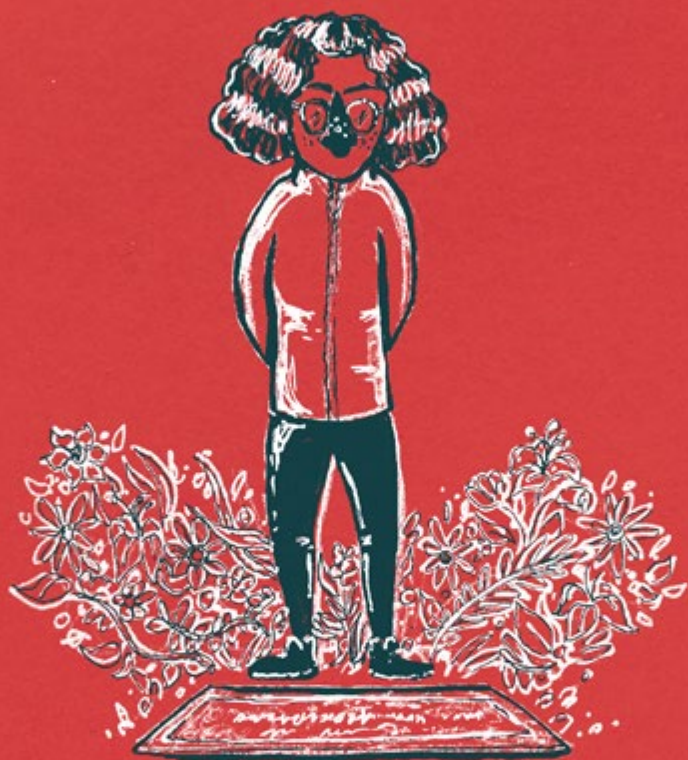


LEILA ABDELRAZAQ



# THE OPENING







# TOSH FESH

This book is funded by Tosh Fesh in order to encourage comic artists in the Arab Countries.

Tosh Fesh is a non-profit organization founded by Mu'taz and Rada Al Sawwaf, whose goal is helping Arab artists publish their work and gain exposure. Its main interest lies in the world of caricature and comics and it focuses on creating a substantial and complete online database for those artists. Tosh Fesh also releases a series of books dedicated to caricature and comics artists in the Arab countries.

In 2017, Tosh Fesh is funding and publishing the work of 4 graphic artists. It is also launching a campaign to promote comics in different Lebanese schools and universities.

Tosh Fesh and The Mu'taz and Rada Al Sawwaf Initiative for Arab Comics at the American University of Beirut launched the Mahmoud Kahil Award, in 2016. Every year, great Arab talents in the field of comics, editorial cartoons and illustration, are recognized and awarded with important financial prizes. Moreover, an annual conference to promote and advance the field of comics is held, encouraging the publication of artistic and scholarly works on comics in the region.

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Lebanon 2017  
**www.toshfesh.com**  
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# THE OPENING

