

## A Refugees Journey From Iraq Leaving My Homeland

This heartwarming true story of one lost cat's journey to be reunited with his refugee family gently introduces children to a difficult topic and shows how ordinary people can help with compassion and hope. When an Iraqi family is forced to flee their home, they can't bear to leave their beloved cat, Kunkush, behind. So they carry him with them from Iraq to Greece, keeping their secret passenger hidden away. But during the crowded boat crossing to Greece, his carrier breaks and the frightened cat runs from the chaos, disappearing. After an unsuccessful search, his family has to continue their journey, leaving brokenhearted. A few days later, aid workers in Greece find the lost cat. Knowing how much his family has sacrificed already, they are desperate to reunite them. A worldwide community comes together to spread the word on the Internet and in the news media, and after several months the impossible happens--Kunkush's family is found, and they finally get their happy ending in their new home. This remarkable true story is told by the real people involved, with the full cooperation of Kunkush's family. "Bound to be a hit with cats and kids alike." --People.com

Days of the Fall takes the reader into the heart of the terrible wars in Syria and Iraq. The book combines frontline reporting with analysis of the deeper causes and effects of the conflict. Over five years, Jonathan Spyer reported from the depths of the wars, spending time in Aleppo, Baghdad, Damascus, Mosul, Idlib, Hasaka and other frontline areas. He witnessed some of the most dramatic events of the conflict – the rescue of the trapped Yezidis from the attempted ISIS genocide in 2014, the Assad regime's assault on Aleppo, the rise of independent Kurdish power in north east Syria, the emergence of the Shia militias in Iraq as a key force. The book depicts these events, and seeks to place them within a broader framework. The author notes the ethnic and sectarian faultlines in both Syria and Iraq, and contends that both countries have now effectively separated along these lines, leading to the emergence of de facto fragmentation and the birth of a number of new entities. The book also notes that this confused space has now become an arena for proxy conflict between regional and global powers. Containing interviews with key figures from all sides of the conflict, such as the Shia militias in Iraq, and even ISIS members, Days of the Fall serves as an invaluable and comprehensive guide to the complex dynamics and the tragic human impact of the wars.

What We Carried: Fragments and Memories from the Cradle of Civilization is an ongoing photography and narrative project with Iraqi and Syrian refugees who have fled their homelands because of war. I asked participants to let me photograph the few items they were able carry on their long and dangerous journey to America. These treacherous treks can take years, encompassing refugee camps, multiple countries, and often a few bribes. The precious objects carried ranged from a family photo, a doll, a Qur'an, a game of dominoes. My agreement with my subjects was that I would photograph the object and then return a 13x19 archival photograph to the owner to provide personal reflections by writing directly onto the photograph. Through this process, participants could tell their own stories, in their own language, in their own hand. The stories speak to so much more than the objects. The luminous inner life of these ordinary items are a testament to the unspeakable anguish of a life left forever behind. Ordinary objects become sacred objects. Refugees often flee under the cover of darkness, sometimes with a child under each arm. They bring a few practical items, and some kind of memento to help them hold on to the lives they are leaving behind, possibly forever. As they settle into new lives, in a new land., speaking a new language, these often unremarkable, ordinary items will be the only physical evidence of their former lives..What would you carry? I hope viewers of these collaborative photo/writings will imagine themselves making decisions about what they would gather before forever closing the door on the lives they have lived. The realization that follows next is, what are they be leaving behind? Friends, schools, jobs, language, culture, and history. Very often they must bid farewell to family members they will never again see. Pets, beloved animal companions, must remain behind. What We Carried aims to be a bridge-building project to illustrate our common humanity.

