

Views on The Beekeeper of Aleppo (book for March 2020):

From Carol:

Ch1 – at the end of the first chapter I couldn't read on – it was holding so much sadness after so much love. The whole chapter expressed so deep a love with hardly mentioning the word. The love of bees, the family. It stimulated so much feeling, emotion it made me want to write – (I must sign up for the writing workshops) I can never write what I'm really feeling, even in poetry – Oh to be Ted Hughes – the Wind Poem is so good.

I closed the book and got up. I couldn't read any more because of what might come we are so lucky to live here – how does one really express that?

P20 - ... she inhaled the world like it was a rose

Ch 4/5 – I did carry on!. I felt the fear transmitted from Mohammed, Asia in the boat. It felt profound.

And I just loved all the writing about the bees.

From Mandy:

The description of the sunrise and morning with the bees was so evocative – took me straight to early mornings in Spain or Italy (nearest comparison for me). The smell of cooled earth heating up in the sun. We only get this once or twice here in the summer – just occasionally.

The rest was very painful to read– and can only try to imagine how such trauma creates not only mental but physical symptoms. But it didn't deny him all compassion – his concern for the bee with no wings – very poignant.