



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

Dancing in the Mosque by Homeira Qaderi

1. Some of the men in this book recognized the struggle of the women in their lives. Jaber said “Being a woman is like being in quicksand. The more you struggle to stay afloat, the deeper you sink.” What moments in the book provided you with the most insight about the gender inequality the author experienced in her life?
2. The author note mentions that Qaderi was advised to write this as a memoir instead of a novel. Do you think readers would be able to process this type of story better as fiction or as non-fiction?
3. Do you think that Qaderi’s son will ever have the opportunity to read his mother’s work? Which chapter letter do you think was the most important one for him to read?
4. Knowing when to stay silent and when to speak up must be so difficult when there are such big consequences – what were some of the situations that made you worry for the author? Were there any times where you wished she chose a different path?
5. Even though Qaderi experienced so many restrictions in her life, she was able to push the limits of her freedom to the point that she was able to get a university degree. What surprised or impressed you the most about her educational journey?
6. What did you think about Qaderi’s decision to run a school for girls? What about her decision to allow boys to attend her school?
7. When the school is found by the Taliban and the students are accused of dancing, were you surprised by their laughter? Do you think they understood the danger they were facing?
8. This book was written before the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. Did reading the book give you any insights or change the way you think about that change in world politics?

The above questions were developed by library staff for your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Dr. Homeira Qaderi is a women's rights activist originally from Afghanistan. She has published six books in Afghanistan and Iran, some of which have received prestigious awards. *Dancing in the Mosque* is her first book in English – *Taken from HarperCollins.ca*

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