



# Echoes Of October

Ami Adam





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](http://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

Dedicated to those who shall  
come together for peace



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.



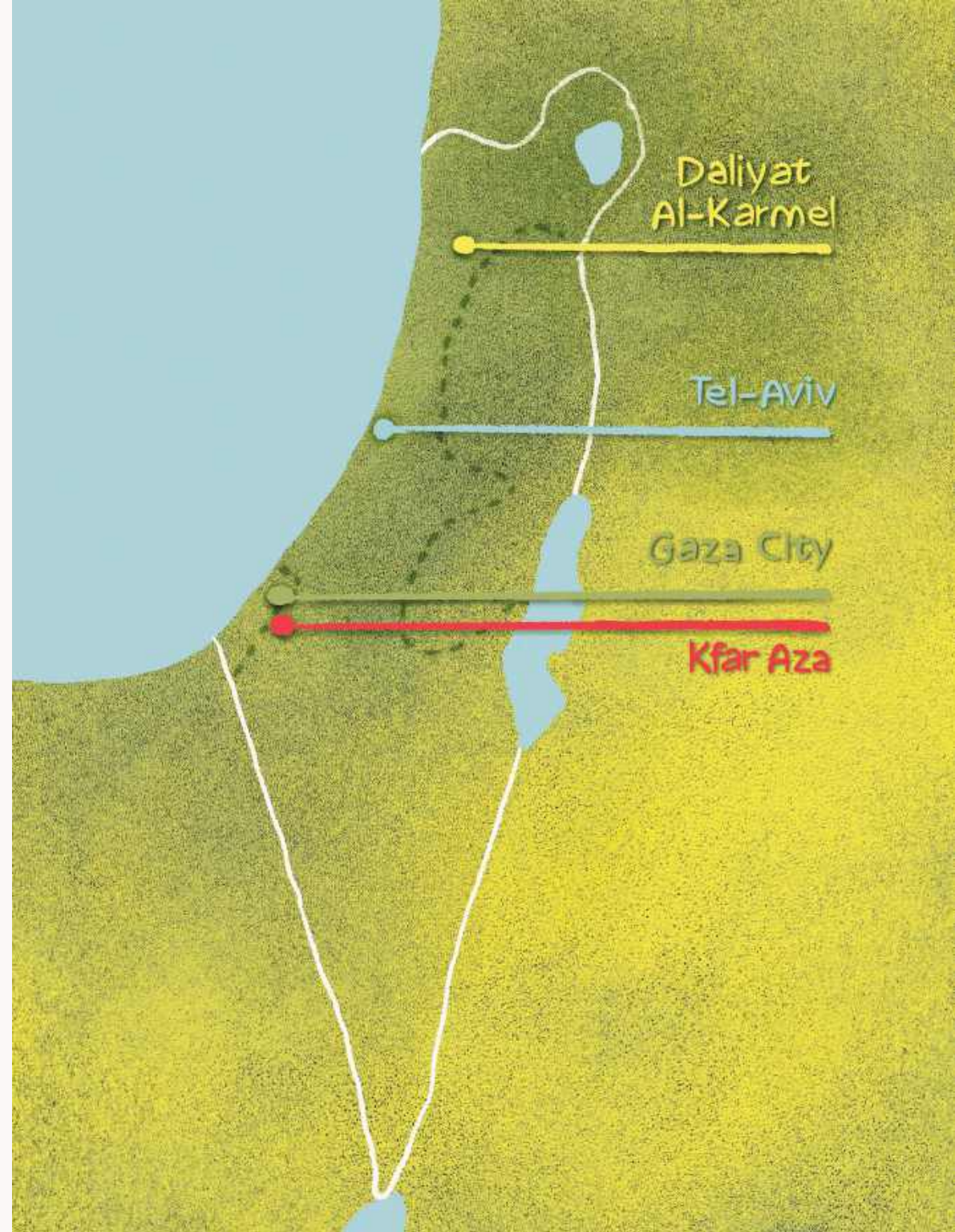
Amir, 11

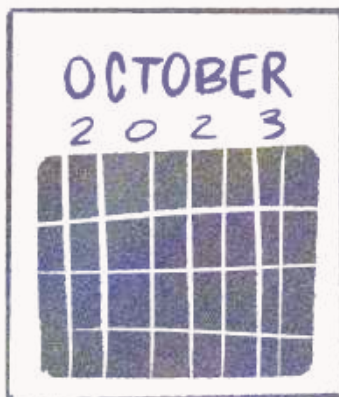
Born and raised in Daliyat al-Karmel.  
From a Druze family.



Jannah, 11

Born and raised in Gaza City.  
From a Muslim family.





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.

