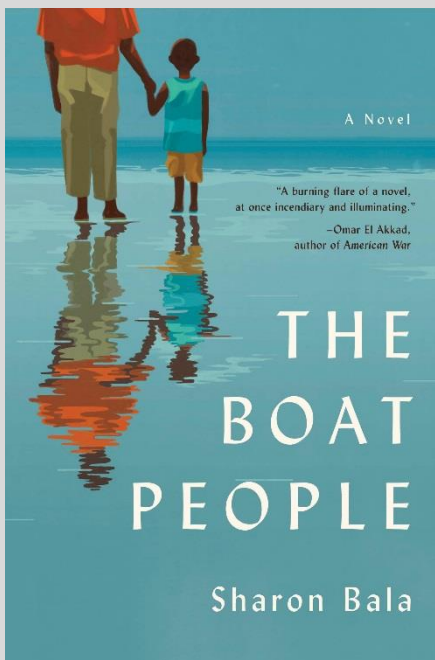




One World  
One Book

For readers of Khaled Hosseini and Chris Cleave, *The Boat People* is an extraordinary novel about a group of refugees who survive a perilous ocean voyage only to face the threat of deportation amid accusations of terrorism.



When a rusty cargo ship carrying Mahindan and five hundred fellow refugees from Sri Lanka's bloody civil war reaches Vancouver's shores, the young father thinks he and his six-year-old son can finally start a new life.

Instead, the group is thrown into a detention processing center, with government officials and news headlines speculating that among the "boat people" are terrorists now posing a threat to Canada's national security.

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*The Boat People* is a burning flare of a novel, at once incendiary and illuminating. With a rare combination of precision, empathy and insight, Sharon Bala has crafted an unflinching examination of what happens when the fundamental human need for safety collides with the cold calculus of bureaucracy. In the best tradition of fearless literature, it shatters our comfortable illusions about who we really are and reveals just how asymmetrical the privilege of belonging can be. This is a brilliant debut – a story that needs to be told, told beautifully.”

—Omar El Akkad, author of *American War*



**SHARON BALA** is a member of the Port Authority writing group and her short fiction has been published in several Canadian magazines.

*The Boat People* is her debut novel.