

Onjali Q Raúf





About the Author

Onjali specialised in Women's Studies at Oxford University before working in a number of human rights charities. She is the founder of Making Herstory, which seeks to work with agencies, large and small, to mobilise people from all walks of life to support women's shelters, lobby for women's rights and join anti-trafficking movements.

Onjali feels that sharing stories is very important - no matter whether they are a book, a song, a piece of art - open up worlds, experiences, histories and imaginings we might otherwise not access. She feels it is crucial to travel as far in our minds and then farther still. Onjali recognises that it is one of the most beautiful things about the human brain - the ability to imagine. Stories keep that ability alive.





Onjali says she has about 50,000. but one that has always made her believe the impossible was Matilda. She recalls, " I spent hours locked in my room trying to move a pencil with my eyes. Hence the glasses!"

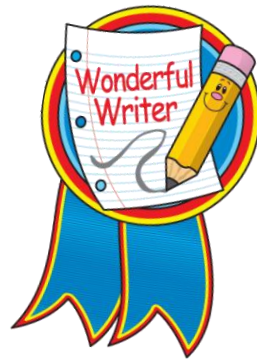


Onjali's first novel, *The Boy at the Back of the Class* was published in 2018. It is a very funny and moving story of children befriending a refugee at school - it was based on her experiences working at the border camp in Calais.

The Star Outside My Window tells the story of 10-year-old Aniyah, following the disappearance of her mum, suddenly finds herself living in foster care. With her life in disarray, she knows just one thing for sure: her mum isn't gone for ever. Because people with the brightest hearts never truly leave. They become stars.



The Night Bus Hero is told from the perspective of a bully, this book explores themes of bullying and homelessness, while celebrating kindness, friendship and the potential **everyone** has to change for the good.



The Day We Met the Queen was published for World Book Day in 2020. This story focuses on 10-year-old Ahmet, who has become the Most Famous Refugee Boy in the World. In fact, he's so famous even the queen wants to meet him - and his four best friends! So they're off to Buckingham Palace, with a list of questions for her and one special challenge: will she help more refugee children like Ahmet?

Very recently published in October 2021, *The Lion Above the Door* tells the story of Leo and his best friend Sangeeta are the odd ones out in their school. But as Leo's dad is always telling him, it's because they're special. Only thing is, if they're so special, how come they never see anyone who looks like them in their school history books? Then, on a class trip to a nearby cathedral, Leo's attention is drawn to a large marble slab high above the doors of the hall. Right there, bang in the middle of a list of war heroes Leo finds himself staring at something incredible: his own name.





The *Great (Food) Bank Heist* is a moving story that gives a child's-eye view of the increasing problem of food poverty. A percentage of all royalties earned from the sale of this book will be going towards Trussell Trust Food Banks, the Greggs Foundation Breakfast Club Programme and selected grassroots food bank charities.



Where can I find out more?

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/author/Onjali-Q-Rauf/gd/Onjali-Q-Rauf.html>

<https://authorfy.com/masterclasses/onjaligrauf/>

