

Echoes of October

A graphic novel

By Anonymous

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"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."

Page 1 (Splash)

Splash: CU on four 11-year-old children's faces looking forward – Each in muted colored columns.

- ELI – Jewish Israeli – Blue themed – Darker skinned Mizrachi, curly hair, T-shirt.
- JANNAH – Muslim Gazan – Green themed – Wearing a headscarf.
- AMIR – Druze Israeli – Yellow themed – Short straight hair wearing a buttoned shirt.
- LILY – Christian Canadian – Red themed – Long wavy hair wearing a shirt and blouse

A Calendar reads: "October 7th, 2023".

WORD BALLOON (shared by all 4): "Today, my father was **killed**."

Endnotes 1:

- On the morning of October 7th, 2023, Hamas terrorists launched a hugely successful attack into Israel from the Gaza Strip, resulting in 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-stream broadcast their atrocities, and in some cases, entire families were slaughtered.
- <https://www.gov.il/en/pages/swords-of-iron-civilian-casualties>

Page 2 (4 Panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Eli rushes into an apartment's bomb shelter as he's pulled by ELI'S MOTHER – Who holds a cell phone – Both look panicked as a TV shows news in the living room through the door with the headline, "MUSIC FESTIVAL ATTACKED".

ELI (caption): "*He was **Murdered**...*"

SOUND EFFECT: "RRRRmmmmMMMMmmmm" (an alarm).

Panel 2 (diagonal): Lilly, inside a military IDF jeep, sits up and stares out the rear window while the jeep speeds off and out a broken kibbutz gate – 3 soldiers rushing past towards the opposite direction.

LILLY (caption): "**Gone**..."

Panel 3 (diagonal): Amir stands at the entrance of his house with his mother, her hand on his shoulder as they watch the street, where many Druze men rush out in uniform – Including Amir's OLDER BROTHER.

Amir (caption): "**Never** coming back..."

Panel 4 (wide): Jannah and her mother look down from their balcony at the Gazan Street below – Masses gathered to CHEER and SWARM cars carrying Hamas Terrorists and hostages through the throngs.

JANNAH (caption): "A **Martyr**..."

Endnotes 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.
- <https://www.memri.org/tv/palestinians-gaza-west-bank-celebrate-october-seven-massacre-hand-out-sweets-fire-guns>
- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/watchdog-schools-run-by-pa-celebrated-oct-7-hamas-massacres/>
- <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/b1xfv2151q>

Page 3 (Splash)

Splash: Split into four corners, each has a CU of the eyes of one of the children – Top left Eli – Top right Lilly – Bottom left Amir – Bottom right Jannah – And in the center, a joint thought balloon.

THOUGHT BALLOON (shared by all 4): "...Why?"

Page 4 (Splash)

Splash: Split into four corners, each has a CU of the children, now with their eyes closed and their heads lowered.

WORDS: *'I remember a year ago...'*

Page 5 (4 panels)

Panel 1 (square): A football is kicked by a sneakered foot along grass.

AMIR'S FATHER (OP): "We missed you in the unit."

Panel 2 (square): The ball SOARS through the air.

ELI'S FATHER (OP): "With your aim, you don't miss anything."

Panel 3 (wide): Across the panel is a grassy park, Amir having kicked the football at a makeshift goal, which Eli dives successfully in front of to defend against the shot – Their FATHERS on a bench watching – ELI'S FATHER sat smoking a cigarette while AMIR'S FATHER leans against the bench from behind.

AMIR'S FATHER: "Seems neither does your son."

ELI: "Got it!"

AMIR: "Woah! Nice!"

ELI'S FATHER: "I'm tired... tired of always fighting. Sometimes I think I should just take my family and leave."

CAPTION: "October 7th, 2022 – Tel Aviv"

Panel 4 (wide): The same scene reframed with Eli and Amir on the left, as Amir offers a hand to Eli, helping him up, while their parents are framed on the right – Eli's Father flicking his cigarette away as he stands, while Amir's Father rests a hand on his shoulder.

ELI: "I wish you didn't live so far away."

AMIR: "You have to come to the restaurant. Druze cooking is the best."

ELI'S FATHER: "I don't know... I'm... I'm just –"

AMIR'S FATHER: "Tired... We all are. But, *habibi*, this is home."

Endnotes 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 integrating into public life as part of their commitment to national unity. (This section [or at least the first half] could probably go in the page describing the four kids before the book starts)
- <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/israel-druze-fighting-gaza-horrifies-lebanon>
- <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/druze-in-israel-and-the-question-of-compulsory-military-service>

Panel 1 (wide): A wide overhead view from the sea encompassing Gaza on the right, with its stunning coastline, bustling streets, mosques, and farms approaching the center of the panel and the BORDER WALL with its military defenses separating it from Israel... as to the of left this – Farms and fields lead to beautiful Israeli kibbutzim, with their cottages and communities.

CAPTION: “October 7th, 2022 – Israel (left of panel) Gaza (right of panel)”

Panel 2 (square): Lily and LILY’S FATHER approach a humble kibbutz cottage as they wheel suitcases. Lily wears large, over-ear headphones, and Lily’s Father is wearing a Toronto Maple leafs hat, gesturing to Lily’s headphones.

LILY’S FATHER: “Lily. Off, please. We’re home.”

Panel 3 (square): Jannah and JANNAH’S FATHER approach an apartment building carrying shopping – Jannah wearing her headscarf, while Jannah’s Father wears a Celtic fc hat and glances at his phone.

JANNAH’S FATHER: “Jannah. Keep your hair covered at home. We have company.”

Endnotes:

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- 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.

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/gazan-women-struggle-with-a-life-stripped-of-privacy-in-crowded-tent-camp>
 - <https://merip.org/1990/05/women-the-hijab-and-the-intifada/>
 - <https://www.idf.il/en/mini-sites/the-hamas-terrorist-organization/the-status-of-women-in-gaza/>
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Page 7 (3 Panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Eli, Amir, and their fathers sit at a table eating with a HUMMUS BOWL at the center – The hummus bowl bleeds down into the bottom two panels with everyone sharing the table and hummus bowl, as each panel has its own version of the table itself, while the hummus bowl remains identical.

ELI: “Nothing beats hummus.”

AMIR: “Umm... what about fūl?”

ELI “On a falafel?”

AMIR: "Obviously. On everything."

Panel 2 (tall): Jannah and JANNAH'S MOTHER are in the kitchen preparing tea and baklava – Jannah's Father and a Hamas Terrorist sit with their backs to them behind them at the table, as Jannah sneaks a bite of baklava.

JANNAH'S MOTHER: "Jannah, Show respect. You should be proud to have a man like him in our home."

JANNAH: "I know who he is... but I don't –"

JANNAH'S MOTHER 2: "Shhh! Behave!"

JANNAH 2 (thought balloon): "Or what?"

Panel 3 (tall): Lily turns away from the table with her arms crossed – Her father stood to her right gesturing at the table and hummus.

LILY'S FATHER: "Lily... please eat the hummus. At least try it."

LILY: "Eww. Gross..."

Endnotes 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.
 - <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2024-10-26/ty-article/.highlight/is-the-israeli-love-affair-with-hummus-drawing-to-a-close/>
 - <https://worldcrunch.com/food-travel/gastrocolonialism-israeli-cuisine-palestinian>
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Page 8 (5 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): In a parking lot, Eli and Amir's Father's cars are parked next to one another, Amir's Father's car is a compact SUV parked head first, while Eli's Father's car is a smaller city car parked trunk first... Eli's Father has the driver's door opened and he reaches inside for a wrapped bottle, while Amir's Father leans against his car glancing over at their children, approaching while hunched over Eli's phone.

AMIR: "And it's coming out next year?"

ELI: "Looks cool, right? We have to play it."

Panel 2 (wide): Eli's Father hands Amir's Father the wrapped bottle, as Eli and Amir enter their respective cars from the outside doors and wave goodbye to one another.

ELI: "Bye, Amir!"

AMIR'S FATHER: "Opa! You know you really didn't –"

ELI'S FATHER: "Tss... I didn't anything. It's for me so I don't go thirsty next time I see you."

AMIR: "Come visit, Eli!"

Panel 3 (square): Eli's Father grins with a wink as Amir's Father smiles – Their hands clasped.

Panel 4 (square): Car doors close.

Panel 5 (square): Eli and Amir watch each other through car windows as the cars drive off – Eli waving goodbye while Amir sticks his tongue out.

Endnotes 8:

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- 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.
 - https://www.cija.ca/myth_israel_is_an_apartheid_state
 - <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/12/05/does-israels-treatment-palestinians-rise-level-apartheid>
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Page 9 (2 panels)

Panel 1 (square): Jannah lays down the tray of tea and baklava on the table for her father and the Hamas Terrorist, who has a SCAR on his face, and he eyes her with a grin.

SCARRED HAMMAS TERRORIST: "Shukran. How old are you?"

JANNAH: "I'm –"

JANNAH'S FATHER: "She's 11. Go to your room, Jannah."

Panel 2 (square): Jannah moves away from the men and towards a doorway, slightly glancing back to listen as they speak.

SCARRED HAMMAS TERRORIST: "But Allah blessed you with a son to fight the Jews, yes?"

JANNAH'S FATHER: "Only... a small boy still, but Inshallah, already a warrior."

