Hans Christian Andersen Award 2020

Deborah Ellis
Author Nominee
(IBBY Canada)
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Introduction

The best of children’s literature can help create a Day Before – a Day Before the order is given to toss chemicals in a river. A Day Before the order is given to massacre a village. A Day Before the order is given to manufacture a new batch of guns that will be used to shoot up a school, a church, a gay bar, a country music festival. A Day Before the order is given to move a child-abuser to a new county and new victims. A Day Before the order is given to bomb a school bus full of eight-year-olds returning home from a much-needed outing. We must have a Day Before! The best of children’s literature can remind us who we are when we are at our best. It can remind us we need not be afraid of differences, and that we have the power to create beauty out of pain.

-Excerpt from Deborah Ellis’s keynote at the 2018 IBBY Congress in Athens, Greece

No one in attendance at Deborah Ellis’s keynote address, “Before They Give the Order,” during the IBBY International Congress in Athens 2018 will soon forget these resounding words nor the extended and enthusiastic standing ovation she so deservedly received.

The Hans Christian Andersen Committee of IBBY Canada is honoured to introduce to the HCA 2020 jury an outstanding author and social justice advocate, and our nominee, Deborah Ellis.

Ellis is an author of exceptional talents, who has become known not only throughout Canada, but also in many other countries for her literature, peace activism, and philanthropy. She has travelled to many war-torn countries and visited with countless refugees. It was an interview with a refugee mother that inspired Ellis to write the first book in the Breadwinner series.

While perhaps best known for The Breadwinner (2000), Ellis first came to popularity and critical acclaim after her 1999 debut novel, Looking for X, won the Governor General’s Children’s Literature Award (2000). Set in a low-income Toronto housing project and featuring a protagonist struggling within a dysfunctional family, this novel brought Ellis to the attention of the Canadian children’s literature academic community and young readers, enabling her readers to better understand and empathize with the plight of impoverished and homeless individuals throughout the world.
Since *Looking for X* and *The Breadwinner*, Ellis has continued to raise awareness with such works as *The Heaven Shop* – an examination of HIV/AIDS among a family of orphans – *I Am a Taxi*, *Sacred Leaf*, and *Lunch with Lenin and Other Stories*, a collection of short stories about children whose lives have been affected by drugs.

Although her fiction is vastly popular, her nonfiction publications have also been very well received, becoming invaluable resources for educators and young readers. *Looks Like Daylight*, among a number of other collections of interviews with youth in various cultural and geographical contexts, highlights the lived experiences of Indigenous youth in North America.

*The Breadwinner* was recently released as a feature-length animated film (2017), receiving positive critical reviews. The movie was nominated for an Academy Award and a Golden Globe; it won Best Animated Feature at the Los Angeles Film Critics Association, the Annie Awards (presented by the International Animated Film Association), and Best Adapted Screenplay at the Canadian Screen Awards.

Ellis has received the Jane Addams Children’s Book Award, which is given to a book that advances the causes of peace and social equality, and has been honoured with the Order of Ontario and the Order of Canada.

It is not simply the number of works published and the number of accolades received that make Ellis such a deserving nominee, but her stances around politics and social movements continue to impress. She concluded her Congress keynote with a call-to-arms: “The more good books we can get to children, authored by more voices from every part of the earth, the better chance we all have of achieving that great Day Before.” It is because her literature and activism have paved so many paths to “achieving that great Day Before” that we at IBBY Canada are proud to nominate Deborah Ellis for the 2020 Hans Christian Andersen Award for Writing.

Robert Bittner, PhD

Lesley D. Clement, PhD

IBBY Canada, Regional Councillor West
Co-Chair, HCA Nomination Committee

IBBY Canada, Regional Councillor Ontario
Co-Chair, HCA Nomination Committee
Statement of Contribution

Submitted by Professor Jane M. Gangi

Deborah Ellis is a self-described social justice activist and feminist who writes in various genres, including contemporary realistic fiction, historical fiction, short stories, essays, and nonfiction. Her work has inspired children and adults around the world to empathize with victims of war, disease, land mines, and poverty, often raising money for the world’s most vulnerable. Ellis donates most of her royalties to organizations that benefit the young people about whom she writes. Her opus has won many awards, including the Jane Addams Book Award Special Commendation, the American Library Association’s Notable Books, the Canadian Library Association Book of the Year, USBBY Outstanding International Books selection, the Middle East Book Award, Sweden’s Peter Pan Prize, and she has been named to the Order of Canada.

Ellis’s first publicly recognized book was published in 1999, *Looking for X*, which won Canada’s Governor General’s Award for Children’s Literature. In this book, as in most of her books, Ellis begins with a question, in this case: What would be like to be the daughter of an ex-stripper? The protagonist, Khyber, has befriended a homeless woman who has gone missing, a pattern that follows in subsequent books—unlikely friendships characterized by caring for the most needy. Ellis also gives gentle wisdom to those of us who are searching: “That’s how it is with change. You leave one thing behind, and there’s something else to take its place.”

In the late 1990s, Ellis worked in a refugee camp in Pakistan for Afghans who were escaping the Taliban. Prior to September 11, 2001, Ellis, while recognized in Canada as an important writer, had not yet received recognition on the international stage. After the destruction of the World Trade Center, *The Breadwinner* (2000) flew off the shelves, helping young readers to understand Afghanistan, the Taliban, and terrorism. *Parvana’s Journey* (2002) and *Mud City* (2003) followed, making up The Breadwinner Trilogy, and *The Breadwinner* came out in a highly regarded animated film in 2017. In these books and the film Ellis asks the question: What is it like to grow up under the oppressive Taliban regime? Because the men and boys in the family are either dead, in jail, or conscripted in the Taliban army, women and girls, who usually live in bombed-out apartments, must fend for themselves. Because neither Parvana’s mother nor older sister can go outside unaccompanied by a man, feisty, eleven-year-old Parvana cuts off her hair and dresses as a boy to forage food for her family.
Once in the outside world, she meets her friend, Shauzia, who has done the same for her family. Through the girls’ eyes, Ellis records the tyranny of the Taliban, but also brings into focus the humanity of one member of the Taliban. One of Parvana’s many jobs is letter reader for the illiterate. On one occasion a Talib asks her to read a letter that was in his dead wife’s belongings. The loving letter is from her aunt on the occurrence of her wedding. Parvana witnesses his deeply felt grief for his wife, a deliberate choice on Ellis’s part; she believes numerous outside factors contributed to the development of the Taliban, many of whom grew up as orphans in refugee camps. The world pays when it neglect its children, as it neglected Afghanistan’s orphans during the 1980s.

In 2015, Ellis added to The Breadwinner Trilogy a fourth book, My Name Is Parvana, in which Parvana is now fifteen and suspected by American troops of terrorism; Ellis’s characters often find themselves in tight spots. The four books have sold 2.5 million copies and have been translated into twenty-five languages. Her primary publisher, Groundwood, in 2018 published The Breadwinner as a graphic novel based on the animated film. Ellis’s continuing concern for Afghanistan is further demonstrated in Kids of Kabul: Living Bravely through a Never-Ending War (2012).

