

# Do 1 thing

## Read a Book About Refugees

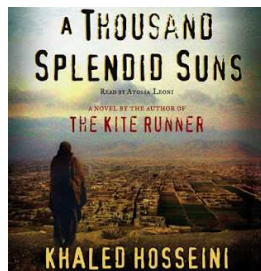
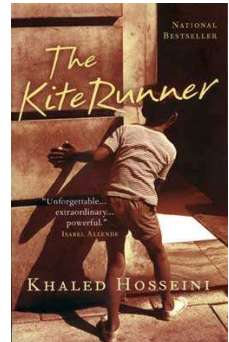
*There is a great variety of books written about refugees - including award-winning fiction – and books by refugees themselves. Why not borrow one of these from your local library or buy one from your local book shop?*

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

1 refugee without hope  
is too many.

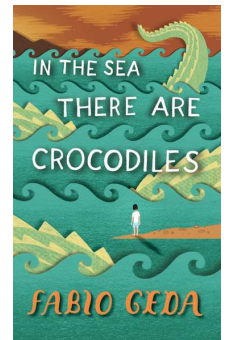
### Fiction:

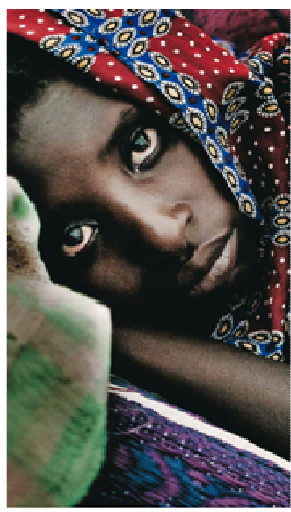
**The Kite Runner** Author: *Khaled Hosseini*. Publisher: *Bloomsbury*. Now a major new film, *The Kite Runner* is a deeply moving debut novel. The book tells the story of boyhood friendship cut across class boundaries. Their relationship is imaginatively told against the backdrop of social upheaval in Afghanistan. **ISBN: 978-1594480003**



**A Thousand Splendid Suns** Author: *Khaled Hosseini*. Publisher: *Bloomsbury*. This powerful novel chronicles three decades of Afghan history as it tells a story of family and friendship. **ISBN: 978-1594483851**

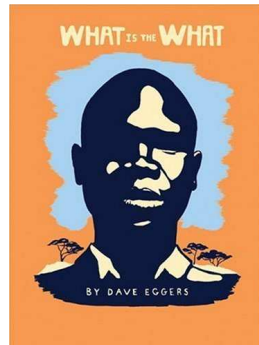
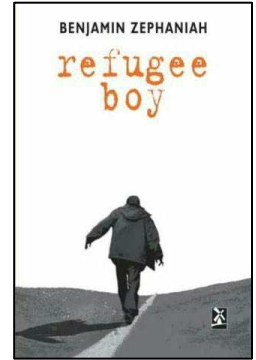
**In the Sea There Are Crocodiles** Author: *Fabio Geda*. Publisher: *Random House*. Geda recounts the true story of 10-year-old Enaiatollah's 5-year ordeal from Afghanistan to Italy, where he seeks political asylum at age 15, having endured the crippling physical and emotional agony of dangerous border crossings, trekking across bitterly cold mountain pathways for days or 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*. **ISBN: 978-0385534734**





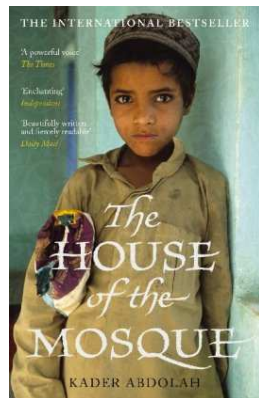
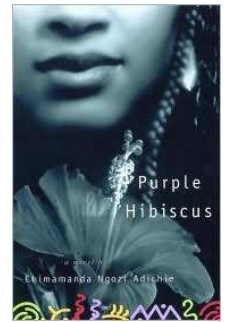
1 refugee without hope  
is too many.

