



## The Boy From Aleppo Who Painted the War

*Sumia Sukkar*

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Adam is a 14-year-old boy with Asperger Syndrome who attempts to understand the Syrian conflict and its effect on his life by painting his feelings. Yasmine, his beautiful older sister, devotes herself to him, but has to cope with her own traumas when she is taken by soldiers. Their three brothers also struggle – on whether or not to take sides and the consequences of their eventual choices.

“I have the urge to paint and I can already see the painting in my head. Two young boys lying in the water with their bodies spread open, free, but their faces disfigured, burnt. It would be a black-and-white painting with the faces a spectrum of colours. It’s going to be horrible and beautiful all at the same time.”

The Boy From Aleppo Who Painted the War is the powerful and deeply moving debut novel from 21-year-old Sumia Sukkar. It chronicles the intimate sufferings of a family in the midst of civil war with uncommon compassion, wit and imaginative force. Told mainly from a challenged young man’s perspective, it achieves the timeless dignity of a true report from an unpredictable and frightening place. It will take its place among the list of necessary books to read about how we preserve love and beauty during brutal times.

The story is sure to become a beloved classic, as it follows in the footsteps of other novels touching on the lives of young people during war. “Writing my timely novel was a way for me to express my grief towards the tragedies of what’s happening in my country,” says Sumia. “Readers will find it interesting to experience the traumatising events of war through the eyes of an innocent young autistic boy who has lived his whole life completely dependant on his family and then having to be separated from them. It contains a blend of political events, emotional drive and Arabian tradition.”

Sumia Sukkar is of Syrian and Algerian origin, but grew up in London. She has a BA (Hons) in Creative Writing from Kingston University. This is her debut novel. Follow Sumia on Twitter: @SumiaSukkar

‘Sumia Sukkar’s “moving first novel is written with an insider’s knowledge of the land and its people.”’ The Times

## **The Boy From Aleppo Who Painted the War Details**

Date : Published November 11th 2013 by Eyewear Publishing

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Author : Sumia Sukkar

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# From Reader Review The Boy From Aleppo Who Painted the War for online ebook

## Hana Alharastani says

I wanted to like this book, as a Syrian-American writer myself working on original stories about Syria. Our dominant first-person POV is a young Syrian boy with Aspergers who sees colors and has a strange and beautiful view of the world. The characters were Muslim, so adding onto our thin list of Muslim narratives out there that are not stereotypical is a wonderful feat. And of course, the characters were Syrian, and thus literally painting the Syrian war with a very human narrative, rather than the headline feeds by which most people get that region's news from.

However, the writing is very weak. A dialogue-heavy book with little sensory detail is difficult to follow, especially when dealing with a region many people are unfamiliar with. Having spent summers in Damascus for as long as I remember, it was not that big of a problem for me, I pooled from memories, but even then it was not enough. I understand our character sees the world differently, but the reader does not. I hoped the few chapters that we are in Yasmine's head would allow us to delve into the politics and region more, but the writing was more or less the same.

In fewer words, I felt the book was a standard war story that happened to be set in Syria. There were little to no nuances that would help differentiate and set it apart from other stories, especially in a time where people are also trying to understand what events led to the worst humanitarian crisis since WWII. 2.5 stars.

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## Rachel says

Recensione a cura di Rachel Sandman Author Blog

Adam è l'indiscusso protagonista che descrive, attraverso la delicatezza e la purezza che lo caratterizzano e che sono dovute sia alla sua giovane età sia alla malattia da cui è affetto (la sindrome di Asperger), la situazione del mondo in cui vive.

La narrazione scorre sintetica e semplice, attraverso toni delicati, in una parabola che parte da un inizio quasi idilliaco e poi, piano piano, a poco a poco, si avvolge, cade, preda degli eventi, in un vortice di polvere e buio.

La storia viene descritta attraverso una lente d'ingrandimento, parzialmente distorta dalla visione assolutamente personale di Adam, che vede, da un giorno all'altro, il suo mondo e la realtà che lo circonda completamente stravolti e capovolti.

Ho enormemente apprezzato questo romanzo che racconta in modo delicato ma senza sconti, senza censurare nulla, una realtà attuale che però, volente o nolente, è davvero poco conosciuta e poco chiara agli occhi del mondo.

