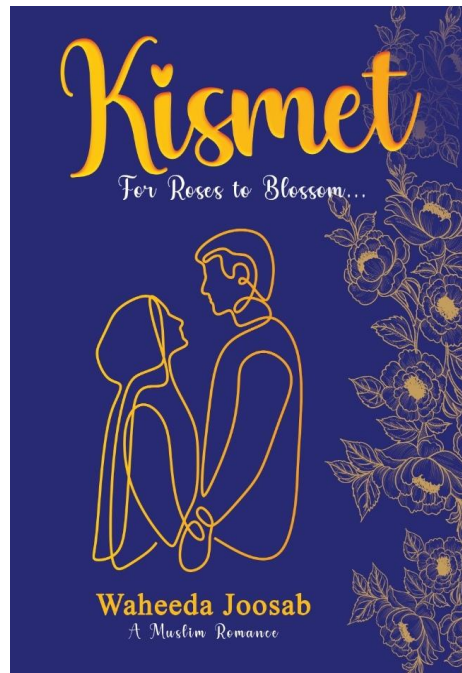


Kismet

For roses to blossom...



Book Club Resource #2

Character Profiles

Ahmed Mia
Zainub Habib
Fathima Mia
Aunty Rashida

Character Profile: Ahmed Mia

Full name: Ahmed Haroon Mia

Age: Late 20s

Occupation: Criminal lawyer

Background:

Ahmed Mia is a complex and multi-dimensional character in "Kismet - For Roses to Blossom." Born and raised in a modern Muslim family, Ahmed grew up in a world where success and career achievements were highly prioritized. He pursued a career in law and became a successful lawyer known for his intellect and dedication.

Personality:

- **Reserved:** Ahmed tends to be reserved and introverted, often keeping his thoughts and emotions guarded. He is not one to easily open up to others, which can sometimes create misunderstandings.
- **Independent:** He values his independence and has always been self-reliant. Ahmed is used to making important decisions on his own and rarely seeks advice or assistance.
- **Skepticism About Marriage:** Ahmed is initially skeptical about the institution of marriage. He has witnessed his parents' troubled marriage and harbors unresolved issues related to his father, which influence his views on commitment and family life.

Challenges and Growth:

- **Father's Legacy:** Ahmed carries the weight of his troubled relationship with his late father, which manifests as emotional baggage throughout the story. His unresolved issues with his father hinder his ability to embrace marriage and family life fully.
- **Personal Growth:** As the story unfolds, Ahmed undergoes significant personal growth. Through his relationship with Zainub and the challenges they face together, he learns to confront his past and the emotional barriers he has erected.
- **Evolution in Views:** Ahmed's skepticism about marriage gradually transforms into a deeper understanding of the value of companionship and the importance of addressing one's emotional wounds.

Relationship with Zainub:

- **Initial Tension:** Ahmed's marriage to Zainub is initially met with tension and misunderstandings. His emotional struggles affect the way he interacts with her, causing friction in their relationship.
- **Journey of Discovery:** As the story progresses, Ahmed embarks on a journey of self-discovery and healing. His relationship with Zainub plays a pivotal role in helping him confront his past and become a more emotionally open and caring partner.

- Transformation: Ahmed's transformation from a skeptical and emotionally distant individual to a loving and committed husband is a central theme in "Kismet." His character arc serves as a testament to the power of personal growth and resilience.

Conclusion:

Ahmed Mia's character is a compelling and relatable figure in "Kismet - For Roses to Blossom." His journey from a reserved and emotionally wounded individual to a more open and compassionate partner adds depth and authenticity to the story, making him a character that readers can empathize with and root for as he navigates the complexities of love and marriage.

Character Profile: Zainub Habib

Full name: Zainub Uthman Habib

Age: Early 20s

Background:

Zainub Habib is one of the central characters in "Kismet - For Roses to Blossom." She hails from a loving and close-knit Muslim family. Zainub's life takes an unexpected turn when she chooses to drop out of medical school to become her father's primary caregiver, prioritizing family responsibilities over her personal ambitions.

Personality:

- **Compassionate:** Zainub is known for her compassionate nature. She deeply cares for her family and willingly takes on the role of a caregiver, putting others' needs above her own.
- **Determined:** Despite facing challenges and societal expectations, Zainub is determined to fulfill her duties as a daughter and caregiver. Her determination is a driving force in her life.
- **Resilient:** Zainub possesses a strong sense of resilience. She faces adversity with courage and maintains her optimism even when life becomes difficult.
- **Spirituality:** Zainub's resilience stems from her high levels of spirituality and her relationship with her Creator.

Challenges and Growth:

- **Family Responsibility:** Zainub's decision to care for her ailing father becomes a significant challenge in her life. She must balance her family responsibilities with her personal dreams and aspirations.
- **Personal Growth:** Throughout the story, Zainub experiences personal growth as she navigates the complexities of her changing circumstances. Her character development reflects her evolving maturity and self-confidence.
- **Embracing Change:** Zainub's journey involves adapting to unexpected changes in her life, including her marriage to Ahmed Mia. Her ability to adapt and grow in the face of change is a central theme in the story.

