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Of Damascus A Memoir Taken
From Ya Mal Al

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**A NOSTALGIC VOYAGE THAT
REVEALS THE SYRIAN
CAPITAL'S MAJESTIC PAST**

Writer and architect, Suad Amiry, was born in an old neighborhood of Damascus, the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world. In My Damascus she takes her reader by the hand through not only the narrow alleys and lively souqs adjacent to the grand Umayyad Mosque, but also into the intimate spaces of her rich merchant

grandfather's Baroudi Mansion.

Through a web of interwoven personal stories and an intricate mix of simple, complicated or sometimes devious characters, Amiry travels across space and time, spanning three generations of family history.

The Baroudi women animate the story and sparkle like no others: Teta, Amiry's grandmother, rendered mute after her husband's great betrayal; her cousin, Norma, torn between love for her adoptive mother and longing for a real mother she will never know; Fatima and Ghalia, Karimeh and Laila, maids and aunts, in a kaleidoscope of vignettes. Through them Amiry traces the social and political history of Greater Syria from the Ottoman

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Empire era until its present-day devastation, juxtaposing them with the most intimate, loving, often contentious, family relations and secrets. In the end, her Damascus becomes a metaphor for a dispersed family and a lost past, as well as an elegy for a city she can no longer claim as her own. Suad Amiry, a Palestinian writer and architect, has been living in Ramallah since 1981. Born in Damascus, Amiry grew up between Amman, Damascus, Beirut and Cairo. She studied architecture in Beirut (at the American University of Beirut), Michigan, and Edinburgh. Amiry is author of Menopausal Palestine: Women at the Edge, Nothing to Lose but Your Life, and the highly-acclaimed

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Sharon and My Mother-in-Law, which has been translated into 17 languages and was awarded the prestigious 2004 Viareggio Prize. She is the founder and Director of the Riwaq: Centre for Architectural Conservation. Amiry is the vice-president of the Board of Trustees of Birzeit University. She lives in Ramallah with her husband, the academic and political activist Salim Tamari.

THREE DAYS IN DAMASCUS is a memoir about a three-year fight for a chance at love with an Iraqi refugee the author met in Syria. While travelling to Jordan, Lebanon and Syria to interview Iraqi refugees and hear some of their stories, Kim never expected to fall in love with

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one of them. But that is exactly what happened. This is the story of one American woman and one Iraqi man set against the backdrop of the Iraqi refugee crisis. Through actual Iraqi refugee interviews, a whirlwind middle-eastern love story and the consequently doomed, intercontinental relationship told through texts and emails with civil war, revolution and an arranged marriage as the backdrop, we learn of culture and devastation, desperation and redemption, while still never losing hope. While there are roughly 65 million refugees worldwide, approximately five million Iraqis have been displaced from their homes since the U.S led invasion of their country, most of

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them fleeing to Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Since Syria is currently in the midst of a violent civil war, the Iraqis there are left in an extremely dangerous position-- stuck between a rock and a hard place with nowhere to go. This timely memoir examines the lives of dozens of these Iraqi refugees trying desperately to survive in a world blind to their plight and one Iraqi in particular: Omar. Told through a strong narrative and a surprisingly comedic lens, the reader travels with the author through this unknown, sandy terrain breaking assumptions, stereotypes and expectations -- in a journey that ultimately ends in the most traditional assumption one could imagine: a Middle Eastern

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man agreeing to an arranged marriage. And after three years of trying to "save" Omar and salvage a life for/with him, she discovers maybe he wasn't the one who needed saving. "This heartfelt memoir will take you into another world, as Kim and Omar meet and walk many of love's pathways. An American volunteer interviewing Iraqi refugees about the horrors of war, Kim falls in love with Omar, and thus begins a three-year odyssey." Chellie Campbell, author *From Worry to Wealthy and The Wealthy Spirit*. "Kim's memoir is quite extraordinary in the way she brings you right up close, sometimes painfully, often with lots of laughs, to the situation of Iraqi refugees in

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Jordan, Lebanon and Syria...She notices things most of us would shy away from, and she tells the story so personally, you feel you are with her...The stories of loss are told with painful, and respectful detail, biding the request from one refugee to 'tell the whole story'. Kim tells the story of Omar, and discovers he is typical of most refugees. She learns a refugee's greatest desire is to go home, and when they do move, their culture moves with them." Sybella Wilkes, UNHCR Senior Communications Officer. "Kim Schultz has written a searing love story set against the backdrop of a world tragedy: the plight of millions of refugees fleeing violence in the Middle East...It is a compelling read

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that will make you a look at world news in a different, more personal, way." Jim Michaels, author of *A Chance in Hell: The men who triumphed over Iraq's deadliest city and turned the tide of war* "Kim Schultz has written an earnest and honest account of two people from opposite poles finding love and heartache in the long shadow of an unforgiving war. Her story is a spirited struggle against larger forces - bureaucracy, culture, religion, human displacement, and loss." Kirk W. Johnson, author of *To Be a Friend is Fatal: the Fight to Save the Iraqis America Left Behind* and founder of the List Project. At the Arab Spring's hopeful start, Alia Malek returned to Damascus to