La visione vista attraverso gli occhi di Adam è unica, essenziale e, a tratti, assolutamente adorabile, anche e soprattutto nelle sue fragilità, nel suo non comprendere, nel suo spaziare come nel suo chiudersi in se stesso. L'accostamento tra le emozioni e i colori è poi una pennellata di delicatezza e poesia che, nel mondo distrutto che degenera, pagina dopo pagina, davanti agli occhi del lettore, dà quel tocco di innocenza particolare e onnipresente insieme.

Una nota a parte sono invece i capitoli raccontati attraverso la voce di Yasmine, la sorella di Adam. Grazie al contrasto netto rispetto alle parole del fratello, questi brevi e pochi attimi affidati a lei sono una secchiata

d'acqua fredda, sono la descrizione vivida e agghiacciante della situazione reale, esposta senza filtri, senza censure ma con l'immancabile tatto che caratterizza la penna della Sukkar.

In conclusione, non perdetevi questo romanzo. Un libro vero, che trasuda polvere e rottami, speranza e colori, vita e morte, senza risparmiare nulla a nessuno, nemmeno al lettore più asettico. Leggetelo e poi fatemi sapere. Fidatevi. Lasciatevi accompagnare da Adam e riflettete, pensate, ascoltate.

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## Radek Gabinek says

Osinskipoludzku.blogspot.com

Jako? tak po cichu, bez echa przemkn??a ta ksi??ka na naszym rynku wydawniczym. Swego czasu rzuci?a mi si? w oczy ok?adka, ale zwyczajnie nie wczu?em si? w klimat i nie zwróci?em wtedy wi?kszej uwagi na t? pozycj?. Szczerze mówi?c, pomimo tego i? ostatecznie bardzo przypad?a mi do gustu ta historia to wci?? nie jestem przekonany do projektu ok?adki, która moim zdaniem bardziej zniech?ca ni? intryguje.

"Ch?opie? z Aleppo, który namalowa? wojn?" to debiut, ale ten z rodzaju gdzie czytelnik (tudzie? ja) rozdziawia? ją? i wydaje okrzyk "Wow!". Jest to powie?? bardzo emocjonalna, poruszaj?ca wa?ny temat i my?l?, ?e powinni go wzi?? pod uwag? przede wszystkim Ci, którym tak ?atwo przychodzi ocena uchod?ców i ich motywacji przy próbie osiedlenia si? w Europie. Piek?o wojny w Syrii zosta?o w ksi??ce Sukkar oddane w sposób bardzo sugestynny, a specyficzny punkt widzenia narratora, którym jest autentyczny ch?opie? jeszcze dodaje grozy ca?ej historii. 14-letni Adam wprowadza nas w wydarzenia, które po?o?y?y pi?tno na jego kraju poczynaj?c od pierwszych sygna?ów wzbudzaj?cych niepokój, a na ucieczce w ochronie resztek godno?ci i przede wszystkim ?ycia ko?cz?c. Wraz z nim poznajemy jego rodzin?, której wszyscy cz?onkowie bez wyj?tku, czy to kobiety czy m??czy?ni przejd? prawdziw? gehenn? zanim zacz? salwowa? si? ucieczk?.

Dla dorastaj?cego ch?opca wydawa? by si? mog?o, ?e nic bardziej nie jest w stanie zaburzy? jego ?wiata ni? ?mier? kogo? kto najlepiej go rozumia?, to jest jego matki. Tym bardziej je?eli ma on du?e trudno?ci w zyskaniu tego? zrozumienia i akceptacji ?e strony r?wne?ników, co z kolei wynika z jego trudno?ci poznawczych. Wprawdzie siostra Adama stara si? wype?ni? pustk? po ?mierci matki i opiekuje si? nim jak tylko potrafi, ale trudno jest zapewni? poczucie bezpiecze?stwa w przypadku takiej w?a?nie traumy. Jakby tego by?o ma?o wybucha powstanie. Jak to zwykle bywa przy wszelkiego rodzaju przewrotach, na pocz?tku jest bardzo romantycznie o powietrzu przepe?nia nadzieja i atmosfera uniesienia. Szybko jednak ust?puj? one krwawemu terrorowi re?imu, który próbuje ten przewrót zd?awi?, a najbardziej poszkodowanymi b?d? niestety cywile.