Endnotes 9:

- Panel 1: The man visiting Jannah's house is a member of Hamas, who control Gaza, and which 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.
- <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/doctrine-hamas>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/12/what-is-hamas-the-militant-group-that-rules-gaza>
- <https://www.cfr.org/background/who-governs-palestinians>

Page 10 (3 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Lily sits upside-down on a sofa with headphones on listening to music... her father sitting at an armchair with an open bible, as he glances over at her from behind a pair of glasses.

MUSIC: “♪♪♪... *I didn’t choose this town... I dream of getting out...* ♪♪♪”

Panel 2 (square): Lily lowers one side of her headphones to hear her father speaking from OP.

LILY’S FATHER (op): “Taylor Swift?”

MUSIC: “♪♪♪... *You’re on your own kid, you always have been...* ♪♪♪”

LILY: “Mhmm...”

Panel 3 (square): Lily heads out of frame, half her body already gone, as her headphones are lowered by her side and her father watches her stride off, sadness in his eyes.

LILY (op): “I hate it here...”

Endnotes 10:

- *You’re on Your Own, Kid*, Song by Taylor Swift • 2022

Page 11 (4 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Amir and his father are driving along a highway – Amir sits in the backseat behind the passenger seat reading a comic book... his father adjusting the rear-view mirror.

AMIR’S FATHER: “Had fun?”

AMIR: “Yeah.”

AMIR’S FATHER: “Who knows? Maybe one day you and Eli will serve together too.”

Panel 2 (wide): Amir rests his head against his headrest and stares out the window as the car drives... his eyes drifting closed, the gift from Eli’s Father on the passenger seat, as Amir’s Father drives with a satisfied smile on his face.

AMIR (thought balloon): “I hope we won’t need soldiers by then...”

Panel 3 (tall): Eli sits at the sofa playing a soldier video game on the TV with a games console – Eli’s Father on the balcony smoking a cigarette and watching him through the glass, tired...

Panel 4 (tall): Eli lies on his back in bed holding an imaginary gun while looking at the ceiling with a grin.

ELI: "...bang..."

Endnotes 14:

- 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 (4 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Jannah tucks her LITTLE BROTHER, 3, into bed – Glancing through an open door to see her father helping the Hamas Terrorist conceal a crate inside a secret compartment under their carpet.

OP: "Lift it on 3... 1...2...3..."

Panel 2 (wide): Jannah writes in her journal at night.

JANNAH (journal entry): "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?"

Panel 3 (wide): Lily sits at her piano with an empty notebook – Her hand outstretched to a key as she presses down on a single note.

SOUND EFFECT: "♪..... ♪..... ♪..... ♪....."

Panel 4 (wide): Lily rests on her side in bed, her eyes open and staring out.

LILY (caption): "*Maybe I'll be inspired tomorrow...*"

Endnotes 12:

- Panel 1½: 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.
- <https://www.jns.org/how-hamas-turned-gazan-homes-into-weapons-depots/>
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/israel-photos-hamas-gaza-weapons-un-facilities-including-schools/>
- <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/hamas-hiding-weapons-explosives-in-kindergarten-israel-in-new-video-4568064>

Page 13 (3 panels)

Panel 1 (top left 3rd): Eli's Father sits at a large work desk in his office with a mixing board, high quality speakers, and several screens. There are music posters and some shots of him DJ-ing on the wall, along with a photo of an army unit with everyone masked. Eli holds a record album, and Eli's Father looks over.

ELI: "You actually used this in a mix before? The cover is funny."

ELI'S FATHER: "Sometimes 'funny' is exactly what you need."

Panel 2 (middle diagonal third): Same location, closer – Eli looks towards the photo of the army unit – Eli's Father pointing at one of the figures.

ELI: "Even in war?"

ELI'S FATHER: "Especially. See him? That's Yossi."

ELI'S FATHER 2: "He was... he was always making everyone laugh."

ELI: "And you saved his life."

Panel 3 (bottom right 3rd): Back to a wider frame, Eli's Father has taken the photo off the wall and looks down at it, Eli also looking – The record album cover he was holding now held to his side and showing the 'funny' cover image of an egg with a mustache and a tiny top hat.

ELI'S FATHER: "Right... a real hero..."

ELI (thought balloon): "Abba always does the right thing."

Endnotes 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 (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.

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.”

Endnotes:

- 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.
- <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/women-gaza-education-university-b2311778.html>
- <https://www.ei-ie.org/en/item/28091:palestine-empowering-women-teachers>

Page 15 (3 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Amir and his father hike up a steep mountain trail surrounded by rocks and trees – Amir struggling.

AMIR’S FATHER: “A little further, Amir, you can do it.”

AMIR (thought balloon): “It’s... too... hard...”

CAPTION: “Northern Israel”

Panel 2 (wide): Reaching a crest and vantage point – Amir’s Father looks out, taking in the view while Amir drains a water bottle – The view is towards the North and the Golan heights.

AMIR’S FATHER: “Look at that... such a beautiful country. Our country.”

AMIR (thought balloon): “I... can’t go further.”

AMIR’S FATHER 2: “There. That’s where my unit crossed into Lebanon... And there’s Syria.”

AMIR (thought balloon 2): “...does he even notice?”

Panel 3 (wide): Amir and his father sit on the ground to the left of the panel looking out into the distant view on the right – Which shows the Northern Golan region, as Amir’s Father points.

AMIR’S FATHER: “Near Majdal Shams, where your uncle lives, is what’s called the shouting hill. It’s –”

AMIR: "I know. The Druze on either side of the border yell at one another."

AMIR'S FATHER 2: "They speak... right. There's an Israeli movie about it..."

AMIR 2: "Do you... think the Druze will ever have a country?"

AMIR'S FATHER 3: "Amir... We already do. Here in Israel. And there, and there... and wherever the Druze are is their home. This is our strength. Yours too."

Endnotes 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.
- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-war-struck-majdal-shams-assads-fall-sparks-hope-for-israels-druze/>
- <https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/309920-syrian-families-split-by-occupation-fence-and-a-shouting-hill>
- <https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo-the-shouting-hill-where-druze-people-from-both-sides-of-the-border-73079512.html>

Page 16 (3 panels)

Panel 1 (top left 3rd): Lily and her father feed a horse apples from across a wooden fence near a stables on the kibbutz.

LILY: "I miss home."

LILY'S FATHER: "Yup... This is definitely not a Moose. Nor a beaver. But henceforth... I dub thee... *Mountie*."

Panel 2 (middle 3rd): Lily sits on the ground away from the fence as a small dog sniffs at the ground and approaches... while behind her, Lily's Father pets 'Mountie' the horse by the fence and looks over.

LILY: "I'm serious. I don't like it here."

LILY'S FATHER: "Yet..."

LILY 2: "Ever."

LILY'S FATHER 2: "Can't rush nature, Lily. Everything happens in its own time. Otherwise... butterflies would never hatch from cocoons and flowers would never bloom."

Panel 3: (bottom right 3rd) Closer on Lily as the dog nestles up to her and licks her face, Lily unable to resist smiling, as her father approaches from behind and kneels next to her.

LILY: "I miss my friends."

LILY'S FATHER: "Seems you just made a new one..."

LILY'S FATHER 2: "Look, I know this isn't easy, but remember that every obstacle is an opportunity to show our character and strength... Pancakes?"

LILY 2: "Only if you let me put LOTS of maple syrup."

LILY'S FATHER 3: "Deal, kiddo."

Endnotes 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 to industries in Israel, as well as in assisting in access to Israeli hospitals and services.
- <https://apnews.com/article/evangelical-christians-israel-volunteer-trips-462329e04459191fd6ae061e722cae30>
- <https://time.com/6899026/israel-palestine-medical-volunteers/>
- <https://forward.com/culture/564982/road-to-recovery-israel-palestine-coexistence-ngo-volunteer/>
- <https://www.npr.org/transcripts/1197956512>

Page 17 (Splash)

Splash: A blue tinted page with words handwritten across the center.

WORDS: *'My dreams... were so vivid and real. Clearer than life itself. Are they still possible?'* -- Eli

Page 18 (2 panels)

Panel 1 (tall): Eli sits on his bed on the lower part of the panel, looking up at his wall, where he imagines himself a soldier in uniform, (still a kid), as he's stood saluting and wearing an eye patch like Moshe Dayan – His thought balloon running up the wall next to his imagination.

ELI (thought balloon): "I hope I can be as brave as Abba when I'm older. First, I'll become a famous General. Then maybe go into politics. I could be Prime Minister."

Panel 2 (tall): Jannah sits on the sofa at the top of the panel writing in her journal – The written words forming a journal entry balloon below her in the living room over the beautiful Islamic style geometric carpet with the hidden crate below.

JANNAH (journal entry): "Would Palestinians ever elect a woman to lead them? Could it be me? If I go to university and study hard... I could fight our enemies with my mind... Like Baba said, maybe there are lots of different ways... I don't know... I feel trapped. With enemies everywhere."

Endnotes:

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

<https://www.bic-rhr.com/research/what-war-gaza-tells-us-about-western-feminism>

<https://www.globalfundforwomen.org/movements/anti-gender-based-violence-in-palestine/>

<https://www.idf.il/en/mini-sites/the-hamas-terrorist-organization/the-status-of-women-in-gaza/>

Page 19 (2 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Amir's bedroom – A comic book poster on the wall and comics scattered on the floor around Amir... who sketches in a notebook a superhero striking a heroic pose adorned with symbols of a Druze Star and a Star of David on his chest – Other rough sketches of the superhero are around him.

