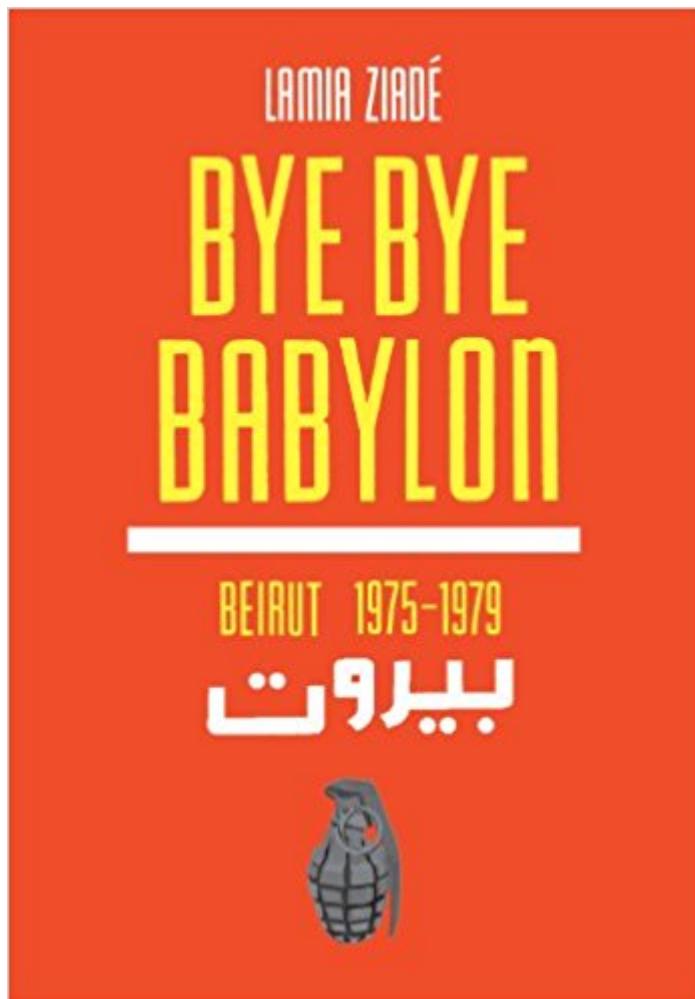


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# Bye Bye Babylon: Beirut 1975-1979



## Synopsis

Tragedy and innocence coexist in this delicate reconstruction of the author's childhood during Lebanon's civil war. In 1975 I was seven years old, and loved the Bazooka bubble-gums my mother would buy for Walid and me in Spinney's supermarket... Beirut in the 1970s is a paradise. Wealthy families ride escalators and fill shopping carts with imported food and luxury products from Paris and New York. Lamia Ziadé, seven years old, dreams of banana splits, American candy, flying on Pan Am Airways and visiting the local cinema. Considered by the elite the Paris, Las Vegas or Monaco of the Middle East, Beirut was in reality a powder-keg, waiting for a spark. On April 13, 1975 Lamia and her family returned from lunch in the countryside to find a city in flames. Looking back on the golden days before the war, and its immediate, devastating effects, *Bye Bye Babylon* positions an elegiac and shocking narrative next to a child's perspective of the years 1975-79: of consumer icons next to burning buildings, scenes of violence and sparkling new weapons painted in vivid Technicolor war as pop. It is both a lament for a home transformed by a destructive madness, and an inventory of the concrete objects of her childhood: the objects, details and fragments of memory which combine to capture the impossible reality of war. Part artist's sketchbook, part travel notebook and part family album, *Bye Bye Babylon* is a unique graphic memoir, and an important visual record of a terrible war.

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## Customer Reviews

Lamia Ziadé succeeds in recreating the aesthetics of how war affects a contemporary

consumerist society. Le Monde A story of initiation at once rich, fascinating and relentless... --L  
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?Beirut in the 1970s is a paradise. Wealthy families ride escalators and fill shopping carts with imported food and luxury products from Paris and New York. Lamia ZiadÃ©, seven years old, dreams of banana splits, American candy, flying on Pan Am Airways, and visiting the local cinema. Considered by the elite the 'Paris, Las Vegas or Monaco of the Middle East,' Beirut was in reality a powder keg, waiting for a spark. On April 13, 1975 Lamia and her family returned from lunch in the countryside to find a city in flames. Looking back on the golden days before the war, and its immediate, devastating effects, *Bye Bye Babylon* positions an elegiac and shocking narrative next to a child's perspective of the years 1975-79: of consumer icons next to burning buildings, scenes of violence and sparkling new weapons painted in vivid Technicolor; war as pop. It is a unique graphic memoir, and an important visual record of a terrible war.

Gives a different perspective of the Civil War in Lebanon. Detail accounts of incident that happened during the war and the different groups/parties that were involved in the war. Good book with a different style of storytelling. Parts of the book could make you think back if you were a child growing up in these events.

This is a fine autobiographical graphic novel. It showed me at last what happened to Lebanon and to Beirut and why. Illustrations are truly remarkable and add to the understanding of the heartbreak of long sieges and widespread destruction.

fun to look through

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