Perhaps her most controversial book is Three Wishes: Palestinian and Israeli Children Speak (2004), a work of nonfiction in which Ellis interviewed both Jewish and Israeli young people. She introduces each interview with an essay. Boards of Education were asked to ban the book because it was thought the book might encourage children to emulate suicide bombers. Ellis responded with an op-ed in the Toronto Star, “If children are tough enough to be bombed and starved, they’re tough enough to read about it.”

Also, in 2002 she published a work of historical fiction, A Company of Fools, which asked what it would be like to grow up during the bubonic plague. Ellis is fascinated with children’s resilience and courage in all kinds of situations and, in this book, children form a theater troupe to cheer the dying. Another work of historical fiction is the elegant Jackal in the Garden: An Encounter with Bhizad (2006) in which the protagonist, Anubis, who is fighting for her life, forms a friendship with Bhizad. The conversations between the two are often philosophical. Although I read the book a decade ago, I still remember, “All we have is what can’t be lost in a shipwreck.” As is so often the case with Ellis’s books, she provides, without being didactic, guidance for readers trying to make their way in the world.

Following works took Ellis to several continents: Africa, South America, and Europe. After extended stays in Malawi and Zambia, she published both fiction and nonfiction on AIDS orphans and their kind-hearted grandmothers—The Heaven Shop (2004) and Our Stories, Our Songs: African Children Talk about AIDS (2005). In Bolivia, she learned how the North American drug trade affects Bolivian families

With Canadian writer Eric Walters, Ellis wrote *Bifocal* (2007), which explores what it was like to be Muslim in a Canadian high school post 9/11. Her tireless effort to understand the plight of the world’s most vulnerable has also resulted in *No Safe Place* (2010), a novel of a refugee from Baghdad who ends up in France’s “Jungle,” and is desperate to escape to England; *In from the Cold* (2010) on homelessness; *We Want You to Know* (2010) on bullying; *No Ordinary Day* (2011) about leprosy in India; and *Looks Like Daylight: Voices of Indigenous Kids* (2013). She has also written short stories, such as in *Lunch with Lenin* (2008), *Click* (2009) and *Sit* (2018).

When defending *Three Wishes*, PEN Canada wrote, “Often the very best literary work pokes light into dark places, and freedom of expression, inquiry and opinion is a cornerstone of our democratic society.” Deborah Ellis has put forth the best literary work for young people by poking light into dark places, thus helping to sustain democracies. Ellis is most deserving of the Hans Christian Andersen Award.

Sincerely,

Jane M. Gangi, PhD
Associate Professor, Division of Education
Member, Collaborative for Equity in Literacy Learning (CELL)
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Newburgh, NY 12550

*Genocide in Contemporary Childrens and Young Adult Literature: Cambodia to Darfur*
Biography of Deborah Ellis

With the publication of *The Breadwinner* in 2000, Deborah Ellis opened the eyes of publishers and writers in the West to the possibilities and need for honest, engaging and beautifully written stories about children in developing countries—countries at war, countries under duress where children do not have access to their basic rights. The international success of *The Breadwinner*, with publication in over twenty-five languages, provided further opportunities for many other writers, from both outside and inside these countries, to tell their own stories and introduce their books to audiences around the globe.

In the seventeen years since *The Breadwinner*, Deborah has continued to write books about marginalized children—from Bolivia to Malawi, India to Israel—including refugees, youth experiencing homelessness, and Indigenous children throughout North America and abroad. Her characters are not downtrodden and depressed. Despite their situations, her protagonists, particularly her female characters like Parvana, are spunky, unconventional, independent-minded, imaginative children full of spirit and humour, who will not be put down by their circumstances. Instead, they pursue their own goals, education, and adventures, living their lives to the fullest. Her stories do more than address social justice issues; they are award-winning literary achievements. Nobel Prize winner Malala Yousafzai has said in the *New York Times* that *The Breadwinner* is a book all girls should read.

Deborah’s commitment to promoting children’s rights and her own hopes for a more humane world go beyond the gift of her characters and stories. She has donated almost $2 million in royalties to organizations that include Women for Women in Afghanistan, Street Kids International, The Leprosy Mission, UNICEF, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, and the Children in Crisis Fund of IBBY. A gifted speaker, she has been to hundreds of schools, conferences, libraries, and churches in more than fifteen countries around the world and spoken to audiences of all ages. But Deborah does much more than just present her books. She talks about the need for all of us to engage with each other and to effect change in our own communities and beyond. Anyone who has seen her address audiences, young or old, can attest to her ability to inspire and educate in a way that is humble, moving, eloquent, and passionate.
In 2017 Deborah’s inspiring storytelling was brought to the big screen with the release of an animated feature film based on her novel, The Breadwinner. Featuring a cast of Afghan-Canadian voice actors, the film was praised by critics for its sophisticated portrayal of a brave young girl living in Afghanistan during a time of conflict and oppression. The film has been nominated for and won many prestigious awards, including an Academy Award nomination for Best Animated Feature.

Deborah makes the most cynical among us believe in the ability of humanity to change the world and the role of children and children’s books to effect that change. She believes that children are naturally courageous and that they have an infinite capacity for imagining a better world. That’s why she writes books for and about them.

Most Significant Titles

The Breadwinner
(Toronto: Groundwood, 2000)

Parvana’s Journey
(Toronto: Groundwood, 2002)

Mud City
(Toronto: Groundwood, 2003)

I Am a Taxi
(Toronto: Groundwood, 2006)

No Ordinary Day
(Toronto: Groundwood, 2011)

My Name is Parvana
(Toronto: Groundwood, 2012)

Kids of Kabul: Living Bravely Through a Never-Ending War
(Toronto: Groundwood, 2012)

Looks Like Daylight: Voices of Indigenous Kids
(Toronto: Groundwood, 2013)

Moon at Nine
(Toronto: Pajama Press, 2014)

The Cat at the Wall
(Toronto: Groundwood, 2014)
The Breadwinner (2000)

“The Taliban have decreed that women stay inside their homes, unless completely covered by a long, tentlike garment with a veil over the face. Girls can no longer go to school. Parvana's only relief is accompanying her father to the market where he works as a letter writer and sells family possessions. After he is arrested and taken away, Parvana becomes the breadwinner, dressing as a boy and taking over her father's job. One day, she recognizes a school friend, similarly disguised. The two team up to dig human bones to sell to make extra money, always fearful that their secret will be revealed and that they, too, will be imprisoned or worse. After Parvana's older sister, younger siblings, and mother leave for the north, Parvana learns that the town they went to has been taken over by the Taliban in a bloody battle. There seems to be no hope, until, unaccountably, her father appears, released from prison, and they decide to leave Kabul in search of the rest of their family. The author's sympathy with the women of Afghanistan is evident; her outrage at their treatment makes the single moment when Parvana sees a Talib as human, with feelings, stand out. The girl's courage and wit are admirable; she comes alive as a character…” — School Library Journal