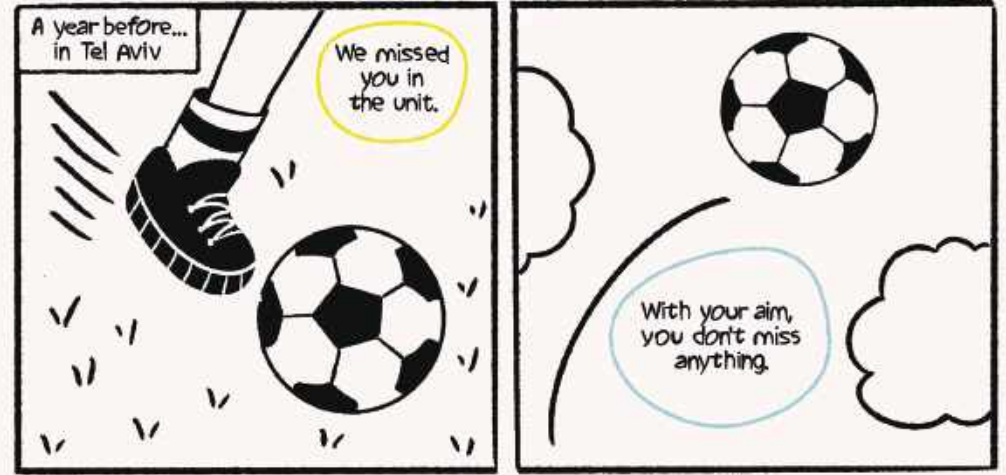


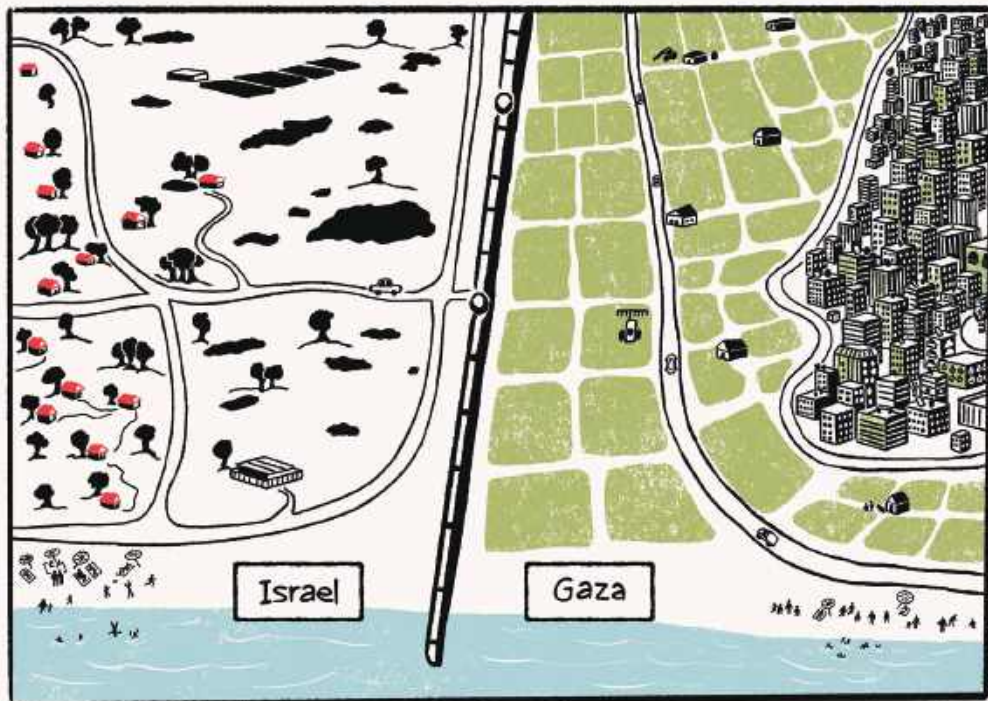


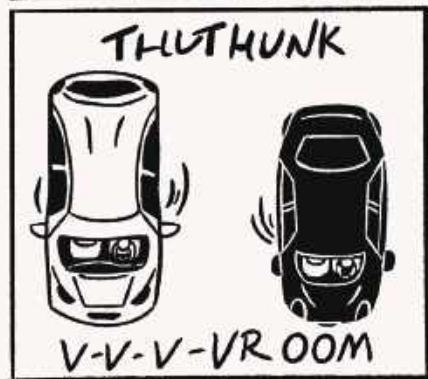


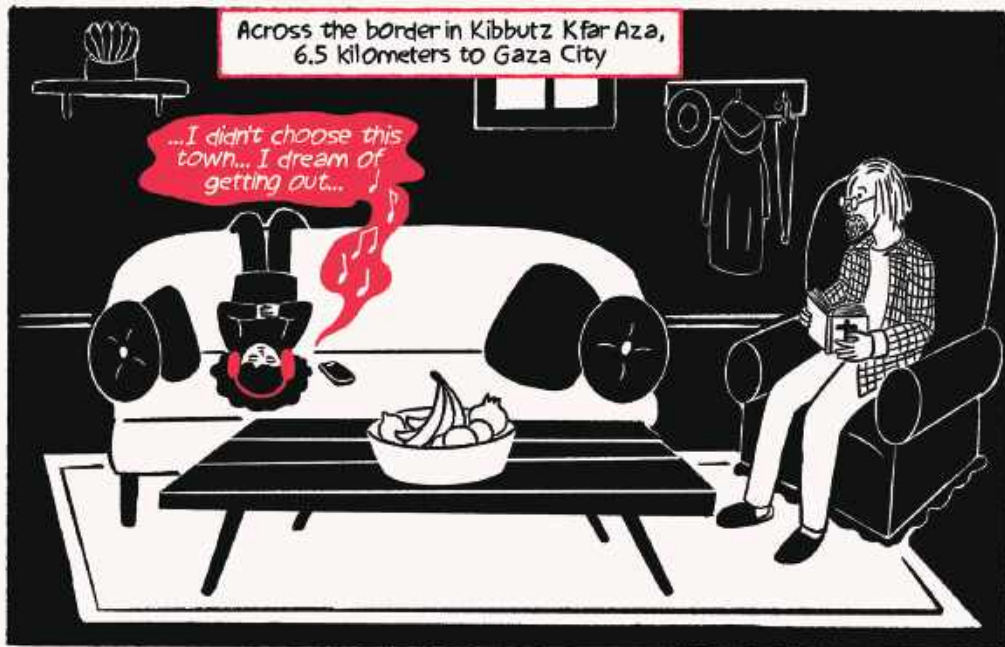


Part I





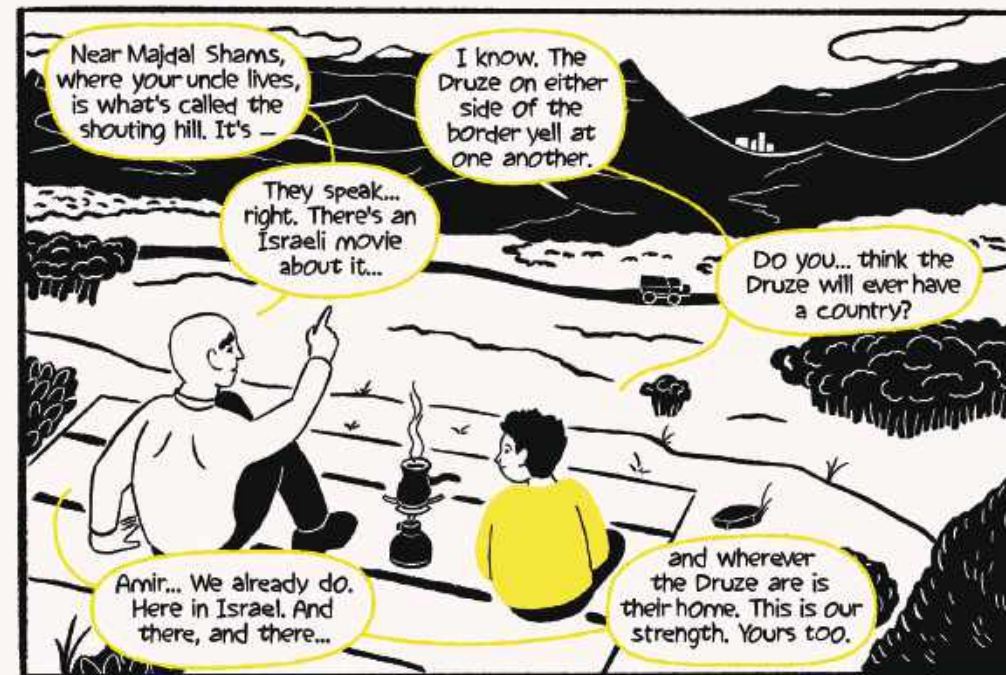


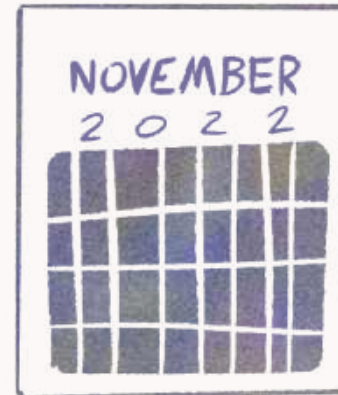
