

do 1 thing



1 refugee without hope
is too many.



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Read a Book About Refugees

There is a great variety of books written about refugees - including award-winning fiction – and books by refugees themselves. Why not borrow one of these from your local library or buy one from your local book shop?

Do you have a book club? Maybe you would consider adding one of these titles to the reading list.

Fiction:

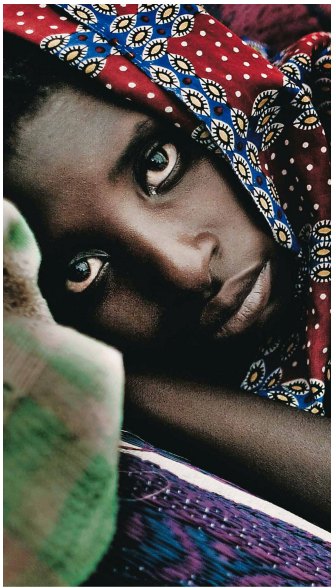
The Kite Runner *Author: Khaled Hosseini. Publisher: Bloomsbury.* Now a major film, international bestseller, The Kite Runner is a deeply moving debut novel. The book tells the story of boyhood friendship cut across class boundaries. Their relationship is imaginatively told against the backdrop of social upheaval in Afghanistan.

A Thousand Splendid Suns *Author: Khaled Hosseini. Publisher: Bloomsbury.* It is a tale of two generations of characters brought jarringly together by the tragic sweep of war, where personal lives—the struggle to survive, raise a family, find happiness—are inextricable from the history playing out around them.

In the Sea There Are Crocodiles *Author: Fabio Geda. Publisher: Random House.* This is the true story of 10-year-old Enaiatollah's 5-year ordeal from Afghanistan to Italy, where he seeks political asylum at age 15, having endured the physical and emotional agony of dangerous border crossings, trekking across bitterly cold mountain pathways for days and being stuffed into the false bottom of a truck. "A remarkable, heart-warming story of courage and endurance in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles... truly inspirational" - The Irish Examiner

Refugee Boy *Author: Benjamin Zephaniah. Publisher: Bloomsbury.* A powerful and popular novel telling the story of a young boy left in the UK by his parents to start a better life away from the political problems in Ethiopia. The story deals with his experience in a strange new country and how, through help from social services, the Refugee Council and his foster parents, he adjusts to his new life in the UK.

What Is the What: The Autobiography of Valentino Achak Deng *Author Dave Eggers. Publisher: Penguin.* This novel is based on the real-life story of Achak Deng, a young Sudanese refugee separated from his family during the Second Sudanese Civil War and forced to flee. We follow his life as he walks to Ethiopia with thousands of other orphans, encountering government soldiers, janjaweed-like militias, liberation rebels, hyenas and lions, disease and starvation, but also friendship and romance along the way.



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The House of the Mosque *Author: Kader Abdolah. Translator: Susan Massotty. Publisher: Canongate.* In the house of the mosque, the family of Aqa Jaan has lived for 8 centuries. The house teems with life, but this family will experience upheaval unknown to previous generations. For in Iran, political unrest is brewing. The shah is losing his hold on power; the ayatollah incites rebellion from his exile in France; and one day the ayatollah returns. The consequences will be felt in every corner of Aqa Jaan's family.

The Saffron Kitchen *Author: Yasmin Crowther. Publisher: Penguin.* Forced to leave Iran after her father disowned her for shaming the family through a misunderstood encounter with his assistant, Ali, Maryam nevertheless has a powerful bond with this place and its people. But now she must decide if the life that includes her past will now become her future. Exploring the themes of displacement and exile, of families struggling to embrace more than one culture, of longing and despair, *The Saffron Kitchen* is ultimately a love story, not only between a woman and a man, but of a woman for her homeland.

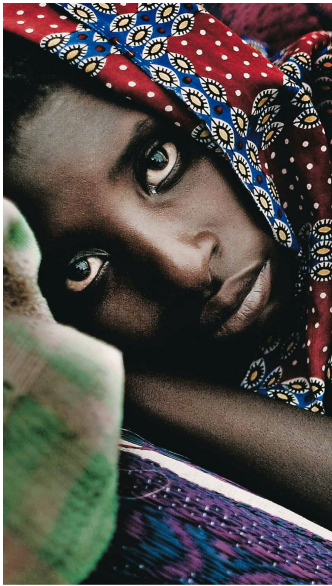
Inge and Mira *Author: Marianne Fredriksson. Publisher: Phoenix Paperbacks.* Blonde Inge is a native of Sweden, while dark Mira has fled there to escape the living hell of Chile at the time of the military coup led by General Pinochet. They are brought together by their mutual love of plants, but this gentle pastime is soon overshadowed by the terrible legacy of Mira's past. Written with sympathy and insight and sparkling with unexpected humour, this is a deeply moving tale of lives haunted by past violence.