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reclaim her grandmother's apartment, which had been lost to her family since Hafez al-Assad came to power in 1970. Its loss was central to her parent's decision to make their lives in America. In chronicling the people who lived in the Tahaan building, past and present, Alia portrays the Syrians—the Muslims, Christians, Jews, Armenians, and Kurds—who worked, loved, and suffered in close quarters, mirroring the political shifts in their country. Restoring her family's home as the country comes apart, she learns how to speak the coded language of oppression that exists in a dictatorship, while privately confronting her own fears about Syria's future. The Home That Was

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Our Country is a deeply researched, personal journey that shines a delicate but piercing light on Syrian history, society, and politics.

Teeming with insights, the narrative weaves acute political analysis with a century of intimate family history, ultimately delivering an unforgettable portrait of the Syria that is being erased.

Augustus' Memoirs, written probably in the mid 20s BC, might have been one of the most revealing texts of Roman history - had they survived. Far longer than his surviving Res Gestae, the Memoirs seem to date from a period at which the wounds of Rome's civil wars were fresh, and the emperor's partisan past might be recalled with

discomfort. Existing fragments and testimonia have suggested that the work was apologetic in purpose. In this, the first ever comprehensive study of the subject, a cast of internationally-respected scholars reconstruct aspects of the work, its importance for historians, and its relation to Roman literary genre. The book also contains, by kind permission of Oxford University Press, the fragments and testimonia of the Memoirs as they will appear, newly edited by Christopher Smith, in 'The Fragmentary Roman Historians'.

**A Country Between
A Disappearance in Damascus
A Memoir of Love and Revolution
A Journey to Love and Faith**

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My Damascus

**The Unordained Memoir of a
Preacher's Daughter**

Understanding the complexities of Arab politics, history, and culture has never been more important for North American readers. Yet even as Arabic literature is increasingly being translated into English, the modern Arabic literary tradition is still often treated as other--controversial, dangerous, difficult, esoteric, or exotic. This volume examines modern Arabic literature in context and introduces creative teaching methods that reveal the literature's richness, relevance, and power to anglophone students. Addressing the

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complications of translation head on, the volume interweaves such important issues such as gender, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and the status of Arabic literature in world literature. Essays cover writers from the recent past, like Emile Habiby and Tayeb Salih; contemporary Palestinian, Egyptian, and Syrian literatures; and the literature of the nineteenth-century Nahda.

"A Country Between reminds us that grief is as indispensable to joy as light is to shadow. Beautifully written, ardent and wise."

—Geraldine Brooks, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Secret Chord*, *People of the Book*, and *March* Moving her family to a war

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zone was not a simple choice, but she's determined to find hope, love, and peace amid the conflict in the Middle East. When young mother Stephanie Saldana finds herself in an empty house at the beginning of Nablus road—the dividing line between East and West Jerusalem—she sees more than a Middle Eastern flash point. She sees what could be home. Before her eyes, the fragile community of Jerusalem opens, and she starts to build her family to outlast the chaos. But as her son grows, so do the military checkpoints and bomb sirens, and Stephanie must learn to bridge the gap between safety and home, always questioning her choice to

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start her family and raise her child in a country at war. A Country Between is a celebration of faith, language, and family—and a mother's discovery of how love can fill the spaces between what was once shattered, leaving us whole once more.

About the Book : In September 1996 a fourteen-year-old Fatima Bhutto hid in a windowless dressing room shielding her baby brother while shots rang out in the streets outside the family home in Karachi. This was the evening that her father, Murtaza, was murdered along with six of his associates. In December 2007 Benazir Bhutto, Fatima's aunt, and the woman she had publicly accused of ordering

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her father's murder, was assassinated in Rawalpindi. It was the latest in a long line of tragedies for one of the world's best known political dynasties. Songs of Blood and Sword tells the story of the Bhuttos, a family of rich feudal landlords who became powerbrokers in the newly created state of Pakistan; the epic tale of four generations of a family and the political violence that would destroy them. It is the history of a family and nation riven by murder, corruption, conspiracy and division, written by one who has lived it, in the heart of the storm. The history of this extraordinary family mirrors the tumultuous events of Pakistan itself, and the

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quest to find the truth behind her father's murder has led Fatima to the heart of her country's volatile political establishment. Finally *Songs of Blood and Sword* is about a daughter's love for her father and her search to uncover, and to understand, the truth of his life and death. About the Author : - Fatima Bhutto was born in Afghanistan in 1982. She studied at Columbia University and the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London. She currently writes columns for *The Daily Beast*, *New Statesman* and other publications. She lives in Karachi, Pakistan. The author discusses her marriage to a man from Beirut, the bond she

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forged with her Lebanese in-laws,
and how she found love, good
food, and a meaningful life,
despite dividing her time between
wartorn Iraq and Lebanon.

