

## **APPENDICES**

### **The synopsis of Diana Abu Jaber's Crescent**

Sirine comes from two different cultures, the Western culture, which is inherited by her mother as an American, and the Eastern culture which is inherited by her father as an Iraqi. Sirine, who is thirty-nine years old, has been raised since she was nine by her beloved Iraqi uncle, after the death of her parents.

Sirine has been raised by her Arabian uncle and grows in the Middle Eastern community in Los Angeles. She always feels comfortable with her surroundings, the people, their customs and the language. Even though Sirine is half American and has interacted with Western people, she seems to enjoy the circumstance of the Middle Eastern. Sirine works as a chef in Nadia's café, which belongs to a Lebanese and which serves Middle Eastern foods. Her passion arises only when she cooks and prepares the food because it stirs memories of her father as an Arabian and she finds out how to recollect the scent of their traditional food.

Her uncle introduces her to his friend, Hanif Al-Eyad, who teaches Arabic literature in Near Eastern Studies Department. Hanif, arouses her memories of her parents and brings her to the beauty of Middle Eastern culture and history. In the process, their relationship enhances deeply and she asks about many

things that are connected with Arabian and Islam. Sirine feels comfortable with the Middle Eastern tradition. She also tries to find some information from her uncle and friends in relation to Middle Eastern culture. Sirine's life is surrounded by the Middle Easterners, most of whom are Moslems. This affects Sirine in her daily life such as carrying prayer beads everywhere she goes. She also puts some Middle Eastern things in her daily life, for example she always loves to be able to speak Arabic, cooks Middle Eastern food and she even adds Middle Eastern taste in the Thanksgiving foods. Those approaches give Sirine's comfort to learn and to know more about the Middle Eastern culture.

### **Biography of Diana Abu-Jaber**

Diana Abu-Jaber was born in Syracuse, New York. She works as a literary and creative writer at the University of Michigan, the University of Oregon, UCLA and Portland State University. In June 2004, she moved to Miami to become a professor in the University of Miami in the Creative Writing Department.

Her first novel, Arabian Jazz, a story of an Arab immigrant and his two daughters in America, was published in 1993. She won a National Endowment for the Arts Award supporting the writing of her second novel, Memories of Birth, based on the life of her Bedouin grandmother. Her latest novel, Crescent, which explores the immigrant and the question of identity as an Iraqi-American chef in Los Angeles, was also published by W.W. Norton. Crescent has won a National Endowment for the Arts Award and the 2004 PEN Center USA Award for Literary Fiction. At present she is a magazine's freelance in food critic.