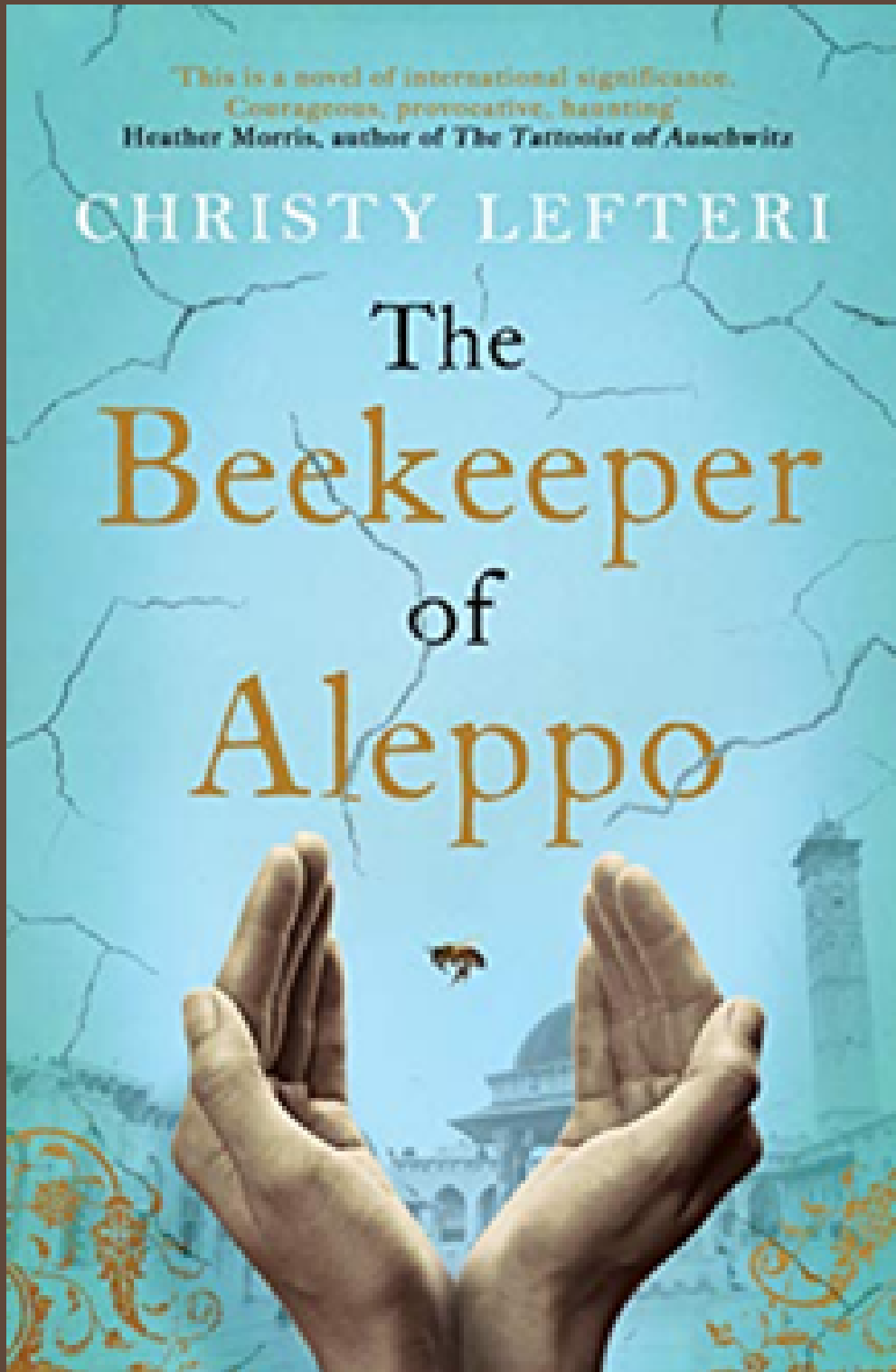




Meath County Council Library Service  
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## Meath County Council Library Service Book Club Kit



