

Failed Out, Fitting In

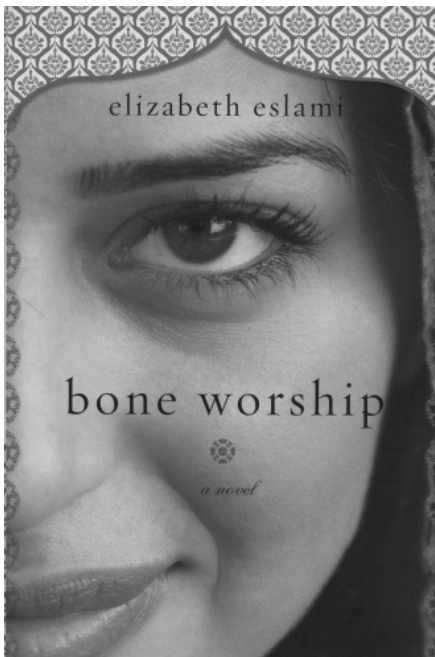
Growing up cross-culturally in *Bone Worship*

BONE WORSHIP, fiction by Elizabeth Eslami. Pegasus Books, 2010. Paperback, \$15.95.

In plenty of coming-of-age novels, it's the parents you have to be patient with. Seen from the kid's point of view, they're embarrassing, hopelessly out of date, mortifyingly inept in social situations. In Elizabeth Eslami's debut, *Bone Worship*, Jasmine Fahroodhi's parents definitely have their stumbles, but it's Jasmine who requires your patience. Prickly, socially awkward and friendless, Jasmine has failed out of the University of Chicago just before graduation. Hints fall about specific reasons for this, but generally, Jasmine just doesn't get along easily anywhere. She sulks and then bursts into vicious sarcasm; she doesn't have a good grasp on small talk. More than anything, though, she's indecisive: what to say, what to do, who to be. Her Iranian father and American mother have a simple plan for their troubled daughter's future: They will arrange a marriage with an appropriate man. Jasmine tried to direct her life in her own way and failed, so her parents will put the pieces back together as they see fit.

Inappropriate suitors traipse through the middle of *Bone Worship*, lending themselves to comedy and awkwardness in

turns, but Eslami's novel is too warm and sincere to simply play misunderstandings and moments of cross-cultural conflict for laughs. Jasmine's parents married for love, and they have their reasons for wanting something different for Jasmine; her American mother is often no easier for Jasmine to read than is her gruff, authoritative father, about whom Jasmine says she knows just seven things. Eslami is at her best when Jasmine, somewhat dreamily, begins to expound upon those things, writing stories in the margins of books. The narration shifts, slipping into an almost fairy-tale cadence as Jasmine takes a fact and leaps ahead of it, describing details she could never know as she imagines her father as a serious, silent



child, occasionally and unintentionally cruel. If he won't talk about himself, she'll find a way to see him anyway.

When things start to wind up, *Bone Worship's* plot plays out just a touch too neatly. A Thanksgiving dinner closes in a tangle of unlikely timing, and Jasmine's gentle transformation — which, nicely, comes about through her discovery of work she loves as much as it does through a romantic prospect — is a little on the swift side. Eslami is strongest when Jasmine is directionless, her thoughts mostly focused on her parents, whom she gradually comes to understand and accept. Jasmine is the embodiment of her family's cross-cultural tensions; she can't accept either the arranged marriage, in which her decision is made for her, or the freedom to choose whoever and whatever she likes. Tentatively, messily and satisfyingly, she finds her own way. **EW**

Elizabeth Eslami reads from *Bone Worship* at 7:30 pm Thursday, Jan. 28, at Tsunami Books.

Not the Only Dreamers

The American Library Association holds a big press conference in mid-January to announce award-winning books for kids and teens, and I followed librarian friends' Twitter feeds from the awards announcements. When the Sibert medal for nonfiction went to Tanya Lee Stone's **Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream** (Candlewick, 2009), I pumped my fist and said (both out loud and on Twitter), "YES!!"

This book profiles women in the 1960s who were not only perfectly qualified to be astronauts but also, in some cases, far more qualified than the men who got the jobs. Stone, with an excellent grasp on making the archival record tell a story, includes an infuriating letter written by then-President Lyndon B. Johnson that denied women any chance in space. As a kid in the 1980s, I didn't understand why Sally Ride's astronaut status was such a big deal, but reading *Almost Astronauts* helped me see that she truly stood on the shoulders of giants. This is a great book for teens, but adults too will find the beautifully written, exquisitely documented history a splendid addition to the knowledge shelf. — *Suzi Steffen*

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Legal Notices

Legal Notices

AMENDED TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE AFTER RELIEF FROM STAY

