

Kiffe Kiffe Tomorrow

By Faiza Guene

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He thought I'd forged my mom's name on the slip. How stupid is that? On this thing Mom just made a kind of squiggly shape on the page. That jerk didn't even think about what he was saying, didn't even ask himself why her signature might be weird. He's one of those people who think illiteracy is like AIDS. It only exists in Africa.

--from *Kiffe Kiffe Tomorrow*

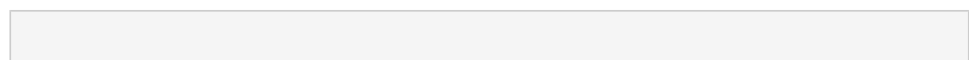
"A tale for anyone who has ever lived outside looking in, especially from that alien country called adolescence. A funny, heartfelt story from a wise guy who happens to be a girl. If you've ever fallen in love, if you've ever had your heart broken, this story is your story." -- Sandra Cisneros, author of *THE HOUSE ON MANGO STREET*

The Paradise projects are only a few metro stops from Paris, but here it's a whole different kind of France. Doria's father, the Beard, has headed back to their hometown in Morocco, leaving her and her mom to cope with their *mektoub*—their destiny—alone. They have a little help-- from a social worker sent by the city, a psychiatrist sent by the school, and a thug friend who recites Rimbaud.

It seems like fate's dealt them an impossible hand, but Doria might still make a new life. She'll prove the projects aren't only about rap, soccer, and religious tension. She'll take the Arabic word kif-kif (same old, same old) and mix it up with the French verb kiffer (to really like something). Now she has a whole new motto: KIFFE KIFFE TOMORROW.

"Moving and irreverent, sad and funny, full of rage and intelligence. [Guène's] characters are unforgettable, her voice fresh, and her book a delight." -- Laila Lalami, author of *Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits*

Faïza Guène, the child of Algerian immigrants, grew up in the public housing projects of Pantin, outside Paris. This is her first book.



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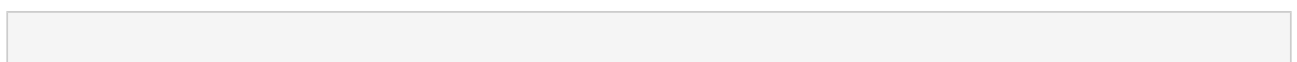
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Kiffe Kiffe Tomorrow By Faiza Guene Bibliography

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- Binding: Paperback
- 179 pages



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

College-aged Guène was raised by Algerian immigrant parents in a Parisian housing project; in her debut novel, a French bestseller, 15-year-old Doria and her illiterate mother, having been abandoned by Doria's alcoholic father, are stuck in a Paris housing project called the Paradise. Dependent on welfare and subjected to the obligatory succession of social workers, the two are determined to face forward, despite Doria's sense of doomed *mektoub* (destiny), where gradual improvement (French: *kiffe kiffe*) gets flattened by the same old quotidian (Arabic: *kif-kif*). Doria, perpetually failing at school, begins a job babysitting a neighbor's much-adored four-year-old daughter, and Doria's mother begins literacy courses. A smart older boy, Nabil, is enlisted to tutor Doria, and she soon recognizes the potential of someone with dreams (as opposed to neighborhood teens like Hamoudi and Youssef, imprisoned for drug dealing and car theft). Throughout, the strictures of patriarchal Muslim culture clash with a nascent feminist freedom and Doria's exuberant, sophisticated teen talk. This small novel reads like a quiet celebration within a chaotic ghetto. (July)
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From [Booklist](#)

In the rough Paris housing projects, Doria, 15, a child of Muslim immigrant parents, sets her soap-opera dreams against the grim daily struggle, even as she does sometimes find the bold and the beautiful in herself and in her neighborhood. "It's like a film script. . . . Trouble is, our scriptwriter's got no talent. And he's never heard of happily ever after." Author Guene, 19, has grown up in the neighborhood she writes about, and her irreverent commentary never denies how hard it is. The first-person contemporary narrative, translated from the French, is touching, furious, sharp, and very funny. Since Doria's dad moved back to Morocco to marry again (he wants a son), Mom cleans hotel rooms, and Doria wants to drop out of school. The boy she loves is in trouble with drugs and loves someone else. Honest about the oppression of women and about the prejudice, both ways, Guene also shows those who break free. Much like enduring the pain of her wisdom teeth, she discovers that "it hurts to learn." *Hazel Rochman*
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Review

"Moving and irreverent, sad and funny, full of rage and intelligence. Her voice is fresh, and her book a delight."
(Laila Lalami)

"A tale for anyone who has ever lived outside looking in, especially from that alien country called adolescence."

(Sandra Cisneros)

"Exuberant, sophisticated teen talk. This small novel reads like a quiet celebration within a chaotic ghetto."

(Publishers Weekly)

"Smart, upbeat. An empowering new voice transforms kif-kif-- same old, same old-- into kiffer, something to be crazy about."

(starred review *Kirkus*)

"Think of Doria on the same adolescent raft as Huck Finn and Holden Caulfield. A cunning wonder."

(*Harper's*)

"A feisty, invigorating debut. [F]unny, infuriating, and hopeful about young womanhood and cultural welter. A-" -- Entertainment Weekly

(*Entertainment Weekly*)

"With bravado, humor, and a healthy dose of rage."

(*St. Petersburg Times*)

"[C]ompelling... reveals Guene to be a promising addition to the world's literary voices."

(*San Francisco Chronicle*)

"This highly original story, told in an equally original voice, will be popular for as long as people read it."

(*curled up with a good book*)

"[C]ompelling, revealing Guene to be a promising addition to the world's literary voices."

(*Miami Herald*)

"Remarkable. A Gallic version of "White Teeth," "The Catcher in the Rye" and "Bridget Jones's Diary." "

(*Salon*)

"Guene has a bright future ahead of her."

(*TimeOut Chicago*)

"[K]udos for this sassy, spunky tale [with] the unforgettable voice. Doria has what it takes to storm any barricade."

(*Hartford-Courant*)

"Guene keeps her narrative plunging onward, one amusing observation from Doria at a time. [A] promising debut."

(*Philadelphia Inquirer*)

"Rendered with tough defiance. [A] brash and bracing read."

(*Seattle Times*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Richard Smith:

As people who live in the modest era should be change about what going on or facts even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era which is always change and advance. Some of you maybe can update themselves by examining books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to you is you don't

know what one you should start with. This Kiffe Kiffe Tomorrow is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Eleanor Sotomayor:

Information is provisions for anyone to get better life, information presently can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a expertise or any news even a huge concern. What people must be consider while those information which is in the former life are challenging to be find than now is taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one the actual resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you have it as your main information we will see huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen in you if you take Kiffe Kiffe Tomorrow as the daily resource information.

Dana Vinson:

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Janelle Garrity:

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