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# Notes To Readers



This kit was created for book clubs to use in their discussions of *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* and contains spoilers

## Contents Warnings

Please be aware that *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* contains content that may be triggering including depictions of violence, bombings, death, sexual assault

<https://mindscapeinwords.com/2021/06/why-you-should-read-the-beekeeper-of-aleppo-by-christy-lefteri.html#:~:text=If%20you%20decide%20to%20read,bombings%2C%20death%2C%20sexual%20assault.>

## Resources

This kit is available to download on our website




# Reading Group Discussion Questions

1. What impact does the war have on the life of the main characters?
2. Do you agree with Afra's need to remain in Syria at the beginning of the novel? What might this suggest about her state of mind?
3. Which of the two characters seem stronger at the start of the novel? Does this impression change by the end?
4. Are there similarities and differences in the way in which Nuri and Afra deal with the obstacles they face?
5. What do you think the author's intentions were by introducing the character of Mohammed? What could the relationship between Nuri and Mohammed reveal about Nuri's state of mind?
6. What do you think the bees and beekeeping represent and symbolize in the story?
7. At the end of the novel, Nuri says, "Mustafa has always given me something to hope for." To what extent does Mustafa influence the decisions that Nuri makes in his life and during his journey with Afra? In what ways might the friendship between the two men give the reader something to hope for?
8. It is because of Mustafa that Nuri strives to reach the U.K. Why do you think Nuri does not make contact with Mustafa as soon as he arrives?
9. Nuri contributes to the murder of Nadim. Do you condemn or agree with his actions?



# Reading Group Discussion Questions

10. Do you consider Nuri to be a weak or strong man?
  11. Which character do you think changes the most during the course of the novel?
  12. Why do you think Nuri finds it so difficult to make emotional and physical contact with Afra?
  13. What might Afra's blindness reveal about her state of mind?
  14. We never really meet Sami, but in what way do we learn about his character and the type of boy he was?
  15. How does Nuri and Afra's relationship change during the course of the novel?
  16. At the end of the story Afra says to Nuri, "You think it's me who can't see." What do you think she means by this? And how far do you agree with what she says?
  17. Which character in the novel do you think displays the greatest emotional resilience?
  18. What do you think happens at the end of the novel?
  19. Can reading a novel about the experience of refugees offer a different perspective or have a different emotional impact to that of the media and news bulletins?
- 

## Who Else Writes Like...?

A readers' guide to fiction authors



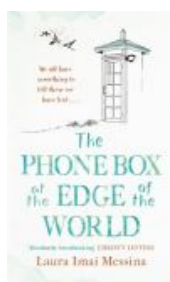
### Who else writes like Christy Lefteri?

GENRES General / Historical

**Kate Atkinson, Esther Freud, Kristin Hannah, Khaled Hosseini, Heather Morris, Jodi Picoult, Elif Shafak**



Peach Blossom Spring  
by Melissa Fu



The Phone Box at the Edge of the World



All the Light we Cannot See  
by Anthony Doerr

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**You can use the library's Reading Recommendation Website "Who Else Writes Like?" to find new books to read!**

Who Else Writes Like...? will help you to find something to read by uncovering new authors based on ones you already like.

And there are lots of other ways to search Who Else...?, such as genre, character and series. There are also featured links to book award winners, useful websites and editor's choice of top titles.

Some titles included in the site may be suitable for young adult readers, who are in the process of 'crossing-over' to adult novels.

#### How to Log In

To use this great resource just visit the Who Else Writes Like Website and Log in with your Library Card. Then select Meath County Libraries from the drop down menu of accounts and click on continue. And you're on your way to finding your next read.

And remember, you can also search our [online catalogue](#) and reserve the titles recommended.