Challenges. Fear. Uncertainty. We all face it. We all want to overcome it and strive for greatness. What stops us still? Refugee Changemakers traces the journey of 13 individuals, who were taken to the brink of these feelings but turned their misery into a mission to create a positive change in their community - the Netherlands – where they live now. “I was walking, and people were dying in front of my eyes; hundreds of corpses lay untouched.” – A survivor fleeing from Aleppo She looks at a mother carrying her little boy in her arms - the baby has fainted. “Why would the mother bring her baby on this death trip?” – A mother on a boat in the Mediterranean “We talk about each other, but we don't talk to each other. I started a radio channel to facilitate a dialogue between Syrians and the local community.” – Founder, local Radio channel “I want to give hope and encouragement to as many people as I can with my actions and words.” – First female refugee entrepreneur in the Netherlands

In war, there is no easy victory. When troops invaded Iraq in 2003 to topple Saddam Hussein's regime, most people expected an easy victory. Instead, the gamble we took was a grave mistake, and its ramifications continue to reverberate through the lives of millions, in Iraq and the West. As we gain more distance from those events, it can be argued that many of the issues facing us today - the rise of the Islamic State, increased Islamic terrorism, intensified violence in the Middle East, mass migration, and more - can be traced back to the decision to invade Iraq. In The Iraq War, award-winning documentary maker James Bluemel collects first-hand testimony from those who lived through the horrors of the invasion and whose actions were dictated by such extreme circumstances. It takes in all sides of the conflict - working class Iraqi families watching their country erupt into civil war; soldiers and journalists on the ground; American families dealing with the grief of losing their son or daughter; parents of a suicide bomber coming to terms with unfathomable events - to create the most in-depth and multi-faceted portrait of the Iraq War to date. Accompanying a major BBC series, James Bluemel's book is an essential account of a conflict that continues to shape our world, and a startling reminder of the consequences of our past decisions.

In 1999, Munjed Al Muderis was a young surgical resident working in Baghdad when a squad of Military Police marched into the operating theatre and ordered the surgical team to mutilate the ears of three busloads of army deserters. When the head of surgery refused, he was executed in front of his staff. Munjed's choices were stark--comply and breach the medical oath 'do no harm', refuse and face certain death, or flee. That day, Munjed's life changed forever. He escaped to Indonesia, where he boarded a filthy, overcrowded refugee boat, bound for Australia. Like his fellow passengers, he hoped for a new life, free from fear and oppression, but for ten months he was incarcerated in what became known as the worst of the refugee camps, Curtin Detention Centre in Western Australia. There he was known only by a number, locked in solitary confinement and repeatedly told to go back to Iraq. On 26 August 2000, Munjed was finally freed. Now, fourteen years later, he is one of the world's leading osseointegration surgeons, transforming the lives of amputees with a pioneering technique that allows them to walk again. *Walking Free* is Munjed's extraordinary account of his journey from the brutality of Saddam Hussein's Iraq to a new life in Australia and a remarkable career at the forefront of medicine.

*Journey Between Two Worlds* Young readers will meet a Kurdish family from Northern Iraq - Taha Mohammed, his wife Amina Ahmet, and their children. Follow this family as they escape an attack on their village by Iraqi soldiers and flee to a refugee camp in Turkey.

"Afran was a carefree little boy growing up in the beautiful city of Sinjar... until one day his family had to flee for their lives. Where will they go? What will they eat? Where is home? One family's journey of grief and strength while surviving the 2014 Yazidi genocide in Iraq." -- Back cover

In this study, Moshe Gat details how the immigration of the Jews from Iraq in effect marked the eradication of one of the oldest and most deeply-rooted Diaspora communities. He provides a background to these events and argues that both Iraqi discrimination and the actions of the Zionist underground in previous years played a part in the flight. The Denaturalization law of 1950 saw tens of thousands of Jews registering for emigration, and a bomb thrown at a synagogue in 1951 accelerated the exodus.

An in-depth study of selected refugees from Ethiopia, Iraq, Somalia, and Sudan, this book examines the relationship between the refugees' religious and spiritual beliefs and the refugee experience. Susan P. Ennis takes a close look at the circumstances of refugees' flight, their asylum, and their initial period of settlement in Melbourne, Australia during the period between the nineteen nineties and the early twenty-first century. Ennis finds that a sense of religiosity seemed to aid the refugees, in some way, during all stages of their journey. Furthermore, nearly half of the refugees she studied reported a shift in their religiosity over the course of their emigration. Based on her research, Ennis puts forward a framework of religiosity and the refugee experience grounded in shifting typologies at each stage of the refugee journey.

