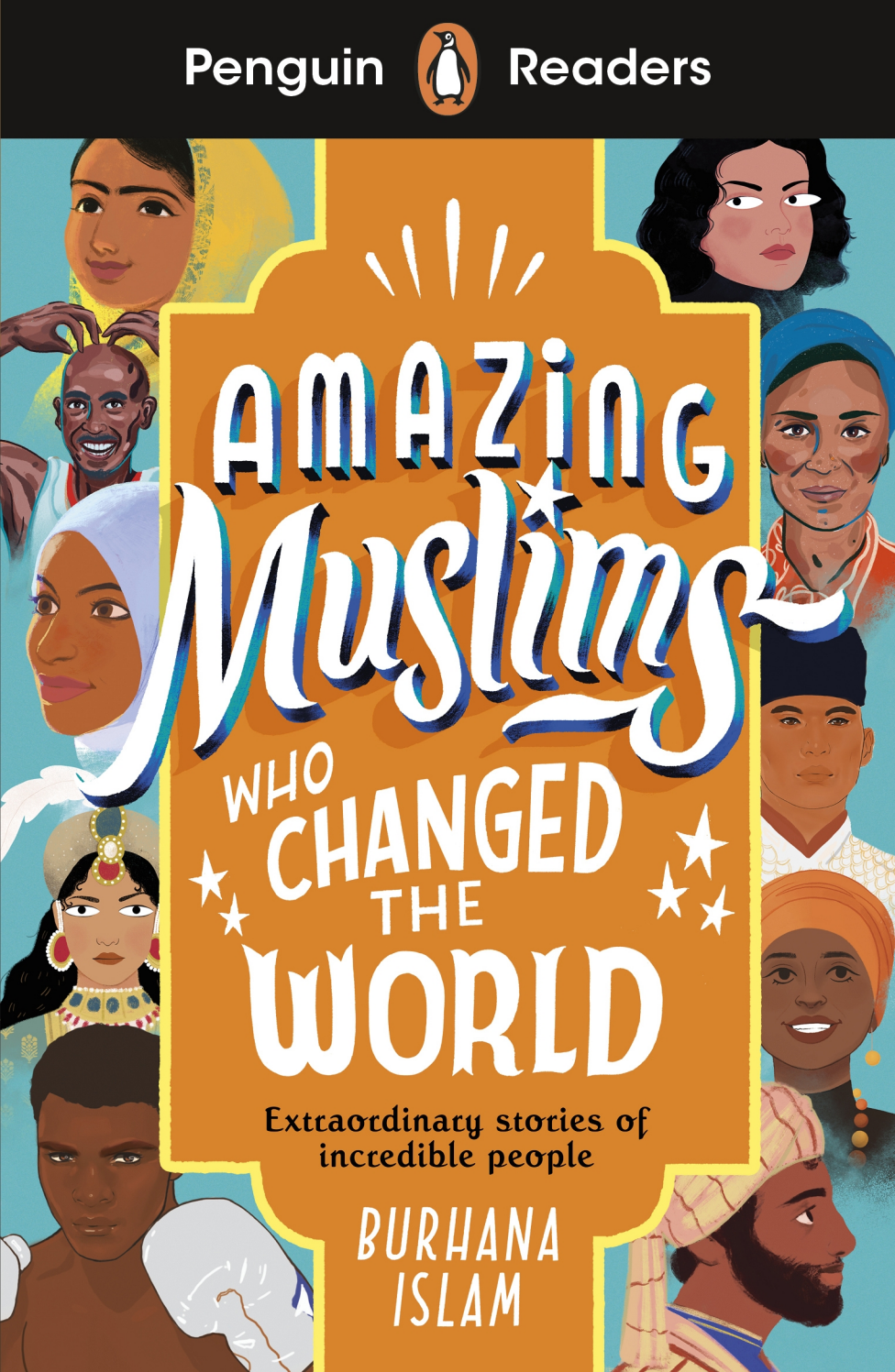


Penguin



Readers



AMAZING Muslims WHO CHANGED THE WORLD

Extraordinary stories of
incredible people

BURHANA
ISLAM

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Dr Hawa Abdi

1947–2020 Mogadishu, Somalia

Hawa Abdi was a child in the 1950s, and at that time there was no **war** in Somalia. Children laughed, older people told stories, and life was good.

Hawa came from a big family with even bigger ideas. In Somalia, most people thought that women should keep quiet, but Hawa's parents always thought, "One day Hawa will do something great." They told her, "If you **believe** something, don't be afraid. Don't keep quiet. You must say it. Your voice is important."

Hawa's mother was **pregnant**, and one day she became ill and died. Hawa was 12 years old, and she thought, "I can't be sad for long. I have to be strong. My family needs me. All the women here need me."