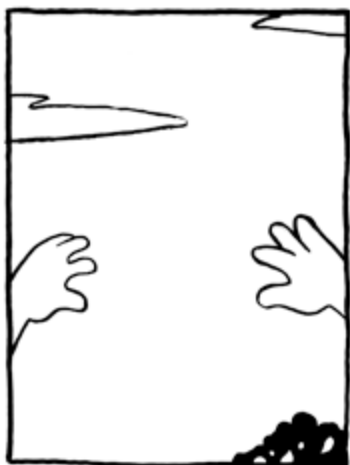
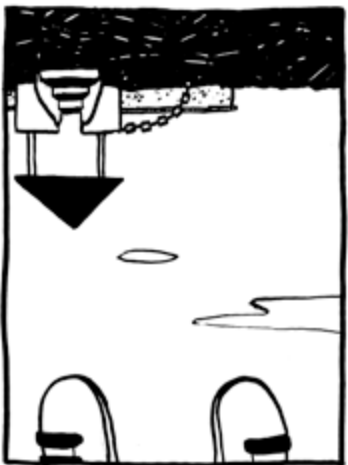
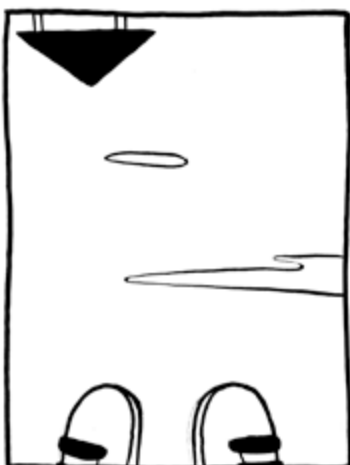
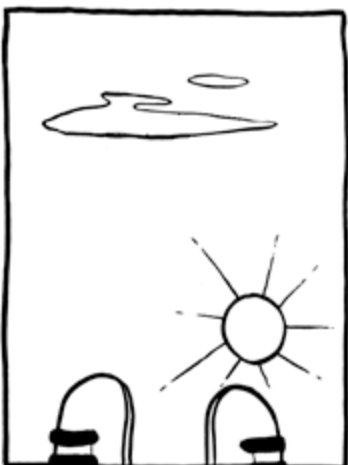
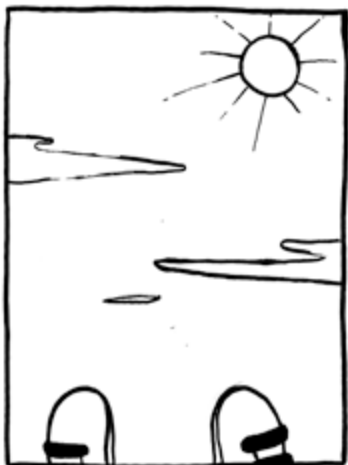
LEILA ABDELRAZAQ

