



# Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan

By Jeanette Winter

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Young Nasreen has not spoken a word to anyone since her parents disappeared.

In despair, her grandmother risks everything to enroll Nasreen in a secret school for girls. Will a devoted teacher, a new friend, and the worlds she discovers in books be enough to draw Nasreen out of her shell of sadness?

Based on a true story from Afghanistan, this inspiring book will touch readers deeply as it affirms both the life-changing power of education and the healing power of love.

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## **Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan** By Jeanette Winter Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #108973 in Books
- Brand: Beach Lane Books
- Published on: 2009-10-06
- Released on: 2009-10-06
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 11.00" h x .50" w x 9.00" l, 1.09 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 40 pages

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### Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 2–4—This story begins with an author's note that succinctly explains the drastic changes that occurred when the Taliban came to power in Afghanistan in 1996. The focus is primarily on the regime's impact on women, who were no longer allowed to attend school or leave home without a male chaperone, and had to cover their heads and bodies with a *burqa*. After Nasreen's parents disappeared, the child neither spoke nor smiled. Her grandmother, the story's narrator, took her to a secret school, where she slowly discovered a world of art, literature, and history obscured by the harsh prohibitions of the Taliban. As she did in *The Librarian of Basra* (Harcourt, 2005), Winter manages to achieve that delicate balance that is respectful of the seriousness of the experience, yet presents it in a way that is appropriate for young children. Winter's acrylic paintings make effective use of color, with dramatic purples and grays, with clouds and shadows dominating the scenes in which the Taliban are featured, and light, hopeful pinks both framing and featured in the scenes at school. This is an important book that makes events in a faraway place immediate and real. It is a true testament to the remarkable, inspiring courage of individuals when placed in such dire circumstances.—*Grace Oliff, Ann Blanche Smith School, Hillsdale, NJ* END

### Review

"Winter celebrates the importance of education, and the reminder to Western children that it is a privilege worth fighting for is a powerful one."--*The Horn Book Magazine*

"The personal nature of the story individualizes the conflict in Afghanistan...and the quiet, tightly focused approach helps make the situation accessible. The notion of school as a privilege revoked rather than a mandatory setence may also elicit some thoughtful kid consideration."--*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

"Winter's precise acrylics tell this story in matter-of-fact images: Taliban soldiers coming down the mountain to the city of Herat, "where art and music and learning once flourished"; a girl called Nasreen sitting at home, silent since her parents disappeared, forbidden to attend school; the grandmother, who tells the story, taking her to a secret girls' school in a private home. The students' brightly colored headscarves stand in for their bravery and eagerness to learn."--*The New York Times Book Review*

"Winter tells another powerful story, based on true events, of an individual activist whose singular courage brings social change...Winter artfully distills enormous concepts into spare, potent sentences that celebrate Herat's rich cultural, Islamic history...even as they detail the harrowing realities of Taliban rule. And in her signature style of deceptively simple compositions and rich, opaque colors, Winter's acrylic paintings give a palpable sense of both Nasreen's everyday terror and the expansive joy that she finds in learning."--*Booklist*

### About the Author

Jeanette Winter is a renowned picture book creator whose acclaimed works include *Nanuk the Ice Bear*; *Malala, A Brave Girl from Pakistan/Iqbal, A Brave Boy from Pakistan: Two Stories of Bravery*; *Henri's Scissors*; *Biblioburro: A True Story from Colombia*; *The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq*; and *Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan*.

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Debra Davis:**

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children till adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important for us. The book Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan ended up being making you to know about other information and of course you can take more information. It is very advantages for you. The book Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan is not only giving you much more new information but also for being your friend when you experience bored. You can spend your personal spend time to read your e-book. Try to make relationship using the book Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan. You never feel lose out for everything should you read some books.

#### **Robert Leggett:**

This book untitled Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan to be one of several books that best seller in this year, here is because when you read this guide you can get a lot of benefit into it. You will easily to buy that book in the book retailer or you can order it by way of online. The publisher of the book sells the e-book too. It makes you quickly to read this book, since you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason for you to past this e-book from your list.

#### **Alice Prah:**

The book untitled Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan contain a lot of information on the item. The writer explains the girl idea with easy means. The language is very clear to see all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read that. The book was published by famous author. The author will take you in the new period of time of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can keep reading your smart phone, or gadget, so you can read the book in anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can start their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice examine.

#### **Danielle Rucks:**

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