[www.meath.ie/council/council-services/libraries/what-to-read-next](http://www.meath.ie/council/council-services/libraries/what-to-read-next)

# About Christy Lefteri



Brought up in London, Christy Lefteri is the child of Cypriot refugees. She is a lecturer in creative writing at Brunel University. *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* was born out of her time working as a volunteer at a Unicef supported refugee centre in Athens.

Christy Lefteri was born in London in 1980 to Greek Cypriot parents who moved to London in 1974 during the Turkish invasion. She completed a degree in English and a Masters in creative writing at Brunel University. She taught English to foreign students and then became a secondary school teacher before leaving to pursue a PhD and to write. She is also studying to become a psychotherapist.

# Interview with Christy Lefteri

## **Where are you now and what can you see?**

I'm at home, sitting at the kitchen table looking out on to the garden. There is a small shed out there and plants line the lawn. A beautiful red fox who visits every day has just leapt across the grass. There is a glass of water and a half-eaten pear beside me, and my dog is lying by my feet.

## **What are you currently reading?**

Forecast by Joe Shute. It is a gentle book about our relationship with weather and the seasons, the subtle and more obvious effects of climate change, and how the changes that are unfolding around us might affect us more than we realise.

## **Who is your favourite author and why do you admire them?**

I absolutely love Haruki Murakami. Every time I open one of his novels I prepare myself to be surprised, to feel emotions deeply, to view the world in a new or changed light. I find his writing mesmerising, his ideas inspiring, his style unique.

## **Describe the room where you usually write...**

Before my recent house move, it was my living room, looking out through the window at the street below and the back of the shops and cafes. Now I write in the kitchen, looking at the garden.

## **Which fictional character most resembles you?**

I have absolutely no idea. I think when we read, we see ourselves in many fictional characters – that's probably why we are able to connect so deeply. I have seen parts of myself, good and bad, reflected back to me in many pages of many books.

## **Who is your hero/heroine from outside literature?**

My heroine would have to be Menaka, who inspired my novel Songbirds. She was a domestic worker from Sri Lanka, working for a family member, and we became friends. I was in awe of her strength and the sacrifices she had made for her daughters.

<https://inews.co.uk/culture/christy-lefteri-one-minute-with-author-novel-songbirds-1537>



# Recipe

"And, Nuri, in this country there are rapeseed fields and banks of heather and lavender! Because it rains so much it is full of flowers. And so much green. More than you could ever imagine. Where there are bees there are flowers, and where there are flowers there is new life and hope."

## LAVENDER-INFUSED HONEY

SERVES: 8

### INGREDIENTS:

1 cup honey  
2 tablespoons dried lavender

### PREPARATION:

Pour the honey into a medium, heavy saucepan and place over medium heat. Be sure to use a large enough pot because the honey can easily boil over.

Add in the dried lavender and let the honey come to a boil. Continue boiling for about 5 minutes to let the lavender infuse, then remove from the heat.

Pour the honey through a mesh sieve into a heat-proof container. Allow the honey to cool, uncovered, until room temperature, at least 1 hour.

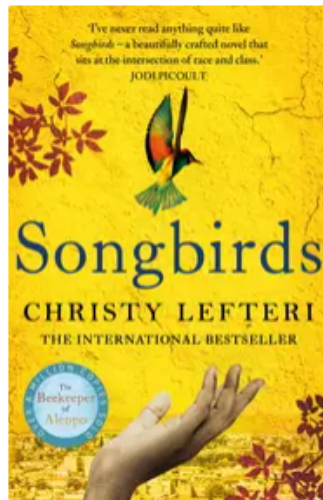
Enjoy!