AMIR (thought balloon): "The first Druze Israeli superhero... Double Star!"

Panel 2 (wide): Lily sits at her piano towards the right of the panel writing on a notepad with one hand while pressing a piano key the other – To the left of the panel, the dog from outside sits on a round colored carpet staring at her.

LILY (notepad): "♪*Strange land...*♪

♪*Strang...er...*♪

♪*Strange food*♪

♪*Strange...ness*♪"

DOG: "Woof!"

LILY (caption): "*Ugh... Writing songs is hard. How does Taylor Swift do it?*"

Endnotes 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.
- https://www.comicbookreligion.com/?srch=religion-Druze__27
- <https://www.jns.org/michael-netzer-from-american-superheroes-to-israeli-spirituality/>

Page 20 (Splash)

Splash: Split into four corners, Eli, Amir, Jannah, and Lily each look out a window into the night in silence... only their backs visible, as their worlds outside take on dream-like qualities of shifting light and shadows in the distance.

Page 21 (2 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Eli carries plates into the kitchen – His father washing a pan as his ELDER SISTER and mother tidy at the dinner table.

ELI'S FATHER: "Dishwasher. Not sink. You do something, do it all the way."

Panel 2 (wide): Amir carries a tray with several plates of food out of the kitchen of the FAMILY RESTAURANT. Amir's Mother – Her head covered – Is cooking along with AMIR'S AUNT – Head also covered – As the restaurant is bustling with a diverse crowd of every creed and color – Amir's Father and his 2 OLDER BROTHERS take and deliver orders.

AMIR (thought balloon): "Don't drop it... don't drop it... don't drop it..."

Endnotes 21:

- <https://www.westgalil.org.il/en/ent/noor/>
- <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-779574>
- <https://www.touristisrael.com/druze-hospitality/967/>

Page 22 (2 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Jannah is in the kitchen with her mother preparing food – In the living room, Jannah's Father sits with 3 Hamas Terrorist carrying guns – One of them, the Scarred Hamas Terrorist, kneels by Jannah's Younger Brother and gives him a toy gun with a smile... while another places a green and red book on the table. Everything is candlelit or gas powered.

SCARRED HAMMAS TERRORIST: "Be fearless... and you will join us in our fight against the occupiers."

JANNAH'S MOTHER (whispered): "Inshallah."

Panel 2 (wide): Lily sits on the floor in the kitchen with her back against the counter feeding her dog a carrot, as another girl, RACHEL, 10, stands cautiously watching from the doorway... and behind Rachel at a dining table, Lily's Father and Rachel's parents sit toasting over wine.

LILY: "...want to try?"

Endnotes 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.
- <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2023/07/02/hamas-weapons-exhibition-gaza-israel-palestine-violence/>
- <https://nypost.com/2025/02/16/world-news/kids-play-with-guns-bigger-than-they-are-in-gaza-video/>
- <https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel-at-war/1704305666-how-hamas-arms-children-for-terrorism-previously-unseen-images-revealed-by-idf>

Page 23 (4 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Eli plays a military video game with headphones on at the TV while in the next room, his father also wears headphones and works at his computer mixing a track.

Panel 2 (wide): Amir does his homework at the table – A superhero mug with tea at his side, as Amir's Father does bench presses in another room converted to a mini work out space – Amir's Older Brothers also lifting weights.

Panel 3 (wide): Jannah reads in the living room from the green and red book the Hamas Terrorist placed on the table, Jannah's Father stood on the balcony smoking with his head down, as Jannah's Mother stands beside him watching Jannah proudly...

Panel 4 (wide): Rachel sits at the piano with Lily over her shoulder pointing at a key – The dog at their feet, while at the dining table, Lily's Father pours more wine for Rachel's parents and glances over at Lily with a smile.

Endnotes 23:

-
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/04/world/middleeast/to-shape-young-palestinians-hamas-creates-its-own-textbooks.html>
 - <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/hamas-rewrites-history-in-new-textbooks-for-gaza-strip-schoolchildren>
 - <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-847490>
-

Page 24 (8 panels)

Panel 1 (square): Eli in the bathroom grabs a toothbrush.

Panel 2 (square): Eli in the bathroom squirts toothpaste.

Panel 3 (square): Amir in the bathroom brushes his teeth.

Panel 4 (square): Amir in the bathroom spits out toothpaste.

Panel 5 (square): Jannah in the bathroom rinses her toothbrush.

Panel 6 (square): Jannah in the bathroom returns the toothbrush to its place.

Panel 7 (square): Lily in the bathroom ties up her hair as she stares at her reflection in the mirror – Her expression neutral and as mysterious as the 'Mona Lisa smile'. Her phone on the sink playing music.

MUSIC: "♪♪♪... *You're on your own kid, you always have been...*♪♪♪"

Panel 8 (square): Lily flicks off the lights.

Page 25 (splash)

Splash: A yellow tinted page with words handwritten across the center.

WORDS: "Would it have been better to know it was the last time we'd celebrate?" -- Amir

Page 26 (4 panels)

Panel 1 (square): A box of matches sliding open.

Panel 2 (square): The box of matches as a match strikes the side of it.

Panel 3 (square): The lit match hovering towards a candle.

Panel 4 (wide): Eli and his family, along with Amir and his family, are squeezed around a table in Eli's family's home – Eli's Mother lighting the first candle for Hanukkah on a menorah.

CAPTION: "Hanukkah. December 7th, 2022"

Endnotes 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 (4 panels)

Panel 1 (square): A wrapped present in a small box with Jannah's name written in Arabic.

CAPTION: "Happy."

Panel 2 (square): The wrapping paper torn and the box open – A green Hamas scarf inside.

CAPTION: "Birthday."

Panel 3 (square): Jannah holds the green scarf in her hands, her family in the house, along with the Scarred Hamas Terrorist, who rests a hand on her shoulder.

CAPTION: "Jannah."

SCARRED HAMAS TERRORIST: "May you bring many warriors onto this earth one day."

Panel 4 (wide): Lily stares out the window looking glum – The sun shining brightly outside, as a heavier gentleman with a white beard and wearing a red hat walks 'Mountie' – Lily's Father approaching with a smile and carrying Lily's dog, which wears an antler horns headband... as he passes a small Christmas tree with wrapped gifts beneath it.

LILY: "No Santa... No snow..."

LILY'S FATHER: "But we have reindeer!"

CAPTION: "Christmas. December 25th, 2022"

Endnotes 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 (4 panels)

Panel 1 (square): Eli’s bedroom, Eli and Amir sit on the bed, as Amir shows Eli the sketch he drew of the superhero Double Star.

ELI: “Is the... mustache part of his disguise?”

AMIR: “It’s his source of power. Like Samson and his hair.”

ELI 2: “Seriously?”

Panel 2 (square) Eli’s bedroom, Amir burst out laughing as Eli playfully shoves him.

AMIR: “Ha! Got you!”

Panel 3 (square) Eli and Amir’s fathers are in the kitchen, Eli’s father pressing an espresso machine as hot water pours into a cup.

ELI’S FATHER: “Feels like the country’s tense. On edge.”

AMIR’S FATHER: “Well... simmering pots boil unless you kill the heat. Like Hamas in Gaza.”

Panel 4 (square) Eli and Amir’s fathers are in the kitchen drinking espresso leaning against the counter.

ELI’S FATHER: “A menace to their own people.”

AMIR’S FATHER: “Save your sympathy for when they bite us in the ass.”

Endnotes 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 (4 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Wearing her green scarf, Jannah and her father are on the balcony. It’s dark in Gaza – Only pockets of electricity showing... as in the distance, the Israeli security fence is fully lit. Jannah’s Father’s gaze is fixed inside, while Jannah stares out towards the security fence.

JANNAH: “They have all the power...”

JANNAH'S FATHER: "Not all. Not here..."

Panel 2 (wide) The Scarred Hamas Terrorist sits with Jannah's Little Brother on his lap on the sofa, as Jannah's Father watches him from the balcony outside.

JANNAH'S FATHER: "Here... they rule."

Panel 3 (square): Lily's Father sits reading from the bible on the sofa next to Lily, who gazes out... the dog between them still wearing his reindeer antlers.

LILY'S FATHER: "And the angel said unto them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

Panel 4 (square): Close on Lily, her eyes glazing over as she stares out...

LILY'S FATHER (op): "For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior..."

LILY (thought balloon): "♪... *You're on your own kid, you always have been...* ♪"

Endnotes 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 30 (splash)

Splash: Fireworks... though amongst them... rockets and explosions...

CAPTION: "January, 2023"

Page 31 (4 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Eli rises from the breakfast table and a bowl of cereal – Eli's older sister barely glancing up from her phone, as Eli's Father steps through the door looking tired and carrying a small DJ mixing board under his arm.

ELI: "Abba! How'd it go?"

ELI'S FATHER: "Epic New Year."

Panel 2 (wide): Eli places the mixing board in his father's office as Eli's Father – Now sat at the breakfast table – Pours himself some cereal.

ELI'S SISTER: "Need coffee?"

ELI'S FATHER: "Sugar. Same effect."

Panel 3 (wide): Eli sits next to his father as they both eat cereal – Eli's Sister back to her phone.

ELI'S FATHER: "Ready for school?"

ELI'S SISTER: "Mhmm..."

ELI: "Are you taking us?"

Panel 4 (wide): Eli's Father collapses onto the sofa, exhausted, as Eli and his sister, wearing backpacks, head for the open door, where their mother is waiting and holding a set of keys.