Jak odnale?? si? w sytuacji kiedy nie ma co je?? Jak odró?ni? przyjació? od wrogów? Jak poradzi? sobie z kolejnymi stratami i jak poj?? to co tak naprawd? z za?o?enia jest niepoj?te? Z takimi dylematami przysz?o si? zmierzy? bohaterowi ksi??ki "Ch?opie? z Aleppo, który namalowa? wojn?". Sumia Sukkar pozwala nam wczu? si? w sytuacj? dziecka, które wraz ze swoimi bliskimi prze?ywa gehenn?. Kto? mo?e powie, ?e takich ksi??ek jest wiele, ale chyba jednak ci?gle za ma?o je?li obserwowa? reakcje cho?by w naszym kraju na ewentualno?? udzielenia schronienia imigrantom mi?dz? innymi z terenów obj?tych wojn?. Wojna dotyka ka?dego bez wyj?tku, dzieci, kobiety i m??czyzn. Wobec jej okrucie?stwa nikt nie pozostaje bezpieczny st?d te? dziwi? mo?e wyb?orczo?? w kwestii komu nale?y si? a komu nie nale?y pomóc i schronienie. Tak? w?a?nie prawd? wynios?em ja z ksi??ki któr? pope?ni?a Sumia Sukkar, a zrobi?a to w taki sposób jakby

sama by?a naocznym ?wiadkiem przedstawionych tu wydarze?. Mo?e tak jak jej g?ówny bohater malowa? wojn?, tak i ona swoj? powie?ci? namaluje empati? w sercach tych najbardziej zatwardzia?ych.

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### **Czytelnik says**

Adam to czternastoletni ch?opak mieszkaj?cy z rodzin? w Aleppo. Kontakt ze ?wiatem znacz?co utrudnia mu zespó? Aspergera – to, co dla zwyk?ego cz?owieka wydaje si? by? oczywiste, Adamowi sprawia wiele k?opotu. Ma on jednak niezwyk?y talent i swoj? wra?liwo?? na wyra?a w obrazach. Obecnie najcz??ciej s? to smutne sceny przedstawiaj?ce rozpoczynaj?c? si? wojn?. W ten sposób nie tylko odreagowuje prze?ywane emocje, ale równie? pokazuje ?wiatu swój punkt widzenia. Cz?sto w sposób do?? drastyczny, jednak otaczaj?ca go rzeczywisto?? zdecydowanie nie zapewnia mu komfortowego dzieci?stwa.

Ca?o?? recenzji dost?pna pod adresem: <http://zapach-ksiazek.pl/chlopiec-z-a...>

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### **Bettie? says**

[Bettie's Books (hide spoiler)]

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### **Anna says**

Gdy przeczyta?am kilka pierwszych rozdziałów tej ksi??ki, wiedzia?am, ?e nie b?dzie ?atwo. Obawia?am si?, ?e dalej b?dzie coraz trudniej. I by?o, kilka razy musia?am od?o?y? ksi??k?, ?eby odetchn??, otrze? ?zy, zamy?li? si?.

Ch?opiec z Aleppo jest debiutem literackim Sumi Sukkar, moim zdaniem udanym. Historia czternastoletniego Adama nie pozostawi nikogo oboj?tnym, a ?wiadomo??, ?e opisane przez autork? wydarzenia dziej? si? teraz, nie s? straszliw? przesz?o??, obezw?adnia i pozostawia w czytelniku niezgod? na to, co dzieje si? w Syrii.

Ci?g dalszy: <https://przeczytalamksiazke.blogspot....>

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### **Sharon says**

I originally read *The Boy From Aleppo Who Painted the War* by Sumia Sukkar back in 2012, and it had quite an impact on me. I don't know why I didn't write up my thoughts beforehand. Maybe I was concerned that I wouldn't be able to do it the justice it deserves. I will however now attempt to do just that and tell you what an amazing read *The Boy From Aleppo Who Painted the War* is. With the Syrian conflict still at the forefront of news broadcasts, further compounded by the unfolding tragedy of the exodus of refugees from a country destroyed by war *The Boy From Aleppo Who Painted the War* is an excellent narrative. It is a compelling but harrowing book telling an all too painfully realistic story seen through the eyes of a child.

