

# CHAPTER SUMMARY

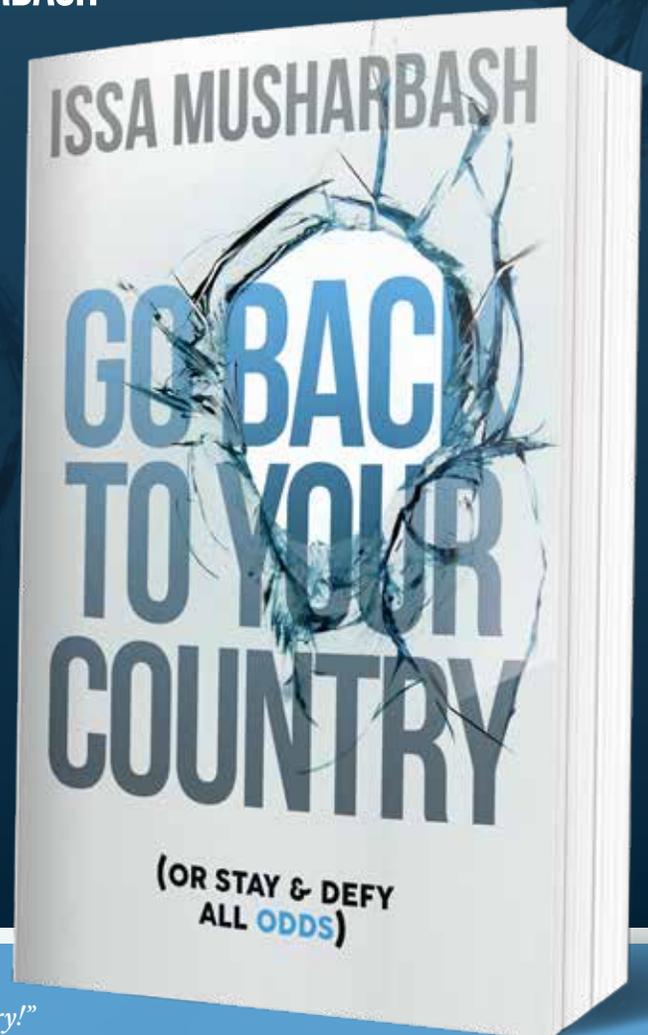
# GO BACK TO YOUR COUNTRY

## (OR STAY & DEFY ALL ODDS)

BY ISSA MASHARBASH

Go Back to your Country! is a riveting tale of the American Dream manifested in the life of a young boy who immigrated to the United States from Jordan. His heart-rending and uplifting story is one that will turn prejudice on its head as we see the world through the eyes of an immigrant child becoming an American Entrepreneur.

This memoir with autobiographical footings lures us to reading chapter after chapter of pain, compassion, love and redemption. We may find deeper meaning to our own lives hidden somewhere in Go Back to your Country! Through its subtext of faith and determination, we will be assured that dreams do come true, even for immigrants. As the story ends, it leaves you wanting more from the immigrant boy and his expedition of life in America.



*“Go Back to Your Country is the immigration story of the 21st century!”*

— Willie Alfonso | Chaplain, New York Yankees & Former Chaplain, Brooklyn Nets

*“This is truly an only-in-America story! Go Back to Your Country is an awe-inspiring book.”*

— Mayor Jimmy Davis | City of Bayonne, New Jersey

*“Go Back to Your Country will empower you to overcome adversity and put you on the track of success!”*

— Rev. Dr. Joshua Rodriguez, M.Div D.Min | Bishop of The Cityline Church

Foreword by Carlos Hernandez, PhD | President Emeritus, New Jersey City University

## CHAPTER 1

Chapter one begins with a dramatic scene of a 12 year old boy working at a sandwich shop in Jersey City. The 12 year old's boss is physically and verbally abusive. He has a distinct ring on his finger that he would use to hit the boy on the back of his head whenever the boy did something BOSS did not like. On his way back from dropping off a delivery, he was jumped by a group of kids that brutally beat him. He thought they wanted to rob him, but instead, it was a hate crime. After the horrific beating, one of his assailants knelt down and told the boy to "Go Back to his country" The author says, how do I know so much about what happened to that boy? Simple, I was that boy and my name is Issa. The author takes a few pages to share his intentions about the book with the reader.

## CHAPTER 2

Author begins chapter two with another dramatic scene. This time it's a young lady named Lidia with 2 children, one of which just got burned by a boiling hot pot of tea that spilled all over his body. She is yelling at her husband to call an ambulance to get baby to nearest hospital. Family members are blaming Lidia for her negligence. The Author confirms that the baby in the story is Issa and the frantic lady is his mother, Lidia. Lidia was married at the age of 14 through a marriage arrangement, which was common in the middle east in the early 80's. This chapter sets up Lidia background and family background.

