Glossary

The chapter contains a glossary of terms relevant to the context of the book "Breadwinner." Each term is defined succinctly to aid in understanding the cultural and linguistic aspects presented in the narrative.

It begins with “burqa,” described as a long, tent-like garment worn by women, which covers the entire body, leaving only a narrow mesh screen over the eyes for visibility. Following this is “chador,” referencing the piece of cloth used by women and girls for covering hair and shoulders.

Next is “Dari,” one of Afghanistan's two primary languages, noted alongside “Pashtu,” the other main language. The glossary also contextualizes cultural practices, such as “Eid,” the Muslim festival marking the end of Ramadan, where celebrations occur.

In terms of everyday items, “karachi” describes a hand-pushed cart used in markets, while “kebab” refers to pieces of meat grilled on skewers. The glossary includes safety references, such as “land mine,” a hidden explosive device that detonates upon pressure.

Food items are also mentioned, with “nan,” which is traditional Afghan bread available in various shapes. The term “pattu” identifies a gray or brown woolen shawl worn by Afghan men and boys, contributing to the understanding of local attire.

The description of clothing continues with “shalwar kameez,” identifying a loose-fitting outfit comprising a long shirt and trousers worn by both genders. Differences are detailed between men's and women's attire, with men's designs being simpler and women's featuring elaborate embroidery.

The glossary also touches upon historical context, briefly discussing the “Soviets”—referring to the Soviet Union before its dissolution—and the “Taliban,” a militant group controlling Kabul between 1996 and 2001.

Lastly, “toshak” is mentioned as a narrow mattress commonly used in Afghan homes instead of standard seating or beds, highlighting the living conditions and cultural practices prevalent in the region.

Overall, this glossary serves as a vital tool for readers to grasp the terms and cultural references found within the book, enriching their understanding of the narrative's setting and characters.