



Honor: A Novel

By Elif Shafak



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An honor killing shatters and transforms the lives of Turkish immigrants in 1970s London

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Internationally bestselling Turkish author Elif Shafak's new novel is a dramatic tale of families, love, and misunderstandings that follows the destinies of twin sisters born in a Kurdish village. While Jamila stays to become a midwife, Pembe follows her Turkish husband, Adem, to London, where they hope to make new lives for themselves and their children.

In London, they face a choice: stay loyal to the old traditions or try their best to fit in. After Adem abandons his family, Iskender, the eldest son, must step in and become the one who will not let any shame come to the family name. And when Pembe begins a chaste affair with a man named Elias, Iskender will discover that you could love someone with all your heart and yet be ready to hurt them.

Just published to great acclaim in England, *Honor* is a powerful, gripping exploration of guilt and innocence, loyalty and betrayal, and the trials of the immigrant, as well as the love and heartbreak that too often tear families apart.



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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Best-selling Turkish writer Shafak's literary powers resemble those of a djinni in command of whirlwinds. Like her cyclonic family drama *The Bastard of Istanbul* (2007), her newest is a gyre of multiple points of view, flashbacks, and tragic moral dilemmas. At the center are twin sisters, Jamila and Pembe, born in a Kurdish village where girls are valued only for their purity and obedience. Theirs is a culture in which any suggestion of female impropriety, however unjustified, can be grounds for an honor killing because, as one man asserts, "honor was all that some men had in this world." Jamila ends up living alone in rural Turkey, relied upon as a healer and known as the "Virgin Midwife." Pembe is unhappy in London with her feckless, unfaithful husband, Adem. Their smart, skeptical daughter, Esma, wants "to be a writer, but not a female one"; their younger son Yunus discovers a wildly permissive enclave among druggie punk squatters; and the eldest, Iskender, feels duty bound to defend his family's honor after Pembe is seen with another man. At every turn in this trenchant, dazzlingly imaginative, suspenseful, mystical, and socially astute novel, Shafak sheds light on the crushing consequences of oppressive gender roles, the struggles of immigrants, and the divide between brutal traditions and the quest for freedom and love. --Donna Seaman

Review

Praise for *Honor*

"Rich and wide as the Euphrates river along whose banks it begins and ends, Elif Shafak has woven with masterful care and compassion one immigrant family's heartbreaking story - a story nurtured in the terrible silences between men and women trying to grow within ancient ways, all the while growing past them. I loved this book." —**Sarah Blake, author of *The Postmistress***

"Fascinating and gripping...a wonderful novel." —**Rosamund Lupton, author of *Sister***

"A powerful book; thoughtful, provoking, and compassionate." —**Joanne Harris, author of *Chocolat***

"Calls to mind *The Color Purple* in its fierceness of its engagement with male violence and its determination to see its characters to a better place. But Shafak is closer to Isabel Allende in spirit, confidence, and charm. Her portrayal of Muslim cultures, both traditional and globalizing, is as hopeful as it is politically sophisticated." —***The Guardian***

"Shafak is an unflinching writer...this is vivid storytelling...a gripping exploration of the darkest aspects of faith and love." —***The Telegraph***

"This is an extraordinarily skillfully crafted and ambitious narrative, with Shakespearian twists and turns, omens and enigmas, prophecies and destinies fulfilled ...Shafak joins writers such as Hanif Kureishi, Zadie Smith, Monica Ali...who offer us fictional glimpses of London's Others." —***The Independent***

"[A] stunning novel...exotic, evocative and utterly gripping." —***The Times***

About the Author

Elif Shafak is the most widely read female writer in Turkey. Her books include the novels *The Bastard of Istanbul* and *The Forty Rules of Love* and the memoir *Black Milk*. She lives in London and Istanbul.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Charles English:

What do you in relation to book? It is not important with you? Or just adding material when you require something to explain what your own problem? How about your extra time? Or are you busy individual? If you don't have spare time to do others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have free time? What did you do? All people has many questions above. They have to answer that question because just their can do which. It said that about e-book. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is right. Because start from on guardería until university need this particular Honor: A Novel to read.

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