Mornings in Jenin *Author: Susan Abulhawa. Publisher: Bloomsbury Publishing.* Forcibly removed from the ancient village of Ein Hod by the newly formed state of Israel in 1948, the Abulhejas are moved into the Jenin refugee camp. There, exiled from his beloved olive groves, the family patriarch languishes of a broken heart; his eldest son fathers a family and falls victim to an Israeli bullet, and his grandchildren struggle against tragedy toward freedom, peace, and home. This is the Palestinian story, told as never before, through four generations of a single family.

Sweetness in the Belly *Author: Camilla Gibb. Publisher: Heinemann.* Orphaned at 8, Lilly is left in the care of a Sufi sheikh in Morocco. When political turmoil erupts, she is sent to the ancient walled city of Harar, Ethiopia where she falls in love with an idealistic young doctor. But the two are wrenched apart when Lilly is again forced to flee, for her safety and his, this time to London. Despite her British roots, Lilly discovers she is as much an outsider in London as a Muslim as she was in Harar as a white foreigner.

The Tyrant's Novel *Author: Thomas Keneally. Publisher: Sceptre.* In a detention camp where he is neither granted asylum nor readied to be sent back to his native land, a detainee bides his time. He was born in a country that had once been a friend to the United States but is now its enemy. Little else is known about him until a writer comes to interview him. This is a dazzling story of a man caught between the demands of his government and his impulse to run for his life.

The Internationals *Author: Sarah May. Publisher: Vintage.* Set in a Macedonian refugee camp during the 1999 Kosovo crisis, this brilliantly satirical novel spans the 78 tense days from the commencement of NATO air strikes on Yugoslavia to the withdrawal of Serb forces from Northern Kosovo. The cast of aid workers and diplomats find themselves becoming inextricably involved with refugees, advertising executives and an Albanian mayor in ways none of them expected.



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Purple Hibiscus *Author: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Publisher: Harper Perennial.* An impressive debut novel about the promise of freedom and the blurred lines between childhood and adulthood in Nigeria told through the eyes of a 15-year-old girl.

The Other Hand *Author: Chris Cleave. Publisher: Sceptre.* Little Bee, a 16-year-old Ibo girl from Nigeria has fled her country and is being held in a UK immigration detention centre. This is a powerful and sometimes shocking novel which explores complicated subjects in an accessible manner.

Day After Night *Author: Anita Diamant. Publisher: Scribner.* This is based on the extraordinary true story of the October 1945 rescue of more than 200 prisoners from the Atlit internment camp, a prison for "illegal" immigrants run by the British military near the Mediterranean coast south of Haifa. The story is told through the eyes of 4 young women at the camp who survived the Holocaust. Haunted by unspeakable memories, afraid to hope, the 4 of them find salvation in the bonds of friendship and shared experience even as they confront the challenge of re-creating themselves in a strange new land.

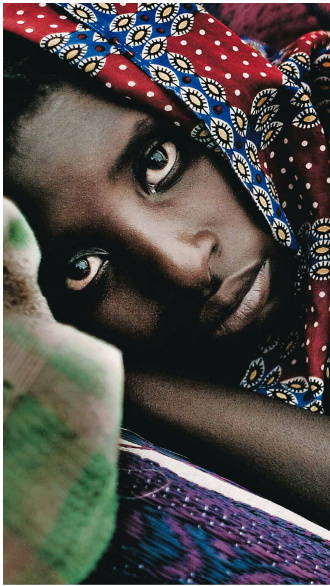
Monsieur Linh and His Child *Author: Philippe Claudel. Translator: Euan Cameron. Publisher: Macle hose.* Monsieur Linh is an elderly refugee who arrives in France with other "boat people", clutching a flimsy suitcase and a newborn baby. All those who knew his name are dead. His infant grandchild became the sole reason for going on. He strikes up an unusual friendship with a man who does not speak the same language. "Holding out hope of dialogue between people sundered by history, the novel is a delicately sympathetic portrayal of trauma, as well as a poignant evocation of guilt – the survivor's and the soldier's." – The Guardian

The Depths of the Sea *Author: Jamie Metz. Publisher: St. Martin's Press.* At the end of the Vietnam War, Morgan O'Reilly was only able to get one of the many street children he worked with out of the country, his surrogate son, Sophal. Years later, Sophal, now a CIA agent, disappears on a secret mission in the Cambodian refugee camps in Thailand. Filled with the fascinating workings of the refugee camps, the life or death politics of Washington, DC, and the inner workings of the personalities that are drawn to such extreme circumstances, *The Depths of the Sea* is a thriller that both entertains and educates.