Adam the books narrator is 14 years old, has Asperger Syndrome, and is totally dependent on his family. He

lives with his loving sister, Yasmine and his brothers Khalid, Tariq and Isa in Aleppo. Although he doesn't fully comprehend what is happening to his country he does have a sense of the bubbling tensions and fear, caused by the advancing Syrian conflict from the actions and altering behaviours, of those close to him.

Yasmine has always been totally devoted to Adam but after a particularly traumatic experience her character alters to such a degree that she no longer has the patience for him. Adam cannot understand why this is or why sometimes she is grey or green and no longer ruby.

The only way he can cope, and make some sense of his changing environment is to paint what he sees and how he feels. He relates and feels through colour and paints the war as he watches the utter chaos and destruction of his home.

"I have the urge to paint and I can already see the painting in my head. Two young boys lying in the water with their bodies spread open, free, but their faces disfigured, burnt. It would be a black-and-white painting with the faces a spectrum of colours. It's going to be horrible and beautiful all at the same time."

The Boy From Aleppo is beautifully written with prose that flows naturally and effortlessly. It's hard to believe that this is Sumia Sukkar's debut novel but it is undeniably written with compassionate imaginative insight. These fictional characters are 'real'; Adam and his family are the refugees we currently see on our TV and tablet screens. It is painfully raw and powerfully emotive reading about the violence, trauma and devastation the war has on them.

Sumia Sukkar does not pull any punches and has spectacularly captured the plight of the Syrian refugees. This is not a feel good read. As depressing and gut wrenching as it is to see the horror and devastation of war through the eyes of a child, it is an invaluable fictional reportage of current events. Even if we are ourselves powerless to help, the least we can do is try to understand and not belittle the plight of a war ravaged people and to remember that they are just like us. This book does that in a non political narrative of an innocent child.

I wholeheartedly recommend, even implore, that you read this book. A great debut offering from a talented writer, The Boy From Aleppo Who Painted the War is simply outstanding.

Disclaimer: A complimentary copy of The Boy From Aleppo Who Painted the War was provided by NewBooks Magazine in exchange for an honest unbiased review.

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### **Alicja Górska says**

<http://krytyk.com.pl/literatura/recen...>

"Obraz, który wy?ania si? z takiego emocjonalnie ch?odnego (wed?ug ustandaryzowanych pogl?dów) podej?cia do wojny przera?a podw?jn?ie. Z jednej strony u?wiadamiamy sobie, ?e za zdj?ciami z wiadomo?ci kryje si? co? wi?cej ni? tylko s?owo „wojna”, a z drugiej strony – cho? „rozgrzeszamy” od pocz?tku Adama i jego sposób postrzegania rzeczywisto?ci – ?e jeste?my tak okrutnie beznami?tni i egoistyczni jak pozornie g?ówny bohater tej powie?ci. Jednak podczas, gdy emocjonalno?? protagonista jest uzasadniona wrodzonym, odmiennym sposobem patrzenia na ?wiat i znajduje inne uj?cie, to za nasz? stoi wy??cznie postmedialna znieczulica".

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## **J.S. Cherfi says**

This story is told from the perspective of Adam, a 14 year old boy living in Syria as the war breaks out. Adam has Asperger Syndrome and so his understanding of what is happening, or lack thereof, becomes the readers understanding. Not only is this novel about the war in Syria and how it completely destroyed countless lives, it is also witnessed from the perspective of an innocent child who struggles even more to understand what is happening around him because of his Asperger's Syndrome.

Adam has four older siblings and we learn early on in the story that his mother passed away recently so it falls to his older sister, Yasmine, to look after him. Throughout this book each member of Adam's family goes through a traumatic ordeal, each unimaginable and different from one another and they all witness heartbreak events.

As a reader, this is even more difficult to take in knowing that although this is a fictional story, the war in Syria is real and is still going on. The only thing which helps Adam deal with his Asperger's and the difficult things he sees is to paint them, so he does and even when he can't physically paint, he does it in his mind.

This is such an important book, not only for its direct and personal insight into the war in Syria but also for its insight and portrayal of Asperger Syndrome.