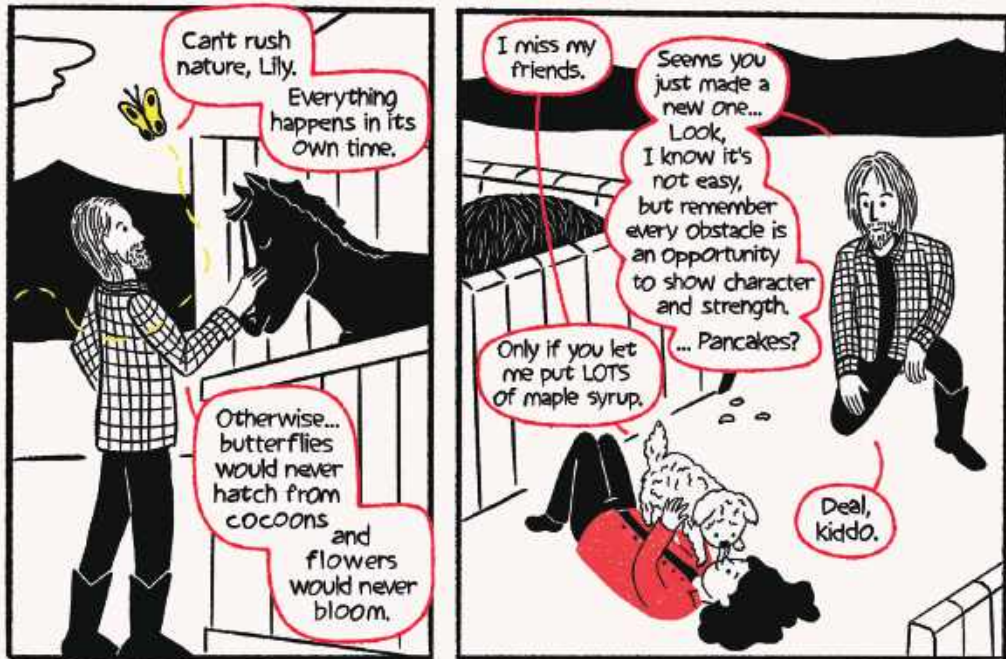




*Only here, in these words, do I feel I am my true self. Alone and without judging ears or eyes... I don't want to be scared, but I am... of the Israelis... Of what we're becoming. Why do we fight like this? And who really are our enemies?*