Autobiography:

Journey from the Land of No: A Girlhood Caught in Revolutionary Iran *Author: Roya Hakakian. Publisher: Crown.* Roya Hakakian was raised in a Jewish family in Tehran, daughter of an esteemed poet, in a household that hummed with intellectual life. As a young girl she dreamed of becoming a writer. But in February of 1979, when Ayatollah Khomeyni returned with an iron fist from a 15-year exile, everything changed. Within a year, a third of Iran's Jewish population was gone. Within five years, Hakakian's family, too, was contemplating political asylum.

Alek: Sudanese Refugee to International Supermodel *Author: Alek Wek. Publisher: Virago Press Ltd.* A powerful celebrity autobiography from one of the world's leading supermodels. Wek was born in war-torn Sudan and witnessed violence from a young age. The book charts her journey from Sudan to the UK and US as her highly successful fashion career begins.



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A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Child Soldier *Author: Ismael Beah. Publisher: Sarah Crichton Books.* Beah tells of how he fled his community in war-torn Sierra Leone after seeing his family massacred and his village razed. At 13 he was coerced into joining the government army, where young soldiers were forcibly given cocaine and cannabis, indoctrinated with ideas of revenge and forced to commit atrocious crimes. Now 25, Beah lives in New York.

The Translator *Author Daoud Hari. Publisher: Random House.* In 2003, when Hari's village in Darfur was attacked and destroyed by Sudanese-government backed militia groups, he managed to escape and lead survivors to safety. Hari went on to offer his services as a translator to international aid groups and reporters, risking his life in doing this. This is an incredible tale of one man's bravery in the face of genocide and terror.

Slave *Authors: Mende Nazer & Damien Lewis. Publisher: Virago.* The memoir of a girl kidnapped at the age of 12 and sold into slavery. Transferred to London to serve a member of the Sudanese diplomacy, Nazar managed to escape, and sought asylum in Britain. The book compares her peaceful childhood in the Nuba Mountains with the 7 brutal years she spent in slavery.

Tears of the Desert: One Woman's True Story of Surviving the Horrors of Darfur *Author: Halima Bashir. Publisher: Hodder & Stoughton.* When Janjaweed militias attacked her village, Halima treated the traumatised victims, and sickened by what she saw, decided to speak out in a newspaper and to international charities. The secret police came for her and although she finally escaped, the nightmare just seemed to follow her. This inspiring story tells of one woman's determination to survive and her passion to defend her people.

Goodbye Sarajevo: A True Story of Courage, Love & Survival *Author: Atka Reid & Hana Schofield. Publisher: Bloomsbury Publishing.* Hana was 12 when her sister, Atka, placed her and sister, Nadia, on a refugee bus. Hana is forced to cope as a refugee in Croatia, far away from home and family, while Atka stayed on in Sarajevo to look after her 5 youngest siblings. "A sparky memoir of survival written by such driven and inspirational women." - Independent.

The Flagless Ones *Author: Hassan Faramarz, Publisher: Argus Enterprises, Intl.* A disturbing but heart-warming memoir by an Iranian who, after several of his brothers were executed, found himself *persona non grata* in Iran and became a refugee in 1997, fleeing first to India, then to China. He and his family were resettled to Ireland as programme refugees. Hassan relates a saga of revolution, broken promises and betrayal.

My Childhood Under Fire: A Sarajevo Diary *Author: Nadja Halilbegovich. Publisher: Kids Can Press Ltd.* Nadja was only 12 when war broke out in Bosnia. In this book she shares pages of her diary in a powerful first-hand account of the life of a child living through conflict.

An Ordinary Man: The True Story Behind Hotel Rwanda *Author: Paul Rusesabagina. Publisher: Bloomsbury Publishing.* "Part memoir, part polemic, part social history, An Ordinary Man is a deeply impressive work that pays fitting tribute to the 800,000 who lost their lives." - Scotland on Sunday.