ELI'S FATHER: "Next time."

ELI'S MOTHER: "Yalla!"

Page 32 (5 panels)

Panel 1 (tall): Amir's Father at the top of the panel kicks a football down towards Amir.

AMIR'S FATHER: "Control! Then kick."

AMIR: "I got it."

Panel 2 (square): Amir tries to control the ball as he lifts his foot to receive it.

AMIR (caption): "*Control.*"

Panel 3 (square): Amir slips as he tries to kick – Beginning to fall.

AMIR (caption): "*Kick.*"

Panel 4 (square): From above looking down – Amir has fallen onto the floor on his back – His head pointed towards the bottom of the panel as his father rushes over while the ball rolls along the grass between them.

AMIR'S FATHER: "Amir!"

AMIR: "Ugh..."

Panel 5 (square): Close on Amir – Still on the floor, with his head towards the bottom of the panel as he lifts a hand towards his father, whose upper torso is framed out of the panel while lowering Amir a hand.

Panel 6 (wide): Amir and his father sit on the grass with the football between them as they look out at a sunset with only their backs visible.

AMIR: "Sorry I couldn't get it..."

AMIR'S FATHER: "It's not so easy... and it's not just football."

AMIR'S FATHER 2: "Everything in life is control, then kick."

AMIR'S FATHER 3: "Think. Then act. – Think too much... you lose. Act and don't think... you lose."

Page 33 (4 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Jannah, wearing her green scarf, sits in an empty classroom looking up from her work at a desk towards her father – Who wipes off a chalk board – Science equipment and Hamas posters seen along the walls.

JANNAH'S FATHER: "Ready to go?"

JANNAH: "Baba... You know the flower stall near our house?"

JANNAH'S FATHER: "Adalah Bassam's stall?"

Panel 2 (wide): Jannah and her father head out of the classroom, Jannah reaching for her stomach and pulling a face as Jannah's Father looks over, concerned, as he carries a few textbooks.

JANNAH'S FATHER: "What about him?"

JANNAH: "I just... there was a rumor, that – Ow..."

Panel 3 (wide): Jannah leans against the hallway wall – An Israeli flag painted on the floor in front of bathroom doors further down, as a Janitor cleans around it.

JANNAH'S FATHER: "Jannah? What's –"

JANNAH: "Nothing. I'm fine..."

Panel 4 (wide): Jannah marches past the Janitor while holding her side... the Janitor watching her as Jannah's Father stares from across the hall, confused.

Endnotes 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 symbolise the desire to destroy it.
- <https://www.equaldex.com/region/palestine>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/jun/16/queer-palestinians-lgbtq-israel-pride-flags-gaza-conflict-pink-washing>
- <https://reason.com/2023/10/27/the-contradictions-of-queers-for-palestine/>

Page 34 (7 panels)

Panel 1 (square): Lily holds her dog and hides behind the sofa as Lily's Father begins opening the door – His car is visible and parked outside.

LILY'S FATHER: "...Lily?"

Panel 2 (square): Lily pops up and lifts the dog as she tries to surprise her father – A big smile and laugh on his face.

LILY: “Boo!”

DOG: “Woof!”

LILY’S FATHER: “Ha! You got me!”

Panel 3 (square): Medium shot of Lily as she lowers the dog while looking disappointed.

LILY: “But you weren’t scared...”

Panel 4 (wide): A wide shot showing an outside ALARM POLE, which starts to SOUND, as inside – Lily and her father turn their heads to look, Lily’s Father already beginning to run and grab Lily.

ALARM POLE: “MMMMmmmmm!”

LILY: “Why were –”

LILY’S FATHER: “Lily!”

Panel 5 (square): Lily’s Father rushes with Lily into their safe room – Lily’s bedroom.

Panel 6 (square): Lily’s Father SLAMS the door shut and SLIDES the handlebar closed, as Lily holds her scared dog close to her while sitting on her bed.

SOUND: “THMMMM!” (door shutting)

Panel 7 (square): Lily’s Father sits next to Lily on the bed, the dog nestled between them – Lily looking to the floor, as Lily’s Father looks up towards a distant sound heard from beyond the wall.

LILY’S FATHER: “Got back from the border just in time...”

LILY: “You took someone from Gaza to the hospital?”

LILY’S FATHER 2: “An operation”.

SOUND: “Boom... Boom...” (from outside – Explosions)

LILY 2: “Is it over?”

Endnotes 34:

- Panel 4: For the communities surrounding Gaza before October 7th, sirens were commonplace occurrences which 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, which were the primary targets of those rocket attacks.

- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/the-safest-room-in-the-house/>
- <https://www.businessinsider.com/photos-inside-safe-room-bomb-shelter-israel-war-palestine-gaza-2023-10>
- <https://idsf.org.il/en/stories-of-valor/yaniv-ohana/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXastQyIX7M>

Page 35 (4 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Eli sits in class with desks in a U shape, his hand raised as a MALE TEACHER, 40, wearing glasses, gestures to a digital screen displaying a map of Roman occupied Israel.

TEACHER: "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?"

ELI: "Are Philistines and Palestinians the same?"

Panel 2 (wide): The Teacher stands in front of a new projected image of a timeline depicting several major events, including the first Roman occupation of Judea (63 BCE), the Crucifixion of Jesus (33 CE), the Jewish Revolts (1st 66-73 CE, 2nd 132-136 CE, 3rd 115-117 CE), the Destruction of the 2nd Temple (70 CE), the Roman Empire Splitting & Byzantine Rule (390), and Muhamed's birth (570 CE).

TEACHER: "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."

Panel 3 (wide): Jannah sits in class with each desk on its own, her hand raised, as a FEMALE TEACHER wearing a full head cover and with only her eyes visible gestures at a chalk board with the word AL AQSA written on it. All the students are female and have their heads covered.

TEACHER: "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?"

JANNAH: "Why did the Prophet choose Al Aqsa? Was it important before—"

Panel 4: The Teacher WHACKS a ruler against the board – Jannah looking down.

SFX: "CRACK!"

TEACHER: "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."

JANNAH (thought balloon): "I wasn't..."

Endnotes 35: (Classroom)

- <https://masjidalqsa.com/>
- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Al-Aqsa-Mosque>
- <https://www.hudson.org/node/44363>
- <https://www.jns.org/how-the-palestinians-got-their-name/>
- <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-752532>
- <https://www.history.com/articles/palestine>

Page 36 (4 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Amir sits in class with desks in rows and paths on either side, as well as down the middle, his hand raised, as a FEMALE TEACHER, 30, wearing glasses and her head covered, hands out papers.

TEACHER: "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?"

AMIR: "Are Jews allowed to pray at Al Aqsa?"

Panel 2 (wide): The Teacher, with only her back visible, walks towards her desk, and written on the white board are the words "THE SIX DAY WAR".

TEACHER: "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..."

Panel 3 (wide): Lily sits with Rachel in a classroom organized with desks clumped together facing one another, her hand raised, as a MALE TEACHER, 50, wearing a bow tie, leans on his desk and gestures.

TEACHER: "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?"

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

Panel 4: The Teacher scratches their chin and walks through the class in Lily's direction while gesturing with his other hand.

TEACHER: "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... 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."

LILY (though balloon): "So confusing..."

Endnotes 36: (Classroom)

- <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/arab-israeli-war-1967>
 - <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-39960461>
 - <https://www.history.com/articles/six-day-war>
 - <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/palestinians-mark-the-nakba-the-original-catastrophe-of-mass-expulsion>
 - <https://www.vox.com/2018/11/20/18080030/israel-palestine-nakba-history>
 - <https://guides.laguardia.edu/c.php?g=1391450&p=10292824>
 - <https://www.rosalux.de/en/news/id/50401/independence-for-israel-means-nakba-for-palestine>
-

Page 37 (2 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Rain pours as Eli rushes down a Tel Aviv Street and away from a departing school bus – He holds his bag over his head to shield himself from the downpour, passing a couple kissing under an umbrella and a coffee shop filled with a diverse group of people sheltering from the rain – Some holding Israeli flags and signs.

ELI (caption): *“At first, I didn’t notice the protesters. But now...”*

CAPTION: “Tel Aviv, Israel”

Panel 2 (wide): Eli rounds a corner and stops in his tracks – Still with his bag above his head, as a large group of protesters can be seen marching down the street.

ELI (caption): *“...the weather isn’t the only storm.”*

Endnotes 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.
 - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/07/24/israel-protests-judicial-overhaul/>
 - <https://www.vox.com/2023/7/23/23804795/israel-protests-judicial-reforms-netanyahu-likud-idf>
 - <https://www.cnn.com/2023/03/27/middleeast/israel-judicial-overhaul-legislation-intl/index.html>
-

Page 38 (3 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Rain pours as Amir rushes away from his school wearing his backpack – The town of Daliyat al-Karmel sprawling along the hills in the distance as he runs.

CAPTION: “Daliyat al-Karmel, Israel”

Panel 2 (wide): Amir balances along a low wall, his arms held to the sides for balance with his gaze glued to his feet as the rain continues to fall – A voice calling him from OP.

AMIR’S BROTHER (op): “Amir.”

Panel 3 (wide): Still stood on the low wall - Amir looks down to see his older brother, who holds an umbrella with a bemused look on his face.

AMIR'S BROTHER: "Showering early? Or head caught in the clouds?"

AMIR: "Forgot an umbrella"

AMIR'S BROTHER 2: "We need you in the restaurant. Big group just booked. Yalla."

