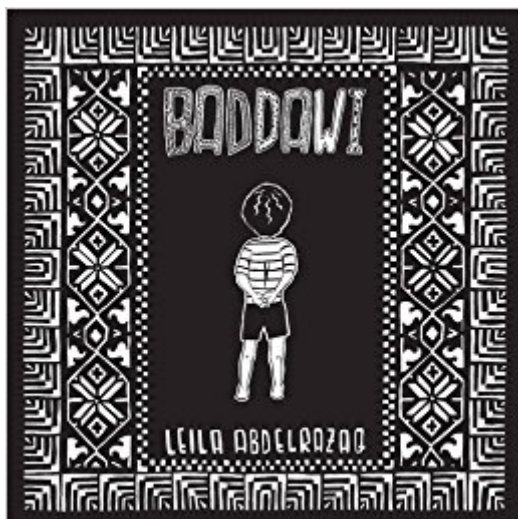


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# Baddawi



## Synopsis

An arrestingly drawn debut graphic novel, *Baddawi* is the story of a young boy named Ahmad struggling to find his place in the world. It explores the childhood of the author's father from a determinedly boy's-eye view. Ahmed was raised in the refugee camp of Baddawi in northern Lebanon, one of many thousands of children born to Palestinians who fled (or were expelled from) their homeland during the 1948 war that established the state of Israel. Ahmad's dogged pursuit of education and opportunity echoes the journey of the Palestinian people, as they make the best of their existing circumstances while remaining determined to one day return to their homeland.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up—Abdelrazaq's father, Ahmad, grew up as a refugee in Lebanon after his family fled Palestine in the 1940s, dividing his time between Baddawi, a refugee camp, and war-torn Beirut. Here, the author depicts Ahmad's childhood and teenage experiences, from the celebration of Ramadan to nighttime raids of the camp. The story builds on this mix of mundane, day-to-day moments and singular, devastating events to create a picture of the life and struggles of a Palestinian refugee. This work is reminiscent of Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis* (Pantheon, 2003), as it illuminates the experiences of a young person caught up in a country's political conflict, although the vignettes and historical explanations are less refined. Like *Persepolis*, the events of Ahmad's story are also still very relevant today. Abdelrazaq's black-and-white drawings are evocative, and Ahmad's tale serves as a solid foundation for an exploration of a part of the Palestinian experience.

in the second half of the 20th century. A glossary provides some context, defining Arab words and explaining key political players and places. VERDICT A student-friendly introduction to the conflicts in the Middle East. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Ahmed is a boy living in a refugee camp in Lebanon and just one of many that had to flee his Palestinian homeland during the war. His circumstances do not keep him from dreaming of opportunities or returning home. The story of Ahmed is one that is relevant in today's world but takes place in 1948." *Young Adult Library Services Association* "It's an important story, presenting a personal account of a seemingly endless conflict that is far too often contextualized in terms of ideology, rather than human life. Historical context the sectarian violence of Lebanon in the 1970s sheds light on key events often lost in the rhetoric, for a welcome look at the people caught up in endless political strife." *Publishers Weekly* "At turns heartbreaking and humorous, this coming-of-age story is a must read. Leila Abdelrazaq tells the story of her father Ahmad's childhood growing up as a Palestinian refugee . . . . Abdelrazaq uses black and white illustration to great effect, playing with negative and positive space. The book's continuing relevance makes it all the more powerful." *Allyce Amidon, Foreword Reviews*

An amazing book! Great for different ages, simple, powerful, and moving. Should be taught in schools across the US!

On October 29, 1948, the Israeli terrorist group Irgun ethnically cleansed the village of Safsaf in Palestine, lining some 70 men up, shooting them, dumping them in a ditch, and raping three girls. Among the survivors who fled to Lebanon were the grandparents of a young woman in Chicago who has a talent for telling stories in pictures and words. Safsaf was called Safsofa by the Romans and can be found as Safsufa on the iNakba app on your NSA-tracking device. Baddawi is two things. It's the name of a refugee camp in Lebanon where this young woman's father grew up. The name comes from the word Bedouin, meaning nomad. "Al Beddaoui, Lebanon" locates it on Google-Earth. The residents have been there since 1948 or since they were born, and they are not nomads by choice. They live in a permanent state of desiring to return home forever, even those who have never been home ever. Justice for Palestine is where little sparks of opposition to war can be found among young people in the militarized United States of 2015, and where their art can be found as well. The second thing that Baddawi is, is a book that tells a story of childhood in Baddawi for

Ahmad, the father of the author and artist Leila Abdelrazaq. I've just read Baddawi and passed it along to my son. It's a book that tells a personal story that is also a cultural and historical record. This is the unique story of one boy, but in great measure the story of millions of Palestinian refugees. Ahmad's experiences growing up are often identical to my own or my son's, but often dramatically different. He plays the games and learns the lessons of children everywhere, but confronts the struggles of poverty, of war, and of discrimination -- of second-class citizenship in the land where Israel and its Western backers swept his unwanted ancestors. Baddawi is the story of a rather remarkable boy, but a story that conveys a sense of what life was like and is like still for a great many boys and girls who live without nationality, not as a result of choosing world citizenship but by mandate of global powers who find their existence inconvenient. And yet the story is quite straightforwardly entertaining and good-spirited. One is disappointed when it ends rather abruptly, yet heartened to gain the impression that part two may be forthcoming. I notice, incidentally, that there will be a hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on June 2nd, on Israel's mistreatment of Palestinian Children, and that you can go here to ask your Misrepresentative and Senators to attend. ## Full disclosure: I sometimes do work for this book's publisher, but that work does not include reviewing books.

A stunning and inventive story of Palestine, growing, and what it means to live in diaspora. The images are really unlike anything you've seen before.

Brilliant coming of age story. It gives a vivid picture of life in Palestinian refugee camps - the drawings and brilliant description makes the reader part of the story instantly. This is an important piece of Palestinian literature and one that will be referred to for a long time to come. Looking forward to more from the author.

Very powerful book that tells the stories of many young Arabs that are displaced. The illustrations spoke wonders and put raw emotion into the book unlike many other Palestinian stories I've read. I highly recommend this book!

Well-told story and very brave!

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Baddawi

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