

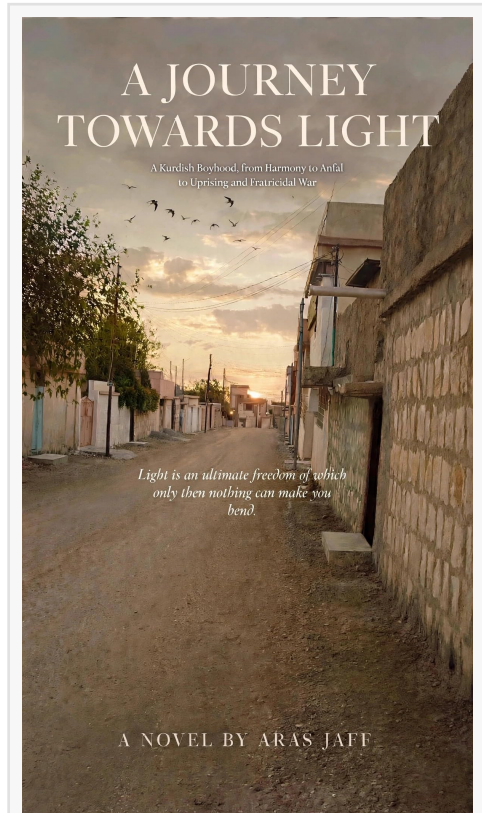
A Journey Towards Light Chronicles a Kurdish Boyhood Through War, Anfal, and Uprising

Aras Jaff draws on memory and lived experience to tell of a Kurdish boy coming of age amid war, persecution, displacement, and a determined search for hope.

NEW YORK CITY, NY, UNITED STATES, September 1, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Aras Jaff brings a deeply personal perspective to decades of conflict and upheaval in *A Journey Towards Light: A Kurdish Boyhood, from Harmony to Anfal to Uprising and Fratricidal War*. Set largely in Sulaymaniyah in Iraqi Kurdistan, the book follows a Kurdish schoolboy whose early memories of family, community, and relative harmony give way to an increasingly dangerous world. Blending memoir and novelistic storytelling, Jaff traces a childhood and young adulthood shaped by the Iran-Iraq War, the Anfal campaign, the 1991 Kurdish uprising, mass displacement, internal conflict, and an eventual journey to America.

Jaff's story begins with a middle-class childhood in a society where political rivalries existed but had not yet consumed everyday life. That stability changes as regional events transform the streets and futures of an entire generation. Children disappear into war, armed resistance, and prisons, while those who remain in school are hardly protected from the consequences. In *A Journey Towards Light*, education becomes one thread of survival, even as military training, compulsory service, political repression, and the constant proximity of violence intrude upon the narrator's efforts to preserve an ordinary life.

The Anfal operations and the mass exodus of Kurdish civilians occupy an especially significant place in Jaff's account. Through the perspective of someone growing up amid these events, *A Journey Towards Light* examines the human consequences of campaigns that devastated Kurdish communities. Student protest is met with violence, chemical attacks, and persecution deepen the atmosphere of fear, and the 1991 uprising brings both liberation and new uncertainty. The years that follow reveal another painful reality as hunger, instability, and conflict



A Journey Towards Light: A Kurdish Boyhood, from Harmony to Anfal to Uprising and Fratricidal War by Aras Jaff

among Kurdish factions complicate the hope that freedom would immediately bring peace.

For readers of memoir, historical fiction, Kurdish history, and narratives of survival, *A Journey Towards Light* offers history through the intimate scale of streets, classrooms, families, friendships, and individual memory. Jaff's focus is not solely on political events, but on what happens to ordinary people when forces beyond their control reshape daily existence.

The image of keeping a small inner light alive becomes central to the book's meaning, representing the determination to continue learning, remembering, and moving forward even when war and persecution repeatedly threaten to narrow the possibilities of the future.

Aras Jaff presents *A Journey Towards Light* as both a personal story and a remembrance of people who refused to disappear. By combining lived memory with literary storytelling, he preserves the emotional landscape of a Kurdish boyhood transformed by war, Anfal, uprising, displacement, and fratricidal conflict. The journey ultimately extends beyond Kurdistan to America, but its foundation remains rooted in the people and places that shaped him. Jaff's work offers readers a human account of endurance through extraordinary historical upheaval and a testament to the persistence of hope when darkness seems determined to prevail.

The book is now available—secure your copy here: <https://a.co/d/09ssHpFl>

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