



Mahtab's Story

By Libby Gleeson

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Mahtab was hollow. Empty, as if her flesh and blood, her energy, that kept her breathing and running, thinking and talking, was gone. Nothing was in its place. She was hungry. Hungry for water, for her father, for her grandmother, her aunts and uncles, for the trees in the back yard, the cabinet on the wall, the silver and glass objects so lovingly collected, for her mountains, the jagged peaks that cut the sky. Her father was dead. She felt sure of it. She was just a speck of dirt on the floor, drifting through the gap between the boards, falling to the ground.

Mahtab and her family are forced to leave their home in Herat and journey secretly through the rocky mountains to Pakistan and from there to faraway Australia. Months go by, months of waiting, months of dread, with only memories and hopes to sustain them. Will they ever be reunited with their father, will they ever find a home? The plight of refugees from war-torn countries and what it really means to leave everything behind and to start a new life are vividly explored in this unforgettable story.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 6–10—In 2004, Gleeson met with a group of young Muslim expatriates. They shared their stories of persecution in their homelands and their arduous journeys to safety in Australia. *Mahtab's Story*, a work of fiction, is based on the experiences of an Afghani teenager. When readers first meet Mahtab, her family has been torn apart by the Taliban and she, along with her father, mother, and younger siblings, is preparing to make a dangerous escape by way of Pakistan. Her father eventually separates from the group and treks ahead, leaving the rest of the family to live in a one-room hideaway where they depend on the kindness of a stranger they refer to as "Hairy Man." Eventually, the family tires of waiting and decides to continue on to Australia, though they've not heard from Mahtab's father in months. The journey is both sad and inspiring. Gleeson has created a protagonist with the strength of a woman yet the naïveté of a child. Her writing style is fluid, and it captures readers' attention from the very beginning. This is a striking piece of literature.—*Kelly McGorray, Glenbard South High School, Glen Ellyn, IL*

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Review

"Readers will hold their breath with every heart-stopping bump in Mahtab's journey." —Deborah Ellis, author, *The Breadwinner*

"Subtle, direct, and profound." —*Booklist* starred review of *Half a World Away*

About the Author

Libby Gleeson is a highly acclaimed writer who has published more than 30 books for children and teenagers, including *Cuddle Time*, *Half a World Away*, and *The Great Bear* (with Armin Greder), which won the prestigious Bologna Ragazzi in 2000. She has been shortlisted for the CBC Awards 12 times.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kevin Blais:

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a wander, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or maybe read a book called Mahtab's Story? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You know beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have different opinion?

James Hibner:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be change about what going on or data even knowledge

to make them keep up with the era that is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe may update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know which you should start with. This Mahtab's Story is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Alice Winfield:

Reading a e-book can be one of a lot of action that everyone in the world enjoys. Do you like reading book so. There are a lot of reasons why people enjoyed. First reading a reserve will give you a lot of new info. When you read a e-book you will get new information mainly because book is one of several ways to share the information or maybe their idea. Second, reading through a book will make an individual more imaginative. When you reading through a book especially hype book the author will bring someone to imagine the story how the characters do it anything. Third, you may share your knowledge to some others. When you read this Mahtab's Story, you are able to tells your family, friends and soon about yours e-book. Your knowledge can inspire others, make them reading a book.

Clarence Cavins:

Within this era which is the greater person or who has ability to do something more are more important than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you are related is just spending your time almost no but quite enough to get a look at some books. One of many books in the top collection in your reading list will be Mahtab's Story. This book which can be qualified as The Hungry Mountains can get you closer in getting precious person. By looking up and review this publication you can get many advantages.

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