The Home That Was Our Country
Trespassers Will Be Baptized
Third World Women's Literatures
Road to Damascus

The Bread of Angels

The Lost Memoirs of Augustus

***The true story of a newspaper
editor who began a deep love affair
with a married reporter, and the
couple's idyllic life together in the
Philippines during the fall of
Ferdinand Marcos and their
subsequent breakup upon returning
to the mainland. 15,000 first
printing.***

LONG-LISTED FOR THE CARNEGIE

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MEDAL Reminiscent of the work of Nobel Prize winner Svetlana Alexievich, an astonishing collection of intimate wartime testimonies and poetic fragments from a cross-section of Syrians whose lives have been transformed by revolution, war, and flight. Against the backdrop of the wave of demonstrations known as the Arab Spring, in 2011 hundreds of thousands of Syrians took to the streets demanding freedom, democracy and human rights. The government's ferocious response, and the refusal of the demonstrators to back down, sparked a brutal civil war that over the past five years has escalated into the worst humanitarian catastrophe of our times. Yet despite all the reporting, the video,

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and the wrenching photography, the stories of ordinary Syrians remain unheard, while the stories told about them have been distorted by broad brush dread and political expediency. This fierce and poignant collection changes that. Based on interviews with hundreds of displaced Syrians conducted over four years across the Middle East and Europe, We Crossed a Bridge and It Trembled is a breathtaking mosaic of first-hand testimonials from the frontlines. Some of the testimonies are several pages long, eloquent narratives that could stand alone as short stories; others are only a few sentences, poetic and aphoristic. Together, they cohere into an unforgettable chronicle that is not only a testament to the power of

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storytelling but to the strength of those who face darkness with hope, courage, and moral conviction.

This book presents a personal account of a Syrian woman's youth in the Suq Saruja (old city) of Damascus in the first half of this century. Author Tergeman wrote the original memoir, Ya Mal al-Sham, in Arabic to preserve the details of a genuine Arab past for Syrian young people and to help them appreciate the architecture of the old quarter with its reminders of earlier values. This astonishing true story presents an "affecting viewpoint on life in Syria before and in the midst of extreme violence" (Booklist), offering a deeply personal and unique perspective on one of the most devastating refugee crises of this century. Aeham Ahmad was

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born a second-generation refugee—the son of a blind violinist and carpenter who recognized Aeham's talent and taught him how to play piano and love music from an early age. When his grandparents and father were forced to flee Israel and seek refuge from the conflict ravaging their home, Aeham's family built a life in Yarmouk, an unofficial camp to more than 160,000 Palestinian refugees in Damascus. As a devoted family, they waited for the conflict to be resolved so they could return to their homeland. Their only haven was in music and in each other, especially when another deadly fight overtook their asylum. Forced to leave his family behind, Aeham sought out a safe place for them to call home and

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build a better life, taking solace in his indestructible familial bond to keep moving forward. Heart-wrenching yet ultimately optimistic and told in a raw and poignant voice, The Pianist from Syria is a “deeply moving account of one man’s struggle to survive while bringing hope to thousands through his music” (Publishers Weekly, starred review).

***My Years with Robert Fisk
A Memoir***

***The Last American in Damascus
Day of Honey***

***The Wine Lover’s Daughter
Three Days in Damascus***

In spring 2011, Anthony Shadid was one of four New York Times reporters captured in Libya, cuffed and beaten, as that

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country was seized by revolution. When he was freed, he went home. Not to Boston or Beirut where he lived or to Oklahoma City, where his Lebanese-American family had settled. Instead, he returned to his great-grandfather's estate in Lebanon, a house that, over three years earlier, Shadid had begun to rebuild. *House of Stone* is the story of a battle-scarred home and a war correspondent's jostled spirit, and of how reconstructing the one came to fortify the other. Shadid creates a mosaic of past and present, tracing the house's renewal alongside his family's flight from Lebanon and resettlement in

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America. He memorializes a lost world and provides profound insights into this volatile landscape. House of Stone is an unforgettable meditation on war, exile, rebirth and the universal yearning for home.

Winner of the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction Winner of the Freedom to Read Award Winner of the Hubert Evans Prize In the midst of an unfolding international crisis, renowned journalist Deborah Campbell finds herself swept up in the mysterious disappearance of Ahlam, her guide and friend. Campbell's frank, personal account of a journey through

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fear and the triumph of friendship and courage is as riveting as it is illuminating. The story begins in 2007, when Deborah Campbell travels undercover to Damascus to report on the exodus of Iraqis into Syria, following the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. There she meets and hires Ahlam, a refugee working as a “fixer”—providing Western media with trustworthy information and contacts to help get the news out. Ahlam has fled her home in Iraq after being kidnapped while running a humanitarian center. She supports her husband and two children while working to set up a makeshift school for

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displaced girls. Strong and charismatic, she has become an unofficial leader of the refugee community. Campbell is inspired by Ahlam's determination to create something good amid so much suffering, and the two women become close friends. But one morning, Ahlam is seized from her home in front of Campbell's eyes. Haunted by the prospect that their work together has led to her friend's arrest, Campbell spends the months that follow desperately trying to find Ahlam—all the while fearing she could be next. The compelling story of two women caught up in the shadowy politics behind today's most

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searing conflict, A

Disappearance in Damascus reminds us of the courage of those who risk their lives to bring us the world's news.

