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13 November 2020

### **BOOK SUMMARY of the Novel, BREADWINNER, By Deborah Ellis**

The Breadwinner takes place in Afghanistan during the late 90s to early 2000s. The book's main character is an 11-year-old girl named Parvana. When she was younger, her family was very wealthy and even had servants before the Taliban came. Once the Taliban came, they moved out because of bombings and moved to a small apartment. However, that little apartment was being bombed, and she lost her brother to a landmine. One night while eating dinner, their father is taken by Taliban soldiers. Under Taliban rule women are not allowed to go to some places without a man to escort them. Her father is arrested by the Taliban, so Parvana has to dress up as a boy to make money for her family. She did many things, but she mainly sold old possessions they didn't need and translated letters for other people. While she is doing these jobs things are happening at home. Her mom and her mom's friend Mrs. Weera are writing a newsletter about how bad the Taliban are, and they plan to illegally smuggle the news out of their country. This goes on for a long time before her father returns home. While that happened, Her family went to marry off her sister in a different area where there's no Taliban. However, they soon discover that the Taliban came into the area where the sister was sent. The book ends with Parvana and her father going to refugee camps looking for their family.

### **BOOK SUMMARY of the Novel, EXO, By Fonda Lee**

The book Exo starts way in the distant future. It takes place in the US, where aliens called the Zhree have arrived 100 years earlier, have colonized Earth and are a normal part of society. Earth has become part of the alien's government. Donovan is a 17-year-old boy who just ended his Exo military training for the alien and human government. His father is a critical

man and he is the Prime Liaison for Earth to the Zhree. He is one of the prominent leaders for the human-alien government. One night on a mission gone wrong, Donovan and his friend Jet catch three rebels. During the fight, they are shot at by rebels from the top of a building, allowing one of the captured rebels to escape. Donovan chases after the escaped rebel and catches them, but then he realizes he is in uncharted territory. He is surrounded and captured by a group of rebels, who bring him to the main rebel camp and put in a cell. The rebels don't want the aliens on Earth anymore. Once Donovan is there, he discovers that his mom is a member and one of the main leaders of the rebels. They don't know what to do with Donovan. Should they kill him? Should they take him hostage? Should they try to get questions out of him? As time goes on, Donovan becomes conflicted because some of the rebels are nice to him and his mom is there. The Exos finally arrive to save Donovan. He escapes during a fight and a few of the leading rebels escape too. The book ends with the rest of the rebels in a building holding both alien and human hostages, and are going to blow the building if the Exos get in. Donovan tries to negotiate with the rebels and tells them if they surrender the hostages, then the Exos will let them escape and regroup.

## **COMPARE & CONTRAST IDENTITY**

### **Pravana of the Breadwinner & Donovan of EXO**

Even though both main characters in each book are from different places, different times, and have different identities, they both share some of the same attributes. They're both brave. Pravana is willing to fake her gender identity and pretend to be a boy to make money for her family; while Donovan is courageous and protects his people by being in the military. Their bravery is also seen as they both go through hard times and they don't stop or quit. Both main characters also are very caring. For example, Pravana saves a girl she doesn't even know and risks her own life taking off her mask in the middle of the night, and bringing the girl to her apartment. Donovan's example is that he tries to stop an absolute bloody terrorist attack by

negotiating with the terrorists. They both have many examples and moments of bravery and caring in the books. Both characters are also knowledgeable. Parvana knows how to act like a boy and talk like a boy, and is never caught. Also, she is smart with her words and can read English. She has many other skills in the book that most characters lack. Donovan shows his intelligence when he is captured by the rebels. Instead of trying to break out immediately, he waits for a better time to escape when the rebels are distracted.

While Donovan and Parvana are similar, they have a lot of differences. One difference is time period. Donovan lives way in the future and Parvana lives around 1996 to 2001. The whole structure of the books are completely different. Exo is based in the future with futuristic military armor, aliens and Earth being a colony. The time period of the Breadwinner is in recent times. The main characters are very different ages and in different stages of life. Donovan is 17 and in the military, while Parvana is 11 and should be in school but she is not because of the Taliban, that's a big difference in how their identities unfold and are created.

### **PERSONAL CONNECTION to Text, THE BREADWINNER, Parvana**

Parvana is someone who has parents that have taught her to be careful in her dangerous area. While I don't have to be worried about being bombed, I connected with Parvana's identity of awareness. Her parents taught her to be cautious of landmines, and I was taught to be cautious around people who do drugs, needles and things you find on the ground. We both had parents that led us to be careful with what we touch and to pay attention where we walk. Both of our parents cared about us and taught us to be aware of our surroundings when in a rough area. I see awareness as a personal necessity of bravery.

### **PERSONAL CONNECTION to Text, EXO, Donovan**

Donovan is very loyal. This is a big part of his identity. For me, loyalty is priceless, I connect here. I will stick by you, but I'm not going to be very close to you if you wrong me. I remain to stand for what is right and true. I will fight for you, if you fight for me. Donovan is loyal

to his people until he feels used by them. He is loyal to the character, Jet, throughout the book, and Jet is loyal and continues to look for him when others give up. It takes courage to be loyal and it's priceless. It is a fundamental requirement for me in this life.