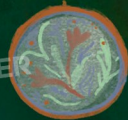
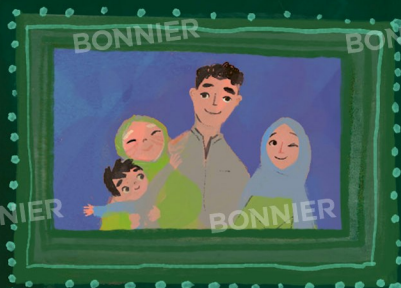
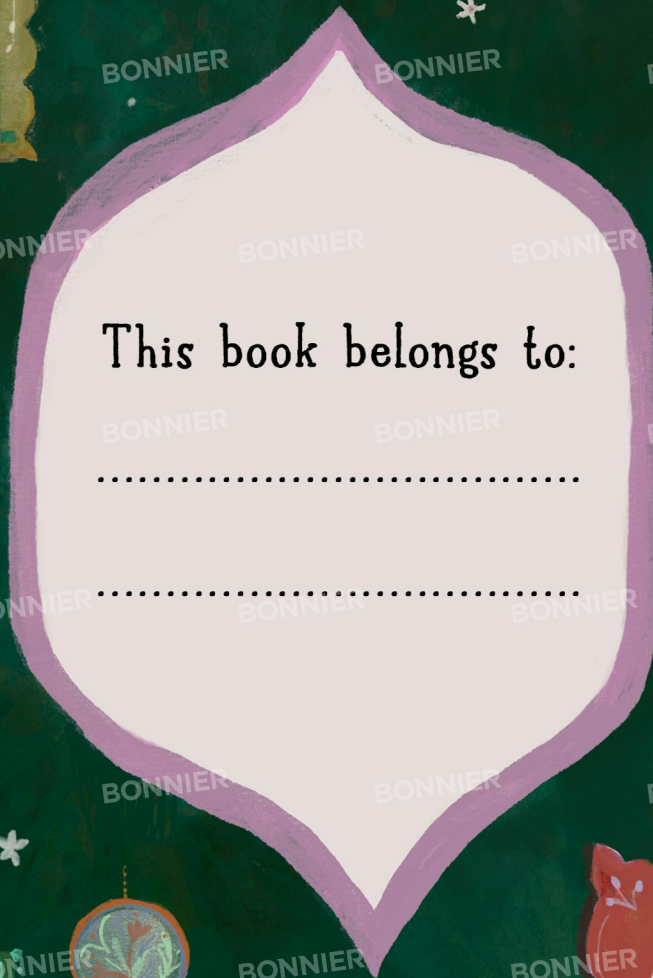




Noah's New Home

Zeshan Akhter

Nabila Adani





To families seeking hope
and home: may you find
strength and courage - Z.A.

For Bagas, Kautsar
and Rayya - N.A.

A TEMPLAR BOOK

First published in the UK in 2025 by Templar Books,
an imprint of Bonnier Books UK
5th Floor, HYLO, 103-105 Bunhill Row,
London, EC1Y 8LZ
Owned by Bonnier Books
Sveavägen 56, Stockholm, Sweden
www.bonnierbooks.co.uk

Text copyright © 2025 by Zeshan Akhter
Illustration copyright © 2025 by Nabila Adani
Design copyright © 2025 by Templar Books

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

All rights reserved

ISBN 978-1-78741-936-0

Edited by Amelia Warren
Designed by Anna Ring and Laura Hall
Production by Neil Randles

Printed in China



Noah's New Home

Zeshan Akhter
Nabila Adani

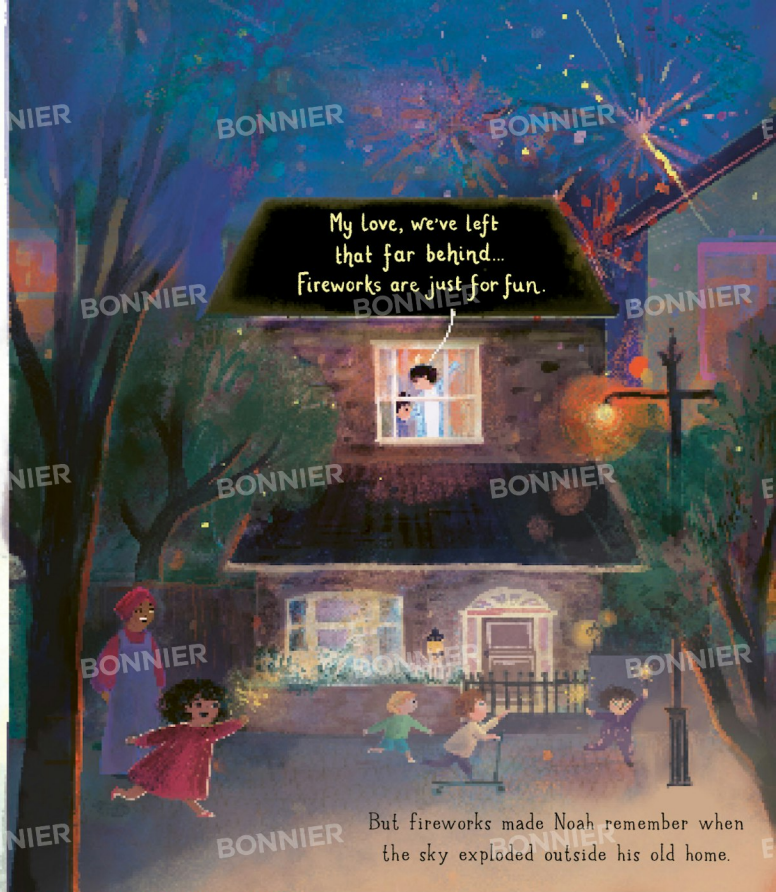




The air shook.