**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. **ISBN: 978-0747550860**



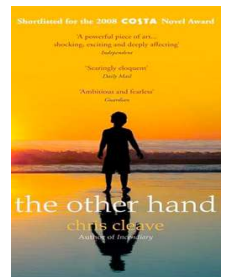
**What is the What: The Autobiography of Valentino Achak Deng** Author Dave Eggers. Publisher: Penguin. This novel is based on the real-life story of Achak Deng, a young Sudanese refugee separated from his family during the Second Sudanese Civil War and forced to flee. We follow his life as he walks 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. **ISBN: 978-0307385901**

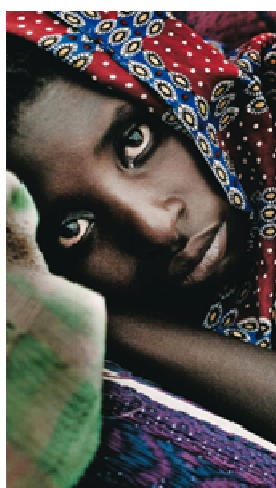
**Purple Hibiscus** Author: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Publisher: Harper Perennial. An impressive debut novel about the promise of freedom and the blurred lines between childhood and adulthood in Nigeria told through the eyes of a 15-year-old girl. **ISBN: 978-1616202415**



**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. **ISBN: 978-1847672414**

**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. **ISBN: 978-1444736243**



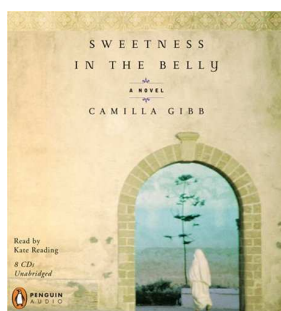
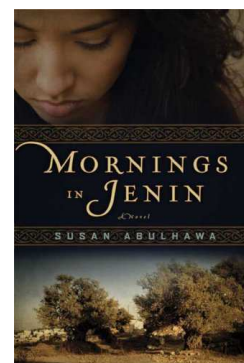


1 refugee without hope  
is too many.



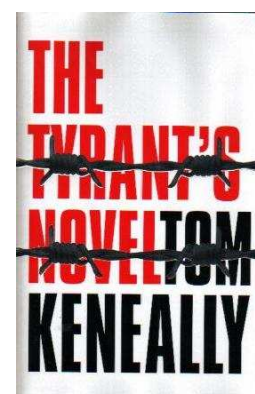
**Inge and Mira** Author: Marianne Fredriksson. Publisher: Phoenix Paperbacks. Blonde Inge is a native of Sweden, while dark Mira has fled there to escape the living hell of Chile at the time of the military coup led by General Pinochet. They are brought together by their mutual love of plants, but this 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. **ISBN: 978-0753811252**

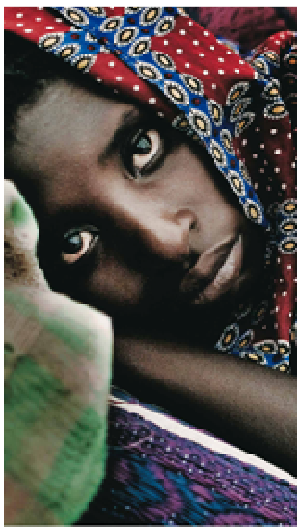
**Mornings in Jenin** Author: Susan Abulhawa. Publisher: Bloomsbury Publishing. Forcibly removed from the ancient village of Ein Hod by the newly formed state of Israel in 1948, the Abulhejas are moved into the Jenin refugee camp. There, exiled from his beloved olive groves, the family patriarch languishes 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. **ISBN: 978-1608190461**



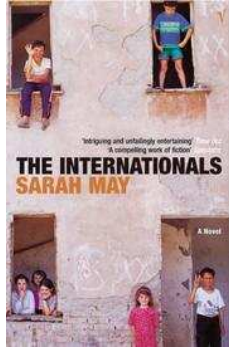
**Sweetness in the Belly** Author: Camilla Gibb. Publisher: Heinemann. Orphaned at 8, Lilly is left in the care of a Sufi sheikh in Morocco. When political turmoil erupts, she is sent to the ancient walled city of Harar, Ethiopia where she falls in love with an idealistic young doctor. But the two are 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. **ISBN: 978-0143038726**

**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. **ISBN: 978-1587247897**



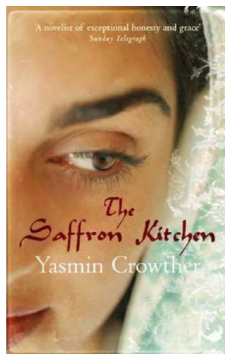
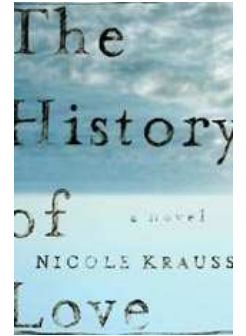


1 refugee without hope  
is too many.



