

## Kite Runner: Chapter 17

| Element             | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| Plot summary        | <p>Rahim Khan hands Amir a letter from Hassan, which also contains a polaroid photo of Hassan with his son Sohrab. In the letter, he describes the vast killings and entrenched fear that is a part of life in Afghanistan under the Taliban. Hassan then describes Sohrab - how he can read and slingshot like an expert. Hassan then details his fears for Rahim Khan's health, but remains hopeful for the future and thankful for what he has. Rahim Khan then tells Amir how Hassan and Farzana were shot by the Taliban and asks him to take Sohrab to an orphanage. Rahim Khan then drops the bombshell that Amir and Hassan were half-brothers - Ali was sterile.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Characters          | Not a likely chapter - possibly Sohrab or Farzana.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Themes and features | <p>Amir's deep guilt is felt when he flashbacks to the children of Kabul taunting Ali's appearance. Amir also states that <i>"it hit me again, the enormity of what I had done that winter and that following summer"</i>.</p> <p>The opening tone of Hassan's letter to Amir is very submissive and respectful, as he hints that maybe a photo of Amir will <i>"grace our eyes"</i>. This makes Amir sound regal and a religious tone is also created through phrases such as <i>"in the light of Allah's good graces"</i>. This mirrors how Hassan has only recently learnt to read and write and hasn't developed his own style.</p> <p>The first section of Hassan's letter strikes a reminiscent and regretful tone with the phrase <i>"alas the Afghanistan of our youth is long dead"</i>. He also remarks how the Taliban had no <i>"human decency"</i> or respect for women - they even struck Farzana over the head for speaking too loudly. Hassan still finds joy in life however and enjoys showing Sohrab things which he used to love - e.g. there is <i>"still a monkey man in Shar-e-Nau"</i>. Hassan appears to live vicariously through his son, who is presented as almost a carbon-copy of him. He even takes Sohrab to read the Shahnama underneath the pomegranate tree, which is now dead and dried up, reflecting the barren and violent land of Afghanistan. This is also ironic as the pomegranate is a symbol of fertility in Afghan culture, suggesting that nothing can survive in the country's harsh climate.</p> <p>Hassan prays for Rahim Khan every day, but knows that he will lose him eventually. This is a major worry for Hassan as it would mean that they have to leave Baba's house in Kabul. Hassan also worries about Sohrab, as him and Rahim Khan are <i>"so close to each other"</i>. Hassan also has vivid dreams - luckily most of</p> |