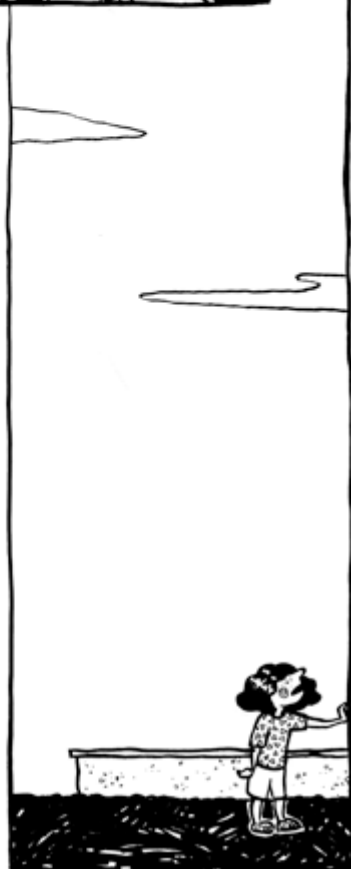


PART ONE  
1994

























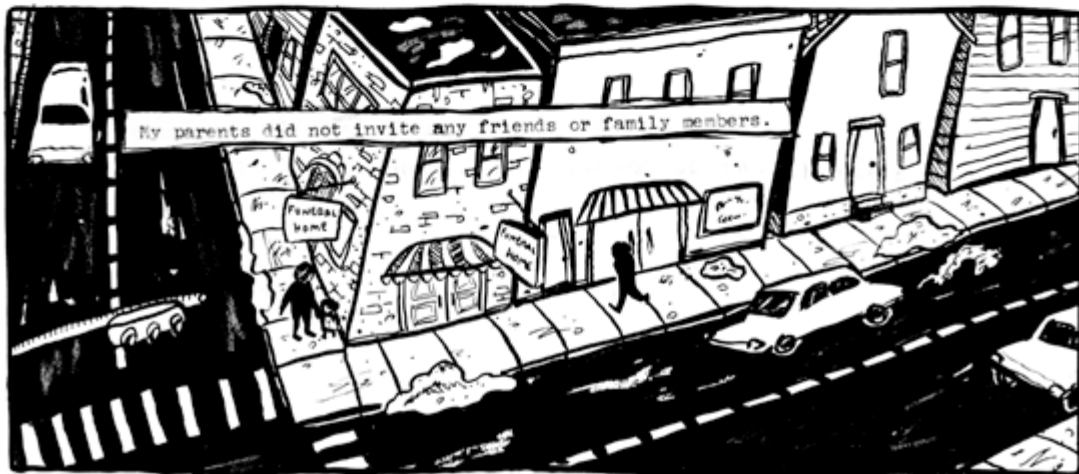


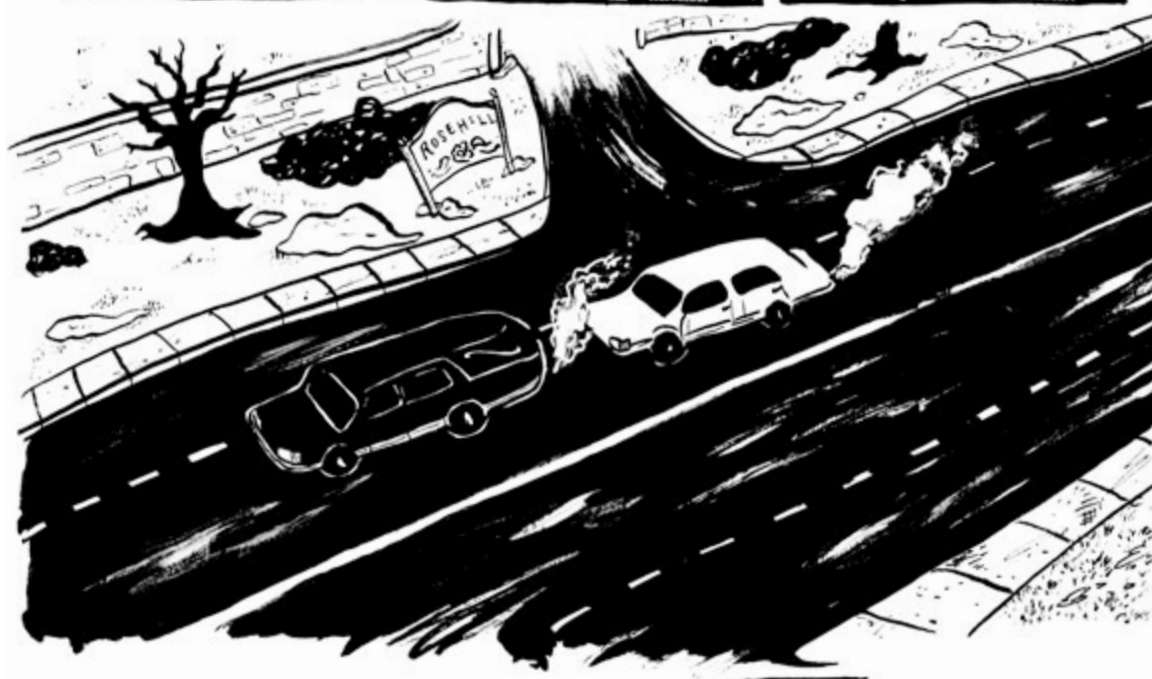


The day of the funeral, the sky was heavy with clouds.



My parents did not invite any friends or family members.







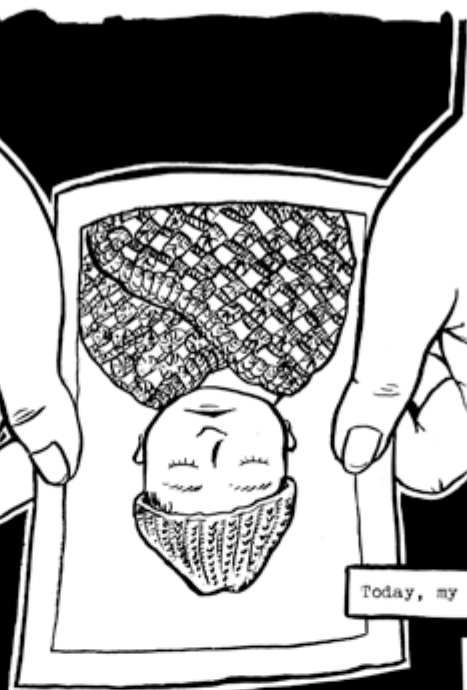
I'll never understand  
how my mother did it.

To carry her daughter from  
her womb to the grave  
in a matter of days.



I'll never understand how  
my grandmother did it.

