

# FEYROUZ VERSUS THE WORLD

*by Zainab Fasiki*





# FEYROUZ VERSUS THE WORLD

This book is part of the series TOSH FESH Comics.

Tosh Fesh is a non profit organization founded by Mu'taz AL Sawwaf, whose goal is to help Arab artists publish their work and gain exposure. Its main interest lies in the world of caricature and comics focusing on creating a complete online database for those artists as well as releasing each year a book introducing different artists.



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In her room, Feyrouz has a big map of the planet. She always reads about other countries and watches documentaries of every geographical location of each continent, online. She never traveled outside her homeland, but she knows about every inch of the planet, more than any other traveler..



I'm so grateful for having an internet connection at home... It makes me travel the whole world while in my room !

It's her second year at university, she's already one of the best students in the French literature department. When she speaks French, she travels through the words into other nations. And whenever she meets foreigners, she can't stop asking them about their country...

Liberté Voyage  
Espoir

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La



Today is Feyrouz's 20th. At this age, girls can be independent and able to make their own choices for their career and life. But it's not the case for Feyrouz because of her strict parents.





How did your presentation go today, dear?



It was perfect, dad! Everyone loved it because it showed my passion for traveling the world.



I think the first step for traveling is having a passport. All my friends have one.



Who puts these ideas in your head? Find a husband, then travel wherever you want! You're a woman now

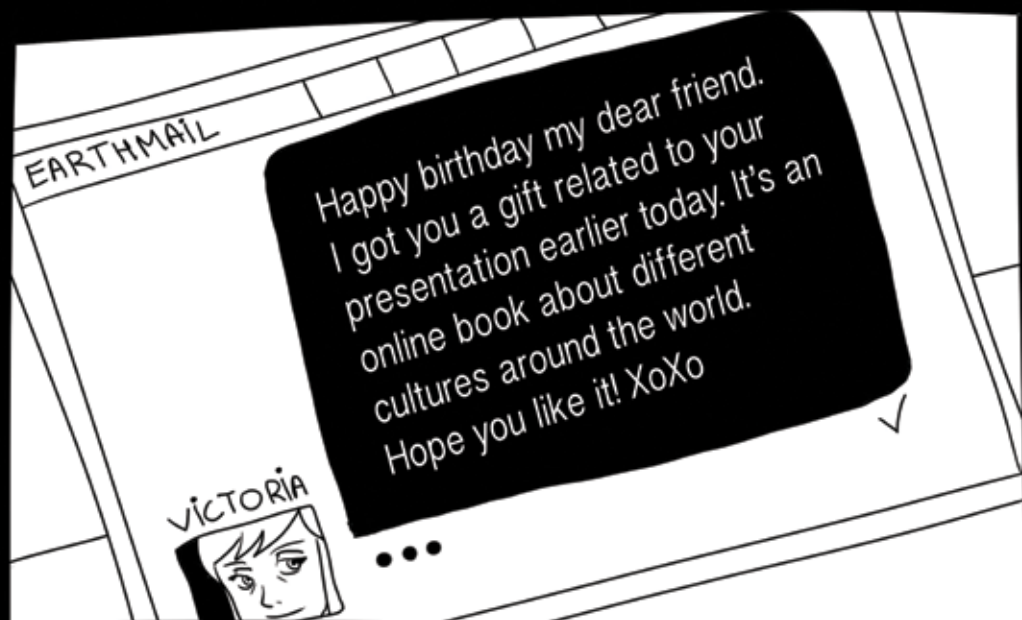




Don't be naïve to everything you hear and see. I won't accept having a daughter who thinks of all of this and dishonors me! Go to your room and focus on your studies!



Feyrouz is a very shy person, and she was never brave enough to demand her rights. She went to her room all teared up. She was fed up, especially that no one remembered her birthday... She couldn't stop thinking if she will ever get to see a passport, with her name on it, stamped.



Feyrouz, I have great news for you! There's a conference in Paris that the university would like you to attend, since you're one of our best students. You're fluent in both English and French, that's why we would like you to represent us. You will be discussing your work, and don't worry, everything will be covered. You just have to give a final confirmation during the weekend.



At that moment, she became the happiest girl in the world. She will finally discover another country! But then, quickly remembered, that she has no passport, no visa and no permission from her parents.



Hey honey,  
did you have a  
nice day?



The Dean has invited me to  
a conference, in Paris! I really  
need to go to develop my skills  
and build a better career



But sweetie, you know  
your father won't accept  
such a thing and I can't  
do anything about it.

But mom,  
this is my dream!



Don't be fooled by the image of foreign countries. Their lives are false and we do not accept all the bad things they do. Stick to your culture or else you will be dishonoring us, disregarding your culture and living the way they do!!!

But mom, all I want to do is to discover other cultures, it doesn't mean changing mine.



Girls do not travel alone in this family! We don't even let you go to the market alone! You're being naive to think you can travel alone! Stop acting like a child and grow up!

Maybe she's right... Who am I to travel alone... I must respect the traditions, otherwise i will be considered an unrespectful woman, who brings shame to her family. I wish I was a man so I can do what I want, just like my brother.







