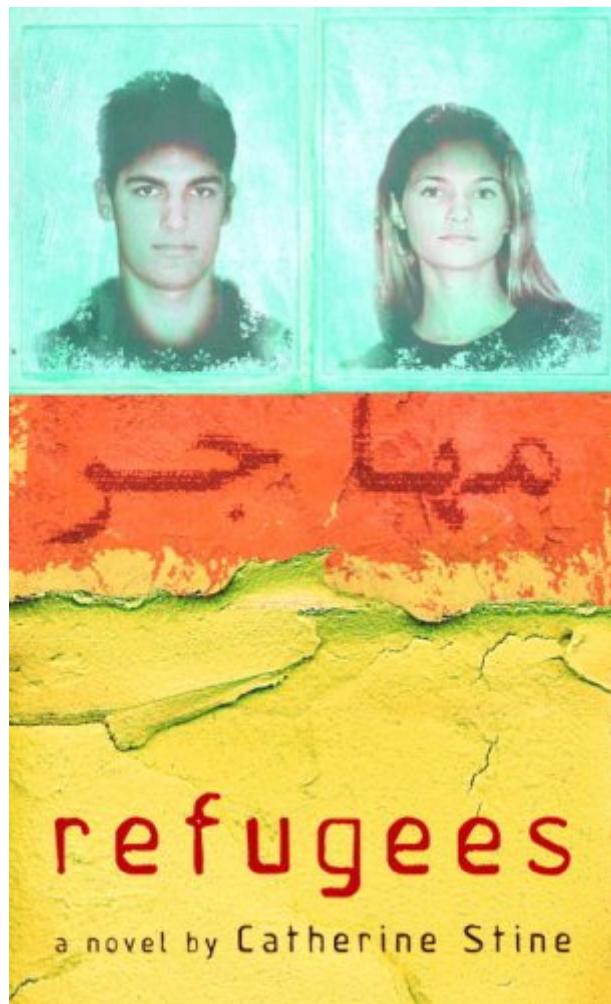


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# Refugees



## **Synopsis**

September 11, 2001 Two teenagers on opposite sides of the globe flee everything they know. In a world turned upside down by tragedy, they are refugees. Sixteen-year-old Dawn runs away from her unhappy foster home in California and travels to New York City. Johar, an Afghani teenager, sees his world crumble before him. He flees his war-ravaged village and the Taliban, and makes a dangerous trek to a refugee camp in Pakistan. Thanks to his knowledge of English, Johar finds a job at the camp assisting Louise, the Red Cross doctor and Dawn's foster mother. Through e-mails and phone calls, Dawn and Johar begin to share and protect each other's secrets, fears, and dreams, and a remarkable bond forms that gives each of them hope and the courage to find a path home. From the Hardcover edition.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Catherine Stine's "Refugees" is a riveting tale of cross cultural youth, and lets us in on what life must have been like for its young heroes. I didn't know what to expect, but found myself engrossed in an area I knew little about, and at a level that does not aim too low or too pat for young people. Sheila

Lewis, New York

This was by far the best book I read in recent memory. I am an adult, I read all genres. I love YA when it is this concise and positive, and I like to know what to recommend. It was absorbing, very enlightening and informative. Honestly, I wish the whole world would read it as it is a uniquely nonpartisan and heart-touching view of wartime.

When our son was young, we greatly valued books we could enjoy ourselves as we read to him. *Refugees*, by Catherine Stine is a Young Adult book that can be enjoyed by any parent or teacher and used as a jumping off-point for study and discussion. We found ourselves completely spellbound as the of adventure unfolded. The story is well-researched and beautifully written. Readers will find it satisfies the intellect and emotions at once as it is both educationally nourishing and a suspenseful page-turner. It follows two teens, an Afganistani boy and an American girl through the life-transforming time of 9/11. It explores cultural values, alternatives to violence, and examines how we define such things as bravery and family. We most highly recommend this book, especially at this time, when compassionate communication, empathy and widening perspectives are crucial.

This novel tells the stories of two teens on opposite sides of the globe, both caught in terrible circumstances. Dawn is a foster child runaway caught in New York City on the fateful day of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. Johar is a poet fleeing the terrible armies of the Taliban in Afghanistan. How their lives find a way to touch is the heart of this novel. It is hard to believe this is a first book. I love the way this author draws such different worlds with such compelling, sensual detail. Dawn's internal emotional struggle is depicted with restraint and realism. Johar's collapsing world is at once exciting and heart breaking. All in all, this is a great book with wonderful characters and a lively story, and will be appreciated by people of all ages. Highly recommended.

Refugees - an excellent read, indeed. The story is touching, suspenseful, and filled with an impressive knowledge base of the history of Afghanistan. More to the point, the timing of such a book is crucial. The complex, political weave manifests itself beautifully within Johar's internal process, and parallels Dawn's awakening with soulful authenticity. Three cheers for Stine's ability to craft a story of hope in this fractured world.

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Notes from My Travels: Visits with Refugees in Africa, Cambodia, Pakistan and Ecuador

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