



Echoes Of October

AMI ADAN

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Echoes of October tells the story of four 11-year-old children living in Israel and Gaza. While the events in the book are real, the children themselves are fictional. We encourage readers to learn more about the real-life events depicted in this graphic novel. www.AmiAdan.com/endnotes

This book was created with input from all the different communities represented within the story.

We strongly believe that the future lies with our children. By sharing a glimpse of these stories, we hope to inspire greater understanding, compassion, and a step toward lasting peace and security for all.

--- Ami Adan ---



Eli, 11, born and raised in Tel Aviv.
From a Jewish family.



Lily, 11, born in Toronto, now living in Kibbutz Kfar Aza. From an evangelical Christian family.



Amir, 11, born and raised in Daliyat al-Karmel. From a Druze family.



Jannah, 11, born and raised in Gaza City. From a Muslim family.



Daliyat
Al-Karmel

Tel-Aviv

Gaza City

Kfar Aza



Prologue

OCTOBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				12	13	14

Today, my father
was killed



Eli



Janna



Amir



Lily

Tel Aviv



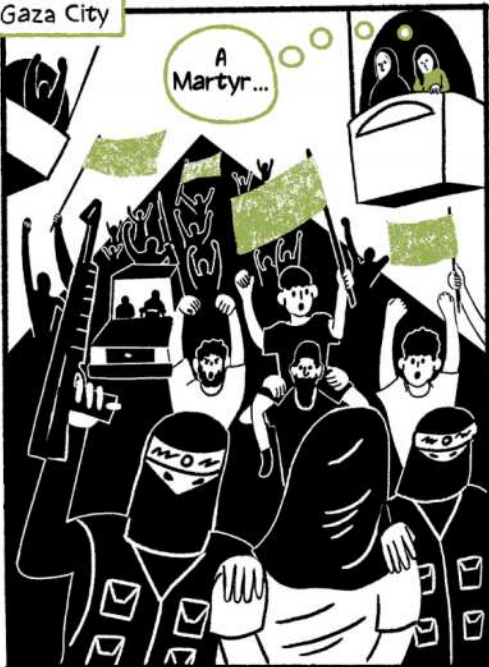
Kibbutz Kfar Aza



Daliyat al-Karmel



Gaza City





why?







I remember
a year ago...



Part I

A year before...
in Tel Aviv

We missed
you in
the unit.

With your aim,
you don't miss
anything.

Seems neither
does your son.

Woah!
Nice!

Got
it!

I'm tired...
tired of always
fighting.

Sometimes I think
I should just
take my family
and leave.

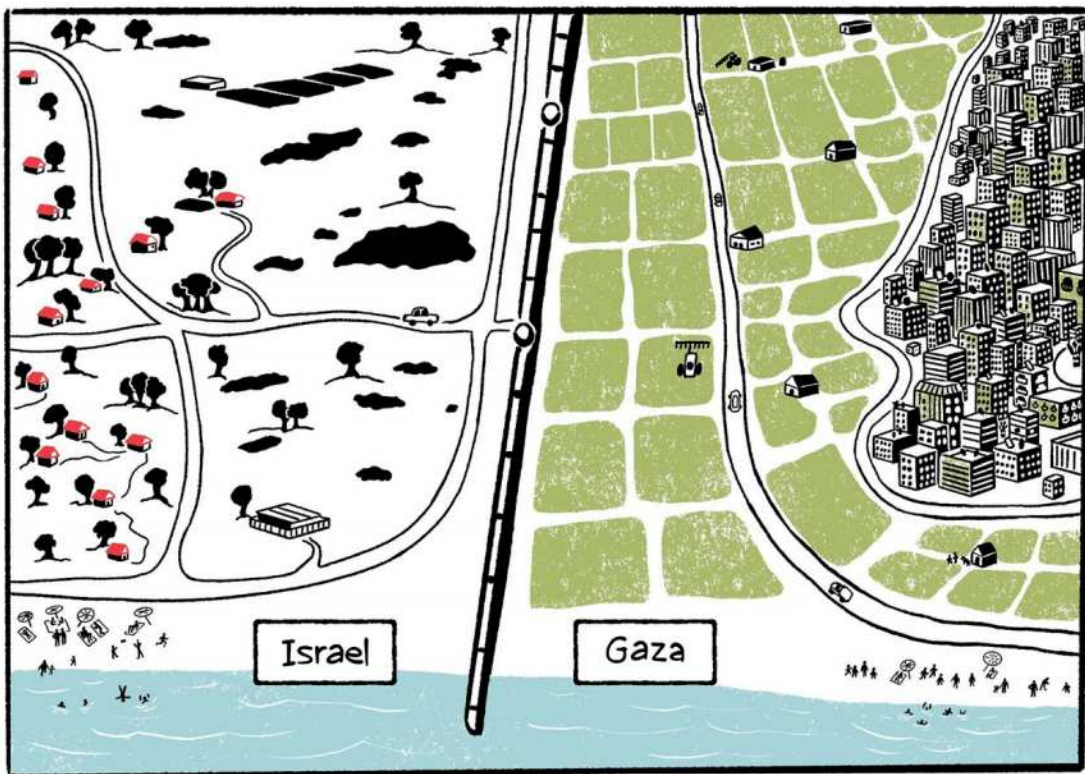
October 7th 2022

I
wish you
didn't live
so far
away.

You
have to
come to the
restaurant.
Druze
cooking is
the best.

I don't
know... I'm...
I'm just-

Tired...
We all are.
But, habibi,
this is
home.



Kibbutz Kfar Aza



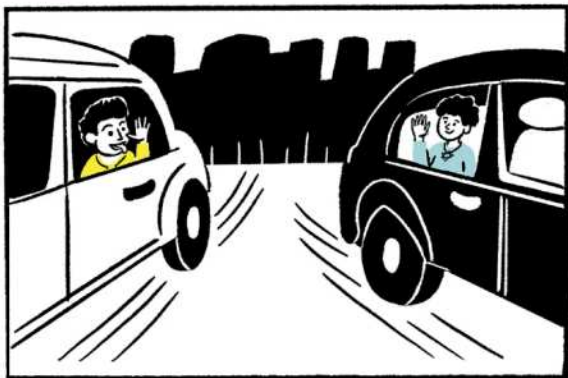
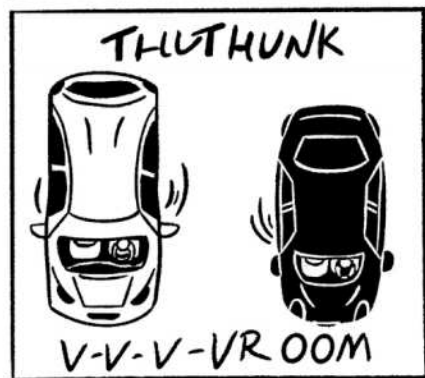
Gaza City



Later, at a Tel Aviv restaurant and in homes



After the meal



Meanwhile in Gaza City,
70 kilometers from Tel Aviv



Across the border in Kibbutz Kfar Aza,
6.5 kilometers to Gaza City

...I didn't choose
this town... I
dream of getting
out...



Taylor
Swift?

Mhmm...

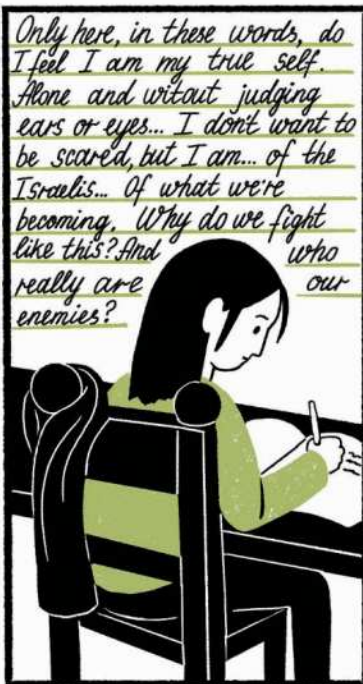
♪ ... You're on your
own kid, you always
have been... ♪



I hate it
here...