She thought about her mother and other women: “Why did my mother die? Lots of women become pregnant, but why do many of them die? Can we save them?” She decided to study hard, and she became a doctor. She **healed** many people.



But in the early 1990s, a war started in Somalia, and life began to change. Children did not laugh very much. Older people did not tell many stories. In four months, soldiers killed 14,000 people in Hawa's city. The fighting hurt about 27,000 people and about 200,000 had to leave their homes. There was not enough food to eat.

Hawa had to work harder. She built a clinic – a small hospital – on her family's land. Soon the clinic became a hospital with 400 beds. She also made a special place for people without homes. She helped 90,000 of her people.

One day, soldiers came with guns and said to Hawa, “If you don’t close your clinic, we’ll kill you.” But she did not move. “You aren’t important. You’re just a woman,” they said. But Hawa was not listening. She did not have a gun, but she was not afraid.

“You’re a young man,” she said to one of the soldiers. “What have you done for your people?”



She did not have a gun, but she was not afraid.

The soldiers could not answer her. They walked away.

But that was not the end. The soldiers kept coming back, but Hawa was always strong.

Later, she had her own daughters. Together they built Hope Village, a special, safe place for Somali families without homes.

Hawa died in 2020. Somalia is still at war. Its buildings and its people have fallen. But with the help of people like Hawa and her daughters, maybe one day the old Somalia will come back again.

Interesting fact

In 2010, some soldiers took Dr Hawa Abdi away. But the women from her village were very angry, so the soldiers brought her back. She told the soldiers to write her a letter to say sorry. And they did!

Muhammad Ali

1942–2016 Kentucky, USA

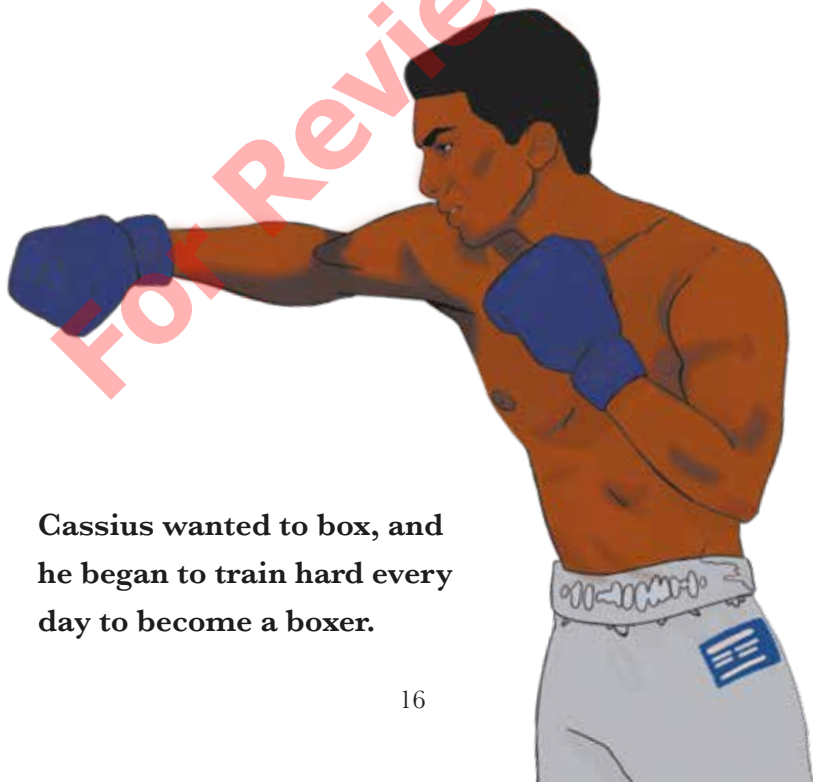
In the 1950s, in Louisville, Kentucky, there lived a little boy called Cassius Clay. Life was not easy for him. In America at that time, white people and black people lived very different lives. They went to different schools, different shops and different restaurants. Cassius knew that this was not right.

One day, Cassius got a new red bike. It was a present for his twelfth birthday. He loved it, but then someone stole it. Cassius was very angry. He went to a policeman called Joe Martin. “Someone has stolen my bike,” he said. “I want to find him and hit him!”

Joe was a boxing teacher, so he asked Cassius to train with him. The colour of Cassius’s skin was not important to the white policeman. Cassius agreed to train with him. He began to train hard every day to become a boxer.

Cassius was now 18 years old, and he was winning lots of fights. He wanted to box in the **Olympic Games**, but he had to fly to San Francisco to **compete** to be in the **team**. He did not want to go because he was afraid of flying. But Cassius and Joe got on the plane.

They were flying, and suddenly there was a huge storm. Cassius was very frightened. "I'm going to die," he thought. But they arrived in San Francisco safely.



Cassius wanted to box, and he began to train hard every day to become a boxer.