



Tale of a Boon's Wife

Written by Fartumo Kusow

In her debut English language novel, Windsor author Fartumo Kusow imagines a young Somali woman who defies convention and clan.

Fartumo Kusow will be talking about her new novel at the African Development Centre, 1931 South 5th Street in Minneapolis, on Saturday November 18th from 2:00-6:00pm.

November 3, 2017—Fartumo Kusow, an author and high school English teacher based in Windsor Ontario, will mark the launch of her new novel *Tale of a Boon's Wife* with a talk at the African Development Centre, 1931 South 5th Street in Minneapolis, on Saturday November 18th from 2:00-6:00pm. Contact: Mohamoud Hussein 612-501-9463. Event sponsored by: African Development Center, Multi-Care Counselling Services, Tusmo Times, Somali National Television SNTV, and Jumbo Kitchen.

Kusow fled Somalia just as its years-long civil war was starting. She made her way to Canada, settling in Windsor where she earned an Honours Degree in English Language and Literature and went on to teach high school English lit. In her novel *Tale of a Boon's Wife* Fartumo Kusow resurrects the world she left behind at a moment of immense conflict, a people in the throes of radical change but still bound by a rigid social hierarchy and a deeply enforced suppression of women. In the tradition of the celebrated Somali storytelling of Nuruddin Farah's *From a Crooked Rib*, Kusow is an intriguing new female literary voice from the Somali-Canadian diaspora.

Tale of a Boon's Wife is the story of Idil, a young Somali woman who rejects her high Bliss status to marry Sidow, a poor Boon man. Her decision transforms her life, forcing her to face harsh and sometimes even deadly consequences for her defiance of a strict tribal hierarchy. Set in the fifteen-year period before Somalia's 1991 civil war began, Idil's journey is almost too hard to bear at times. Her determination to follow her heart and to pursue love over family and convention is a story that has been told across time and across cultures. As *Booklist* said in its review: "Kusow's fully immersive second novel cracks open the life of a privileged young Somali girl as she realizes, with growing disbelief, that her life is not one of free choice but one restrained by tribe, class, gender, violence, and scandal."

Born in Somalia, Fartumo Kusow immigrated to Canada at the start of the civil war. Her first novel, *Amran*, was serialized in *October Star*, Mogadishu: Somali National Press in 1984. Since her arrival in Canada in 1991 she has earned a B. Arts Honours in English Language and Literature and B. Education from the University of Windsor. She now teaches English literature courses for the Greater Essex County District School Board. A mother of five adult children, she lives in Windsor, Ontario.

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