

# ONJALI Q. RAÚF

*Author*



Onjali Q. Raúf MBE is a bestselling children's author and human rights activist.

She is the author of several books, most notably, **The Boy at the Back of the Class** which became a phenomenal best seller and won the 2019 Blue Peter Award and the Waterstones Children's Book Prize.

Her books deal with issues that are very relevant in today's world, like refugee crisis, war, domestic abuse, hunger, bullying, homelessness, racism... all such grave and serious matters. But the magic and humor in her books makes these issues very much relatable and understandable to her young readers. Her stories are a celebration of kindness, friendship, compassion, courage and sometimes, mischief.



**[Boy at the Back of the Class](#)** tells the story of Ahmet, a refugee boy who fled his war torn homeland, got transplanted in to a strange new country with his family stuck on the other side of the border. It talks about how he navigates his new reality with the wonderful friends he finds.

Her other books are:



**[The Star Outside My Window](#)**: The story revolves around Aniyah, who suddenly finds herself in foster care after she loses her mother. So, when a new star is spotted in our galaxy she knows just who that is. Along with unlikely friends, she embarks on a quest to make sure that the whole world knows this new star by the right name, her mother's name.



**[The Day We Met the Queen](#)**: This short follows the story of Ahmet and his friends when the Queen of England herself invites them for tea, at the palace, no less!



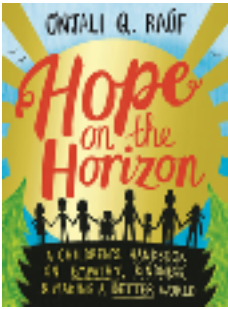
**[The Night Bus Hero](#)**: Hector, the hero of this story, is quite simply put, a bully. The story talks about, right and wrong kinds of friendships, redemption, second chances and above all else, compassion. Onjali Rauf's trademark capers and mischief makes this story quite an interesting ride.



**[The Great \(Food\) Bank Heist](#)**: Nelson and his family gets their provisions from the Food Bank. When that source is threatened by a robber, Nelson has to come up with a plan to protect that. Hunger and food poverty, a major issue in the world today is introduced to the young readers of this book. But make no mistake, there isn't a dull moment to be found, because after all its a heist and time is of the essence!



[The Lion Above the Door](#): Leo and Sangeetha are best friends. They are also different from everyone else in their school. And they struggle to understand why. Touching on history, racism and diverse ethnicities, the story deals with how discriminating based on race is a growing concern in today's world.



[Hope on the Horizon](#): Growing up, there is so much out of our control and so much we can feel helpless about. But together, we can make a difference. In this inspiring and practical handbook with the help of her favourite fictional characters and some of the most inspiring people she has ever met, Onjali invites readers to dive in and discover everything there is to know about kindness, empathy, friendship and fighting for the things that matter. Because

Hope is there on the Horizon, we just need to find it.

Even more importantly, Onjali doesn't just talk about these issues in her books, she makes sure she does her part to make the world a better place. She is actively involved in advocating for women's rights, refugee crisis, etc. She is the founder and CEO of two NGO's: [Making Herstory](#), an organisation working to end all forms of domestic violence, abuse and trafficking crimes perpetrated against women and children; and [O's Refugee Aid Team](#), through which she mobilises aid convoys and funds to help refugees surviving across northern France and beyond.

Onjali was listed as one of [BBC's 100 inspiring and influential women from around the world for 2019](#). Rauf was appointed [Member of the Order of the British Empire](#) (MBE) in the [2022 New Year Honours](#) for services to literature and women's rights.