



Deborah Ellis is the internationally acclaimed author of nearly thirty books for children and young people, most of which explore themes of social justice and courage. A peace activist, feminist, and humanitarian, Deborah has won many national and international awards for her books, including the Governor General's Award, the Ruth Schwartz Award, the Vicky Metcalf Award, the American Library Association's Notable List and the Jane Addams Children's Book Award. In 2010 she received The Ontario Library Association President's Award for Exceptional Achievement. Deborah lives in Simcoe, Ontario.

Books by Deborah Ellis

- Moon at Nine* — Pajama Press 2014
Looks Like Daylight: Voices of Indigenous Kids — Groundwood 2013
The Clear Out — Grass Roots Press 2013
Kids of Kabul: Living Bravely Through a Never-ending War — Groundwood 2012
My Name Is Parvana — Groundwood 2012
True Blue — Pajama Press 2011
No Ordinary Day — Groundwood 2011
In From the Cold — Grass Roots Press 2011
No Safe Place — Groundwood 2010
We Want You to Know: Kids Talk About Bullying — Coteau Books 2010
Children of War: Voices of Iraqi Refugees — Groundwood 2009
Lunch with Lenin and Other Short Stories — Fitzhenry & Whiteside 2008
Off to War — Groundwood 2008
Bifocal — Fitzhenry & Whiteside 2007
Jakeman — Fitzhenry & Whiteside 2007
Sacred Leaf — Groundwood 2007
The Heaven Shop — Fitzhenry & Whiteside 2007
A Company of Fools — Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2006
Keeley: Keeley and the Mountain — Penguin, 2006
I Am a Taxi — Groundwood 2006
Our Stories, Our Songs — Fitzhenry & Whiteside 2005
Keeley: Keeley's Big Story — Penguin 2005
Three Wishes: Palestinian and Israeli Children Speak — Groundwood 2004
Keeley: The Girl From Turtle Mountain — Penguin, 2004
Mud City — Groundwood 2003
Parvana's Journey — House of Anansi 2002
A Company of Fools — Fitzhenry & Whiteside 2002
The Breadwinner — Groundwood 2001
Looking for X — House of Anansi 1999

"In her fiction and non-fiction, Deborah Ellis has relentlessly brought to light the ways in which war and social injustice affect young people around the world."—Quill & Quire

Awards and Honours

Kids of Kabul: Living Bravely Through a Never-ending War

- 2013 Norma Fleck Award for Canadian Children's Non-fiction winner
- 2013 TD Canadian Children's Literature Award finalist

My Name is Parvanna

- 2013/2014 Red Cedar Fiction Award nominee
- 2013 IODE Violet Downey Book Award finalist
- 2013 Manitoba Young Reader's Choice Award shortlist
- 2013 USBBY Outstanding International Book List
- Bank Street College of Education Book of the Month
- 2013 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Titles for Children and Teens selection

True Blue

- 2012 Hamilton Literary Awards winner
- 2012 Manitoba Young Reader's Choice Award nominee
- 2012 John Spray Mystery Award nominee

No Ordinary Day

- 2013 Golden Oak Award nominee
- 2012 ALA Notable Children's Books List
- 2012 Booklist Editors' Choice: Books for Youth winner
- 2012 CCBC Choices Best of Year
- 2012 Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Young Adult/Middle Reader Book Award finalist
- 2012 South Asia Book Award Honor Book
- 2012 TD Canadian Children's Literature Award long list
- 2011 Governor General's Award: Children's Text shortlist

No Safe Place

- 2010 Resource Links' Year's Best
- 2011 SYRCA Snow Willow Award Shortlist
- 2011 CCBC Best Books for Kids & Teens, commended
- 2011 Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award Shortlist
- 2010 OLA Best Bet

Children of War

- 2010 OLA Silver Birch Nonfiction Award nominee
- 2010 USBBY Outstanding International Books, commended

Lunch with Lenin and Other Short Stories

- 2008 Resource Links "Best of 2008" list
- 2009 Cooperative Children's Book Center Best-of-the-Year list

Bifocal (co-author Eric Walters)

- 2008 Snow Willow Award nominee

Jakeman

- 2008 Diamond Willow Award nominee
- Off to War
- 2008 Library Media Connection (LMC) Editor's Choice Awards - Social Studies, commended
- 2009 SSLI Honor Book, commended

A Company of Fools

- Mr. Christie's Silver Book Award
- Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction honour book
- Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Award nominee
- Rocky Mountain Book Award nominee
- Canadian Library Association Book of the Year honour book

Sacred Leaf

- 2007 CLA Book of the Year for Children Award longlist
- 2007 National Post's Top New Books
- 2007 Quill & Quire Books of the Year List
- 2008 USBBY Outstanding International Books, commended
- 2008 CCBC Choices, commended
- 2008 Horace Mann Upstanders Book Award, commended
- 2008 CCBC Best Books for Kids & Teens, commended
- 2008 Americas Award Commended List

