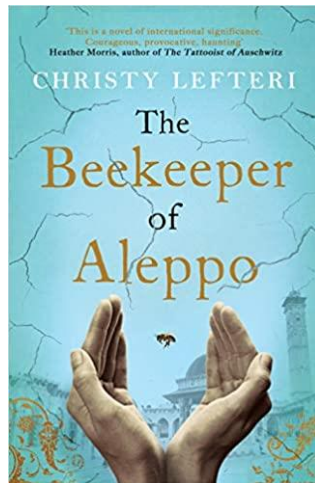


Book review: **The Beekeeper of Aleppo** by Christy Lefteri



Back in September of last year when we were able to plan a holiday to Scotland I was considering suitable audio books for the long journey north. I had heard a news story about a Syrian refugee Ryad Alsous who had built a very successful project with Huddersfield and Kirklees councils called the Buzz project which I (wrongly) assumed was the subject of the book and as we keep bees I thought this would be interesting.

Not long into the journey we realised **The Beekeeper of Aleppo**, beautifully narrated by Art Malik was a tragic and harrowing story of a family desperate not to leave their home after suffering the loss of a son in the conflict in Syria. It was captivating- the narrative style is raw and heart rending but compelling in the way their journey and the many hurdles they had to navigate eventually brought the bereaved parents closer together and they found sanctuary.

Beekeeping does have a part to play in the story but you will have to read it to find out what and how, and if you are interested in the Buzz Project see the [UNHCR website](#).

Jane Fletcher
April 2021