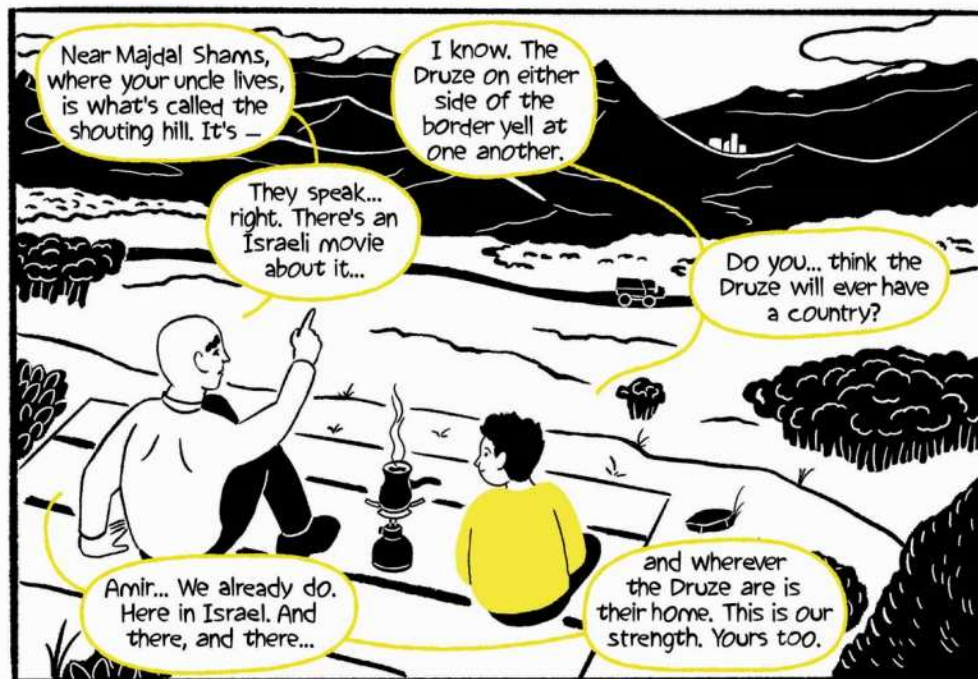
Days later



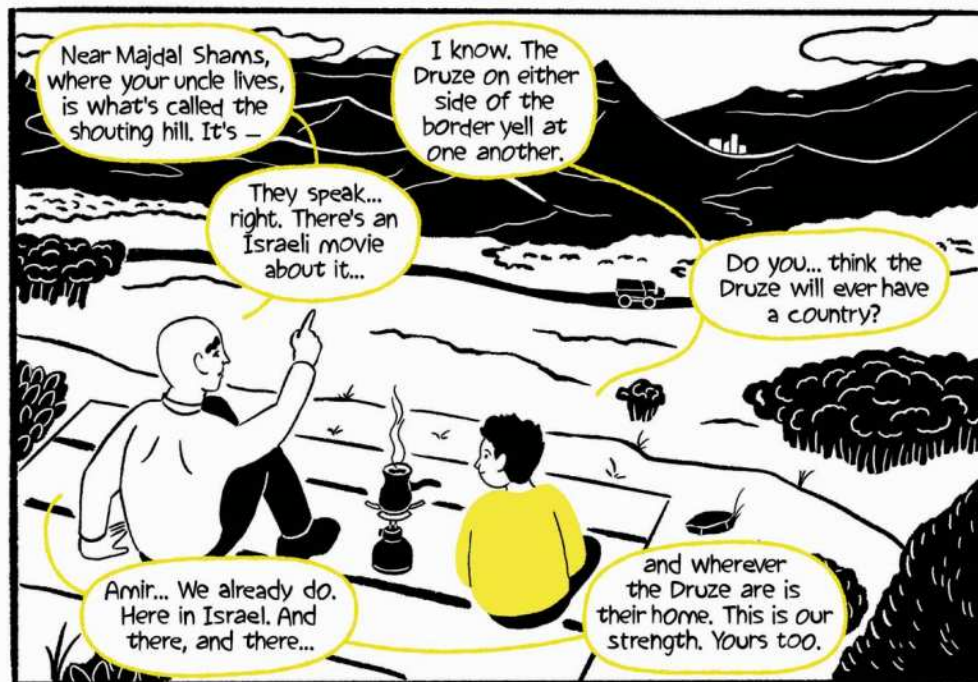
Elsewhere, in Gaza City



Northern Israel



Northern Israel



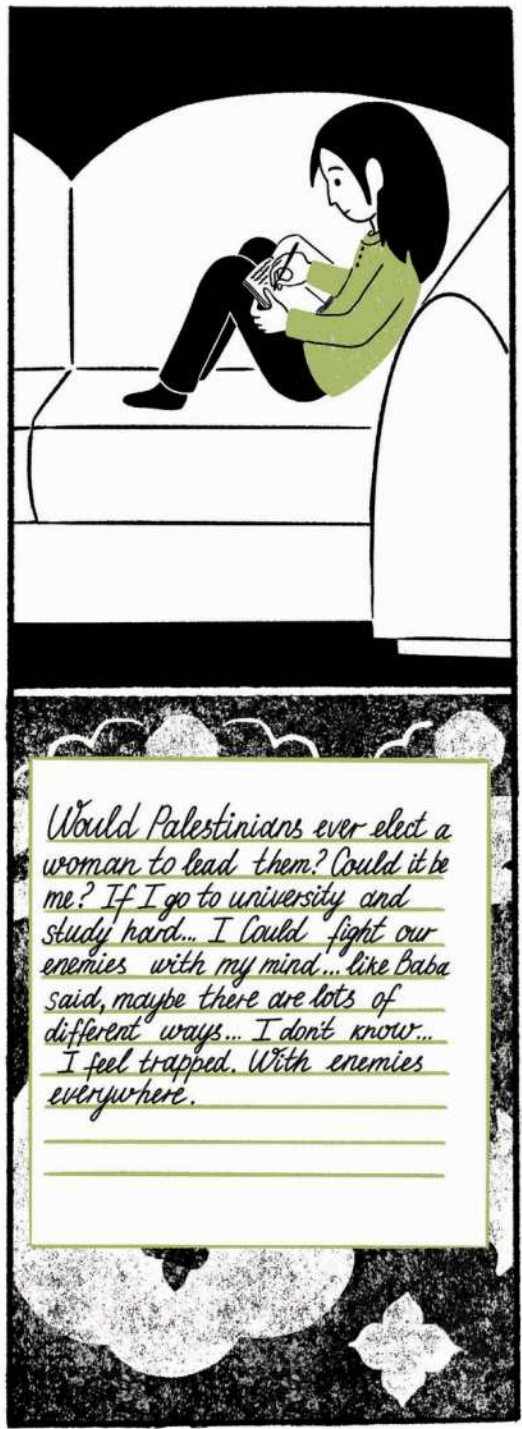
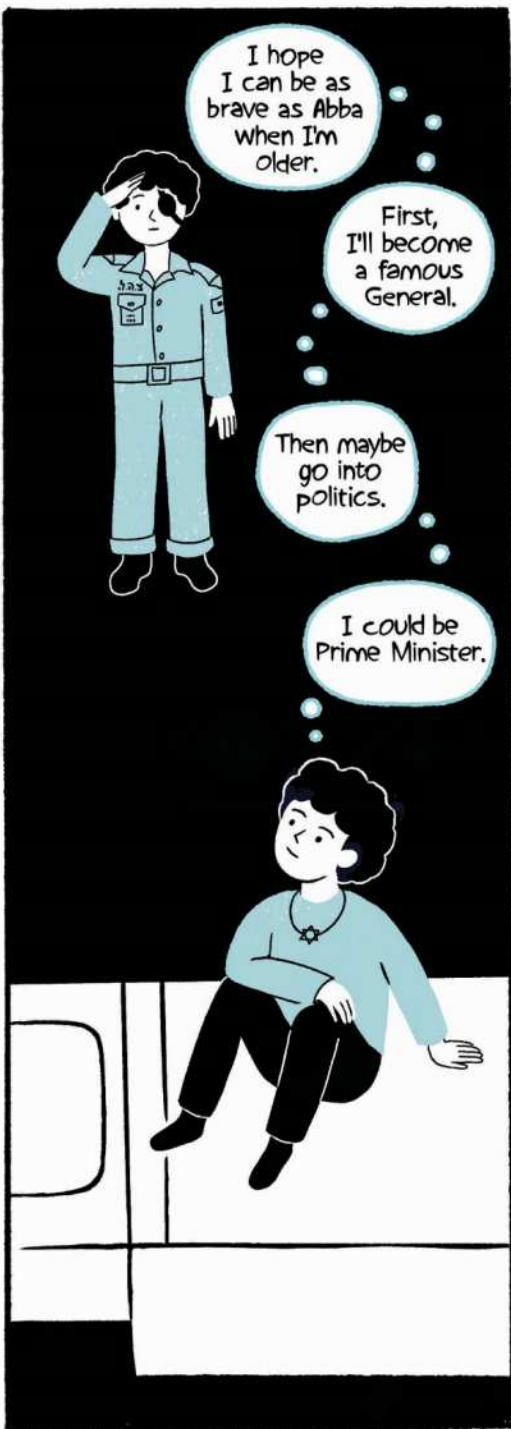
Definitely not Canada



Part II

'My dreams...
were so vivid
and real.
Clearer than
life itself.
Are they still
possible?"

Eli







Tel Aviv



Daliyat al-Karmel



Gaza City



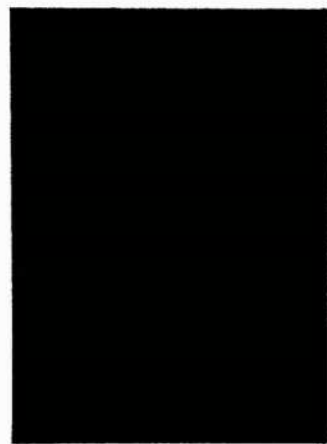
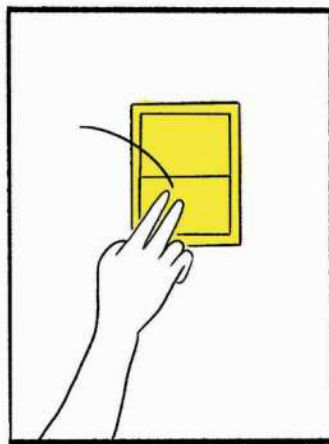
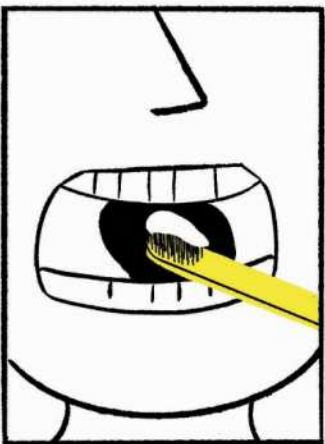
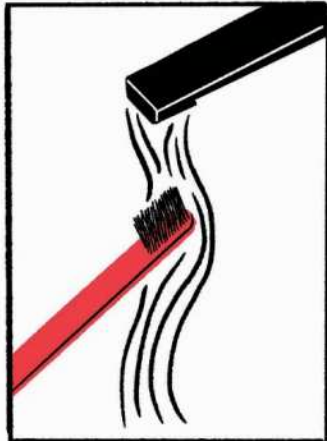
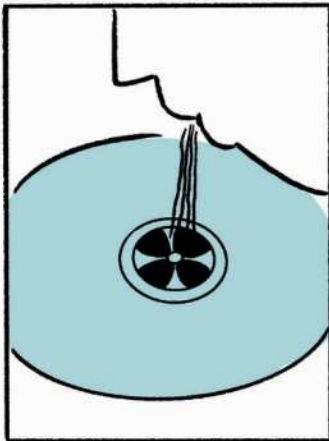
Kibbutz Kfar Aza





Across the land



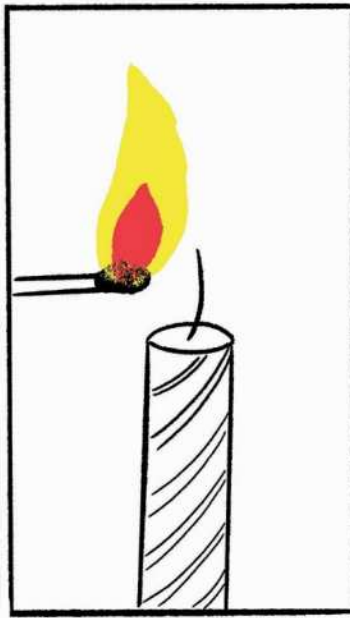
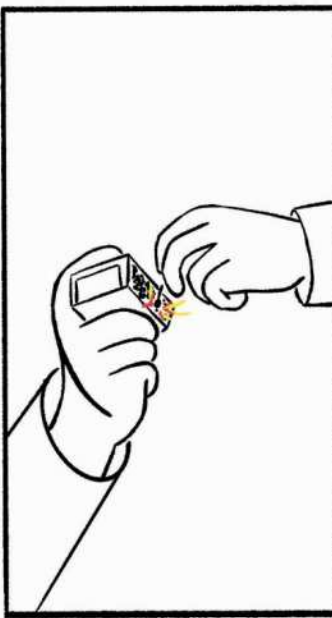
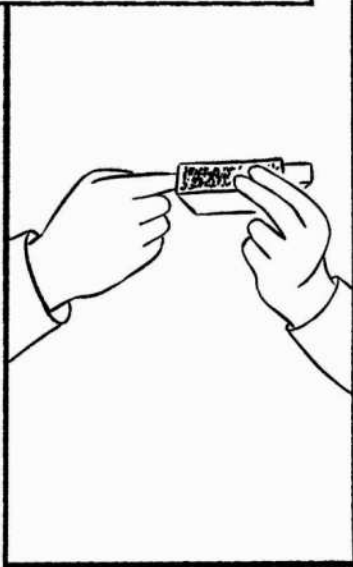


