

POZLA ♦ LUPANO

MAKING IT WORK

REFUGEES IN THE LAND OF THE CEDARS

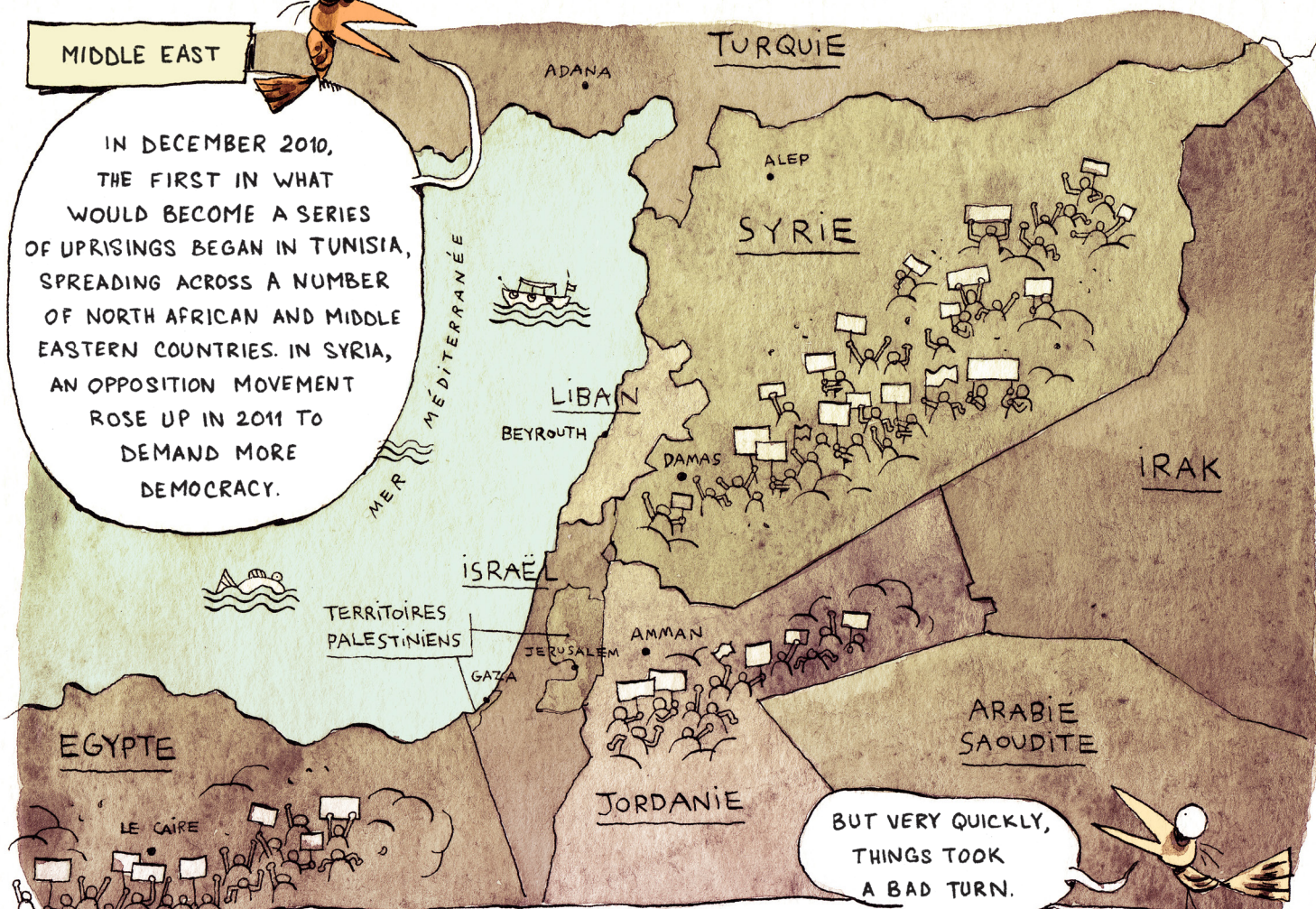


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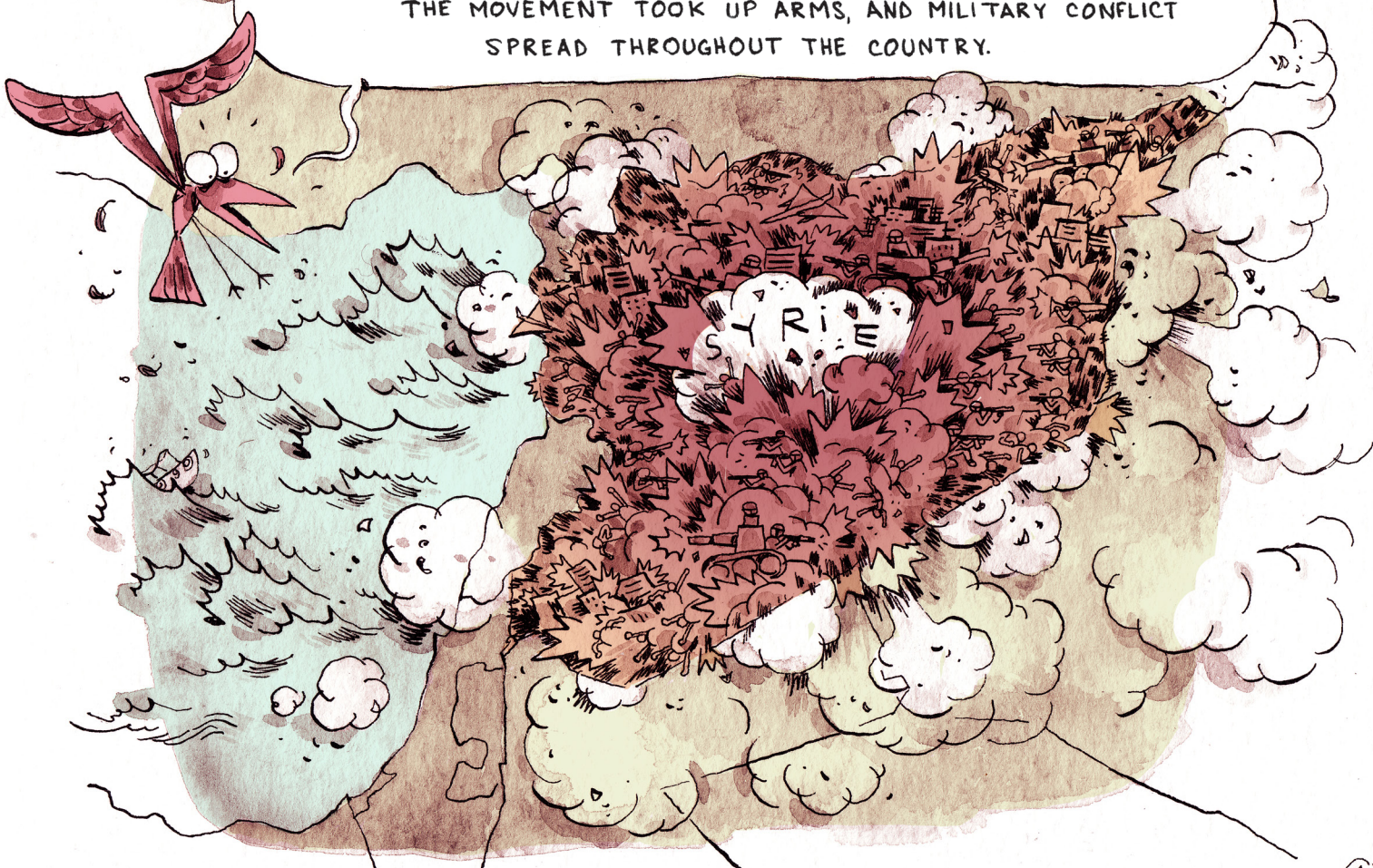
MIDDLE EAST

IN DECEMBER 2010, THE FIRST IN WHAT WOULD BECOME A SERIES OF UPRISINGS BEGAN IN TUNISIA, SPREADING ACROSS A NUMBER OF NORTH AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES. IN SYRIA, AN OPPOSITION MOVEMENT ROSE UP IN 2011 TO DEMAND MORE DEMOCRACY.

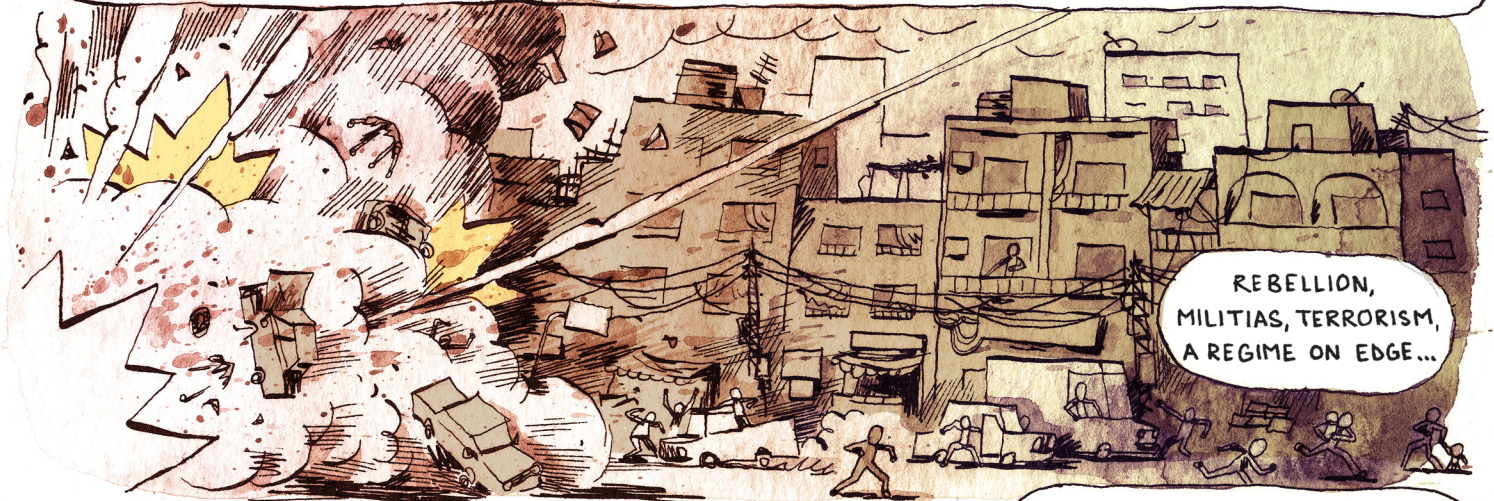


BUT VERY QUICKLY, THINGS TOOK A BAD TURN.

MET WITH VIOLENT CRACKDOWNS BY THE SYRIAN ARMY, THE MOVEMENT TOOK UP ARMS, AND MILITARY CONFLICT SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.



THE CONFLICT DEGENERATED INTO BOTH A CIVIL WAR AND A SECTARIAN WAR AT ONCE, IN WHICH MANY DIFFERENT SECTARIAN FOREIGN POWERS INTERVENED, FINANCIALLY, MILITARILY AND DIPLOMATICALLY.



THE CLASHES WERE BLOODY AND VIOLENT.

