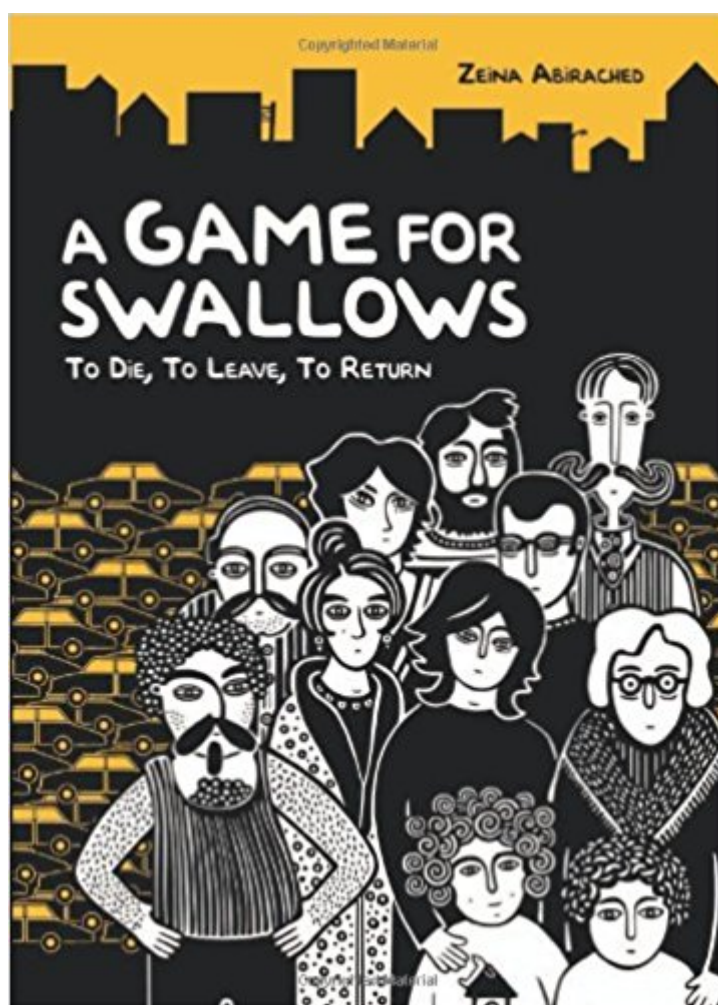


The book was found

# A Game For Swallows: To Die, To Leave, To Return (Single Titles) (Graphic Universe)



## Synopsis

When Zeina was born, the civil war in Lebanon had been going on for six years, so it's just a normal part of life for her and her parents and little brother. The city of Beirut is cut in two by bricks and sandbags, threatened by snipers and shelling. East Beirut is for Christians, and West Beirut is for Muslims. When Zeina's parents don't return from a visit to the other half of the city, and the bombing grows ever closer, the neighbors in her apartment house create a world indoors for Zeina and her brother, where they can share cooking lessons and games and gossip. Together they try to make it through a dramatic evening in the one place they hoped they would always be safe—home.

Zeina Abirached, born into a Lebanese Christian family in 1981, has collected her childhood memories of Beirut in a warm story about the strength of family and community.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 680L (What's this?)

Series: Graphic Universe

Library Binding: 192 pages

Publisher: Graphic Universe (August 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0761385681

ISBN-13: 978-0761385684

Product Dimensions: 6.8 x 0.7 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #836,559 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #47 in [Books > Teens >](#)

[Literature & Fiction > Comics & Graphic Novels > History](#) #62 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

[Comics & Graphic Novels > History](#) #142 in [Books > Teens > Biographies > Cultural Heritage](#)

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 9 - 12

## Customer Reviews

Gr 5 Up-Zeina and her younger brother are growing up in Beirut, where civil war is a part of daily life. To protect against strikes and sniper fire, the family's living space has been reduced to the relative security of their apartment foyer, where a rug hanging on the wall, depicting Moses and the Hebrews fleeing Egypt, figures predominantly as a story background. This account chronicles one day in their lives, as the siblings await their parents' return and neighbors come and spend time with

them, building an island of sanctuary for the children during this time of uncertainty. Bold, graphic, black-and-white images are visually and emotionally striking. Excellent use of maps and diagrams provides reference points and enhances understanding of spatial relationships. Unique panel placement includes several sequences of horizontal strips, read as columns. Images portray elapsed time, such as repeated smoking and countdown panels, and control pacing while revealing mounting tension. Excruciating wait time is depicted with cumulative "tic" and "toc" filling successive panels. Circular images of an embracing family contrast with the stark linear images of a war-torn country. Warmth and humor of daily life is shown in baking and storytelling, and wedding-dress close-ups touchingly highlight a mother's worry over soiling the hem, masking her worry over sniper fire. This superb memoir is destined to become a classic.-Babara M. Moon, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, NY  
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Zeina Abirached, born into a Lebanese Christian family in 1981, has collected her childhood memories of Beirut in a warm story about the strength of family and community.

I love this book! I took a class on graphic novels in college last semester and this novel is the only one that I finished and actually liked! A great read and would be a great resource for a classroom!

Awesome story and way more fun to read than traditional story books. Has a comic type of layout that is easy to follow and illustrates the scenery as you read. Very interesting time to live in Beirut.

This graphic novel allows us to reach across the gulf that separates our safe western lifestyles from the terrors of ordinary people trapped in a war zone, to witness families surviving against all odds, and the depth of friendships that grow in such desperate circumstances... It would be an excellent addition to any library, school or public.

So realistically portrayed, I was transported back in time! I became Zeina, and her neighbours were mine! I laughed, I cried! I forgot it was black and white drawings on paper! It brought to life the optimism of the Lebanese in times of war and their humour in spite of the doom and gloom.

Told from a child's point of view, this story blends humor and sadness and love to show how family and friends live in terrible times. Symbolically, when a family chandelier is shattered, everyone

knows it's time to move on. Still, the family survives. Must read.

My childhood friend's daughter wrote this book

As advertised.

Great

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