



No Safe Place

By Deborah Ellis

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Orphaned and plagued with the grief of losing everyone he loves, 15-year-old Abdul has made a long, fraught journey from his war-torn home in Baghdad, only to end up in The Jungle — a squalid, makeshift migrant community in Calais, France. He takes a spot in a small, overloaded boat heading to England and full of other illegal migrants — and a secret stash of heroin. A sudden skirmish leaves the boat stalled in the middle of the Channel, the pilot dead, and four young people remaining — Abdul, Rosalia, a Romani girl who has escaped from the white slave trade, Cheslav, gone AWOL from a Russian military school, and Jonah, the boat pilot's ten-year-old nephew. The story of their frantic and hazardous Channel crossing makes this a novel of high adventure and heart-stopping suspense.

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No Safe Place By Deborah Ellis Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—This novel moves fast and furiously as readers follow the plight of three teen orphans who are attempting to escape from their troubled homelands to England. Rosalia, a Roma girl; Cheslav, a Russian boy; and Abdul, an Iraqi boy are all fleeing the cruelties of their war-torn cultures. The exciting and moving story manages to pull in the threads of our global history in the making—bombings in Baghdad, sex trafficking, and the harsh lives of underage conscripted soldiers. Violence is a big part of the teens' short lives as a result of the injustices in the world around them; it includes beatings and deaths as a result of racism and sexism. The story line revolves around their experiences as they come together in Calais and make the crossing to England. Ellis deftly uses flashbacks to fill in the backstories of each character, reminding readers of how they can never really know where people are coming from emotionally. Her writing is highly accessible, and yet understated. Orphans of the world and victims of human trafficking need all the press they can get, and this book does a great job of introducing the topic and allowing young people to see beyond the headlines of "Another illegal accidentally dies in Chunnel."—Meredith Toumayan, The Governor's Academy, Byfield, MA © Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

Packed with fast, sometimes brutal action, this searing contemporary novel tells of four angry, desperate, refugee kids who meet in Calais after months on the road and help each other enter England in search of a safe home. Abdul, an Iraqi Kurd, was in the car with his mother and little sister when they were killed by gunshots; now he keeps money shoved up his backside to pay smugglers. Rosalia, a fierce Roma teenager, is escaping forced prostitution. Abandoned by his mother, Cheslav is running from a brutal military school in Russia. They all care for little Jonah, an English orphan, who is scared to go home. Flashbacks of each character's personal story are interwoven with the present-tense violence, prejudice, kindness, and community that the young characters find on their journey. Ellis attempts a great deal for one short book, but she makes even the multiple coincidences work, and there is no sentimentality. The kids fight with each other, but they also bond as survivors. The spare narrative celebrates the power of community to overcome the worst. Grades 7-10. --Hazel Rochman

Review

- **A CCBC Best Book for Kids & Teens, 2011**
- **An OLA Best Bets, 2010**
- **Short-listed for the SYRCA Snow Willow Award, 2011**
- **Resource Links' Year's Best, 2010**
- "What the best literature for young readers can be—simple, elegant language crafted to tell a story as full and rich as life itself. Eminently memorable." — *Kirkus, starred review*
- "This novel moves fast and furiously...exciting and moving." — *School Library Journal, starred review*
- "Ellis' young readers love her because she speaks to them as intelligent, empathetic beings who will soon

have agency in the world, and in *No Safe Place*, this gift is still powerfully evident." — *Quill & Quire*, *starred review*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Evelyn White:

The knowledge that you get from *No Safe Place* will be the more deep you searching the information that hide within the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to be aware of but *No Safe Place* giving you buzz feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in particular way that can be understood by means of anyone who read the idea because the author of this book is well-known enough. This book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. Therefore it is easy to understand then can go with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having this particular *No Safe Place* instantly.

Amanda Garcia:

The book untitled *No Safe Place* contain a lot of information on the item. The writer explains the girl idea with easy method. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read this. The book was compiled by famous author. The author gives you in the new period of time of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can read more your smart phone, or device, so you can read the book throughout anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open up their official web-site in addition to order it. Have a nice learn.

Wendy Cort:

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