8/10

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## **Lily says**

I know why this book was published. An author with a Syrian name, story supposedly set in Syria, peak interest in Syrian war/refugees, a teenage POV with Aspergers. It hits a target market, and quality was certainly not considered. This book's publication had to be all about money. This book is so awful, it's the first book I've actively pushed myself to keep reading, and then just had to give up on because I simply couldn't do it. This book has so many issues (especially considering I only got to just under halfway), this review might just end up turning into a ranty list. Considering the seriousness of some of the content, this is definitely the worst book I've ever read. This review will have spoilers, so read ahead at your own will. However, the worst thing about this book is truly how much I wanted to like it, to be educated and informed. I can't say I enjoy Khaled Hosseini's books, but they certainly do that. His are important books because of it. But this book didn't come close. There's nothing worse than an awful book than a disappointing one.

The most obvious problem from the start is that the writing is just plain bad. I can't even really believe it's been edited. Or how this author got through a creative writing degree without learning how to construct proper sentences, use commas and semicolons, and properly format and punctuate dialogue. The punctuation is a mess all the way through, and not in a deliberate way to supposedly try to show something relating to Aspergers, as the same issues are also present in the sister's POV chapters, too. It's simply really sloppy writing.

Other issues are plenty: virtually no useful description, no sense of place or culture (or anything really other than names to suggest that this book was actually set in Syria), shallow and cardboard characterisation at

best, poor scene-crafting (I will get on to one specifically awful scene later), illogical or impossible actions (ditto), severe lack of continuity and research into everything from bullet wounds to the few bits of historical detail, really bad transitions between scenes and during scenes, no sense of how much time has passed/is passing, and the constant use of passive voice and annoying amateur things like 'starts to [verb]' aaaall the way through. There's also no plot and things happen for no reason (like why did they go on holiday to the beach randomly for two pages, and the only noteworthy scene is them swimming (and not actually talking/doing anything) and the trip has no relevance?). I just don't care about the characters, or what's happening at all.

Another big thing was Adam himself, and the portrayal of Aspergers. I've worked with a lot of children and teenagers from all over the autistic spectrum, as well as with other special needs children. Sukkar's portrayal of Aspergers felt like a Wikipedia tick-list from the very first pages, and it felt insulting rather than eye-opening or sensitive. None of it felt real or drawn from actual experience, Adam's voice was inconsistent in his perception and intelligence, and often contradictory and not in a convincingly human way either. Adam is strongly disturbed by seeing dead people, violence, and blood in reality, but has apparently been painting war since (possibly even before) the war began, even depicting very graphic things he's never seen during the book. This kid paints very disturbing images, but I honestly can't see how this is even related to processing trauma through art, as he started doing it before the war, and his emotional release is in direct contradiction to what the art is meant to represent. When I read him going to paint, he was doing it to forget or take his mind away from the bad things. It doesn't feel true to his character at all that he'd then go paint what he was trying to escape. He constantly tried to surround himself with things that are comfortable and visually appealing to him, including people's moods. The art is apparently the whole point of the book (hence the title), but it feels jammed in and totally contradictory to the little we know about his personality. There are many other big inconsistencies in what Adam does/doesn't understand. Adam's struggles with understanding feel more like ignorance and stupidity, and a way to excuse the lack of any substance in this book. People with Aspergers and autism are not stupid. They are quite often highly intelligent people. Aspergers is simply used in this book as a gimmick and as the author says in an interview 'to give him more edge as a narrator' and that feels insulting. I also got the sense that Sukkar was trying to push in some synaesthesia with all the colouring of emotions and moods, but this too felt shoe-horned in and poorly researched, if it was so. I myself have synaesthesia, and I can tell you that no sense that comes with a colour is ever so basic or uniform as Adam's simple pallet, especially for a kid with a supposed interest in art and colour, and has access to the world of paint colour names.

Further problems that constantly jarred the reading were how terribly constructed pretty much all the scenes were. [Spoiler coming up now] A few chapters before the point I gave up on this book, there's a death scene where Adam's brother has been shot and Adam and his sister Yasmine both rush off to the hospital (why just them when their father is home?). There's no description of the hospital (or any other place in the book for that matter - you get 'the school', 'the hospital', 'the market', etc), no sense of place or anything. Isa (the dying brother) has been shot six times in the *chest* and a doctor sticks a metal rod into his wounds (!?!?!). Isa (who is miraculously conscious! How? And he's not in shock?) is able to scream. *Despite having six bullets in his chest*. Right. I'm sorry, but the distinct lack of research there is so plain it's laughable. Then suddenly Yasmine needs to get off the floor, despite never being written to have sat down (was that supposed to be a bad clue to time passing? Because man, that's the worst scene transition I've ever read if so) and Isa dies a few sentences later, very overdue. And suddenly Adam can't understand he's dead, despite having seen *many* dead bodies by this point, painted plenty of dead people and people dying very graphically, and he also personally identified the neighbours alone after they were killed in their home. This entire scene is so poor, contradictory, and illogical, and all its point seems to be is to make Adam pitiful because he doesn't understand what happens to his brother. It's not a glimpse into the struggles of someone with Aspergers, it's not even an emotional scene because of all the logical flaws, melodrama, and contradictions. Nothing feels