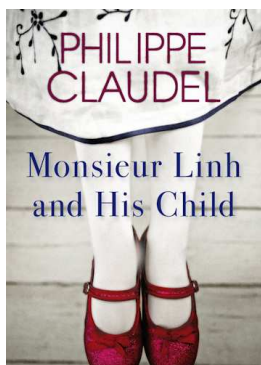
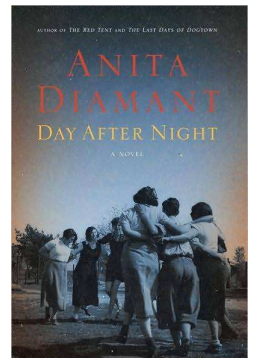
**The Internationals** Author: Sarah May. Publisher: Vintage. Set in a Macedonian refugee camp during the 1999 Kosovo crisis, this brilliantly satirical novel spans the 78 tense days from the commencement of NATO air strikes on Yugoslavia to the withdrawal of Serb forces from Northern Kosovo. The cast of aid workers and diplomats find themselves becoming inextricably involved with refugees, advertising executives and an Albanian mayor in ways none of them expected. **ISBN: 978-0099422457**

**The History of Love** Author: Nicole Krauss. Publisher: Penguin Books. When Leo arrived in the USA having escaped the Holocaust and determined to find his childhood sweetheart, Alma, he finds her married to another man. She explains that she had written to Leo and was committed to waiting for him, but Leo never answered her letters. Leo did not answer because he never received them. As a Polish Jew, Leo was forced to spend 3 years eluding the Nazi before he managed to get to America. Leo is now an old man and does not expect to live much longer. He decides to write again. "Devastating.... One of the most passionate vindications of the written word in recent fiction. It takes one's breath away." - Spectator **ISBN: 978-0393328622**



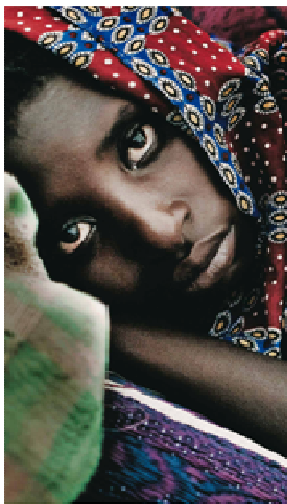
**The Saffron Kitchen** Author: Yasmin Crowther. Publisher: Penguin. Forced to leave Iran after her father disowned her for shaming the family through a misunderstood encounter with his assistant, Ali, Maryam nevertheless has a powerful bond with this place and its people. But now she must decide if 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. **ASIN: B001G8WS3W**

**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. **ISBN: 978-0743299855**



**Monsieur Linh and His Child** Author: Philippe Claudel. Translator: Euan Cameron. Publisher: Maclehorse. 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 **ISBN: 978-1906694999**

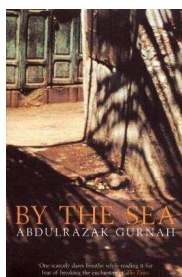
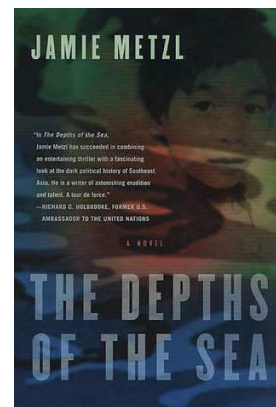
**The Depths of the Sea** Author: Jamie Metz. Publisher: St. Martin's Press. At the end of the



1 refugee without hope  
is too many.