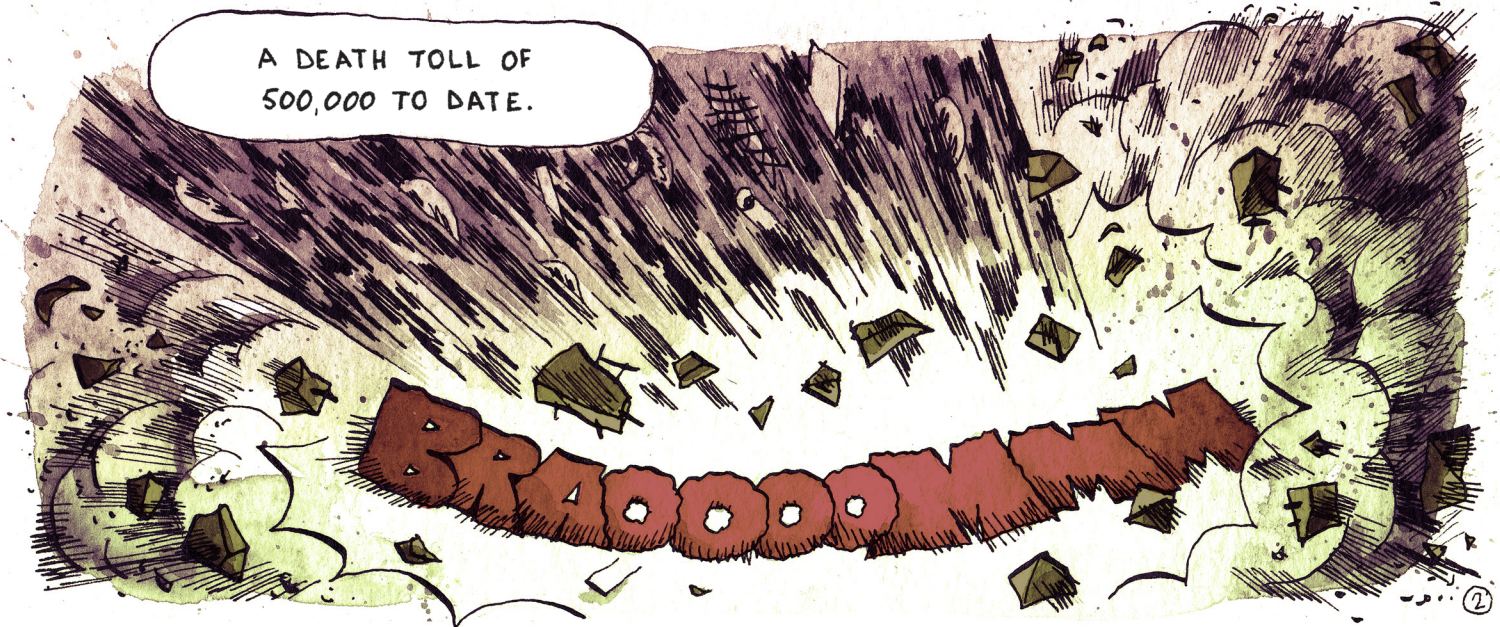


CITIES IN THEIR ENTIRETY WERE DESTROYED.

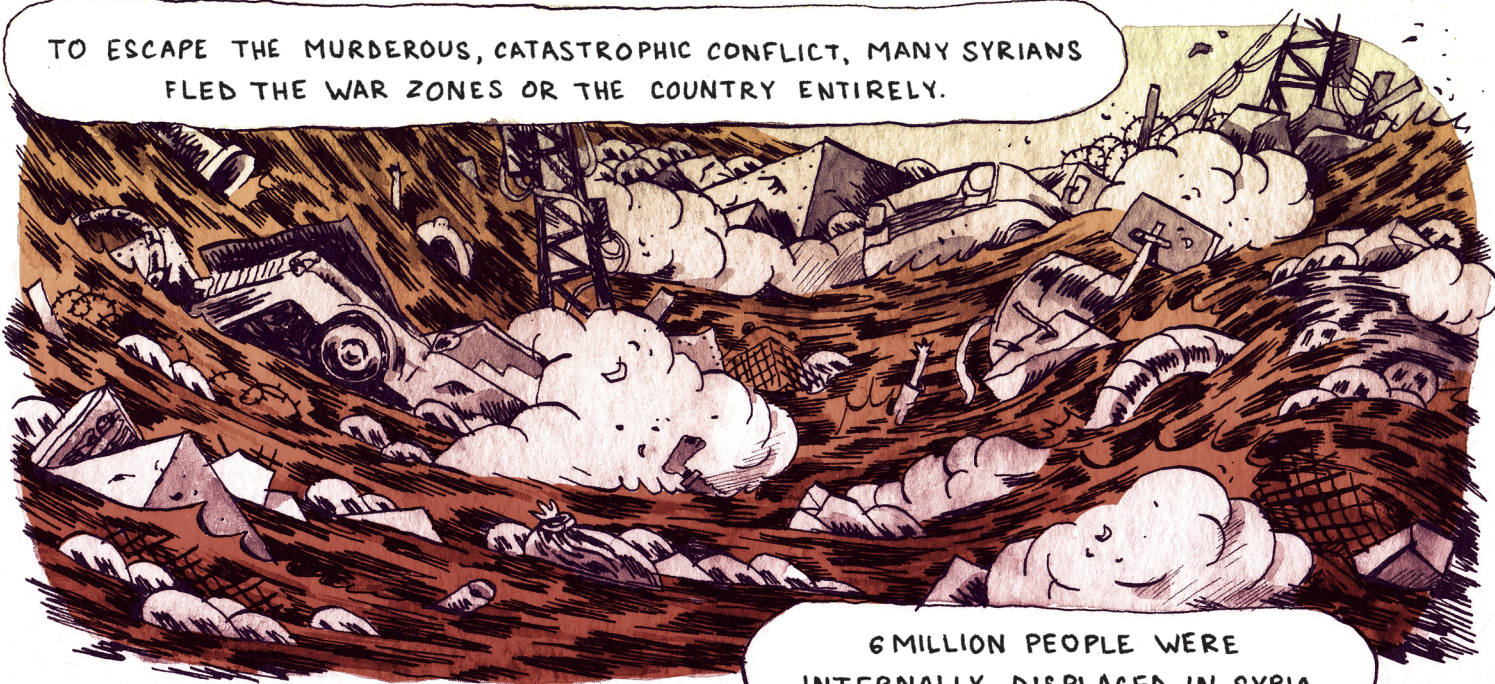


AS IS OFTEN THE CASE, THE CIVILIAN POPULATION WERE THE PRIMARY VICTIMS.

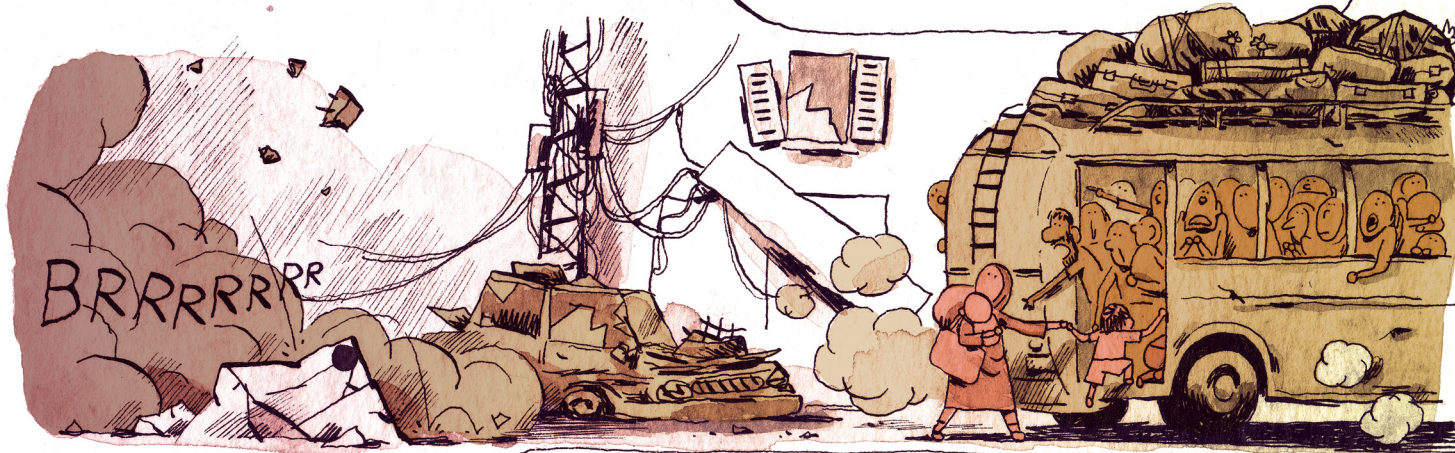
A DEATH TOLL OF 500,000 TO DATE.



TO ESCAPE THE MURDEROUS, CATASTROPHIC CONFLICT, MANY SYRIANS
FLED THE WAR ZONES OR THE COUNTRY ENTIRELY.



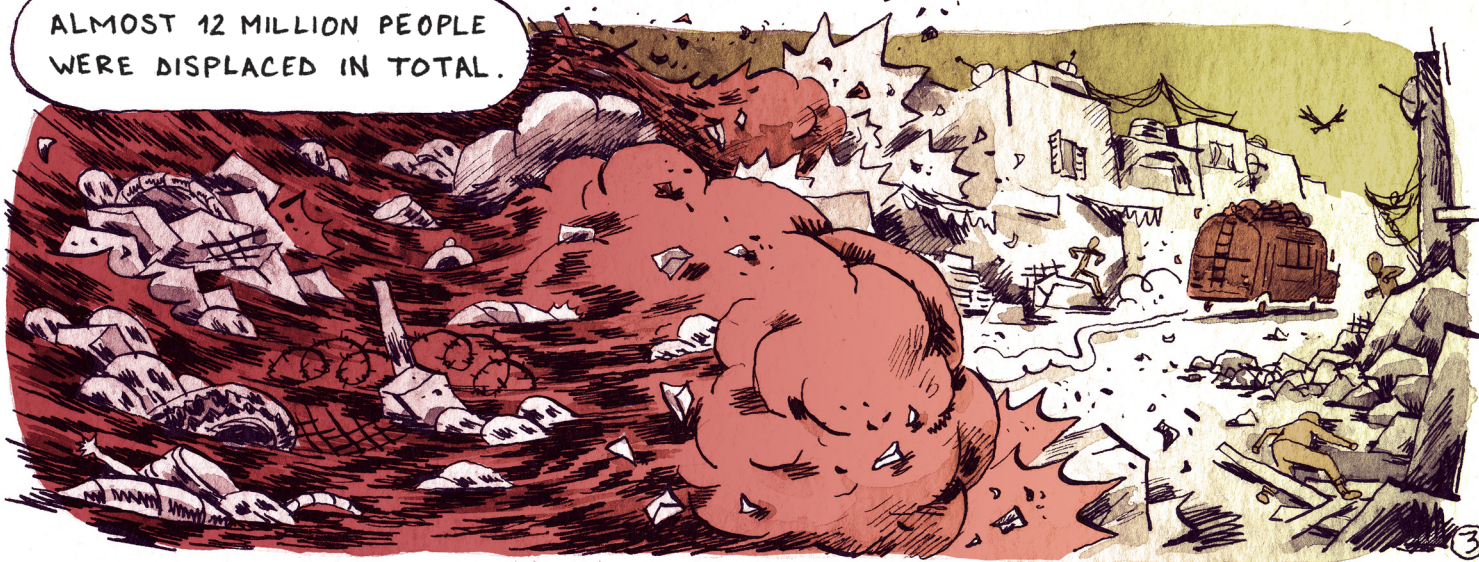
6 MILLION PEOPLE WERE
INTERNALLY DISPLACED IN SYRIA.

