The Department of French and Italian & The Francophone Resource Center Present

Faïza Guène

Déjeuner-Débat

26 OCTOBER 2006
12h00
THH 170
The daughter of Algerian immigrants, Faïza Guène, a writer and aspiring filmmaker, grew up in Les Courtillières, one of Paris' large public housing projects in the northeastern suburbs. She attends the University of St. Denis and has just completed her first short film.

Her first novel, Kiffe kiffe demain (Kiffe Kiffe Tomorrow) recounts the life of a heroine named Doria. The book was published in France in August 2004. It was an instant hit.

About Kiffe Kiffe Tomorrow:

The Paradise projects are only a few metro stops from Paris, but here it's a whole different kind of France. Doria's father, the Beard, has headed back to their hometown in Morocco, leaving her and her mom to cope with their mektoub—their destiny—alone. They have a little help—from a social worker sent by the city, a psychiatrist sent by the school, and a thug friend who recites Rimbaud.

It seems like fate's dealt them an impossible hand, but Doria might still make a new life. She'll prove the projects aren't only about rap, soccer, and religious tension. She'll take the Arabic word kif-kif (same old, same old) and mix it up with the French verb kiffer (to really like something). Now she has a whole new motto: KIFFE KIFFE TOMORROW.

Praise for Kiffe Kiffe Tomorrow:

"A tale for anyone who has ever lived outside looking in, especially from that alien country called adolescence. A funny, heartfelt story from a wise guy who happens to be a girl. If you've ever fallen in love, if you've ever had your heart broken, this story is your story."

-- Sandra Cisneros, author of The House On Mango Street

"Moving and irreverent, sad and funny, full of rage and intelligence. [Guène's] characters are unforgettable, her voice fresh, and her book a delight."

-- Laila Lalami, author of Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits

New-York Times article: July 23, 2006

Kiffe Kiffe demain, Hachette Littérature, 2004 -

Kiffe Kiffe Tomorrow, Harcourt, July 2006