

APPENDIX 1

BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

There are a very few writers who are accredited for revolutionizing contemporary Pakistani Literature and have it recognized around the world. One such prominent figure is Mohsin Hamid. He is a Pakistani novelist known for his ingeniously crafted literary works, such as *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia* and *Moth Smoke*.

Born in 1971 in Lahore, Pakistan, Hamid spent much of his childhood in the United States as his father was a professor and was pursuing a PhD at Stanford University. His family later returned to Pakistan and he received his early education from Lahore American School. At the age of 18, he moved back to the United States to pursue higher studies. He attended Princeton University and graduated in 1993 with highest honor, *summa cum laude*. Hamid was mentored by contemporary literary giants like Joyce Carol Oates and Toni Morrison. Under their supervision, he developed a passion for writing. Morrison began a fiction workshop for which Hamid began writing draft for his first novel. Upon completion of his graduation, he came back to Pakistan and continued to work on the novel.

Afterwards, he went on to attend Harvard Law School and graduated in 1997. In order to pay his student loans, he began working for McKinsey & Company in New York as a management consultant. During his time there, he took a few months vacation and completed his first novel. Subsequently, he moved to London in 2001. At first he intended to stay there for a year but he continued to live there for another eight years while flying back and forth to Pakistan every once in a while. Eventually, he obtained a dual citizenship of United Kingdom. As he got married and had a daughter his urge for travelling increased. Since then, he has divided his time between Lahore, London, New York, Greece and Italy.

His first novel *Moth Smoke*, was published in year 2000. It is set in Lahore and follows the story of a drug-addict ex-banker who falls with his friend's wife. The novel has an innovative structure that successfully experiments with the narrative techniques. It employs narration from multiple perspectives. Besides its structure, the content of the novel hold a larger meaning as it touches upon the trivial issues and magnifies their importance. It instantly became a cult hit in South Asia and was selected as the finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Award.

Published in 2007, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* was Hamid's second novel. It focuses on post 9/11 America and how the tragic event adversely affected the situation of a Pakistani living in United States. The novels charts the life of a successful Pakistani living an American dream but his unrequited love and terrorist attacks render him to return to his homeland in a hopeless state. The novel incorporates an innovative literary device of dramatic monologue which shows the protagonist addressing a silent character throughout the novel. The book instantly became the New York Times Best-Seller earning the fourth spot on the list. It was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and had been awarded several prestigious accolades including the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and the Asian American Literary Award.

His third novel was *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia* (2013), his fourth was *Exit West* (2017), and he has published numerous articles, some of which are collected in *Discontent and Its Civilisations: Despatches from Lahore* (2014). He has recently published another highly acclaimed work of fiction, *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia*. Additionally, Mohsin Hamid has contributed on multitude of subjects, such as politics, art, literature and travel, in the form of articles. His works have been translated into 25 languages and millions of their copies sold worldwide.

APPENDIX 2

SUMMARY OF THE NOVEL

Exit West is a work of political fiction by Pakistani author Mohsin Hamid, who also wrote *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* and *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia*. It was published in 2017 and was shortlisted for the 2017 Man Booker Prize.

Saeed and Nadia are young adults living in an unnamed city on the brink of war. Saeed asks Nadia to coffee, and they begin to date. However, between societal rules restricting men and women being in public together and escalating tension between the government and a militant group, they rarely get to see each other. Because Saeed lives with his parents, he sometimes goes to Nadia's flat, disguising himself as a woman to not cause a scandal. Otherwise, they text frequently. Then, the government cuts off all cellular and Wi-Fi service as a counterterrorism measure, which also cuts Saeed and Nadia off from each other. Saeed searches everywhere for Nadia and finally waits all day at her flat for her to return. He begs her to move in with him and his parents, but Nadia is reluctant. When Saeed's mother gets killed by stray gunfire, Nadia relents and moves in with Saeed and his father. As the fighting worsens, Saeed and Nadia hear rumors about magical doors that can transport people anywhere in the world. They don't believe these rumors.

The militants eventually take the city, imposing strict rules and surveillance. They hold public executions of those who break their religious rules and those who belong to certain religious denominations. Desperate to escape, Saeed and Nadia meet with a man who agrees to secure them passage out of the city via a magical door. He takes their money and agrees to get in contact. When they hear from him again, Saeed's father announces he will not go with them. He makes Nadia promise to stay with Saeed until Saeed is safe and settled. The next day, Saeed and Nadia pack small backpacks full of supplies and meet the mysterious man at the rendezvous point. He sends them through a door.

While the agent for the door at first seems suspicious to Nadia and Saeed, the door turns out to be real. It delivers Nadia and Saeed to a refugee camp in Mykonos, Greece. The camp is crowded and violent around the edges, but also has its own rules and codes, which Nadia and Saeed learn how to navigate. They barter for goods and set up a dwelling at the edge of the camp. As they run out of money, their situation becomes less manageable; when they are chased by some menacing men on their way back home from a fishing trip, they decide to find another door. They are led to this new door by a young female volunteer at a medical clinic, where Nadia has gone to dress and bandage a cut on her arm. The volunteer and Nadia strike up a friendship, and the door that she eventually finds them is at an old house in the middle of the city.

Upon going through this new door, Nadia and Saeed now find themselves alone in a luxurious-seeming apartment. This is an abandoned apartment called Palace Gardens that has been taken over by refugees from all over the world. Nadia and Saeed find themselves surrounded by Nigerian refugees, with whom Nadia finds common ground; Saeed is more drawn to another house containing refugees from his own country. He tries to get Nadia to move in with him to this house, even though this would mean their living in separate areas of the house, as it is a traditional household that is segregated by gender. However, Nadia refuses. There is a growing distance between Nadia and Saeed, the differences between their personalities having become more pronounced under the duress of their journey. Saeed finds himself becoming increasingly traditional the farther he moves from his city, whereas Nadia is more adaptable and independent.

Their new community is under siege by the government and at risk from hostile nativists, although occasional volunteers also help them. The government at first cuts off their electricity and threatens to expel them from their quarters; however, they back down from using violence. The refugee community is instead moved into a worker's camp, where they erect new dwellings outside of the city of London and are given shelter in return. Nadia and Saeed have different jobs at the camp and lead increasingly separate lives. In large part because they

are distressed by the distance between them, they decide to try another door, hoping that the change of scene will mend their relationship.

This door leads to Marin, California. There, Saeed and Nadia live in a shantytown, their headquarters modest but outfitted with a solar panel and a bottle for collecting rainwater. In Marin, refugees such as Saeed and Nadia are in the majority; it is the natives who are outnumbered. There is a sense in these last chapters of a slightly futuristic world that has adjusted to both the refugee crisis and to global warming. Saeed and Nadia continue to grow apart, but with a gathering sense of peace and resignation. Eventually Nadia moves out of their shared hut and into a spare room in the food cooperative where she has found a job. Saeed remains behind in their hut. The two find different romantic partners: Nadia becomes involved with a white female cook, and Saeed with the half-Middle Eastern, half-African American daughter of the preacher at his regular church.

In the book's final chapter, the two of them have a bittersweet reunion in their old city, which they both happen to be visiting at the same time, and which has been partially reconstructed. Saeed and Nadia's story is interspersed, throughout the novel, with brief scenes from the lives of strange characters, who are unconnected to the main narrative otherwise. These scenes take place all over the world, in cities as varying as Marrakesh, Tokyo, and San Jose. Some of the scenes are sinister and violent, while others of them are hopeful and peaceful; but in all of the scenes, emigration or the effects of emigration plays a role.