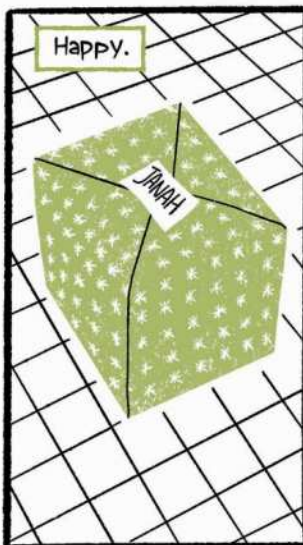
Part III

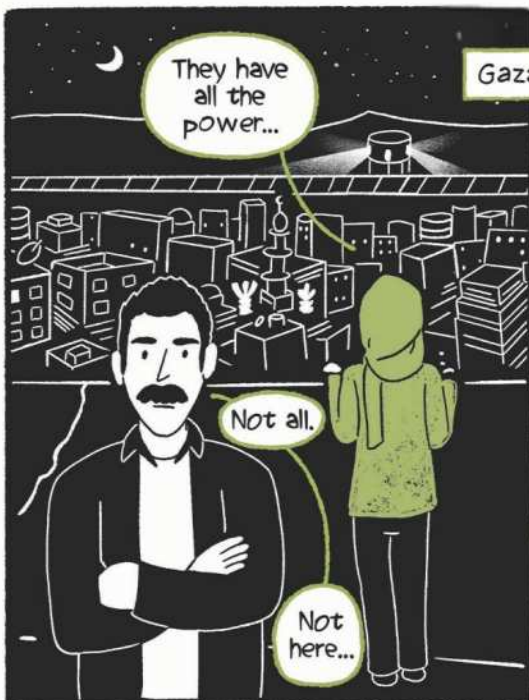
WOULD IT HAVE BEEN
BETTER TO KNOW IT WAS
THE LAST TIME WE'D
CELEBRATE?

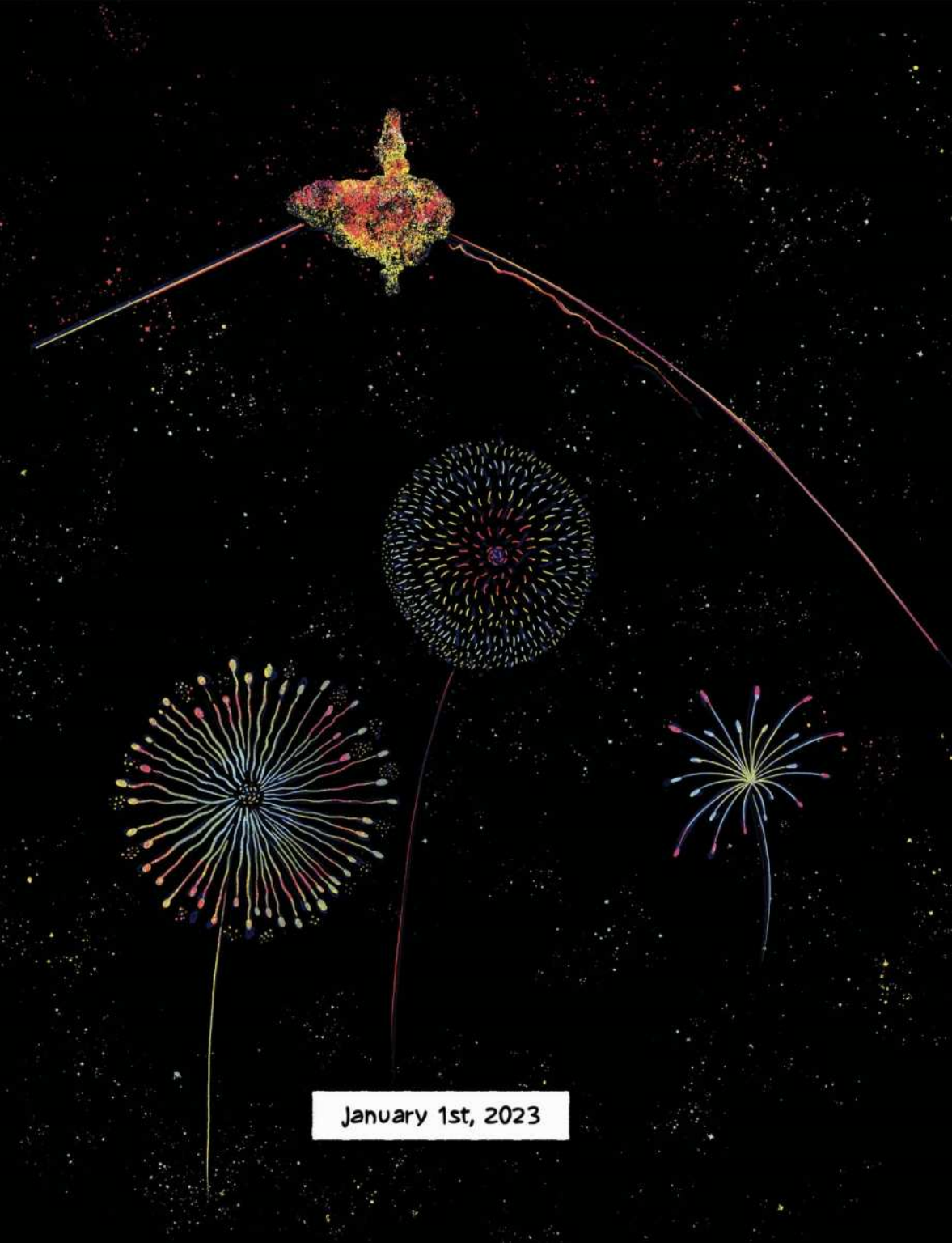
AMIR

Hanukkah.
December 7th, 2022



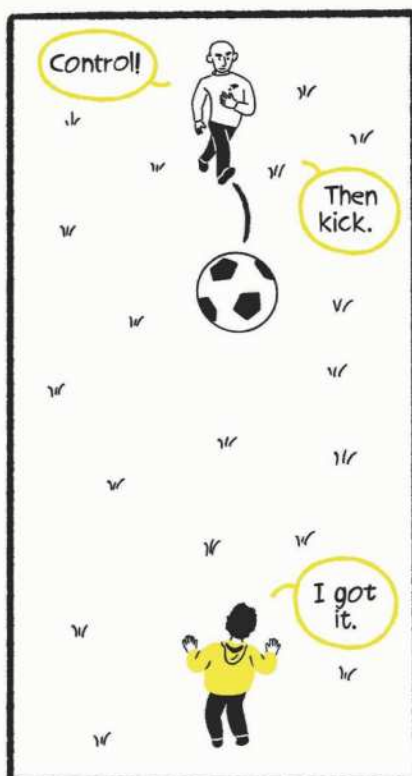






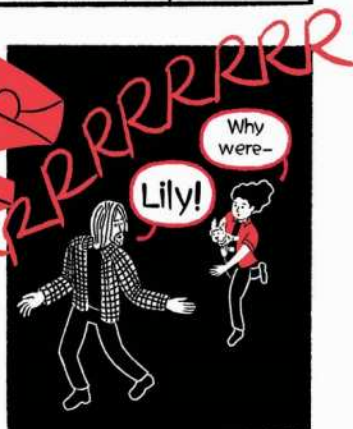
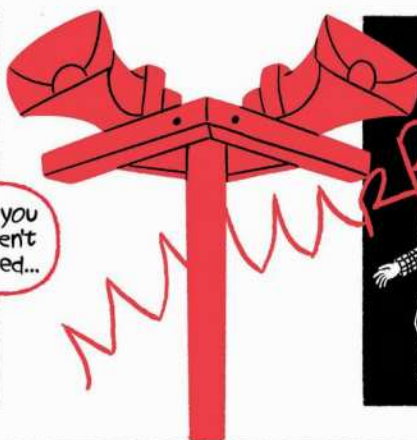
January 1st, 2023





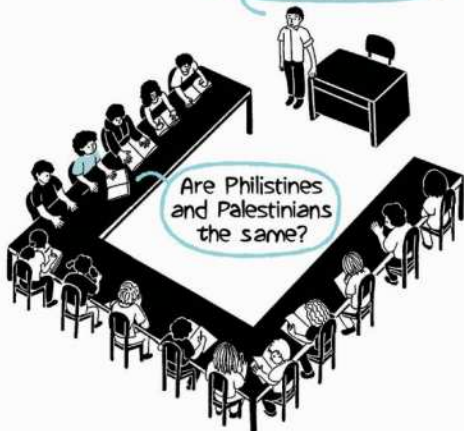


Kibbutz Kfar Aza



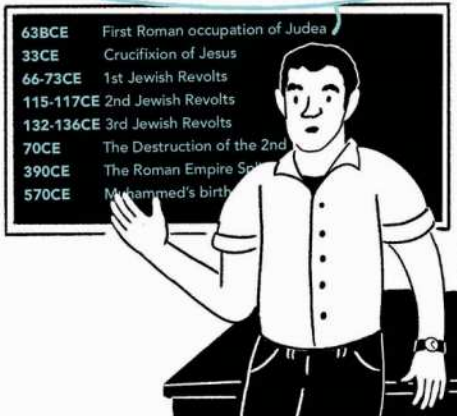
Thus, Bar
Kohba's revolt
against Roman
Occupation of
Judea failed.

Rome, as punishment,
renamed the region
Syria Palaestina after the
Jews' ancient Philistine
rivals, and to erase links
between Jews and the
land of Israel. ...Eli?



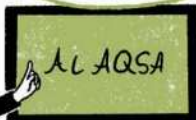
It's confusing... but it would be 500 years
before Islam was born... and Christianity
was still in its infancy. As for the Philistines
and fearsome Goliath, they were likely
Aegeans fleeing the Bronze Age collapse
as part of the Sea Peoples... Also, calling
yourself Palestinian before 1948 usually
meant you were Jewish.

- 63BCE First Roman occupation of Judea
- 33CE Crucifixion of Jesus
- 66-73CE 1st Jewish Revolts
- 115-117CE 2nd Jewish Revolts
- 132-136CE 3rd Jewish Revolts
- 70CE The Destruction of the 2nd
- 390CE The Roman Empire Sp
- 570CE Muhammed's birth

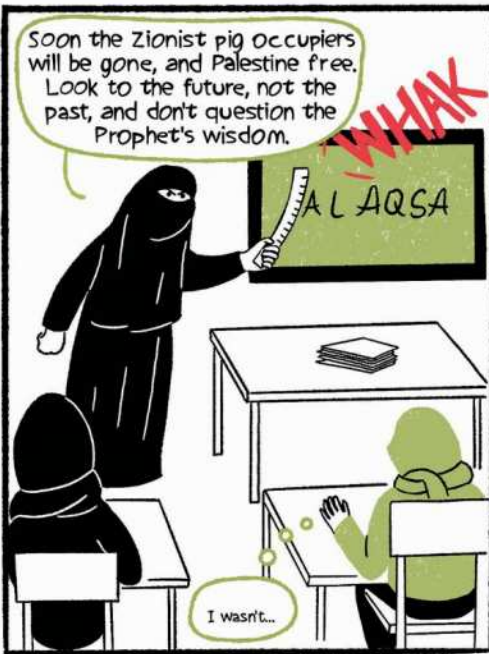


Holy Al Aqsa is
where the Prophet,
peace be upon him,
ascended to
Heaven.