Remember Alan Kurdi, the three-year-old Syrian refugee who drowned and washed to the Turkish shore? This book is about another child--a Jewish kid from Iraq who barely survived the trauma of exile to Israel years earlier and ended up in the United States. It tells the story of his happy life in Iraq where his family dated back for thousands of years, moves to his second and very challenging life as a Black (Sephardi) boy living in tents in several transition camps and working as a Picker in Israel, and ends with his story as a grownup finally finding home in the United States It is an intimate, lyrical memoir of a child looking for home, a powerful tale of his three lives in Iraq, Israel and the US--lives of dislocation, despair and transformation, shared by many refugees and immigrants around the world. The book opens with a synopsis of the tumultuous love story of his other mother and proceeds to tell the story of his three lives, which are intertwined with the love story of his other mother, immigration, near death experience, transformation, and eventually to a life worth living. Narrated in the first person, it captivates the reader with its honesty, hope and affirmation of the human spirit.

I was born a Jew in Baghdad, in the Muslim country of Iraq. My roots there go back centuries: Legend has it that our first Khazzoom ancestor was born in Baghdad six hundred and fifty years ago. In 1951, at the age of 18, I left my family and the country of my birth, Iraq, to settle in the new state of Israel. Along with more than 850,000 other Jews living in Arab lands, I was escaping persecution and seeking sanctuary in the Jewish homeland after Israel's war of independence. With the rise of Arab nationalism during the nineteen thirties and forties, the everyday hatred directed toward Baghdad's Jews by our Muslim neighbors snowballed into fearsome terror. Still, we didn't decide to upend our lives lightly. Most of us who joined this migration left behind homes, loved ones, businesses and bank accounts in order to live in peace and security among fellow Jews. One of my aims in writing my story is to document a way of life that vanished with this exodus: the rich Babylonian Jewish culture that had flourished since ancient times in Iraq. I also want to put the current bloodshed in Iraq in a larger historical context. Though not on a scale comparable to that in present day Iraq, much of the torture, assassination, bombing, kidnapping, hand cutting and beheading that dominate today's headlines (and that mistakenly many tend to attribute to the presence of our troops in Iraq) much of that is what we lived through and endured, except that at the time there were no TV cameras and no reporters to report to the world on what was happening. Iraq was always, and remains, a violent society. Saddam Hussein was not an aberration. He was a product of that culture of violence. I witnessed this inherent violence of Iraqi society over and over as a child. However much I tried to erase it from memory, terror is imprinted on my soul. What remains--what I have been unable to shed--is a harrowing instinct to be prepared to flee at any moment. I was young and had little to lose by way of material assets when I left Iraq. But my departure marked the first of many tearful partings and separations that would be my family's fate amid the incessant turbulence in the Middle East. Life in Israel was a huge comedown for the refugees that streamed in from Arab lands, swamping the new nation's ability to provide jobs, housing, and even food. More painfully, we encountered discrimination, were often branded Arabs and derided for our language and customs. So in 1958, I once more ventured into the unknown. I again took leave of my family-- to get my doctorate, marry, start a family and build a career in the United States and Canada. The price of freedom has been almost unbearably high. The dispersal from our homeland, the expropriation of our assets by the Iraqi authorities, the years of anxious separation and the

demoralizing economic strains of life in Israel would ultimately tear at our once-close family bonds. The passage of time has helped repair the breach, but it came too late for some of my relatives. They died penniless and alone in Israel. I am an American now, living a comfortable life as a retired academic in beautiful, sun-splashed California. But even in this free and open society the dark frights of the past have ambushed me at unexpected moments. When the U.S. invasion of Iraq began in 2003, people asked me how I felt about it. I could only say that I hoped Iraq would move toward becoming a more humane society, and in the process serve as a catalyst for the transformation of the Arab world. But as I write this, such an outcome seems elusive. Sometimes people ask me if I would not want one day to visit Baghdad, my birthplace. My answer is--and always will be--an emphatic "Absolutely Not." I left Baghdad in April 1951 and I will never return.--Sacramento, California, 2010