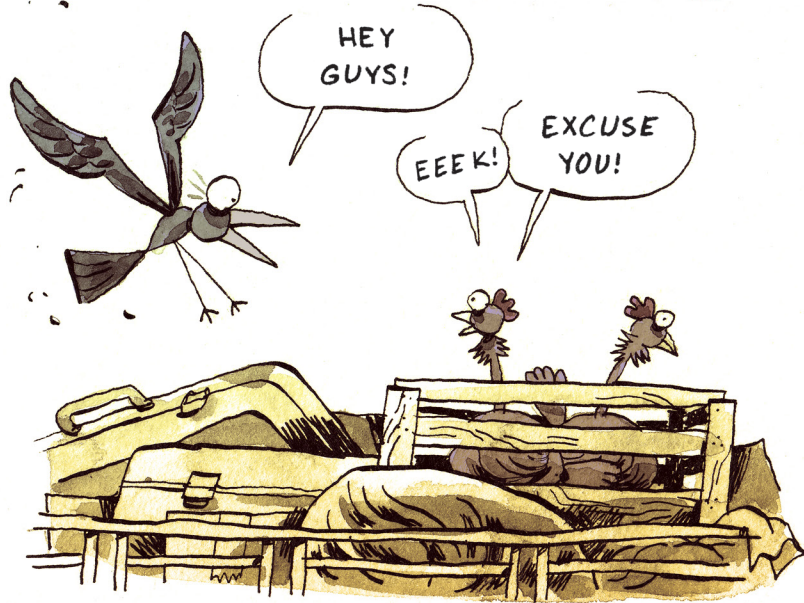


AND MILLIONS BECAME REFUGEES, MAINLY IN
JORDAN, TURKEY, LEBANON...

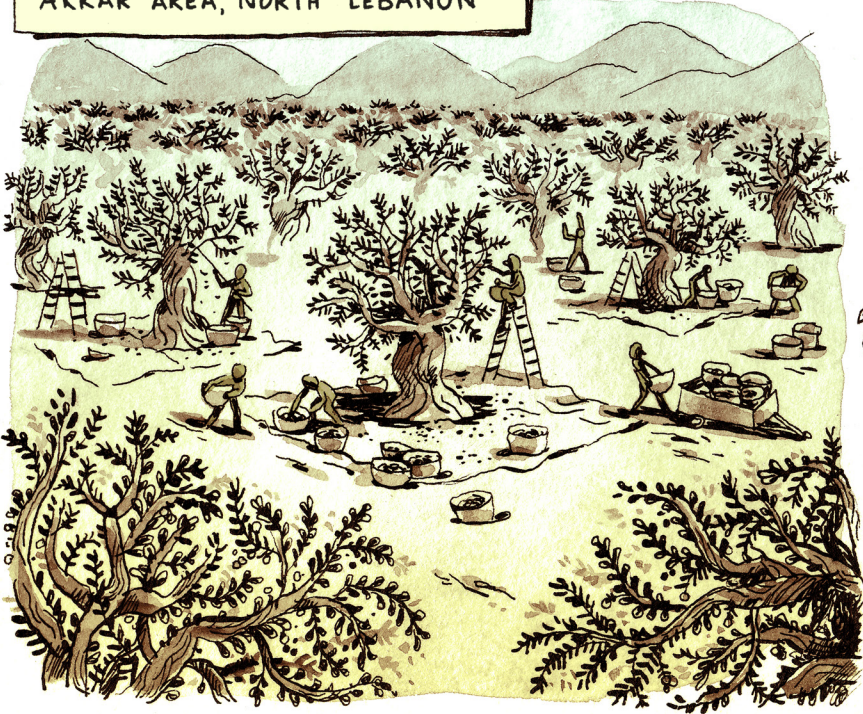


ALMOST 12 MILLION PEOPLE
WERE DISPLACED IN TOTAL.





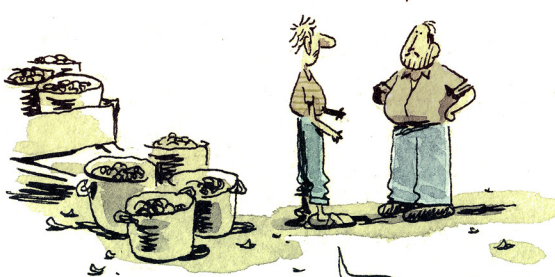
AKKAR AREA, NORTH LEBANON



HELLO??
WALID!
IT'S ME, KHADIJA! A MAN ON THE BUS LENT ME HIS PHONE. THEY DESTROYED EVERYTHING, WALID! THE WHOLE BUILDING'S A PILE OF RUBBLE! SHELLS FALLING LIKE RAIN! WE CAN'T EVEN TELL WHO'S FIRING! MY BROTHER WAS KILLED! I'M COMING WITH THE KIDS TO JOIN YOU IN LEBANON....



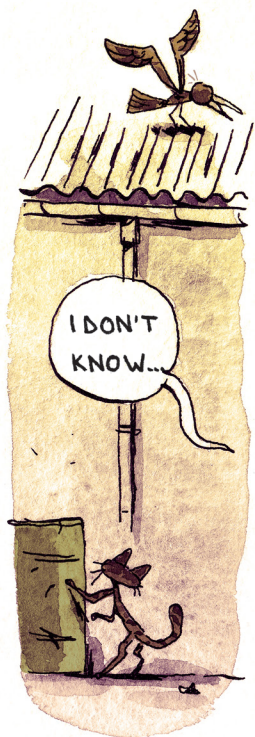
HOUSE YOUR FAMILY, HERE?

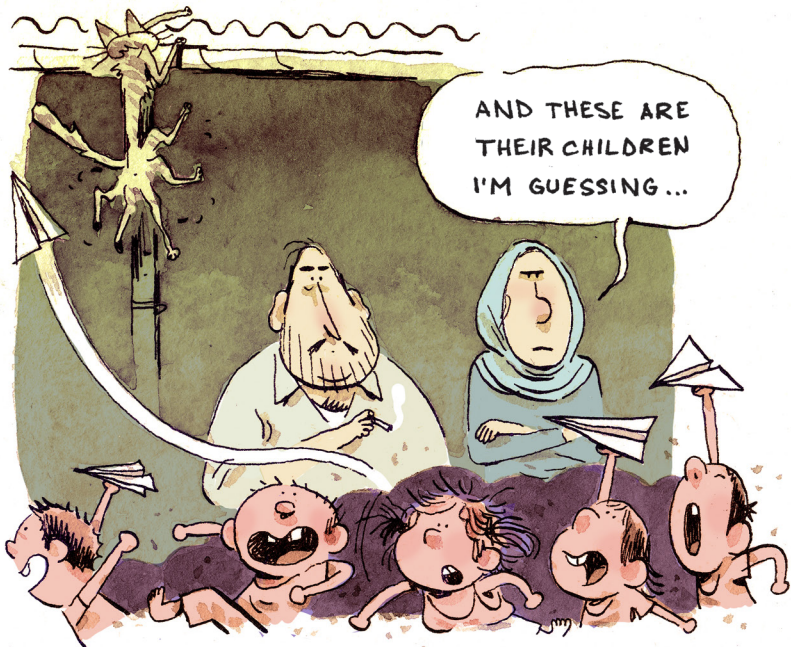
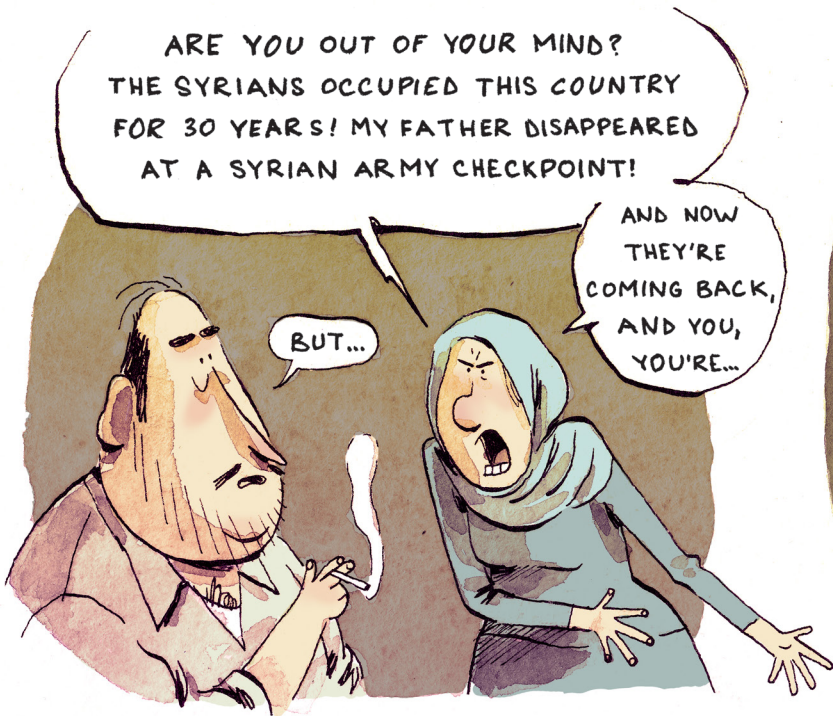


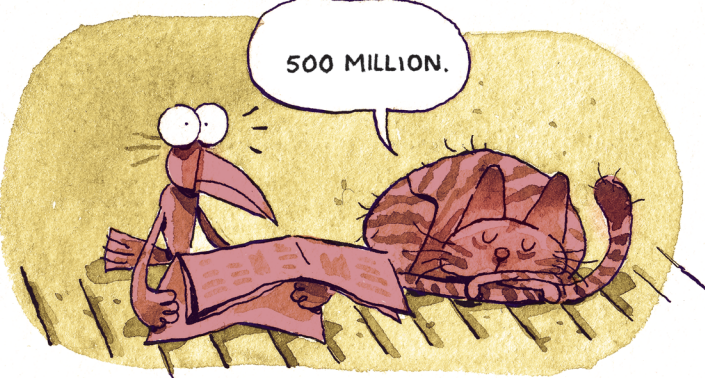
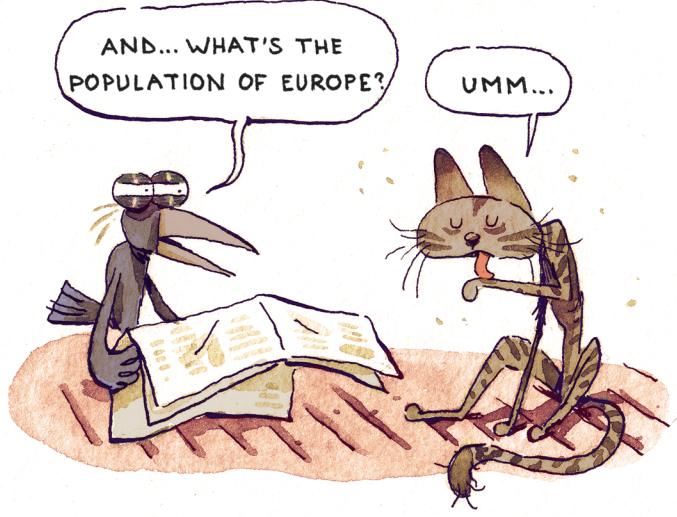
WE HAVE NOTHING LEFT, BOSS.