crafted or solid. I can't picture what's happening except in vague white space. It's paper thin, unrealistic, and it's insulting to the real grief of people who have suffered such things, and to the intelligence of people with Aspergers.

But the crowning reason why I quit reading this book: the kidnapping, torture, and multiple rapes of Adam's sister, from her own POV. It's badly written and insensitively dealt with. It's written in the same style that Adam's chapters are written, but with more big words and concepts thrown into the garbled writing. There's no reason for this to happen, it simply does, which may be realistic in the grand scheme of Life and Things, but as pretty much everything that happens to this family other than watching TV and eating happens out of the blue, it feels like another terrible and pointless thing was thrown in. It's not part of any plot (I'm not sure this book has a plot apart from surviving/living through the war, and there are definitely writers who can pull off plots like that and still make the compelling, depthful, realistic, and powerful, but Sukkar is definitely not among them). Yasmine's thought processes are not at all convincing, she's so wooden it's painful. Her torture and rape are so insensitively written and unemotional I felt sick reading it. And perhaps that's an indication it maybe was emotional, but it wasn't like similar things I've read before in like Khaled Hosseini's books where such terrible things happen, but there's /real/ and raw emotion in it, and it has a massive impact on the entire story and the characters. This didn't feel real. It felt artificial and forced. And *THAT'S* why it made me feel sick. I didn't read on so I can't comment on how Sukkar deals with the trauma of such an experience afterwards, but Yasmine was very barely characterised before this event so I doubt she'll pull off any kind of sensitive character development from it further on. It's simply another shoe-horned horror.

Overall, I'm disappointed. But looking the author up, I realise she probably knows as much as I do about what life is like during that war. But I would never attempt to write about it like I did know what it was/is like. She has Syrian ancestry, but she's British and raised British. Knowing people who've been through such things is not the same as living through it yourself, no matter how many people you interview. It takes more than listening to stories about horrific things to be able to write about them, and that distance and emotional disconnect really shows in this novel, which is such a shame because Syrian voices so badly need to be heard. This could have been such a powerful novel, but it falls flat on a mountain of issues. I see from other reviews, though, that it has been powerful for many other people, which I suppose is something. I'm not sure. When a book like this has a main readership of privileged westerners who generally know squat about experiencing that kind of war, I'm dubious that their praise is not simply an indication and further insult of the damaging quality of such a book on people's understanding of people with Aspergers, the conflicts in Syria and those affected by it, of rape and its victims, and all the other terribly represented themes forced into this book.

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### **Kelly Alves says**

Quando vi a sinopse desse livro, fiquei me perguntando como um garoto poderia mover o mundo através de suas pinturas, e como, com as mesmas pinturas ele poderia despertar a bondade nas pessoas? E foi essa curiosidade que me levou a leitura, mas infelizmente esse livro não retrata bondade, e sim guerra, fé inabalável e um amor capaz de mover montanhas. Vem comigo.

"Guerra significa perder o que você ama. Paz é o que sobra quando a guerra acaba."

Adam tem 14 anos e sofre do mal de Asperger, ( Síndrome de Asperger (SA), também conhecida por Transtorno de Asperger ou simplesmente Asperger é uma condição psiquiátrica do espectro autista caracterizada por dificuldades significativas na interação social e comunicação não-verbal, além de padrões

de comportamento repetitivos e interesses restritos.) ou seja, Adam tem começo de autismo e o mundo para ele funciona de forma diferente. E tudo estaria normal se não fosse a explosão da guerra na Síria que acaba alcançando a cidade de Alepo e colocando toda a normalidade de Adam a prova.

