



# Escape from Syria

*Samya Kullab , Jackie Roche (Illustrations)*

Download now

Read Online ➔

# Escape from Syria

Samya Kullab , Jackie Roche (Illustrations)

**Escape from Syria** Samya Kullab , Jackie Roche (Illustrations)

A graphic story of intense current events.

From the pen of former Lebanon Star reporter Samya Kullab comes a breathtaking and hard-hitting story of one family's struggle to survive in the face of war, displacement, poverty and relocation.

*Escape from Syria* is a fictionalized account that calls on real-life circumstances and true tales of refugee families to serve as a microcosm of the Syrian uprising and the war and refugee crisis that followed.

The story spans six years in the lives of Walid, his wife Dalia, and their two children, Amina and Youssef. Forced to flee from Syria, they become asylum-seekers in Lebanon, and finally resettled refugees in the West. It is a story that has been replayed thousands of times by other families.

When the family home in Aleppo is destroyed by a government-led bomb strike, Walid has no choice but to take his wife and children and flee their war-torn and much loved homeland. They struggle to survive in the wretched refugee camps of Lebanon, and when Youssef becomes fatally ill as a result of the poor hygienic conditions, his father is forced to take great personal risk to save his family.

Walid's daughter, the young Amina, a whip-smart grade-A student, tells the story. As she witnesses firsthand the harsh realities that her family must endure if they are to survive -- swindling smugglers, treacherous ocean crossings, and jihadist militias -- she is forced to grow up very quickly in order to help her parents and brother.

Kullab's narrative masterfully maps both the collapse and destruction of Syria, and the real-life tragedies faced by its citizens still today. The family's escape from their homeland makes for a harrowing tale, but with their safe arrival in the West it serves as a hopeful endnote to this ongoing worldwide crisis.

Beautiful illustrations by Jackie Roche -- whose work on the viral web-comic, *Syria's Climate Conflict*, was seen prominently in Symboliamag. com, Upworthy.com and Motherjones.com, among others -- bring Kullab's words to life in stunning imagery that captures both the horror of war and the dignity of human will.

## Escape from Syria Details

Date : Published October 1st 2017 by Firefly Books

ISBN : 9781770859821

Author : Samya Kullab , Jackie Roche (Illustrations)

Format : Hardcover 96 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Young Adult, War, Comics, Historical, Historical Fiction, Family, Realistic Fiction

 [Download Escape from Syria ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online](#) Escape from Syria ...pdf

**Download and Read Free Online Escape from Syria Samya Kullab , Jackie Roche (Illustrations)**

---

# From Reader Review *Escape from Syria* for online ebook

## Lola says

A fictional graphic novel that is very much realistic.

So realistic that it brought tears to my eyes. The thing is, it's not even sappy. It doesn't even "beg" for our understanding, empathy and help. We understand, emphasize and want to help nonetheless, because we can and should.

It's an account of the events preceding and following the escape of Amina's family from Syria, as the title clearly indicates.

We are briefly told about the events leading to the war in Syria, but the focus is on the negative effects the war has on its population. Not all want to leave—it's their home, after all—but it comes a time when it's either you stay and risk death or leave and have a chance at life. Is that really choice?

Although this is a "story," it is real life for refugees. The author does a fantastic job of making us see the options refugees have and understand the sacrifices that must be made in different cases for security purposes.

A lot of people still see Syrians as worthless bodies that need feeding and the money other people work for. If you believe in stereotypes, you will think all Canadians are open-minded and welcoming, but I have met people who believe Syrians must go back to where they came from.

That must change. We **MUST** be more accepting. It's understandable to want to preserve the money one has worked hard for, but you would be wrong to think refusing to help people in need is okay and it's not always just about money. There are many other ways you can help. All human populations live in communities. No one lives isolated, alone. And this is what it means to live in a community: sharing, interacting, helping those in need.

We love belonging to a place. We're Canadian, we're French, we're American, we're German, we're Romanian... That is beautiful. Loving one's nation is honorable. But we must not forget that we are **ALL** Earthlings.

It's so, so easy to forget about what happens in non-Western societies. After all, we have amazingly entertaining movies, TV shows, books, celebrities to read about, music to listen to, games to spend hours playing, shopping malls to go to, bars to drink at, etc. But we should never forget that we are privileged and that helping others live a decent life will not ruin ours. Next time you see a Syrian refugee, maybe start by smiling at them?

[Blog](#) | [Youtube](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Google+](#) | [Bloglovin'](#)

---

## A. David Lewis says

This book of heart, of hurt, and of humility is a must-read for anyone concerned with the conflict in Syria —

or perhaps simply those who need to review their own privilege. Of all the graphic novels and stories I have read on Syria and its refugees, this both rang the truest and felt the most accessible. I cannot recommend it more highly.

---

### **McKenna says**

This graphic novel is succinct and effective. It doesn't beg for tears or pity, but bluntly shows what Syrians are experiencing in their own homes and while fleeing. It also effectively explains the crisis in a way that is simple and understandable. This would make a great read for tweens and teens who struggle to grapple the complex nature of the Syrian crisis, as well as adults.

---

### **Rahma Abdelrahman says**

This. Book. Is. So. Important.

It is very approachable, informative, and makes it easy to learn about the Syrian war; I learned a lot.

In addition to the subject matter, the artwork is fantastic in my opinion, and the book is very faithful when it comes to Muslim representation in books; I really appreciated that, because most books with "Muslim representation" end up screwing everything up because they aren't researched well-enough.