A 50th anniversary edition of Colin Thubron's celebrated first book, a portrait of Syria's capital city, with a new introduction by the author. Described by the author as simply 'a work of love', *Mirror to Damascus* provides a rich and fascinating history of Damascus from the Amorites of the Bible to the revolution of 1966, and is also a charming and witty personal record of an extraordinary city. In explaining how modern Damascus is rooted in immemorial layers of culture

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and tradition, Colin Thubron explores the historical, artistic, social and religious inheritance of its people. Along the way, he shares unforgettable stories about the enterprising travellers of bygone days. *Mirror to Damascus* is a unique portrait of a city now obscured by recent upheavals, by one of the most indefatigable and popular of travel writers.

Growing up Southern and Baptist in Eastern Kentucky, Elizabeth Hancock's world revolved around Sunday School, foreign missions projects, revival meetings and of course, the Kentucky Wildcats, who "glorified God through their goal-

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shattering, soul-shattering play." Hancock chronicles her childhood misadventures with sardonic wit, detailing her and her sister Meg's mischievous - if harmless - abuses of power (stealing Guess jeans from the Africa donation box, or hawking backyard swimming pool baptisms during her neighborhood's annual yard sale) and lovingly recalling the wisdom imparted by her long-suffering parents as they ministered to their unruly flock. TRESPASSERS WILL BE BAPTIZED marks the arrival of a talented new voice in a coming of age story that is by turns comical and affecting.

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House of Stone

Peacekeeper's Daughter

Priestdaddy

The Family Frontier

A Memoir of Food, Love, and War

A Dictionary and Guide to

Materials in English

A love affair against a

background of war, revolution

and invasion: two passionate,

committed foreign

correspondents find each other

as the Middle East falls apart.

For the first time in my life, I was

shot at as I approached the

Beirut shore. I know now that if

they wanted to kill me, they could

have that night. This is just one

of the many adventures the

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author has faced during his 44 years of living and working in the volatile Middle East. As the famous writer and lecturer, Helen Keller once wrote: "Life is a daring adventure, or it is nothing at all". In the author's own lifetime he has experienced a profuse number of adventures, and many were truly amazing life-changing episodes, in fact so many that he has decided to share them by writing his third book.

A riveting memoir about one woman's journey into Syria under the Baathist regime and an unexpected love story between two strangers searching for

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meaning. When Stephanie Saldaña arrives in Damascus, she is running away from a broken heart and a haunted family history that she has crossed the world to escape. Yet as she moves into a tumbling Ottoman house in the heart of the Old City, she is unprepared for the complex world that awaits her: an ancient capital where Sunni and Shia Muslims, Christians, Alawites, Kurds, and Palestinian and Iraqi refugees share a fragile co-existence. Soon she is stumbling through the Arabic language, fielding interviews from the secret police, and struggling to make the city

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her own. But as the political climate darkens and the war in neighboring Iraq threatens to spill over, she flees to an ancient Christian monastery carved into the desert cliffs, where she is forced to confront the life she left behind. Soon she will meet a series of improbable teachers: an iconoclastic Italian priest, a famous female Muslim sheikh, a wounded Iraqi refugee, and Frédéric, a young French novice monk who becomes her best friend. What follows is a tender story of a woman falling in love: with God, with her own life, with a country on the brink of chaos, and with a man she knows she

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can never have. Wise, funny, and heartbreaking, *The Bread of Angels* celebrates the hope that appears even in war, the surprising places we can call home, and the possibility of true love.

An intimate and poignant memoir about the family of Alan Kurdi—the young Syrian boy who became the global emblem for the desperate plight of millions of Syrian refugees—and of the many extraordinary journeys the Kurdis have taken, spanning countries and continents. Alan Kurdi's body washed up on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea on September 2, 2015, and

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overnight, the political became personal, as the world awoke to the reality of the Syrian refugee crisis. Tima Kurdi first saw the shocking photo of her nephew in her home in Vancouver, Canada. But Tima did not need a photo to understand the truth—she and her family had already been living it. In *The Boy on the Beach*, Tima recounts her idyllic childhood in Syria, where she grew up with her brother Abdullah and other siblings in a tight-knit family. A strong-willed, independent woman, Tima studied to be a hairdresser and had dreams of seeing the world. At twenty-two, she emigrated to Canada, but

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much of her family remained in Damascus. Life as a single mother and immigrant in a new country wasn't always easy, and Tima recounts with heart-wrenching honesty the anguish of being torn between a new home and the world she'd left behind. As Tima struggled to adapt to life in a new land, war overtook her homeland. Caught in the crosshairs of civil war, her family risked everything and fled their homes. Tima worked tirelessly to help them find safety, but their journey was far from easy. Although thwarted by politics, hounded by violence, and separated by vast distances,

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the Kurdis encountered setbacks at every turn, they never gave up hope. And when tragedy struck, Tima suddenly found herself thrust onto the world stage as an advocate for refugees everywhere, a role for which she had never prepared but that allowed her to give voice to those who didn't have an opportunity to speak for themselves. From the jasmine-scented neighbourhoods of Damascus before the war to the streets of Aleppo during it, to the refugee camps of Europe and the leafy suburbs of Vancouver, *The Boy on the Beach* is one family's

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story of love, loss, and the
persistent search for safe
harbour in a devastating time of
war.