“All girls [should read] The Breadwinner, by Deborah Ellis. The book tells the story of a young girl who takes on the challenge of saving her family. I think it’s important for girls everywhere to learn how women are treated in some societies. But even though Parvana is treated as lesser than boys and men, she never feels that way. She believes in herself and is stronger to fight against hunger, fear and war. Girls like her are an inspiration. The Breadwinner reminds us how courageous and strong women are around the world.” — Malala Yousafzai, New York Times (2014)

Awards and Accolades

2004: Young Jury Awards (Netherlands) nominee
2003: Ontario Library Association Golden Oak Award nominee
2003: Hackmatack Children’s Choice Book Award selection
2003: Rebecca Caudill Young Reader’s Award
2003: Rocky Mountain Book Award shortlist
2003: Sweden’s Peter Pan Prize winner
2003: SYRCA Diamond Willow Award nominee
2003: YALSA Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults selection
2002: Middle East Book Award winner
2002: Baia delle Favole Prize for ages 9-12 winner
2001: Ontario Library Association Red Maple Award nominee
Translations and Foreign Rights

Albanian Botimet Dritan: Tirana, Albania, 2009
Arabic Kalimat Group: Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 2015
Basque Ibaizabal argitaletxea: Amorebieta-Etxano, Spain, 2003
Catalan Baula (Edelvives): Barcelona, Spain, 2004
Chinese (Complex) Eastern Publishing: Beijing, China, 2003
Chinese (Simplified) Beijing Double Spiral Culture & Exchange Company, Ltd: Beijing, China, 2014
Croatian Znanje: Zagreb, Croatia, 2002
Cyrillic Ghadyani: Tehran, Iran, 2011
Danish Gyldendal: Copenhagen, Denmark, 2001
Dutch Piramide: Amsterdam, Netherlands, 2001
English Oxford University Press: Oxford, United Kingdom, 2001
English Allen & Unwin: Crows Nest, Australia, 2002
Farsi Ghadyani: Tehran, Iran, 2011
German Jungbrunnen Verlag: Vienna, Austria, 2001
Greek Patakis Publishers: Athens, Greece, 2001
Hebrew Shocken Publishing: Tel Aviv, Israel, 2004
Indonesian Kepustakaan Populer Gramedia: Jakarta, Indonesia, 2011
Italian R.C.S. Libri: Milan, Italy, 2001
Japanese Saela Shobo: Tokyo, Japan, 2002
Korean Namu Books: Seoul, South Korea, 2004
Marathi Mehta Publishing House: Maharashtra, India 2002
Portuguese Editora Atica: São Paulo, Brazil 2002
Spanish Edelvives: Madrid, Spain, 2001
Spanish Ediciones Castillo: Mexico City, Mexico, 2004
Turkish Citlembik Publications: Istanbul, Turkey, 2004
Welsh Dref Wen: Cardiff, Wales, 2009
Parvana’s Journey (2002)

★ “This sequel to The Breadwinner 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 cage, 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.” —School Library Journal

★ “What I found most arresting about the novel was Ellis’s depiction of children in adversity. Parvana and the other characters endure such hardships and traumas that it seems madness and brutality must be the only result. Ellis, a counsellor in a Toronto group home, has travelled to Afghan refugee camps and interviewed women there—apparently the inspiration for the Parvana stories—and her experiences have obviously informed her portrait of children immersed in suffering. In Parvana’s Journey, their resilience is nothing short of amazing and heartbreaking. They get on with things. They forage. They plan. They cook and clean and care for malnourished babies. They tidy up and make their squalid living conditions better. They are the personification of pragmatism and compassion. But not always—and this, too, I admired about the book. Ellis is not afraid to show her characters’ moments of selfishness and cruelty. Asif is needlessly insulting (as all children can be), and Parvana herself gets tired of caring for the baby, of its crying and stinking diapers…. This is a book that will open children’s perspectives to the larger world—a glimpse that will almost certainly make readers grateful for what they have. But that’s a window that can just as quickly be shut and forgotten, with a grateful shudder. Ellis, in focusing on the personal struggle of her young character, leaves readers with a lasting impression of another life and culture where—despite desperate hardship—compassion and courage can still prevail.” —Quill & Quire
### Awards and Accolades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Award/Recognition</th>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
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<td>2004</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Young Jury Awards (Netherlands) nominee</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Jane Addams Children’s Book Award winner</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children’s Book Award winner</td>
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<td>2003</td>
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<td>2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Governor General’s Award for Children’s Literature (Text) finalist</td>
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###Translations and Foreign Rights

- **Albanian**: Botimet Dritan: Tirana, Albania, 2009
- **Catalan**: Baula (Edelvives): Barcelona, Spain, 2004
- **Chinese (Complex)**: Eastern Publishing: Beijing, China, 2004
- **Chinese (Simplified)**: Beijing Double Spiral Culture & Exchange Company, Ltd: Beijing, China, 2015
- **Cyrillic**: Ghadyani: Tehran, Iran, 2011
- **Danish**: Gyldendal: Copenhagen, Denmark, 2002
- **English**: Allen & Unwin: Crows Nest, Australia, 2002
- **English**: Oxford University Press: Oxford, United Kingdom, 2002
- **Farsi**: Ghadyani: Tehran, Iran, 2011
- **French**: Hachette Jeunesse: Paris, France, 2002
- **German**: Cbj Verlag: Munich, Germany, 2005
- **German**: Jungbrunnen Verlag: Vienna, Austria, 2002
- **Greek**: Patakis Publishers: Athens, Greece, 2003
- **Hebrew**: Shocken Publishing: Tel Aviv, Israel, 2004
- **Indonesian**: Kepustakaan Populer Gramedia: Jakarta, Indonesia 2011
- **Italian**: R.C.S. Libri: Milan, Italy, 2002
- **Japanese**: Saela Shobo: Tokyo, Japan, 2002
- **Korean**: Namu Books: Seoul, South Korea, 2004
- **Marathi**: Mehta Publishing House: Maharashtra, India, 2009
- **Portuguese**: Editora Atica: São Paulo, Brazil, 2004
- **Spanish**: Edelvives: Madrid, Spain, 2003
- **Spanish**: Ediciones Castillo: Mexico City, Mexico, 2009
- **Swedish**: Bonnier Carlsen: Stockholm, Sweden, 2003
No Ordinary Day (2011)