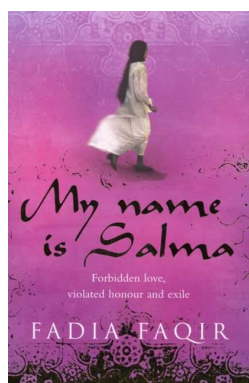
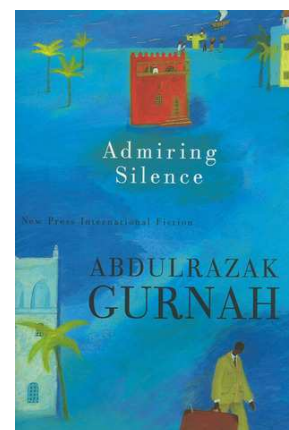


Vietnam War, Morgan O'Reilly was only able to get one of the many street children he worked with out of the country, his surrogate son, Sophal. Years later, Sophal, now a CIA agent, disappears on a secret mission in the Cambodian refugee camps in Thailand. Filled with the fascinating workings of the 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. **ASIN: B000H2MT14**

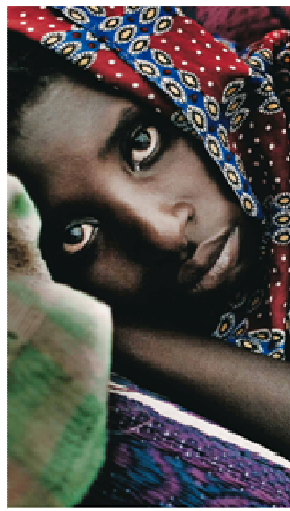


**By the Sea** Author: Abdulrazak Gurnah On a late November afternoon Saleh Omar arrives at Gatwick Airport from Zanzibar, a far away island in the Indian Ocean. With him he has a small bag in which there lies his most precious possession - a mahogany box containing incense. He used to own a furniture shop, have a house and be a husband and father. Now he is an asylum seeker from paradise; silence his only protection. Meanwhile Latif Mahmud, someone intimately connected with Saleh's past, lives quietly alone in his London flat. When Saleh and Latif meet in an English seaside town, a story is unravelled. It is a story of love and betrayal, of seduction and of possession, and of a people desperately trying to find stability amidst the maelstrom of their times. **ISBN: 978-0747557852**

**Admiring Silence** Author: Abdulrazak Gurnah As a successor to his Booker-nominated novel, *Paradise*, Abdulrazak Gurnah's fifth book, *Admiring Silence*, presents the despair of being torn from one's roots. Gurnah's unnamed narrator flees to England as a teenager to escape the violent political rule of his native island in Zanzibar. There he lives for nearly twenty years in suburban comfort with an Englishwoman and holds a respectable position teaching at a university. Despite his apparent success, as an immigrant he is caught in cultural limbo, always feeling marginal in British society. The tales he weaves for his English lover and her family of an idyllic past in Africa console him temporarily, but when sanctions are lifted the narrator chooses to leave the family he created in England and return to Zanzibar. What he finds there destroys the image of the childhood paradise he had preserved in his heart-now he can never return home. **ISBN: 978-1565843493**



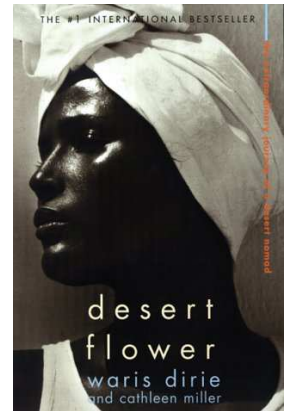
**My Name is Salma** Author: Fadia Faqir In her village of Hima in the Levant, Salma has violated the honour code of her Bedouin tribe. The village decides to kill her to cleanse their honour and restore order. Salma's days as the village gathered are severed completely. She can no longer play the pipe for her goats or swim in the spring. She ends up in prison for her own protection and separated from her new baby. She seems fated to a lifetime in protective custody, but when the men of the tribe have seemingly stopped their chase, Salma flees to a monastery on the shores of the Mediterranean then is helped to England to seek asylum. Salma's journey out of Hima and through England, rippling with alienation, fear and humour, reflects my preoccupation with the fractured lives of exiles and immigrants caught up in a painful yet exhilarating cross-cultural encounter. From a rural life in Hima, to a monastery in Lebanon, to boarding a ship with a nun, to a British detention centre, to Branscombe in the house of a Quaker, to a hostel for



asylum seekers in Exeter, to living with her landlady Elizabeth, a child of the British empire, to her own property in King Edward street, then back to Hima to look for her long lost daughter. **ISBN: 978-0385610988**

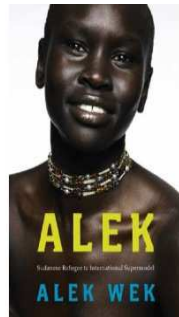
**Desert Flower: The Extraordinary Journey of a Desert Nomad**

*Author Waris Dirie* Waris Dirie ran away from her oppressive life in the African desert when she was barely in her teens, illiterate and impoverished, with nothing to her name but a tattered shawl. She traveled alone across the dangerous Somali desert to Mogadishu—the first leg of a remarkable journey that would take her to London, where she worked as a house servant; then to nearly every corner of the globe as an internationally renowned fashion model; and ultimately to New York City, where she became a human rights ambassador for the U.N. Desert Flower is her extraordinary story. **ISBN-13: 978-0688172374**



1 refugee without hope  
is too many.

