



# Whispering Walls

Choman Hardi

**A Kurdish family's quest for closure during the invasion of Iraq**

## Endorsements

- **Catherine Davidson:** Not only is Choman Hardi a brilliant poet, she is also a great novelist. I want everyone I know to read her book!
- **Romesh Gunsekera:** A rare and fascinating glimpse of the dangerous past as seen through the eyes of Lana, a young poet, and her two brothers juggling a life in London and a Kurdish dream.
- **Shaun Levin:** A compelling reminder that behind complex national stories are the complex dramas taking place on the level of the family.

## Keynote

- The author's debut novel.
- Five siblings in a choral narrative that succeeds in being both deeply intimate and a chronicle of the land and people who have shaped them.
- Contemporary fiction.
- For fans of Monica Ali's *Brick Lane*; Arundhati Roy's *God of Small Things*; Khaled Hussein's *The Kite Runner*.

## Description

The U.S. invasion of Iraq is looming. Three siblings – two in London, one in Slemani – recall their troubled past. Stories of war, displacement, and coming to terms with the tragedies of a Kurdish family, all told from their different perspectives. It is also a story of love, relationships, affection, and hope, with a cautious view of the future.

## Synopsis

The traumatic story of a Kurdish family unfolds during the five weeks leading up to the 2003 US invasion of Iraq, the personal and political tragedies that have marked and moulded the characters since the 1980s. HIWA and his sister LANA live in London; their brother GARA is in Slemani. Their parents and two siblings, TARA and KAWA, have passed away. The three siblings are still haunted by Tara's and Kawa's loss and they struggle to interpret and understand the past. This continues to influence their lives.

## Author Biography

Choman Hardi is the author of critically acclaimed books in the fields of poetry, academia, and translation. Since 2010, poems from her first English collection, *Life for Us* (Bloodaxe, 2004) have been studied by secondary school students as part of their English GCSE curriculum in the UK. Her second collection, *Considering the Women* (Bloodaxe, 2015), was given a recommendation by the Poetry Book Society and shortlisted for the prestigious Forward Prize for Best Collection. It was also translated into French in 2020. A selection of her poems was published in Italian in 2017. Funded by the Leverhulme Trust, her post-doctoral research, *Gendered Experiences of Genocide: Anfal Survivors in Kurdistan-Iraq* (Routledge, 2011) was named a UK Core Title by the Yankee Book Peddler. Her translation of Sherko Bekas' *Butterfly Valley* (ARC Publishing) won a PEN Translates Award. [www.chomanhardi.info](http://www.chomanhardi.info)

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