The windows shook.

Noah shook.



There was a knock at the door.
It was their neighbour, Eliyah.

Hi, Noah!
Come outside and watch
the fireworks with us -
everyone is so excited!

Look!
Here comes
one now...

WHEEEEEEE!
A whistling sound climbed through the air.

FIZZZZZ!
There was a noise like paper being unwrapped.

BANG!
Noah shielded his head.

Oh, are you
scared of
fireworks?

Don't worry, Noah,
let's play inside instead.
Do you like to draw?



Elijah's drawings reminded Noah of the jasmine
and apple flowers in the garden of his old home.

Then there was another knock at the door...



Noah, it's
our friend,
Miss Anoushka!



Would you like to listen
to some music tonight?
Music always helps
me feel better...

Noah nodded.

The deep waves of Miss Anoushka's
violin washed away a little of
the sadness in Noah's heart.



He thought about when
everyone used to sing and
play the daf together.

But suddenly...

WHEEEEEEE!

A whistling sound
climbed through the air

FIZZZZZ!

There was a noise like
paper being unwrapped.

BANG!

Noah buried his
head against Mama.


Noah, my love,
we are safe here.



Again, there was a knock at the door.
This time it was Rose, who lived opposite.

I baked an almond
cake to share...





The warm, sweet smell of the
almond cake was just like...

when Jida used to make cakes
for family picnics in the garden.

W H E E E E E E E E E !

A whistling sound climbed through the air.

F I Z Z Z Z Z Z !


There was a noise like paper being unwrapped.

B A N G !

This explosion was the loudest.



Noah fled into the cupboard
and hid deep in the darkness.


An illustration of a family of four embracing in a warm, golden light. A man with dark curly hair and a blue shirt is hugging a woman wearing a blue hijab and a blue top. They are holding a young boy with dark hair and a blue shirt. The scene is filled with large, stylized white flowers and a soft, glowing aura. In the background, a young boy is seen looking out from a window. The overall mood is tender and nostalgic.

Inside, Noah noticed
a sunny smell
that he knew
very well.

Baba had hugged them both
in a cloud of jasmine.

Every Friday, Baba
had given Mama
jasmine flowers.

Noah tried to
remember how
Baba's hugs had felt.



But now Noah was
lost in memories of
fire falling from the
sky over his home.

That was when Baba hadn't come back.



Mama brought the jasmine flowers
with them on their journey.

Wherever we are, the
jasmine will remind us
of Baba and of home...

After that, Noah and
Mama had to leave.

A tap on
Noah's shoulder
startled him.

Noah...
It's me, Lou...

Noah remembered when he was
lonely at his new school and couldn't
understand the words anyone spoke.

But Lou had smiled at him.

BONNIER

Here are some
earmuffs to block out
the loud noises. I know
you don't like them!

BONNIER

Noah uncurl'd a little.
And Lou squeezed
in beside him.

W HEEEEEE!

A whistling sound climbed
through the air.

FZZZZZ!

There was a noise like
paper being unwrapped.

Noah flinched.
Trembling, he slipped
the earmuffs on.

He waited
for the bang...

Noah didn't
hear anything.

Ohhhh...

There was
no noise...



... just the smiles of good friends.

The fireworks made me think
of the war. But I don't want
to remember that now...

Noah stepped out of the
cupboard and looked at the
fireworks for the first time.



More fireworks splashed open
Like giant sky flowers.

Mama, can we
plant some jasmine
flowers here?

Yes, let's
do that!

So each time the jasmine blooms where they live now, Noah and Mama
will remember Baba and the piece of home they carry in their hearts.



Sadly, there are lots of children all over the world with stories similar to Noah's. A charity called YOUNG ROOTS helped us make sure this story is right for young readers who have experienced war as well as for all children, like Lou, who want to help them.

Young Roots is a London-based charity working with young refugees and asylum seekers aged 11-25 seeking safety in the UK, most of whom are alone without their families.

They want young people to be able to build a positive future here. They provide practical and emotional support through their Youthwork, Casework and their Advice and Support Hubs. These hubs are also where young people can access therapeutic support, legal advice, and learn English and other skills. Through their campaigning, they also work with young people to positively influence the policy and practice which affects their lives.

“Noah's New Home explores the topics of missing home, traumatic childhood experiences, and the value of community in a sensitive and child-friendly, yet powerful, way. Every day here at Young Roots, we work with children and young people who have had to flee their homes, and it's very important to see their experiences shared so beautifully.”

Paola Uccellari, Chief Executive, Young Roots



YOUNGROOTS

If you'd like to find out more about YOUNG ROOTS, the work they do and how you can help, scan this QR code!



sadly, there are lots of children all over the world with experiences similar to Noah's experiences in this story. There are lots of people and charities who work very hard to help them. one of those charities is **YOUNG ROOTS**, who helped us with making sure this story is as accurate as it can be.



YOUNGROOTS

Young Roots is a London-based charity working with young refugees and asylum seekers aged 11-25 seeking safety in the UK, most of whom are alone without their families. We want young people to be able to build a positive future here – we provide practical and emotional support through our Youthwork, Casework and our Advice and Support Hubs, where young people can also access therapeutic support, legal advice and learn English and other skills. Through our campaigning, we also work with young people to positively influence the policy and practice which affects their lives.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO FIND OUT
MORE ABOUT **YOUNG ROOTS**,
THE WORK THEY DO AND
HOW YOU CAN HELP,
SCAN THIS QR CODE!