The Boy on the Beach

The Book Collectors of Daraya

My Country

Damascus Nights

Teaching Modern Arabic

Literature in Translation

A Memoir of Capture, Torture,
and Enlightenment

Alphabetically arranged entries cover
writers, works, and subjects, and
include bibliographical references to
both works and criticism

Daughter of Damascus presents a
personal account of a Syrian woman's
youth in the Suq Saruja ("old city")
quarter of Damascus in the 1940s.

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Siham Tergeman wrote this book to preserve the details of a "genuine Arab past" for Syrian young people. In it, she relates the customs pertaining to marriage, birth, circumcision, and death. She writes of Ramadan festivities, family picnics to the orchards of the Ghuta, weekly trips to the public bath, her school experiences, Damascene cooking, peddlers' calls, and proverbs. She includes the well-known dramatic skits, songs, and tales of the Syrian Hakawati storytellers. And, through the words of her father, she describes the difficult period when Syrians were involved in the Balkans War and World War I. All this wealth of ethnographic detail is set in real-life vignettes that make the book lively and entertaining reading. Little has been published about modern Syrian social life. In this English translation of an

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Arabic memoir originally published in Syria in 1978, Tergeman appeals to a wide audience. General readers will find a charming story, while scholars can find source material for university courses in anthropology, sociology, family and women's studies, and Middle Eastern area studies. The introduction by anthropologist Andrea Rugh portrays Syrian social life for Western readers and points out some of the nuances that might escape the attention of those unacquainted with Arab culture.

'This is an urgent and compelling account of great bravery and passion. Delphine Minoui has crafted a book that champions books and the individuals who risk everything to preserve them.'

Susan Orlean, author of *The Library Book* In 2012 the rebel suburb of Daraya in Damascus was brutally besieged by Syrian government forces.

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Four years of suffering ensued, punctuated by shelling, barrel bombs and chemical gas attacks. People's homes were destroyed and their food supplies cut off; disease was rife. Yet in this man-made hell, forty young Syrian revolutionaries embarked on an extraordinary project, rescuing all the books they could find in the bombed-out ruins of their home town. They used them to create a secret library, in a safe place, deep underground. It became their school, their university, their refuge. It was a place to learn, to exchange ideas, to dream and to hope. Based on lengthy interviews with these young men, conducted over Skype by the award-winning French journalist Delphine Minoui, *The Book Collectors of Daraya* is a powerful testament to freedom, tolerance and the power of literature. Translated from the French

Bookmark File PDF Daughter Of Damascus A Memoir Taken From Ya Mal Al by Lara Vergnaud.

Peacekeeper's Daughter is the astonishing story of a French-Canadian military family stationed in Israel and Lebanon in 1982-1983. Told from the perspective of a twelve-year-old girl, Peacekeeper's Daughter parachutes the reader into the Lebanese Civil War, the Palestinian crisis, and the wave of terrorism--including the bombing of the American Embassy--that ravaged Beirut at the height of the siege. This novelistic memoir moves from Jerusalem to Tiberius, from the disputed No-Man's Land of the Golan Heights to Damascus, and on to Beirut by way of Tripoli, crossing borders that remain closed to this day. It's June, 1982. Twelve-year-old Tanya and her family are preparing to leave their home on the military base in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, to move to Israel,

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where her father will serve a one-year posting with the United Nations. While they're packing up, Israel invades Lebanon. The President-elect of Lebanon is assassinated. Thousands of Palestinian men, women, and children are murdered at the Sabra-Shatila refugee camps in southern Beirut. The Middle East's relative peace explodes into waves of violence. It is in the midst of this maelstrom that the family arrives in Israel, and settles into an apartment. And one day Tanya and her brother walk to school; yet nothing is ordinary, nothing is familiar. The simple act of walking down the street is fraught with peril. Violence may come at them from any direction at any time.

Peacekeeper's Daughter is a coming-of-age story, as well as an exploration of family dynamics, the shattering effects of violence and war--and the power of

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memory itself to reconcile us to our past
selves, to the extraordinary places we
have been and sights we have seen.

Before the Rain

Songs Of Blood And Sword

Love in a Time of War

A Band of Syrian Rebels, Their

Underground Library, and the Stories

that Carried Them Through a War

Mothers and Daughters in Arab

Women's Literature

The Pianist of Yarmouk

Daughter of DamascusA

MemoirUniversity of Texas

Press

**Road to Damascus describes
the Middle Eastern journey of
an American who meets and
falls in love with a Syrian when
they are both attending school
in New York. Giving up her**

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country and her religion to follow her husband back to Syria, Elaine Imady has made a life that has successfully bridged two cultures and two continents. Raising three bicultural, bilingual children, Elaine has important insights to offer to readers from either the West or the Middle East about how we can all not only get along with each other but learn to love each other. Her life is symbolic of the best of what can be when two cultures come together.