WE'LL MAKE IT WORK.

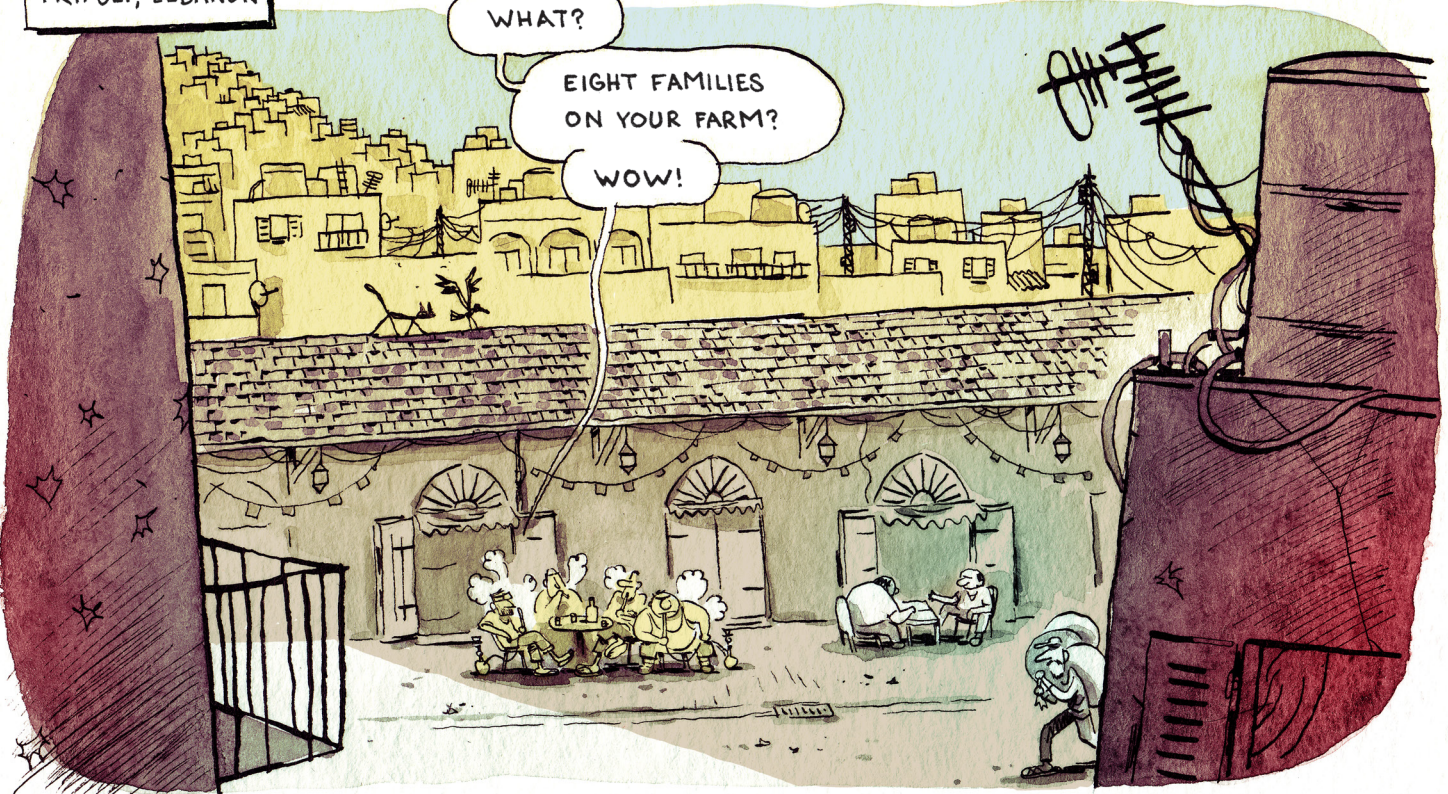








TRIPOLI, LEBANON



WHAT?
EIGHT FAMILIES
ON YOUR FARM?
WOW!



FARM WORK NEEDS A LOT OF HIRED HANDS. AND IN AKKAR, THOSE HANDS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SYRIAN, HAVEN'T THEY? WHAT DOES THIS CHANGE?
HAHA! WHAT'S CHANGED IS YOU PAY THEM NOW EVEN LESS THAN BEFORE, ADMIT IT!
THAT'S NORMAL. I'M LETTING THEM LIVE ON MY LAND.



AND YOU?
SUDDENLY, LIKE MAGIC, YOU'VE GOT ONLY SYRIANS WORKING IN YOUR FACTORY!
SO DON'T YOU GO LECTURING ME!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT! THE LEBANESE DON'T WANT TO DO THIS KIND OF WORK!

HAHA! YOU TIGHT-FISTED MISER!



WELL... AT LEAST NOT FOR THE SAME MEAGER PAY YOU GIVE THE SYRIANS...



LET THEM GO BACK TO WHERE THEY CAME FROM! I'M SICK OF IT!





IT'S KIND OF YOU TO COME WITH ME, MY BACK IS KILLING ME RIGHT NOW...

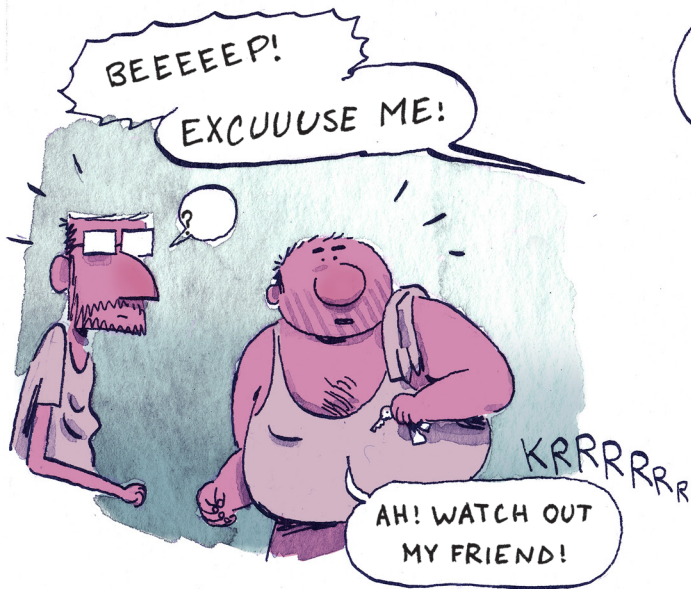


AND ARE YOU GETTING IT LOOKED AT?

YES, RIGHT HERE. A FRIEND TOOK ME TO THE HEALTH CENTER HE GOES TO.

THE TEAM IS EXCELLENT.

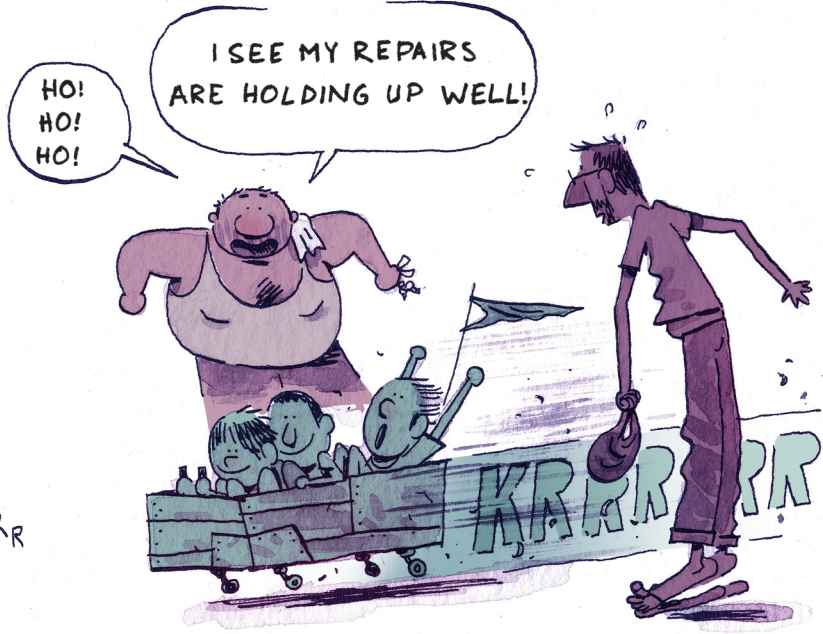
HONESTLY, WITH ALL THE NGOs, THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IS A LOT BETTER.



BEEEEEP!
EXCUUSE ME!

AH! WATCH OUT MY FRIEND!

KRRRRRR



HO!
HO!
HO!

I SEE MY REPAIRS ARE HOLDING UP WELL!

KRRRRRR



THANKS AHMAD!

HA
HA
HA!

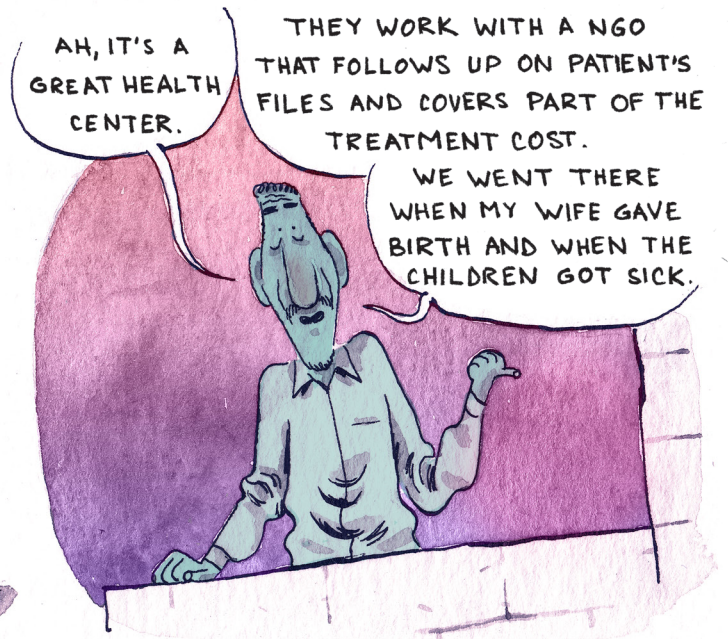


COME ON IN CHILDREN!
IT'S LATE AND IT'S A SCHOOL NIGHT!

OH OMAR!
LET THEM PLAY A LITTLE!
I ONLY JUST REPAIRED THEIR CART.