Page 39 (3 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Rain pours as Jannah holds an umbrella and carries a backpack – Hair covered – While walking past a FLOWER STALL on a bustling Gaza city street – The Flower Stall owner, a slick looking man with a big smile and tight shirt, smells a bouquet – Jannah glancing at him... as shops and restaurants dot the road, which is covered in Hamas posters and faces of 'Shahids' and guns.

JANNAH (caption): *"If we're able to have beauty even here, we can achieve anything."*

CAPTION: "Gaza"

Panel 2 (narrow wide between 1&3): Electric wires and buzzing SFX as the electricity cuts out.

SFX: "BzzzzzzZZZZTT!!!"

Panel 3 (wide): The street has gone mostly dark – Only pockets of light connected to humming generators illuminate... as Jannah holds a lit flashlight, which she removes from her backpack.

JANNAH (caption): *"Nothing, and no one will stop us. No matter how hard they try."*

SFX: "bmmmm" (generators)

Endnotes 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 uninterruptible power supplies to ensure continuous electricity for leadership offices and VIP residences, even when many Gazans go without power.
- <https://www.commentary.org/seth-mandel/hamass-war-on-gazas-electric-grid/>

- <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2017/05/israel-hamas-gaza-strip-electricity-bill-arab-states.html>
- <https://www.kohelet.org.il/en/article/does-israel-have-to-give-free-power-to-gaza/>
- <https://www.cnn.com/2023/10/30/middleeast/fuel-gaza-crisis-map-dg/index.html>

Page 40 (2 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Rain pours as Lily holds an umbrella and walks out of her school – The school's colorful wall adorned with images of peace, unity, and co-existence.

CAPTION: "Israel"

Panel 2 (wide): Lily continues to walk along the kibbutz roads, passing a horse's stables where the horse she previously pet, 'Mountie', along with another 2, graze outside in a pen, as Lily waves.

LILY: "Hey, Mountie..."

Panel 3 (wide): Lily pets 'Mountie' along the fence of the pen as she looks up to the sky.

LILY (caption): *"The rain... reminds me of home."*

Page 41 (2 panels)

Panel 1 (diagonal across top left): Eli and his family are having dinner – Eli has skewered his schnitzel with his fork and holds it up like a shield as he holds out his knife like a sword. Eli's sister is on her phone and Eli's Mother nudges her... while Eli's Father reaches for another helping of salad.

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

ELI'S SISTER: "Yeah, people always kinda hated Jews."

ELI'S FATHER: "Canaries in the coal mine..."

Panel 2 (diagonal along bottom right): Closer on Eli and his father, Eli having lowered his schnitzel onto his plate with his fork... as his other hand has flipped the knife around and jabs the schnitzel – Eli's Father lifting a cherry tomato up in front of him.

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

ELI'S FATHER: "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 tomatoes, 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?"

ELI 2: "I... guess. But I just don't like tomatoes."

Endnotes 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
-
- [https://www.france24.com/en/video/20240126-canary-in-coal-mine-antisemitism-is-always-alert-s](https://www.france24.com/en/video/20240126-canary-in-coal-mine-antisemitism-is-always-alert-system-of-a-larger-problem-within-our-society)
[ystem-of-a-larger-problem-within-our-society](https://www.france24.com/en/video/20240126-canary-in-coal-mine-antisemitism-is-always-alert-system-of-a-larger-problem-within-our-society)
- <https://review.gale.com/2020/09/08/canaries-in-the-coal-mine/>
- <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.7021292>
- [https://mosaicmagazine.com/observation/politics-current-affairs/2021/12/canaries-in-the-coal-min](https://mosaicmagazine.com/observation/politics-current-affairs/2021/12/canaries-in-the-coal-mine-dara-horn-and-bari-weiss/)
[e-dara-horn-and-bari-weiss/](https://mosaicmagazine.com/observation/politics-current-affairs/2021/12/canaries-in-the-coal-min-e-dara-horn-and-bari-weiss/)

Page 42 (2 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Amir's Father – In uniform – Stands by his car with the door open and waves towards Amir, who watches from the window of the house with his Older Brother.

AMIR: "It's like he's never home anymore..."

AMIR'S OLDER BROTHER: "Country needs him."

AMIR: "You know when you'll be called up next?"

Panel 2 (wide): Amir carries dirty dishes in the restaurant and drops them as he enters the kitchen – Several shattering to the ground as his mother and aunt look over, while at the tables through the door, his Older Brother, in the middle of taking an order, glances towards the noise, curious.

SFX: CRASH!

AMIR (thought balloon): "I can't do this on my..."

Endnotes 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 43 (2 panels)

Panel 1 (tall): Jannah sits on a bed in a doctor's office, her father with her, as an older MALE DOCTOR holds a chart and points at it while showing it to JANNAH'S FATHER.

JANNAH (thought balloon): "I could tell from their faces it was bad..."

Panel 2 (tall): Jannah and her father walk along the road and past the flower stall as they head towards the bottom of the panel – Jannah's Father holding Jannah's arm.

JANNAH: "I'm not going to fall over..."

JANNAH'S FATHER: "I know. You're holding me."

Page 44 (2 panels)

Panel 1 (diagonal across top left): Lily kneels by the bed to catch her dog, which races through the door that is held open a crack by Lily's Father.

ALARM POLE: "MMMMmmmmm!"

LILY (thought balloon): "Again?!"

Panel 2 (diagonal along bottom right): The door is shut, and Lily reaches under her bed to where her dog hides – Scared – Her Father lifting his phone to read a message.

LILY'S FATHER'S PHONE: "Need you for a hospital run."

Endnotes 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 Gazan's who needed to enter Israel for work or medical needs, such as by transit to the locations they needed to reach.

Page 45 (splash)

Splash: A green tinted page with words handwritten across the center.

WORDS: *"I wish I could go back to my life before. To that... 'other' world, which seems so simple now. Despite it all." -- Jannah*

Page 46 (3 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Jannah and her father stand in a long line at a checkpoint – Jannah is no longer wearing her green scarf. They're towards the back of the line, which stretches off the page, and the actual checkpoint is not visible. Most of the people in line are men holding work permits and dressed for manual labor... the security wall looming behind them.

JANNAH: "I hate this."

JANNAH'S FATHER: "Only a little further."

JANNAH 2: "I'm just a kid trying to –"

JANNAH'S FATHER 2: "Quiet, Jannah."

CAPTION: "Gaza"

Panel 2 (wide): Jannah and her father are checked by a group of bored, young soldiers – Cameras looking down at them as they pass a metal detector, and Jannah's Father hands an Ethiopian Jewish Officer some papers while gesturing to Jannah, whose backpack is being searched by another soldier.

ETHIOPIAN JEWISH OFFICER: "You're going for treatment?"

JANNAH'S FATHER: "Yes. No... my daughter."

ETHIOPIAN JEWISH OFFICER: "This pass is just for her. Not you."

JANNAH (thought balloon): "Why do the Zionists treat us like this? Like I'm guilty for just being here..."

JANNAH'S FATHER 2: "Please..."

Panel 3 (wide): The Ethiopian Jewish Officer has stepped aside with the papers and holds a radio which he speaks into... Jannah and her Father now stood to the side with a soldier holding a rifle watching them – His expression blank... as the next man in line is processed by another soldier, who checks his papers.

Endnotes 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.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/id/wbna6895479>

<https://mondoweiss.net/2018/01/checkpoints-rawan-yaghi/>

<https://www.equaltimes.org/it-s-not-a-life-palestinian>

<https://www.nrc.no/perspectives/2019/the-children-who-cross-the-checkpoints>

Page 47 (Splash)

Splash: Jannah and her father approach Lily's Father's parked car – Lily's Father stood outside wearing a volunteer vest and holding a sign that says HOSPITAL in English, Hebrew, and Arabic. Lily is sat in the car watching with curiosity, as Jannah looks back and off panel.

JANNAH (thought balloon): "I... they let Baba come too... I didn't expect that."

LILY'S FATHER: "Salam alaikum. Hello. Are we waiting for anyone else?"

JANNAH'S FATHER: "Only us."

LILY (thought balloon): "I wonder... if he was one of the people who shot rockets at us?"

CAPTION: "Israel"

Page 48 (3 panels)

Panel 1 (square): Amir wipes down an empty table at the restaurant.

Panel 2 (square): Amir throws out a garbage bag into a big trash container at the back of the restaurant.

AMIR (thought balloon): "Can I ever be as good of a soldier as my dad? As my brothers?"

Panel 3: Amir lies on the sofa with a comic book on his chest while staring at the ceiling and holding his sketched image of Double Star... as to the side, his older brothers exercise using Amir's Father's weights.

Endnotes 48:

- The Druze community in Israel have one of the highest percentages of combat unit enlistment and accolades in the Israeli military, and are considered some of the finest soldiers in the country.
- <https://www.timesofisrael.com/loyal-to-the-state-of-israel-tiny-druze-community-punches-above-its-weight-to-help/>
- <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/SyeeQdR6S>

Page 49 (2 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Eli walks along a Tel Aviv Street, and marching past him, a group of protesters against the government reforms hold placards and signs heading in the other direction.

ELI (thought balloon): "We have so many enemies..."

CAPTION: "Tel Aviv, Israel"

Panel 2 (wide): Eli looks back to see the protesters heading towards a LARGE protest in the distance.

ELI (thought balloon): "And now we're fighting ourselves..."