“Valli, an orphan living in Jharia, India, spends her days picking up coal, fighting with cousins, and avoiding the ‘monsters’ (lepers, actually) who live on the other side of the tracks. When she learns her family are not true blood relatives, she runs away to Kolkata, where she survives by ‘borrowing’ what she needs, using it for a while, and then passing it on to someone else. Finally, she meets Dr. Indra, who recognizes that Valli, too, suffers from leprosy, and helps the child to secure treatment and hope for a better future. What keeps this story from becoming maudlin is Valli’s positive outlook. Quick, intelligent, and fearless, she isn’t above begging to ensure her survival, but rarely does she play the victim card. Details about leprosy (causes, symptoms, treatment, prognosis) are carefully woven into the story but never feel forced or didactic. While Valli’s situation will seem alien to most young North Americans, this compelling and accessible novel will enlighten, spark discussion, and prompt readers to try other Ellis titles, in particular The Breadwinner trilogy.” —Booklist

“How does a homeless child survive Kolkata’s mean streets? For orphaned Valli, who may be nine (she herself doesn’t know), it’s by ‘borrowing’ items like the hotel blanket she passes on to an even needier mother and children; it’s incorporating poetry scavenged from discarded books into her begging routine, being wary of strangers, and living by her wits and in the moment. Having discovered that her ‘aunt’ wasn’t really kin, Valli escaped to Kolkata on a coal truck, only to have its crew deliver her to what older readers will understand is a brothel. Thrown out because of her telltale symptoms of leprosy, Valli is on her own for months before she encounters a better kind of stranger: Dr. Indra, who—having noticed Valli’s numb, wounded feet—lures her, with masterful tact, to a hospital for lepers. Terrified of these ‘monsters,’ Valli bolts, but eventually returns for the promised cure and with hopes for the future. Ellis writes with great skill, folding character, attitudes, and other vital information into Valli’s desperately simple narrative, depicting the survival skills of India’s poorest with notable insight and compassion.” —Horn Book
Awards and Accolades

2013: Ontario Library Association Golden Oak Award nominee
2012: TD Canadian Children’s Literature Award longlist
2012: South Asian Book Award Honor Book
2012: Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Young Adult/Middle Reader Book Award finalist
2012: Cooperative Children’s Book Center Choices, Best of the Year list
2012: Booklist Editors’ Choice: Books for Youth winner
2012: ALA Notable Children’s Books List
2011: Governor General’s Award for Children’s Literature (Text) shortlist

Translations and Foreign Rights

English         Allen & Unwin: Crows Nest, Australia, 2012
Korean          Sanha Publishing Co: Seoul, South Korea, 2013
Marathi         Mehta Publishing House: Maharashtra, India, 2015
Spanish         Ediciones Castillo: Mexico City, Mexico, 2012
Looks Like Daylight (2013)

★ “Ellis has interviewed 45 young Native people, aged 9 to 18, and the resulting selections often touch on universal problems for Native youth—suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, poverty, broken families, grief. But the voices also speak about opportunities and accomplishments. Many of these young people are leaders in community centers, and one is an actress. Another is a gifted musician, and still another is a mechanical and software engineer. It’s clear, though, that almost all have had to overcome significant societal and cultural challenges. The history of Native and indigenous peoples is one of exploitation, abuse, forced acculturation, and violence. It’s heartening that so many of these young people are positive about their lives, no matter how troubled, and about their futures. ‘We’re going to keep moving forward,’ one boy affirms. Ellis’ book is an excellent opportunity for classroom discussion and individual, empathy-inducing reading.” — Booklist

“In distilled interviews, 45 young Native Americans express hope, resilience, optimism—and, rarely, anger—amid frank accounts of families plagued by drug, alcohol and sexual abuse, as well as murder, suicide, extreme poverty, and widespread discrimination, both public and private…. Many are foster children; several suffer from or have siblings with spectrum disorders and other disabilities; nearly all describe tragic personal or family histories. Moreover, the narratives are shot through with evidence of vicious racial prejudice—not just in the distant past: ‘My mother works with residential school survivors,’ tellingly notes Cohen, a Haida teen. Even the youngest, however, display firm tribal identities and knowledge of their collective history and heritage. Also, along with describing typical activities and concerns of modern day-to-day living, these young people embrace their distinctive cultural practices and almost without exception, express a buoyant attitude. As gay Chippewa 16-year-old Zack puts it, ‘They tried really hard to kill us all off, and we’re still here!’—a welcome and necessary reminder to all.” — Kirkus

Awards and Accolades

2015: Ontario Library Association Red Maple Award shortlist
2014: Cooperative Children’s Book Center Choices, commended
2014: Norma Fleck Award for Canadian Children’s Non-Fiction shortlist
2014: International Reading Association Notable Books for a Global Society
2014: Social Justice Literature Award winner
2013: Aesop Prize winner
Moon at Nine (2014)

“In 1988 Iran, wealthy fifteen-year-old Farrin avoids anything that could draw attention to her family; she knows her mother’s anti-Ayatollah political gatherings could bring trouble. However, Farrin’s burgeoning friendship and then romance with new girl Sadira leads her to become more inquisitive and involved in the world around her, and eventually leads to the couple’s discovery and persecution. Ellis skillfully introduces readers to the social and political backdrop, showing in troubling detail how fear, suspicion, and historical animosities fragment Farrin’s world and limit her freedom…the social struggle element is more hard-hitting [than those in Farizan’s recent If You Could Be Mine (rev. 11/13)] with a harrowing climax and a realistically bleak ending (both of which may also be a function of this title’s earlier setting). Secondary characters provide fascinating windows into other perspectives and call attention to Iran’s heterogeneity, creating a multidimensional portrait of corruption and cruelty, resistance and compassion. Set in the final days of the Iran-Iraq war and based on a true story, this novel sheds light on an important chapter in history and the people who experienced it firsthand.” — The Horn Book

“Fifteen-year-old Farrin lives with secrets. It is 1988, and Farrin’s wealthy parents are conspiring to install the Shah’s son to the throne. That is their secret; hers is even more dangerous. She is in love with Sadira, the new girl in school, who returns her feelings even though homosexuality is regarded as a crime punishable by death in Iran. When the Revolutionary Guard discovers them together, the girls are taken to prison and threatened with execution. How can they possibly survive?…it is inarguably powerful, and readers will identify with the two star-crossed girls who are victims of what seems to be an inhumane government.” — Booklist

Translations and Foreign Rights

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<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<td>Saela Shobo</td>
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Awards and Accolades

2016: Manitoba Young Readers’ Choice Award nominee
2016: Stellar Award (BC Teen Readers’ Choice Award) nominee
2015: Ruth & Sylvia Schwartz Children’s Book Award nominee
2015: Amelia Bloomer Project List – Young Adult Fiction selection
2015: Bank Street College of Education’s Best Children’s Books of the Year
2015: Cooperative Children’s Book Center Choices
2015: Canadian Library Association Young Adult Book Award shortlist
2015: Saskatchewan Young Readers’ Choice Snow Willow Award nominee
2014: Quill & Quire Kidlit Books of the Year
2014: Ontario Library Association Best Bets (Fiction Reading for Young Adults)
2014: Canadian Children’s Book Centre Best Books for Kids & Teens, starred selection
Profile of Deborah Ellis


In the last entry in Deborah Ellis’s new short-story collection Sit, one of her protagonists — a scrawny daydreamer named Jafar stuck labouring in an Indonesian chair factory — realizes in a moment of silent triumph that stories “come from every country, every group of people, from people who are very, very rich and from people who work very hard for everything they get.”