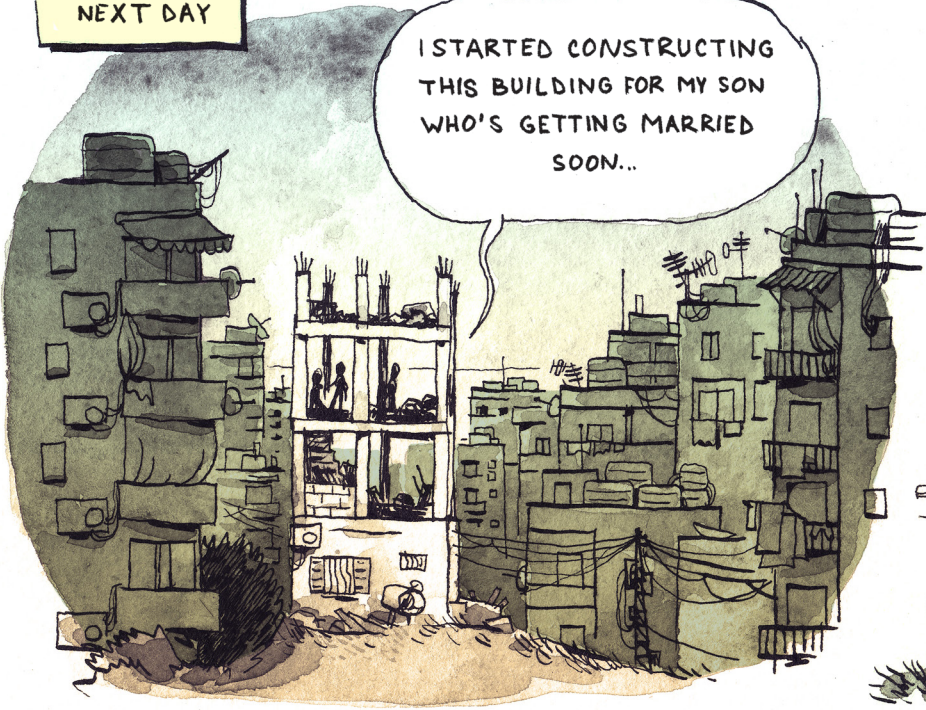


?



SAIDA, THE NEXT DAY

I STARTED CONSTRUCTING THIS BUILDING FOR MY SON WHO'S GETTING MARRIED SOON...



BUT THE WORK WAS DELAYED... AND NOW ONLY THE GROUND FLOOR IS FINISHED.



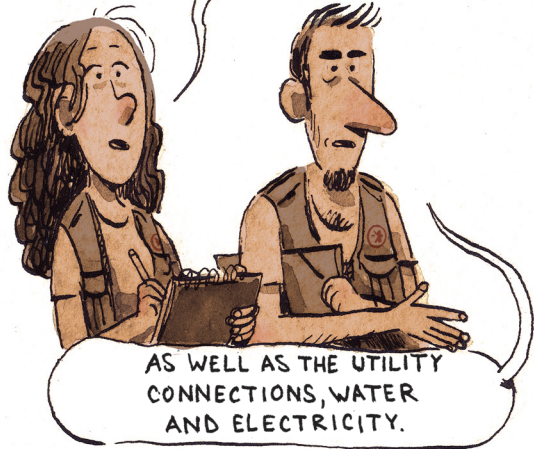
SO I'M WILLING TO PUT SOME SYRIAN REFUGEES UP HERE ON THE SECOND FLOOR, IF THAT HELPS...

GREAT.



WE'RE LOOKING FOR ACCOMODATIONS LIKE THIS ONE. THIS IS WHAT WE PROPOSE: YOU FINISH UP THE WALLS AND WE'LL PAY FOR THE DOORS AND WINDOWS...

AS WELL AS THE UTILITY CONNECTIONS, WATER AND ELECTRICITY.



IN EXCHANGE, YOU'LL AGREE TO HOUSE A SYRIAN FAMILY FOR A MINIMUM OF ONE YEAR...

OH WOW, A WHOLE YEAR?

AND, UH... WHAT ABOUT RENT?



YOU WON'T BE GETTING ANY. WE'RE ACTUALLY PAYING FOR MOST OF THE CONSTRUCTION HERE.

RIGHT, OF COURSE.

OK, AGREED.

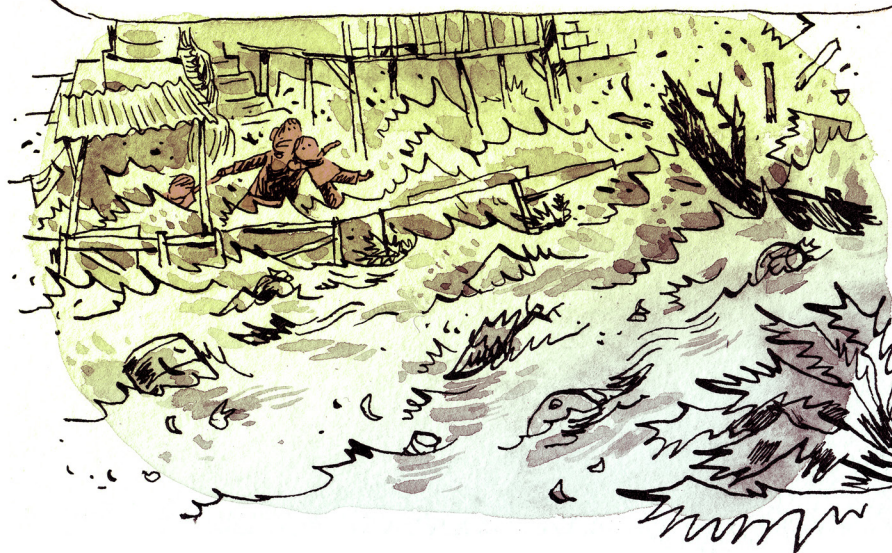


LATER...
A SUBURB OF SAIDA



IT'S TEMPORARY, BUILT RIGHT ON THE RIVERBANK. MANY FAMILIES HAD SETTLED HERE ALREADY, SO WE GAVE THEM SOME CONSTRUCTION BEAMS AND TARP TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS A LITTLE. BUT LAST WINTER, THE WATERS OVERFLOODED...

AN UPROOTED TREE DAMAGED A LOT OF THE SHELTERS...



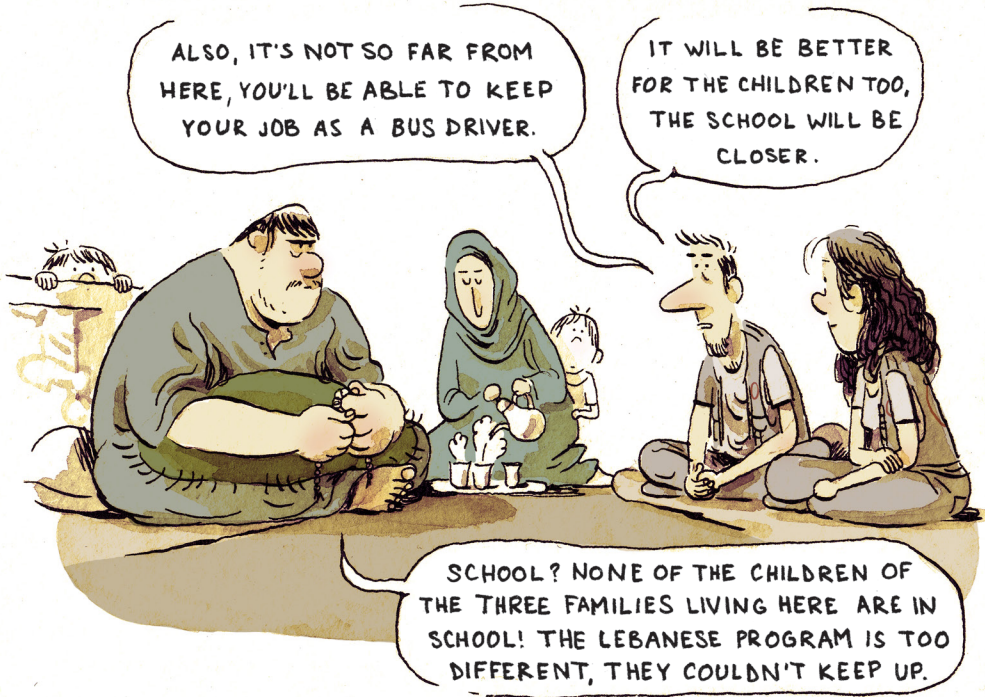


GOOD NEWS!

THERE'LL BE NEW HOUSING READY SOON, ACTUAL APARTMENTS! WE SHOULD SOON BE ABLE TO OFFER YOU SOMETHING MORE SECURE.

WE CAN'T DO ANOTHER YEAR HERE.

NSHALLA.



ALSO, IT'S NOT SO FAR FROM HERE, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO KEEP YOUR JOB AS A BUS DRIVER.

IT WILL BE BETTER FOR THE CHILDREN TOO, THE SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSER.

YES, WHICH IS WHY THIS SCHOOL HAS A SPECIAL CURRICULUM FOR SYRIAN KIDS EVERY AFTERNOON.

SCHOOL? NONE OF THE CHILDREN OF THE THREE FAMILIES LIVING HERE ARE IN SCHOOL! THE LEBANESE PROGRAM IS TOO DIFFERENT, THEY COULDN'T KEEP UP.



THEY CAN GO BACK...



AFTERNOONS, HUH?

MAYBE I'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO TAKE A NAP...



BEEEEEP!
VROOOM!

ARE YOU GONNA MAKE
THIS FACE THE
WHOLE TIME?

BEEEEEP!

BEEEEEP!
BEEEEEPBEEP!

VRRRRR!

IT'S BAD
FOR BUSINESS,
THAT FACE!

PFFF

WHATEVER. NO ONE
WANTS ANY OF YOUR
CORN ANYWAY.



WELL, WE HAVE TO DO
SOMETHING TO EARN
SOME MONEY!



HOW DO YOU SUGGEST
WE FEED YOUR
BROTHERS AND SISTERS?

YOUR WORK
AT THE GARAGE
WAS A HUNDRED
TIMES BETTER!

THEY DON'T WANT ME
AT THE GARAGE
ANYMORE.

THEY HIRED A
SYRIAN INSTEAD, LIKE
EVERYBODY ELSE.