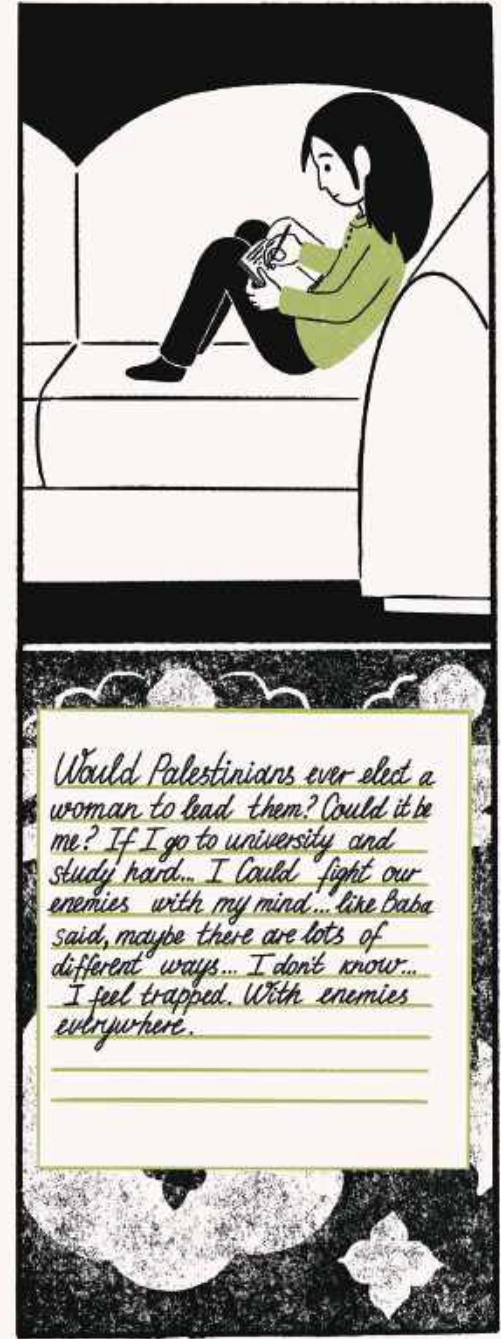




Part II

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

Eli









Across the land

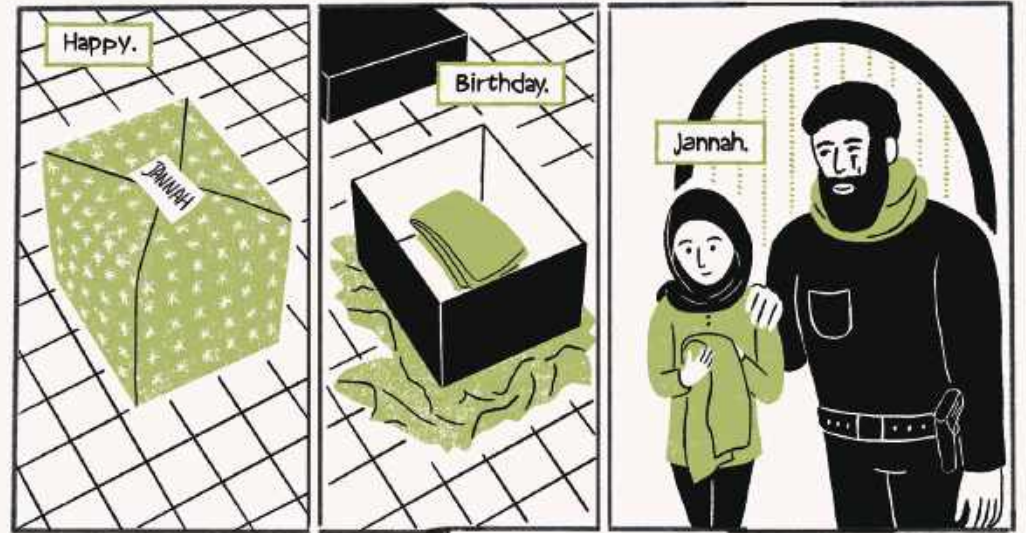




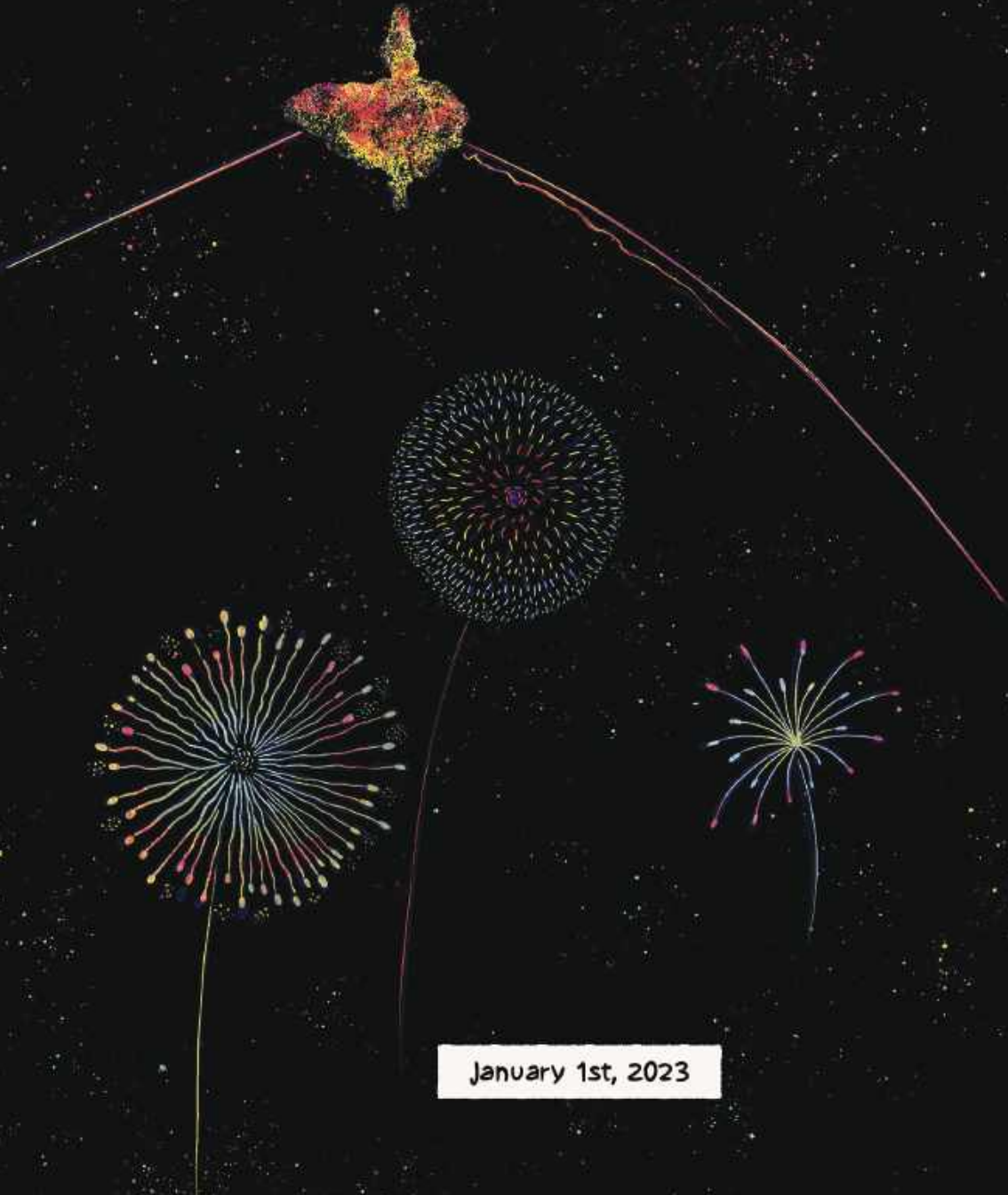
Part III

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

AMIR



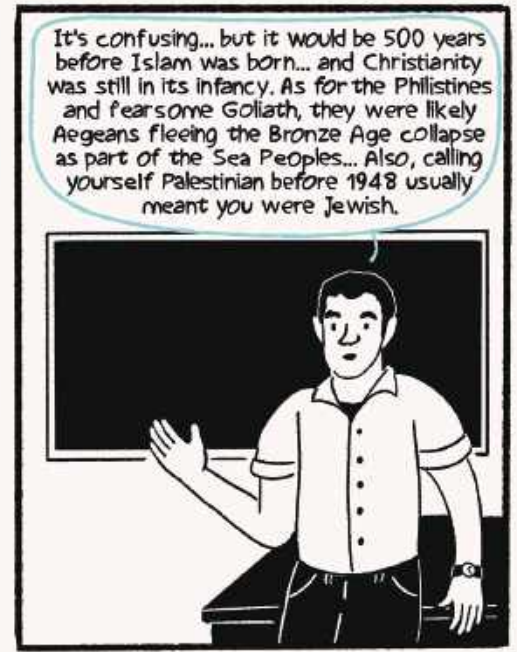






Daliyat al-Karmel





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

Tel Aviv

At first, I didn't notice the protesters. But now...

CAFE

DEMO

...the weather isn't the only storm.

DEMOKRATIA



Amir!



Showering early?  
Or head caught in  
the clouds?

Forgot  
an umbrella.

We need  
you in the  
restaurant.

Big group  
just booked.

Yalla.



If we're able to have beauty even here, we can achieve anything.



Nothing, and no one will stop us.  
No matter how hard they try.



Another night

People were always fighting and killing the Jews in history. But we have a strong army now so we can defend ourselves.

Yeah, people always kinda hated Jews.

Hey...

Canaries in the coal mine...

But... why did so many people hate us? Did we do something wrong?

No. Absolutely not, it's... you see this cherry tomato? It's small. Much smaller than a larger tomato, and yet, it's bursting with delicious flavor. Big tomatoes might... be jealous, right? How could something so small... be so rich and tasty? It's not fair.

So... the other vegetables, or the other vegetables and fruits might want to get rid of the cherry tomatoes, or blame them for their problems because it's easier that way, right? So... Jews are like cherry tomatoes. Understand?

I... guess. But I just don't like tomatoes.