It is sacred, but
the Jew Zionists
wish to destroy
and... Jannah?



Soon the Zionist pig Occupiers
will be gone, and Palestine free.
Look to the future, not the
past, and don't question the
Prophet's wisdom.



Now while Al Aqsa and the Temple Mount is holy to Islam, and managed by the Jordanian Government's Jerusalem Waqif, it is also holy to Jews as the ruins of the destroyed 1st and 2nd Temples... so they pray at the wailing wall below. ...Amir?

THE SIX DAY WAR

Are Jews allowed to pray at Al Aqsa?

It's complicated... Israeli security forces control access and keep the 'status-quo' by banning non-Muslims from visiting, even though no Israeli law prohibits them and sometimes groups try...

THE SIX DAY WAR

May 14th, 1948, David Ben-Gurion proclaimed the establishment of the modern State of Israel, not to be confused with the ancient Kingdom of Israel... marking the rebirth of a nation for the Jewish people after centuries of diaspora and longing for a homeland. However - Yes, Lily?

What was there - I mean, here... before 1948?

There was no independent country. The British ruled. Before them the Ottomans... Napoleon also snuck in there... There were the Mamluks, Mongols, and Crusaders... the Fatimids, Abbasids, and Umayyads... the Byzantines and Romans... on and on and on... back to Solomon, David and earlier...

So confusing...

But in 1948, as Israel celebrated independence, today's Palestinians have gone on to call that day the Nakba, or 'catastrophe,' where they believe their land was taken.





Daliyat al-Karmel



Showering early?
Or head caught in
the clouds?

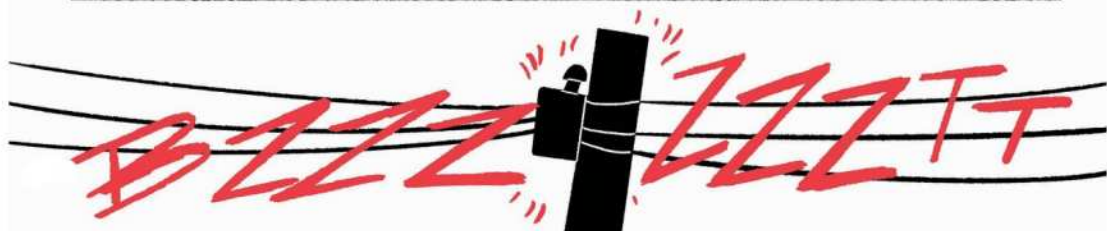
Forgot
an umbrella.

We need
you in the
restaurant.

Big group
just booked.

Yalla.

Gaza City

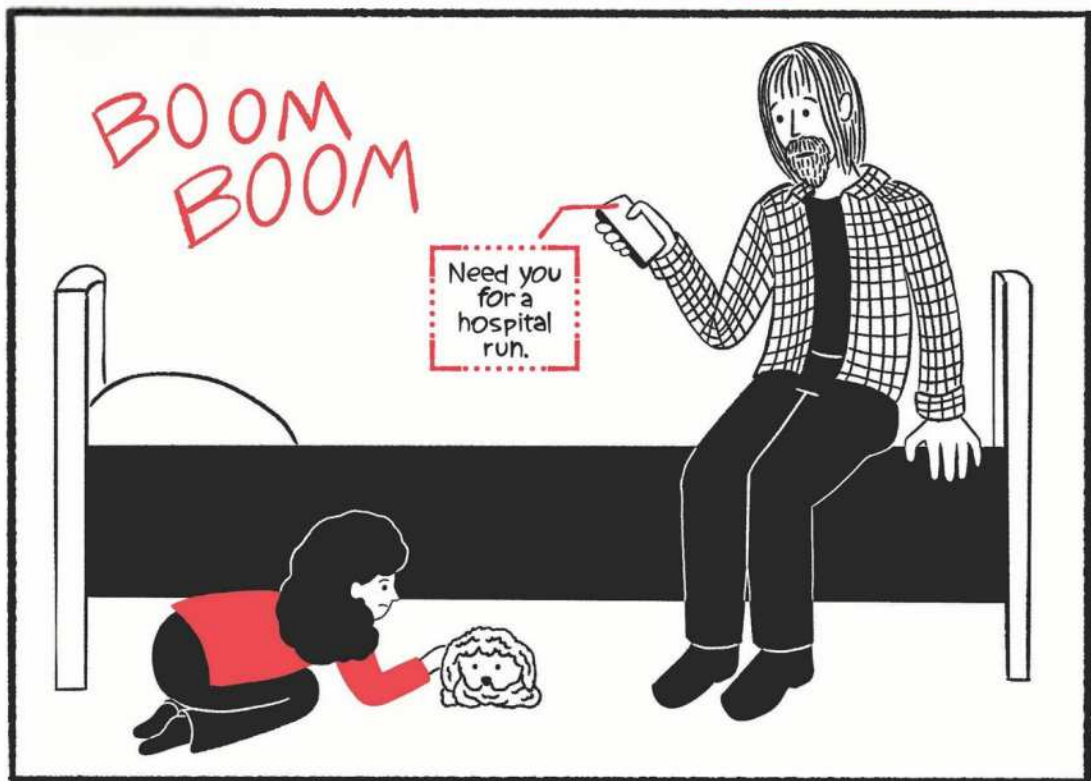






Another parting





Part IV

" I wish
I could go back
to my life
before.

To that 'other'
world, wich seems
so simple now.
Despite it all."

Jannah

Gaza

I hate this.

Only a little further.

I'm just a kid trying to—

Quiet, Jannah.



Border crossing into Israel

You're going for treatment?

Yes. No... my daughter.

This pass is just for her. Not you.

Please...

Why do the Zionists treat us like this?

Like I'm guilty for just being here...



Israel

Salam alaikum.
Hello. Are we
waiting for
anyone else?

I... they
let Baba come
too... I didn't
expect that.

HOSPITAL

مستشفى خيري

בית חולים

Only us.

I wonder...
if he was one
of the people
who shot
rockets
at us?





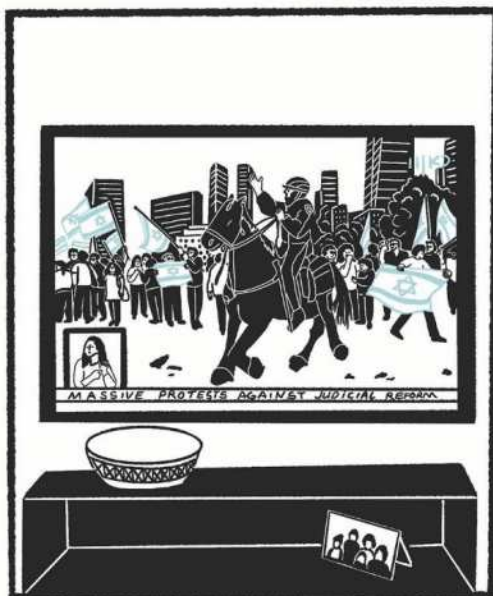
Tel Aviv



And now
we're fighting
ourselves...

Why can't
we just have
peace and quiet
like other
places...





Tel Aviv





So someone else will take them back to Gaza?

A few blocks away...

RRRRRRRR

When it's time to go, yes.

Will she be okay?

As I understand she's staying overnight for tests.

Some of the best doctors in the world are here.

Thanks for tagging along, kiddo.

Dad... I'm happy you're here. That we're here.

Careful, we'll make you a Zionist yet.

Is that a bad thing?

Not at all. It means you believe Jews have the right to live safely in their ancestral homeland, here in Israel.

I must be a Zionist then...

What happened?

Rocket got through.

It hit the stables.

Father, forgive them... for they know not what they do.

Mountie... Is he... No...

But... they do... don't they?

This is what they want...

That same night

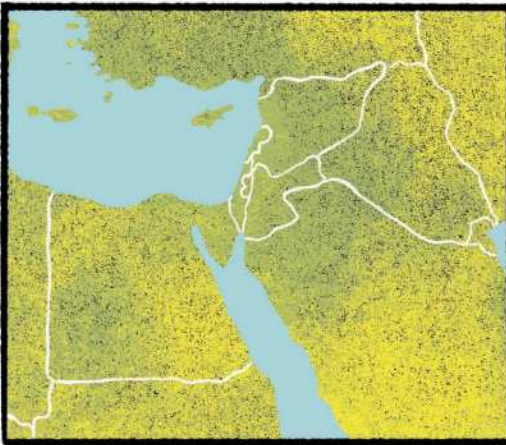
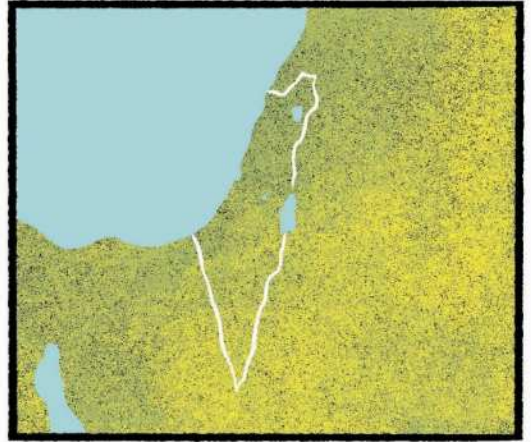
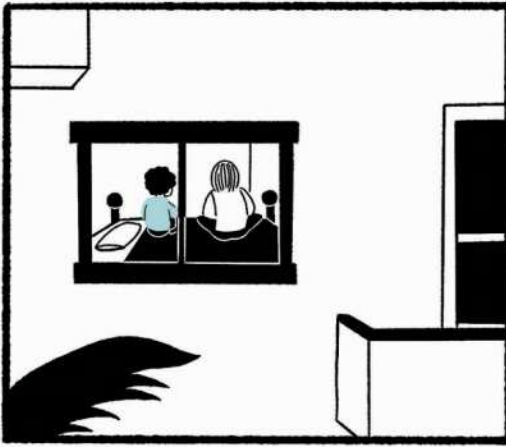


And just abandon our country? Our parents?! Our brothers and sisters?!



We're okay, Eli... we're okay...



