



Control. Her parents and older brother were killed in the clashes between the armies and the militants, and since her grandfather died the year before, she has struggled to raise her younger brother alone.

It is an un-sentimental account of Shahana's daily struggle to keep herself and her younger brother fed, clothed and sheltered. The writing is straight forward and accessible, although sometimes it can be tricky to keep track of the passage of time. The text includes words in Pahari and Urdu, giving the book a sense of place and authenticity.

As well as the story itself, there is an Author's Note at the back of the book, in which Hawke talks about her time living in northern Pakistan, and giving more information about the conflict in Kashmir. There is also a map of Kashmir at the front of the book, a timeline of the main events of the conflict, a glossary, and a list of further readings. All these helped to enhance my reading of the book. Teaching resources for this series will be made available online.

This is a fascinating and eye-opening account of a war that does not make it into Western media terribly often. It would be an excellent starting point for discussion about children in war zones, or contemporary conflicts. If the other books in this series are as well researched and written, it will be a valuable resource for school and public libraries. Suitable for upper primary to middle secondary.

Recommended.

*Rebecca Kemble*