The story of Shivan and Berivan is based on a true story of two lovers from the Kurdistan Region of Iraq during the conflict between the Kurdish people and Saddam Hussein's Baath Regime in the 1980's. Shivan and Berivan are childhood friends from Belizan, a village one hour away from Duhok City in Kurdistan Region of Iraq. They knew each other since childhood. They become lovers after Shivan came across Berivan following an accident he had near the village. Shivan started to have feelings for Berivan and their love ignited from there. Their families were both farmers. Shivan wanted to become a Peshmerga, a Kurdish freedom fighter, at the time of Saddam Hussein's reign in Iraq. He lost his father at a young age. While his father was still alive before being killed during the conflict, he encouraged Shivan to focus on his studies rather than being a Peshmerga. Shivan insisted, despite being young, on becoming a Peshmerga. He'd rather try to free his people than focus on his studies. The story is unique in many ways. Two lovers that have strong feelings for each other but cannot share them because of cultural norms. They keep their love secret until Shivan asks for Berivan's hand into marriage. The Peshmerga are brave Kurdish fighters and always have been. They are worth talking about and people need to know their story. With so little resources to protect their people, the Peshmerga manage to create a big impact on the change they want to see for their people. Like the story of David and Goliath in the Holy Bible, the Peshmerga are David going against the Iraqi army, which is Goliath, at that time being the fourth largest army in the world. The Peshmerga are freedom fighters and those who fight to the death. This book is based on a true story and actual interviews of former Peshmerga and civilians who supported the cause. As the interviews came to an end, the tears slowly came down the interviewees faces.

In Munjed Al Muderis's memoir *Walking Free*, he described his experience as a refugee fleeing Saddam Hussein's Iraq, his terrifying sea journey to Australia, and the brutal mandatory detention he faced in the remote north of Western Australia. The book also detailed his early work as a pioneering orthopedic surgeon at the cutting edge of world medicine. In *Going Back*, Munjed shares the extraordinary journey that his life-changing new surgical technique has taken him on. Through osseointegration, he implants titanium rods into the human skeleton and attaches robotic limbs, allowing patients genuine, effective, and permanent mobility. Munjed has performed this operation on hundreds of Australian civilians, wounded British soldiers who've lost legs in Iraq and Afghanistan, and a survivor of the Christchurch earthquake in New Zealand. But nothing has been as extraordinary as his return to Iraq after 18 years, at the invitation of the Iraqi government, to operate on soldiers, police, and civilian amputees wounded in the horrific war against ISIS. These stories are both heartbreaking and full of hope, and are told from the unique perspective of a refugee returning to the place of his birth as a celebrated international surgeon.

The making of a refugee - Life in the camp - Revolution and political evolution - Israeli military raids - Camp economy - Lebanese civil war - Journey into a new life - A new American home and the return to Palestine - The destruction of Nahr el Bared camp: the unrecorded story.

"Robert Brenneman provides an awareness of the Kurds' roots in the Middle East as well as their massive urban migration and the resulting cultural upheaval. Based on long-term research, this ethnography takes readers on a journey from the mountains of Ararat, the alleged resting place of Noah's Ark, to urban environments in a megalopolis like Istanbul, Turkey. Brenneman, who lived among the Kurds in both Iraq and Turkey, conducted fieldwork in such places as refugee camps, destroyed mountain villages, and tea gardens in Istanbul. He examines core and changing aspects of Kurdish culture, including human rights, ethnic identity, women's roles, family and community, religious practices, and the transition from oral tradition to literacy." "In addition to providing insight into the worldview of the Kurdish people from antiquities to current events, the author points to key lessons that can be drawn from the ongoing dilemmas they face."--BOOK JACKET.

"What a timely book Jalil Dawood has written! The news is plastered with stories of refugees day after day, yet this is a gripping story told by a refugee that will open your eyes and soften your heart. The Refugee will take you on a journey as you walk alongside Jalil, but even more importantly, it will inspire you into action. My heart was pounding as I read about Jalil's adventures. It's time we STOP getting our world view from cable news. Let's take it from the Bible and from great writings like *The Refugee*. Thank you Jalil! Keep writing." Tom Doyle, Bestselling Author of *Standing in the Fire and Killing Christians*, President of Uncharted Ministries "Once you start reading Jalil's story, you will find it hard to stop. You will come away with a renewed excitement and appreciation of how a God of grace works in bringing people to Himself. You will also learn practical ideas on how to help refugees discover the Gospel of Grace and adjust to a new culture and a new life in Christ." Dr. R. Larry Moyer, Founder and CEO, EvanTell Ministries "Jalil's incredible story is something every person and for sure, every Christian needs to read. He's a refreshing and defining voice of clarity on the global refugee crisis -- living through and actually being a refugee himself he provides real "life" insight into what refugees experience, as well as what it truly means to love your neighbor." Norm Miller, Chairman, Interstate Batteries Jalil Dawood is head of World Refugee Care and serves as a pastor for immigrants and refugees from the Middle East. He is also a refugee from Iraq -- and

