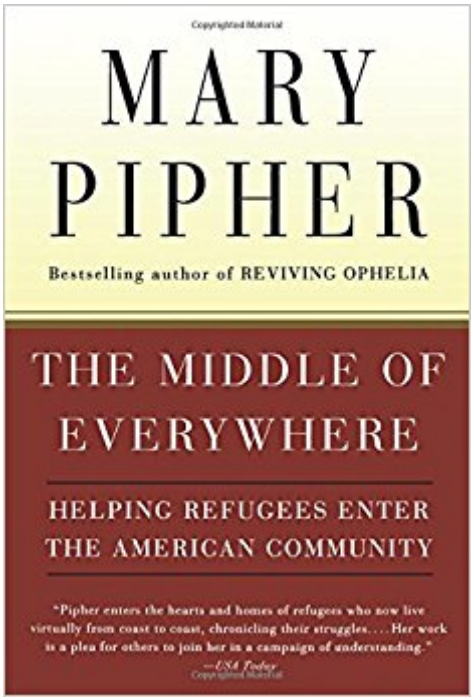
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The Middle Of Everywhere: Helping Refugees Enter The American Community



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Synopsis

Over the past decade, Mary Pipher has been a great source of wisdom, helping us to better understand our family members. Now she connects us with the newest members of the American family--refugees. In cities all over the country, refugees arrive daily. Lost Boys from Sudan, survivors from Kosovo, families fleeing Afghanistan and Vietnam: they come with nothing but the desire to experience the American dream. Their endurance in the face of tragedy and their ability to hold on to the virtues of family, love, and joy are a lesson for Americans. Their stories will make you laugh and weep--and give you a deeper understanding of the wider world in which we live. The Middle of Everywhere moves beyond the headlines into the homes of refugees from around the world. Working as a cultural broker, teacher, and therapist, Mary Pipher has once again opened our eyes--and our hearts--to those with whom we share the future.

Book Information

Paperback: 416 pages

Publisher: Mariner Books; 6.1.2003 edition (July 1, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0156027372

ISBN-13: 978-0156027373

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 1 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 47 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #44,689 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 inÃ Â Books > History > Americas > United States > Immigrants #74 inÃ Â Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Emigration & Immigration #99 inÃ Â Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Minority Studies

Customer Reviews

Though Lincoln, Nebraska, seems a strange gathering place for refugees from all corners of the globe, it is the setting for Mary Pipher's The Middle of Everywhere, an ardent, anecdotal, and at times moving study of some new arrivals to the United States. Pipher emphasizes the resiliency of the refugees--from Laos, Bosnia, Northern Iraq, Sudan, Afghanistan, and the former Soviet Union--whose homeland tales of death, privation, torture, and multi-pronged persecution vary only in the details. In America the refugees must learn a new language and pick their way among the temptations and wonders of a complex land. Does a Publishers Clearing House notice mean one is

a millionaire? What is aluminum foil? Is an overdue library book a jailable offense? Pipher visits classrooms and homes and offers extended portraits of a female family of Kurds and a bewildered clan of Sudanese, as well as snapshots of many other refugees. She is a harsh critic of the Immigration and Naturalization Service and an advocate of "cultural brokers"--the social adjustment equivalent of practical nurses. --H. O'Billovich --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"I saw my father and grandfather shot in our living room," says Anton, a Bosnian teen who now lives in Nebraska. His teachers see him as a potential suicide, and he struggles to make sense of being an American high school student. Profiling Anton and other refugees from around the world Russia, Croatia, Yemen, Hungary, Somalia, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone bestselling author Pipher (Reviving Ophelia), drawing upon anthropology, sociology and psychology, offers a deft, moving portrait of the complexity of American life. Pipher, a family therapist in Lincoln, Neb., where these immigrants all live, is interested in the effects of globalization how it affects people's relationships, their sense of place, their identities. She writes in rich, empathetic language and with a keen, observant eye for detail and nuance. Her relationships with her subjects range widely: she is a surrogate parent to a family of four children orphaned during the Sudanese civil war; to others she is "cultural broker," for instance, helping an Iraqi family understand the difference between what they see on television and the realities of everyday American life. As in Another Country, her book about aging parents, Pipher writes directly and movingly about the complications of people's lives in a constant culture clash but is mindful to place them in a clearly defined social and political setting. Noting that after September 11, "we are all refugees from what was once our America," Pipher's ambitious undertaking of combining personal stories with global politics is wonderfully realized. (Apr.)Forecast: Given Pipher's record and the increased attention by Americans to foreigners in our midst, this should sell handsomely.Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

As someone who's taught adult ESL and been a volunteer mentor to immigrants for decades, I was amazed at how accurately this book portrays the immigrant experience. I had given my origional copy away, and ordered this one because I really wanted to have a copy on hand. If you work with immigrants, or just want to understand their lives, this book is essential. Even though the book is older now, the information is still relevant.

Overall it gives good perspectives on refugees and their acculturation process. It is especially helpful for communities that are historically more homogeneous but quickly changing as refugees are settled in rural cities. I related to many view points living in a rural MN town that has recently increased its refugee population.

Too bad most won't bother even wanting to read about the subject of Refugees in our country - but if you are this is an excellent read! Eye opening details, information and true stories that we don't hear in the media, don't learn about from our educational system or our government. I am changed by this book - period.

I loved this book. Mary Pipher is a great story teller and her stories made me laugh & cry. Mostly they reinforced my strong belief that all of us humans have lessons for one another that span across cultures and within cultures. It made me proud of and ashamed of America, and determined to welcome newcomers.

Daughter read this for a class on Social Justice; it has enlightened her as to the plight of immigrants, and has piqued her interest in working in this field when she completes her social work degree. Insightful reading, we don't plan on selling this one back, it is a keeper.

This book is a must read for people who work in the public sector, non profits, church volunteers, community colleges, community schools, and social programs. Mary is truly a Saint of our time. She conveys the importance of commuity support to the immigrant experience and writes a wonderful narrative of her experience working with a number of families.

I loved reading about refugees coming to this great nation of ours. I was surprised and inspired by the challenges that they overcome!

I read this years ago and it inspired me to become an ESL tutor and culture broker in my retirement. Read it to learn how you can help refugees.

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