I Am a Taxi

- 2007 Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Award winner
- 2007 SYRCA Snow Willow Award, longlist
- 2007 YALSA BBYA, 2007, longlist
- 2007 CCBC Our Choice, commended
- 2007 CLA Book of the Year for Children Award commended
- 2007 Cooperative Children's Book Center Choice, commended
- 2007 SSLI Honor Book, commended
- 2007 White Ravens commended
- 2008 Alberta Children's Choice Award winner

Three Wishes: Palestinian and Israeli Children Speak

- 2005 CCBC Our Choice Starred Selection, 2005
- 2005 Cooperative Children's Book Center Choice—Best of the List
- 2005 Pennsylvania School Librarians Association (PSLA) YA Top Forty (or so) List
- 2006 OLA Silver Birch Award nominee
- 2006 BC Teen Reader's Choice Award Stellar Awards longlist
- 2007 Rocky Mountain Book Award shortlist

The Heaven Shop

- Jane Addams Honor Book for Older Readers
- 2005 Children's Africana Book Awards Honor Book for Older Readers
- 2004 Foreword Magazine Book of the Year Award shortlist
- 2005 Golden Oak Award nominee
- Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award finalist
- Manitoba Young Reader's Choice Award shortlist
- 2006 Alberta Children's Choice Book Award shortlist

Our Stories, Our Songs

- Starred review School Library Journal
- 2005 Book Links Best New Book for the Classroom
- 2006 ALA Notable Book
- 2006 School Library Journal Best Book

Mud City

- 2004 CCBC Our Choice, commended
- 2004 Cooperative Children's Book Center Choice, commended
- 2004 NYPL Books for the Teenage List, commended
- 2004 Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Award shortlist
- 2005 Hackmatack Award winner
- 2005 Red Cedar Book Award longlist
- 2005 Lamplighter Award, commended

The Breadwinner Trilogy

- 2004 Jane Addams Children's Book Award, commended

Parvanna's Journey

- 2002 Governor General's Literary Awards for text longlist
- 2002 Amazon.ca Top Ten, commended

- 2003 Jane Addams Children's Book Award winner
- 2003 Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Award winner
- 2003 CLA Book of the Year for Children Award honor book
- 2003 YALSA BBYA, commended
- 2004 OLA Golden Oak Award winner
- 2004 OLA Red Maple Award nominee
- 2004 Tiny Torgi Audio longlist
- 2004 Manitoba Young Reader's Choice Award, commended
- 2005 Red Cedar Book Award winner
- 2005 Garden State Teen Book Awards (NJLA) longlist

The Breadwinner

- 2001 OLA Red Maple Award nominee
- 2002 Middle East Book Award winner 2003 Hackmatack Award winner
- 2003 Rocky Mountain Book Award shortlist
- 2003 Swedish Peter Pan Prize winner
- 2003 Baia delle Favole Prize for ages 9-12 winner
- 2003 OLA Golden Oak Award nominee
- 2003 SYRCA Diamond Willow Award longlist
- 2003 Rebecca Caudill Young Reader's Award, commended
- 2003 YALSA PPYA, commended
- 2004 Young Jury Awards longlist

Looking for X

- 2001 Governor General's Literary Awards for text winner
- 2001 OLA Silver Birch Award nominee
- 2006 PPYA (Books that Don't Make You Blush), commended

Early Reviews of Moon at Nine

"Inspired by the life of an Iranian woman Ellis met ("This story is essentially hers," she notes), the novel powerfully depicts lives pulled apart by outside forces and the warmth of falling in love. A firm grounding in Iranian history, along with the insight and empathy Ellis brings to the pain of those whose love is decreed to be immoral and unnatural..." —*Publisher's Weekly*

"[T]he portrait painted of 1980s Iran's political climate—and in particular the situation of gay and lesbian people and political prisoners—is haunting." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"Ellis has written a heartbreaking tale of prejudice and injustice... The characters are complex and carefully drawn... Highly Recommended." —*CM Magazine*

"Indeed it is one captivating, informative, relevant and exquisite story! I trust that Indigo will order 'up' on copies for me to feature and sell. I'm already talking about it with co-workers and my academic friends in the U.S. and here." —*Wendy Mason, Children's Specialist, Indigo Books*

"Based on a true story, the girls' relationship in *Moon at Nine* is personal and precious but never explicit, unlike the merciless response of others to it. Prohibited love may be ill-fated, but in the 1980's Iran of secrets, surveillance and suppression, it was perilous. Still, in *Moon at Nine*, Deborah Ellis thoughtfully embeds a sliver of chaste love into that dispiriting world and, without contriving an unrealistic happy ending, offers a glimmer of possibility." —*Helen Kubiw, CanLit for Little Canadians*