

# A LONG WALK TO WATER

## BOOK CLUB

15 October 2025

Chapters 9 & 10

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# 60-SECOND SUMMARIZER

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FLAVIA

**NYA-** Nya's family is back in the village. One day a jeep drives up and two men get out of it. They go to talk with the chief and other men. Nya is curious about what they talking about and his brother say about water.

After the meeting they go walk past Nya's house, examining the area between two largest trees. There is a spot in the halfway where they believe there is water. After they speak to each other in their own language, they explain to the chief and Nya can hear them. She shakes her head, she knows the place like the back of her hand.

**SALVA-** It takes three days to cross the desert. Each minute of walking in that arid heat feels like an hour. On the way Salva stubs his bare toe on a rock and his whole toenail comes off. He cries so hard and begins to lag behind the group. Uncle is beside him encouraging and speaking his full name to move forward by setting small goals pointing where Salva has to go until they reach the end to rest.

The next heat day everything looks wobbly. Salva watches the group and realizes some of men are completely motionless. One woman tries to help wetting the lips of one of the men on the sand. Salva thinks to help but his uncle murmurs: " you are too small and not strong enough to survive without water."

On the third and last day after some of them survive and others die, Salva talks to uncle about his worries. How his parents will find him in Ethiopia. Uncle tells him the village was attacked and burned, maybe just few people survived. After his uncle takes him to the refugee camp he will return to fight in the war and Salva will be alone again with people that he doesn't know.

Suddenly he hears loud voices. Six men coming toward them armed with guns and machetes. One of them stop in front of uncle. Salva recognizes he is from Nuer tribe. They tie uncle to a tree, rob men's clothes and uncle's gun. When Salva thinks they are leaving, one of them aims his gun at uncle. Three shots ring out, then the men run away.

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# 60-SECOND SUMMARIZER

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MONICA

About Nya, she return to the village with her family. Later on, some men visited. They talk first to Dep Nya's brother and other big boys, later they request to talk to their uncle who was the Village's Chief. The men were looking for water, but they didn't find any.

Now in regards to Salva. It was a three day walk to cross the desert, Salva's uncle warning him about making his water to last. On day one the sun intensity caused heat exhaustion. Salva stubbed his toe against a rock, causing him to slowing down. The second day, they encounter several man collapsed in the sand, no one help them because they barely have enough water for themselves.

His uncle told Salva, once they arrive to the refugee camp, he will drop him off and he will return to Sudan to fight. Salva ask his uncle to look for his family and he agreed to but made it clear that his family was more likely kill in the attack.

Six armed men from the Neur tribe approached the group shouting. They asked Salva's uncle several questions, they took away his gun, then two men tied him to a tree, the rest looted the group then they went back to uncle and shot him.

# VOCABULARY BUILDER

MARIA

## Chapter 9

### **Word: emerge, emerged**

Part of speech: verb

Definition: move out of or away from something and come into view

Example: The butterfly emerged from the chrysalis.

### **Word: relentless**

Part of speech: adjective

Definition: oppressively constant

Example: The sun was relentless, beating down with relentless heat.

### **Word: wobbly**

Part of speech: adjective

Definition: tending to move unsteadily from side to side

Example: The car had a wobbly wheel.

### **Word: Reluctantly**

Part of speech: adverb

Definition: in an unwilling and hesitant way

Example: He reluctantly agrees to do his duty.

## Chapter 10

### **Word: stagger**

Part of speech: verb

Definition: walk or move unsteadily, as if about to fall

Example: He staggered to his feet, swaying a little.

### **Word: ravaged**

Part of speech: adjective

Definition: severely damaged; devastated

Example: He hopes to visit his ravaged homeland.

### **Word: trudge, trudged**

Part of speech: verb

Definition: walk slowly and with heavy steps, typically because of exhaustion or harsh conditions.

Example: I trudged up the stairs.

### **Word: swallow, swallowed**

Part of speech: verb

Definition: cause or allow something (especially food or drink) to pass down the throat

Example: She swallowed a mouthful slowly.