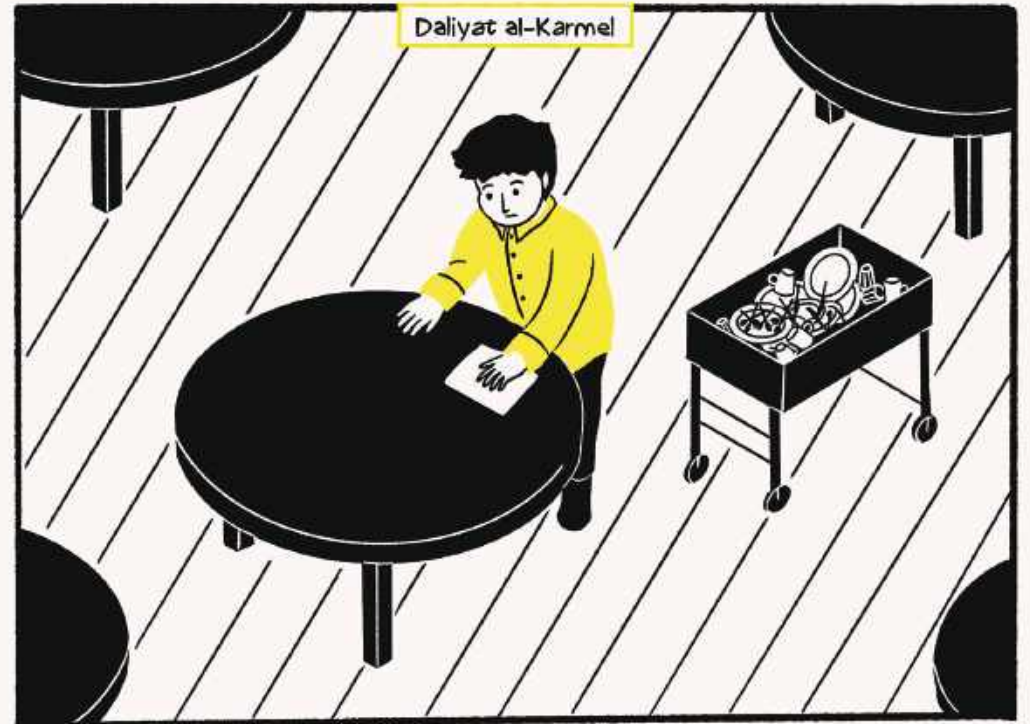




" I wish  
I could go back  
to my life  
before.  
To that 'other'  
world , wich seems  
so simple now  
Despite it all."

Jannah







And now we're fighting ourselves...

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



I've never been to Tel Aviv before... it looks like Gaza, only taller...

Hi... What's your name?



Jannah. You?

Lily. We're Canadian, but I guess also Israeli now.



Everyone is nice.

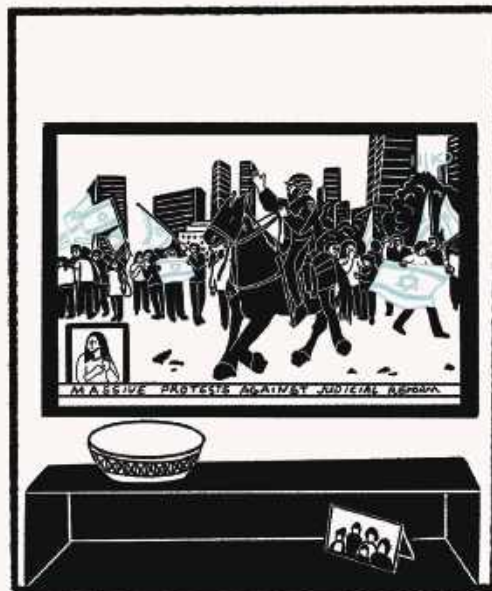
It's... strange.

I thought they hated us.

Daliyat al-Karmel



Is the country falling apart?



Is it even worth fighting for?

Tel Aviv



Special Forces eliminated three terrorists tonight.



Let's hope for quiet.



L'chaim!



...Dad, is that a-

March 9th, 2023.  
Dizingof Street

**BLAM  
BLAM**



So someone else  
will take them back  
to Gaza?

When  
it's time  
to go,  
yes.

As I  
understand  
she's staying  
overnight for  
tests.

Will  
she be  
okay?

Some of  
the best  
doctors in  
the world  
are here.

Thanks for  
tagging  
along,  
kiddo.

A few  
blocks away...

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

Careful, we'll make  
you a Zionist yet.

Not  
at all.

It means you  
believe Jews  
have the right  
to live safely in  
their ancestral  
homeland, here  
in Israel.

Is that a  
bad thing?

I must be  
a Zionist  
then...

What  
happened?

Rocket  
got through.

It hit the  
stables.

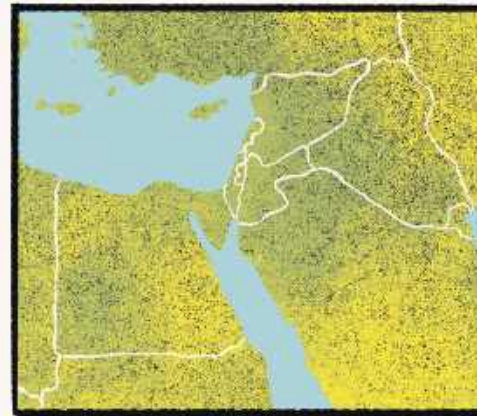
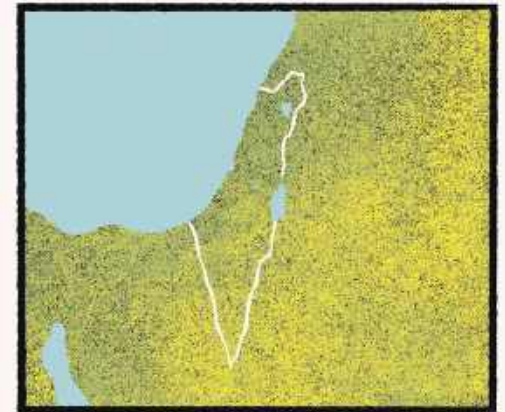
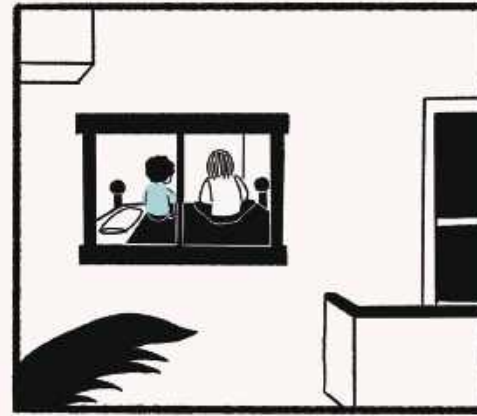
Father,  
forgive  
them...