has a unique perspective on the church's role in supporting refugees. In this new memoir, Dawood uses biblical lessons and his own experiences to show the importance of compassion in the global refugee crisis. He urges the church to keep from turning a blind eye to the persecution and suffering in the world. Dawood's personal journey is both troubling and inspiring, but he doesn't stop at his own testimony. He remembers the millions of people still in danger due to political, religious, or social affiliations. With the rise of ISIS and instability in the Middle East, Dawood's work is prescient and powerful. He looks to the Bible to answer questions raised by believers. What should we do if we encounter a refugee? How should the church help in the current crisis? In answering these questions, Dawood also raises one of his own: What are you doing to help? He forces you to examine your own actions and position on refugees and encourages you to embrace compassion, faith, and grace. Put down your fear and believe in the miraculous in life! Memories of fleeing war in Iraq, living in the refugee camp in Jordan, and the scary journey to the United States now seem far away to Zainab. But every day, as she attends school, plays sports, and participates in community groups in her new home in Dearborn, Michigan, she is aware that she will always be part of two cultures. Interwoven with facts about Iraq's conflict and the experiences of Iraqi refugees around the world, Zainab's story offers a thoughtful and unique look at the challenges and triumphs faced and experienced by refugees in their new homes.

A first-hand account of a Greek refugee camp—and the stories of the refugees staying there Syrian Kurd Juwan Azad left his home and family in Damascus in 2011 to flee military service under the al-Assad regime. After several troubled years as a refugee in Turkey, he arrived in Greece by sea, on the route taken by hundreds of thousands of his fellow Syrians seeking a safe haven in Europe. But as borders closed across the Balkans in early 2016, Juwan and his fellow Syrians found themselves blocked from travelling any further. Teresa Thornhill volunteered at Hara Hotel, a makeshift camp on the Greece–Macedonia border. An Arabic speaker, she met Syrians from all walks of life as she distributed clothing and organized activities for children. One of the Syrians was Juwan, who would later walk through the mountains of Macedonia to safety in Austria. In Hara Hotel, Thornhill interweaves a narrative of daily life at the camp with Juwan's extraordinary story, the recent history of the revolution in Syria, and an account of the ensuing civil war, painting a vivid picture of the predicament of Syrians trapped on Europe's borders.

Zainab has never known peace in her homeland of Iraq. She and her family flee the country after her father is threatened by one of the many groups fighting against the government. Zainab's life is on hold as her family seeks safety in Jordan and, later, the United States. Interspersed with facts about Iraq and its people, this narrative tells a story common to many refugees fleeing the country. Readers will learn about the ongoing conflict in Iraq and how they can help refugees in their communities and around the world who are struggling to find permanent homes.

Follows Muslim immigrants on their journey on a modern-day underground railroad leading from Istanbul to London, examining their lives, concerns, and experiences as they make their way through foreign political and social landscapes.

The secrets of a complex belief system that have sustained the Mandeans in their centuries-old native lands in Iraq and Iran have been collapsing before their eyes. This little-known Gnostic sect has been hidden from global awareness until now. With a passion for the obscure, Karen Baker has delved into this secret sect, exploring the effects of the turmoil they have faced in their homeland, and are now facing in Diaspora. The Iraqi and Iranian Mandeans have fled their homes with nothing more than the clothing on their backs, being thrust into the status of refugees, watching their traditions and cultures crumble as they encounter new lands and new cultures. This book discusses the potential receptivity of Mandeans to Christianity through several perspectives including an evaluation of their relationship to the Gnosticism of the first through third centuries CE as well as its syncretic adaptations to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. It will be of interest to those interested in little-known cultures from a historical and religious perspective; those involved with refugees and immigrants; and those who desire to understand the foundational beliefs of Mandaism.

