

Umera Ahmed – the name that changed the face of popular Urdu fiction, helped revolutionize the 8 o'clock-TV serial in Pakistan, and shook the mindsets of readers that adore her every word. She is a young author with great conviction and an unbending faith in the goodness of humanity. Her stories are a form of inspiration for many out there, and she has helped people change lives – all through what she writes.

She is a bestselling author, an award winning screenplay writer and a fine human being. She started her writing career with writing stories and novels for monthly magazines, Shua and Khawateen. Her pragmatic approach towards world, life and Allah, her use of simple words, and an uncanny skill at creating suspense and shake audience garnered her early fan following, which has only grown and multiplied since then.

Although she was a well known literary figure since the start of her career, it was her 2004 bestselling novel, Peer-e-Kamil (The Perfect Mentor) that gained her astounding success and made her a household name. This novel has become her identity – one she is extremely proud of, as this novel is dedicated to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), and tells how that one man is still mentoring lives.

Umera Ahmed has a master in English literature from Murray College, Sialkot, Pakistan – the same one that produced one of the finest philosophers and poets of 21<sup>st</sup> century, Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal. She has also taught as a Cambridge teacher at Army Public College, Sialkot, but gave it up later to completely devote her focus towards writing. She was born on December 10, 1976 and started her writing career at a very young age.

She has written many original screenplays, as well as adaptations of her original novels into screenplays. Her novels like Darbar-e-Dil, LaHaasil, Amar Bail, Man-o-Salwa, Main ne Khawabon ka Shajar Dekha Hai (Doraha), Thoda sa Aasman, and Meri Zaat Zarra-e-Benishan, which were adapted for TV serials have won her multiple awards for the best writer. Her original screenplays include successful ventures like Wujood-e-Laraib, Malaal, Uraan, Wapsi, and The Ghost. Wujood-e-Laraib was her first original screenplay, and won her an award for the best writer.

But awards are something that many writers can claim of winning; 'bestseller' also represents a figure of x million copies of a work sold. On the contrast, very few popular fiction writers can claim to have a life altering influence on their readers – something which Umera Ahmed can rightly claim. It is her unique, upfront and proactive approach towards some very sensitive topics in Pakistani society that is behind her phenomenal success. She dissects issues that no one even dares to breathe about. She has her own stance and view on all aspects of life – and she doesn't hesitate to open her reader's eyes to this new vision.

She is currently working on a script for a film, an episodic novel for a monthly magazine and another one of her adapted screenplay is being aired these days on a TV channel. With so much going on, she enjoys the unequivocal loyalty of her fans, and feels humbled by the blessings of Allah and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

She has experienced an unparalleled success among her peers, and has only been humbled and matured by it. She is at the prime of her career, and for the talent like hers, the sky is merely another step.