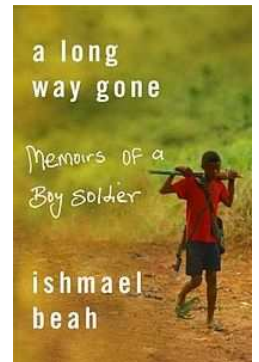
Autobiography:



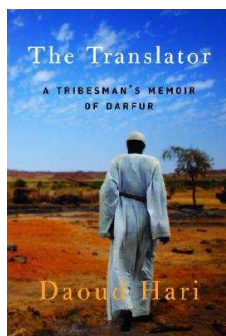
**Alek: Sudanese Refugee to International Supermodel** *Author: Alek Wek. Publisher: Virago Press Ltd.* A powerful celebrity autobiography from one of the world's leading supermodels. Wek was born in war-torn Sudan and witnessed violence from a young age. The book charts her journey from Sudan to the UK and US as her highly successful fashion career begins. **ISBN: 978-1844084432**

**A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Child Soldier**

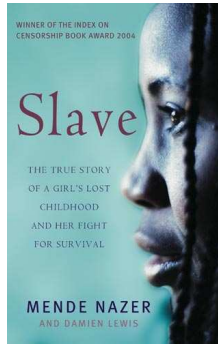
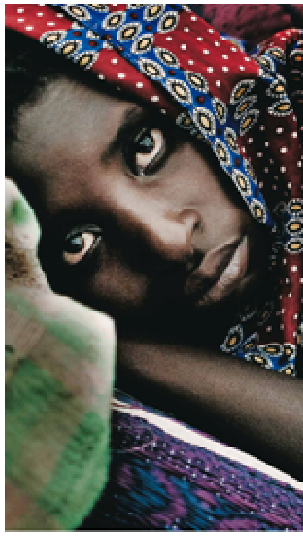
*Author: Ismael Beah. Publisher: Sarah Crichton Books.* Beah tells of how he fled his community in war-torn Sierra Leone after seeing his family massacred and his village razed. At 13 he was coerced into joining the government army, where young soldiers were forcibly given cocaine and cannabis, indoctrinated with ideas of revenge and forced to commit atrocious crimes. Now 25, Beah lives in New York. **ISBN: 978-0374531263**



**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. **ISBN: 978-1616826574**

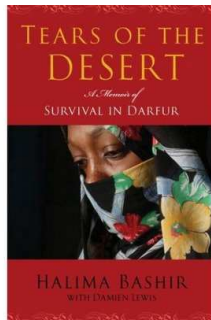
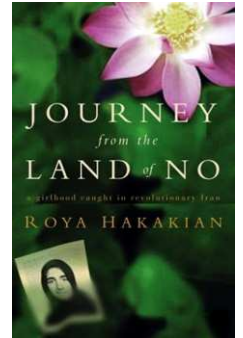


**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency



**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, Nazer 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. **ISBN: 978-1586483180**

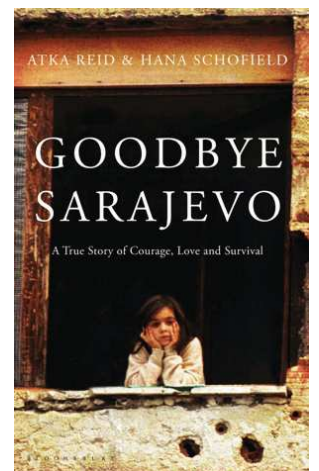
**Journey from the Land of No: A Girlhood Caught in Revolutionary Iran** Author: Roya Hakakian. Publisher: Crown. Roya Hakakian was raised in a Jewish family in Tehran, daughter of an esteemed poet, in a household that hummed with intellectual life. As a young girl she dreamed of becoming a writer. But 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. **ISBN: 978-0609810309**