FEYROUZ

VERSUS

THE WORLD

I hope you enjoyed the book I sent you. I was really touched by your presentation! I'm glad I already have a job so I was able to get you the book.



Thank you Victoria, I loved it! Wow you already started working? How? It would be so cool having your own money and spending it as you want.



I work at a human rights organization and it helped me afford my daily expenses. With your charismatic personality, you can easily find a job! I can send you several links to go through.

Oh, I don't know how to thank you!



Back home, Feyrouz applied to all part-time jobs she could find in her city... She feels, money is the first thing that will get her closer to independence.



After 2 weeks, she went to several job interviews, but missed a lot of classes.





Scared, Feyrouz wasn't ready and strong enough to go through all these changes in her life. She always followed her family, and never made her own choices. Later that day, she ran into the Dean.

Feyrouz, I still haven't recieved your answer. It is a great opportunity for you and it will open many doors.



I felt embarassed, I couldn't tell him the truth. Instead, I weirdly confirmed my presence.

A few hours later, she recieves an email from a job she had applied for.

Laying on her bed, she felt guilty for evrything she has done... Worling after school without her family's permission, confirming the director's invitation without having a passport or a visa... She felt sick and pressured as if she was fading away... She doesn't wish to be a man anymore, nor to be born in a better place like Victoria... All she wishes for now, is to have one good night sleep.



During her first day at work, she met a girl that she follows on social media



Feyrouz felt embarrassed because  
she wasn't allowed to have a  
smartphone. She only connects  
with people through her laptop.




After a busy week Feyrouz recieved her first salary and it made her feel independant and awalened a new side that was hidden inside her...


She immediatly decided to get her passport done and understood that it was time to become the grown woman that she is, who can defend her own rights.

Feyrouz wasn't only changing on the inside but also on the outside !







Your dad's salary is getting worse, we have to reduce our expenses. i'm afraid we won't have proper meals this whole week.



don't worry mom, I bought everything you need for the whole month



What?  
How did you get the money?



I started working in a call center, I am sorry i couldn't tell you about it, I was afraid of your reaction, but I hope you can see the good side of it now !



The new Feyrouz went back to her room,  
but this time with no tears

Oh mom, my intention was never  
to hurt him, I was just sharing  
with you my future plans, that  
are good for my career, so  
please can you give me all the  
papers I need to prepare my  
passport... I want you to know  
that I just want to work hard  
to achieve my goal !

I don't know how to thank you my dear, you  
really saved us with everything you bought.  
I am so proud of you, but your dad is not  
ready for his little girl to grow up yet. He's  
getting sick, so please don't do other things  
that can hurt his feeling



PASSPORT



MENA REGION







Suddenly the passport that once made her happy meant nothing to her.

It was the end of the year, everyone was getting their final grades, Feyrouz was the number one student in the department with the best grades in the region.. Yet, she was not happy!

Congratulations ! I hope you started applying for scholarships! You would definitely be accepted in the best universities around the world with the grades you have!




What ?! Ohh! Of course .... How could I forget about that?

While her friends were enjoying the summer, she was applying to every scholarship she found on the internet...

After one week, she recieved a call from an international number

Hello Feyrouz, congratulations! You have been accepted in our 3 years exchange program in The public literature university of Paris. Please confirm with us as soon as possible!







Today I got accepted to finish my bachelor and masters degree in the best literature university in Paris!


She only has a weekend to confirm the scholarship but she has yet to take a decision by herself... She already lost an opportunity once and isn't willing to let this one slip!

Don't be naïve enough to let foreigners use your skills for their own, they are developed enough. You should serve your country, it needs you!




I won't leave forever, I love my country! I need to expand my learning in another place. They will provide me with a monthly allowance so I can send you money!





I think you should give this lady what she deserves ... She's a genius and I won't let you destroy her motivation because of traditions. Women around the world are presidents, strong athletes and here you are trying to stop her from taking a flight... She should go to Paris!



Feyrouz never felt such a feeling... A family member protecting her goals and dreams... In the end, all the travels her brother made were useful, for they helped make him a more open and tolerant person!







Am I really flying? I have waited for this moment my whole life! Did I really just take an airplane to Paris? I don't feel like myself at all!

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Paris, we hope you've enjoyed your flight!





I never knew reading so many books would motivate a person to be so strong ... I realize this is just the beginning, I still have a long journey ahead of me!



First off, I will save more money to book flights all around the world! Someday I'll teach at my old university... To tell students never to give up on their dreams... Only science, literature, art and love will make you achieve your goals!






## TOSH FESH Comics Series

In Retrospect - Mohamad Kraytem	2018
The Opening - Leila Abdelrazaq	2017
Le Sixieme Jour 6 - Ahmad Tawfiq	2017

### About the Artist:

Zainab Fasiki is a Moroccan comics artist and a mechanical engineer. She is the founder of the collective /WOMEN POWER/ that aims to encourage Moroccan girls to become succesful artists and entrepreneurs, she is also the founder of [www.hshouma.com](http://www.hshouma.com) a project that aims to break all Moroccan taboos. She works on ending patriarchy through her art and inspires people to live in peace with equal rights.





Feyrouz is a young talented girl, living in the MENA region. She is struggling in an environment where it is difficult for many girls to become strong and independant because of cultural stereotypes.