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Factual:

Children of War: Voices of Iraqi Refugees *Author: Deborah Ellis. Publisher: Groundwood Books.* This frank and harrowing account of young victims of the Iraqi war involves interviews with 24 young people, most of them refugees living in Jordan. Their resilience is inspiring.

Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, an American Town *Author: Warren St John. Publisher: Fourth Estate.* An inspiring story about a single season for a football team in Clarkson, Georgia made up of refugee children. The Southern American town's designation in the 1990s as a refugee settlement centre made it home to scores of families in flight from the world's war zones - from Liberia and Sudan to Iraq and Afghanistan. Luma Mufleh, a Jordanian woman sets up a youth football team to unify the refugee children and to keep them off the streets.

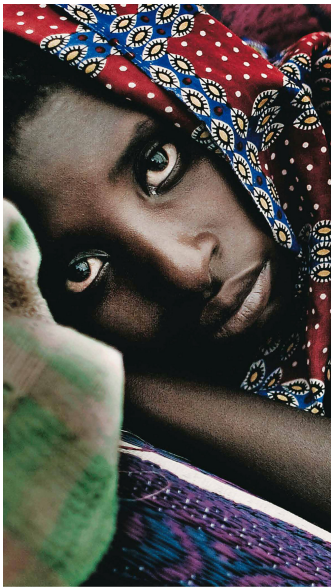
Across Many Mountains: Three Daughters of Tibet *Author: Yangzom Brauen. Translator: Katy Derbyshire. Publisher: Harvill Secker.* The extraordinary story of three Tibetan woman, whose lives have seen a daring escape from Tibet in the forties, endurance in the refugee camps of India and a remarkable transformation in the West.

What Is She Doing Here?: A Refugee's Story *Author: Kate Clanchy. Publisher: Picador.* Antigona left Kosovo in March 1999, when Serb policemen came looking for her husband, held her at gunpoint, threw her screaming daughter off the roof, and a few nights later, set fire to nearby houses. Antigona took her 3 children and made a run for it, crossing forests and seas to get to London. Clanchy, a middle-class, Oxbridge-educated award-winning poet meets Antigona on the street and offers her a job on the spur of the moment making for an unlikely relationship.

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Ireland *Author: Paul Cullen. Publisher: Cork University Press.* The sudden increase during the 1990s of the number of people seeking asylum in Ireland focused attention for the first time on a wide range of debates: the need for political asylum and Ireland's international role, how to deal with this new phenomenon domestically, Ireland as a country of immigration as well as emigration, and the adequacy or otherwise of public policy in dealing with the problem. The book looks to the future, assessing political options and considers the implications for the future of Irish society.

The Lost Boys of Sudan: An American Story of the Refugee Experience *Author: Mark Bixler.* This book follows the progress of four young men as they adjust to life in modern America, learning to use kitchen appliances, take public transportation, and look for work. Bixler chronicles their struggles to overcome loneliness and to come to terms with the brutality of their past, as well as their frustrations with job hunting and the growing suspicion of foreigners post-9/11.

Human Cargo *Author: Caroline Moorehead. Publisher: Chatto & Windus.* An extraordinary investigation into the fate of the 17 million people currently displaced from their homes, giving voices to refugees and asylum seekers in countries such as Afghanistan, Liberia and Sudan, as well as immigration officials and staff at the UNHCR.



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The Middle of Everywhere: Helping Refugees Enter the American Community *Author: Mary Pipher. Publisher: Mariner Books.* Profiling Anton and other refugees from around the world Russia, Croatia, Yemen, Hungary, Somalia, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone bestselling author Pipher (Reviving Ophelia), drawing upon anthropology, sociology and psychology, offers a deft, moving portrait of the complexity of American life.

Other:

Persepolis *Author: Marjane Satrapi. Publisher: Pantheon Books.*

This graphic novel is about a young girl growing up in revolutionary Iran. Now a motion picture, this poignant, and often humorous, memoir tells the story of coming of age against the backdrop of life under a fundamentalist regime.

In Hope and Despair: Life in the Palestinian Refugee Camps

Photographer: Mia Grandahl. Publisher: American University in Cairo Press.

A collection of photos taken in Palestinian refugee camps based in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the occupied territories. Through the medium of art, this anthology draws attention to one of the most important political problems in the world today. A beautiful series of intimate photos depicting the struggles so many have to face.

With thanks to Mrs. Marie Boland, Executive Librarian, Clonmel Library, for her help in compiling this list.

Can you recommend another book about refugees or written by a refugee? Email us at kennedy@unhcr.org and let us know. We'll add it to our list!