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Where The Streets Had A Name

By Randa Abdel-Fattah



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Where The Streets Had A Name By Randa Abdel-Fattah

Critically acclaimed author Randa Abdel-Fattah's middle-grade debut about the journey -- and risks -- a Palestinian girl will take to save her family.

Thirteen year old Hayaat is on a mission. She believes a handful of soil from her grandmother's ancestral home in Jerusalem will save her beloved Sitti Zeynab's life. The only problem is that Hayaat and her family live behind the impenetrable wall that divides the West Bank, and they're on the wrong side of check points, curfews, and the travel permit system. Plus, Hayaat's best friend Samy always manages to attract trouble. But luck is on the pair's side as they undertake the journey to Jerusalem from the Palestinian Territories when Hayaat and Samy have a curfew-free day to travel.



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Where The Streets Had A Name By Randa Abdel-Fattah Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #466907 in Books
- Brand: Scholastic Press
- Model: FBA-|299578
- Published on: 2010-11-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.08" h x 5.80" w x 8.40" l, 1.00 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 320 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 5-8—Physically and emotionally scarred, Hayaat lives behind the Israeli-built Separation Wall in the West Bank City of Bethlehem. When her beloved grandmother falls ill, the 13-year-old decides to make her way to Jerusalem to fill an empty hummus jar with soil from the land of her grandmother's ancestral home. She is certain that this will mend her heart. Unfortunately, although Jerusalem is merely minutes away, curfews, checkpoints, and an identity card that doesn't allow her to cross the border mean that Hayaat and her soccer-loving, troublemaker friend Samy face a perilous journey. This novel is an important addition to a very small body of existing books that tell the Palestinian story for young people, and an intensely realistic setting brings that story to life. It is full of humor, adventure, and family love, but doesn't try to hide the heartbreaking and often bitter reality of life under Occupation. Abdel-Fattah manages to walk the line of truth-telling and sensitivity. She has avoided vilifying Israelis and, in fact, Hayaat and Samy could not have completed their journey without the help of a Jewish Israeli couple sympathetic to their cause. A cast of quirky characters adds both humor and realism to the story, making the devastating circumstances more palatable to young readers and keeping the story light in spite of a heavy topic and some dark realizations as the plot moves forward.—Sharon Senser McKellar, Oakland Public Library, CAα(c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

Since her Palestinian family lost their home, times have been hard for Hayaat, 13, who lives in Bethlehem on the occupied West Bank. To try to comfort her beloved dying grandmother, Sitti, Hayaat journeys to get some soil from the Jerusalem garden that Sitti longs for. Hayaat's friend, Samy, joins her on her quest. His mother was killed, and his imprisoned father is a heroic activist to some, but Samy is bitter: "He traded me for the cause." At the many checkpoints, the friends encounter soldiers, both brutal and kind, and also an Israeli peacenik couple who helps the kids get past the towering barriers. Hayaat's immediate, wry, and irreverent narrative intensifies the story of anguished struggle and Palestinian politics. The author leavens the story with humor; Sitti farts a lot, for example. The suspense builds, though, to heartbreaking revelations, particularly about the violent episodes that Hayaat has tried hard not to remember. Grades 5-8. --Hazel Rochman

Review

Praise for *Ten Things I Hate About Me*

"Written with insight, humor and sensitivity, Abdel-Fattah introduces a winning Muslim-Australian heroine who discovers that 'honesty is liberating.'" -*Kirkus Reviews*

Praise for the critically acclaimed *Does My Head Look Big in This?*

"More than the usual story of the immigrant teen's conflict with her traditional parents, the funny, touching contemporary narrative will grab teens everywhere." -*Booklist*, starred review

"[A] witty, sensitive debut..." -*People*

"Abdel-Fattah's fine first novel offers a world of insight to post-9/11 readers." -*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joyce Coolidge:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important action, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can add your knowledge by the reserve entitled Where The Streets Had A Name. Try to face the book Where The Streets Had A Name as your good friend. It means that it can to become your friend when you truly feel alone and beside associated with course make you smarter than previously. Yeah, it is very fortunated for you personally. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So , let us make new experience and knowledge with this book.

Joan Burton:

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John Martindale:

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