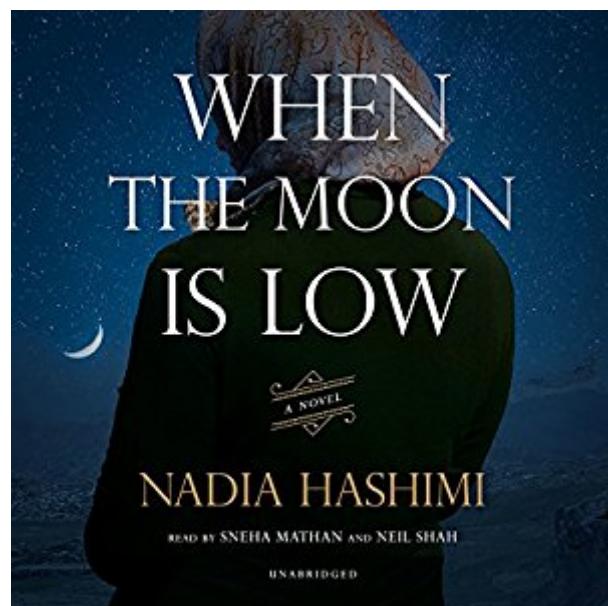


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# When The Moon Is Low



## Synopsis

From the author of *The Pearl That Broke Its Shell* comes an unforgettable story of terror, survival, perseverance, and hope that chronicles one extraordinarily brave Afghan woman's odyssey to save her family and find asylum in the West - a tale of a daring escape, a perilous trek across Europe, and the courage and tenacity of one defiant woman. Mahmood's passion for his wife, Fereiba, a schoolteacher, is greater than any love she's ever known. But their happy middle-class world - a life of education, work, and comfort - implodes when their country is engulfed in war and the Taliban rises to power. Mahmood, a civil engineer, becomes a target of the new fundamentalist regime and is murdered. Forced to flee Kabul with her three children, Fereiba has one hope to survive: She must find a way to cross Europe and reach her sister's family in England. With forged papers and help from kind strangers they meet along the way, Fereiba and her children make a dangerous crossing into Iran under cover of darkness. Exhausted and brokenhearted but undefeated, Fereiba manages to smuggle them as far as Greece. But in a busy market square, their fate takes a frightening turn when her teenage son, Saleem, becomes separated from the rest of the family. Faced with an impossible choice, Fereiba pushes on with her daughter and baby while Saleem falls into the shadowy underground network of undocumented Afghans who haunt the streets of Europe's capitals. Fereiba and Saleem struggle to reunite and ultimately find a place where they can begin to reconstruct their lives.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

There are narratives that strike your heart by using the shock factor-by using scenes that disturb you, or haunt you, or invoke feelings of an all-around uncomfortable nature. Those are the books that are praised as being the most realistic, the ones that closest mirror the horrors in the world. But should it take scenes of rape, and torture, and senseless violence to really appreciate the enormity, and importance, of the content in a novel? I didn't need it, and I sure as hell didn't think When the Moon is Low read as anything less than spectacular without it. It didn't begin as a story of struggle, nor has there been many other times where I've fallen in love with a main character so quickly. Fereiba's upbringing brought to mind, and heart, a Cinderella-esque tone-with less of the wicked, and more of the unfortunate. No, When the Moon is Low was not initially a story about finding refuge, it began as a story about a young girl attempting to find herself. I was so intensely captivated by the strokes Hashimi painted, the emotions that coursed through my own veins because each character expressed their own so genuinely. When the backdrop became one of a newly Taliban-ruled Afghanistan, and the story veered off path drastically, I feared that I would become witness to unimaginable acts of violence and terror. I'll admit, I thought Hashimi would now begin using her carefully crafted words to paint a more grim picture, one that would have me putting the book down to clear the images from my head. But, alas, my fears were unwarranted, because When the Moon is Low was a consistent focus on its characters, and their personal journey to escape an iron fist. There was no need for graphic details to feel every ounce of hopelessness, and triumph, and pain.

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