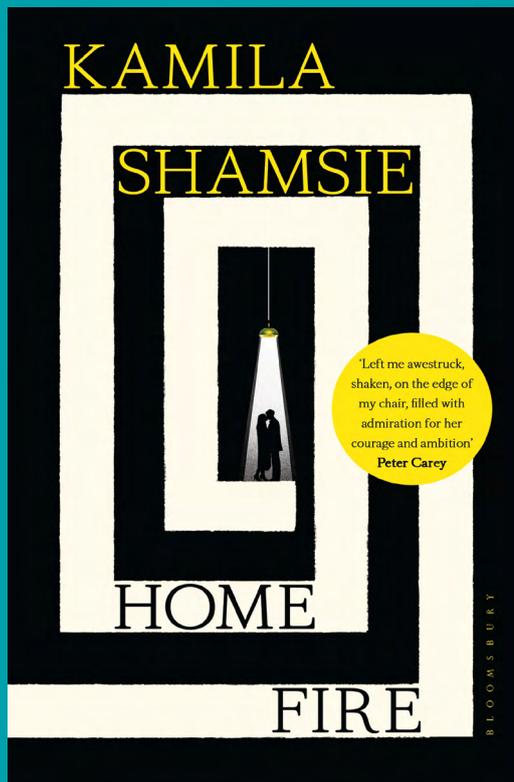


Reader's Guide



Other novels by Kamila Shamsie
Kartography (2002)
Broken Verses (2005)
Burnt Shadows (2009)
A God in Every Stone (2014)

Home Fire Kamila Shamsie

Bloomsbury Circus

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About the author

Kamila Shamsie is the author of six novels: *In the City by the Sea* (shortlisted for the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize); *Salt and Saffron*; *Kartography* (also shortlisted for the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize); *Broken Verses*; *Burnt Shadows* (shortlisted for the Orange Prize for Fiction) and, most recently, *A God in Every Stone*, which was shortlisted for the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction, the Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction and the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature. Three of her novels have received awards from Pakistan's Academy of Letters. Kamila Shamsie is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and was named one of Granta's Best of Young British Novelists in 2013. She was born in 1973, grew up in Karachi and now lives in London.

About the book

Isma is free. After years spent raising her twin siblings in the wake of their mother's death, she is finally studying in America. But she can't stop worrying about Aneeka, her beautiful, headstrong sister back in London – or their brother, Parvaiz, who's disappeared to prove himself to the dark legacy of the jihadist father he never knew.

Then Eamonn enters the sisters' lives. The son of a powerful British Muslim politician, Eamonn has his own birth right to live up to – or defy. Two families' fates are devastatingly entwined in this searing novel that asks: what sacrifices will we make in the name of love?

What the judges thought

A 'subtle', 'unexpected' and 'gripping' book, in the opinion of the judges, about the encountering of prejudice, *Home Fire* is 'arresting and nuanced', they said, and 'makes geopolitical fractures deeply personal'.

Discussion points

Home Fire is a modern reworking of *Antigone* by Sophocles – do you think it would help to know this play before reading the book?

How do the sisters Isma and Aneeka differ? What are their different roles in the book?

What is the impact of Eamonn's appearance in the lives of the sisters? Could things have worked out differently for them?

The book talks about family duty and sacrifice – had Isma done enough to satisfy her duty? Should she have been free to pursue her own desires?

What role does Parvaiz play? Is his father's legacy unescapable?

Useful links

www.theguardian.com/books/2017/aug/10/home-fire-kamila-shamsie-review

www.nytimes.com/2017/08/08/books/review-home-fire-kamila-shamsie

www.thequint.com/world/2017/08/04/kamila-shamsie-interview-on-home-fire-and-man-booker