Frontier Justice is a gripping, eye-opening exploration of the world-wide refugee crisis. Combining reporting, history and political philosophy, Andy Lamey sets out to explain the story behind the radical increase in the global number of asylum-seekers, and the effects of North America and Europe's increasing unwillingness to admit them. He follows the extraordinary efforts of a set of Yale law students who sued the U.S. government on behalf of a group of refugees imprisoned at Guantánamo Bay; he recounts one refugee family's harrowing journey from Saddam Hussein's Iraq to contemporary Australia via the world's most dangerous ocean crossing; and he explores the fascinating case of Ahmed Ressam, the so-called Millennium bomber who filed a refugee claim in Canada before attempting to blow up the Los Angeles airport. Lamey casts new light on a host of broader subjects, from the reasons why terrorists who pose as refugees have an overwhelming failure rate to the hidden benefits of multiculturalism. Throughout Lamey's account, he focuses on the rights of people in search of asylum, and how those rights are routinely violated. But Frontier Justice does not merely point out problems. This book offers a bold case for an original solution to the international asylum crisis, one which draws upon Canada's unique approach to asylum-seekers. At the centre of the book is a new blueprint for how the rights of refugees might be enforced, and a vision of human rights that is ultimately optimistic and deeply affirmative. In exploring one of the most pressing questions of our age, Lamey provides an absorbing and unsettling look at a world in which, as he notes, there are many rights for citizens, few for human beings.

An Iraqi-born actor raised in England describes how a visit to his homeland led to his being conscripted into the Iraqi army and selected for Saddam's elite intelligence service, driving him to make a desperate escape from his native land. Reprint.

A cartoonist follows reporters across the middle east, learning about journalism and how stories are told Cartoonist Sarah Glidden follows up her acclaimed debut, How to Understand Israel in

60 Days or Less, with Rolling Blackouts, which details her two-month long journey through Turkey, Iraq, and Syria. Glidden accompanies her two friends--reporters and founders of the journalistic non-profit The Seattle Globalist--as they research stories on the Iraq War's effect on the Middle East and, specifically, the war's refugees. Joining them is a former Marine and childhood friend of one of the journalists whose deployment to Iraq in 2007 adds an unexpected and sometimes unwelcome viewpoint, both to the people they come across and perhaps even themselves. The crew works their way through the region with the goal of asking civilians, refugees, and officials: "who are you?" Everyone has a story to tell: the Iranian blogger, the United Nations Refugee administrator, a taxi driver, the Iraqi refugee deported from the US, the Iraqis seeking refuge in Syria, and even the American Marine. The journalists struggle equally with how to tell these stories and with how to market them into articles people will want to read. Glidden records all that she encounters with a sympathetic and searching eye--What is journalism? What is its purpose? What is honesty? Painted in her trademark soft muted watercolors and written with a self-effacing humor, Rolling Blackouts cements Glidden's place as one of comics's most original nonfiction voices.

In the midst of political tension, what is life like for Iraqi American immigrants who have made new homes in the United States? This timely book encourages and empowers readers to understand complex issues that affect many Iraqi Americans today. They'll learn about critical events in modern history, which provide context for current events in the United States and around the world. Powerful photographs make this highly relevant topic tangible for readers. Fact boxes highlight key points and encourage questions. This informative book handles complicated topics with sensitivity, celebrates the unique and valuable ways Iraqi Americans influence contemporary American culture, and inspires understanding, making it a vital addition to any library or classroom.

