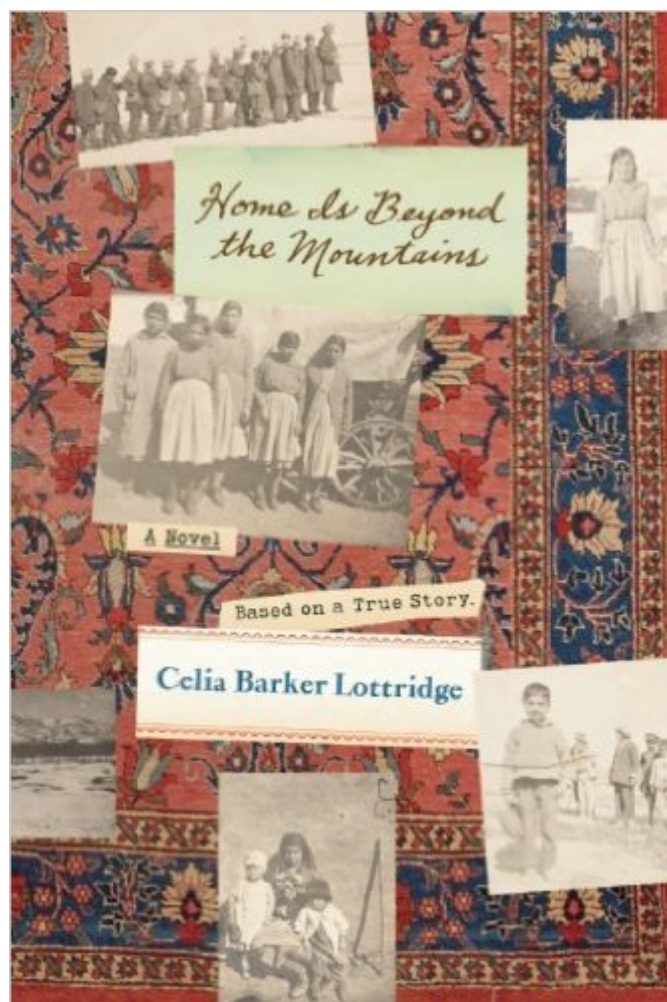


The book was found

Home Is Beyond The Mountains



Synopsis

Samira is only nine years old when the Turkish army invades northwestern Persia in 1918, driving her family from its tiny village. They flee into the mountains, but the journey is so difficult that only Samira and her older brother survive. Beginning with a refugee camp run by the British Army, the children are shunted from one temporary home to another, finally ending up in an orphanage where it seems that they will live out their childhood. Then the new orphanage director, Susan Shedd, decides that she will take the 300 refugee children back to their home villages – a journey of 300 miles – through the mountains, on foot. Samira embarks on the journey with wonder and fear. Even if they make it, will there be anyone in her old village to take her in?

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 680L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: Groundwood Books; 1st Edition edition (March 30, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0888999321

ISBN-13: 978-0888999320

Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 5.1 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars – See all reviews (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,807,552 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in Books > Teens >

Historical Fiction > Middle East #531 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures >

Explore the World > Middle East #798 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Military

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 6 and up

Customer Reviews

Celia Barker Lottridge's novel, *Home is Beyond the Mountains*, tells the story of Samira and her family who must leave their village in 1918 because of the war that is happening around them. While on their journey to safety Samira and her mother are separated from the rest of her family, and by the time they reach a home for refugees, only Samira is still alive. She is excited to find her older brother Benjamin who has made it there as well, but who must tell her that their father is no longer living, either. The two children spend several years in an orphanage with many other children who have been affected by the Turks attacking their people. At the orphanage they are taken care of by

Susan Shedd, an amazing woman who has the goal of helping these children return to their villages in what will be a long and arduous journey. While this book is a novel, it felt like a true story to me. Much of it is based on facts, and Lottridge's own aunt, Susan Shedd, is a central character in this novel. Much of this story is based on recollections Lottridge collected from her aunt about this period in time and her role in history. As the orphans make their way home, organized in small units that work as a family, they are forced to determine where "home" really is and what constitutes a family. This was an amazing book, full of suspense as I waited and hoped for these children to find happiness and family when they returned home. The struggles Samira and Benjamin went through nearly a hundred years ago are still challenges faced by many countries at war with displaced families and children. Although I did not know anything about the Turkish invasion of Persia, Lottridge was able to write about this time period in such a way that previous knowledge was not a necessity. This is a hopeful story, highly recommended for YA readers or history lovers.

I enjoyed reading this book very much. Being an Assyrian, it hit home while reading it. I remember my parents talking about this tragic experience the Assyrian people went through during the last 100 years. It seems the history is repeating itself nowadays in the Middle East countries. Some people are trying to kill all the Assyrians, who are the indigenous people of Iraq, and other Christians living in those countries. I recommend people, especially the Assyrians, to read this book to learn a little bit about the history of Assyrian Nation.

This book is well-written, compellingly and cleanly composed, and suitable for adults and kids. The writer allows the reader to understand the mind and heart of Samira and the other Assyrian orphans who saw their parents killed along the trail that took them from their villages. I highly recommend this book to schools and libraries, as most of the folks in our era have no idea of the suffering of the Assyrians, and many other people, who lost everything and everyone in the early 20th century.

This was a very inspiring story. The fact that it was based on reality makes it very important for children and adults misread.

Well written book based upon real events. Not all stories have good outcomes and sadly this has proven to be one of them.

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