ELI 2 (thought balloon): "Why can't we just have peace and quiet like other places..."

Endnotes 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 (3 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Lily's Father drives with Jannah's Father sat in the passenger seat – Their daughters behind them. Jannah stares out the window at the Tel Aviv high rises, while Lily looks at Jannah.

JANNAH (thought balloon): “I’ve never been to Tel Aviv before... it looks like Gaza, only taller...”

LILY: “Hi... What’s your name?”

Panel 2 (wide): Ichilov Hospital as seen from outside – Lily’s Father’s car pulling in towards the underground parking lot.

JANNAH: “Jannah. You?”

LILY” “Lily. We’re Canadian, but I guess also Israeli now.”

CAPTION: “Ichilov Hospital, Tel Aviv, Israel”

Panel 3 (wide): Jannah lies on a bed, a ginger haired Female Israeli doctor, 30s, smiling at her, as she lifts a hand to gesture, Jannah’s father stood in the corner looking concerned while a female Arab nurse checks Jannah’s blood pressure.

JANNAH (thought balloon): “Everyone is nice. It’s... strange. I thought they hated us.”

Endnotes 50:

- 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.
 - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/3000th-palestinian-child-has-heart-operation-in-israel-through-save-a-childs-heart/>
 - <https://www.shebaonline.org/treating-babies-from-gaza-in-israel/>
 - <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3161677/>
-

Page 51 (2 panels)

Panel 1 (tall): Amir watches the news with his family – Images of protesters blocking streets and police on horseback dispersing them.

AMIR (thought balloon): “Is the country falling apart?”

Panel 2 (tall): Amir heads away from the living room towards his room – The rest of his family watching the news broadcast.

AMIR (thought balloon): "Is it even worth fighting for?"

Endnotes 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.
 - <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-64929563>
 - <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/tag/israel-protests>
-

Page 52 (5 panels)

Panel 1 (Square): Evening – Eli and his family sit around a table outside at a restaurant in Tel Aviv eating, as Eli's Father looks up from his phone.

ELI'S FATHER: "Special Forces eliminated three terrorists tonight."

Panel 2 (Square) Eli's Father gestures for a waiter.

ELI'S FATHER: "Let's hope for quiet."

Panel 3 (Square): Eli's Father and Eli's Mother raise shot glasses while Eli and his Older Sister raise glasses of water... and behind them on the street... a Young Man with short trimmed hair, a beard, and wearing a dark jacket, hurries past...

ELI'S FAMILY: "L'chaim!"

Panel 4 (square): Following the Young Man in the jacket... now with Eli and his family behind him in the restaurant... the Young Man reaches into his jacket.

Panel 5 (wide): Raising a gun – The Young Man in the Jacket – A Terrorist – Aims at three Jews walking in front of him, the restaurant with Eli and his family across the street behind him... as Eli looks over.

ELI: "...Dad, is that a –"

Endnotes 52:

- 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 (splash)

Splash: Dizingof Street in Tel Aviv has turned into a scene of chaos. 3 bodies lie on the ground, the Terrorist Young Man in the Jacket searching for targets as armed civilians and security personnel rush to neutralize him... all while Eli and his family have taken cover as best they can on the ground below the restaurant tables – Eli's Father physically covering his family with his body as best he can.

CAPTION: "March 9th, 2023. Dizingof Street, Tel Aviv."

Endnotes 53:

- 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-year-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 (4 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Lily's Father's car leaves Ichilov hospital parking – It's nighttime – Lily in the backseat but turned looking back at the hospital, as several ambulances rush past blaring sirens.

SFX: "RRRRRRrrrrrrRRRRRrrrr" (sirens)

LILY: "So someone else will take them back to Gaza?"

LILY'S FATHER: "When it's time to go, yes. As I understand she's staying overnight for tests."

LILY 2: "Will she be okay?"

LILY'S FATHER 2: "Some of the best doctors in the world are here. Thanks for tagging along, kiddo."

Panel 2 (wide): Lily's Father drives along the highway – Lily's window is rolled down and she leans her head out to breathe the night air.

LILY: "Dad... I'm happy you're here – That we're here."

LILY'S FATHER: "Careful, we'll make you a Zionist yet."

LILY 2: "Is that a bad thing?"

LILY'S FATHER 2: "Not at all. It means you believe Jews have the right to live safely in their ancestral homeland, here in Israel."

Panel 3 (wide): Lily's Father's drives the car through the Kibbutz entrance – Several soldiers milling about as smoke flows from OP near an emergency vehicle – Lily's Father has the window down and speaks to one of the Soldiers.

LILY (thought balloon): "I must be a Zionist then..."

LILY'S FATHER: "What happened?"

SOLDIER: "Rocket got through. It hit the stables."

Panel 4 (wide): Lily's Father drives their car past a wrecked stables after a rocket strike – Lily shocked – As she looks out the window.

LILY: "Mountie... Is he... No..."

LILY'S FATHER: "Father, forgive them... for they know not what they do."

LILY (thought balloon): "But... they do... don't they? This is what they want..."

Endnotes 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 (2 panels)

Panel 1 (upper left): Eli sits hiding by the wall near his open door – His Older sister sat beside him holding his hand, as through the door – His father and mother can be seen arguing.

ELI'S FATHER: "We can't live like this! I won't... just one bullet away... one bomb... all while our country tears itself apart! We have passports. We can leave to –"

ELI'S MOTHER: "And just abandon our country? Our parents?! Our brothers and sisters?!"

ELI'S FATHER 2: "I can't protect us here... You saw, I –"

ELI'S MOTHER 2: "It's not your job to protect us anymore."

ELI'S FATHER 3: "Then who will? Who?! God?"

Panel 2 (lower right): Eli sits on his bed with his arms wrapped around his knees, his sister beside him, as he and her stare ahead, deep in thought.

ELI'S SISTER: "We're okay, Eli... we're okay..."

ELI (thought balloon): "Israel is our home... where we belong... Does Abba really want us to leave?"

Endnotes 55:

- Since 2023, anti-semitism 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 56 (6 panels)

Panel 1 (square): From afar... Eli and his sister are seen sitting on the bed through the window.

Panel 2 (square): Further still... the block of buildings where Eli lives.

Panel 3 (square): And further... An overhead bird's eye view of Tel Aviv.

Panel 4 (square): Further... An overhead bird's eye view of Israel...

Panel 5 (square): Even further... the Middle East....

Panel 6 (square): And finally... the world... with Israel vaguely outlined as a small speck on the map...

Page 57 (5 panels)

Panel 1 (square): A tray of candy held by a pair of hands.

Panel 2 (square): Multiple hands grab at the candy.

Panel 3 (wide): A Hamas Terrorist offers the tray of candy to Jannah and her father as they walk down the street, filled with celebrations, and they pass the EMPTY & WRECKED Flower stall, Jannah glancing at it, as Jannah's Father takes some candy. On the street, other Hamas Terrorists and Gazans hand out candy and wave flags... as well as posters displaying the image of the Terrorist Young Man in the Jacket.

HAMAS TERRORIST: "Glory to our martyr! A Shahid! He shot three Jews! May they all die from the River to the Sea!"

JANNAH'S FATHER: "Take some candy, Jannah."

Panel 4 (square): Jannah lifts and stares at a piece of candy.

JANNA (thought balloon): “Does each piece represent a drop of blood spilled?”

CAPTION: “Gaza”

Panel 5 (square): Jannah bites into the candy as she passes a poster depicting the Terrorist Young Man in the Jacket.

JANNAH'S FATHER (op): “Jannah, eat ...”

JANNAH (thought balloon): “He’s dead... and we celebrate.”

Endnotes 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 58 (4 panels)

Panel 1 (square): Eli, in class, stares out the window, distracted, as other students look to their laptops writing – A GIRL behind Eli glancing at him.

Panel 2 (square): Eli walks down a hallway in the school wearing his backpack, his head down, as other diverse students spill out of classrooms and the Girl from the previous panel follows Eli.

GIRL: “Eli, what’s wrong?”

Panel 3 (wide): Medium shot of Eli and the Girl facing one another talking with lockers behind them – Eli looking up with his eyes while his head is lowered... and the Girl ruffles her brow, clutching her laptop to her chest with both arms.

ELI: “I... don’t want to go.”

GIRL: “What do you mean?”

ELI 2: “My parents, they... I want to grow up here. Not somewhere else.”

GIRL 2: “Living abroad could... be exciting though, right? My parents say that –”

Panel 4 (wide): Eli walks away from the Girl, who follows him with her eyes as he departs.

GIRL “...Eli?”

ELI: “I’m Israeli... This is home...”

Page 59 (5 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Amir, looking glum, throws out trash at the back of the restaurant – Amir's Older Brother leaning against the wall smoking a rolled-up cigarette.

AMIR'S OLDER BROTHER: "Helps if you smile once in a while, you know?"

Panel 2 (square): Medium frame on Amir's Older Brother looking OP towards the right, a smile on his face.

AMIR (OP): "Helps what?"

AMIR'S OLDER BROTHER: "Everything. With customers... life... girls..."

Panel 3 (square): Medium frame on Amir, arms crossed and looking OP to the left – He's not smiling.

AMIR: "Ha...ha..."

AMIR'S OLDER BROTHER (OP): "It's true. You should try it."

Panel 4 (square): Amir heads back inside the restaurant through the back door, gesturing at Amir's Older Brother's cigarette, which he puts out against the wall as he begins to follow.

