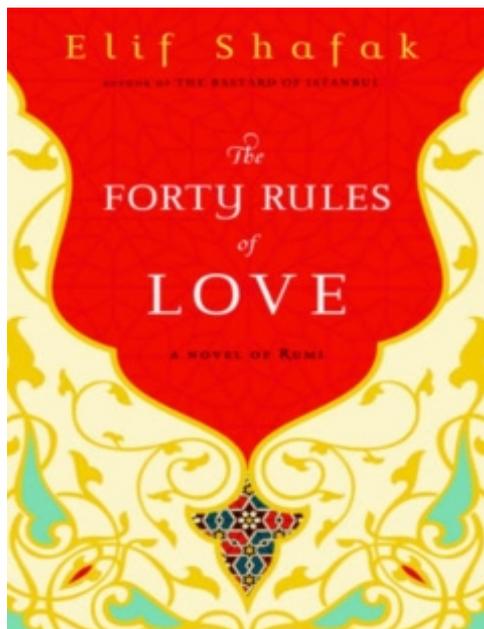


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Elif Shafak is an award-winning, bestselling novelist and the most widely read female writer in Turkey. Her books, which have been translated into more than twenty languages, include *The Gaze* and *The Saint of Incipient Insanities*. Her op-ed pieces have appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal*, and she has been featured on National Public Radio. Elif lives in Istanbul with her husband and two children.

Laural Merlington has recorded over 100 audiobooks, including the *New York Times* bestseller *No Humans Involved* by Kelley Armstrong and works by Margaret Atwood and Alice Hoffman. The recipient of several *AudioFile* Earphones Awards, she teaches college in her home state of Michigan.

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ELIF SHAFAK

THE FORTY RULES OF LOVE

A Novel of Rumi

In this lyrical, exuberant novel, an American housewife is transfigured by an intriguing manuscript about the Sufi mystic poet, Rumi.

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Ella Rubenstein is forty years old and unhappily married when she takes a job as a reader for a literary agent. Her first assignment is to read and report on *Sweet Blasphemy*, a novel written by a man named Aziz Zahara. Ella is mesmerized by his tale of Shams' search for Rumi and the dervish's role in transforming the successful but unhappy cleric into a committed mystic, passionate poet, and advocate of love. She is also taken with Shams's lessons, or rules, which offer insight into an ancient philosophy based on the unity of all people and religions, and the presence of love in each and every one of us. As she reads on, she realizes that Rumi's story mirrors her own and that Zahara—like Shams—has come to set her free.

KEY POINTS/MARKETING

- Award-winning author
- Five-city author tour
- National review and feature attention
- National radio campaign

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The Bastard of Istanbul
ISBN 13: 9781400103973

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