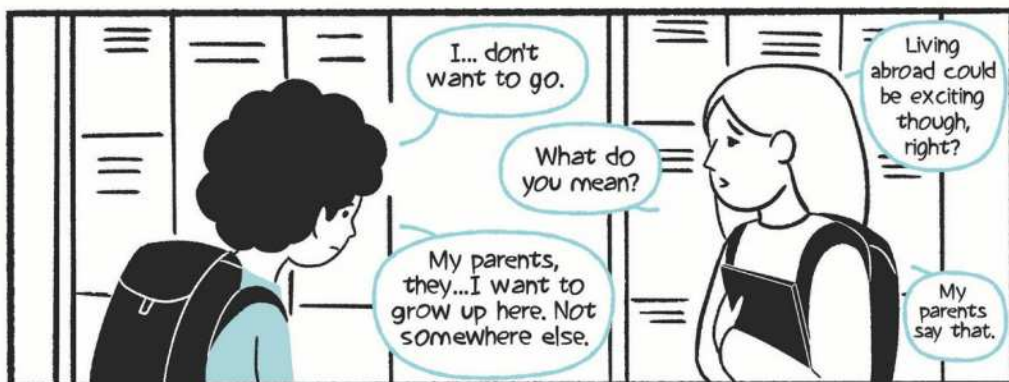


The next day

Gaza

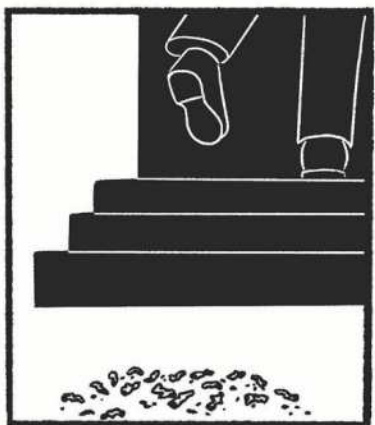


Tel Aviv

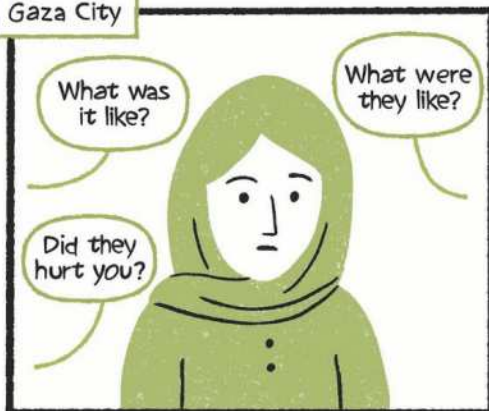


Tel Aviv





Gaza City



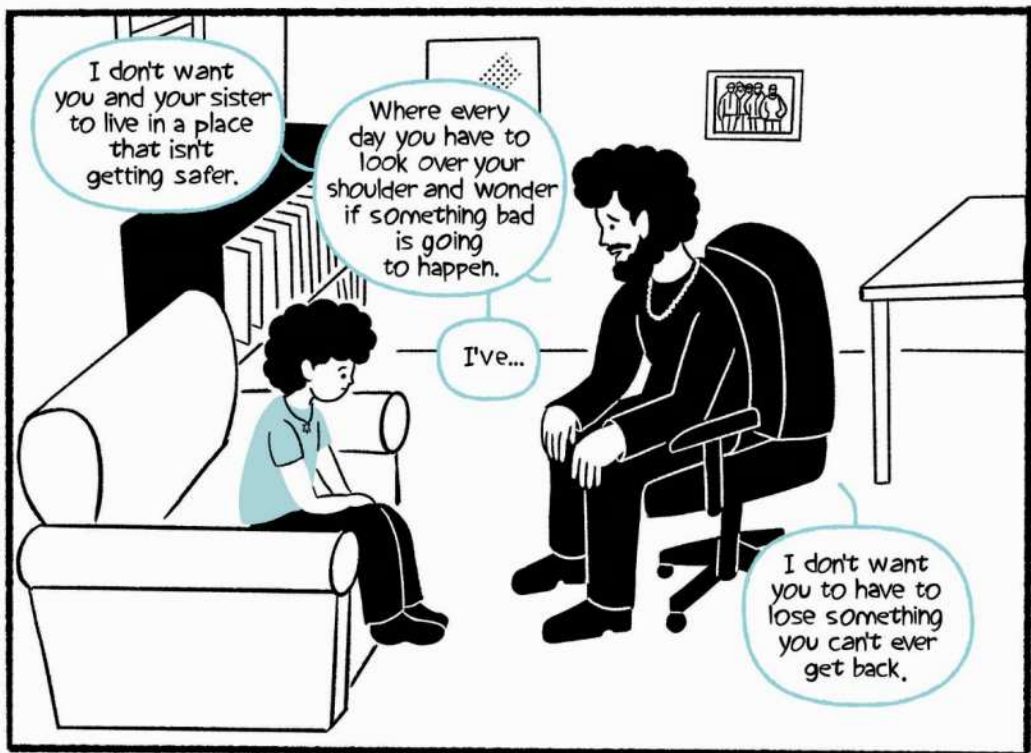
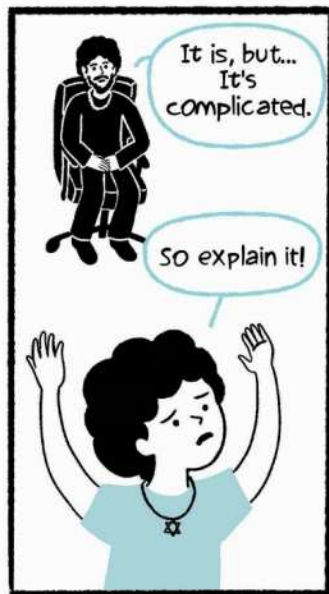
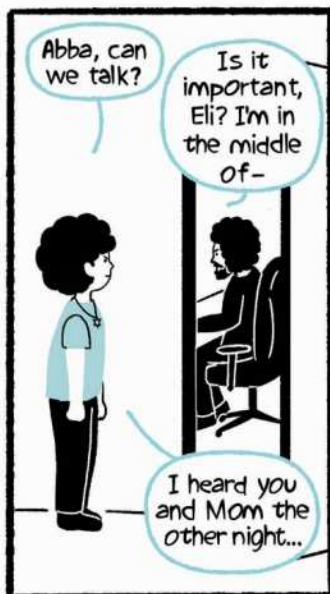
Kibbutz Kfar Aza



Part V

IF I TRIED HARDER...
WOULD IT HAVE
MATTERED? WAS THERE
ANYTHING I COULD
HAVE DONE?

AMIR



A black and white comic illustration set against a dark, starry night sky with a crescent moon. In the background, a watchtower stands on a hill, and two soldiers in uniform walk along a path. In the foreground, a young boy with dark hair, wearing a yellow hoodie and black pants, is talking on a mobile phone. He looks surprised and concerned. To his right, a soldier in a dark uniform with a Canadian flag patch on his sleeve stands looking at him. The boy has dropped a yellow pencil and a red pencil, along with two papers. One paper features a yellow maple leaf and the word 'SUPER' in red, while the other has several horizontal lines. A red diagonal line runs across the scene, separating the boy from the soldier.

But it's not fair.
You should be
allowed to
come home
to celebrate
with us.

It's not that
I'm not
allowed, Amir,
it's that—

What?
They need you? What
about us? What
about what we need?

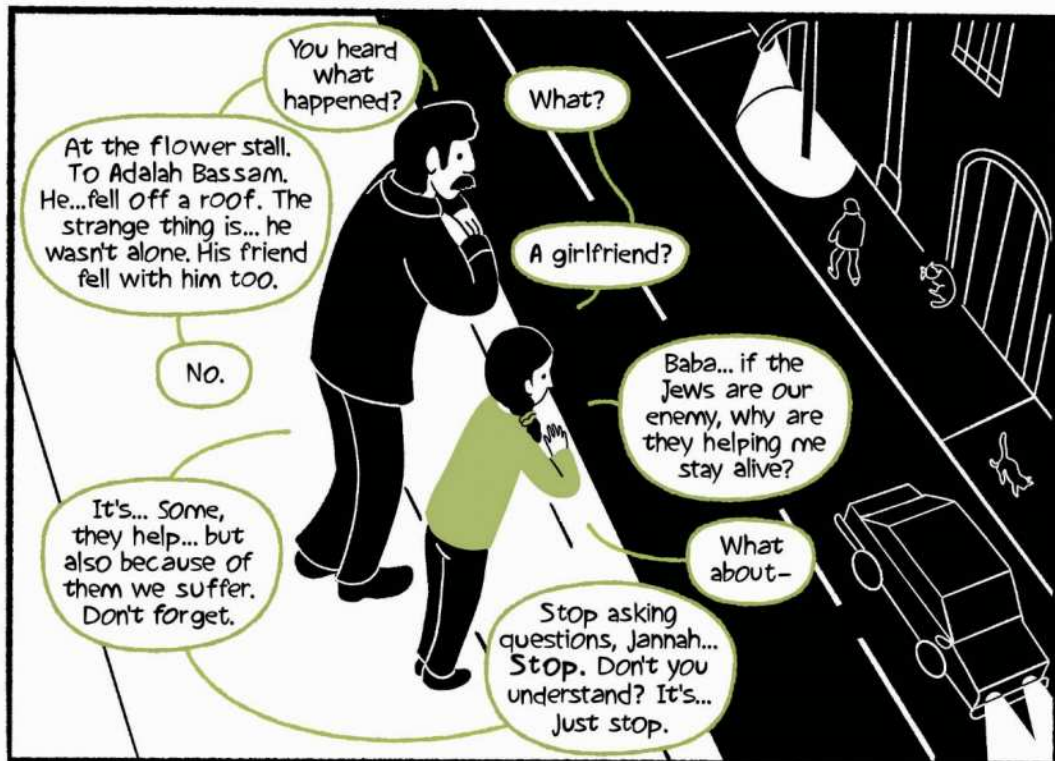
You know if
I could, I—

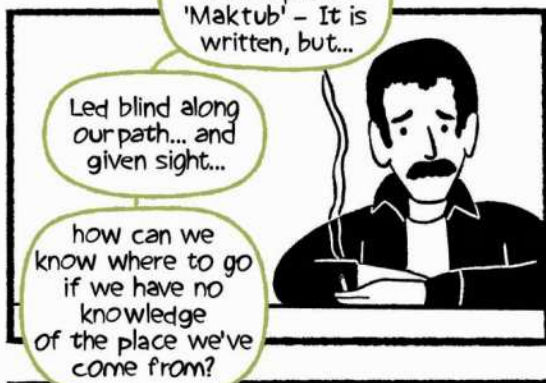
No. I don't
know. I don't
know why
you're doing
any of this.

Because we love
this country and it's
our duty to keep it
safe. Always. For all
of us. Because it's
the right thing to do.

