



# The happiest refugee

By Anh Do

First published in 2010

## Genre & subjects

Autobiography

Humour writing

## Synopsis

Anh Do nearly didn't make it to Australia. His entire family came close to losing their lives on the sea as they escaped from war-torn Vietnam in an overcrowded boat. But nothing - not murderous pirates, nor the imminent threat of death by hunger, disease or dehydration as they drifted for days - could quench their desire to make a better life in a country where freedom existed.

The Happiest Refugee tells the incredible, uplifting and inspiring life story of one of our favourite personalities. Tragedy, humour, heartache and unswerving determination - a big life with big dreams.

## Author biography

Anh Do is one of Australia's leading comedians. He has also acted in television series and films, written screenplays and is a sought-after keynote speaker. His unique and inspirational experience leaving Vietnam as a toddler and growing up in Australia is the subject of his bestselling and award-winning memoir, *The Happiest Refugee*.

## Discussion starters

- What do you think is most admirable about Anh Do or members of his family?
- Does Do change through the course of the book? How?
- Is humour an effective way of dealing with adversity?
- What part of the book made the biggest impression on you? Why?
- Has this changed your views on immigration, asylum seeking or boat people?
- If you could ask Do a question what would you ask?

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