

***The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri**

Discussion questions from BookBrowse

Please be aware that this discussion guide will contain spoilers.

1. What did you like most about this book? Were you most drawn to the characters, the writing, the emotional storyline, or learning about a different culture, for instance? Which character did you feel more emotionally connected to—Nuri or Afra—and why?
2. What about this book surprised you? Did you learn anything about the Syrian refugee crisis that you hadn't previously read in news stories?
3. Why do you think the author decided to have Nuri narrate the story instead of Afra? How would the book have been different if it was told from Afra's point of view?
4. Each of the characters processes grief and trauma differently. Afra is literally blinded by her grief and Nuri can't seem to accept the reality of his situation. Why do you think that is? What role do you think gender plays?
5. When did you figure out that Mohammed was a product of Nuri's imagination? And how did you feel about that revelation?
6. When setting out to write *The Beekeeper of Aleppo*, the author sought to answer the question "What does it mean to see?" Having finished the book, how would you answer that question?
7. *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* is inspired by the author's experience volunteering at a refugee center in Athens, Greece. Why do you think she decided to write this story as fiction rather than nonfiction? Do you think fiction can make a tough subject more accessible and emotionally resonant than news stories?
8. The author intended for the bees to symbolize hope and life. How do you see that play out over the course of the book?
9. After finishing the book, describe how you felt in one word.