Rafik Schami's award-winning novel. In the classical Arab tradition of tale-telling, here is a magical book that celebrates

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the power of storytelling, delightfully transformed for modern sensibilities by an award-winning author. The time is present-day Damascus, and Salim the coachman, the city's most famous storyteller, is mysteriously struck dumb. To break the spell, seven friends gather for seven nights to present Salim with seven wondrous "gifts"—seven stories of their own design. Upon this enchanting frame of tales told in the fragrant Arabian night, the words of the past grow fainter, as ancient customs are yielding to modern turmoil. While the hairdresser, the teacher, the

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wife of the locksmith sip their tea and pass the water pipe, they swap stories about the magical and the mundane: about djinnis and princesses, about contemporary politics and the difficulties of bargaining in a New York department store. And as one tale leads to another... and another... all of Damascus appears before your eyes, along with a vision of storytelling—and talk—as the essence of friendship, of community, of life. A sly and graceful work, a delight to readers young and old, Damascus Nights is, according to Publishers Weekly, "a highly

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**atmospheric, pungent
narrative."**

**A Syria-born dancer offers his
deeply personal story of war,
statelessness, and the pursuit
of the art of dance in this
inspirational memoir. DANCE
OR DIE is an autobiographical
coming-of-age account of
young refugee, Ahmad Joudeh,
who grows up in Damascus
with dreams of becoming a
dancer. Neither bombs nor
family opposition keep him
from taking classes, practicing
hard, and ultimately becoming
a Middle Eastern celebrity
after success on a Lebanese
reality show. But ISIS
threatens him with death if he**

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continues dancing, his father kicks him out of the house, and the war around him intensifies. Recruited by one of Syria's top dance companies, Ahmad persists in his dream, and gets a tattoo on his neck, right where the executioner's blade would fall, that says "Dance or Die." A powerful look at refugee life in Syria, DANCE OR DIE tells of the pursuit of personal expression in the most dangerous of circumstances and of the power of art to transcend war and suffering. It follows Ahmad from Damascus to Beirut to Amsterdam, where he finds a home with one of

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***Europe's top ballet troupes,
and from where he continues
to fight for the human rights
of refugees everywhere
through his art, his activism,
and his commitment to justice.
Making a Home Where Both
Sides of Jerusalem Collide
From Stateless Refugee to
International Ballet Star A
MEMOIR***

***Translation Perspectives:
2000, beyond the Western
tradition***

***My House in Damascus
A Syrian Memoir
Voices from Syria***

**Alia Malek weaves a lyrical
narrative around the history of
her family's apartment**

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**building in the heart of
Damascus, the many lives that
crossed in the stairwell, and
how the fates of her neighbors
reflect the fate of her country.
At the Arab Spring's hopeful
start, Alia Malek returned to
Damascus to reclaim her
grandmother's apartment,
which had been lost to her
family since Hafez al-Assad
came to power in 1970. Its loss
was central to her parent's
decision to make their lives in
America. In chronicling the
people who lived in the
Tahaan building, past and
present, Alia portrays the
Syrians--the Muslims,**

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**Christians, Jews, Armenians,
and Kurds--who worked,
loved, and suffered in close
quarters, mirroring the
political shifts in their country.
Restoring her family's home
as the country comes apart,
she learns how to speak the
coded language of oppression
that exists in a dictatorship,
while privately confronting her
own fears about Syria's future.
The Home That Was Our
Country is a deeply
researched, personal journey
that shines a delicate but
piercing light on Syrian
history, society, and politics.
Teeming with insights, the**

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**narrative weaves acute
political analysis with a
century of intimate family
history, delivering an
unforgettable portrait of the
Syria that is being erased.**
**ONE OF THE NEW YORK
TIMES BOOK REVIEW'S 10
BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR
NAMED ONE OF THE 50 BEST
MEMOIRS OF THE PAST 50
YEARS BY THE NEW YORK
TIMES SELECTED AS A BEST
BOOK OF THE YEAR BY: The
Washington Post * Elle * NPR *
New York Magazine * Boston
Globe * Nylon * Slate * The Cut
* The New Yorker * Chicago
Tribune WINNER OF THE**

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THURBER PRIZE FOR AMERICAN HUMOR

“Affectionate and very funny . . . wonderfully grounded and authentic. This book proves Lockwood to be a formidably gifted writer who can do pretty much anything she pleases.” – The New York Times Book Review From Booker Prize finalist Patricia Lockwood, author of the novel No One Is Talking About This, a vivid, heartbreakingly funny memoir about balancing identity with family and tradition. Father Greg Lockwood is unlike any Catholic priest you have ever met—a man who lounges in