Overall, I highly recommend this graphic novel!

---

### **Garrett says**

Based upon real research and reporting and backed up with references, this is a GN that belongs on a shelf with Palestine and Fax from Sarajevo. Heartbreaking and sad but an informative and necessary read, I recommend this to everyone needing an insight into Syria's current conditions the global factors that went into creating the situation.

---

### **Katie says**

This is only my second graphic novel and it was an amazing one. The illustrations are beautiful and I learned so much about Syria. The history was embedded into the story and it makes me want to learn more about what's been happening in Syria.

---

### **Bulent Alkanli says**

Sad, but true.

Need to have more of this printed, as we are left alone with 3,5 Million people in need, without any of the "civilised" nations feeling the urge of sharing responsibility.

---

## The Reading Puppet says

Very powerful and needed graphic novel. One thing that bothers me is the marrying off the young daughters... I'm almost 40 and can't imagine being married, but to be married off at 9-14 is just sad for me. Those young girls deserve a future of their own choosing. But the illustrations were great and this type of stories are needed in today's world.

---

## Tatiana says

For reasons I can't explain, the Syrian Civil War has long tugged at my head and heart. It's an unfathomable situation, unprecedented, and yet as a global people (particularly in the West), our aid has been too miniscule and intermittent for the displaced Syrian citizens fleeing terror.

Since the war began in 2011 (some argue 2013), the plight of Syrian refugees has created a thriving sub-genre of literature. Samya Kullab, a former Lebanese reporter, adds to the pile with *Escape from Syria*, a graphic novel geared toward young adults.

The story follows Amina and her family as their lives in Syria are uprooted. Eventually, they are forced to a refugee camp in Lebanon, and when the reality of returning to their homeland is cemented, they relocate to Canada. It is a universal tale, shared by many real-life refugees, the details staggering but accurate. I appreciate the truthful depiction of conditions in Syria and the refugee camps, even if it was very biased to Lebanese involvement.

My issue with the graphic novel was structural. The leaps back and forth in the timeline confused; the male characters were drawn too similar, occasionally leading to more confusion; and even the characters' dialogue was not distinct enough to differentiate.

Overall, the content was strong and heart-achingly factual, but the package felt amateurish.

---

## Joy says

The introduction and end notes give factual support the fictional account of a young Syrian refugee. Would be a great introduction to the current situation in Syria. Would also be a great conversation starter with current refugee students.

---

## Erica says

This graphic novel follows the tribulations of a Syrian family as told by the daughter who recounts the end of her family's livelihood in Aleppo, their years as refugees in Lebanon, and then the beginning of their lives as relocated Syrians in Canada.

Her story isn't nearly as simple as that sentence.

---

## **Becky Porter says**

{free book from Firefly Books—all opinions are my own}

This graphic novel made my heart ache! As a general rule, I am not a fan of graphic novels (they are too visually cluttered for my brain to handle), but this one was well-done. I feel so strongly that this topic—civil war and refugees—is not discussed enough in America, and this book rekindled my desire to at least share facts and spread the word. The illustrations are accurate without being too gruesome, and the storyline is packed with information (if a bit cumbersome sometimes). Based on true stories of real Syrian refugees, *ESCAPE FROM SYRIA* could be read and discussed with children 10+.

---

## **Vanessa (splitreads) says**

4.5. I highly recommend this graphic novel about Syrian refugees, written by a journalist based out of Lebanon. The art is emotionally touching and conveys the family unit's struggles and hopes well. I loved that this took such a heavy situation and broke it down in a way that was easy to follow. It was short, but it wastes no pages: it was so informative and enlightening. It touched upon some things I knew, but best of all it taught me a lot of new information.

---

## **Anna Morgan says**

An introduction to the conflict in Syria told in comics form for a young audience. This story was very simple, but useful as a teaching tool and empathy-building read.

---

## **K says**

This book takes a half hour to read. In half an hour, *Escape From Syria* takes you into the intensity of the revolution and refugee experience. Some families in Syria were just trying to pursue normal life, living lives rich in intellectual pursuit, surrounded by extended family, sometimes even in the same multi-floor apartment building before revolution broke out.

But because Syria had no freedom and no democracy, when the Arab Spring began in Arab lands, revolution naturally started to foment in Syria. It was dealt with mercilessly by the regime in power. No reforms were allowed. Citizens serving in the Syrian Army were ordered to kill their own people and did so.

Amina, a top female student, sees her life fall apart. Her family decides they must leave and they go to Lebanon. The author consistently shows the young reader just how hard it is to survive as a refugee. One way the author does this is by showing a monthly budget for refugee life and how income doesn't match expenses. Another way the author does this is by showing the anguish of a refugee family that needs medicine that will instantly heal their son, but what are they to do when they have no money to pay for that

medicine? Another way the author did this was to show how young daughters, often as young as 13, were married off by their families in the camp because they had no possible way of protecting them. Another way the author shows the refugee experience is Amina's reaction to walking by windows of families living normal lives, just like she used to have, as if nothing has happened.

This book helps children see the real deep impact for families around the world whose governments would rather retain power among a ruling elite than allow for more freedom and democracy. The author, a working journalist who reported on the refugee and migration crisis for years, backs up every situation described in her book with citations in the back. I say thank you to author Samya Kullab, for giving voice to the powerless. Thanks also to the rest of the publishing team that brought this book to the public.

---