

# *Under The Persimmon Tree*

By Suzanne Fisher Staples

Najmah “star”	Novel’s protagonist (main character) Twelve year old Afghan girl
Nusrat “help”	School teacher from America Changed her name from Elaine and is 25 years old Converted to Islam Husband is Faiz (doctor) Lives in Peshawar, Pakistan Opens a school for refugee children Name means “help”
Nur “light”	Najmah’s older brother Name means “light”
Baba-Jan	Najmah’s father Term that means father dear
Mada-Jan	Najmah’s mother Term that means mother dear
Habib	Najmah’s infant brother
Uncle Mohiuddin	Very rich Fat/heavy-set Sneaky Grows and sells poppies - opium/heroin (sells on Black Market) Baba-jan’s brother
Fatima	Mother-in-law (Faiz’s mother) Used to be an English professor at University of Kabul. Snow white hair. Bird-like (skinny, tall, smart, chatty, active)
Sultan	Brother-in-law (Asma’s husband) Bald head Broad shoulders, muscular, tall Clean-shaved face He has a collection of music Chair of Dept. of Education at University of Kabul
Husna	Housemaid/servant
Haroon	Malek (manager) of Shahnawaz refugee camp
Basharat	Man hired to walk/transport Nusrat and Husna around town