This book examines post-colonial and post-independence challenges facing South Sudan, both external and internal factors as it transitions into becoming a nation state. Other focuses are issues that hinder the implementation of good governance, delivery of services to the people, preservation of the environment and natural resources, and the unity among South Sudan's multiple ethnicities. The book also briefly touches on my personal journey in pursuit of elementary and higher education, a rough journey that began in a country that has been ravaged by a civil war. Therefore, it would serve as informative and inspirational to those who may face difficult experiences as a refugee or emigrants. In addition, this book supposed to be published in the summer of 2013; however, the author was caught in a civil war that broke out while on a visit in South Sudan and he escaped near death twice, in the Juba massacres of the Nuers and the attack on his home town of Ulang, all were carried out by the South Sudan military, ordered by country's leader, Salva Kiir Mayardit. As a result, the author was stranded in the remote area of South Sudan for more than a year before he could finally return to the United States. Since this book is written from Social Responsibility and Social Justice perspectives, it addresses some of the issues that affect individual and the society as whole. And some of the Issues covered in this book were among the forecasting challenges and problems that are now facing people of South Sudan under the leadership of Salva Kiir and some of them came to reality as I predicted them during the writings of this book.

In this book, 35 refugees, all temporary protection visa (TPV) holders and mostly from Iraq and Afghanistan, talk directly about their quest for asylum in Australia. They provide poignant details of persecution in their home country, their journey to Australia, prolonged periods of mandatory detention, and life under Australia's controversial temporary protection regime.

Iraq's streets are unsafe, its people tormented, and its identity as a state challenged from within and without. For some, Iraq is synonymous with internal hatred, bloodshed, and sectarianism. The contributors to this book, however, know another Iraq: a country that was once full of hope and achievement and that boasted one of the most educated workforces in its region—a cosmopolitan secular society with a great tradition of artisans, poets, and intellectuals. The memory of that Iraq inspired the editors of this volume to explore Iraq's current struggle. The contributors delve into the issues and concerns of building a viable Iraqi state and recognize the challenges in bringing domestic reconciliation and normalcy to Iraqis. From Desolation to Reconstruction: Iraq's Troubled Journey examines Iraq's reality after the 2003 US-led invasion. It begins by relating Iraq's modern social and political history prior to the invasion and then outlines the significant challenges of democratization and the creation of an Iraqi constitution, which will be necessary for Iraq to become a strong and effective state. Co-published with the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI).

Steeped in a mother's love for her children and driven by a wife's devotion to the memory of her late husband, THE PROMISE traces an Iraqi woman's desperate seven-year journey to freedom in Australia. Guzin Najim always knew she was lucky. The adored eldest daughter of a well-respected General in the Iraqi Army, Guzin had a rare confidence that came from being raised by a progressive father who encouraged his daughter to strive for excellence in the same way he would have encouraged a son. And when she met and fell in love with the shy but determined Ra'ad Said while studying at Baghdad University, she knew they had a long, bright future together. He was the love of her life. She meant everything to him and more. After university, Ra'ad quickly followed in his father's footsteps, working for the Iraqi government Foreign Ministry as a diplomat. For Ra'ad and Guzin life was the heady world of the international diplomatic circuit and, with their two children, they lived a happy and full life. But things changed when Saddam Hussein's regime came to power. They were recalled to Iraq and when Ra'ad was given a job in Saddam's Information Ministry, he became distant and withdrawn. Late one night, when Ra'ad made Guzin promise to take their children out of Iraq at any cost and never return, she knew something was seriously wrong. At the time, she didn't question him. Now she wishes she had. They were the last words he ever spoke. In THE PROMISE, Guzin Najim relives the horror of her beloved husband Ra'ad's murder at the hands of the Iraqi government, and the terror of three years living under house arrest in Baghdad, knowing that her every move was being watched and that her children's lives were in constant danger. After their harrowing escape from Baghdad to Jordan where, supposedly safe, they continued to be terrorised by Iraqi officials for another three years. When the UN finally granted her refugee status Guzin was given the choice of Canada, America or Australia. Her choice was simple. Ra'ad had always dreamed of the beautiful harbour city of Sydney. And when Guzin stepped off the plane in Australia for the first time, she knew that risking everything had been worth it her children were safe and the promise she had made to her husband would be honoured.

