Chapters 25-37 *Thousand Splendid Suns* Notes

**Characters:**

* Mariam
* Jalil
* Nana
* Mullah Faizulla
* Rasheed
* Fariba and Hakim
* Laila
* Tariq
* Laila’s brothers
* Aziza

**Themes/Motifs:**

* Man’s inhumanity to man
* Patriarchal Systems
* Spousal Abuse
* Resistance to victimization
* Power of education
* Corrupting influence of absolute power
* Sin and atonement
* Love

1. What is the impact of the Soviet withdrawal on the citizens of Kabul?

2. What finally convinces Laila’s mother to leave Kabul?

3. How do Laila’s feelings about leaving Kaubul contrast with her parent’s feelings?

4. Rasheed digs Laila out of the rubble of the explosion. Who is killed in this explosion? Why does Rasheed taking care of Laila seem like unusual behavior? What are his other motives for taking her in?

5. How has U.S. foreign policy led to continuing chaos in Afghanistan?

6. Why does Laila agree to marry Rasheed, even when she considers the act dishonorable?

7. Why does Rasheed demand total submission from the two women?

8. Why does Mariam blame Laila for marrying Rasheed? Why does she see Laila as a competitor for Rasheed?

9. How has the death of his son affected Rasheed?

10. Why does Rasheed continue to taunt Mariam when he has absolute control over her?

11. What is the effect of wearing a burqa on Laila?

12. What are Mariam’s changing feelings as Rasheed becomes more upset with Laila?

13. What is the significance of Mariam and Laila having tea together?

14. How is the violence in the streets of Kabul parallel to the violence in Rasheed’s home?

15. Mariam and Laila ask a young man for help when they are trying to leave Kabul. Why does he betray them to the soldiers?

16. Why has Rasheed become so cruel to Mariam and Laila? How has the breakdown of society, as a result of the war, allowed this to happen?

17. How does the presence of the Taliban in Kabul affect Rasheed differently from Laila?