That sure would be an eloquent mission statement for Ellis herself, the decorated Canadian author who has built a bibliography based on careful cultural empathy and deeply researched explorations into the experiences of those whose voices are otherwise rarely broadcast.

Next Friday, her beloved 2000 children’s novel The Breadwinner will splash across cinema screens in a new animated form and perhaps 17 years ago it would have been hard to imagine a children’s novel about an 11-year-old girl in war-ravaged Afghanistan ever receiving a literal Hollywood ending.

Certainly, Ellis herself couldn’t have imagined marching across a TIFF stage or mingling with Angelina Jolie (an executive producer on the film who, for the record, Ellis found “very gracious”).

Well, if Ellis is as surprised as anyone by the enduring popularity of The Breadwinner, the Governor General’s Award-winning author does have a theory as to why the tale continues to captivate.

“I think it’s just all about courage, right?” she said. “We all look for courage in our own lives. We look for examples of it wherever we can find them because we think if we can learn from other people’s courage, that will help us to have courage ourselves. The Breadwinner is all about courage.”

If there’s something motivating about the courage of others, Ellis is as inspiring figure in her own right.

The Paris, Ont.-raised writer first became involved in anti-war activism as a 17-year-old driven to despair by the hovering threat of nuclear conflict. In 1996, she was so moved reading about the brutality being
inflicted on women and girls during the Taliban’s occupation of Afghanistan that she journeyed to refugee camps in Pakistan to spend months meeting with Afghan women and documenting their stories. There she met a young girl who had chopped off her hair so she could identify as a boy and earn money for her family, who of course inspired *The Breadwinner*.

Since then, Ellis has travelled tirelessly to parts of the world many in the West would rather ignore to find stories that otherwise weren’t being told, even as doing so required that she immerse herself in some of the world’s most unstable and fraught environments.

For *Three Wishes: Palestinian and Israeli Children Speak*, she visited camps and occupied territories in the Middle East at a time when tension felt particularly high. One of the stories in *Sit* was inspired by her more recent exploration of Japan’s Fukushima Exclusion Zone, the evacuated site of the world’s second-largest nuclear accident. To research *The Heaven Shop*, she spent time in Malawi, where she was robbed and chased.

She’s been threatened with death in camps and menaced by Taliban loyalists who claimed to be following her every move.

Though Ellis continues her work in such persistently precarious situations, she does so knowing her safety is at risk.

“I do get scared,” she said. “I think if I had children that would be a different ball game, but I don’t. And I’m a woman, so I get welcomed to the world of women and children, which is pretty much the same world everywhere.”

Perhaps it’s conversations such as those that have imbued Ellis with such respect for the wisdom of children. That faith in the capacity of kids manifests both in the resourceful and tenacious young characters who populate her books, as well as more broadly her trust that young readers are sufficiently mature to absorb complex stories of struggle and suffering told without condescension.

“It just seemed that if we’re doing these things to children, then that stuff should be reflected in their literature,” she said. “And if we’re too ashamed to put it in their literature, we shouldn’t be doing it.”

(Ellis’s publisher at Groundwood Books, Sheila Barry, died on Tuesday of cancer. She championed Ellis’s writing, including *The Breadwinner*, telling Quill and Quire in 2015 that it was still “a very relevant book. And children love it.”)
When Ellis wrote *The Breadwinner*, she dedicated the royalties of the book to charity because, she reasoned, “it made absolutely no sense for me to go over there and meet people and collect their stories and take money for it.” She figured at the time that the $3,000 advance she had been given was a “lot of money,” far more than she ever would have been able to raise through fundraising.

Well, Ellis has become quite the altruistic breadwinner indeed; that trilogy has now raised close to $2 million for Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan. She’s been similarly generous with royalties from her other books: *No Ordinary Day* benefited the Leprosy Mission Canada; *Children of War: Voices of Iraqi Refugees* raised money for the Children in Crisis Fund of the International Board on Books for Young People; *Mud City* helped Street Kids International; and *Looks Like Daylight* boosted the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada.

Ellis has seen progress along the way, but catastrophe too; one Afghan women’s centre funded by Ellis’s contributions was destroyed by a bombing. And after a lifetime of anti-war activism, Ellis is of course troubled by a collective attitude toward war — and especially nuclear warfare — that she sees as increasingly cavalier.

Asked, however, if she ever succumbs to a feeling of hopelessness about the world, Ellis is emphatic.

“I’ve met with people all over the world who have many more reasons to be hopeless than I do, and they still get up every morning and try to make things better for their families and communities. So for someone like me, who has lived a fairly blessed life, to be hopeless; it’s an affectation. It’s an indulgence. Shame on me if I go there. That’s one thing,” she began.

“The other thing is, you think, ‘People are going to be hungry, so why bother to feed them?’ Well, every time they get a meal they’re a little stronger. If they’re hungry tomorrow, at least they ate today. Same thing with Afghanistan. Schools get bombed and they get rebuilt and they get bombed again. But in that interim, kids have had some exposure to education and some exposure to the incredible power of their own minds. They have a sense of what they’re capable of doing.

“They can think. ‘We’ve done this once, it was taken from us, let’s build it up again.’ You have to come to terms with the fact that things often don’t last. The things don’t last, but the qualities that people get from them? They can last.”
Complete (Children’s and YA) Bibliography

Fiction

The Breadwinner Series
2018  *The Breadwinner: A Graphic Novel* (Groundwood Books: Toronto)
2012  *My Name Is Parvana* (Groundwood Books: Toronto)
2009  *The Breadwinner Trilogy* (Groundwood Books: Toronto)
2003  *Mud City* (Groundwood Books: Toronto)
2002  *Parvana’s Journey* (Groundwood Books: Toronto)
2000  *The Breadwinner* (Groundwood Books: Toronto)

The Cocalero Novels
2007  *Sacred Leaf* (Groundwood Books: Toronto)
2006  *I Am a Taxi* (Groundwood Books: Toronto)

Our Canadian Girl
2007  *Our Canadian Girl / Keeley #4: Keeley’s Journey* (Penguin Canada: Toronto)
2006  *Our Canadian Girl / Keeley #3: Keeley and the Mountain* (Penguin Canada: Toronto)
2005  *Our Canadian Girl / Keeley #2: Keeley’s Big Story* (Penguin Canada: Toronto)
2004  *Our Canadian Girl / Keeley #1: The Girl from Turtle Mountain* (Penguin Canada: Toronto)

