

Parvana's Journey (Breadwinner)



Synopsis

A war is raging in Afghanistan as a coalition of Western forces tries to oust the Taliban by bombing the country. Parvana's father has died, and her mother, sister, and brother have gone to a faraway wedding, not knowing what has happened to her father. Parvana doesn't know where they are, but sets out alone to find them – masquerading as a boy. Her journey only becomes more perilous as the bombs begin to fall. Making her way across the desolate Afghan countryside, she meets other children who are strays from the war: an infant boy in a bombed-out village, a nine-year-old girl who believes she has magical powers over land mines, and a boy with one leg. The children travel together because it is easier than being alone. As they forge their own family in the war zone that Afghanistan has become, their resilience, imagination and luck help them survive. The reissue includes a new cover and map, and an updated author's note and a glossary provide young readers with background and context. All royalties from the sale of this book go to Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan. Parvana's Fund supports education projects for Afghan women and children.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 700 (What's this?)

Series: Breadwinner

Paperback: 200 pages

Publisher: Groundwood Books; Reissue edition (May 12, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1554987709

ISBN-13: 978-1554987702

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.4 x 7.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 65 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #48,123 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Middle East #338 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Girls & Women #341 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 4 - 9

Customer Reviews

Sequel to *The Breadwinner*, *Parvana's Journey* by Deborah Ellis follows the eponymous 12-year-old girl who, disguised as a boy, sets off from Kabul in search of her missing mother and siblings in Taliban-era Afghanistan. When war breaks out, she bands together with other displaced children. Royalties from the sale of the book go to Women for Women, a relief organization benefiting women in Afghanistan. Ages 10-14. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Grade 7-10-This sequel to *The Breadwinner* (Groundwood, 2001) easily stands alone. After her father's death, 13-year-old Parvana, disguised as a boy, wanders alone through war-torn Afghanistan looking for her mother and siblings who had disappeared in the tumult of the Taliban takeover of Mazar-e-Sharif. Early in her journey, Parvana comes across a baby, the only survivor in a bombed village. She takes him along, as both a burden and comforting company. Taking shelter in a small cave, she discovers an angry one-legged boy who is starved for both food and human companionship. Imagining treasure in their cave, they dig, only to find a cache of bullets-a scene that epitomizes what childhood has become for these young people. The three continue Parvana's search, stopping for a time in an apparent safe haven on the edge of a minefield where an eight-year-old lives with a near-comatose grandmother. When their refuge is destroyed, the four children join a long line of refugees, arriving finally at a camp. A bittersweet ending offers some hope for Parvana and her family, but readers are left with a horrifyingly realistic picture of the effect of war on children. While the reading is not difficult, the grim content cries out for discussion. An unforgettable read. Kathleen Isaacs, Edmund Burke School, Washington, DC Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

I purchased this as I am teaching it in a Year 7 class this year. Through the iPad I can prepare notes to use in class and project the text onto the board to share the experience. This assists me to engage students and helps me trigger text analysis with electronic preparation. The novel itself is excellent. The character journey accompanied by the physical is a favourite of mine and Ellis does it well. The confusion and disjoint with reality experienced by the characters is palpable. The writing is a little simplistic and given the younger audience this can be effective. The themes and challenges presented in the text are what I really look forward to working with my class on. Ellis presents an horrific situation with compassion and understanding and asks us as readers to do the same. Given current global politics, this novel is still as pertinent today as when first written.

I read this with my eleven year old granddaughter. The book had been assigned to her by her fifth grade teacher, as part of a unit on "conflict". It was pretty heavy stuff for a child of that age, I thought, upsetting and depressing to her.

I loved Parvana's Journey . But I would recommend it for older readers because there is a lot of killing . The characters are funny and are dreamers, I like dreamers. My favorite character was Leila. She knew what comes around goes around . She really cared for her loved ones and was ready to risk her life more then once . This book makes me appreciate all I have in my life, like my family and my home and food.

Excellent book describing life from a child's standpoint, and why the unconscionable greed from adults wanting to be the chief is evil at all levels and sides of life is the true culprit. Weapons manufacturers, wannabe dictators and cult leaders, corrupt politicians - what if this was your daughter? You send us to war instead and have us come home with a lot of problems the government is slow to deal with. I hope you are enjoying your blood-stained wealth..

It was a good book.I liked that Parvana never gave up on her family even though she couldn't find them.

This is a great book. Deborah Ellis has written a book that cannot be predicted what happens next. There are twists and turns and at every corner very good descriptions of the characters and objects in the book. For anyone looking for a good book to read to children (of all ages) I would recommend this book for you. All in all this is a great book for everyone

My 11 year old boy loved this book, "sometimes felt long but really liked it and the other books in this series!"

A wonderful look into life outside America from a female standpoint. I recommend to all young and old readers.

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