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To Die, To Leave, To Return A Game for Swallows

Author: Zeina Abirached (Author/Drawings)

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A child's-eye view of daily life in Beirut during the Lebanese Civil War.

A Game for Swallows is a poignant graphic memoir about Zeina Abirached's childhood in 1980s Lebanon, and the influence of the civil war on daily life in Beirut. On a night of particularly intense fighting, Zeina's parents are trapped at her grandparents' place, surrounded by bombs and snipers and unable to return home. Zeina and her sister are left to their own devices in their apartment--that is, until the neighbors take turns coming to look after them. Abirached conveys the fears, hopes, and upended daily routines of life during wartime with great sensitivity in this tale of a single, fearful night.

Sales in France: 24,000 copies

Awards: American Library Association Batchelder Honor