AMIR: "Those help too?"

AMIR'S OLDER BROTHER: "Not the wallet."

Panel 5 (square): A pile of cigarette ends on the ground, while in the background, feet enter through the restaurant door.

Page 60 (5 panels)

Panel 1 (square): A close frame on Jannah's face looking forward – Unsure – As questions come at her from all sides.

GIRL (OP): "What was it like?"

GIRL 2 (OP): "What were *they* like?"

GIRL 3 (OP): "Did they hurt you?"

Panel 2 (square): Another close frame on Jannah's face, this time looking slightly to one side, her mouth open, as if to answer – But more questions come her way.

GIRL (OP): "It must have been terrifying."

GIRL 2 (OP): "They probably cursed you."

GIRL 3 (OP): "Or wished you were dead."

Panel 3 (square): Another close frame on Jannah's face, this time she raises a hand to rub her temple, looking slightly down, as the questions continue.

GIRL (OP): "They're murderers."

GIRL 2 (OP): "Evil."

GIRL 3 (OP): "Jews."

JANNAH (caption) "*I thought I understood...*"

Panel 4 (square): Another close frame on Jannah's face, this time she looks slightly up, as if searching for answers while still being bombarded.

GIRL (OP): "Tell us!"

GIRL 2 (OP): "How bad was it?"

GIRL 3 (OP): "Do you have to go back?"

JANNAH (caption) "*I thought I knew...*"

Panel 5 (wide): Jannah sits with 3 other schoolgirls in class, each with their heads covered and eating packed lunches – Jannah looking down at a pita held in her hand, as the others stare...

JANNAH: "It was horrible."

JANNAH (caption): "*It was... nice.*"

Page 61 (4 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Lily and Rachel stroll along a kibbutz road – In the distance, the sight of the stables hit by the rocket looms... Lily's dog walking along without a leash behind them.

LILY: "Do you ever get used to it... the rockets? The attacks?"

RACHEL: "I don't know. All my life they were there."

CAPTION: "May, 2023"

Panel 2 (wide): Lily and Rachel approach Rachel's house and through a window, Rachel's Father can be seen making food in the kitchen while Lily's dog sniffs a flower further along the road.

LILY: "It's not... normal"

RACHEL: "Walk together tomorrow to school?"

LILY 2: "Of course."

Panel 3 (square): Rachel heads towards the door to her house, looking back and OP to the right to wave.

RACHEL: "It may not be normal to you... but it's all I know."

Panel 4 (square): Lily waves OP to the left, as Lily's dog stands on two feet, as if waving goodbye.

RACHEL (OP): "And anyway, who wants to be normal?"

Page 62 (splash)

Splash: A yellow tinted page with words handwritten across the center.

WORDS: "If I tried harder... would it have mattered? Was there anything I could have done?" - Amir

Page 63 (3 panels)

Panel 1 (top left diagonal): Eli stands outside his father's office, the door open, as he hovers at the entrance... Eli's Father sat at his desk turning his body towards Eli while lowers headphones.

ELI: "Abba, can we talk?"

ELI'S FATHER: "Is it important, Eli? I'm in the middle of –"

ELI 2: "I heard you and Mom the other night..."

ELI'S FATHER 2: "Oh..."

Panel 2 (top right diagonal): Eli moves inside his father's office, angry, his back to his father, who lifts his hands and gestures.

ELI: "Why do you want to leave?! I thought Israel was where we belonged?!"

ELI'S FATHER: "It is, but... It's complicated."

ELI 2: "So explain it!"

Panel 3 (wide): Inside Eli's Father's office, Eli sits on a sofa opposite his father, who has swiveled his chair around to face him, leaning in – The picture of Eli's Father in his military unit hanging between them on the wall.

ELI'S FATHER: "I don't want you and your sister to live in a place that isn't getting safer. Where every day you have to look over your shoulder and wonder if something bad is going to happen. I've... I don't want you to have to lose something you can't ever get back..."

Page 64 (splash)

Splash: Amir, upset, and wearing his pajamas at home, holds a cell phone to his ear while facing right towards his father – Who's tired and wearing his army uniform while stood at his base and holding a cell phone to his ear facing left – Their dialogue balloons separate the two.

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

AMIR'S FATHER: "It's not that I'm not allowed, Amir, it's that –"

AMIR 2: "What? They *need* you? What about *us*? What about what we need?"

AMIR'S FATHER 2: "You know if I could, I –"

AMIR 3: "No. I don't know. I don't know why you're doing any of this."

AMIR'S FATHER 3: "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."

AMIR 4: "How can you be so sure?"

AMIR'S FATHER 4: "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."

Page 65 (4 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Jannah sits at the sofa, the carpet with the crate beneath it in front of her as she stares down at it – Her father seen outside on the balcony smoking a cigarette.

Panel 2 (square): Jannah rises and turns away from the carpet and what's beneath it, heading towards the balcony.

Panel 3: Jannah's father, thoughtful, stares into the distance, Jannah approaching behind him.

JANNAH: "Baba..."

Panel 4 (wide): To the left of frame, Jannah and her father are on the balcony looking down and out at the street below on the right of frame.

JANNAH'S FATHER: "You heard what happened?"

JANNAH: "What?"

JANNAH'S FATHER 2: "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."

JANNAH 2: "A girlfriend?"

JANNAH'S FATHER 3: "No."

JANNAH 4: "Baba... if the Jews are our enemy, why are they helping me stay alive?"

JANNAH'S FATHER 4: "It's... Some, they help... but also because of them we suffer. Don't forget."

JANNAH 5: "What about –"

JANNAH'S FATHER 5: "Stop asking questions, Jannah... **Stop**. Don't you understand? It's... Just stop."

Endnotes 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 66 (3 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Jannah and her father are side by side leaning against the balcony wall.

JANNAH'S FATHER: "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..."

Panel 2 (square): Close on Jannah's Father.

JANNAH'S FATHER: "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?"

Panel 3 (square): Jannah's Father sighs, shutting his eyes...

Panel 4 (square): Jannah's Father walks away, leaving Jannah watching him depart.

JANNAH'S FATHER: "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?"

Panel 5 (wide): Jannah looks at her father inside the house – Stood above the carpet and staring down at it... as Jannah's Mother watches Jannah from inside.

JANNAH (thought balloon): "But... why does there have to be a gun?"

Page 67 (4 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Lily, concerned, stands by her piano looking towards her father – In the midst of putting on his volunteering vest while approaching the door – Lily's dog at Lily's feet also looking at Lily's father.

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

Panel 2 (square): Lily's father, calm but serious, looks back at Lily.

LILY'S FATHER: "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."

Panel 3 (square): Lily stares down at the keys on her piano.

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

LILY'S FATHER: "It's not about the rocket... it's about what's inside us."

Panel 4 (wide): Lily presses a note on the piano, as her father can be seen getting into his car and beginning to reverse – Lily's dog sat in front of the door staring at it.

Endnotes 67:

- The sentiment expressed by Lily's father can find its origins in the phrase, "whoever saves a life, it is as if they have saved the entire world" taken from the Talmud, a central text of Judaism. A similar version is also found in the Qur'an, making the concept shared in both Jewish and Islamic religious traditions.

Page 68 (2 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Amir and his family – Without their father – Are at the tomb of Jethro, surrounded by other families and colorful decorations. Amir's gaze is lowered and glum, while his Older Brother nudges him.

AMIR'S OLDER BROTHER: "Smile, remember? It's Eid al-Adha."

AMIR: "It's just not the same when we aren't all together..."

CAPTION: "Nabi Shu'ayb, Israel"

Panel 2 (wide): Jannah and her family eat at a festive table, and to one side of it – The Scarred Hamas Terrorist plays with Jannah's younger brother, his weapon at his side, while another Hamas Terrorist drinks down a cup of tea – Jannah glancing at her father, who gives her a stern look.

JAMMAH'S MOTHER: "We are honored to have you at our table. Our deepest gratitude to you for providing us with food for this feast."

JANNAH (thought balloon): "No questions... no... questions..."

Endnotes 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 observe 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 (3 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Eli dips an apple in honey at a Rosh Hashana dinner table with his extended family while staring at the apple... and to his side, Eli's Father stands with a raised glass giving a toast with his gaze fixed on Eli.

ELI'S FATHER: "L'chaim!"

ELI (thought balloon): "Will this be our last Rosh Hashana in Israel?"

CAPTION: "September, 2023"

Panel 2 (wide): Lily and Lily's Father are at Rachel's family's house celebrating Rosh Hashana – Lily staring wide eyed at a raised apple slice dipped in honey.

RACHEL: "I can't believe you've never tried it before?! It's sooooo good!"

LILY'S FATHER: "Chag Sameach. Did I say that right?"

LILY (thought balloon): "My first ever Rosh Hashana..."

Endnotes 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 (5 panels)

Panel 1 (tall): Amir lies on his bed staring up at the ceiling with a troubled look on his face... while at the top right of the panel, through his cracked open door, a pair of feet wearing military boots approach.

Panel 2 (wide) Amir sits up in bed facing the door where Amir's Father stands, a big smile on his faces.

AMIR: "You're home."

Panel 3 (wide) Amir's Father sits next to Amir on the bed and hugs him.

AMIR'S FATHER: "Sorry I was gone so long."

Panel 4 (wide): Amir is lying back on the bed on his side as he faces the door where his father now stands and looks back at him.

AMIR: "Was it a success? What they... needed you for?"

