Chapter 1

THE OLD MAN'S eyes struck me first. They rested deep in their sockets, and he seemed unable to take them off me. Granted, everyone in the teahouse was staring at me more or less unabashedly, but he was the most brazen. As if I were some exotic creature he'd never seen before.

Trying to ignore him, I glanced around the teahouse, a mere wooden shack with a few tables and chairs standing right on the dry, dusty earth. Against the far wall a glass display case exhibited pastries and rice cakes on which dozens of flies had settled. Next to it, on a gas burner, water for the tea was boiling in a sooty kettle. In one corner, orange-colored sodas were stacked in wooden crates. I had never been in such a wretched hovel.
Getting Started

Use this guide to quickly learn the basics of your NOOK GlowLight™.

Swipe or tap left to turn back a page

Swipe or tap right to turn the page

ONE

PEGEEN CHEHAB walked up from the subway in the evening light. Her good spring coat was powder blue; her shoes were black and covered the insteps of her long feet. Her hat was beige with something dark along the crown, a brown feather or two. There was a certain asymmetry to her shoulders. She had a loping, hunchbacked walk. She had, always, a bit of black hair along her cheek, straggling to her shoulder, her bun coming undone. She carried her purse in the lightest clasp of her fingers, down along the side of her leg, which made her seem listless and weary even as she covered the distance quickly enough, the gray sidewalk from subway to parlor floor and basement of the house next door.

I was on the stoop of my own house, waiting for
The NOOK® Button

You’ll use the NOOK Button frequently to perform two important actions.

Press at any time to return to your Home screen

Press and hold for 2 seconds to turn GlowLight® on and off
Home

See what you’re reading now and get recommendations on what to read next.

Tap a cover to return to your latest read

NOW ON NOOK SEE ALL

Tap to browse recommended new titles

Tap the Nav Buttons to open Shop, Search, or your Library
GlowLight

Turn GlowLight on or off, and adjust the brightness for easy reading in any light.

Tap to access GlowLight Control

Use the slider to adjust the brightness

Tap to turn GlowLight on and off
Reading Tools

Use reading tools to search, jump to a particular page, or adjust the text.

Tap to change text size or font style

Tap the center of the screen to show or hide the reading tools
Text Tools

It’s easy to change the text size and font style to read the way you like.

Tap to change text size
Tap to select one of our optimized fonts
Library

Find and manage all of your books, magazines, and newspapers.

Organize all your reads

Tap to read or double tap to view product details
Shop

Shop the NOOK Store® and get easy access to top titles.

Shop by content category

Browse popular lists

Tap to search by title, author, or topic
Wake Up & Unlock

When your NOOK goes to sleep, press the NOOK Button to wake it up. Then drag right to unlock.

Press the NOOK Button to wake up your NOOK
That’s it!
Time to Start Reading.

With over 3 million books, magazines, and newspapers it’s easy to find something you’ll love.

Welcome to NOOK.