## CHAPTER 3

A taste of America: In an attempt to give their children a better opportunity, Lidia and her husband take their 3 children and go to America to begin a new life. This journey lasted 3 years, a new baby girl comes to the family, but it all had to end. Lidia's husband was not able to secure steady work to keep his family afloat, their marriage began to take a hit and it was time to return to Jordan.

## CHAPTER 4

The couple and their 4 children move-in with Lidia's in-laws in Amman. The grandparents demand that the children attend a boarding school for the poor and marginalized to get free education. Lidia's protest fell on deaf ears and it began to crack open their marriage. The author describes the school and Issa's experience there.

## CHAPTER 5

Lidia's divorce was almost finalized and her adventurous attempts to take her children back to America are highlighted in suspenseful detail. The loops she goes through a jaw dropping. Finally, she successfully got her children out of Jordan and to Egypt. The plan was to take the children from Egypt to the US. But unfortunately, plans came to a halt when the family was intercepted by Interpol and sent back to Jordan.

## CHAPTER 6

The dream of reuniting with mom began fading away, until that one beautiful day. Issa was picking berry's when he heard a sound of another boy calling his name. The boy shouted "Issa, your mother is here.:" The boy waits, no mom, and makes this cinematic run through the fields to go to the principal's office to finally meet his mother. As he runs, a feeling of liberation washes over him. It feels like it's all happening in slow motion. It's a beautiful day!

## CHAPTER 7

Settling in America took a while. Issa is now experiencing rejection at school, bullies made it clear to him that he is a foreigner with a big nose and cheap clothes. He goes off to work at age 12 and begins to earn money. To deal with the abuse at work and school, he cries himself to sleep at night. He shares one half of his income with his mother. He is able to finally get his first Nike sneakers. He tried to quit his job... when he did, it earned him a little respect from his boss.

## CHAPTER 8

Issa meets his first girlfriend. Ketty. He knew right away that one day he would marry her. When she broke up with him, although it was after 4 months of dating. He was shattered. He thought that going to church would heal, but that didn't work. He was rejected there instead. This is a time in his life where he felt rejection coming from every corner of his life.

## CHAPTER 9

Issa finally finds acceptance. This time it was in a gang. The story of this newfound life unfolds and causes heartaches to his mother. This is where Issa breaks out of the shy and uncertain boy to the tough guy. He begins to fight and earn a name for himself. He became aggressively protective of his younger brother Hanna. Issa is angry and thinks he is fighting for good reasons, but he is just lost. He invites his brothers to join him in a gang.

## CHAPTER 10

Issa is suspended for another 10 days, this time for beating up a kid who was picking on his younger brother. Lidia goes to her knees to pray. This is not the baby boy she raised. Issa takes a leadership role in the gang, but also falls in love with music. He produces an album and sells it in school, gets into a rap battle as he tries to find himself... but he is consistently feeling out of place from the values of his childhood.

## CHAPTER 11

Issa takes an account of where he is going and begins to think of his future. Would he want his children to live like this? Questions like these haunted him. He began working at Dunkin Donuts where he gets some customer service tips from his mother. Dunkin Donuts was located across the street from a church. This is where Issa finds answers to many of his questions and begins a mentorship relationship with Pastor Rodriguez.

## CHAPTER 12

Issa's new faith is quickly tested and positions him to form new and better habits. His reactions to bullies changed. He took his anger to God instead of his own hands. This was evident when a kid stole Hanna's bus card. Rather than hunting down the kid and beating him up, he asks Hanna to pray with him. They both take their problem to God and the next day the bus card is handed back to Hanna. This gives Issa's faith a super boost as he tries to form new habits of thought and behavior. Issa gets an invitation to speak at the youth service. He spoke and the response was overwhelming. The mentorship relationship with the Pastor and Issa is cemented. Ketty resurfaces in the story as a friend.

## CHAPTER 13

Issa takes a turn from Dunkin Donuts to Toys R Us. There he discovers his capacity to sell products at levels way beyond his peers. Managers begin to favor him and challenge him to grow. He continues to develop and grow his sales gifts.

## CHAPTER 14

Issa sells a record number of policies during a snowstorm. He is recognized for his accomplishments company wide. Store director challenges him to double the sales. Issa dares the store director to put his BLACK TOYS R US shirt on the line. That shirt meant everything to Issa. While he wore a blue shirt that represented seasonal employees and others wore red shirts that represented year round employees, this black shirt was for accomplished leaders. Issa fixes his eyes on the shirt. He pushes through the doubt and breakthrough.

