



# The Good, the Bad and the Gringo

Kae Bahar

**Finding solace from Saddam's terror in the world of cinema.**

## Endorsements

-**James Attlee:** Kae Bahar's protagonist, Merywan, is one of the most remarkable in contemporary fiction.

-**Barbara Marsh:** It makes me laugh out loud and gasp in horror, too.

-**Audrey Swindells:** Intriguing and informative, a page-turner, very absorbing, and difficult to put down.

## Keynote

- The author's debut novel. An new version slightly revised, with a new title.
- The book was first published in 2014 under the title "Letters from a Kurd" by York Publishing.
- A captivating tale of a young Kurdish man growing up in Saddam's Iraq, confused about his gender and Saddam's cruel terror. His passion is cinema, secretly writing letters to his Hollywood hero, asking for help to get him to America.

## Description

Growing up as a Kurd in Saddam's Iraq, Merywan is confused about his gender. His passion is cinema, secretly writing letters to his Hollywood hero, asking for help to get him to America. As his great escape from the dictator's cruel terror is twisted, Merywan is drawn deeper into a roller-coaster ride of drama, savagery, love, betrayal and heroism.

## Synopsis

At the age of ten Merywan Rashaba's life is shattered when the local Mullah declares him a neuter, neither a boy nor a girl, and therefore a doomed child. Merywan is terrified. If his father gets to know about his gender ambiguity, he will put a knife to his throat. Growing up as a Kurd in Saddam's Iraq, he feels he doesn't belong to this twisted society, but finds inspiration and comfort in the magic world of cinema. He secretly writes letters to his hero, Clint Eastwood, whom he calls Gringo, begging him to help him escape to America. As his plans are disrupted, Merywan is drawn deeper into a dark roller-coaster ride of savagery, passion, betrayal and heroism, which makes the movies he adores almost seem trivial by comparison.

## Author Biography

Kae Bahar is a writer and filmmaker. He grew up in Kurdistan under the regime of Saddam Hussein and was arrested and tortured by the secret police at the age of fourteen. With his family's help, he managed to escape to Italy to avoid a second arrest and possible death. What kept Kae's hope alive was storytelling and watching films. Most of his films have won multiple awards.

More info: [www.linkedin.com/in/kae-bahar-b6b7101b/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kae-bahar-b6b7101b/)  
[www.youtube.com/@kaebahar8756](https://www.youtube.com/@kaebahar8756)

**Release:** 9 October 2024  
**Pre-order possible**

**Binding:** Paperback  
**Format:** 198 x 129 mm  
**Extent:** 432 pages  
**Price:** £14.99  
**ISBN:** 9781738555239  
**BIC 2.0:** Modern & Contemporary Fiction (FA)  
**Illustrator:** Patrick Knowles  
**Distributor:** Gardners

**Afsana Press Ltd.**  
 37 Conrad House  
 N16 8LJ London

☎ ++44(0)7453918505  
 ✉ [publisher@afsanapress.uk](mailto:publisher@afsanapress.uk)  
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