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boxer shorts, loves action movies, and whose constant jamming on the guitar reverberates “like a whole band dying in a plane crash in 1972.” His daughter is an irreverent poet who long ago left the Church’s country. When an unexpected crisis leads her and her husband to move back into her parents’ rectory, their two worlds collide. In Priestdaddy, Lockwood interweaves emblematic moments from her childhood and adolescence—from an ill-fated family hunting trip and an abortion clinic sit-in where her

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father was arrested to her involvement in a cultlike Catholic youth group—with scenes that chronicle the eight-month adventure she and her husband had in her parents' household after a decade of living on their own. Lockwood details her education of a seminarian who is also living at the rectory, tries to explain Catholicism to her husband, who is mystified by its bloodthirstiness and arcane laws, and encounters a mysterious substance on a hotel bed with her mother. Lockwood pivots from the raunchy to the sublime, from

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the comic to the deeply serious, exploring issues of belief, belonging, and personhood. Priestdaddy is an entertaining, unforgettable portrait of a deeply odd religious upbringing, and how one balances a hard-won identity with the weight of family and tradition.

A post-apocalyptic world, an unlikely band of Revolutionaries, this is the memoir of their struggles and triumphs. A woman describes a refugee colony's dramatic rise to power. The governmental shift was bound to happen, the only question in

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the matter is who will be the leader of this new nation.

Written in first person, this memoir provides an inside look at those whose lives are destined to become swallowed up and defined by political intrigue. Great men and women go through all the same trials and temptations ordinary people go through; the stakes are just much higher because everybody is watching them.

In *The Wine Lover's Daughter*, Anne Fadiman examines—with all her characteristic wit and feeling—her relationship with her father, Clifton Fadiman, a

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renowned literary critic, editor, and radio host whose greatest love was wine. An appreciation of wine—along with a plummy upper-crust accent, expensive suits, and an encyclopedic knowledge of Western literature—was an essential element of Clifton Fadiman's escape from lower-middle-class Brooklyn to swanky Manhattan. But wine was not just a class-vaulting accessory; it was an object of ardent desire. *The Wine Lover's Daughter* traces the arc of a man's infatuation from the glass of cheap Graves he drank in Paris in

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1927; through the Château
Lafite-Rothschild 1904 he
drank to celebrate his
eightieth birthday, when he
and the bottle were exactly the
same age; to the wines that
sustained him in his last
years, when he was blind but
still buoyed, as always, by
hedonism. Wine is the spine of
this touching memoir; the life
and character of Fadiman's
father, along with her
relationship with him and her
own less ardent relationship
with wine, are the flesh. The
Wine Lover's Daughter is a
poignant exploration of love,
ambition, class, family, and

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**the pleasures of the palate by
one of our finest essayists.**

Dance or Die

Daughter of Damascus

**Friendship and Survival in the
Shadow of War**

A Memoir of Syria

**Inside Syria - a Physician's
Memoir**

**My Family's Escape from Syria
and Our Hope for a New Home**

**An award-winning journalist's
extraordinary account of being
kidnapped and tortured in
Syria by al Qaeda for two
years—a revelatory memoir
about war, human nature, and
endurance that's "the best of
the genre, profound, poetic,**

and sorrowful” (The Atlantic). In 2012, American journalist Theo Padnos, fluent in Arabic, Russian, German, and French, traveled to a Turkish border town to write and report on the Syrian civil war. One afternoon in October, while walking through an olive grove, he met three young Syrians—who turned out to be al Qaeda operatives—and they captured him and kept him prisoner for nearly two years. On his first day, in the first of many prisons, Padnos was given a blindfold—a grime-stained scrap of fabric—that was his only possession throughout his horrific ordeal.

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Now, Padnos recounts his time in captivity in Syria, where he was frequently tortured at the hands of the al Qaeda affiliate, Jebhat al Nusra. We learn not only about Padnos's harrowing experience, but we also get a firsthand account of life in a Syrian village, the nature of Islamic prisons, how captors interrogate someone suspected of being CIA, the ways that Islamic fighters shift identities and drift back and forth through the veil of Western civilization, and much more. No other journalist has lived among terrorists for as long as Theo has—and survived. As a resident of

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thirteen separate prisons in every part of rebel-occupied Syria, Theo witnessed a society adrift amid a steady stream of bombings, executions, torture, prayer, fasting, and exhibitions, all staged by the terrorists. Living within this tide of violence changed not only his personal identity but also profoundly altered his understanding of how to live. Offering fascinating, unprecedented insight into the state of Syria today, Blindfold is “a triumph of the human spirit” (The New York Times Book Review)—combining the emotional power of a captive’s

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memoir with a journalist's account of a culture and a nation in conflict that is as urgent and important as ever. This study explores the mother-daughter relationship as the most fundamental and most intimate female relationship. It draws on both early and contemporary writings of Arab women to illuminate the traditional and evolving nature of mother-daughter relationships in Arab families and how these family dynamics reflect and influence modern Arab life. The ongoing conflict in Syria has made clear just how limited the general knowledge

