

Songbirds by Christy Lefteri

This is the story of a young mother named Nisha who, when her husband dies, leaves her native Sri Lanka and her daughter Kumari with her mother, to work as a maid in Cyprus, as she is unable to make a living in her homeland. She works for Petra who is still grieving the loss of her husband and her young daughter Aiki. Nisha has a lover, Yiannis, who poaches small songbirds on their migration. The description of the killing of these birds was quite hard to read. The story really begins when Nisha goes missing. After a while Petra's attitude towards Nisha changes and she at last bonds with her daughter.

The book didn't have the happy ending that was hoped for but there were several positive outcomes. It was very well written. It's the sort of book that stays with you, gives you plenty to think about and definitely gave us plenty to discuss. Songbirds is a work of fiction but is based on fact, which probably made it all the more thought provoking.