

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
Nur “light”	Najmah’s older brother
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	Not a good guy Sells poppies - opium - heroin Rich
Fatima	Nusrat’s Mother-in-law (Asma and Faiz’s mother) English professor at University of Kabul Bird-like (skinny, pretty, active) Short, cropped, snow-white hair Bright, dark eyes
Sultan	Asma’s husband (Nusrat’s brother-in-law) Gentle soul Tall, muscular, broad shoulders Clean-shaven face, bald head He has a collection of music Chair of Dept. of Education at University of Kabul
Husna	Nusrat’s housemaid/female servant Middle-aged, greying hair
Maha	Asma’s housemaid/female servant
Haroon	Man who brings the children from the refugee camp (he’s the manager of the refugee camp, Shahnawaz)