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of Syrian society and history is in the West. For those watching the headlines and wondering what led the nation to this point, and what might come next, this book is a perfect place to start developing a deeper understanding. Based on decades of living and working in Syria, My House in Damascus offers an inside view of Syria's cultural and complex religious and ethnic communities. Diana Darke, a fluent Arabic speaker who moved to Damascus in 2004 after decades of regular visits, details the ways that the Assad regime, and its

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relationship to the people, differs from the regimes in Egypt, Tunisia, and Libya—and why it was thus always less likely to collapse quickly, even in the face of widespread unrest and violence. Through the author's firsthand experiences of buying and restoring a house in the old city of Damascus, which she later offered as a sanctuary to friends, Darke presents a clear picture of the realities of life on the ground and what hope there is for Syria's future. 'Powerful ... A humbling and important first-hand account of a brutal civil war in which as many as 500,000 people have

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died' Guardian 'A memoir of resistance and survival unique in the annals of modern war ... If the shedding of blood can be beautiful in words, he makes it so' Wall Street Journal Born to Palestinian refugees, Kassem Eid grew up in the small town of Moadamiya on the outskirts of the ancient city of Damascus, playing in streets perfumed with jasmine. But it didn't take long for Kassem to realise that he was treated differently at school because of his family's resistance to the brutal government regime. When Bashar al-Assad succeeded his father in 2000, hopes that things might

change for the better were swiftly crushed. When the 2011 Arab Spring protests in Syria were met with extreme violence, it was yet another blow - and as Kassem reached young adulthood, the country spiralled into civil war. Then, on 21 August 2013, Kassem nearly died in a sarin gas attack that killed hundreds of civilians. Later that day, he would pick up a gun for the first time, to join the Free Syrian Army as they fought government forces. For Kassem, this marked the moment that he and his country changed forever - even as the rest of the world

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turned its face away.

**My Life As a Child, a Student
and an MD in an Era of War
Mirror To Damascus
A Memoir of Love**

**New Books on Women and
Feminism**

The Pianist from Syria

*The intimate, gorgeous, garish
confessions of Joshua Mohr—writer,
father, alcoholic, addict Her teeth
marks in the wood are some of my
favorite things. Every now and again
she rips the pick out of my hand and
tosses it inside the guitar . . . I hold it
over my head, hole down, shaking it
back and forth, the pick rattling
around in there. And as it ricochets
from side to side, I always think about
pills. Maybe the pick has turned into*

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oxy. Or Norco, codeine, Demerol. Maybe it's a pill and when it falls out I can gobble it up. After years of hard-won sobriety, while rebuilding a life with his wife and young daughter, thirty-five-year-old Joshua Mohr suffers a stroke—his third, it turns out— which uncovers a heart condition requiring surgery. Which requires fentanyl, one of his myriad drugs of choice. This forced “freelapse” should fix his heart, but what will it do to his sobriety? And what if it doesn't work? Told in stunning, surreal, time-hopping vignettes, *Model Citizen* is a raw, revealing portrait of an addict. Mohr shines a harsh spotlight into all corners of his life, throwing the wild joys, tragedies, embarrassments, and adventures of his past into bold relief. Pulsing with humanity and humor,

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revealing the immediacy of an addict climbing out of the murky pit of his past, Model Citizen is a darkly beautiful, incisive confession.

'Ahmad has created a moving and visceral account of conflict, hope and the power of music' Hannah Beckerman, Observer The incredible and inspirational true story of one young man's struggle to find peace during war, and the power of music to bring hope to a desperate nation.

 One morning in war-torn Damascus, a starving man drags a piano into a rubble street.

Everything he once knew has been destroyed by war. Amidst ruin and despair, he begins to play. He plays of love and hope, he plays for his family and his fellow Syrians. He plays even though he could be killed for doing so. As word of his defiance

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spreads around the world, he becomes a beacon of hope and even resistance. Yet he fears for his wife and children - the more he plays, the more he and his family are endangered until, finally, he must make a terrible choice . . . Aeham Ahmad's spellbinding and uplifting true story tells of the triumph of love and hope, the incredible bonds of family, and the healing power of music in even the very darkest of places. _____ 'In amongst the wreckage scenes of hope. An amazing man - Ahmad played the piano just to spread love' Jeremy Vine, BBC Radio 2 'An extraordinary, beautiful book about a man who in the midst of utter terror wheeled his piano in to the street and played for Yarmouk. He is amazing' Nihal Arthanayake BBC 5 Live 'The music of

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*Aeham Ahmad became a symbol of
resistance' Today, BBC Radio 4 'So
inspiring' ITV News 'Aeham Ahmad is
a talented and brave man of peace.
Please read his book and pass it on to
anyone who doesn't know or
understand the plight of today's
refugees' Stanley Tucci BBC Radio 4
Book of the Week
Blindfold
An Inside View of the Syrian
Revolution
We Crossed a Bridge and It Trembled
Model Citizen
A Memoir of Home, Family and a Lost
Middle East*