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Najaf Mazari fled upheaval in Afghanistan in 2001 and made his way to Australia, where he now lives with his wife, Hakeema, and daughter, Maria. He is a successful businessman with a shop in Melbourne's antique precinct, selling traditional Afghan rugs. He is deeply involved in creating a better climate for asylum-seekers in Australia and in charity activities that provide medical and educational assistance to some of the poorest villages in Afghanistan. Each year, Najaf sponsors an Afghan Evening of traditional song, dance and cuisine that highlights the achievements of Afghans in Australia. In 2008 Najaf co-authored the extraordinarily successful book, *The Rugmaker of Mazar-e-Sharif*, which eloquently tells the story of his journey as a refugee from Afghanistan to Australia.

Robert Hillman is a Melbourne-based writer of fiction and biography. His autobiography, *The Boy in the Green Suit*, won the Australian National Biography Award for 2005. His 2007 biography, *My Life as a Traitor*, written with Zarah Ghahramani, appeared in numerous overseas editions and was short-listed for the Prime Minister's Literary Awards in 2008. His first collaboration with Najaf Mazari, *The Rugmaker of Mazar-e-Sharif*, grew out of an abiding interest in the hardships and triumphs of refugees.