Fiction (Single Novels)
2017  *Sit* (Groundwood Books: Toronto)
2014  *The Cat at the Wall* (Groundwood Books: Toronto)
2014  *Moon at Nine* (Pajama Press: Toronto)
2011  *True Blue* (Pajama Press: Toronto)
2011  *No Ordinary Day* (Groundwood Books: Toronto)
2010  *No Safe Place* (Groundwood Books: Toronto)
2008  *Lunch with Lenin and Other Stories* (Fitzhenry & Whiteside: Markham, ON)
2007  *Bifocal* [with Eric Walters] (Fitzhenry & Whiteside: Markham, ON)
2004  *The Heaven Shop* (Fitzhenry & Whiteside: Markham, ON)
2002  *A Company of Fools* (Fitzhenry & Whiteside: Markham, ON)
1999  *Looking for X* (Groundwood Books: Toronto)
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<td><em>Our Stories, Our Songs: African Children Talk about AIDS</em></td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td><em>Three Wishes: Palestinian and Israeli Children Speak</em></td>
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Complete Awards & Accolades

Fiction

The Breadwinner Series

The Breadwinner (Groundwood Books, 2000)
2004: Young Jury Awards (Netherlands) nominee
2003: Ontario Library Association Golden Oak Award nominee
2003: Hackmatack Children’s Choice Book Award nominee
2003: Rebecca Caudill Young Reader’s Award selection
2003: Rocky Mountain Book Award shortlist
2003: Peter Pan Prize winner
2003: SYRCA Diamond Willow Award nominee
2003: YALSA Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults selection
2002: Middle East Book Award winner
2001: Ontario Library Association Red Maple Award nominee

Parvana’s Journey (Groundwood Books, 2002)
2004: Red Cedar Book Award (B.C.’s Young Readers’ Choice Award) winner
2004: Ontario Library Association Golden Oak Award winner
2004: 2005 Garden State Teen Book Awards (NJLA) nominee
2004: Manitoba Young Readers Choice Award honour book
2004: Young Jury Awards (Netherlands) nominee
2003: Jane Addams Children’s Book Award winner
2003: Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children’s Book Award winner
2003: Canadian Library Association Book of the Year Honour Book
2003: Ontario Library Association White Pine Award nominee
2003: YALSA Best Books for Young Adults selection
2002: Governor General’s Award for Children’s Literature (Text) finalist

Mud City (Groundwood Books, 2003)
2005: Hackmatack Children’s Choice Book Award winner
2005: Ontario Library Association Red Cedar Book Award nominee
2004: New York Public Library Books for the Teen Age
2004: Canadian Children’s Book Centre Our Choice 2004 selection
2004: Cooperative Children’s Book Center Choices selection
2004: Ruth Schwartz Children’s Book Award shortlist

The Breadwinner Trilogy (Groundwood Books, 2004)
2004: Jane Addams Children’s Book Award – special commendation
My Name Is Parvana (Groundwood Books, 2012)
2013/2014: Red Cedar Fiction Award (B.C.’s Young Readers’ Choice Award) nominee
2013: IODE Violet Downey Book Award finalist
2013: Manitoba Young Readers’ Choice Award shortlist
2013: USBBY Outstanding International Books List
2013: Bank Street Center for Children’s Literature Book of the Month
2013: Capitol Choices Noteworthy Titles for Children and Teens

The Cocalero Novels

I Am a Taxi (Groundwood Books, 2006)
2008: Alberta Children’s Choice Award shortlist
2007: Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children’s Book Award winner
2007: Saskatchewan Young Readers’ Choice Snow Willow Award nominee
2007: Canadian Children’s Book Centre Our Choices selection
2007: Canadian Library Association Book of the Year for Children Award – commended
2007: Cooperative Children’s Book Center Choice selection
2007: The Society of School Librarians International Honor Book
2007: White Ravens Outstanding New International Books for Children and Young Adults – commended

Sacred Leaf (Groundwood Books, 2007)
2008: USBBY Outstanding International Books
2008: Cooperative Children’s Book Center Choice selection
2008: Horace Mann Upstanders Book Award – commended
2008: Canadian Children’s Book Centre Best Books for Kids & Teens selection
2008: Americas Award Commended List
2007: Canadian Library Association Book of the Year for Children Award longlist
2007: National Post’s Top New Books
2007: Quill & Quire Books of the Year List

Other Fiction

Sit (Groundwood Books, 2017)
2019: Manitoba Young Readers’ Choice Award
2018: Ruth & Sylvia Schwartz Children’s Book Award nominee

The Cat at the Wall (Groundwood Books, 2014)
2016: Ontario Library Association Red Maple Award shortlist
2015: Bank Street College of Education’s Best Children’s Books of the Year
2015: Cooperative Children’s Book Center Choices
2014: Ontario Library Association Best Bets (Junior Fiction, Honourable Mention)

Moon at Nine (Pajama Press, 2014)
2016: Manitoba Young Readers’ Choice Award nominee
2015-2016: Stellar Award (BC Teen Readers’ Choice Award) nominee
2015: Ruth & Sylvia Schwartz Children’s Book Award nominee
2015: Amelia Bloomer Project List – Young Adult Fiction nominee
2015: Bank Street College of Education’s Best Children’s Books of the Year
2015: Cooperative Children’s Book Center Choices
2015: Canadian Library Association Young Adult Book Award shortlist
2015: Saskatchewan Young Readers’ Choice Snow Willow Award nominee
2014: Quill & Quire Kidlit Books of the Year
2014: Ontario Library Association Best Bets (Fiction Reading for Young Adults)
2014: Canadian Children’s Book Centre Best Books for Kids & Teens, starred selection

*True Blue* (Pajama Press, 2011)
2013: Bank Street Best Book
2012: Hamilton Literary Awards winner
2012: Manitoba Young Readers’ Choice Award nominee
2012: John Spray Mystery Award nominee
2012: OLA Best Bets honourable mention

*No Ordinary Day* (Groundwood Books, 2011)
2013: Ontario Library Association Golden Oak Award nominee
2012: TD Canadian Children’s Literature Award longlist
2012: South Asian Book Award Honor Book
2012: Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Young Adult/Middle Reader Book Award finalist
2012: Cooperative Children’s Book Center Choices, Best of the Year list
2012: Booklist Editors’ Choice: Books for Youth winner
2012: ALA Notable Children’s Books List
2011: Governor General’s Award for Children’s Literature (Text) shortlist

*No Safe Place* (Groundwood Books, 2010)
2011: Saskatchewan Young Readers’ Choice Snow Willow Award shortlist
2011: Canadian Children’s Book Centre Best Books for Kids & Teens, commended
2010: Ontario Library Association Best Bets (Fiction Reading for Young Adults)
2010: Resource Links’ Year’s Best list