**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

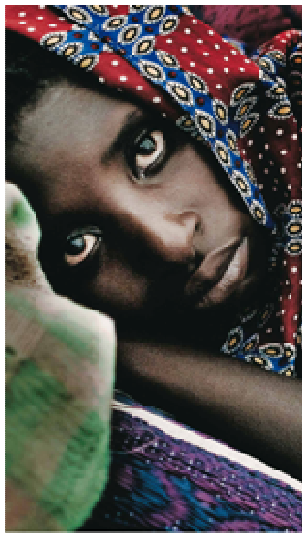
her people. **ISBN: 978-0340963562**

**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. **ASIN: B00555PUL4**

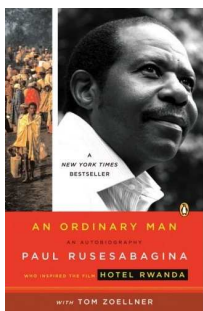


1 refugee without hope  
is too many.



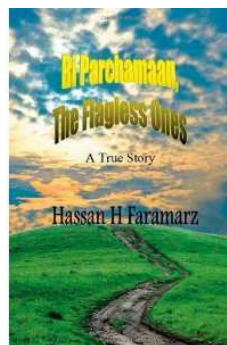


1 refugee without hope  
is too many.

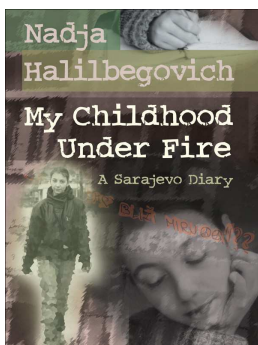


**An Ordinary Man: The True Story Behind Hotel Rwanda** Author: Paul Rusesabagina. Publisher: Bloomsbury Publishing. "Part memoir, part polemic, part social history, An Ordinary Man is a deeply impressive work that pays fitting tribute to the 800,000 who lost their lives." - Scotland on Sunday **ISBN: 978-0747585589**

**The Flagless Ones** Author: Hassan Publisher: Argus Enterprises, Intl. A heart-warming memoir by an Iranian who, of his brothers were executed, found himself grata in Iran and became a refugee in 1997, India, then to China. He and his family were Ireland as programme refugees. Hassan of revolution, broken promises and betrayal. **0984634835**



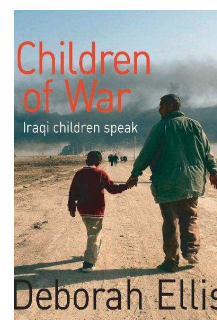
Faramarz, disturbing but after several *persona non* fleeing first to resettled to relates a saga **ISBN: 978-**



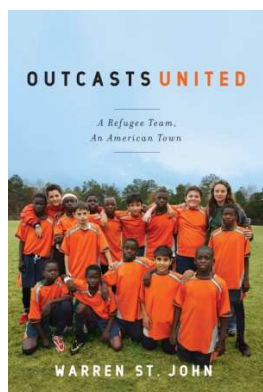
**My Childhood Under Fire: A Sarajevo Diary** Author: Nadja Halilbegovich. Publisher: Kids Can Press Ltd. Nadja was only 12 when war broke out in Bosnia. In this book she shares pages of her diary in a powerful first-hand account of the life of a child living through conflict. **ISBN: 978-1554532674**

**Factual:**

**Children of War: Voices of Iraqi Refugees** Author: Publisher: Groundwood Books. This frank and account of young victims of the Iraqi war involves with 24 young people, most of them refugees living in resilience is inspiring. **ISBN: 978-0888999085**



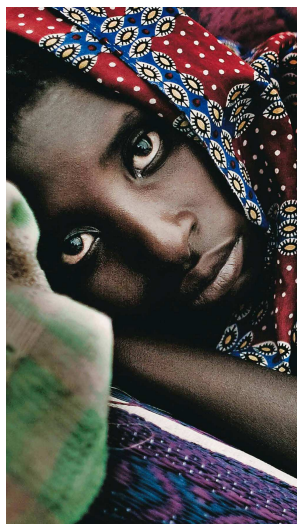
Deborah Ellis. harrowing interviews Jordan. Their



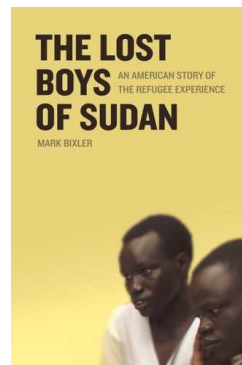
**Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, an American Town** Author: Warren St John. Publisher: Fourth Estate. An inspiring story about a single season for a football team in Clarkson, Georgia made up of refugee children. The Southern American town's designation in the 1990s as a refugee settlement centre made 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. **ISBN: 978-0385522038**

