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My Dog, Freedom, and Mango Ice Cream

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A reflection on freedom, totalitarianism, and solidarity, at a child's level, without the usual clichés. Featuring an endearing and cheeky heroine.

In case you don't already know, last year Pauline's parents took in Zein and her family, who were fleeing the war in Syria. It was great. Totally a good thing! But actually, also kind of a pain. Because Pauline had to share her bedroom and her toys. And her dog. And her friends. And of course, just when they'd finally started having fun together, Zein moved to Egypt. Which sucked. Anyway, this year, Pauline is flying on a plane to see Zein. But it's not much of a holiday for the adults, because Zein's father has been arrested for helping refugees and is somewhere in an Egyptian prison. A bright, clever novel for young readers!