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Like other young Muslim girls of 18, Halima has moved with her family to London and her horizons are beginning to expand. Then, just as she is about to start university, she discovers her father's plan: to marry her to the son of a distant relation in Pakistan who once did him a favour. Halima is to be the repayment of the debt. And it's payback time...

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 5–10—At 10, Halima leaves her Pakistani village and moves to London with her family, where she attends school, learns English, takes up debate, and befriends independent Kate. When she enters City University at 18, Halima learns that her despotic father long ago arranged her marriage to a distant relation in return for a personal favor, and she finds herself caught in desperation between loyalty to her family and the dreams she has for her own future as a politician. With the aid of Kate and a sympathetic teacher, Halima resists her family's pressure and flees, going into hiding. Her rejected bridegroom's family retaliates by having her kidnapped in a tensely dramatic climax. In this tale of clashing cultures set against a backdrop of strong family ties and traditional Muslim faith, Hayes writes clearly and concisely, switching the narrative voice among the characters and letting the dynamics of the story simmer and build realistically. The novel is based on a true story.—*Joyce Adams Burner, National Archives at Kansas City, MO*

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Review

A powerful, moving read.

About the Author

Rosemary Hayes lives and works in Cambridgeshire. She has written numerous books for children including historical and contemporary fiction and fantasy - many of which have been shortlisted for awards. She is also a reader for an authors' advisory service and enjoys helping unpublished writers to hone their skills. Rosemary lived in Australia for six years, and her first children's novel *Race Against Time*, set in Australia, was runner-up for the Kathleen Fidler Award. Rosemary's first Frances Lincoln book, *Mixing It*, about the relationship between a Muslim girl and a non Muslim boy against a background of terrorism, was shortlisted for the South Lanarkshire Book Award. Her next book, *Payback*, is based on the actual experiences of a young Muslim woman who was brave enough to defy her family and reject the husband chosen for her.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Goldie Oleary:

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a wander, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open as well as read a book titled *Payback*? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You know beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have other opinion?

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