AMIR'S FATHER: "It was. We... we made Israel a little bit safer. But..."

Panel 5 (wide): Amir sits up, looking concerned towards his father – Still at the door but having lifted a hand to cover his eyes.

AMIR: "Dad...? Are you –"

AMIR'S FATHER: "I... sorry, I'm... we lost one... one of our guys, so..."

Endnotes 70:

- Panel 5: Amir's father expresses that during his recent military duties, one of the soldiers in his unit was killed in action..
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Page 71 (splash)

Splash: Amir and his father sit side by side on Amir bed, Amir's back against the wall and with his legs curled... as Amir's Father leans forward holding the image Amir drew of Double Star – The lights dim and shadows streaking across the room, while through the window, a wanning gibbous moon shines.

AMIR'S FATHER: "It's beautiful, Amir... Powerful."

AMIR: "He's... well, he's inspired by you, Dad."

AMIR'S FATHER 2: "..."

AMIR 2: "..."

AMIR 3: "You're so... strong. I'm... I'm proud of you."

AMIR'S FATHER 3: "Not as proud as I am of you."

PAGE 72 (5 panels)

Panel 1 (tall): Eli stands by the sink washing a pan looking glum, as behind him, the lower half of Eli's Father can be seen standing in the doorway.

Panel 2 (wide): Eli has turned around – The soapy pan and sponge in his hand, as he faces his father, who leans against the doorframe.

ELI: "What?"

ELI'S FATHER: "You know nothing's been decided yet, right?"

Panel 3 (wide): Eli has turned back to the sink and rinses the pan, Eli's father stepping towards him.

ELI: "How comforting..."

ELI'S FATHER: "Hey – you're allowed to be frustrated. Sad and even angry... but being rude, I will not allow."

Panel 4 (wide): Eli rests his arms on the sink and looks down, frustrated, as Eli's Father looms behind him and over his shoulder.

ELI'S FATHER: "All night you've had a sour look on your face. It was just a conversation. Not a decision. It was a difficult night for all of us..."

ELI: "What about what I want? What about my dreams?"

ELI'S FATHER 2: "Eli..."

Panel 5 (wide): Eli and his father hug.

ELI'S FATHER: "I will always support your dreams... which is why I want you somewhere safe to fulfill them."

Page 73 (7 panels)

Panel 1 (square): Eli's father's office – Eli gazes at the wall of DJ pictures and specifically at his father's army unit photo.

Panel 2 (square): Eli has turned around and an arm stretches from OP holding headphones.

ELI'S FATHER (op): "Here. Put these on."

Panel 3 (square): Eli puts on the headphones.

ELI'S FATHER (op) "Aaaaand..."

Panel 4 (wide): Eli smiles, music playing from the headphones over his ears as Eli's Father also smiles while stood over his mixing equipment watching Eli... a hand lifting another set of headphones.

Panel: 5 (square) Eli's Father puts on his headphones.

ELI (op): "It's cool. Kinda funny."

ELI'S FATHER: "Know what it is?"

Panel 6 (square): Close on Eli's Father turning up the volume slider.

Panel 7 (wide) Eli and his father enjoy the music and laugh as Eli's Father lifts the funny album cover of the egg with a mustache and tiny top hat.

Page 74 (4 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Lily's Father waits with a sign for the hospital once again – Lily stood beside him this time, as Jannah approaches WITHOUT her father.

LILY: "Hi, Jannah! Where's your –"

JANNAH: "They didn't let him through. The soldier pushed him back. He beat him... he said... that he wasn't allowed."

LILY'S FATHER: "I'm... I'm so sorry..."

Panel 2 (wide): Lily's Father drives, checking the rearview mirror – Lily and Jannah in the backseat, Jannah with her arms crossed and staring out the window while Lily looks over holding her phone.

LILY: "Do you... want to see a picture of my dog?"

JANNAH: "They hit him with their guns... They could have shot him... and nobody would have cared."

Panel 3 (wide): A wide view of Ichilov hospital as Lily's Father's car approaches.

LILY'S FATHER: "We'll come inside to be with you, okay?"

CAPTION: "Ichilov Hospital, Tel Aviv, Israel"

Panel 4 (wide): Lily and Jannah sit beside one another in silence at a reception area – Jannah's head lowered, as Lily's Father is seen speaking to a nurse at the counter.

Endnotes 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 claims 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 75 (5 panels)

Panel 1 (square): Close on Lily as she looks at Jannah, who stares forward in silence...

Panel 2 (square): Close on Lily as she looks down at a small bag on her lap...

Panel 3 (square): Close on Jannah as she looks over at Lily.

JANNAH: "Hey... Can I... see that picture now?"

Panel 4 (square): Close on Lily showing Jannah a picture of her dog on her phone, Jannah smiling.

LILY: "Of course. He's so cute."

Panel 5 (wide): Lily and Lily's Father are in the car without Jannah – Lily's Father looks serious while Lily glances back towards Ichilov hospital, visible behind them, as the car drives away...

Page 76 (5 panels)

Panel 1 (tall): A highway from above – Lily's Father's car drives along in the night.

LILY: "...Dad...?"

LILY'S FATHER: "What is it, sweetheart?"

LILY 2: "Why is it all so confusing? Can't everyone just... get along?"

Panel 2 (wide): The highway from above – Lily's Father's car continues to drive.

Panel 3 (wide): The highway from above – Lily's Father's car approaches a gas station, signaling to turn.

LILY'S FATHER: "...Dad?"

Panel 4 (wide): Lily's Father parks the car in the gas station.

Panel 5 (square): Inside the car, Lily's Father turns around to face Lily, who stares at him from the backseat, desperate for answers.

LILY'S FATHER: "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."

LILY: "With everyone?"

LILY'S FATHER: "If you try. Yes."

Page 77 (Splash)

Slash: Split into four corners, each is a CU of the eyes of one of the children – Top left Eli – Top right Lilly – Bottom left Amir – Bottom right Jannah – And in the center is a joint thought balloon.

THOUGH BALLOON (shared by all 4): "Father says tomorrow is a **big day**."

CAPTION: "October 6th, 2023"

Page 78 (4 panels)

Panel 1 (square): Eli's Father gathers his gear to head out – Eli helping him.

ELI: "Play that new song at the music festival, Abba."

Panel 2 (square): At the door, Eli's Father looks back.

ELI'S FATHER: "Proud of you, Eli."

Panel 3 (square): Eli lies on his bed staring up at the ceiling.

ELI (thought balloon): "I hope I'll always make you proud..."

Panel 4 (square): Eli – Turned over in bed, has his eyes closed.

ELI (thought balloon): “Nova is such a strange name for a music festival.”

Endnotes 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 79 (4 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Amir hugs his father by his father's car – Their house visible to the side, as Amir's Older Brother waves from the window and Amir's father waves back... in the car, the image of Double Star can be made out resting on the passenger seat.

AMIR (thought balloon): “Off again... This time training near Gaza.”

AMIR'S FATHER: “Remember that when I get back, Eli and his family are finally coming to visit.”

Panel 2 (wide): Amir heads inside looking glum, Amir passes the wrapped bottle Eli's Father gave – His Older Brother glancing over with a smile, as through the window, Amir's father's can be seen driving off.

AMIR: “I know, I know... smile.”

AMIR'S OLDER BROTHER: “You'll get it. Just keep practicing.”

Panel 3 (square): Amir draws a straight line on a page – Other sketches and pencils organized tidily on the table around him.

AMIR (caption): “*Control...*”

Panel 4 (square): Amir lifts a fully drawn page of Double Star – Now bearing a striking resemblance to his father's face – As a smile spreads on Amir's face.

AMIR (caption): “*Kick...*”

Page 80 (3 panels)

Panel 1 (tall): Jannah, alone in her room, writes in her journal.

JANNAH (journal entry): “Baba says tomorrow there will be trouble.”

Panel 2 (square): Jannah's Father, his face bruised, stares out into the distance on the balcony smoking a cigarette.

JANNAH (journal entry OP): “He says we'll face whatever comes... but sounded nervous.”

Panel 3 (wide): Jannah, in her room, looks up from her journal towards the carpet where the crate was hidden... her father on the balcony doing the same, as he faces the house and stares at the carpet...

JANNAH (journal entry): “‘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?”

Endnotes 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.

Page 81 (3 panels)

Panel 1 (wide): Lily sits at her piano playing – Lily’s dog at her feet and Lily’s Father on the sofa watching with a smile on his face... as musical notes glide up and off the piano.

LILY (thought balloon): “Dad made a lame joke that tomorrow was going to be ‘eye opening’ because in the morning he’s taking a boy from Gaza to get eye surgery.”

Panel 2 (square): Lily is tucked in by her father, who kisses her on the head – Lily’s dog next to her.

LILY (thought balloon): “He’s making a difference. Even if it’s small...”

Panel 3 (tall): Lily gazes up at the ceiling, a smile on her face.

LILY (thought balloon): “Tomorrow will be a beautiful day.”

Page 82 (Splash)

Splash: Identical to page 1. CU on Eli, Jannah, Amir, and Lily looking forward, each in their muted colored columns... On the top left corner, a Calendar reads: “October 7th, 2023”.

WORD BALLOON (shared by all 4): “Today, my father was **killed**.”

Page 83 (splash)

Splash: A red tinted page with words handwritten across the center.

WORDS: *“We are all so connected by a single moment... yet find ourselves separated by a gulf as vast as an ocean.” -- Lily*

— END —