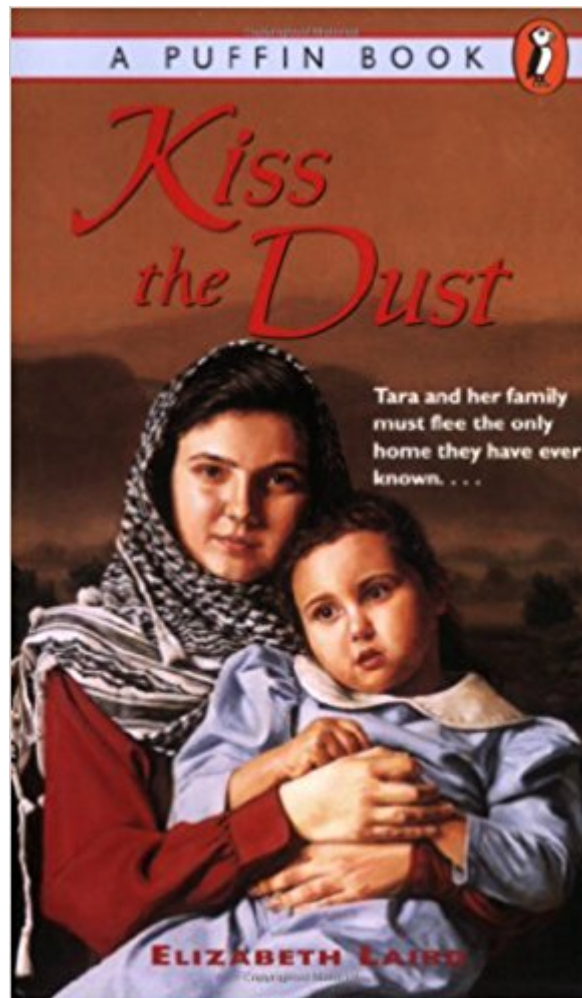


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# Kiss The Dust



## Synopsis

Because the Iraqi secret police are looking for her father, Tara Hawrami and her family must flee the only home they have ever known and live in a brutal refugee camp. "An important contribution to the growing number of refugee stories".--Kirkus Reviews, pointered review. An ALA Best Book for Young Adults.

## Book Information

Mass Market Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books (April 1, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140368558

ISBN-13: 978-0140368550

Product Dimensions: 4.4 x 0.6 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (27 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #286,502 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 inÂ Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Asia #9409 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction

## Customer Reviews

Tara Hawrami is a thirteen-year-old girl living in Iraq in the 1980's. She has what we would call a normal life-living in a nice house, going shopping with her best friend, and having the mistaken feeling that nothing particularly bad is going to happen to her. But then the inevitable comes. Tara has always known that she was a Kurd, and has maybe even faintly known that Kurds are hated by the Iraqi goverment...but one day, when walking home from school, she sees a teenaged Kurdish boy die for his beliefs. Things all happen in short order after that, and the Hawramis, who find themselves dodging the Iraqi government, find themselves living in a remote Kurdish village that is unlike anything they have ever known. The journey continues when the village becomes the target of brutal bombing raids, and it seems that the family must become refugees in order to escape danger. Experiences in two refugee camps follow, and Tara and her family wonder if their life will ever be what it was before. As I said before, I was disappointed with this book. It seems as if the author had a very promising topic and a character that could potentially make the story seem real to readers. But something seems flawed in this book. Laird's writing style is somehow "detached" and it doesn't really feel like you are "right there" (which is how it should in a good book). In what should have been some of the most exciting parts of the book, I felt kind of bored and ready to "get on with

it." Character development seems a little weak, too. We never seemed to really get to know Tara-there was too much time spent telling what she did, not enough time spent telling what she thought.

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