Chess-playing people-traffickers, suicidal photographers, absurdist sound sculptors, cat-loving rebel sympathisers, murderous storytellers... The characters in Hassan Blasim's debut novel are not the inventions of a wild imagination, but real-life refugees and people whose lives have been devastated by war. Interviewed by Hassan Owl, an aspiring Iraq-born writer, they become

the subjects of an online art project, a blog that blurs the boundaries between fiction and autobiography, reportage and the novel. Framed by an email correspondence with the mysterious Alia, a translator of the Romanian philosopher Emil Cioran, the project leads us through the bars, brothels and bathhouses of Hassan's past and present in a journey of trauma, violence, identity and desire. Taking its conceit from the Islamic tradition that says God has 99 names, the novel trains a kaleidoscopic lens on the multiplicity of experiences behind Europe's so-called 'migrant crisis', and asks how those who have been displaced might find themselves again. *God 99* is the highly anticipated debut novel by award-winning Iraqi writer, poet and filmmaker Hassan Blasim. Winner of an English PEN Translates Award.

In 2014, an American gets on a plane to Iraq by himself. His surprising goal: to pray for the terrorists who killed his friend's brother in Baghdad and to help the Syrian refugees. As he prepares to step onto the plane, he is terrified for his own safety and struggles with going to a foreign war-torn land to pray for people he hates. But, he is seeking in his heart to follow Jesus...and Jesus is so clearly telling him...commanding him...to go and love, forgive, pray for and bless his enemies. So he hugs his family goodbye and he goes. Through a remarkable journey that takes him through mosques, refugee camps, security checkpoints and military zones in three Middle Eastern countries, he discovers that this astonishing journey with Jesus was not just a journey into the Muslim world, but also a journey into his own heart.

An educated girl from a prosperous family in Iraq finds her world turned upside down by circumstances arising from the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein. With her young husband she flees first to Iran, then Turkey, experiencing the humiliation, discomfort and powerlessness of being a refugee. She gives birth to a baby boy, lives in a tiny hut with no electricity or running water, tries to protect her baby from hungry rats and attempts again and again to get approval from the UN to migrate. After years of hardship and persistence, Ibtihal and her small family arrive in Australia, where her youthful ambition leads her to study and later teach art as therapy for trauma. The book includes photos of the author's story and art work.

*Success is a Journey, Hard Work Pays By:* Dr. Ahmed Sabie Ahmed Sabie's wife Vicki prompted him to write this book so their children would have a better perspective of their Iraqi heritage. They needed to know the details of his background and early childhood, and of the experience he had growing up disadvantaged, yet struggling to succeed, despite all obstacles. Beginning as a foreign student, and becoming an American citizen, this is his success story: "Therefore, this is the theme of my book: How hard work and persistence can be rewarding. There was no option BUT to succeed."

*How Iraqi refugees navigate life, belonging, and exclusion in America* The US invasion of Iraq in 2003 caused the largest forced migration in the Middle East since 1948, with millions of people fleeing to Syria, Jordan, Turkey, Iran, European Union, Australia and the United States. In *Iraqi Refugees in the United States*, Ken R. Crane explores the uphill climb faced by Iraqi refugees who have sought belonging in a country engaged in an ongoing War on Terror. Drawing on numerous interviews and fieldwork, Crane explores the diverse experiences of a community of Iraqi refugees, showing how they have struggled to negotiate their place in the wake of mass displacement. He highlights the promise of belonging, as well as their many painful encounters with exclusion. Ultimately, Crane provides a window into the complexities of what "becoming American" means for Iraqi refugees, even as they are perceived by other Americans as "security threats." As debates about immigration and refugee status continue to play out in headlines and the courts, *Iraqi Refugees in the United States* provides important insight into the global refugee crisis.

Andrew White is something of a legend: a man of great charm and energy, whose personal suffering has not deflected him from his role as one of the world's most trusted mediators and reconcilers. As a child and young man growing up in London Andrew was frequently ill. He set his heart on working in the field of anaesthetics, an ambition he achieved, but later found himself called into Anglican ministry. He has since had a considerable role in the work of reconciliation, both between Christian and Jew and between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslim. As Vicar of St George's Baghdad, the only Anglican church in Iraq, he leads a team providing food, health care, and education on a major scale and often in dire circumstances. Despite the pain from multiple sclerosis, he has nevertheless been able to mediate between opposing extremes. He is frequently involved in hostage negotiations, and played a key role in ending the siege at the Church of the Nativity in Jerusalem. His personal friendships have included Yasser Arafat and Pope John Paul II. He has been kidnapped, lives in constant danger, and ISIS is a growing threat. He is trusted by those who trust very few.

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