To carry a life from  
one country to another  
overnight  
and never  
turn  
back.




Today, my mother still keeps

a photo of Hana

in the drawer of her bedside table.

Today, my grandmother still speaks

of Safsaf.



Of its fig trees and its spring

lush and green.



# PART TWO

## 1998













Bismillq  
ar rahman -

✪✪✪

2.

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gheyr almaghtoub 3leyhum wula adhaleen

The truth is:  
I never did learn  
to pray.





And while we used to go often  
to leave flowers at my sister's grave

her headstone has been bare  
for quite some time now.





بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

PRECIOUS DAUGHTER  
HANA YOUNG ABDELRAZAQ  
FEB 21, 1995







إنا لها و إنا إليها

راحين

### Acknowledgements

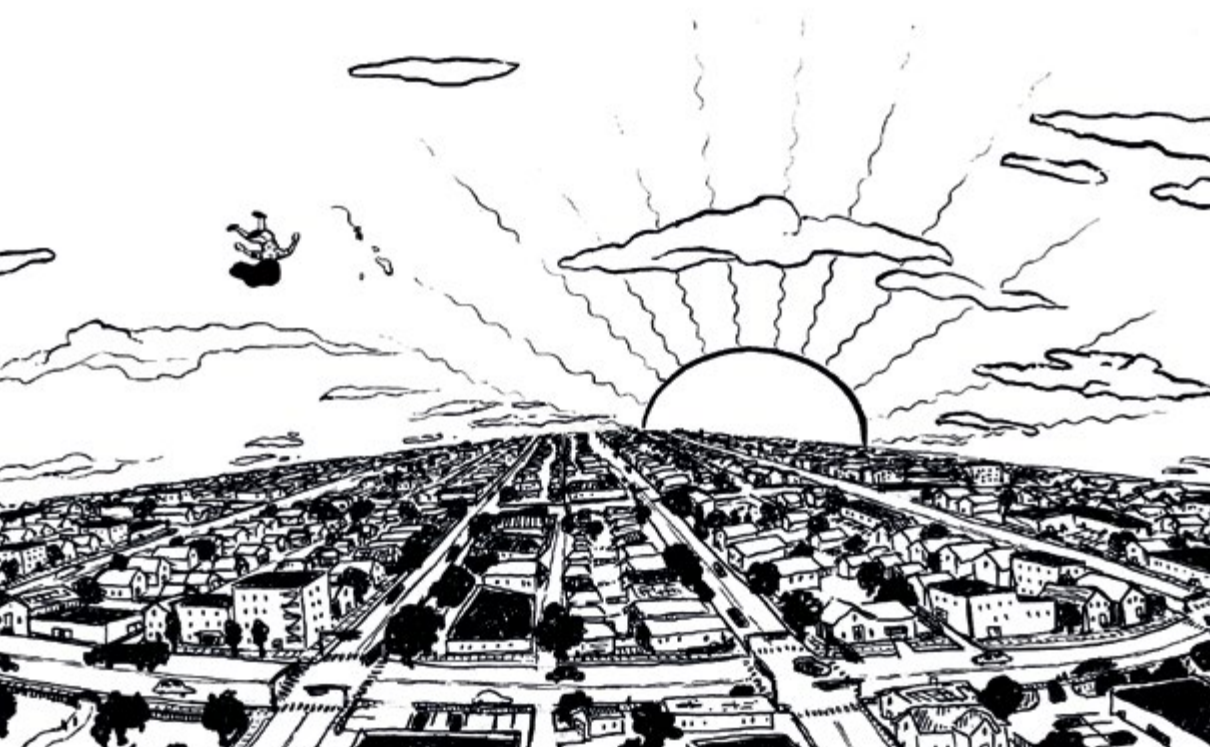
First and foremost, thanks to Tosh Fesh for funding and publishing this book, and for all they do to support Arab art and comics.

A special thanks to Lena Merhej for her clarity, advice, mentorship, and suggestions, and for always believing in and supporting my work.

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Thank you to Hassan for the love and companionship: For late nights working side by side, and reminders to take a break every now and then.

Finally, thank you to mom, dad, and my brother Adlai, for everything.



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