



The Sand Fish

By Maha Gargash
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Questions for Discussion

1. When Noora's father plunges into madness, Sager assumes the role of head of the family and marries her off to the pearl merchant. Should a brother have the ultimate say in drawing a sister's future?
2. First wife, Lateefa, can be described as a mother figure and a schemer. Whose interest lies at the core of her heart?
3. Lateefa sees "the wild" in Noora and sets into action a plan to draw Noora and Hamad together. Hamad realizes Lateefa's game, but Noora doesn't. Was she naive or trusting?
4. Jassem's household is a storehouse of hot emotions, insecurities, and constant bickering that lead to inevitable power struggles. Is the atmosphere necessarily so because there are three wives? Could it be any other way?
5. Noora knows that Hamad's feelings and intentions toward her are sincere. And yet, she refuses to run away with him, accusing him of being a dreamer. Is she fair to him?
6. How big a role does Noora's disappointment in Rashid play in her ultimate decision not to follow Hamad and his dream?
7. Toward the end of the book, Noora chooses security over love. It's a sound choice, but is it the better choice?
8. As the birth of her child approaches, Noora is confident that she will rise to a position of power in the family, but Lateefa has her own plans, insisting that "once it is born, it will belong to all of us." How do you envision the mechanics of the household ten years down the line?