# VOCABULARY BUILDER / SOUND SPOTTER

CRISTY

## Sound

- **Shrubs** – small plants or bushes, smaller than trees.  
Example: The garden was full of green shrubs.

- **Shreds** – small, thin pieces of something torn or cut.  
Example: He tore the paper into shreds.

- **Relentless** – never giving up; continuing without stopping.  
Example: The sun was relentless in the desert.

- **Swallowed** – past tense of swallow; to make food or liquid go down your throat.  
Example: She swallowed the water quickly.

- **Reluctantly** – doing something without wanting to; unwillingly.  
Example: He reluctantly did his homework.

- **Shimmering** – shining with a soft, unsteady light.  
Example: The lake was shimmering in the sunlight.

## Vocabulary

- **Stagger** – to walk unsteadily, as if you're about to fall.  
Example: He was so tired that he staggered to his bed.

- **Trudged** – walked slowly and with effort, because you're tired or it's difficult.  
Example: They trudged through the muddy road.

- **Receding** – moving back or going away.  
Example: The sound of the waves was receding into the distance.

- **Stork** – a large bird with long legs and a long beak.  
Example: The stork built its nest on the roof.

- **Trembling** – shaking slightly, often from fear, cold, or emotion.  
Example: She was trembling with fear.

- **Looting** – stealing things, especially during a war, riot, or disaster.  
Example: There was looting after the storm.

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# SOUND SPOTTER

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LISA

**Interrupted** – stopped or broken in the middle of something

Salva lifted his head, the sobs interrupted by surprise.

**Wounded** – hurt or injured

He was somehow able to keep his wounded feet moving forward.

**Reluctantly** – not wanting to do something but doing it anyway

The sun was reluctantly forced from the sky

**Burying** – putting a dead body in the ground

There were no tools with which to dig, and besides, burying the dead men would have taken too much time.

**Clutched** – held onto something tightly

Salva Stopped walking and clutched at Uncle`s arm.

**Immediately** – without interval of time

Immediately, the group began to make preparations to cook and eat the bird.

## **The Water Problem in Sudan in 2025:**

I was curious to know what Sudan would be like in 2025 and unfortunately many people in the world, especially in Sudan and Ethiopia, still do not have clean water. This is called a global water crisis. It happens because of climate change, war, broken systems, and no money.

In Sudan, the problem is still very bad in 2025.

- War has broken water plants and pipes. People drink dirty water from the Nile River, and many get sick with cholera.
- No Rains (droughts) and too much Rain (floods) make it worse. In 2024, heavy rain broke the Arbaat Dam, and people lost safe water.
- Most of the water (97%) is used for farming, so there is not enough for families. Many people had to leave their homes.

Even after many years of war and problems, Sudan still has water problems in 2025 and still needs help.

Groups like UNICEF and SAPA are working to fix wells and bring clean water to the people.

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# CONNECTION MAKER

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ESMERALDA

Not yet submitted

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# EMOTIONS EXPLORER

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FATEMEH

Not yet submitted

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# EMOTIONS EXPLORER

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YULIANNA

When I read the part where the characters were walking through the desert and the women were sharing water with those who had fallen and couldn't walk, I remembered my grand aunt. And when the uncle told Salva that he would be staying at the refugee camp alone, it reminded me again of my grand aunt and her family. As I read about Salva's life, I noticed that he was a kind-hearted man, and despite the challenges he faced, there was no bitterness or hatred in his heart. This reminded me of my grand aunt as well. My grandfather lost his parents and his sister when he was only three years old. His sisters searched for him for many years — and finally found him. I don't know how old he was when they were reunited, but I believe he was already an adult.

When I imagine that family, I see a picture of happiness: a father who bought his wife a magnificent, expensive grand piano — a true masterpiece. Recently, we found that grand piano in a museum in Russia. It once belonged to our family. Only a few of these instruments still exist in the world — one belongs to the King of England, and another to a sheikh.

The mother devoted herself to raising her daughters — dressing them in lace gowns, curling their hair, and weaving ribbons into their braids. Their uncle sent toys from France, so large that they stood taller than the little ones who were only two or three years old. The older children spoke five languages. The eldest son served in the army. The eldest daughter had just turned eighteen. And she read novels and dreamed of marrying for love like her parents and having a family full of children, laughter and love.