The Trustee under the terms of the Trust Deed described herein, at the direction of the Beneficiary, hereby elects to sell the property described in the Trust Deed to satisfy the obligations secured thereby. Pursuant to ORS 86.745, the following information is provided: 1. PARTIES: Grantor: WYNONA J. ARENDS. Trustee: FIRST AMERICAN TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY OF OREGON. Successor Trustee: NANCY K. CARY. Beneficiary: WACHOVIA MORTGAGE, FSB fka WORLD SAVINGS BANK, FSB. 2. RECORDING: The Trust Deed was recorded as follows: Date Recorded: September 4, 2007. Recording No. 2007-061756. Official Records of Lane County, Oregon. 3. DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The real property is described as follows: LOT 2, BLOCK 5, REPLAT OF BLOCK 3, AMENDED PLAT OF ROSEDALE, AS PLATTED AND RECORDED IN BOOK 10, PAGE 24, LANE COUNTY OREGON PLAT RECORDS, IN LANE COUNTY, OREGON. 4. DEFAULT: The Grantor or any other person obligated on the Trust Deed and Promissory Note secured thereby is in default and the Beneficiary seeks to foreclose the Trust Deed for failure to pay: Monthly payments in the amount of \$1,650.47 each, due the first of each month, for the months of March through September 2009; plus late charges and advances; plus any unpaid real property taxes, plus interest. 5. AMOUNT DUE: The amount due on the Note which is secured by the Trust Deed referred to herein is: Principal balance in the amount of \$194,098.79; plus interest at the rate of an adjustable rate pursuant to the terms of the Promissory Note from February 1, 2009; plus late charges of \$422.64; plus advances and foreclosure attorney fees and costs. 6. ELECTION TO SELL: The Trustee hereby elects to sell the property to satisfy the obligations secured by the Trust Deed. A Trustee's Notice of Default and Election to Sell Under Terms of Trust Deed has been recorded in the Official Records of Lane County, Oregon. 7. The Notice of Default

and original Notice of Sale stated that the sale would be held on February 11, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. at Lane County Courthouse, 125 E. 8th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon. The original sale proceedings were stayed by order of the Bankruptcy Court and the stay was terminated on December 7, 2009. 8. TIME OF SALE: Date: March 4, 2010. Time: 11:00 a.m. Place: Lane County Courthouse, 125 E. 8th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon. 9. RIGHT TO REINSTATE: Any person named in ORS 86.753 has the right, at any time prior to five days before the Trustee conducts the sale, to have this foreclosure dismissed and the Trust Deed reinstated by payment to the Beneficiary of the entire amount then due, other than such portion of the principal as would not then be due had no default occurred, by curing any other default that is capable of being cured by tendering the performance required under the obligation or Trust Deed and by paying all costs and expenses actually incurred in enforcing the obligation and Trust Deed, together with the trustee's and attorney's fees not exceeding the amount provided in ORS 86.753. **NOTICE TO TENANTS:** If you are a tenant of this property, foreclosure could affect your rental agreement. A purchaser who buys this property at a foreclosure sale has the right to require you to move out after giving you notice of the requirement. If you do not have a fixed-term lease, the purchaser may require you to move out after giving you a 30-day notice on or after the date of the sale. If you have a fixed-term lease, you may be entitled to receive after the date of the sale a 60-day notice of the purchaser's requirement that you move out. To be entitled to either a 30-day or 60-day notice, you must give the trustee of the property written evidence of your rental agreement at least 30 days before the date first set for the sale. If you have a fixed-term lease, you must give the trustee a copy of the rental agreement. If you do not have a fixed-term lease and cannot provide a copy of the rental agreement, you may give the trustee other written evidence of the existence of the rental agreement. The date that is 30 days before the date of the sale is February 4, 2010. The name of the trustee and the trustee's mailing address are listed on this notice. Federal law may grant you additional rights, including a right to a longer notice period. Consult a lawyer for more information about your rights under federal law. You have the right

to apply your security deposit and any rent you prepaid toward your current obligation under your rental agreement. If you want to do so, you must notify your landlord in writing and in advance that you intend to do so. If you believe you need legal assistance with this matter, you may contact the Oregon State Bar and ask for the lawyer referral service. Contact information for the Oregon State Bar is included with this notice. If you have a low income and meet federal poverty guidelines, you may be eligible for free legal assistance. Contact information for where you can obtain free legal assistance is included with this notice. You may reach the Oregon State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service at 503-684-3763 or toll-free in Oregon at 800-452-7636 or you may visit its website at: www.osbar.org. Legal assistance may be available if you have a low income and meet federal poverty guidelines. For more information and a directory of legal aid programs, go to <http://www.oregonlawhelp.org>. Any questions regarding this matter should be directed to Lisa Summers, Paralegal, (541) 686-0344. DATED: January 4, 2010. /s/ NANCY K. CARY NANCY K. CARY, Successor Trustee, HERSHNER HUNTER, LLP, P.O. Box 1475, Eugene, OR 97440. FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT NOTICE: This communication is from a debt collector. Date of first publication January 14, 2010. Date of last publication February 4, 2010

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LANE Department of Probate CASE # 50-09-27113 **NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS** in the Matter of the Estate of EDWARD PAUL SENCHINA, deceased. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on December 18, 2009, Dorothy M. Senchina was appointed and deemed qualified to act as the personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present these claims, with proper vouchers within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below to the personal representative, at 27299 Ken Nielsen Rd, Eugene, OR 97402, or sent to the personal representative, in care of Richard Huhtanen, Attorney, 142 W. 8th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401. (541) 465-9112, or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the

EVENTS CALENDAR

EUGENE MARATHON PREP
MAY 2, 2010
RUN OR WALK – HALF OR FULL
MEETS SUN. 9 AM, 1/31 – 4/25, \$100
KEITH MCCONNELL, Cert. ChiRunning/Walking Inst.
Provides Training, Coaching, Support, Skills
For Efficiency, Ease, Enjoyment
Free Intro: Sun. 1/24, 9 am, Eugene Running Co.
General Info: drkeithcoach.com
To register/info: drkeithcoach@msn.com

Just Breathe & Village Health
GRAND OPENING
Saturday January 23rd
2868 Willamette St.
Refreshments & Art 1-5pm
Free Yoga, Nia, Thai Chi classes 8-6
541-684-3988 justbreatheeverybody.com

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