*Lunch with Lenin and Other Stories* (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2008)
2009: Cooperative Children’s Book Center, Best of the Year list
2008: Resources Links Year’s Best list

*Bifocal* (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2007)
2008: White Ravens’ Outstanding New International Books for Children and Young Adults
2008: Saskatchewan Young Readers’ Choice Snow Willow Award nominee
2008: Canadian Children’s Book Centre’s Best Books for Kids & Teens
2007: Foreword Magazine’s Book of the Year Awards, Bronze Medal Winner (YA Fiction Category)

*Jakeman* (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2007)
2008-2009: Hackmatack Children’s Choice Book Award nominee
2008: Diamond Willow Award nominee
2008: Canadian Library Association Book of the Year for Children Award shortlist
2007: Silver Birch Fiction shortlist
2007: VOYA’s Top Shelf Fiction for Middle School Readers list

The Heaven Shop (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2004)
2006: Alberta Children’s Choice Book Award shortlist
2006: Manitoba Young Readers’ Choice Award shortlist
2005: Ontario Library Association Golden Oak Award nominee
2005: Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children’s Book Award final list
2005: Children’s Africana Book Award honor book
2005: Jane Addams Honor Book for Older Readers
2004: Foreword Magazine Book of the Year Award shortlist

A Company of Fools (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2002)
2004: Manitoba Young Readers’ Choice Award nominee
2004: Rocky Mountain Book Award nominee
2003: Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction honour book
2003: Ruth Schwartz Award finalist
2003: Canadian Library Association Young Adult Book of the Year nominee

Looking for X (Groundwood Books, 1999)
2000: Governor General’s Award for Children’s Literature (Text) winner
2000: Ontario Library Association Silver Birch Award nominee

Non-Fiction

Looks Like Daylight: Voices of Indigenous Kids (Groundwood Books, 2013)
2015: Ontario Library Association Red Maple Award shortlist
2014: Cooperative Children’s Book Center Choices, commended
2014: Norma Fleck Award for Canadian Children’s Non-Fiction shortlist
2014: International Reading Association Notable Books for a Global Society
2014: Social Justice Literature Award winner
2013: Aesop Prize winner

Kids of Kabul: Living Bravely Through a Never-Ending War (Groundwood Books, 2012)
2013: Norma Fleck Award for Canadian Children’s Non-Fiction winner
2013: TD Canadian Children’s Literature Award finalist
2013: South Asia Book Award (joint winner)
2013: USBBY Outstanding International Books List
2013: International Reading Association Notable Books for a Global Society

Children of War: Voices of Iraqi Refugees (Groundwood Books, 2009)
2010: Ontario Library Association Silver Birch Non-Fiction Award nominee
2010: USBBY Outstanding International Books List
**Off to War: Voices of Soldiers’ Children** (Groundwood Books, 2008)
   2009: Society of School Librarians International Honor Book
   2008: Library Media Connection Editor’s Choice Awards – Social Studies

**Our Stories, Our Songs: African Children Talk about AIDS** (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2005)
   2006: ALA Notable Children’s Books
   2006: School Library Journal Best Books
   2005: Book Links Best New Books for the Classroom

**Three Wishes: Palestinian and Israeli Children Speak** (Groundwood Books, 2004)
   2007: Rocky Mountain Book Award shortlist
   2006: Ontario Library Association Silver Birch Award nominee
   2006: Stellar Award ((BC Teen Readers’ Choice Award) longlist
   2005: Canadian Children’s Book Centre Our Choice Starred Selection
   2005: Cooperative Children’s Book Center Choices Best of the Year List
   2005: Pennsylvania School Librarians Association YA Top Forty (or so) List
Foreign Rights & Translations

Deborah Ellis’s books have been published in twenty-five languages, including Albanian, Arabic, Basque, Catalan, Chinese (complex), Chinese (simplified), Croatian, Cyrillic, Danish, Farsi, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Marathi, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, and Welsh. Her works are also available in English in Australia, New Zealand, the UK, and the US.

**Series**

**The Breadwinner**

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<th>Language</th>
<th>Title/Translation</th>
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<td>Catalan</td>
<td>El pan de la guerra</td>
<td>Baula (Edelvives), Barcelona, Spain</td>
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<td>Chinese (complex)</td>
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<td>Eastern Publishing, Beijing, China</td>
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<td>Dutch</td>
<td>Sluier over Kabul</td>
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<td>Oxford University Press, Oxford, United Kingdom</td>
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<td>Farsi</td>
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French  Parvana: une enfance en Afghanistan
2000: Hachette Jeunesse, Paris, France

German  Die Sonne im Gesicht
2001: Jungbrunnen Verlag, Vienna, Austria

Greek  Title in Greek script
2001: Patakis Publishers, Athens, Greece

Hebrew  Title in Hebrew script
2004: Shocken Publishing, Tel Aviv, Israel

Indonesian  Parvana I Sang Pencari Nafkah
2011: Kepustakaan Populer Gramedia, Jakarta, Indonesia

Italian  Sotto il burqua
2001: R.C.S. Libri, Milan, Italy

Japanese  Title in Japanese script
2002: Saela Shobo, Tokyo, Japan

Korean  Title in Korean script
2004: Namu Books, Seoul, South Korea

Marathi  Title in Marathi
2002: Mehta Publishing House, Maharashtra, India

Portuguese  A Outra Face: Histórica de uma garota afegã
2002: Editora Atica, São Paulo, Brazil

Spanish  El pan de la guerra
2001: Edelvives, Madrid, Spain

Spanish  El pan de la guerra
2004: Ediciones Castillo, Mexico City, Mexico

Turkish  Kabil Sokaklarinda Bir Kiz: Parvana
2004: Citlembik Publications, Istanbul, Turkey

Welsh  Penteulu
2009: Dref Wen, Cardiff, Wales

Parvana’s Journey

Albanian  Udhëtimi I Parvanës
2009: Botimet Dritan, Tirana, Albania

Catalan  El viatge de le Parvana
2004: Baula (Edelvives), Barcelona, Spain

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<td>2002</td>
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<td>Oxford University Press, Oxford, United Kingdom</td>
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<td><em>Le voyage de Parvana</em></td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Hachette Jeunesse, Paris, France</td>
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<td><em>Im Herzen die Angst</em></td>
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<td><em>Parvana 2 Lembah Hijau</em></td>
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<td>Mehta Publishing House, Maharashtra, India</td>
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<td><em>A viegem de Parvana: Mais histórias de uma garota afegã</em></td>
<td>2004</td>
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**Mud City**