Apesar de Adam ter 14 anos, seu raciocínio e sua “fala” parecem de uma criança de menos idade, e isso pode tornar a leitura um pouco complicada se você não tem o hábito de acompanhar um narrador infantil, como tive minha primeira experiência com Jack, até aqui estava tudo perfeito. Mas presenciar a guerra pelos olhos de Adam pode deixar as coisas um tanto quanto confusas.

Seu mundo está sendo revirado, e isso aos olhos de Adam é um crime hediondo, sua família será separada e cada irmão passará por um trauma diferente no meio do contexto, quando enfim os que restaram se juntam é hora de partir, pois já não há mais o que esperar nas terras da família. O pai de Adam em meio ao caos começa a enlouquecer, e no meio de sangue, bombas e gente morta, a única coisa que não muda, é a forma com que Adam vê o mundo, puro, inocente e colorido.

"Eu ficava perguntando a Baba o que o médico quis dizer com "minha condição", mas Baba não respondia. Sei que sou diferente porque falo diferente. Só não sei qual é a minha condição."

Quando me propus a ler *O menino de Alepo*, eu esperava algo no contexto de *A cidade do Sol* ou *A pérola que rompeu a concha*, dois livros dramáticos e históricos que tem seu enredo no meio da guerra, mas não foi isso que encontrei, e talvez essa decepção tenha sido o motivo de eu ter me arrastado pelas páginas do livro.

Adam tem asperger, sua narrativa é confusa, e apesar dele ser um menino extremamente inteligente, coisa que você percebe conforme ele vai narrando algumas coisas do cotidiano, em outros momentos ele se perdia, ou se desligava e fazia coisas insanas que eu sinceramente não conseguia entender ou sequer aceitar, como roubar sangue de um morto para pintar um quadro. No meio desse caos, acompanhamos a vida de vários personagens que rodeiam Adam, e a mais importante é Yasmine, a irmã que é praticamente uma irmã para ele.

Yasmine é sequestrada no meio da obra, e por alguns momentos podemos acompanhar alguns acontecimentos pela narrativa dela, o que trás um pouco de normalidade ao leitor, mas ainda sim são momentos de terror e violência, onde Yasmine se torna o exemplo da fé, uma fé que eu admirei, pois jamais a teria em tais condições.

A guerra fica escondida, assistindo o desenrolar pelos olhos de Adam, a coisa se torna as vezes intensa e as vezes confusa. O título condiz ao fato de que Adam vê as coisas com cores, ele capta os sentimentos das pessoas vendo auras coloridas, e assim cada capítulo terá como título uma cor, que dependendo da intensidade já lhe mostra o que esperar dos acontecimentos.

A leitura foi arrastada, tanto pela narrativa de Adam que deixa confuso, quanto pela escrita da autora que não me instigou o suficiente para me manter presa, mas ainda sim, missão dada é missão cumprida, então segue o baile.

Para quem curte livros com narrativas infantis, cenários de guerra, e conteúdo histórico e realista, *O menino de Alepo* pode ser para você, lembre-se essa é minha opinião, e o que não rolou para mim, pode te levar bem longe!!!

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## **Laura says**

*From BBC Radio 4 - Saturday Drama:*

*Farshid Rokey, Noof Ousellam and Jalleh Alizadeh lead an outstanding young cast in this heart-rending drama, based on the moving debut novel by Sumia Sukkar.*

*'The Boy from Aleppo who Painted the War' presents the Syrian conflict through the eyes of Adam, a teenage boy with Asperger's syndrome, who can only speak the truth.*

*As the war creeps ever closer to home, it devastates and disrupts the life of his family.*

*Struggling to make sense of the conflict, as he and his family try to survive in an impossibly brutal world, Adam paints as a way to record and cope with the horrors he witnesses.*

*His older brothers face the dilemma of whether to take sides - and the consequences of their choices have repercussions for the entire family. But can they make it to safety as the conflict in Aleppo rages all around them?*

*The immediacy and impact of this drama bear witness to the horrors of war, its effect upon the innocent, and the triumph of the human spirit over almost unbearable adversity.*

*Dramatised for radio by Richard Kurti and Bev Doyle.*

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## **Wilcza Dama says**

"Ch?opie? z Aleppo, który namalowa? wojn?" to przyk?ad ksi??ki, która trzyma serce czytelnika w gar?ci od samego pocz?tku do szarego - a mo?e nie? - ko?ca. Bole?nie realna historia ?ami?ca serce, gdzie gorycz ??czy si? z rado?ci?, a rozpacz z nadziei??. Ta powie?? to wzruszaj?ce przedstawienie realiów wojny, która naprawd? trwa i codziennie niszczy ludzkie ?ycia.

