

## True Hope

Hope, it's what keeps us going. Keeps us chasing after our dreams, with hope that they'll come true. The wise Desmond Tutu once said, "Hope is being able to see there is light despite all of the darkness." To truly have hope, you must be able to keep it even when there's nothing to hope in anymore. In the book *Ask Me No Question* by Marina Budhos, two sisters Aisha and Nadira and their family have tried to cross the border into Canada to seek asylum after their visas' expire. After the borders becomes too crowded and they're sent back over the border, Nadira's father gets arrested on the other side. Nadira and Aisha are soon forced to drive back home to live on their own. Now Nadira and Aisha hope that they'll somehow get the funds for the bond and get their father back and find asylum somewhere else.

Nadira and Aisha both hope to see their family again even with the large bond that they know they can't afford. Before Nadira's father gets out of the car to be arrested, he explains to her, "You understand I'm doing this for you, Nah?" (Budhos, 2007, p. 16) This specifically highlights Nadira's fathers need to give Nadira hope and to ensure she never loses sight of her goals.

In contrast, Aisha has lost hope in their parents and jumps to the conclusion that she has to live on her own for the rest of her life. When Nadira says that her aunt and uncle are going to call the shots when they get back home, Aisha says, "Oh Nadira. It's just us now. Uncle and Auntie can only do so much. We're not in Canada, we're not in America, we're not in Bangladesh. We're on our own." (Budhos, 2007, p. 28) In a perfect world, people would never lose hope in the things that matter the most, but this

shows that people such as Aisha still lose sight and feed their negativity into positive people's lives, like Nadira's.

Desmond Tutu's quote perfectly suites this book, as Nadira keeps fighting to get her father out of jail even with the pressure and the many obstacles in her way. The way Nadira perseveres through life and everything it throws at her is very rare to find in people today. Nadira teaches us that if you never step outside of your comfort zone you'll miss out on opportunities you never knew you had.