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<td>Cyrillic</td>
<td>Title in Cyrillic script</td>
<td>Ghadyani, Tehran, Iran</td>
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<tr>
<td>Danish</td>
<td><em>Byen af ler</em></td>
<td>Gyldendal, Copenhagen, Denmark</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td><em>Shauzia</em></td>
<td>Allen &amp; Unwin, Crows Nest, Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farsi</td>
<td>Title in Farsi script</td>
<td>Ghadyani, Tehran, Iran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td><em>On se reverra, Parvana</em></td>
<td>Hachette Jeunesse, Paris, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td><em>Am Meer wird es kühl sein</em></td>
<td>Jungbrunnen Verlag, Vienna, Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>Title in Greek script</td>
<td>Patakis Publishers, Athens, Greece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesian</td>
<td><em>Parvana 3 Kota Lumpur</em></td>
<td>Kepustakaan Populer Gramedia, Jakarta, Indonesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td><em>Città di fango</em></td>
<td>R.C.S. Libri, Milan, Italy</td>
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<td>Japanese</td>
<td>Title in Japanese script</td>
<td>Saela Shobo, Tokyo, Japan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>Title in Korean script</td>
<td>Namu Books, Seoul, South Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td><em>Ciudad de barro</em></td>
<td>Edelvives, Madrid, Spain</td>
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### Swedish
- *Ler-lägret*
  - 2004: BonnierCarlsen, Stockholm, Sweden

### The Breadwinner Trilogy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cyrillic</td>
<td><em>The Breadwinner Collection</em></td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Oxford University Press, Oxford, United Kingdom</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td><em>The Breadwinner Trilogy</em></td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Jungbrunnen Verlag, Vienna, Austria</td>
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<td>Farsi</td>
<td><em>Afghanistan-Trilogie: Die Sonne im Gesicht, Allein nach Mazar-e Sharif, Am Meer wird es kühl sein</em></td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Ghadyani, Tehran, Iran</td>
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<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td><em>Ich heisse Parvana</em></td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Jungbrunnen Verlag, Vienna, Austria</td>
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</tbody>
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### My Name Is Parvana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Arabic</td>
<td><em>My Name Is Parvana</em></td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>R.C.S. Libri, Milan, Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese (simplified)</td>
<td><em>Parvana’s Promise</em></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Allen &amp; Unwin, Crows Nest, Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td><em>My Name Is Parvana</em></td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Oxford University Press, Oxford, United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td><em>My Name Is Parvana</em></td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Hachette India, Haryana, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td><em>Je m’appelle Parvana</em></td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Hachette Jeunesse, Paris, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td><em>Ich heisse Parvana</em></td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Jungbrunnen Verlag, Vienna, Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td><em>Il mio nome è Parvana</em></td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>R.C.S. Libri, Milan, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td><em>Parvana’s Promise</em></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Japan UNI, Tokyo, Japan</td>
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</table>
Spanish  Mi nombre es Parvana  
2013: Edelvives, Madrid, Spain

Spanish  Me llamo Parvana  
2013: Ediciones Castillo, Mexico City, Mexico

**The Breadwinner: A Graphic Novel**

English  Parvana: A Graphic Novel  
2018: Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, Australia

English  The Breadwinner: A Graphic Novel  
2018: Oxford University Press, Oxford, United Kingdom

French  Parvana: Une enfance en Afghanistan, la bande dessinée  
2018: Éditions Scholastic, Toronto, Canada

**I Am a Taxi**

English  Diego, run!  
2007: Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, Australia

English  The Prison Runner  
2008: Oxford University Press, Oxford, United Kingdom

Italian  Io sono un taxi  
2007: R.C.S. Libri, Milan, Italy

Korean  Title in Korean script  
2014: A Thousand Hope Publishing, Paju, South Korea

Marathi  Title in Devanagari script  
2012: Mehta Publishing House, Maharashtra, India

**Sacred Leaf**

English  Diego’s Pride  
2008: Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, Australia

English  Beyond the Barricade  
2009: Oxford University Press, Oxford, United Kingdom

Marathi  Title in Devanagari script  
2013: Mehta Publishing House, Maharashtra, India

**I Am a Taxi / Sacred Leaf**

Hebrew  Title in Hebrew script  
2009: Shocken Publishing, Tel Aviv, Israel
**Fiction**

*The Cat at the Wall*

- **English** *The Cat at the Wall*
  2015: Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, Australia

- **French** *Le chat sur le mur*
  2016: Hachette roman, Paris, France

- **Korean** Title in Korean script
  2015: BookInFish Publishing, Seoul, South Korea

- **Spanish** *La ciudad de los sueños*
  2015: Ediciones Castillo, Mexico City, Mexico

*Moon at Nine*

- **German** *Wenn der Mond am Himmel steht, denk ich an dich*
  2015: Verlagsgruppe Random House Bertelsmann, Munich, Germany

*True Blue*

- **German** *Rosen, Tulpen, Nelken, all Blumen welken*
  2013: Cbj Verlag, Munich, Germany

- **Italian** *Il coraggio della libellula*
  2013: R.C.S. Libri, Milan, Italy

- **Marathi** Title in Devanagari script
  2013: Mehta Publishing House, Maharashtra, India

- **Spanish** *Maldita seas, Casey*
  2012: Edelvives, Madrid, Spain

*No Ordinary Day*

- **English** *The Best Day of My Life*
  2012: Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, Australia

- **Korean** Title in Korean script
  2013: Sanha Publishing Co., Seoul, South Korea

- **Marathi** Title in Devanagari script
  2015: Mehta Publishing House, Maharashtra, India

- **Spanish** *No calquier din*
  2012: Ediciones Castillo, Mexico City, Mexico
**No Safe Place**

- **Catalan**  
  Cap lloc segur  
  2012: Baula (Edelvives), Barcelona, Spain

- **English**  
  No Safe Place  
  2011: Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, Australia

- **Japanese**  
  Title in Japanese script  
  2011: Saela Shobo, Tokyo, Japan

- **Spanish**  
  Ningún lugar seguro  
  2011: Edelvives, Madrid, Spain

**Click: One Novel, Ten Authors**

- **German**  
  Klick: Zehn Autoren Erzählen einen Roman  
  2009: Carl Hanser Verlag, Munich, Germany

**Bifocal**

- **German**  
  Ansichtssache  
  2009: Jungbrunnen Verlag, Vienna, Austria

**The Heaven Shop**

- **English**  
  The Heaven Shop  
  2005: Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, Australia

- **English**  
  The Heaven Shop  
  2005: Oxford University Press, Oxford, United Kingdom

- **French**  
  Binti, une enfance dans la tourmente africaine  
  2009: Hachette Jeunesse, Paris, France

- **German**  
  Das Radiomädchen  
  2006: Jungbrunnen Verlag, Vienna, Austria

- **Italian**  
  Verso il paradiso: Parlare di AIDS per combatterlo  
  2005: R.C.S. Libri, Milan, Italy

- **Japanese**  
  Title in Japanese script  
  2011: Saela Shobo, Tokyo, Japan
Robert Bittner and Lesley Clement, Co-Chairs of IBBY Canada's Nominating Committee, express appreciation to Emma Sakamoto and Anita Miettunen for their assistance in preparing this portfolio.