story by someone who is hoping desperately to convince us that this is really taking place amidst a foreign culture whilst employing the laziest method of doing so.

We get the same fluttering heart (yawn), electric shocks from merely brushing against the object of your desire (yawn, yawn), square jaw (yawn), muscled chest (yawn, yawn) and so on, that we get in a really badly written YA novel from the US. I know that love has common elements no matter in which culture it arises, but can we not think of something new to describe attraction? Can we not get away from tired cliché and trope even in a novel set halfway around the world? Evidently not.

The villain (named Rashid, of course) is a laughable cardboard cut-out, an uncompromising fundamentalist who festers and fumes, and schemes and waits patiently to unleash his wrath, and chews-up the scenery every time we get the story told from his PoV, which was blessedly rare.

Yes, there are three PoVs in what amounts to a sort of warped love triangle. Each chapter is headed with the name of the character so we can't mistake one for another lol! Rashid is far more of a joke than ever he is a threat. Samiullah is such a Mary Sue that this is almost a lesbian affair. Given the upbringing of these three children, it makes no sense that two of them would suddenly abandon all rules and propriety and start meeting secretly. It makes no sense that Samiullah (we're told) loves and respects Fatima, yet puts her very life at risk every day by meeting with her unchaperoned. Yes, it's necessary for this sad effort at writing a "love" story, but please, do the work to make it seem possible that they would behave like this! Don't simply tell us this is the way it is merely because I want to tell a forbidden love story and can't be bothered to work at it.

I was hoping for a lot more, and got a lot less. I couldn't finish this novel, and I cannot recommend it based on what I read. Life is far too short to waste it reading ordinary stories.

Holly Dagres says

What distinguishes Atia Abawi's writing from other Afghan-American authors is that she lived and reported on the ground in Kabul for years. Abawi paints a vivid picture of today's Afghanistan while exploring its complications, including the conflict between ethnic groups and religious sects. She thoughtfully intertwines these struggles to describe a beautiful, but forbidden love story. Abawi also explores two kinds of Islam: the one hijacked by radicals like the Taliban for their own selfish agenda, and the one she and many Afghans were raised to know—a religion of peace.

rachel says

well, that was brutal and hard to read and important

Weinlachgummi says

Der geheime Himmel ist ein ganz besonders Buch. Aufmerksam darauf wurde ich, als ich die Verlagsvorschau durchblättert habe. Ich interessiere mich sehr für andere Länder und Kulturen und lese gerne Jugendbücher mit Liebesgeschichten, da schien mir dieses Buch sehr passend für mich. Dass das Buch schon im September 2015 als broschierte Ausgabe erschienen ist, habe ich erst später gesehen.

Zum Inhalt. Die Geschichte spielt in einem kleinen afghanischen Dorf. Fatima und Samiullah sind seit ihrer

Kindheit Freunde. Doch dann ging Sam auf die Gebetsschule und ihre Wege trennten sich. Früher als erwartet taucht er wieder im Dorf auf. Doch die beiden sind keine Kinder mehr und ein einfaches Treffen wie früher ist nicht mehr möglich. Auch Samis Cousin Rashid ging auf diese Schule, doch bei ihm hat sie viel mehr Einfluss genommen.

Die Geschichte von Sam und Fatima ist wirklich keine einfache. Man muss sie auf das Buch einlassen, die fremde Kultur annehmen und versuchen zu verstehen. Ich habe davor noch kein Buch gelesen, welches in diesem Kulturkreis spielt, deswegen war vieles neu für mich. Am Ende gibt es einen Glossar, der sehr hilfreich und informativ war. Auch das Vorwort der Autorin fand ich toll. Sie erzählt ein bisschen von ihrer Geschichte und man merkte dann auch beim Lesen des Buches, dass sie wirklich Ahnung von dem hat, worüber sie schreibt. So wirkte die ganze Geschichte sehr authentisch auf mich, was es noch schlimmer machte.

Der Roman wird aus der Perspektive von drei Charakteren erzählt, von Fatima, Samiullah und Rashid. Alle drei Perspektiven hatten etwas. Durch Fatima erfährt man viel über den Stellenwert der Frauen und über den Alltag, das Familienleben und allgemein bekommt man durch sie ein gutes Gefühl für ihre Umgebung. Sams Kapitel sind geprägt durch Fatima und seine Gefühle für sie und dann später, den Drang sie zu beschützen.

Rashids Kapitel sind da ein starker Kontrast, strotzen sie gerade zu Beginn nur so von Hass und Überheblichkeit. Durch ihn lernt der Leser sehr schön, wie leicht es doch ist einen jungen Menschen zu beeinflussen. Und was für Auswirkungen es haben kann.

In diesem Augenblick will ich mit ihm zu einem geheimen Himmel auffliegen,
den Atem anhalten und loslaufen ohne die Füße zu bewegen,
einzig geleitet von unseren Herzen.

In diesem Buch findet man keine klassische Liebesgeschichte. Aber trotzdem kommt die Liebe der beiden, von Sam und Fatima sehr gut beim Leser an. Aber auch die Liebe zu der Familie. Mich hat das Buch sehr oft schockiert, mit einem schlimmen Ereignis habe ich gerechnet. Aber es gab viele andere, die mich überrascht haben. Überrascht, weil es so unbegreiflich für mich ist.

Zwei Jugendliche, die sich im Wald alleine unterhalten, ein Mädchen und ein Junge, die einfach nur reden. Und was daraus entstehen kann. Familien, die entehrt werden und somit die Zerstörung von Zukunftsaussichten. Verstümmelungen und Mord. Das Buch hat mich immer wieder berührt und betroffen gemacht. Besonders da es so realistisch geschildert war.

Wieso es dann doch "nur" Vier Sterne geworden sind. Der Schreibstil der Autorin war mir manchmal zu einfach gehalten. In einem Abschnitt haben sehr viele Sätze mit Ich angefangen, sodass ich richtig beim Lesen darüber gestolpert bin. Außerdem ging mir die Geschichte zwar nahe, wie könnte sie auch nicht. Aber die Charaktere an sich, gingen mir nicht so ans Herz. Dafür lernte man sie einfach nicht gut genug kennen. Ich fand ihr Handeln realistisch und authentisch, konnte durch ihre Augen ihr Land, ihre Familien und ihre Traditionen begreifen. Aber ihren Charaktere so wirklich greifen konnte ich nicht.

Fazit:

Berührend und schockierend.

In meinen Augen eine wichtige Geschichte.

Ein Junge und ein Mädchen, beide möchten einfach nur zusammen sein und doch scheint es unmöglich. Den nicht nur, dass sie ein Bauernmädchen und er der Sohn eines Ladenbesitzer ist. Nein sie gehören auch noch zwei unterschiedlichen Ethnien an. Ob sie es schaffen und welche Opfer dafür gebracht werden müssen,

erfahrt ihr in Der geheime Himmel.