Adam nie jest typowym g?ównym bohaterem. Jak na swój czternastoletni wiek, wydaje si? do?? dzieci?ny, a jego zachowanie mo?e by? lekko irytuje?ce - spowodowane jest to Zespo?em Aspergera, którego objawy ma ch?opie?. Oprócz tego, widzi on ?wiat inaczej, barwniej, przez synestezj? - ludzi oraz ich emocje postrzega jako konkretne kolory, co daje mu mo?liwo?? wierniejszego oddania uczu? na swoich obrazach. Patrzenie na b?yskawicznie rozwijaj?c? si? wok? niego wojn? jest niesamowicie silnym do?wiadczeniem, które czuje si? bardzo dotkliwie i zapada w pami?? na d?ugi czas.

Sumia Sukkar - niesamowita pisarka, której pi?o?o mnie oczarowa?o, a umys? kompletnie rozbroi? emocjonalnie. Swój debiut, czyli w?a?nie "Ch?opie? z Aleppo, który namalowa? wojn?" napisa?a w wieku - o ile si? nie myl? - dwudziestu dwóch lat, czyli do?? m?odo. Kobieta ta ma wielki talent, poniewa? opisa? masakr? wojny oczami dziecka, w dodatku niezwyk?ego nastolatka, musi by? nie lada wyzwaniem, a Sukkar zrobi?a to z tak? pasj? i delikatno?ci?, ?e a? brak mi s?ów - po prostu niesamowite...

Po d?u?sz? opini? na temat tej wspania?ej ksi??ki zapraszam na bloga:

<http://slademwilka.blogspot.com/2017/...> ♥

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### **Anthony says**

Very contemporary setting. Concerns Adam, who has Aspergers Syndrome, and his perspective on the civil war in Syria is telling and pertinent, and the sense of telling the story through his perspective is very individual. Lots to talk about from a reading of this novel.

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### **Saqib Moosa says**

Due to the high amount of content produced about Syrian refugees, it sometimes feels like we have reduced each Syrian life down to just a number. The uniqueness of this book lies in its ability to bring the Syrian crisis to life through the perspective from a single family.

I finished the book within six hours of its delivery to my house. I was left numb at the losses that they experienced. The book is written from the perspective of Adam, a boy with Asperger's Syndrome, a form of autism, and the book uses this disease to exclude many unnecessary details. Adam does not initially understand that there is a war going on, or why his siblings feel so passionately about the matter at hand. The focus therefore becomes exclusively on the direct effects that the circumstances are having on his direct family. His aunt's psychological breakdown as she moves in with them is narrated through his eyes, where he doesn't fully understand what is happening to her.

The deuteragonist in the story is Yasmine, Adam's older sister, who finds herself put in a position where she has to put the family's well-being ahead of her own. The book shows her suffering from her own problems and issues, while trying to shield Adam from as much as is possible. The narration of the book changes to her for one chapter, and that chapter is one of the most harrowing chapters in the book.

The book is written by a British Syrian, and although some of the details in the book are wrong, such as the timeline which doesn't exactly correspond with real events, the book overall points an extremely realistic picture of the war. I found myself lost in the book, lost in war torn Aleppo, in Adam's house, surrounded by his paintings, and with no water or heating. To the extent that I was shocked when the taps in my own sink did work, and water flowed out of them.

The book explored Adam's brothers' desire to be part of the revolution in a realistic manner, bringing to the fore conflicts and discussions which families must have had in houses around the UK. Their desire to fight for justice conflicting with the fear of putting their own families at risk. It also accurately highlighted some of the brutal practices the Assad regime employs and how ruthlessly it targets ordinary people.

For someone who has already been involved with the Syrian crisis, this book is a reminder of what the purpose of the revolution was, and what the Syrian people initially sought out to combat against, and for those new to this topic, it presents the problem in very human terms. "The Boy from Aleppo who Painted the War" is a stark reminder of the root cause of the problem, before all of the different factions and the clouding of who is good and who is bad; All of this started due to the prolonged inhumanity of one group, the Assad regime.