**The Lost Boys of Sudan: An American Story of the Refugee Experience** by Mark Bixler.



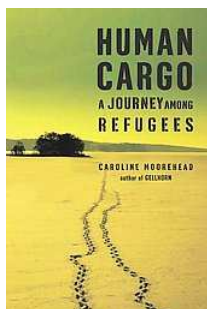


This book follows the progress of four young men as life in modern America, learning to use kitchen take public transportation, and look for work. Bixler their struggles to overcome loneliness and to come to the brutality of their past, as well as their frustrations hunting and the growing suspicion of foreigners post-978-0820328836



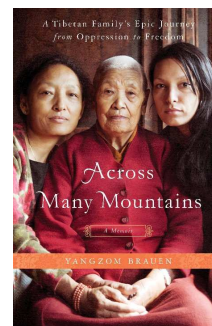
they adjust to appliances, chronicles terms with job 9/11. **ISBN:**

1 refugee without hope is too many.

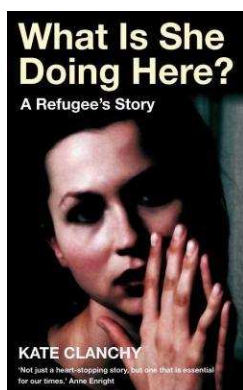


**Human Cargo** Author: Caroline Moorehead. Publisher: Chatto & Windus (2005). An extraordinary investigation into the fate of the 17 million people currently displaced from their homes, giving voices to refugees and asylum seekers in countries such as Afghanistan, Liberia and Sudan, as well as immigration officials and staff at the UNHCR. **ISBN: 978-0312425616**

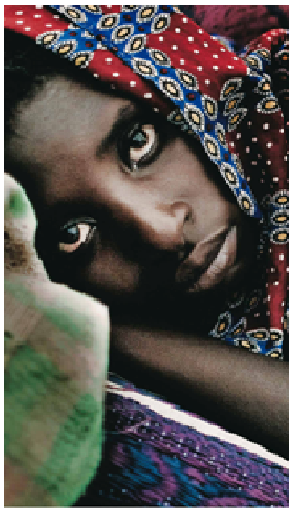
**Across Many Mountains: Three Daughters of Tibet Yangzom Brauen.** Translator: Katy Derbyshire. Harvill Secker. The extraordinary story of three Tibetan lives have seen a daring escape from Tibet in the endurance in the refugee camps of India and a transformation in the West. **ISBN: 978-1846553448**



Author: woman, whose forties, remarkable

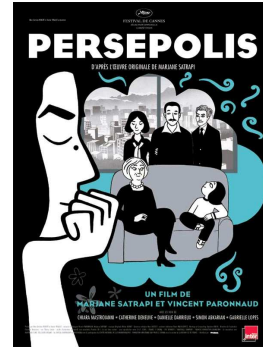


**What Is She Doing Here?: A Refugee's Story** Author: Kate Clanchy. Publisher: Picador. Antigona left Kosovo in March 1999, when Serb policemen came looking for her husband, held her at gunpoint, threw her screaming daughter off the roof, and a few nights later, set fire to nearby houses. Antigona took 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. **ISBN: 978-0330443821**

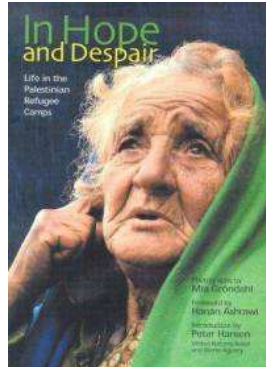


**Other:**

**Persepolis** Author: *Marjane Satrapi*. Publisher: *Books*. This graphic novel is about a young girl revolutionary Iran. Now a motion picture, this often humorous, memoir tells the story of coming of backdrop of life under a fundamentalist regime. **0375714573**



*Pantheon* growing up in poignant, and age against the **ISBN: 978-**



**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. **ISBN: 978-9774248115**

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 [Keuning@unhcr.org](mailto:Keuning@unhcr.org) and let us know. We'll add it to our list!

1 refugee without hope  
is too many.



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency