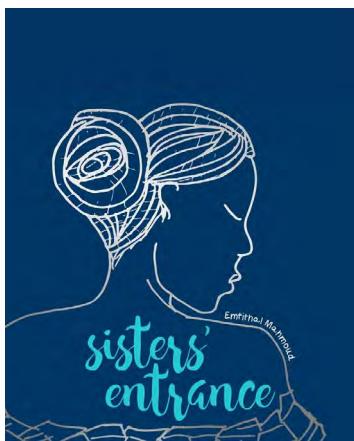


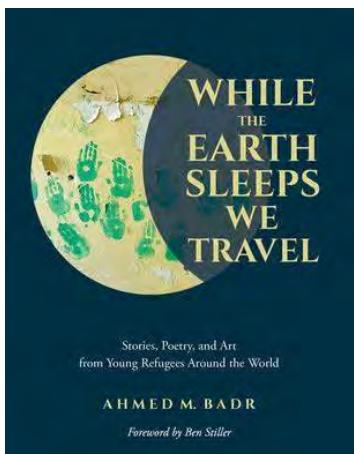
Refugee/Former Refugee Authors



Sisters' Entrance by Emtithal Mahmoud

Brimming with rage, sorrow, and resilience, this collection traverses an expansive terrain: genocide; diaspora; the guilt of surviving; racism and Islamophobia; the burdens of girlhood; the solace of sisterhood; the innocence of a first kiss. Heart-wrenching and raw, defiant and empowering, *Sisters' Entrance* explores how to speak the unspeakable.

Emtithal Mahmoud is the reigning 2015 Individual World Poetry Slam Champion and 2016 Woman of the World Co-Champion. Emtithal dedicates her time to spreading understanding through poetry and advocacy, particularly for the cause of refugees and disadvantaged communities the world over.

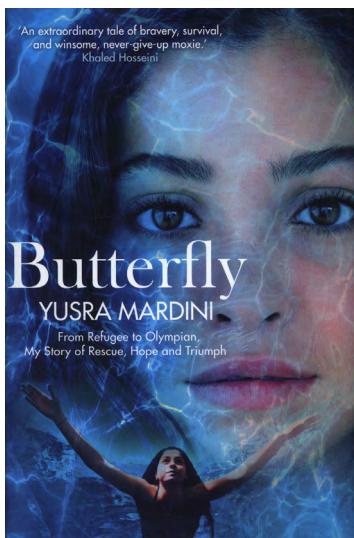


While the Earth Sleeps We Travel Stories, Poetry, and Art from Young Refugees Around the World by Ahmed Badr

Ahmed Badr is an Iraqi-American author, social entrepreneur, poet, and former refugee. His work focuses on reframing and reclaiming the power of tragedy, and he is dedicated to empowering refugee youth to tell their own stories "on their own terms, with power and dignity".

He is the founder of Narratio, a global platform that activates, supports and highlights the creative expression of displaced youth through publishing, partnerships, workshops, and fellowships.

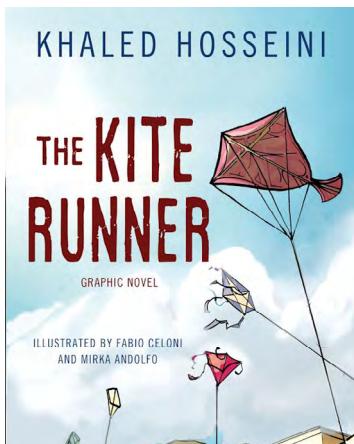
He is author of *While the Earth Sleeps We Travel* (Andrews McMeel, 2020), a collection of stories, poetry and art from young refugees; storyteller of the UNPACKED: Refugee Baggage exhibit; host of the Resettled podcast produced by Virginia Public Media; and also host of the World Bank's #Youth4Climate Live series.



Butterfly: From Refugee to Olympian - My Story of Rescue, Hope, and Triumph by Yusra Mardini

The inspiration for the Netflix film *The Swimmers*, *Butterfly* tells Yusra Mardini's story, from Syria to the Olympics to her current work with the UN as a Goodwill Ambassador. Mardini is eager to tell her story in the hopes that readers will remember that refugees are ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances, chased from their homes by a devastating war. In today's political climate, this story is guaranteed to inspire and educate readers from every background.

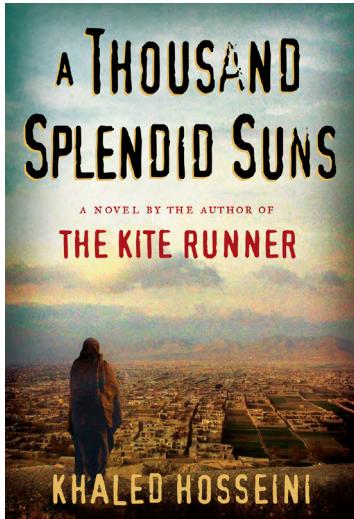
Yusra Mardini is a Syrian former competition swimmer and refugee of the Syrian civil war. She was a member of the Refugee Olympic Athletes Team that competed under the Olympic flag at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.



The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

"A vivid and engaging story that reminds us how long his people [of Afghanistan] have been struggling to triumph over the forces of violence—forces that continue to threaten them even today."—The New York Times Book Review

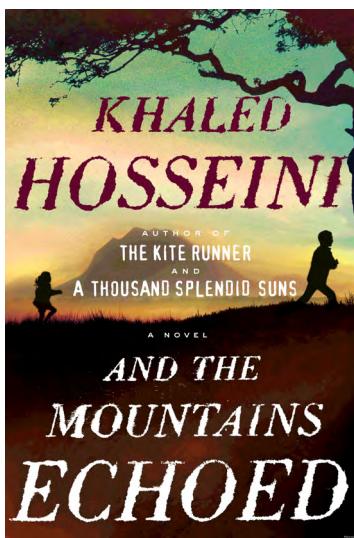
The unforgettable, heartbreakingly beautiful story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, *The Kite Runner* is a beautifully crafted novel set in a country that is in the process of being destroyed. It is about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and an exploration of the power of fathers over sons—their love, their sacrifices, their lies.



A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini

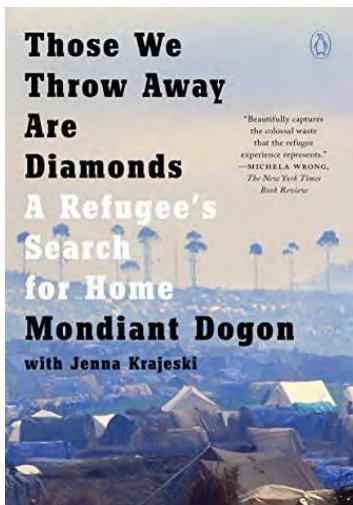
Mariam is only fifteen when she is sent to Kabul to marry the troubled Born a generation apart and with very different ideas about love and family, Mariam and Laila are two women brought jarringly together by war, by loss and by fate. As they endure the ever escalating dangers around them—in their home as well as in the streets of Kabul—they come to form a bond that makes them both sisters and mother-daughter to each other, and that will ultimately alter the course not just of their own lives but of the next generation. With heart-wrenching power and suspense, Hosseini shows how a woman's love for her family can move her to shocking and heroic acts of self-sacrifice, and that in the end it is love, or even the memory of love, that is often the key to survival.

A stunning accomplishment, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is a haunting, heartbreakingly beautiful, compelling story of an unforgiving time, an unlikely friendship, and an indestructible love.



And the Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini

Khaled Hosseini, the #1 New York Times—bestselling author of *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, has written a new novel about how we love, how we take care of one another, and how the choices we make resonate through generations. In this tale revolving around not just parents and children but brothers and sisters, cousins and caretakers, Hosseini explores the many ways in which families nurture, wound, betray, honor, and sacrifice for one another; and how often we are surprised by the actions of those closest to us, at the times that matter most. Following its characters and the ramifications of their lives and choices and loves around the globe—from Kabul to Paris to San Francisco to the Greek island of Tinos—the story expands gradually outward, becoming more emotionally complex and powerful with each turning page.



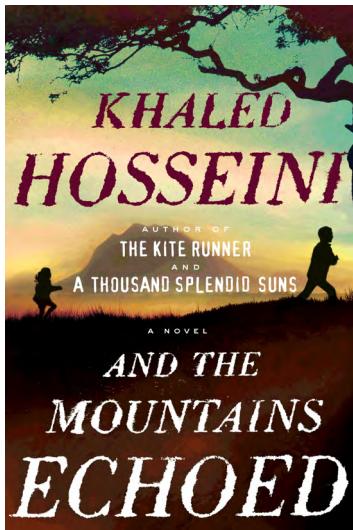
Those We Throw Away Are Diamonds, A Refugee's Search for Home by Mondiant Dogon

One day when Mondiant Dogon, a Bagogwe Tutsi born in the Democratic Republic of Congo, was only three years old, his father's lifelong friend, a Hutu man, came to their home with a machete in his hand and warned the family they were to be killed within hours. Dogon's family fled into the forest, initiating a long and dangerous journey into Rwanda. They made their way to the first of several UN tent cities in which they would spend decades. But their search for a safe haven had just begun.

Hideous violence stalked them in the camps. Even though Rwanda famously has a former refugee for a president in Paul Kagame, refugees in that country face enormous prejudice and acute want. For much of his life, Dogon and his family ate barely enough to keep themselves from starving. He fled back to Congo in search of the better life that had been lost, but there he was imprisoned and left without any option but to become a child soldier.

For most refugees, the camp starts as an oasis but soon becomes quicksand, impossible to leave. Yet Dogon managed to be one of the few refugees he knew to go to college. Though he hid his status from his fellow students out of shame, eventually he would emerge as an advocate for his people.

Mondiant Dogon is an author, human rights activist, and refugee ambassador. He is the founder and Executive Director of the Mondiant Initiative, a refugee organization that invests in providing services that empower, educate, and engage refugees.

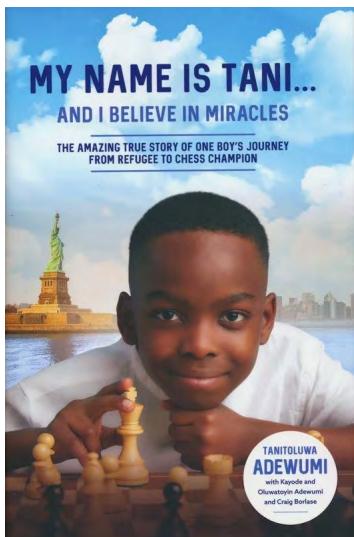


Asylum, A Memoir & Manifesto by Edafé Okporo

Asylum is Edafé's "powerful, eye-opening" (Dr. Eric Cervini, New York Times bestselling author of *The Deviant's War*) memoir and manifesto, which documents his experiences growing up gay in Nigeria, fleeing to America, navigating the immigration system, and making a life for himself as a Black, gay immigrant. Alongside his personal story is a blaring call to action—not only for immigration reform but for a just immigration system for refugees everywhere. This book imagines a future where immigrants and asylees are treated with fairness, transparency, and compassion. It aims to help us understand that home is not just where you feel safe and welcome but also how you can make it feel safe and welcome for others.

Edafe Okporo was born in Warri, Nigeria. He migrated to the United States in 2016 as an asylum seeker and is now a refugee of the United States. Edafé is a global gay rights activist, the founder of Refuge America, and one of the country's most visible voices on the issue of displacement, leading an organization with a vision to "strengthen as a place of welcome for LGBTQ displaced people."

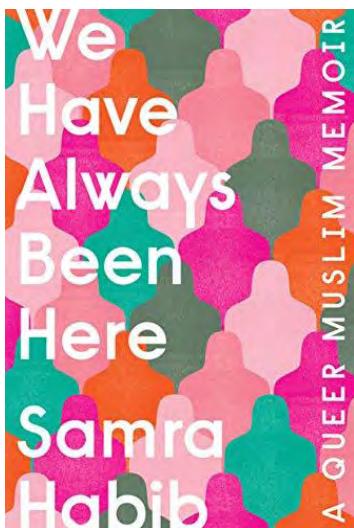
Books with Refugee Authors or Themes



My Name is Tani... and I Believe in Miracles: The Amazing True Story of One Boy's Journey from Refugee to Chess by Tani Adewumi, Kayode Adewumi, & Oluwatoyin Adewumi

At eight years old, Tani Adewumi, a refugee, won the 2019 New York State Chess Championship after playing the game for only a year—and while homeless.

Tani and his family fled Boko Haram's reign of terror in Nigeria to come to the United States, where they lived in a New York City homeless shelter while waiting to be granted religious asylum. Tani began attending a public elementary school and decided he wanted to join the chess program, but it required a fee. Tani's mother reached out to the coach, who offered Tani a scholarship—and a year later the young immigrant became a chess champion.



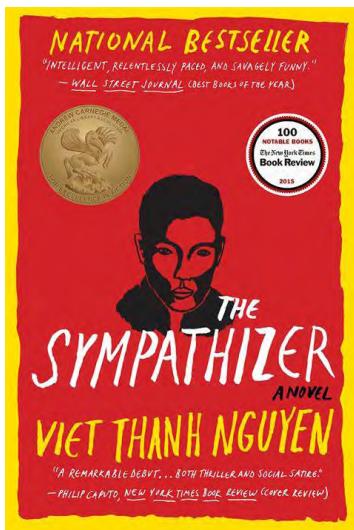
We have Always Been Here: A Queer Muslim memoir by Samra Habib

Samra Habib has spent most of their life searching for the safety to be themselves. As an Ahmadi Muslim growing up in Pakistan, they faced regular threats from Islamic extremists who believed the small, dynamic sect to be blasphemous. From their parents, they internalized the lesson that revealing their identity could put them in grave danger.

When their family came to Canada as refugees, Samra encountered a whole new host of challenges: bullies, racism, the threat of poverty, and an arranged marriage. Backed into a corner, their need for a safe space—in which to grow and nurture their creative, feminist spirit—became dire. The men in Samra's life wanted to police them, the women in their life had only shown them the example of pious obedience, and their body was a problem to be solved.

So begins an exploration of faith, art, love, and queer sexuality, a journey that takes them to the far reaches of the globe to uncover a truth that was within them all along. A triumphant memoir of forgiveness and family, both chosen and not, *We Have Always Been Here* is a rallying cry for anyone who has ever felt out of place and a testament to the power of fearlessly inhabiting one's truest self.

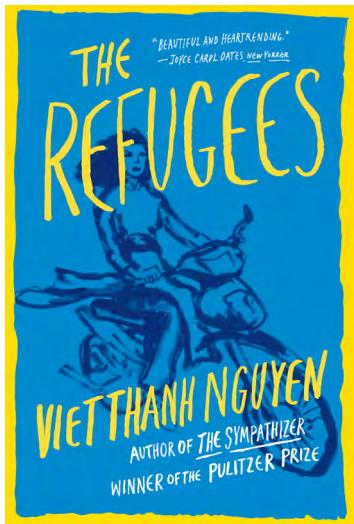
Samra Habib is a Pakistani Canadian photographer and writer who highlights the stories of Muslims in the LGBTQ community. Habib fled Pakistan with their family when they were in 6th grade to escape religious persecution and resettled into Canada as refugees. Her memoir was selected as 2020 Canada Reads winner and is a part of Book Riot's 100 most influential queer books of all time.



The Sympathizer by Viet Thanh Nguyen

The winner of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, as well as seven other awards, *The Sympathizer* is the breakthrough novel of the year. With the pace and suspense of a thriller and prose that has been compared to Graham Greene and Saul Bellow, *The Sympathizer* is a sweeping epic of love and betrayal. The narrator, a communist double agent, is a “man of two minds,” a half-French, half-Vietnamese army captain who arranges to come to America after the Fall of Saigon, and while building a new life with other Vietnamese refugees in Los Angeles is secretly reporting back to his communist superiors in Vietnam.

The Sympathizer is a blistering exploration of identity and America, a gripping espionage novel, and a powerful story of love and friendship.



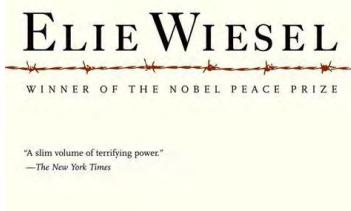
The Refugees by Viet Thanh Nguyen

Published in hardcover to astounding acclaim, *The Refugees* is the remarkable debut collection of short stories by Viet Thanh Nguyen, winner of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for his novel *The Sympathizer*. In these powerful stories, written over a period of twenty years and set in both Vietnam and America, Nguyen paints a vivid portrait of the experiences of people leading lives between two worlds, the adopted homeland and the country of birth.

With the same incisiveness as in *The Sympathizer*, in *The Refugees* Viet Thanh Nguyen gives voice to the hopes and expectations of people making life-changing decisions to leave one country for another, and the rifts in identity, loyalties, romantic relationships, and family that accompany relocation. From a young Vietnamese refugee who suffers profound culture shock when he comes to live with two gay men in San Francisco, to a woman whose husband is suffering from dementia and starts to confuse her for a former lover, to a girl living in Ho Chi Minh City whose older half-sister comes back from America having seemingly accomplished everything she never will, the stories are a captivating testament to the dreams and hardships of migration.

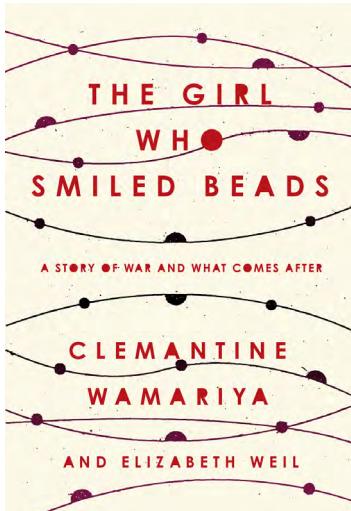
Viet escaped from Vietnam with his family after the fall of Saigon, fleeing to Pennsylvania when he was only four years old. His first novel, *The Sympathizers*, won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the Carnegie Medal, among other accolades. His book, *The Refugees*, is a short story collection that according to NPR “takes a look at how it feels and what it means to be a refugee.”

Books with Refugee Authors or Themes



***Night* by Elie Wiesel**

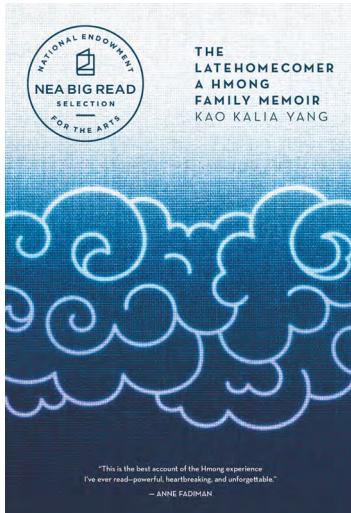
Elie Wiesel was born in 1928 in the town of Sighet, now part of Romania. During World War II, he, with his family, were deported to the German concentration and extermination camps, where his parents and younger sister perished. Wiesel and his two older sisters survived. Liberated from Buchenwald in 1945 by advancing Allied troops, he was taken to Paris where he studied at the Sorbonne and worked as a journalist. In 1958, he published his first book, *La Nuit*, a memoir of his experiences in the concentration camps. He authored nearly thirty books. In 1986 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.



***The Girl Who Smiled Beads* by Clemantine Wamariya**

When Clemantine was twelve, she and her sister were granted refugee status in the United States; there, in Chicago, their lives diverged. Though their bond remained unbreakable, Claire, who had for so long protected and provided for Clemantine, was a single mother struggling to make ends meet, while Clemantine was taken in by a family who raised her as their own. She seemed to live the American dream: attending private school, taking up cheerleading, and, ultimately, graduating from Yale. Yet the years of being treated as less than human, of going hungry and seeing death, could not be erased. She felt at the same time six years old and one hundred years old.

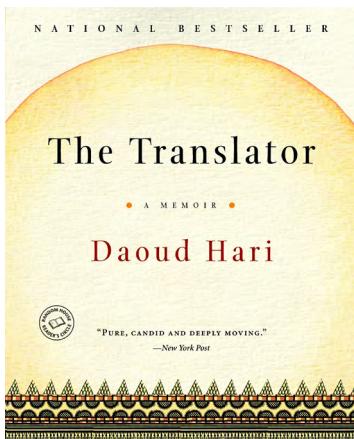
Born in Kigali, Rwanda, and displaced by conflict, Wamariya migrated throughout seven African countries as a child. At age 12, she was granted refugee status in the United States. She has been a four-time guest on The Oprah Show, and a speaker at the Forbes Summit and TEDx, as well as at numerous universities and distinguished organizations.



***The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir* by Kao Kalia Yang**

Born in Ban Vinai Refugee Camp in 1980, she and her family came to Minnesota as refugees in the summer of 1987, and her first book, *The Latehomecomer* tells the story of her journey that many Hmong people had to make from place to place in order to find 'home.'

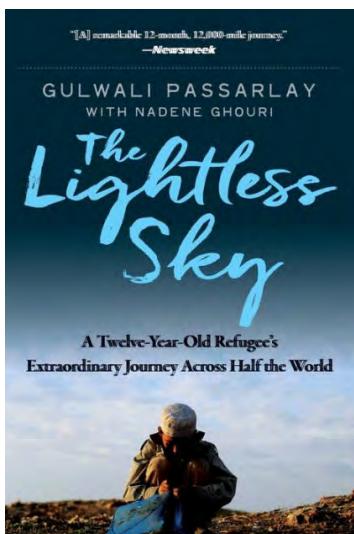
In search of a place to call home, thousands of Hmong families made the journey from the war-torn jungles of Laos to the overcrowded refugee camps of Thailand and onward to America. But lacking a written language of their own, the Hmong experience has been primarily recorded by others. Driven to tell her family's story after her grandmother's death, *The Latehomecomer* is Kao Kalia Yang's tribute to the remarkable woman whose spirit held them all together. It is also an eloquent, firsthand account of a people who have worked hard to make their voices heard.



***The Translator* by Daoud Hari**

Daoud Hari—his friends call him David—is a Zaghawa tribesman and grew up in a village in the Darfur region of Sudan. As a child he saw colorful weddings, raced his camels across the desert, and played games in the moonlight after his work was done. This traditional life shattered in 2003 when helicopter gunships appeared over Darfur's villages. Hari was among the hundreds of thousands of villagers attacked and driven from their homes by Sudanese-government-backed militia groups.

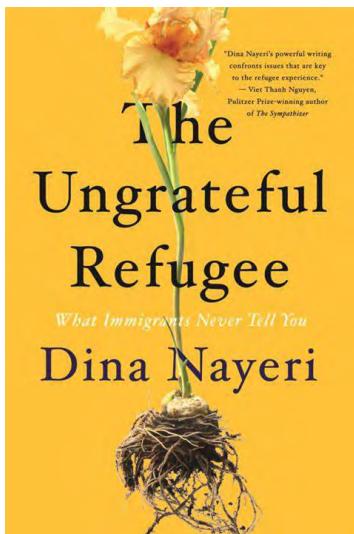
The Translator tells the remarkable story of a young man who came face-to-face with genocide—time and again risking his own life to fight injustice and save his people.



***The Lightless Sky: A Twelve-Year Old's Refugee Extraordinary Journey Across the World* by Gulwali Passarlay**

Gulwali was chosen to help carry the Olympic Torch in the 2012 London Games. His first book, *The Lightless Sky*, recalls his remarkable experience fleeing war and offers a firsthand look at one of the most pressing issues of our time: the modern refugee crisis.

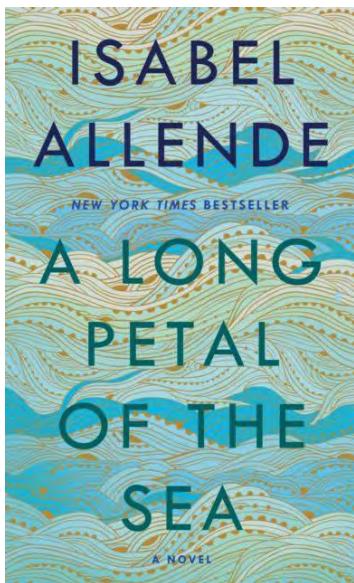
In 2006, after his father was killed, Gulwali Passarlay was caught between the Taliban who wanted to recruit him, and the Americans who wanted to use him. To protect her son, Gulwali's mother sent him away. The search for safety would lead the twelve-year-old across eight countries, from the mountains of eastern Afghanistan through Iran and Europe to Britain. Over the course of twelve harrowing months, Gulwali endured imprisonment, hunger, cruelty, brutality, loneliness, and terror—and nearly drowned crossing the Mediterranean Sea. Eventually granted asylum in England, Gulwali was sent to a good school, learned English, won a place at a top university, and was chosen to help carry the Olympic Torch in the 2012 London Games.



***The Ungrateful Refugee: What Immigrants Never Tell You* by Dina Nayeri**

Dina Nayeri was born during the Iranian revolution and lived as a refugee for two years before being granted asylum in the United States. Winner of the Geschwister Scholl Preis and finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, the Kirkus Prize, and Elle Grand Prix des Lectrices.

Aged eight, Dina Nayeri fled Iran along with her mother and brother and lived in the crumbling shell of an Italian hotel-turned-refugee camp. Eventually she was granted asylum in America. She settled in Oklahoma, then made her way to Princeton University. In this book, Nayeri weaves together her own vivid story with the stories of other refugees and asylum seekers in recent years, bringing us inside their daily lives and taking us through the different stages of their journeys, from escape to asylum to resettlement.



A Long Petal of the Sea by Isabel Allende

A masterful work of historical fiction about hope, exile, and belonging, *A Long Petal of the Sea* shows Isabel Allende at the height of her powers.

In the late 1930s, civil war grips Spain. When General Franco and his Fascists succeed in overthrowing the government, hundreds of thousands are forced to flee in a treacherous journey over the mountains to the French border. Among them is Roser, a pregnant young widow, who finds her life intertwined with that of Victor Dalmau, an army doctor and the brother of her deceased love. In order to survive, the two must unite in a marriage neither of them desires.

Together with two thousand other refugees, they embark on the SS Winnipeg, a ship chartered by the poet Pablo Neruda, to Chile: “the long petal of sea and wine and snow.” As unlikely partners, they embrace exile as the rest of Europe erupts in world war. Starting over on a new continent, their trials are just beginning, and over the course of their lives, they will face trial after trial. But they will also find joy as they patiently await the day when they will be exiles no more. Through it all, their hope of returning to Spain keeps them going. Destined to witness the battle between freedom and repression as it plays out across the world, Roser and Victor will find that home might have been closer than they thought all along.

Isabel Allende was born in Peru and raised in Chile. She fled to Venezuela with her husband and two children after her uncle, Chilean President Salvador Allende was assassinated in 1973.

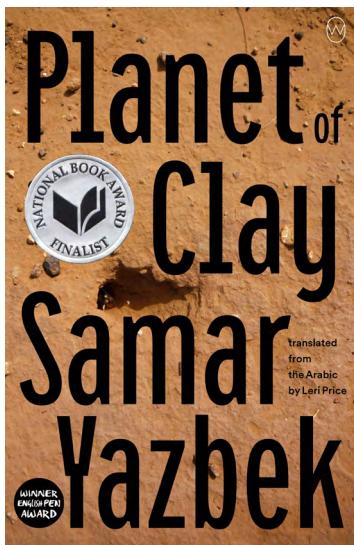


The Shadow King by Maaza Mengiste

Shortlisted for the 2020 Booker Prize, and named a best book of the year by the New York Times, NPR, Elle, Time, and more, *The Shadow King* is an “unforgettable epic from an immensely talented author who’s unafraid to take risks” (Michael Schaub, NPR).

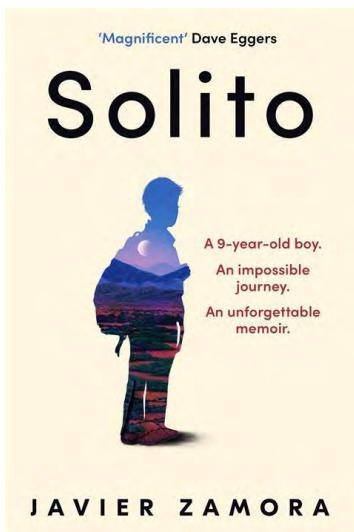
Set during Mussolini’s 1935 invasion of Ethiopia, *The Shadow King* takes us back to the first real conflict of World War II, casting light on the women soldiers who were left out of the historical record. At its heart is orphaned maid Hirut, who finds herself tumbling into a new world of thefts and violations, of betrayals and overwhelming rage. What follows is a heartrending and unputdownable exploration of what it means to be a woman at war.

Born in Ethiopia, Maaza fled with her family when she was four and spent the rest of her childhood in Kenya, Nigeria, and eventually resettled in the United States. She later became a Fulbright Scholar, and earned a MFA degree in creative writing degree from NYU.



***Planet of Clay* by Samar Yazbek**

Rima, a young girl from Damascus, longs to walk, to be free to follow the will of her feet, but instead is perpetually constrained. Rima finds refuge in a fantasy world full of colored crayons, secret planets, and The Little Prince, reciting passages of the Qur'an like a mantra as everything and everyone around her is blown to bits. Since Rima hardly ever speaks, people think she's crazy, but she is no fool—the madness is in the battered city around her. One day while taking a bus through Damascus, a soldier opens fire and her mother is killed. Rima, wounded, is taken to a military hospital before her brother leads her to the besieged area of Ghouta—where, between bombings, she writes her story. In *Planet of Clay*, Samar Yazbek offers a surreal depiction of the horrors taking place in Syria, in vivid and poetic language and with a sharp eye for detail and beauty.

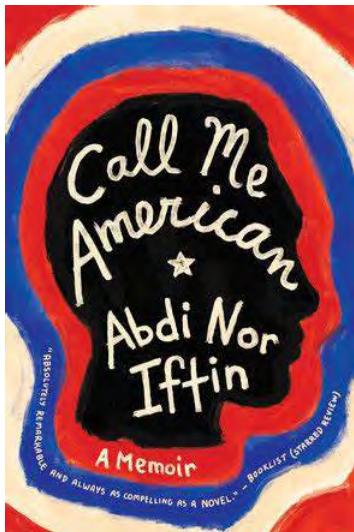


***Solito* by Javier Zamora**

Solito is Zamora's memoir of the 3,000 mile journey from his small town in El Salvador, through Guatemala and Mexico, and across the U.S. border, as a nine year old. *Solito* is Javier Zamora's story, but it's also the story of millions of others who had no choice but to leave home.

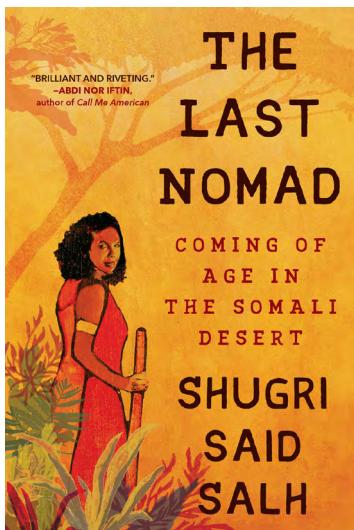
Javier was born in El Salvador in 1990. His father fled the country when he was one, and his mother when he was about to turn five. Both parents' migrations were caused by Salvadoran Civil War. When he was nine Javier migrated through Guatemala, Mexico, and the Sonoran Desert.

He has been a Stegner Fellow at Stanford and a Radcliffe Fellow at Harvard and holds fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation.



***Call Me American* by Abdi Nor Iftin**

In this personal memoir, Abdi Nor Iftin details his life, overcoming some of life's most extreme challenges. Born in Mogadishu to nomadic parents, Abdi survived famine, war, and child soldiering. Abdi used his language skills to post secret dispatches, which found an audience of worldwide listeners. Eventually, though, Abdi was forced to flee to Kenya. In an amazing stroke of luck, Abdi won entrance to the U.S. in the annual visa lottery, though his route to America did not come easily.



***The Last Nomad: Coming of age in the Somali Desert* by Shugri Said Salh**

Readers will fall in love with Salh on the page as she tells her inspiring story about leaving Africa, learning English, finding love, and embracing a new horizon for herself and her family. Honest and tender, *The Last Nomad* is a riveting coming-of-age story of resilience, survival, and the shifting definitions of home.

As a young girl, Salh fled first to a refugee camp on the Kenyan border and was later resettled to North America.

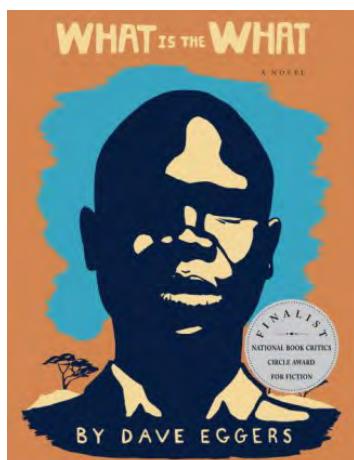
As she came of age, she was forced to confront change, violence, and instability. Salh writes of trying to break free of the patriarchal beliefs of her culture, of her forced female genital mutilation, of the loss of her mother, and of her growing need for independence.

Books with Refugee Themes and Undertones Whose Authors are Not Refugees or Former Refugees:



***In The Sea There Are Crocodiles* by Fabio Geda**

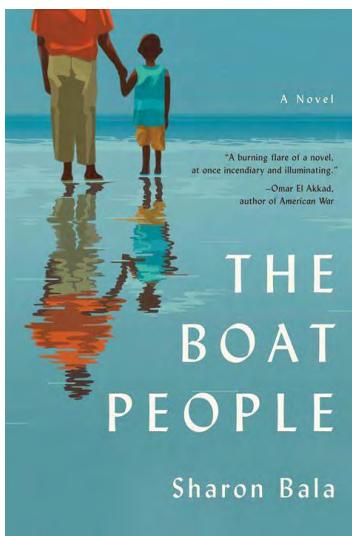
In early 2002, Enaiatollah Akbari's village fell prey to the Taliban. His mother, fearing for his life, led him across the border. So began Enaiat's remarkable and often publishing five-year ordeal—trekking across bitterly cold mountains, riding the suffocating false bottom of a truck, steering an inflatable raft in violent waters—through Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, and Greece, before he eventually sought political asylum in Italy, all before he turned fifteen years old.



