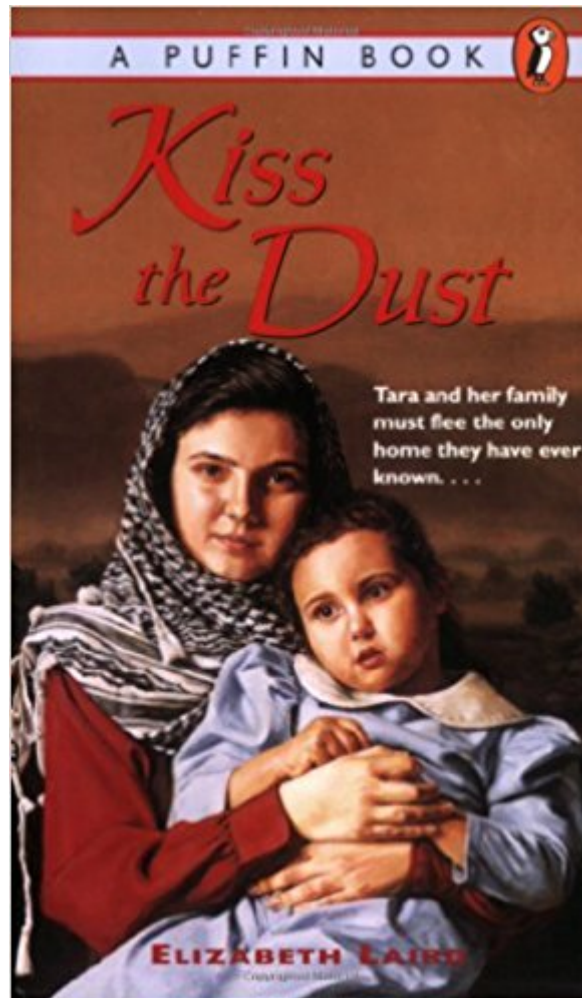




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Kiss The Dust



Synopsis

An ALA Best Book for Young Adults. "No place is safe for Tara and her family." Twelve-year-old Tara Hawrami lives a normal life in Iraq until the day she sees a boy, a Kurd like herself, get shot by soldiers in the street. But Tara still doesn't realize just how dangerous life for the Kurds has become until the Iraqi secret police come for her father. Then her family must flee their home for the mountains of Kurdistan, but even there they are not safe. Iraqi bombs drive the Hawramis over the border into Iran, where they must live in a brutal refugee camp. Will they ever find a place they can truly call home again? "Laird weaves compelling facts about the conflict between the Arabs and the Kurds into her gripping tale about one family's escape to freedom." Publishers Weekly, starred review "An exciting, behind-the-headlines story." Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 27 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Set in Iraq, this novel "weaves compelling facts about the conflict between the Arabs and the Kurds into a gripping tale about one family's escape to freedom," said PW in a starred review. Ages 10-up. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Here, Laird, author of a poignant first novel about the effects of a hydrocephalic baby on his family (Loving Ben, 1989), portrays the journey of a Kurdish refugee family--a story based on the real experiences in the mid-80's of Iraqi Kurds now living in England. For Tara, 13, and her family, their

ordeal is cruel and often life-threatening, yet they are among the lucky ones. Wealthy ``Baba'' (secretly a power in the Kurdish military) still has money even after repeated searches, while ``Daya'' manages to smuggle her jewels. Escaping the police as they leave their luxurious home in a city in northern Iraq, they take a taxi to their primitive vacation house in the mountains. For Tara, the return to village ways is almost as much of a shock as the bombs that eventually drive the family over the border into Iran, to a refugee camp infested with bedbugs and assaulted by deafening prayers rasped from a loudspeaker. Eventually, Baba makes contact with relatives in Teheran and passage to London is negotiated. Ever-present dangers maintain suspense--from a brutal street-killing Tara witnesses to her older brother's miraculous escape; meanwhile, Laird builds a sympathetic picture of the embattled Kurds and a compelling portrait of Tara and the sobering changes wrought in her and her family by the events, including her first startled response to a free society (``attractive and exciting...but frightening...as if things might suddenly get out of control"). An important contribution to the growing number of refugee stories. (Fiction. 10+) -- Copyright ©1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Half-way through reading the book, it amazed me how accurate the depiction of what happened in Northern Iraq during that time was. I heard many stories of people who lived during that time and I felt like I was reading there's. But their stories didn't end as well as this one.

This was a very, truly inspiring book. This book demonstrates and tells the story many Kurds during the Iran-Iraq war.

This book was very interesting from the moment I started. Those kinds of books always keep me reading them. I read this book for a reading group so I had to read the whole thing. I forgot that it was even necessary to read it. OK was transported transported into a new world. I very much enjoyed it. Please get this book and read it. You will go into a whole new world.

I have read this for a school project. As I have read this it felt like the world ended and a chance kept being born. Tara the main character was an amazing piece to the story. This book was great and I enjoyed reading it.

I had to read this book for class. I couldn't put it down once I started.

It was a good book up to the ending. My son and I read the book together and we felt the ending was a dud.

Great!

Kiss the Dust was very inspiring. It showed me other problems in the world that have been going on for many years. I loved Kiss the Dust, because it told me that there is hope for the Kurdistan's. That Tara's family was not going to give up and believed that there was something good to come out of all this. This book reminds me of the book Runaway author Wendelin Van Draanen, just because the police and social workers find Holly every time doesn't mean they will find her this time. That Holly would get away and find a new home- just like Tara did. My favorite part was how Ashti (Tara's older brother) came to the rescue to save Tara he didn't have to do that. He did it because he loved her. I'm very glad that my teacher gave me the opportunity to read this book. I was very pleased. Also, last but certainly not least I loved, absolutely loved how the book ended with a quote from the older brother, Ashti. And how he came back to his family not leaving them behind and forgetting about them. I would highly recommend this book to anyone. ~Olivia

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