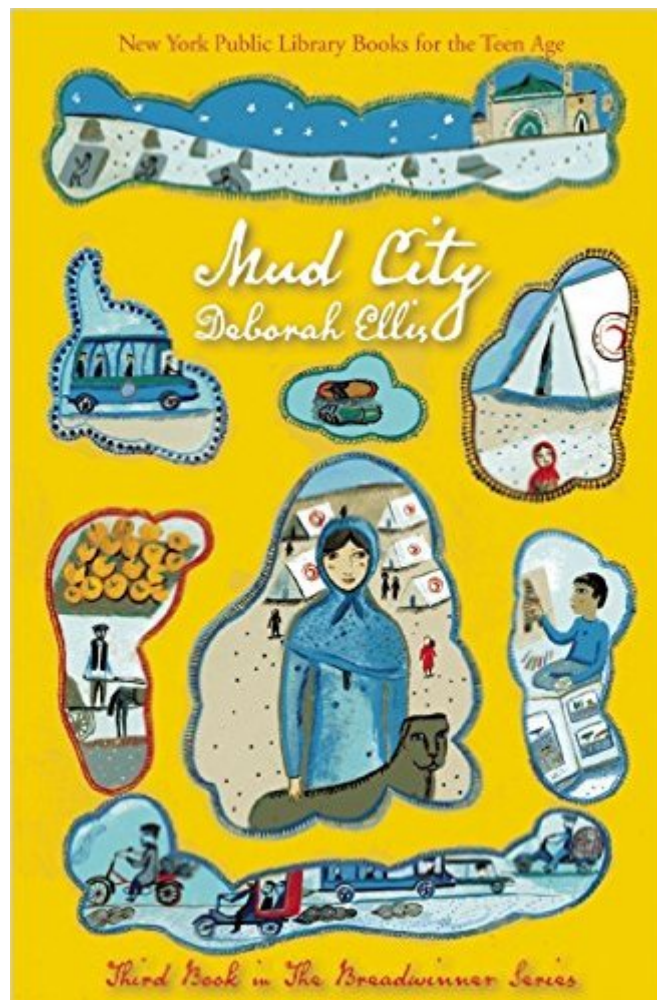


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# Mud City (Breadwinner)



## Synopsis

Parvana's best friend, Shauzia, has escaped the misery of her life in Kabul, only to end up in a refugee camp in Pakistan. She still dreams of seeing the ocean and eventually making a new life in France, but it's hard to imagine when she is living in the Widows' Compound of a muddy, crowded refugee camp outside Peshawar. Shauzia finally decides to leave the camp and try her luck on the streets. Peshawar is dangerous and full of desperately poor and wandering children like herself, but she has Jasper, the dog who followed her down from a shepherds' camp in the mountains, and she knows how to masquerade as a boy and comb the streets for jobs. But life as a street kid is dangerous and terrifying, even with the advantages of a strong will, brave spirit, and good luck. This is a powerful and human story of a feisty, driven girl who tries to take control of her own life. The reissue includes a new cover and map, and an updated author's note and glossary to provide young readers with background and context. Royalties from the sale of this book go to Street Kids International.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 740 (What's this?)

Series: Breadwinner (Book 3)

Paperback: 168 pages

Publisher: Groundwood Books; Revised edition (May 12, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1554987733

ISBN-13: 978-1554987733

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.4 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars See all reviews (19 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #124,207 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #48 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Middle East #578 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect #951 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Girls & Women

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 4 - 9

## Customer Reviews

This occasionally tragic, yet captivating novel teaches you about another part of the world and its time of suffering. Shauzia, a girl of 14 years fantasizes about living in France, after she escaped Afghanistan into a new and in her opinion tedious world of a Pakistani refugee camp. She escapes this camp with her dog and close friend Jasper and ventures into the harsh conditions of the city. Buy this book and be blown away as you learn about how a young girl and many others have to survive through begging, and worse. I would recommend this book to young adults ages 10-17, but I'm sure it could educate many full grown people about culture and who helps others in times of need. So follow Shauzia into her life, and learn to have true empathy, sincerity, and curiosity about the poverty out there.

I couldn't disagree more with the 2nd review that gave the book 3 stars. Although I haven't yet read *Mud City*, I have read the 1st two books in the series twice- last year to my 6th grade class and again this year to the new class. Both classes loved it as much as I did. We laughed, we cried. The kids BEGGED me to read more when it was time to stop. As far as the stories being "gruesome," sure there were some graphic aspects to the story, but that's war. If you're going to write a story about war, it doesn't do it any justice to put rose colored glasses on. Ellis gives a realistic depiction about the life of Afghani refugees- you walk in their shoes- like it or not.

Shauzia is a 14 year old girl, living in Pakistan who pictures herself living a comfortable life in France. She lives in the Pakistani refugee camp which is owned by Mrs. Weera, an Afghani suffragette. Shauzia is sick of her life in the camp, and runs away one night, finding herself in the large mud city of Pakistan. Dressing herself as a boy, Shauzia takes a job and makes new friends. She and her dog: Jasper, gather money and make friends with an American family, who help her in many ways, while also taking her back to square one. I found this book very interesting and a good book to read with 'The Breadwinner' OR 'Parvana' as they call it in other countries.

The Breadwinner series was what I was looking for - Needed to know some of this history - I realized that the world didn't all live in brick houses or glass houses or white houses. But didn't hear any of this in High school - that many years ago. Most 87 - guess you can guess why. Even in college we didn't touch on these subjects. But I didn't major in history! Just Psych, education and Special Ed. Read all four you will like them

Shauzia is living in a camp in Pakistan under the thumb of Mrs. Weera. She escapes and goes to

Peshawar, once again disguised as a boy, where she earns money by taking on odd jobs and begging. She hoards her money so she can buy a ticket to the sea and go on to her dream in France. Of course things don't go at all as she plans. Mud City is the third book of the Breadwinner series. It's not quite as good as the first two books, but it is still an interesting look into the life of poor children growing up in a warzone. I recommend reading this book, and the whole series, to both older children and adults.

I agree with the School Library Journal Review because when I started this book, I felt as if I had started somewhere in the middle of the story. I had heard of the name Shauzia, Parvana's friend who was supposed to be in Paris enjoying life but this book seemed to assume that we knew a lot more about Shauzia than we actually did. I feel the start of the book would have been stronger if there was a little more continuity from when Shauzia last saw Parvana. Although, I felt Shauzia's pain when she lost all her hard earned savings to the police, this book did not touch me as strongly as Parvana's journey did. One of the reasons could be because Shauzia seemed to be more self-sufficient and dare I say, self-centered? I would recommend this book as a follow up to Parvana's journey but it doesn't get a five star rating.

Mud City by Deborah Ellis is the third really good book in the three book Breadwinner trilogy. In Mud City the main character is Shauzia. The book is about a girl who lives in Pakistan. Shauzia got to the refugee camp because she ran away from her family because they treated her bad. The story is about how Shauzia runs away from a refugee camp and goes away to another city and tries to work for money or beg outside of rich people's market. She lives with a lot of people then goes back to the refugee camp and stays there. Mud City is a really good book that a lot of people would love. In the Breadwinner trilogy, Deborah Ellis really describes what the main character feels like and how they get through it.

This is the 3rd book in the Breadwinner series. I was disappointed that it was not a continuation of Parvana- the main character in the first 2 books. This story is of her friend from the first book. Still, very well written and an intriguing look at children living in a war zone and how they struggle with survival. Hopefully, Ms. Ellis is working on the 4th book, because this book left with me wanting to know more. I would be very disappointed if there were not a concluding book to the series.

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