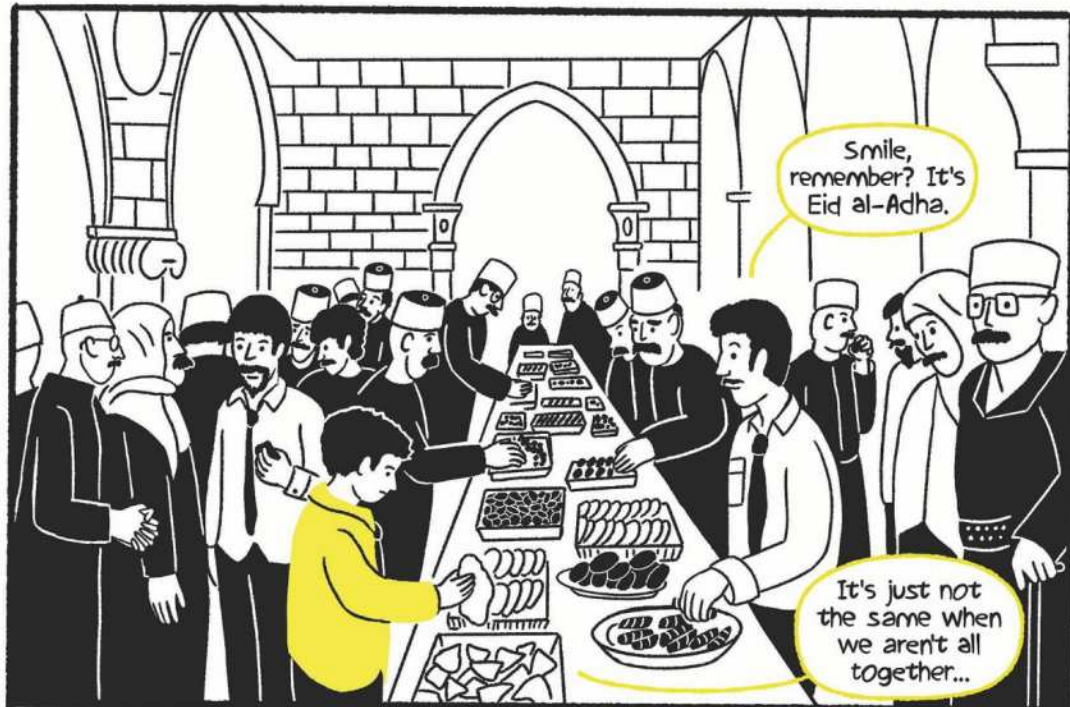
How can
you be
so sure?

You can't. You have to
decide. We each do. Guided
by whatever we chose
to lead us... so long as we
understand and accept
the consequences of
our actions.



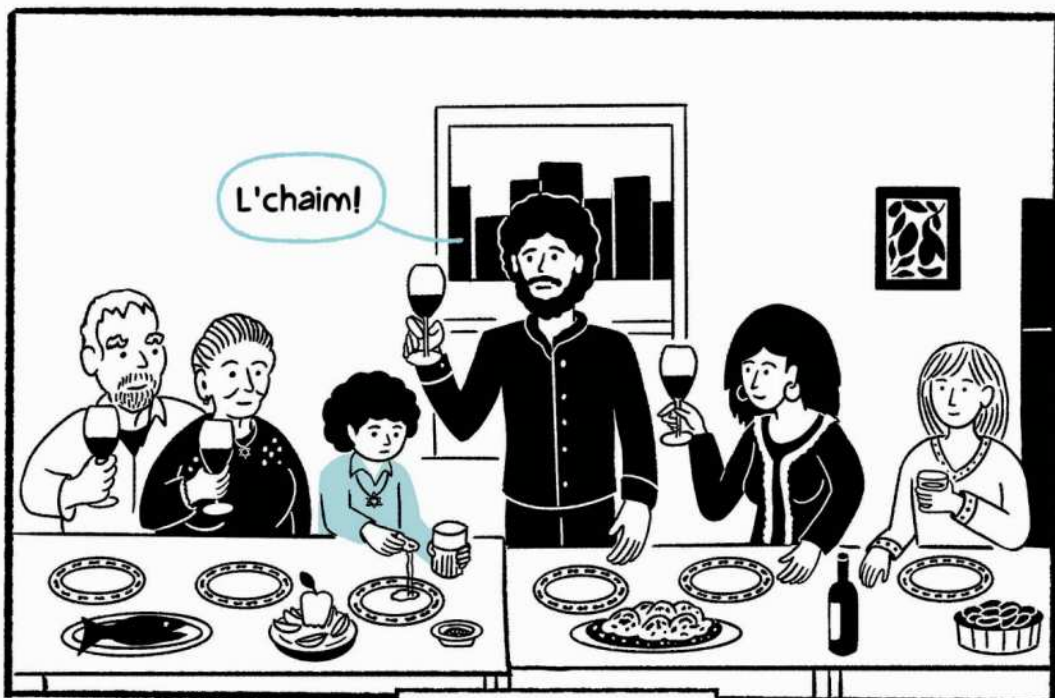






Meanwhile, in Gaza





September, 2023





It's beautiful,
Amir...
Powerful.

He's... well,
he's inspired by
you, Dad.

...

...

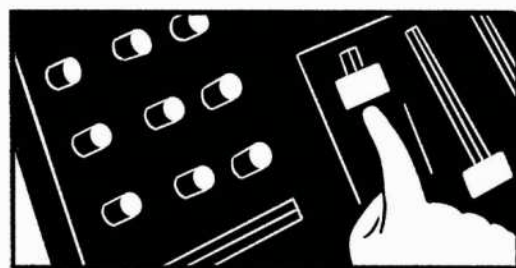
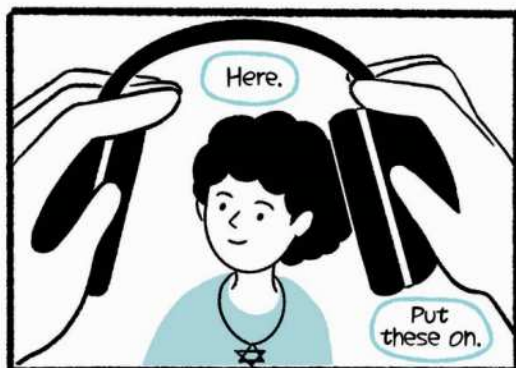
You're so...
strong. I'm... I'm
proud of you.

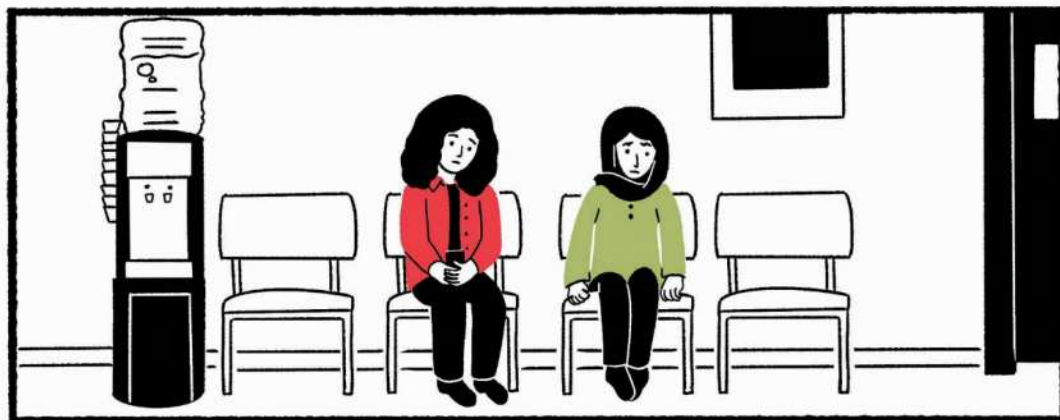
Not as proud as
I am of you.



Tel Aviv









...Dad...?

What is it,
sweetheart?

Why is it all
so confusing?
Can't everyone
just... get
along?

The
strangest
thing is...

no matter
how our lives twist,
cross, or soar, if we
search hard enough,
there's far more that
binds us than sets
us apart.

With
everyone?

If you
try. Yes.

...Dad?



Finale



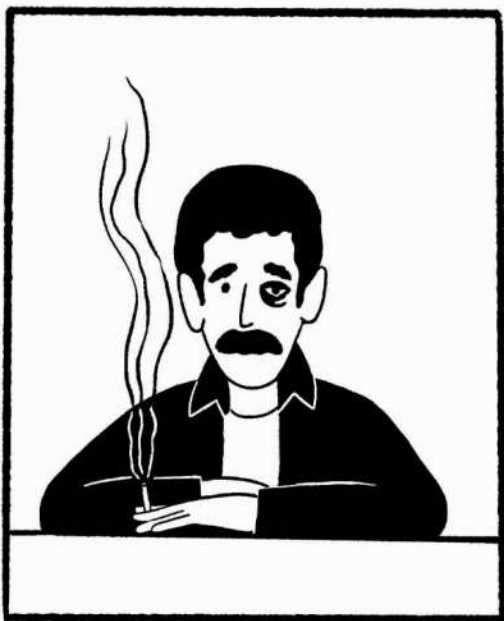
Father says
tomorrow is
a big day.







Baba says tomorrow there
will be trouble.



He says we'll
face whatever
comes... but
sounded nervous.



"Freedom isn't free," he said
But... I'm beginning to think
freedom means sacrifice...
How much more must there be...
until we lose everything?





OCTOBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				12	13	14

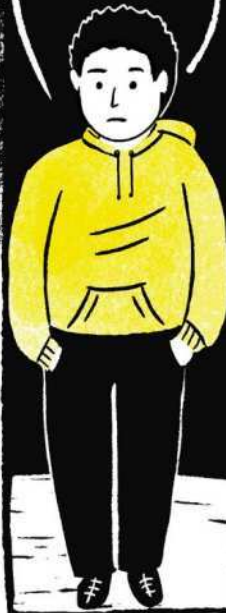
Today, my father
was killed



Eli



Janna



Amir



Lily

"We are all so
connected by
a single moment...
yet find
ourselves
separated by
a gulf as vast as
an ocean."

Lily

Endnotes

Page 1:

- On the morning of October 7th, 2023, Hamas terrorists launched a hugely successful attack into Israel from the Gaza Strip, resulting in the massive and indiscriminate murder of civilians in the surrounding communities, as well as at the nearby Nova music festival.
- Many people lost family members and friends, as Hamas terrorists live-streamed broadcasts of their atrocities, and in some cases, entire families were slaughtered.

Page 2:

- Panel 1:
 - Eli and his mother rush for the bomb shelter located in their apartment (a common feature in most modern Israeli homes) as a warning siren sounds, indicating an imminent rocket barrage.
- Panel 2:
 - Lily and her dog are rescued from the carnage by the IDF, who evacuate her to safety. The intense fighting in some kibbutzim lasted days, along with efforts to save trapped civilians.
- Panel 3:
 - As the events of October 7th dawned on the Israeli population, many reservists immediately took the initiative to report for duty before getting called up, and many also headed to the zones of combat independently to try to offer what help they could.
- Panel 4:
 - 251 hostages, mostly civilians, were kidnapped into the Gaza Strip—some with injuries and some already dead—in order to be used as bargaining chips by Hamas. Among those taken were women, children, and even babies, as well as Jews, non-Jews, Israelis, and foreigners.

