

Celestial Bodies by Jokha Alharthi

- Are you intrigued by the complexity of family dynamics and the secrets they hide?
- Are you drawn to vivid, poetic language that transports you to another place?
- Do you appreciate novels that challenge narrative norms and structure?
- Do you enjoy exploring themes of love and loss, freedom and fate?

"Celestial Bodies" takes place in a village called al-Awafi in Oman and follows the lives of three sisters: Mayya, who gets married after a heartbreak; Asma, who marries from a sense of duty; and Khawla, who waits for her beloved who has emigrated to Canada.

The story goes back and forth between their past and present, showing how the society in Oman has changed over the years. It talks about the family's personal stories along with the bigger changes happening in Oman, uncovering secrets and showing how these changes impact the characters.

This book is a journey through the life of a family as they deal with big changes in society and the economy. It's a story that honours its roots while also looking forward to the future.

Reviews and Criticisms:

"Celestial Bodies" has been praised for its intricate narrative structure and depth of character development. The Booker Prize judges highlighted its "subtle artistry" and the "richness of its prose."

Critics have noted that the non-linear timeline and multiple perspectives can be challenging for some readers, but ultimately enrich the storytelling by providing a multi-faceted view of Omani society.