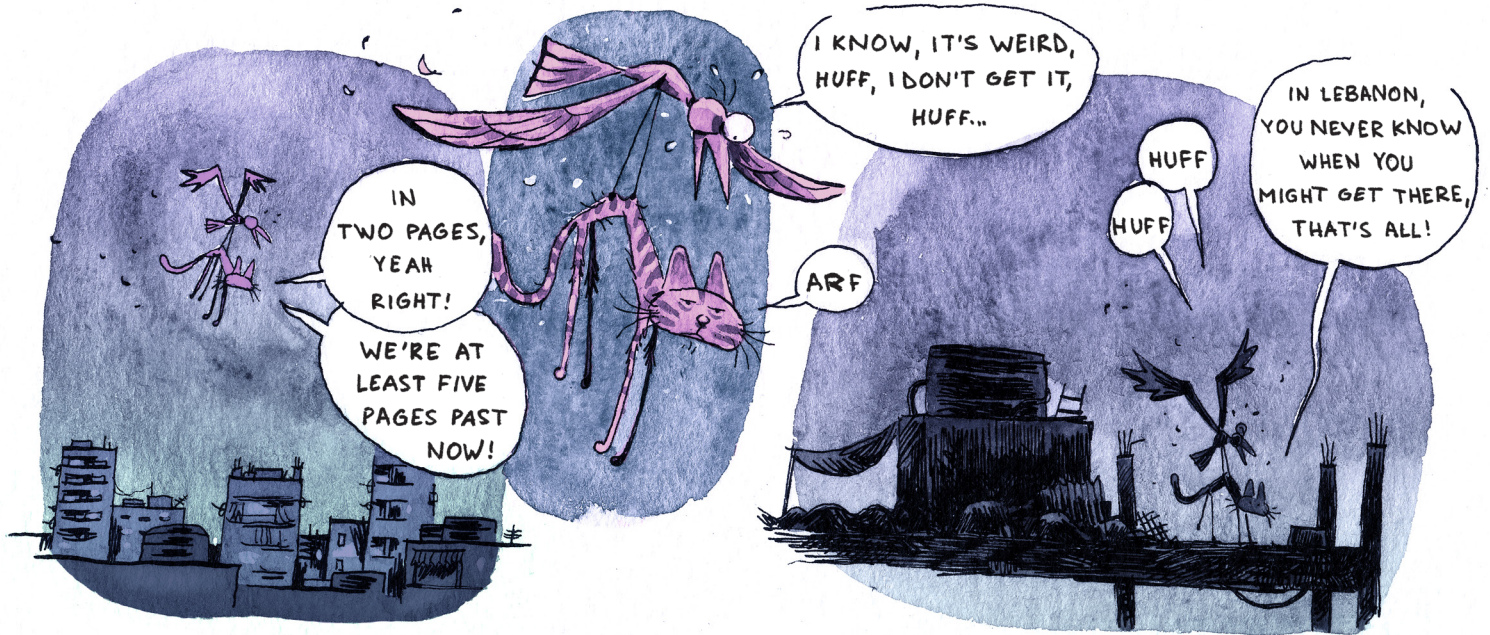
PFFF...

COME HELP ME,
WE HAVE TO ADD
MORE COAL.

AND I WAS
LEARNING HOW TO
BE A MECHANIC.









GO BACK TO SYRIA?

IMPOSSIBLE.



I'M AT THE AGE WHERE'D I'D HAVE TO DO MY MILITARY SERVICE.

TWO YEARS, COMPULSORY. I'D HAVE TO SERVE THE ARMY THAT DESTROYED MY NEIGHBORHOOD, MY SCHOOL ... EITHER THAT, OR PRISON.

AND THE PRISON IN SYRIA IS...



MILITARY SERVICE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR ME. THEY'LL SEND ME TO THE FRONTLINES.

AND IF I REFUSE, THEY'LL KILL ME.



HERE, WE CAN WORK, WE MAKE A LITTLE MONEY, AND IF SOMEDAY THE SITUATION IN SYRIA IMPROVES...

NSHALLAH!

NSHALLAH.



IT'S HARD, BUT AT LEAST WE'RE NOT AFRAID HERE.

THE LEBANESE HELP US OUT.

BUT IT'S HARD FOR THEM TOO.



LEBANON IS A SAFE HEAVEN FOR US.

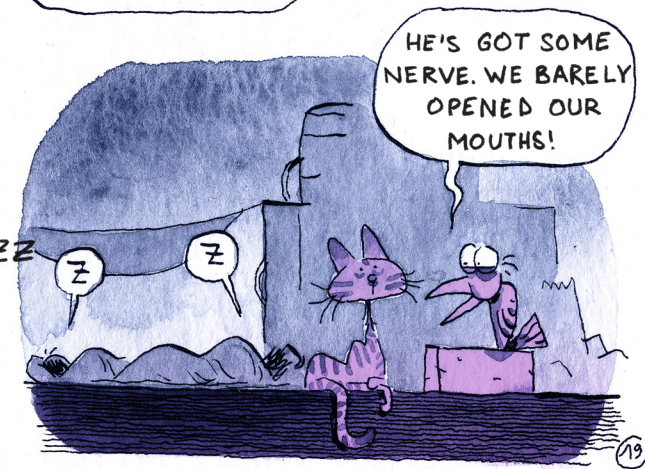
BUT OUR COUNTRY IS SYRIA.

YUP.

THAT'S WHERE WE WANT TO LIVE.



ALL RIGHT, GOTTA HIT THE SACK. TOMORROW WE'RE BACK TO THE OLD GRIND!



HE'S GOT SOME NERVE. WE BARELY OPENED OUR MOUTHS!

LATER...

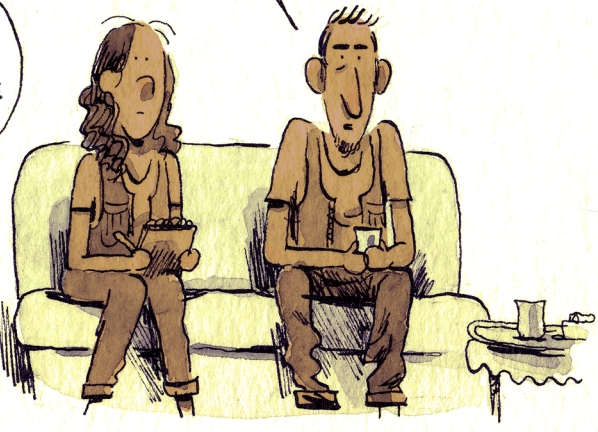
WHEN DID THE ACCIDENT TAKE PLACE?

LAST MONTH. HE FELL WHILE CARRYING A POT OF BOILING WATER. HE'D ONLY JUST STARTED TO WORK AGAIN AFTER MONTHS OF HAVING NOTHING.

HE'S AT AN APPOINTMENT TODAY AT THE HOSPITAL.

HE USED TO BE A MECHANIC, RIGHT?

YES.



BUT HE'LL DEFINETLY NEVER BE ONE AGAIN.

ONE OF HIS HANDS WAS VERY BADLY BURNED.

AND YOU? WERE YOU HURT AS WELL?

YES, A LITTLE, BUT IT'S FINE!



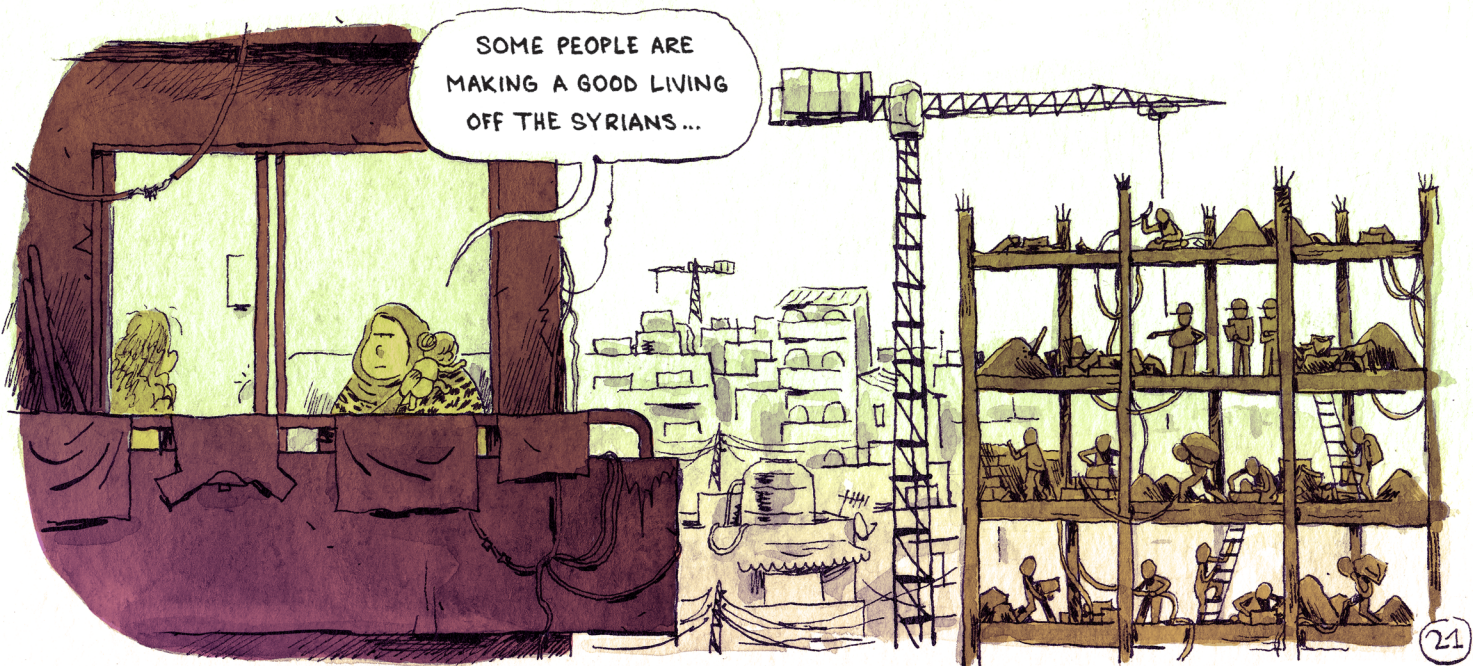
IN ANY CASE, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE UNPAID RENT, WE'RE GOING TO HELP YOU.

THANK YOU, I THOUGHT...

I THOUGHT YOU ONLY... HELPED SYRIANS.

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO ASSISTANCE AGAINST EVICTION.





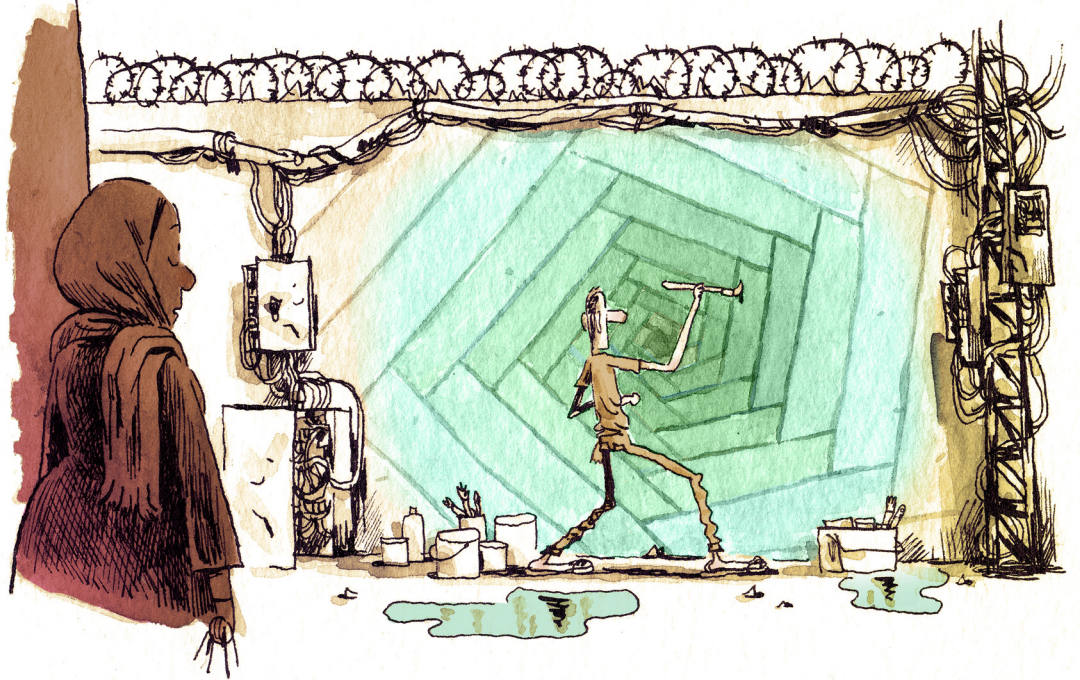
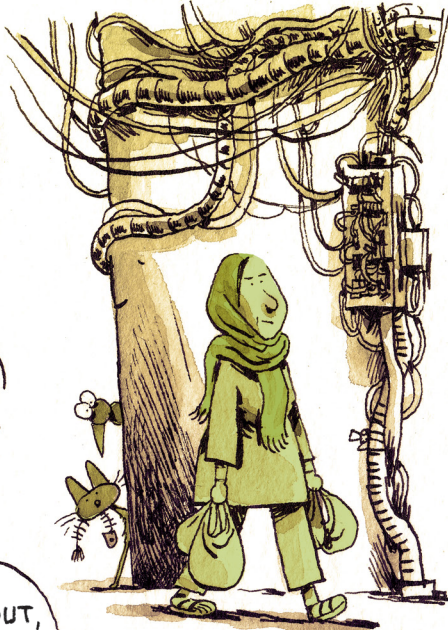
BORJ EL-BARAJNEH,
PALESTINIAN CAMP,
BEIRUT.