[https://www.bookbrowse.com/reading\\_guides/detail/index.cfm/book\\_number/3978/the-beekeeper-of-alepp](https://www.bookbrowse.com/reading_guides/detail/index.cfm/book_number/3978/the-beekeeper-of-alepp)




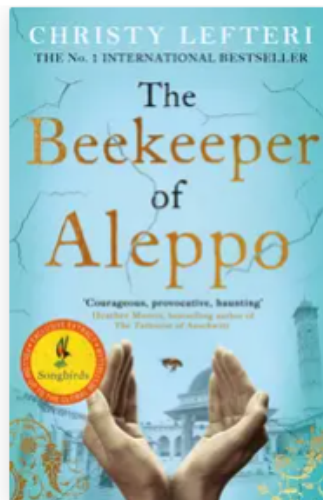
# Borrow Box.

## eBooks




+ My List

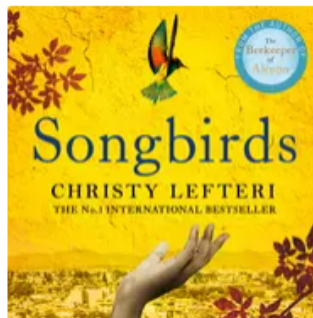
Reserve 




+ My List

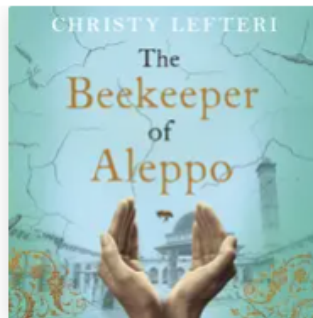
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## eAudiobooks




+ My List

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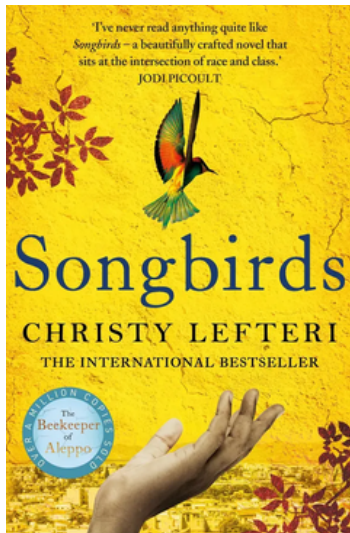


+ My List

Borrow 



# More from Christy Lefteri

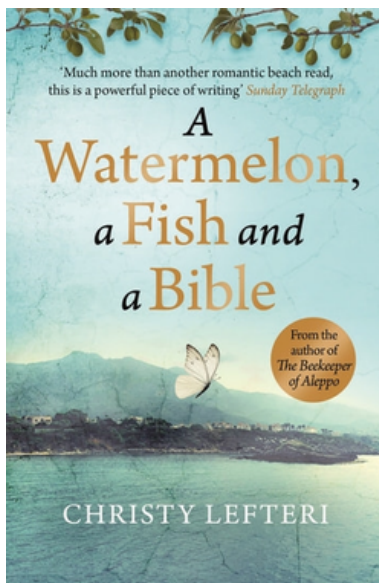


She walks unseen through our world.  
Cares for our children, cleans our homes.  
She has a story to tell.

Will you listen?

Nisha has crossed oceans to give her child a future. By day she cares for Petra's daughter; at night she mothers her own little girl by the light of a phone. Nisha's lover, Yiannis, is a poacher, hunting the tiny songbirds on their way to Africa each winter. His dreams of a new life, and of marrying Nisha, are shattered when she vanishes.

No one cares about the disappearance of a domestic worker, except Petra and Yiannis. As they set out to search for her, they realise how little they know about Nisha. What they uncover will change them all.



It is July 1974 and on a bright, sunny morning, the Turkish army has invaded the town of Kyrenia in Cyprus. For many people, this means an end to their ordinary lives. But for some, it is a chance to begin living again. For one young woman, brought up without her mother and shunned by the community, the invasion brings an opportunity to, at long last, share her side of the story. To an invading soldier, it becomes a search for his one true love, lost years ago. And for a man far from the action, it brings memories of the past flooding into his mind – a woman, a child and a secret never told. A Watermelon, A Fish and a Bible is a breathtaking novel about love, loss, identity and what family really means.