Relationship with Ahmed:

- **Unconventional Marriage:** Zainub's marriage to Ahmed Mia is unconventional, as it stems from her father's request for Ahmed to assist with settling his estate. The unexpected marriage adds complexity to her life.
- **Supportive Partner:** Zainub is a supportive and understanding partner to Ahmed, even when faced with challenges in their relationship. Her patience and empathy contribute to Ahmed's personal growth.

- Mutual Growth: Zainub's relationship with Ahmed leads to mutual growth and transformation. As they face various hurdles together, they learn valuable lessons about love, commitment, and family.

Conclusion:

Zainub Habib's character is a symbol of compassion, determination, and resilience in "Kismet - For Roses to Blossom." Her journey from a dedicated daughter and caregiver to a loving and supportive partner showcases the strength of her character and her ability to embrace change and personal growth. Zainub's character adds depth and heart to the story, making her a relatable and inspiring figure for readers.

Character Profile: Fathima Mia

Name: Fathima (Noor) Mia

Age: Late 50s

Background:

Ahmed's mother is a pivotal character in "Kismet - For Roses to Blossom." Her character is portrayed as a departure from the conventional mother-in-law stereotype. She plays a significant role in the story, providing a nurturing and supportive presence in Ahmed and Zainub's lives.

Personality:

- **Progressive Thinker:** Ahmed's mother is a modern and open-minded individual. She values progressive thinking and does not adhere to traditional gender roles or expectations.
- **Empathetic:** Her experiences with her own mother-in-law have made her empathetic to the challenges faced by daughters-in-law. She is determined to provide Zainub with a different, more supportive experience.
- **Supportive and Encouraging:** Ahmed's mother serves as a pillar of support for both Ahmed and Zainub. She encourages their personal growth and values their happiness above all else.

Relationship with Zainub:

- **Motherly Figure:** Ahmed's mother sees Zainub as a daughter and treats her with love and respect. She strives to create a warm and welcoming environment for her new daughter-in-law.
- **Learning from the Past:** Her own experiences with a difficult mother-in-law have motivated her to break the cycle and provide Zainub with a positive and caring relationship. She shares stories from her past to connect with Zainub and offer guidance.
- **Conflict Resolution:** When conflicts arise between Ahmed and Zainub, she plays a pivotal role in mediating and offering wise counsel. Her presence helps bridge the gap between the newlyweds.

Influence on the Story:

- Ahmed's mother's character serves as a counterbalance to the challenges and conflicts faced by the main characters. Her nurturing and empathetic nature creates a safe space for them to grow and develop as individuals and as a couple.
- Her experiences and wisdom offer valuable life lessons to both Ahmed and Zainub, helping them navigate their evolving relationship and personal struggles.
- Her character underscores the theme of breaking stereotypes and challenging traditional roles within families, emphasizing the importance of understanding and empathy.

Conclusion:

Ahmed's mother is a refreshing and nuanced character in "Kismet - For Roses to Blossom." Her empathetic and supportive nature, along with her determination to provide a different experience from her own, adds depth to the story and contributes to the overall theme of personal growth, understanding, and familial bonds.

Character Profile: Aunty Rashida

Name: Referred to as 'Aunty Rashida' in the novel

Age: Mid 60s

Background:

Aunty Rashida is a beloved secondary character in "Kismet - For Roses to Blossom." She holds a special place in Zainub's life, having played the role of a nurturing and supportive mother figure since Zainub's childhood. Her character symbolizes the power of unconditional love and mentorship.

Personality:

- **Maternal and Caring:** Aunty Rashida is known for her maternal and caring nature. She has a warm and welcoming presence, making her the go-to person for guidance and comfort.
- **Empathetic and Understanding:** She possesses a deep understanding of Zainub's struggles and challenges, particularly after the loss of her mother at a young age. Aunty Rashida's empathy allows her to connect with Zainub on a profound level.
- **Wise and Supportive:** Her wisdom and life experience make her an invaluable source of advice and support. Aunty Rashida has always been there to offer guidance and encouragement during pivotal moments in Zainub's life.

Role in Zainub's Life:

- **Mother Figure:** Following the loss of Zainub's mother when she was young, Aunty Rashida stepped in as a surrogate mother. She provided the emotional support and nurturing that Zainub needed during her formative years.
- **Lifelong Mentor:** Aunty Rashida remained a steadfast mentor and confidante to Zainub as she navigated the challenges of life, including her decision to drop out of medical school and her marriage to Ahmed Mia.
- **Stability and Comfort:** Aunty Rashida's presence served as a source of stability and comfort for Zainub, especially during times of transition and uncertainty.

Influence on the Story:

- Aunty Rashida's character represents the enduring power of love and mentorship in a person's life. Her unwavering support and guidance have a profound impact on Zainub's character and choices.
- Her wisdom and empathy contribute to the themes of family, resilience, and personal growth in the novel. Aunty Rashida's influence underscores the idea that family can extend beyond blood ties (found family) and that maternal love takes many forms.
- Through her character, the author highlights the importance of having a strong support system and the role of mentors in shaping one's journey and character development.

Conclusion:

Aunty Rashida is a heartwarming and influential character in "Kismet - For Roses to Blossom." Her maternal love, wisdom, and unwavering support make her a central figure in Zainub's life and contribute to the overall message of the novel about the power of love, family, and resilience.