HA
HA!

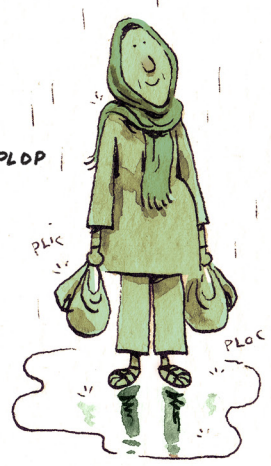
WELL-
PLAYED,
CAT!

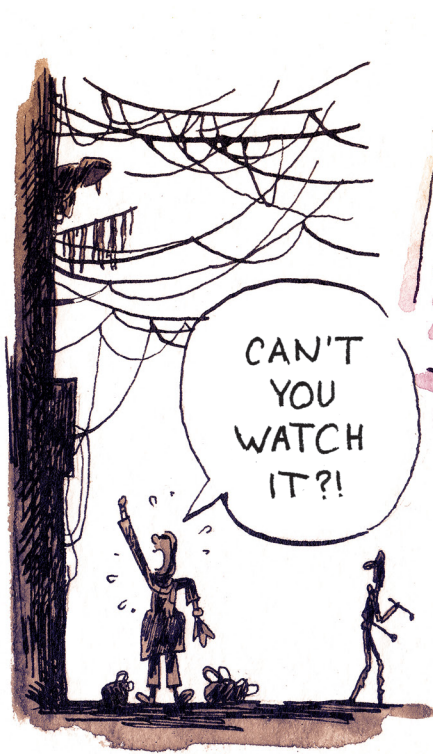
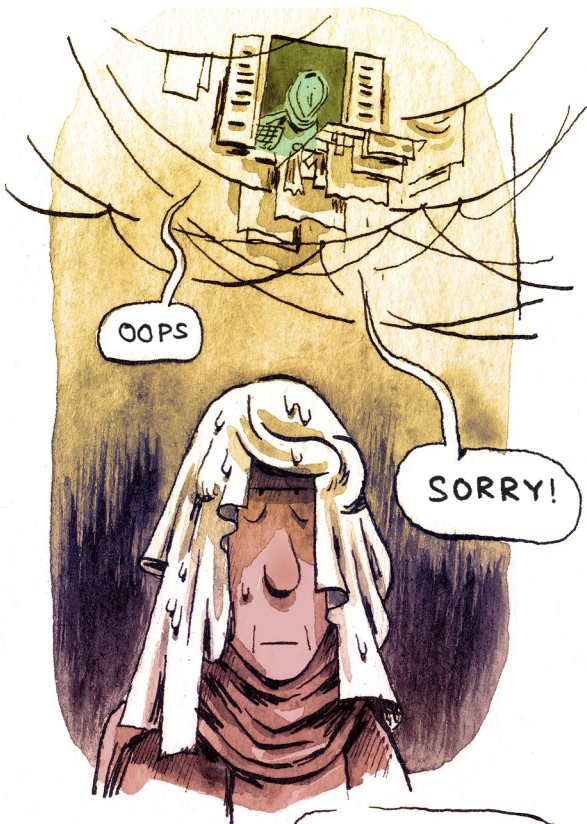
WE
SPLIT
HALF AND
HALF!

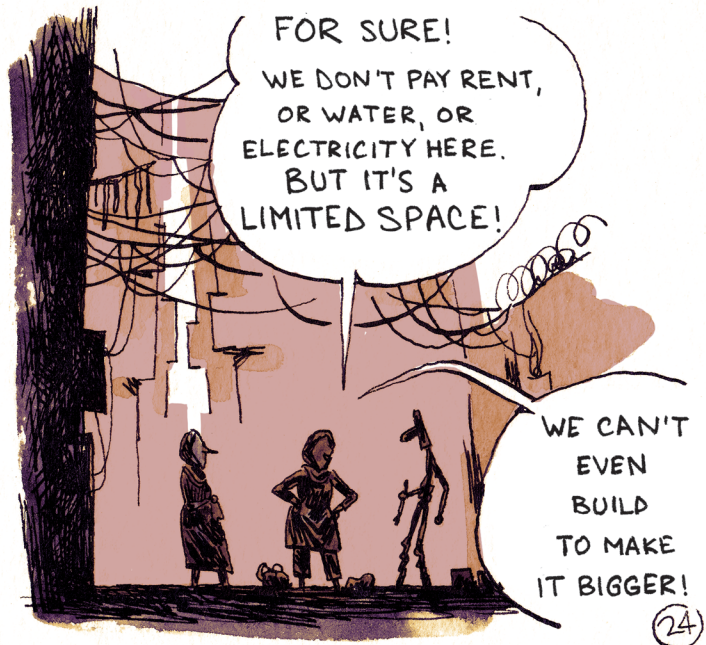
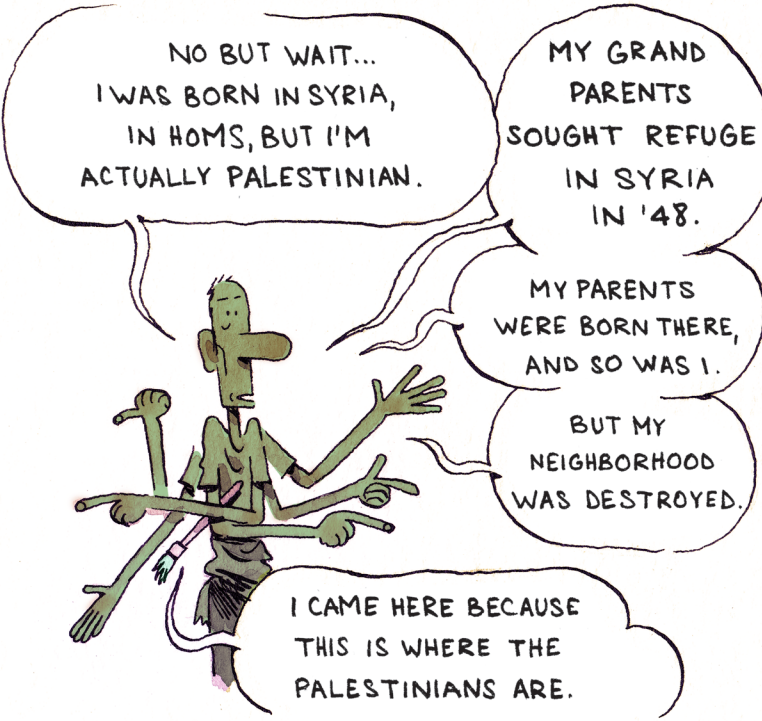
WATCH OUT,
SOMEONE'S
COMING!

