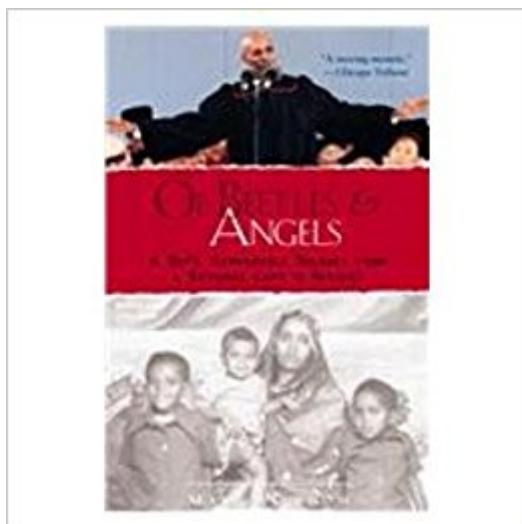


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# Of Beetles & Angels: A Boy's Remarkable Journey From A Refugee Camp To Harvard



## **Synopsis**

Read the remarkable true story of a young boy's journey from civil war in east Africa to a refugee camp in Sudan, to a childhood on welfare in an affluent American suburb, and eventually to a full-tuition scholarship at Harvard University. Following his father's advice to "treat all people—even the most unsightly beetles—as though they were angels sent from heaven," Mawi overcomes the challenges of language barriers, cultural differences, racial prejudice, and financial disadvantage to build a fulfilling, successful life for himself in his new home. *Of Beetles and Angels* is at once a harrowing survival story and a compelling examination of the refugee experience. With hundreds of thousands of copies sold since its initial publication, and as a frequent selection as one book/one school/one community reads, this unforgettable memoir continues to touch and inspire readers. This special expanded fifteenth anniversary edition includes a new introduction and afterword from the author, a discussion guide, and more. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

In 1983, at age seven, the author and his family arrived in this country, having fled the Eritrean and Ethiopian conflict. "This earnest account of Asgedom's life up to his graduation from Harvard is peppered with powerful moments," wrote PW. Ages 10-up. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

When he was four years old, Asgedom's family left their war-ravaged home in Ethiopia. They spent three years in a Sudanese refugee camp before coming to the U.S. in 1983, where they were settled by World Relief in a wealthy white suburb near Chicago. He later earned a full scholarship to

Harvard, where in 1999 he delivered the commencement address. His simple lyrical narrative, both wry and tender, stays true to the child's viewpoint as he grows up, taunted at school, but pretty bad and rough himself. His coming-of-age story is both darkened and enriched by the stories he hears about his parents' lives back home and by the pieces he remembers. At the center of the book is his father, a fierce family disciplinarian, once an all-powerful medical assistant at home, now reduced to a "beetle," unemployed, half-blind, raging at his dependency. Only at the very end, when Asgedom spells out the metaphor of the title, does the message overwhelm the story. What stays with you is the quiet, honest drama of a family's heartrending journey. Hazel RochmanCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This a wonderful book that is full of inspiration, unique stories, and a great journey this boy takes.

Read it after seeing the author on Oprah. Very inspiring story about overcoming obstacles in life which can be attainable with hard work, dedication and never losing sight of your dreams. It also helps teach those of born and raised in the U.S. how immigrants with completely different cultures struggle when moving here and what they need to do to assimilate into our country.

Well written bio. Gives insight and understanding of the difficulties and trials that refugees must overcome. Mawi and his family will impress you with their heart and determination to succeed.

My daughter absolutely loved this book- she had a school project and had to read it. As usual the procrastination went on and she had about 4 days to get it done....she read the book in less than a day, saying it made her think and she felt motivated after- her teacher called about something else and then while they were speaking on the phone she mentioned the book- due to her knowledge of the book and enthusiasm about it and her answering all questions asked she was exempt from the project with full credit....reading pays off in the end!!!!

This would be a great book for a teenager. The author tells about his own struggles growing up and how he overcame them to be the amazing person he is today.

This is a remarkable true story of a journey that has led a man from Ethiopia, to the refugee camps in Sudan to Chicago. He is a Harvard graduate, resides in Illinois and uses his experiences to help

other people (particularly educators and students) realize their potential through positive thinking and living. His early years in the Sudan are reminiscent to me of what my kids experienced in Ghana, and he was about their age when he came to the U.S.. However, his experience once here was very different. I'm looking forward to meeting this author next month.

A very interesting story

Give, work hard, recognize those who are treated as beetles and act like angels. This is the message that you get when you read this work.

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