***What is the What* by Fabio Geda**

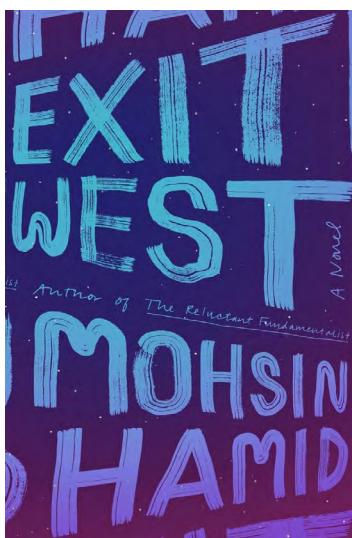
Based on the life of Valentino Achak Deng, who along with thousands of other children, the so called Lost Boys, was forced to leave his village in Sudan at the age of seven and trek hundreds of miles by foot to find freedom. When he finally is resettled in the United States, he finds a life full of promise, but also heartache and myriad new challenges.

Books with Refugee Authors or Themes



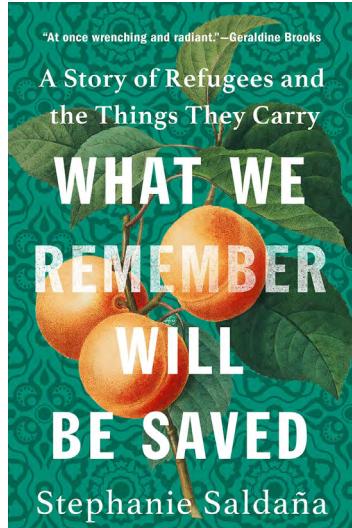
***The Boat People* by Sharon Bala**

When a rusty cargo ship carrying Mahindan and five hundred fellow refugees from Sri Lanka's bloody civil war reaches Vancouver's shores, the young father thinks he and his six-year-old son can finally start a new life. Instead, the group is thrown into a detention processing center, with government officials and news headlines speculating that among the "boat people" are members of a separatist militant organization responsible for countless suicide attacks.



***Exit West* by Mohsin Hamid**

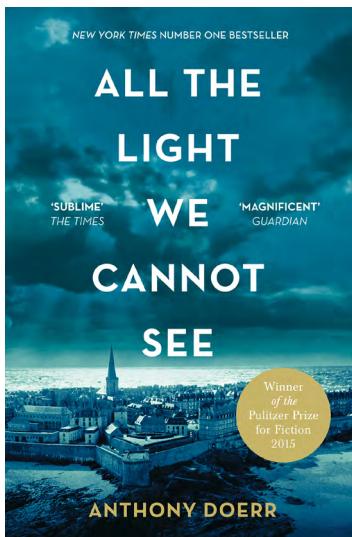
A novel of the strife created by the Syrian Civil War is told through the lens of the love affair of young Nadia and Saeed. The pair find one another as their country teeters toward violent conflict and explosive unrest climbs to a terrifying fever pitch, forcing the couple to flee for survival.



***What We Remember Will Be Saved* by Stephanie Saldaña**

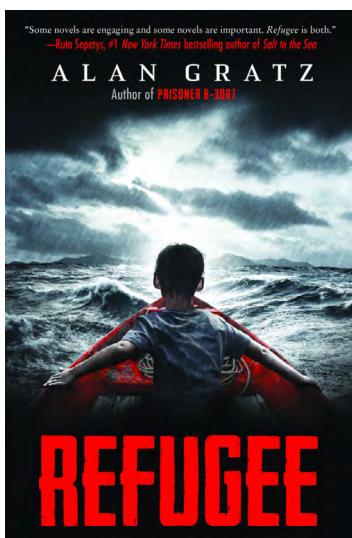
Eggplant seeds, a lullaby in a vanishing language, an embroidered dress. When people flee their homes, the things they save speak of beauty and suffering and the indomitable human spirit. In an era of mass migration in which more than 100 million people are displaced comes this lyrical portrait of Syrian and Iraqi refugees and the belongings they carry. *What We Remember Will Be Saved* is a book of hope, home, and the stories we hold within us when everything else has been lost.

Books with Refugee Authors or Themes



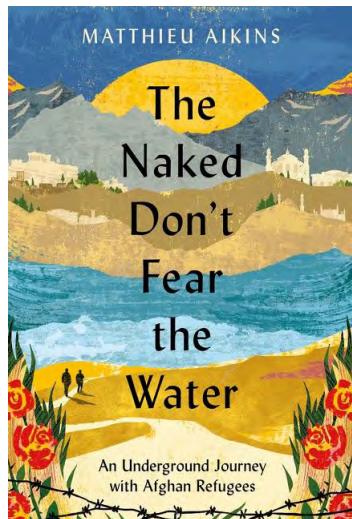
All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

When Marie-Laure is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris, and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure's reclusive great uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum's most valuable and dangerous jewel.



Refugee by Alan Gratz

Josef is a Jewish boy in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world. Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety and freedom in America. Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe. All three young people will go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers but for each of them, there is always the hope of tomorrow.



The Naked Don't Fear the Water by Matthieu Aikins

In 2016, a young Afghan driver and translator named Omar makes the heart-wrenching choice to flee his war-torn country, saying goodbye to Laila, the love of his life, without knowing when they might be reunited again. He is one of millions of refugees who leave their homes that year.