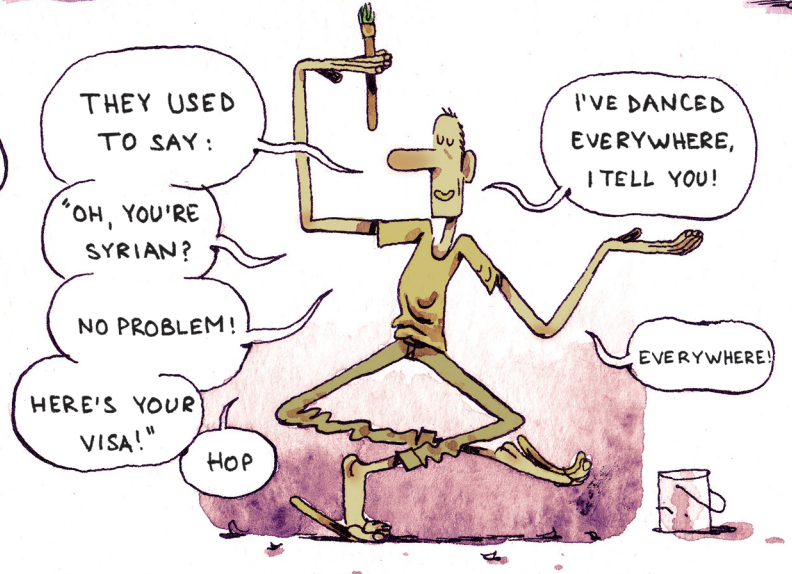
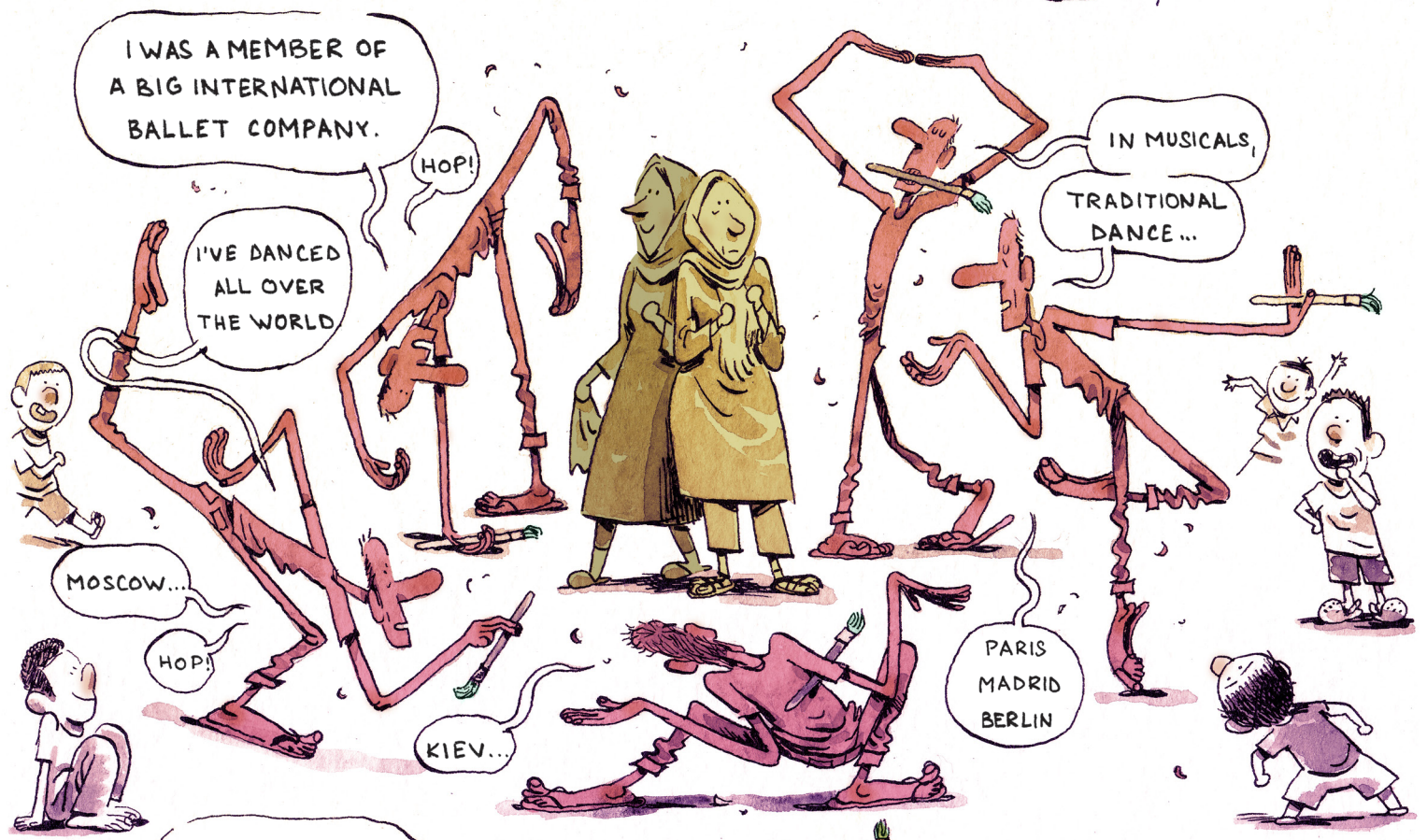
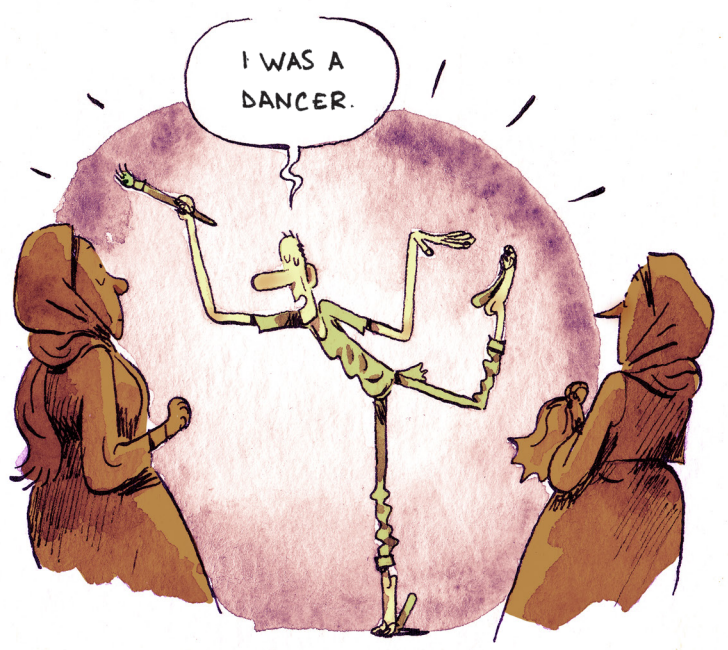


PLIP PLOP











NOW THEY TELL ME:

"YOU WERE BORN A REFUGEE IN SYRIA AND NOW YOU'RE A REFUGEE AGAIN, HERE, IN LEBANON."

"YOU'RE A REFUGEE WHO BECAME A REFUGEE."

HOW DOES THAT EVEN MAKE SENSE?

BUT I WORK, MADAM...

THREE WERE BORN IN SYRIA AND ARE "PALESTINIAN SYRIAN REFUGEES," LIKE ME.

I HAVE CHILDREN TO FEED.

HERE, IN LEBANON, I'M A HOUSEPAINTER WHEN I CAN GET THE WORK.

I TAKE WHAT I CAN GET!

THE LAST WAS BORN HERE, IN LEBANON...

SHE'S A "PALESTINIAN REFUGEE FROM SYRIA BORN IN LEBANON!"

IF SHE MARRIES A LEBANESE, HER CHILDREN WILL BE LEBANESE...

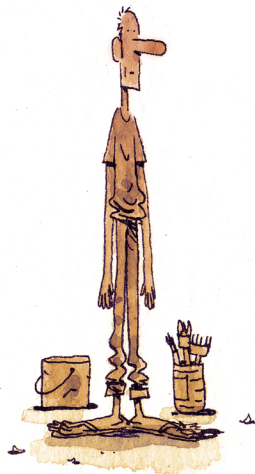
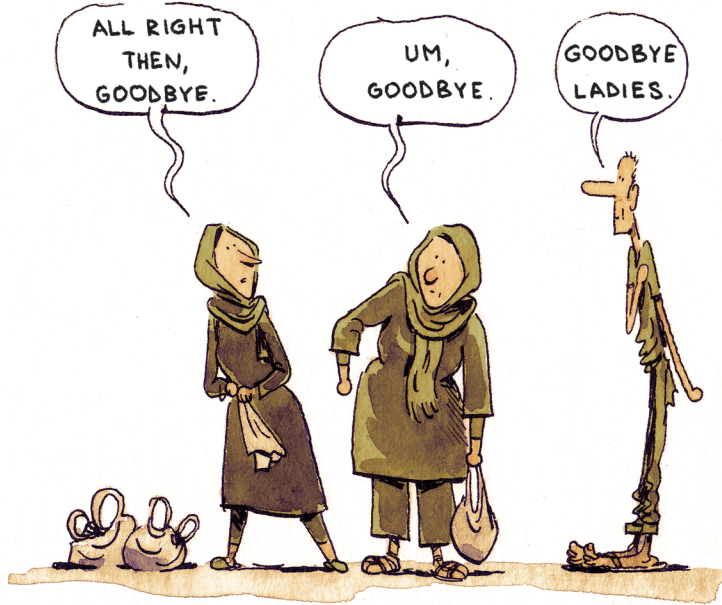
BUT NOT HER. NEVER HER!

BUT SHE WAS BORN HERE!

DOES MY PAINTING MAKE YOUR HEAD SPIN?

IT'S THE LAW THAT MAKES MY HEAD SPIN!

FATIMA!
?





IF WE WANT...

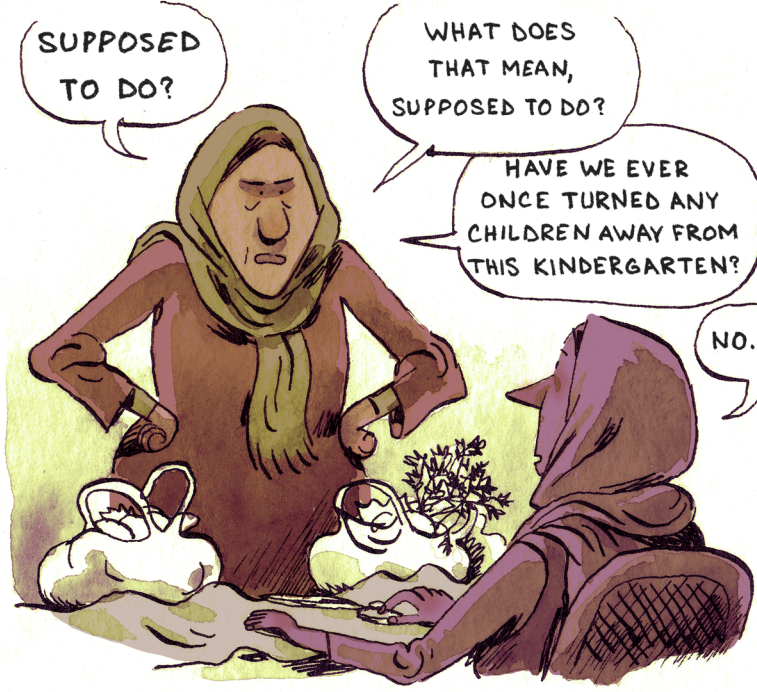
WE GOT THREE MORE APPLICATIONS TODAY.

YOUNG SYRIANS, OF COURSE.

POF



SO WE WERE WONDERING WHAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DO...



SUPPOSED TO DO?

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, SUPPOSED TO DO?

HAVE WE EVER ONCE TURNED ANY CHILDREN AWAY FROM THIS KINDERGARTEN?

NO...



WELL THEN, DO WHAT WE ALWAYS DO!

WE'RE NOT LEAVING THEM OUT IN THE STREET!

ONE DAY, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO...



WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FOR A LONG TIME!

AND YET, WE STILL SOMEHOW DO IT!

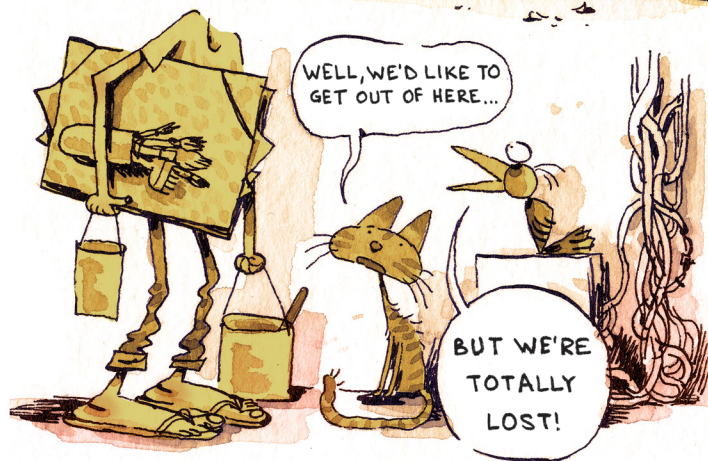
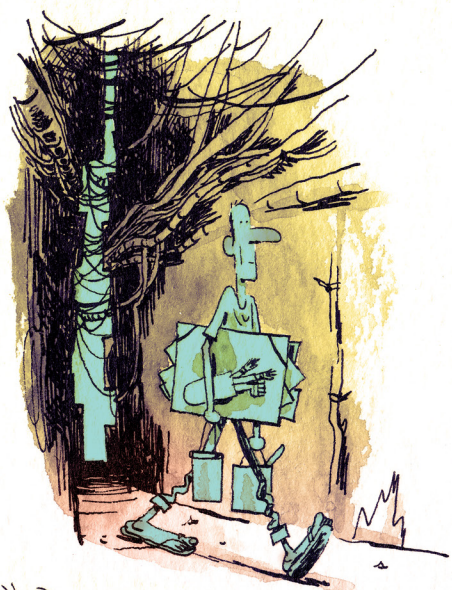
POF



THIS IS OFF-TOPIC BUT...



... I THINK I FOUND SOMEONE TO RUN SOME DANCE WORKSHOPS!





?

ALL RIGHT,
WE GOT OUT.

UMM... OK,
BUT WHERE DID
WE END UP?

HUH...



EXCUSE ME?

WHERE
ARE WE?

?