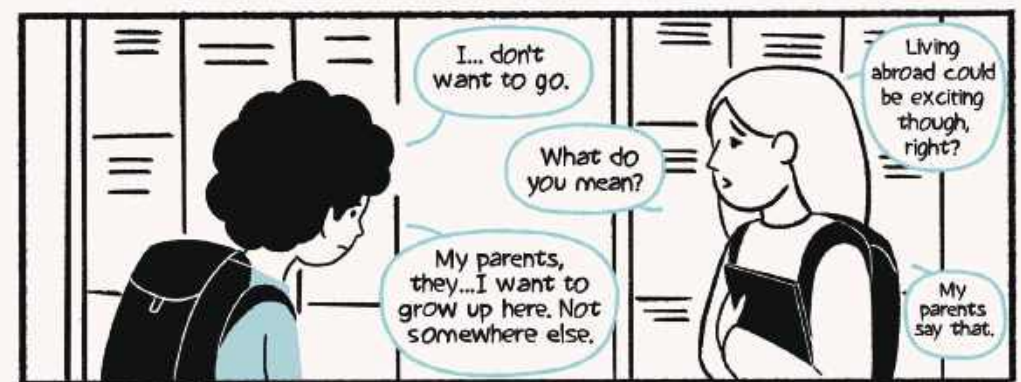
for they  
know not  
what they  
do.

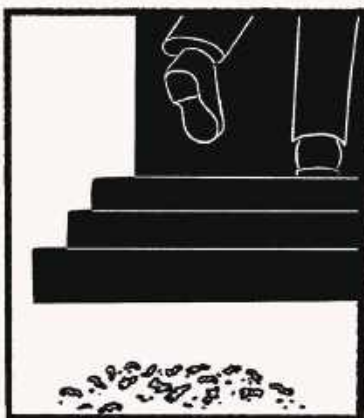
Mountie...  
Is he...  
No...

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

This is what  
they want...



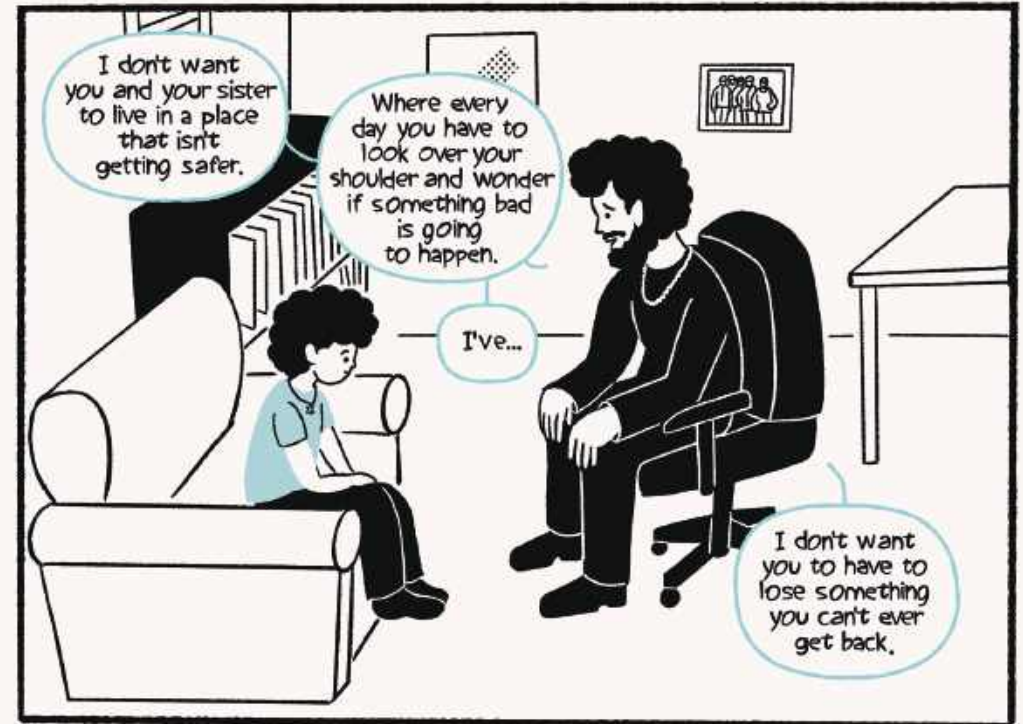






Part V

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





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.



You heard what happened?

At the flower stall. To Adalah Bassam. He... fell off a roof. The strange thing is... he wasn't alone. His friend fell with him too.

No.

It's... some, they help... but also because of them we suffer. Don't forget.

What?

A girlfriend?

Baba... if the Jews are our enemy, why are they helping me stay alive?

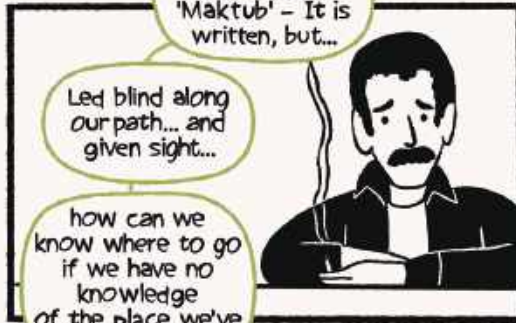
What about-

Stop asking questions, Jannah... Stop. Don't you understand? It's... just stop.



Some people are shahids... martyrs... and some are simply not...

In this life, Jannah, questioning what is righteous will get you killed.