## CHAPTER 15

Issa is insanely in love with Ketty, but keeps it a secret. He worries about pleasing God in this situation as a young child who tries to please his parents. He goes on a journey of seeking clarity about Ketty. The journey was unprecedented and made it crystal clear to Issa that he is after the right girl. So, he pursues Ketty in a romantic manifestation of love.

## CHAPTER 16

Having discovered his sales capacity, Issa goes into Banking. He begins as a Teller and hopes to become a salesperson. Working for the largest financial institution of that time shapes and polishes his work ethic. From one manager to another, Issa proves himself over and over to get a shot at a sales position. Issa gets his break when he meets Shiva, a manager that believed in him and groomed him for a promotion.

## CHAPTER 17

Issa's promotion prompts him to get engaged to Ketty. He proposes to Ketty on her birthday in the presence of her family and his. He now learns that her parents want him to earn a minimum of \$40,000 annually before their wedding day. Issa shares more on Ketty's parent's background and why they were looking out for both of them. Issa's see's is as another challenge to overcome.

## CHAPTER 18

Now engaged to the girl of his dreams, he is back to work focused. He has a goal to make more money so he can marry Ketty. Months into his promotion, he is presented with a sales job in a different department, this time mortgages. Issa struggles with the opportunity but eventually takes it. Six months of learning the mortgage business was setting him up for his next position as a Personal Banker. The position he initially wanted. During this time, Issa is ordained as a deacon/minister at his church as he continues to grow in his faith.

## CHAPTER 19

Issa takes off in his new role as a personal banker. His mortgage background was his education and it put him in high demand. He was a rare personal banker, with knowledge of the mortgage business that was far beyond his peers. This propelled him to exceed his goals by 800 percent.. Yes, you read that right. Now his experience was noticed. Another branch manager asked Issa to teach his staff. This gave him exposure. A market executive was present at Issa's presentation. This was a game changer. He was called upon to now teach the entire sales force in his market, including all the managers. He is now ready for marriage; he becomes a US citizen.

## CHAPTER 20

The happiest day of Issa's life. He is describing his wedding day. The day was perfect. The details are in vivid colors. The sky was clear. There was only dark cloud, Issa did not see his dad there. His stepdad was right there throughout his teenage years, yet Issa was looking for his biological father. He turns his attention back to the wedding. After the wedding and honeymoon. This man's dreams are fulfilled. He goes back to work and makes it on national TV in a commercial. He felt like he could walk on air.

## CHAPTER 21

His career goal was tied to marrying Ketty. Goal met. Now, together with his wife, Issa wanted to take all that he has learned and bring it to real estate sales. After purchasing his first home, he finds the confidence to pursue that career path. When his daughter was born, he took a 3 month paternity leave. This is where he did much thinking and got his real estate license. After returning to the bank, his passion deflated. Ketty noticed Issa's change in passion, he wouldn't talk about the bank as much. His mind was on real estate. Ketty encourages him to quit his secure job and go cold turkey into real estate sales, a commission only job. She pledged her support and Issa resigned from banking. It was a struggle getting a grip of the business at his first brokerage. Right before quitting and reverting back to banking, he tries another brokerage and finds traction.

## CHAPTER 22

The new office is organized and clean. Issa finds his laser focus instantly. He learns about February's office competition and the same TOYS R US flare comes back. In this chapter Issa shares his struggle to keep up with his mortgage payments while trying to make a decent living in real estate. He wins the Feb competition and begins to carve a name from himself. But winning a competition did not translate into solving his financial distress. At least not yet.

## CHAPTER 23

The March Madness competition is the biggest one of the year. An Ipad2 is reserved for the top agent. Issa's story of overcoming what is seemingly impossible is at full display. You can see him striving to the top. 2 agents team up to beat him and this only pushes him to new heights. He wins March Madness and April's competition. He finds financial stability and takes his wife on their 2 nd year anniversary to Punta Cana in May. By the middle of the year, he is overwhelmed with business and can not keep up. He recruits Hanna and friends to come on board and join him.

## CHAPTER 24

Issa takes this momentum into opening up his own real estate brokerage. With so much opposition stacked against the immigrant boy from Jordan. He moves forward and yet makes it happen. Issa turns a fire that was meant to hurt him, into an opportunity that still pays dividends today. Issa closes the chapter by turning over to the reader and daring him/her to dream big and go for their dreams.