

Yasmina Khadra

CŒUR-D'AMANDE



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Almond Heart

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A moving and inspiring tale set in a half-realistic, half-idealized Montmartre.

Life has not been kind to Nestor, who lives at the foot of Sacré-Cœur. Rejected at birth by his mother, who couldn't bear the fact that he was abnormally small, he lives with his grandmother, who took him in and whom he adores. She supports them on her meagre pension as a French teacher, while Nestor, driven by unflagging optimism, seeks and finds a thousand opportunities to improve their lives in nearby Barbès, a neighborhood where a thousand fates cross paths. The day his grandmother starts to lose her mind and has to be placed in a nursing home, Nestor's daughter decides to sell the flat. All Nestor has left are his dreams and the words he's learned, which he commits to paper to express his burning desire to live.

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