Each of us... we have a path- 'Maktub' - It is written, but...

Led blind along our path... and given sight...

how can we know where to go if we have no knowledge of the place we've come from?



There is a bullet for all of us...

a Jew's... Hamas'...

but are we the ones to fire it, or to be struck by it?



But why does there have to be a gun?



Why help them if they keep shooting rockets and trying to kill us?



Love thy neighbor... Remember that girl? From the hospital? I can't change the world... but helping people, even if it's just one at a time, that I can do.



Does a rocket care who you helped? It still kills you...

It's not about the rocket...

it's about what's inside us.



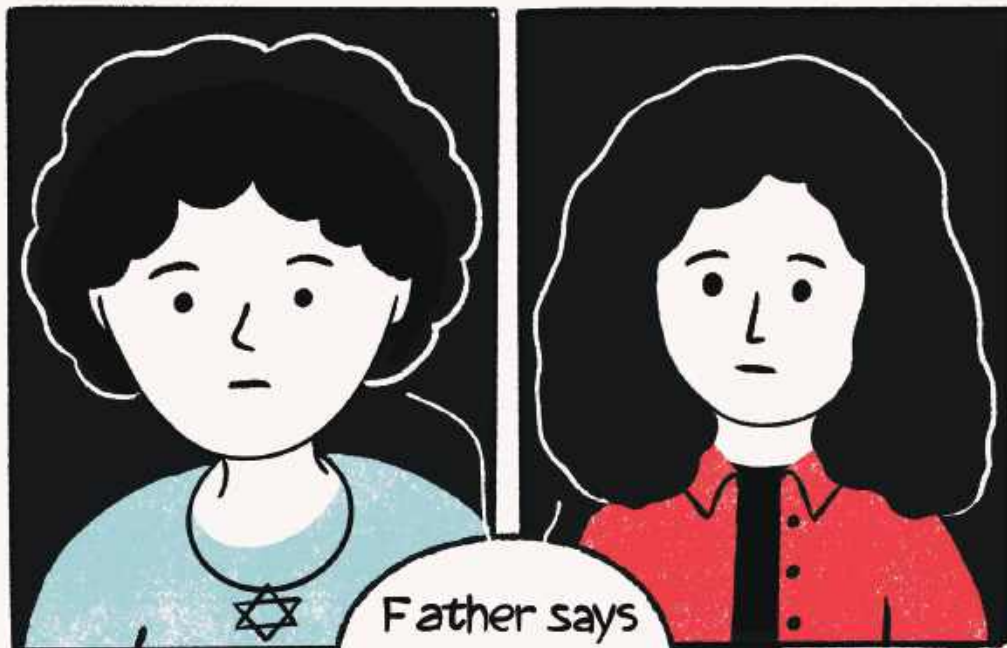












Father says tomorrow is a big day.



Play that new song at the music festival, Abba.



Proud of you, Eli.



I hope I'll always make you proud...



Nova is such a strange name for a music festival.





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

Lily

OCTOBER 2023

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

Today, my father was killed.





## End Notes

### **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 7

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 8

### 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 9

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 10

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 11

### 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 12

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

## Page 13

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 14**

### **Panels 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 15**

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

## **Page 16**

### **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 17**

### **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 18**

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 21**

### **Panel 2**

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

## **Page 22**

### **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 25**

### **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 30**

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 31**

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 32****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 33****Panels 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.

**Panels 3 & 4**

Lily’s father reads and quotes from the Christian bible, Luke 2:11

**Page 37****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 38****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 41**

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 43**

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 uninterruptible power supplies to ensure continuous electricity for leadership offices and VIP residences, even when many Gazans go without power.

#### **Page 45**

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 46**

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 48**

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 51**

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 53**

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 54**

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 55**

As of December 2023, Israel's 9.84 million citizens include roughly 2.08 million Muslim Arabs (21.1%), about 180,000 Christian Arabs (1.8%), 152,000 Druze (1.6%), 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 56**

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 57**

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 58**

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 60**

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 62**

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 71**

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 74**

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.

### **Page 75**

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 76**

#### **Panel 5**

Amir’s father expresses that during his recent military duties, one of the soldiers in his unit was killed in action.

### **Page 80**

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 85**

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 87**

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.

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# ***Four kids. One day that changed everything.***

In the year leading up to October 7, 2023, four children—one from Tel-Aviv, one from Gaza City, one from Toronto, and one from Daliyat al-Karmel—live their ordinary lives until the unthinkable happens: each loses their father in the violence that erupts. Told through their eyes, *Echoes of October* offers multiple perspectives without agenda, inviting empathy and reflection.

Suitable for middle-school readers, but meaningful for anyone seeking to understand, this graphic novel combines thoughtful storytelling and expressive art to challenge assumptions and spark compassion. Perfect for classrooms, book clubs, and readers seeking stories that touch upon our shared humanity.

*“A bold debut work. It tells its story not to promote a political agenda or worldview but rather to share an unflinching look at the flawed humanity of its characters. It succeeds where so many other works fail; in giving everyone a voice.”*

**Roy Schwartz, author of *Is Superman Circumcised?***

*“Echoes of October made me think. It made me feel. It taught me some things about the conflict in Gaza I did not know. The artwork is simple, but in a way that is easily grasped on a visual level. And while it is aimed at children 11 and up, I think most adults could benefit from reading *Echoes of October*. I know I did.”*

**M. C. Morrison, [kabooooom.com](http://kabooooom.com)**

*“A deeply human perspective on the events leading up to October 7.”*

**Jonathan Sandler,  
Graphic Memoir: UK**