Page 5:

- Eli and Amir play football (soccer) in Tel Aviv's 'Park Hayarkon' as their fathers discuss their reserve duties. Certain units of the IDF are called up regularly until members reach a certain age.
- Habibi means friend in Arabic.
- The Druze are a small religious and ethnic minority originating in the Middle East, with communities primarily in Israel, Lebanon, and Syria. Known for their strong sense of community and secrecy about their faith, the Druze emphasize loyalty to the state in which they live and serve prominently in the Israeli military, as well as integrate into public life as part of their commitment to national unity.

Page 6:

- Panel 1: In 2005, Israel unilaterally and completely withdrew all presence from Gaza in a peace effort, but instead of peace, Hamas took control of the region, with their founding charter stating their objective is to "kill the Jews."
 - In 1967, during the Six-Day War, Gaza came under Israeli control when they captured the territory from Egypt. As a former part of Egypt and sharing a border with the country, some Gazans still hold Egyptian citizenship.
 - After the Six-Day War, there were attempts to return Gaza to Egypt; however, these were refused.
- Panel 1: Many Israeli 'kibbutzim' communities surround Gaza, some mere minutes away.
- Panel 3: According to Islamic law, women who are no longer children must practice modesty by covering their hair in public, as well as when they are in the presence of non-close family members—especially men.

Page 7:

- Despite differences, hummus unites the many different cultures, ethnicities, and religions in the Middle East.
- This page symbolically places all the characters around the same table, even though physically they are in different locations, with Eli and Amir at a restaurant, while Jannah is at her home, and Lily is in hers.

Page 8:

- While traditionally Druze do not consume alcohol, just as traditionally Hindus do not consume beef and Catholics fast during Lent, over time these norms have shifted.

Page 9:

- Panel 1: The man visiting Jannah's house is a member of Hamas, which controls Gaza and is designated as a terrorist organization. There have not been elections in Gaza since 2006.
- Close to 25% of all girls in Gaza are married before their 18th birthday, with the mean age around 16, as reported by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and the UNFPA.

Page 10:

- You're on Your Own, Kid, Song by Taylor Swift · 2022

Page 11:

- Mandatory national service is a requirement for all Israeli citizens (3 years for men and 2 years for women) once they reach 18. This can take the form of military service or other specialized national services, such as in education or agriculture.

Page 12:

- Panel 1/2: Many homes and public spaces in Gaza are used by Hamas as places to store weapons and launch attacks from, as well as for entrances and exits into massive and intricate underground tunnels.
 - To not cooperate with Hamas' activities in Gaza is a potentially life-threatening decision, which could result in imprisonment, punishment, or execution.

Page 13:

- The photo they are referencing depicts Eli's father along with members of his military unit, which would also include Amir's father.

Page 14:

- Panel 1: Religious Muslims are meant to get on their knees and pray 5 times a day while facing in the direction of Mecca, their holiest religious site, located in Saudi Arabia.
- Panel 3: Hamas crates, such as the one placed underneath the carpet, would likely contain weapons and/or explosives and ammunition.

Page 15:

- Panel 1: There are numerous hiking trails across Israel, many located in the mountainous northern region.
- Panel 2: Amir's father's reference to his unit crossing into Lebanon refers to the 2nd Lebanon War in 2006, fought between Israel and Hezbollah, an internationally recognized terrorist organization and proxy of the Iranian Ayatollahs.
 - Hezbollah systematically took control of Lebanon, becoming the de facto decision-makers and rulers there, but their capability took a serious blow as a result of the 2nd Lebanon War... However, they subsequently built up their presence once again after the end of hostilities.

Page 16:

- Many kibbutzim focus on certain agricultural industries or types of production and contain many green spaces and animals.
- It is common for volunteers to come from around the world to work and live on kibbutzim, as well as to experience the lifestyle there.
- Among the kibbutzim near Gaza, they are known for their volunteer work in aiding Gazans with attaining work permits for industries in Israel, as well as in assisting in access to Israeli hospitals and services.

Page 18:

- Society in Gaza is patriarchal, and women's roles are often limited and restricted.

Page 19:

- Panel 1: Both Druze and Jewish identity utilize the star symbol as part of their cultures. For the Druze it is a 5-pointed star; for Jews it is a 6-pointed star.

Page 22:

- Panel 1: In Gaza, education is controlled by Hamas, and from a young age children are exposed to concepts of armed resistance and violence against Jews, Israel, and Western values.

Page 26:

- Hanukkah, the Jewish 'Festival of Lights,' commemorates Judah Maccabee's successful 164 BCE uprising against the Seleucid Empire, the restoration of Jewish sovereignty in Judea (modern-day Israel), and the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. It also celebrates the miracle by which a single day's supply of consecrated oil kept the Temple menorah burning for eight days.

Page 27:

- Panel 4: Christmas, the Christian 'Festival of the Nativity,' commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ, believed to have occurred on December 25 CE, in Bethlehem. It also celebrates themes of hope, peace, and goodwill, expressed through liturgical worship, Nativity scenes, carol singing, gift-giving, and communal feasting.

Page 28:

- Panel 1: Samson refers to the Israelite hero of Judges 13-16, whose superhuman strength was symbolized by his uncut hair, and whose downfall came when Delilah coaxed her way into having his hair cut.

Page 29:

- Panel 1/2: While Jannah refers to Israel with her reference to power, Jannah's father infers that it is truly Hamas who are the ones with the power in Gaza.
- Panel 3/4: Lily's father reads and quotes from the Christian bible, Luke 2:11

Page 33:

- Panel 3: Stepping on an Israeli (and American) flag is done across the Middle East as a sign of disrespect against the country and to symbolize the desire to destroy it. Page 34:
- Panel 4: For the communities surrounding Gaza before October 7th, sirens were commonplace occurrences that warned of rocket launches from Gaza.
 - Depending on the distance, the alarms provided several seconds to several minutes time to reach a safer location, such as a shelter.
 - The Israeli Iron Dome defence system was designed to intercept short-range rocket attacks, such as those from Gaza, from harming civilians, who were the primary targets of those rocket attacks.

Page 37:

- From January until October 7, 2023, weekly demonstrations of over 100,000 Israelis protested government plans to curb Supreme Court oversight, limit its power to strike down laws, and politicize judicial appointments. These protests underscored deep public divisions across Israeli society and consumed much of public discourse.

Page 39:

- Gaza's sole diesel-fired power plant has a nominal output of 60–140 MW, while Israel supplies another 125 MW via high-voltage lines and Egypt roughly 27 MW, together meeting less than half of Gaza's estimated 400–600 MW demand, resulting in rolling blackouts of about 6–8 hours per day.
 - Fuel imports depend almost entirely on Israeli-authorized shipments (and, until Egypt's 2013 tunnel crackdown, some smuggled supply)—with the blockade enforcing strict limits to prevent diversion for military use.
 - In contrast, senior Hamas figures (many of whom are billionaires and multi-millionaires) largely insulate themselves from shortages. Many reside abroad, notably in Qatar or Turkey, and Hamas-run institutions in Gaza keep private diesel generators, solar arrays, and uninterrupted power supplies to ensure continuous electricity for leadership offices and VIP residences, even when many Gazans go without power.

Page 41:

- Antisemitism's origins are deeply varied and complex, tracing back to pre-Christian ethnic prejudices in Ancient Greece and Rome, evolving into Christian religious anti-Judaism in late antiquity and the Middle Ages, taking political and economic forms during Enlightenment Europe, and crystallizing as racial antisemitism in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- Throughout these eras, Jews were repeatedly scapegoated (finding a group of people to blame for trouble), first as ethnic "others," then as theological villains, and later as economic conspirators or racial outsiders, especially during periods of social crisis.
- Because Jews were a legally and socially marginalized minority in most societies, they had little recourse to challenge these calumnies, making them convenient targets for collective fear, resentment, and the projection of blame.
- Anti-Semitism has long been described as the "canary in the coal mine" of societal health, with its rise often heralding wider breakdowns in tolerance and the rule of law.
- The idiom itself comes from 19th- and early-20th-century mining practice: canaries—being highly sensitive to carbon monoxide and other toxic gases—were taken underground as living detectors. By 1911 British regulations even required two caged birds per shift; if they fell ill or died, miners knew to evacuate before the air became lethal

Page 42:

- After completing mandatory military service, many units still partake in periodic reservist duties, especially combat units, to ensure readiness in cases of emergencies and to perform special operations.

Page 44:

- For the kibbutzim communities around Gaza, rocket attacks before October 7th were frequent and sudden and became a part of everyday life they had to deal with.
- Many volunteers from the kibbutzim around Gaza helped Gazans who needed to enter Israel for work or medical needs, such as by providing transit to the locations they needed to reach.

Page 46:

- Just as security checks are necessary when flying on a plane, checkpoints for passing into and out of Gaza became a necessity in order to prevent terrorist activity and weapons smuggling and were operated by Egypt and Israel along their borders with the territory, requiring permits, ID checks, baggage X-rays, and vehicle inspections.
 - While these measures were vital for civilian safety, limited operating hours and periodic security closures meant crossings could take hours or even days.

Page 48:

- The Druze community in Israel has one of the highest percentages of combat unit enlistment and accolades in the Israeli military and is considered some of the finest soldiers in the country.

Page 49:

- During the height of the protests against judicial reform, for many in Israel, it felt like society was tearing at the seams and coming apart.

Page 50:

- As of December 2023, Israel's 9.84 million citizens include roughly 2.08 million Muslim Arabs (21%), about 180,000 Christian Arabs (1.8%), 152,000 Druze (1.5%), and some 560,000 other non-Jewish minorities (Circassians, non-Arab Christians, unaffiliated and foreign workers), many of whom serve as doctors, lawyers, professors, Knesset members, and even cabinet ministers.
 - In contrast, there are no Jews residing in Palestinian-controlled territories, and, within areas administered by the Palestinian Authority or Hamas, non-Muslims, particularly the roughly 50,000 Christians in the West Bank and 1,300 in Gaza, face legal and social pressures, including church vandalism, restrictive building permits, and social harassment, which have driven many to emigrate.
- Israeli hospitals are widely viewed as the region's most advanced, and thousands of Gazans and West Bank Palestinians are referred there when local facilities cannot provide complex care.

Page 51:

- During the mass judicial-overhaul protests in mid-2023, several thousand reservists, including special-forces operators, elite fighter pilots, and cyber specialists, signed letters or declarations refusing to volunteer for reserve duty, with estimates ranging from around 750 to 4,000 who threatened or ceased reporting in protest.
- However, following Hamas's surprise attack on October 7, 2023, the IDF mobilized roughly 300,000 reservists, the largest call-up in Israel's history, and most reservists responded in far greater numbers than anticipated, with some units reporting over 100 percent turnout.