And then, everything changed — in a single day. Everyone sensed that something terrible was coming. The father, sparing no expense, arranged for a ship from France to evacuate the Armenian community from the city. His brother in France helped him organize it. But the ship arrived too late — others people had taken their place.

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# EMOTIONS EXPLORER

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YULIANNA

My great-great-grandfather was killed on the doorstep of his home. His wife was murdered beside him. Their eldest son had been killed a week earlier. Armed men — called “bandits” back then — stormed the house.

The Muslim servants hid the younger children, but the eldest daughter couldn't escape. She knew what awaited her. To protect her sisters, fifteen and twelve years old, she led the attackers up to the attic and then onto the roof. She ran across it — and finally threw herself off, saving her sisters lives .

That night, the servants guided the girls to safety and sent them to their aunt in Baku. Four sisters and a brother . 15, 12, 7, 2, and my grandfather is 3 years old . They lived there until the 15 th years old sister became old enough to take her sisters in. They lost their brother right away. Either their aunt gave him to a children's home in Baku, or we don't know exactly how he ended up in an Orphan home. They knew they had lost everything — except their family.

My mother often told us, when we too became refugees: “We may have nothing, but we have each other — and that means we will overcome everything.”

Many years later, in the 1989, the youngest of my grandfather's sisters once again lost everything during another violent conflict. She was already over ninety. But she still had us.

She arrived at the place where we were temporarily living, carrying the same things she had fled with as a child: her father's portrait and photographs of her sisters — the only belongings she was allowed to take when given twenty-four hours to pack.

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# EMOTIONS EXPLORER

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YULIANNA

When we fled our homes, our jobs, our schools, trying to save our lives, she refused to leave. She said, "I have no children, no family — only the graves of my sisters and the walls of the room where I grew up. I'm old and harmless, and no one will come for me.."  
But a few months later, people came and told her: "Leave — or we will kill you."

When she finally came to us, I had never seen anyone so lost and broken. Yet even then, she remained a lady. She wore a corset all her life, as her sisters had taught her, always used cosmetics, and often said:  
"A lady must always remain a lady. You must never show fear."

She had known betrayal and loss, but she never held a grudge. She believed that true nobility lay in kindness.

it's better to share the last drop of water with a dying person than to walk past them. Because once someone helped her, and she always helped others. Even when her neighbor wanted her room and caused my aunt to fall and almost die, she didn't report in police . She always forgave. She never judged people or showed anger.

# EMOTIONS EXPLORER

YULIANNA



My grandaunts



My grandfather



My grandfather's  
parents



An older brother who  
past the earth a week  
earlier than parents. No  
photos of older sister.

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# WORD ARTIST

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ANA

Not yet submitted

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# WORD ARTIST

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LILY S.

Not yet submitted

# FACT FINDER

Sudan is the owner of the largest "collection" of pyramids. There are about 255 of them, mostly in the Meroe region, which significantly exceeds the number of Egyptian pyramids, of which there are only 118.

The pyramids of Sudan, created by the rulers of the ancient kingdom of Kush, are smaller in size and more elongated in shape compared to the Egyptian ones. Their construction began in the 8th century BC.

In the 1830s, many pyramids were severely damaged by the Italian physician, explorer, and treasure hunter Giuseppe Ferlini. Unwilling to dig deep into the sand, Ferlini blew up the tops of the pyramids to access the interior. He destroyed approximately 40 pyramids in this barbaric manner.



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# FACT FINDER

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YARI

Southern Sudan began to be a country in 2011. It is located in Eastern Africa . Sudan suffered several decades of a civil war. Is bordered by Ethiopia Kenya Uganda Congo and the Central African Republic. The Nile River runs through the center of the country. The population is estimated to be over 12 million.

There are 60 different ethnic groups. The largest are Dinkas, followed by Nuer, Zanel and Bary. English is the official language but indigenous languages are also widely spoken.

Southern Sudan is home to abundant wild life including Lion, elephants, giraffes, hippos and antelope. The majority of the people are Christians and Muslims.