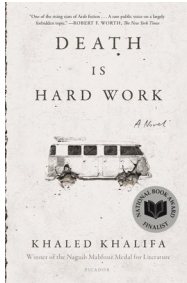


Books by the Stack



Death Is Hard Work by Khaled Khalifa

Khalifa draws on first-person experiences in the story of three siblings who set aside their differences and risk their lives during the Syrian civil war to honor their late father's final wishes.

Why you'll like it: *Heart-wrenching. Character-driven. Thought-provoking.*

About the Author: Khaled Khalifa was born in 1964 in a village close to Aleppo, Syria. He has written numerous screenplays and is the author of several novels, including *In Praise of Hatred*, which was short-listed for the International Prize for Arabic Fiction, and *No Knives in the Kitchens of This City*, which won the Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature in 2013. He lives in Damascus, a city he has refused to abandon despite the danger posed by the ongoing Syrian civil war.

Questions for Discussion

1. Why do you think Abdel Latif's children continued their journey despite all the obstacles they faced?
2. Why did the story of Layla's death by immolation persist despite everyone's attempt to erase it?
3. Both Bolbol and Abdel Latif missed their first chance at true love. How did this change each of their lives?
4. Why did Abdel Latif ask to be buried next to his sister instead of his wife or mother?
5. Bolbol's real name was Nabil. Why did he go by Bolbol? In the end, why did he choose to go by Nabil again?
6. What do you think caused Fatima's muteness?
7. Do you feel that Abdel Latif's final resting place was suitable? Why do you think his family buried him there?
8. Why did Bolbol return home instead of crossing into Turkey like he planned?



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