

The Burden of Exile: A Banned Journalist’s Flight From Dictatorship by Aaron Berhane

**SHELF TALKER HERE** (Basic elevator pitch - 30 seconds)**:**

Aaron Berhane, an idealistic journalist with a young family, started the first independent newspaper in the notorious police state of Eritrea — one of the most brutal dictatorships in the world. When the paper was shut down, he fled arrest and began a dangerous journey to freedom, first across a desert, at night, into Sudan, pursued by Eritrean secret police, then into secret safe houses in Kenya before finally finding sanctuary in Canada — a place he knew nothing about. Meanwhile, his wife and young children were stuck back home, in constant danger of reprisal. Berhane’s new life in Canada was difficult, even scary, because Eritrea’s reach extends even here. His story is one of bravery amid complicated international geopolitics, of spies, guns, and betrayal, and — ultimately — of triumph and the piecing together of family in a cold new country.

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