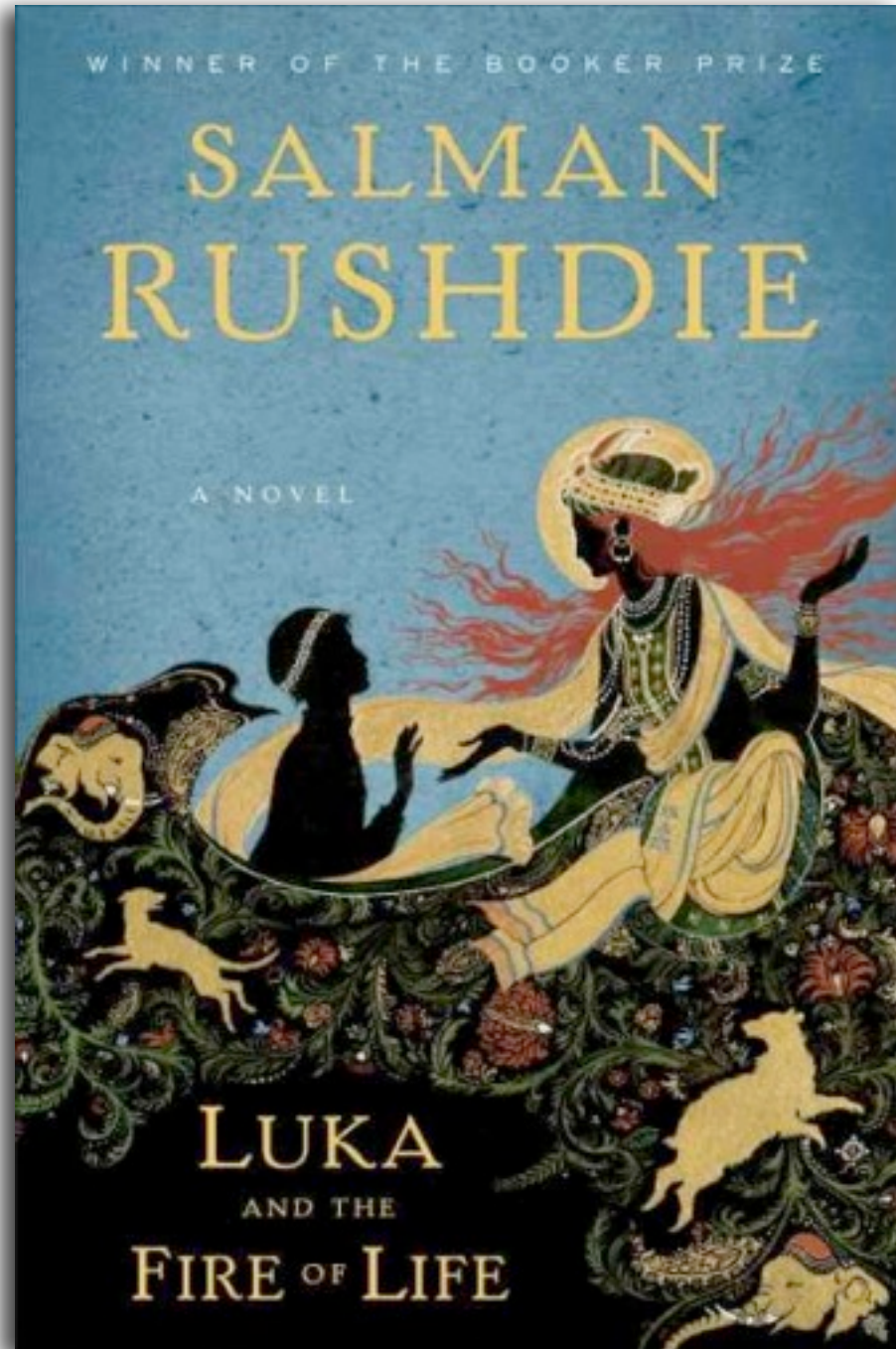


Luka and the Fire of Life
By Salman Rushdie



Book Report by:
Seamus Kirby

Winner of the Booker Prize
LA Times Bestseller



Characters



- Luka Khalifa, the protagonist who is trying to save his father
- Dog the dancing bear, Luka's pet
- Bear the singing dog, Luka's pet
- Nobodaddy, the being who is taking Rashid Khalifa's life source until he dies, the antagonist
- Soraya, the Insultana of Ott, assists Luka in his attempt to steal the Fire of Life
- The Aalim, the three beings who control the world of magic
- Captain Aag, the one who tried to kill Luka's father, because he wanted revenge on Luka for destroying his circus
- Prometheus, helps Luka steal the Fire of Life
- Coyote, helps Luka steal the Fire of Life
- Haroun Khalifa, Luka's brother
- Soraya Khalifa, Luka's mother
- Rashid Khalifa, Luka's father, the one dying

My favorite character is Luka because he is an interesting character to see develop throughout the story. He is left handed, and in the beginning of the story he tries to do everything with his right hand, but in the end, he embraces being left handed, which helps him find the Fire of Life.



Summary



Luka is a boy whose dad becomes mysteriously asleep, and he finds out that his dad is dying because of a curse put on him by Captain Aag, and the only way to save him is to steal the mythical Fire of Life. He finds this out by accidentally "stepping to the right" and going to the world of magic. There he meets Nobodaddy, a version of his father who becomes stronger as Luka's real father becomes weaker, who explains everything to Luka, and starts him on his journey to find the Fire of Life. The world then takes on a video game theme where he has "lives" and he has to go through levels. He eventually works his way to the Mountain of Knowledge where he gets the fire of life after a long ordeal with the many gods who live there. On his way home Nobodaddy and the Aalim attempt to stop Luka, but Soraya and the Otts help Luka get home and save his father with the Fire of Life. The main conflict in the story is a person vs. society conflict, because through most of the book Luka is trying to overcome the people in the World of Magic to steal the Fire of Life and save his father. There is also a person vs. person conflict because Luka ruined Captain Aag's circus, and Captain Aag tries to kill Luka's dad to get revenge. I think that what I took away from this book is the same thing readers should get when they read this book, which is that the world is a wonderful place, and that adventures are around every corner.

My Opinion

Overall, I really enjoyed the book because it was fast, fun, and an enjoyable book to read. If you were looking for a book that you wanted to last a while, or if you wanted to read a book with a deep meaning, this book probably isn't for you. What worked for this book was the fact that the author's writing style included lots of literary devices and puns, to make the text more interesting to read, and he combined that with an interesting storyline, which is the main reason this book is so fun to read. I think that the thing that this book didn't do as well in is that it lacks depth. At times, however, the video game style of the story became tiresome, and seemed to distract me from the story. It was interesting when Luka was flying through the Mists of Time, because in the book he felt completely lost, and had no idea what to expect. I could relate to him in this moment, because I felt a similar way when I first came to SLA. I didn't know anybody here, and I felt lost, like Luka. Eventually I met people here, and I didn't feel as lost, like Luka when he left the Mists of Time.