Page 52:

- On March 9, 2023, an Israeli special-forces unit carried out an undercover raid in the village of Jaba', south of Jenin, in the northern West Bank. Three Palestinian Islamic Jihad operatives opened fire from a moving vehicle during the operation, and the soldiers immediately returned fire, killing all three attackers, who were found to be in possession of explosive devices.

Page 53:

- On March 9, 2023, a lone gunman opened fire outside a café on Dizengoff Street in central Tel Aviv, wounding three civilians (one critically) before being shot dead by police. The attacker, identified later as 23 years old and the son of a Hamas official, carried out the shooting just hours after the IDF raid near Jenin that killed three Palestinian militants.

Page 54:

- Panel 3: Zionism is the belief that Jews have the right to self-determination in their ancestral homeland of Israel, where Jews have had a presence.
 - The earliest verifiable mention of "Israel" comes from the Merneptah Stele, an Egyptian victory inscription dated ca. 1208 BCE (over 3 thousand years ago), in which Pharaoh Merneptah records that "Israel is laid waste," in reference to a people called Israel in Canaan. A later artifact is the Tel Dan Stele (ca. 870–750 BCE), which contains the first known inscriptional reference to the "House of David" (as in King David of the Bible), confirming the existence of a Judean (Jewish) dynasty in the land of Judah.
- Panel 4: Rockets launched at Israel that are not intercepted by the Iron Dome are often not aimed at specific targets and are fired more generally towards areas, resulting in damage against all manner of targets, including from shrapnel even when rockets are successfully intercepted.
 - In this instance, the rocket is depicted as having struck the stables and having killed Mountie, the horse.
- Panel 4: Lily's father quotes the Christian Bible, Luke 23:34.

Page 55:

- Since 2023, antisemitism has surged dramatically worldwide, including in the U.S., where incidents rose by 140% in 2023—the highest on record—while the U.K. saw over 4,100 incidents, more than doubling from the previous year.
- Canada reported 5,791 antisemitic incidents in 2023, more than double the 2,769 incidents in 2022, a 109% increase, and accounting for 19% of all hate crimes, even though Jews make up less than 1% of the population. By early 2024, data showed a further 670% rise in incidents.
- France saw incidents nearly quadruple from 436 in 2022 to 1,676 in 2023, with around 1,570 reported in early 2024 alone, and approximately 57% of all religiously motivated hate crimes in 2024 were antisemitic.
- Globally, antisemitic acts increased by 107% in 2024, and with Israel as the world's only Jewish state, many Jews legitimately question where they can live safely amid rising hostility.

Page 57:

- Distributing treats and celebrating after attacks against Israel was a frequently documented occurrence in Gaza before October 7th, 2023.
- The term 'Shahid,' like the term 'martyr,' is used to refer to someone who dies for their faith—often while conducting a violent act. The term 'shahid,' however, has become more commonly used by Palestinians to specifically reference someone who was killed while attacking Jews, Israel, or the West.

Page 65:

- As of 2025, homosexuality remains criminalized in nearly all Muslim-majority countries, with penalties ranging from imprisonment to death. In Gaza, same-sex activity is punishable by up to 10 years in prison, and LGBTQ individuals face severe persecution. Human rights groups and media reports have documented cases of torture, extrajudicial killings, and executions, including instances of people thrown from rooftops or killed in other brutal ways, such as being dragged to death from the back of a motorcycle.
- The climate of fear forces many LGBTQ Palestinians to hide their identities or, if possible, flee, many many to Israel, the only country in the Middle East where LGBTQ rights are legally recognized and protected, and where Tel Aviv is widely recognized as one of the most LGBTQ-friendly cities in the world.

Page 68:

- Eid al-Adha, the Islamic Festival of Sacrifice, commemorates the Prophet Ibrahim's (Abraham's) willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to God, who ultimately provided a ram in his place. Celebrated on the 10th of Dhu al-Hijjah during the Hajj pilgrimage, it includes special prayers, acts of charity, and the ritual sacrifice of an animal, with the meat distributed among family, friends, and those in need. The Druze community also observes this holiday as part of their religious tradition. While not celebrated in Judaism, the story originates in the Hebrew Bible, where Abraham is similarly tested and ultimately spares his son through divine intervention.

Page 69:

- Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year, marking the beginning of the Hebrew calendar year. It is a time of reflection, prayer, and renewal, traditionally believed to be the anniversary of the creation of the world. Observed over two days, it includes synagogue services featuring the sounding of the shofar (ram's horn), as well as festive meals with symbolic foods like apples dipped in honey to represent hopes for a sweet new year.

Page 70:

- Panel 5: Amir's father expresses that during his recent military duties, one of the soldiers in his unit was killed in action.

Page 74:

- While the exact circumstances of the interaction are not detailed, a variety of factors can lead to a physical altercation at a border checkpoint, such as heightened tensions, perceived threats, miscommunication, abuses of authority, or accidental escalation.
- Jannah's claim that no one "would have cared" if her father had been shot reflects her personal sense of injustice, but in reality, such an incident would have triggered a formal investigation by military authorities. These investigations are conducted to determine whether proper rules of engagement and procedures were followed, and they can result in disciplinary or legal consequences depending on the findings.

Page 78:

- The Supernova (Nova) music festival near Kibbutz Re'im in southern Israel became a primary target of the Hamas-led attack. Amid rocket barrages, over 100 militants infiltrated the site, indiscriminately firing on civilians.
- By mid-morning, the death toll had climbed to 364–378 people, including 344 civilians and 34 security personnel, making it the deadliest single massacre of October. Additionally, 44 festivalgoers were taken hostage into Gaza, and the horrific incident accounted for about one-third of all civilian deaths during the broader October 7 attacks.

Page 80:

- Following the breach of the Gaza border on October 7th, 2023, many Palestinian civilians crossed into Israel alongside Hamas militants.
- While some looted and vandalized, others were documented participating in kidnappings and acts of violence, raising serious concerns about civilian complicity in the attack.



Bonus Material

Our Process

Page 14 (3 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Jannah and her father are on their knees on the carpet in the living room having completed prayers – Jannah's hair is uncovered – it's long and tied back as she looks down to the floor while Jannah's Father looks out the balcony window.

JANNAH'S FATHER: "You're old enough to know many things, but not everything."

JANNAH: "I understand enough, I know what..."

JANNAH'S FATHER 2: "This isn't a game, Jannah. My job is to protect you. From more than just the Jews. Do you..."

JANNAH 2: "I thought your job was to teach science at school?"

Panel 2 (wide): Jannah and her father are on the balcony, looking out over Gaza... and far beyond in the distance, the border wall can be seen.

Epochs of October

8

JANNAH'S FATHER: "Your mind... Maybe one day you'll go to university. Would you like that?"

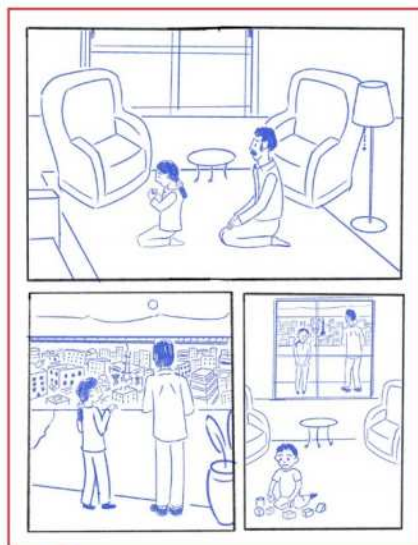
JANNAH: "I can fight for our people. Why don't... You always say that..."

JANNAH'S FATHER 2: "Enough with your tongue! Our struggle comes in many forms. Some must battle with guns and bombs, while others with their heads... and hearts. It is a fortune to be able to choose."

Panel 3 (wide): Still on the balcony, Jannah has turned round to face the house again, looking inside at her younger brother, seen playing on the carpet with blocks while Jannah's Father continues to look out into the distance, his head now lowered.

JANNAH: "Baba... why did you let them put that crate under the carpet? ...Baba?"

JANNAH'S FATHER: "We do what we must... Put your headscarf on when you're outside. You're no longer a child."



2 Pencil Layouts

1 The Script



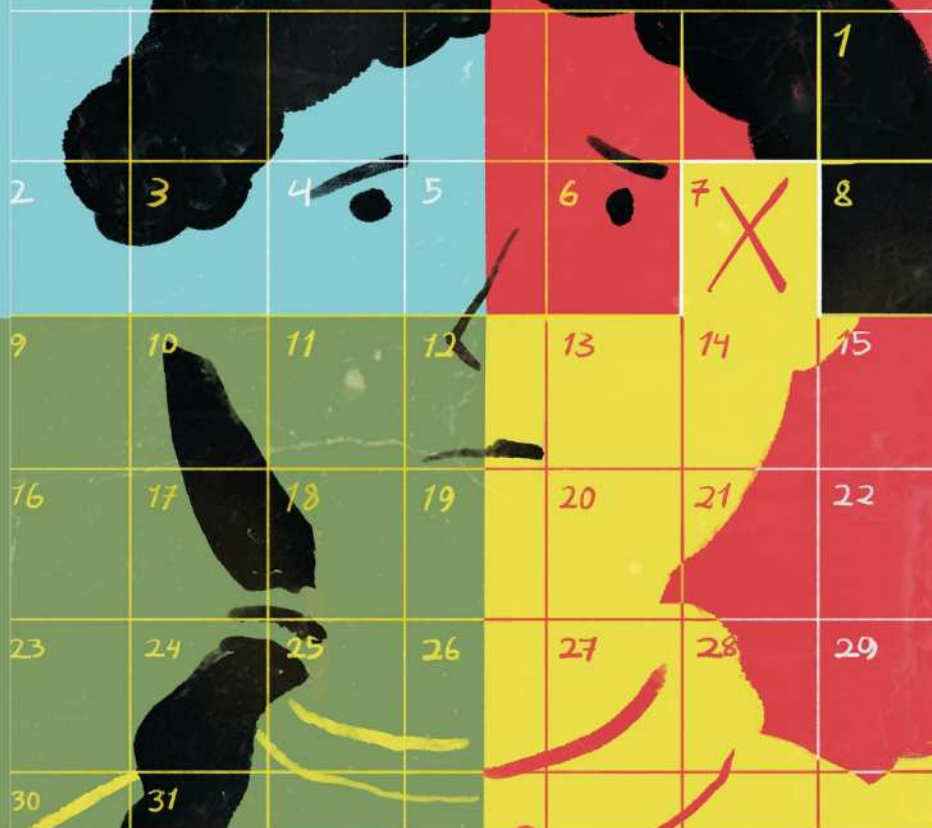
3 Inks & Colors

4 Lettering Final

Echoes of October

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OCTOBER 2023



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