



**[Homeland: My Father Dreams of Palestine](#) by Hannah Moushabeck, illustrated by Reem Madooh**

Chronicle Books, 2023

ISBN: 9781797202051 (Picture Book)

\*Age Range: 5-8 (Suggested by Publisher)

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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**A father and his daughters may not be able to return home . . . but they can celebrate stories of their homeland!**

As bedtime approaches, three young girls eagerly await the return of their father who tells them stories of a faraway homeland-Palestine. Through their father's memories, the Old City of Jerusalem comes to life: the sounds of street vendors beating rhythms with brass coffee cups, the smell of argileh drifting through windows, and the sight of doves flapping their wings toward home. These daughters of the diaspora feel love for a place they have never been, a place they cannot go. But, as their father's story comes to an end, they know that through his memories they will always return.

A Palestinian family celebrates the stories of their homeland in this moving autobiographical picture book debut by Hannah Moushabeck. With heartfelt illustrations by Reem Madooh, this story is a love letter to home, to family, and to the persisting hope of people that transcends borders.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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“Moushabeck makes her picture book debut with a quietly moving intergenerational reminiscence of a family’s homeland, a place the narrator has ‘never been.’ Though the vividly rendered lines don’t contextualize the history behind the telling, the title’s emotionally layered conclusion offers a strong jumping-off point for further discussion.” —[Publishers Weekly](#)

“Moushabeck vividly describes the streets of East Jerusalem—the many languages spoken, the ‘colorful vendors’ selling ‘everything from olive oil soap with rose water and heaping bags of za’atar to gold jewelry and embroidered textiles,’ and ‘the chanting of the muazzin’s call to prayer mixed with the ringing of church bells.’ The story turns poignant as readers learn this was the last time the children’s father saw Palestine, yet the siblings are filled with hope at the possibility of a return one day. Madooh’s loose, earth-toned illustrations pair well with Moushabeck’s words and capture both the characters’ joy and sadness.” —[Kirkus Reviews](#)

★ “Moushabeck skillfully immerses readers in the scents, sensations, and melodies of daily life in Palestine, mirroring the sense of belonging the girls feel for a beloved homeland they have never visited. Debut illustrator Madooh's lively art focuses on details that capture the rich diversity of the vibrant, multilingual, and multireligious

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neighborhood as well as the family's pride in their Palestinian identity: a multitude of cultural details and artifacts are displayed in their home, such as the oud (lute), tabla (drum), and kaffiyeh (square scarf). Moushabeck's text combined with Madooh's illustrations thoughtfully showcase dignity, joy, and resistance along with profound senses of loss and love of community" —[Shelf Awareness](#), **starred review**

"In Hannah Moushabeck's "Homeland: My Father Dreams of Palestine," a Palestinian father refashions memories of his youth in the Old City of Jerusalem into bedtime stories for his daughters. . . These are titles I want my own child exposed to. And I want non-Jewish families to read books that represent our full humanity, in all our particular Jewish vulnerability and joy." — **New York Times**

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- 2023 New England Book Awards Finalist

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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[The Children's Book Podcast: Interview with Hannah Mousabeck](#)

[Women Rise: Palestinian-American Hannah Moushabeck Discusses Her Book, Homeland](#)

[Publishers Weekly: Hannah on 'Homeland'](#)

[New York Times: Opinion: Guest Essay: What I Read to My Son When the World Is on Fire](#)

## RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

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[Brooklyn Public Library: Books Unbanned Storytime: Hannah Moushabeck and Aya Ghanameh](#)

## AUTHOR STATEMENT

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[Hannah Moushabeck on Publishing a Children's Book as a Queer, Fat, Palestinian American](#)

## \*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

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A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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