

# THE LIST

Ashraf is blunt:

THE GOAL IS TO FIND A FATHER WHO BURIED HIS SON.

I wish he'd put it more delicately, but neither he nor Abed thinks I need worry about anyone's sensibilities.

PALESTINIANS ARE LIKE IRON.

We walk the alleys of the refugee camp armed with Owda Ayesh's list of Rafah's dead.

Our method is simple.

We pick out a name, find the neighborhood where his extended family is supposed to live, and begin knocking on doors.

"Does anyone here remember the, er, martyr?"

Our method soon hits some snags.

We sit with one very elderly man whose son was killed in '56 all right but in Khan Younis.

He doesn't know where his son is buried, and now he's crying.

This woman's father was taken and killed, yes, but in March '57, when the Israelis were withdrawing.

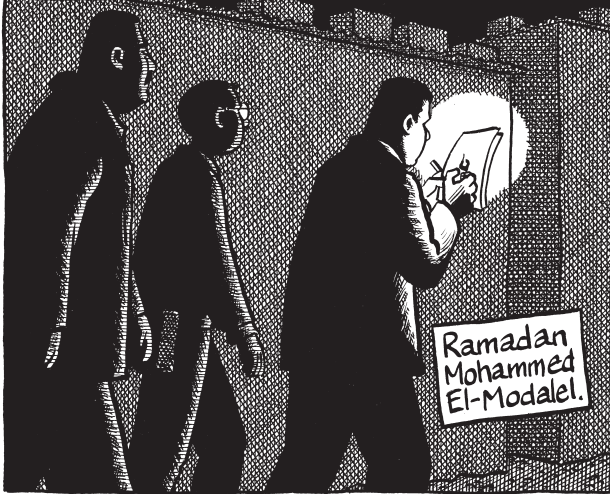
It turns out Owda Ayesh's list contains not just the names of everyone killed on November 12, 1956, but everyone from Rafah killed during the general period, soldiers included, even if he was killed elsewhere.



One night in Shaboura we consult a few guys who hold the list up to a street lamp,

and then send us down a dark passageway.

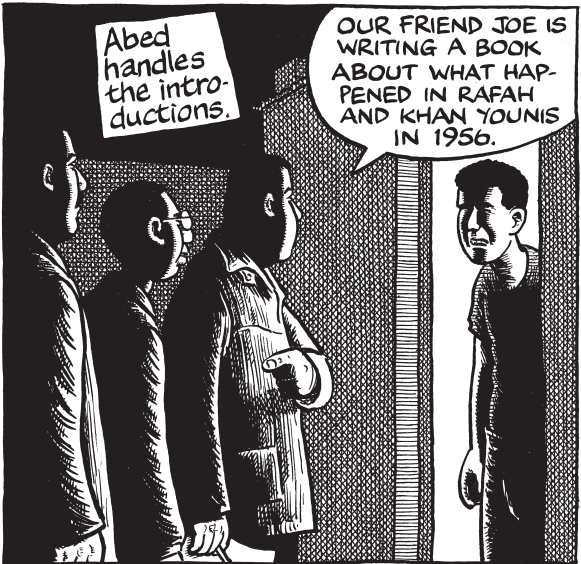
Abed flicks on his lighter to remind himself of the name of the deceased.



Ramadan Mohammed El-Modalel.



Ramadan Mohammed El-Modalel.



Abed handles the introductions.

OUR FRIEND JOE IS WRITING A BOOK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED IN RAFAH AND KHAN YOUNIS IN 1956.

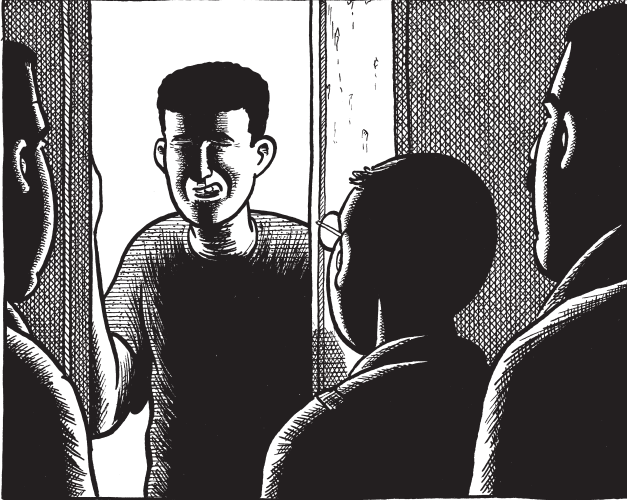


WE HAVE A LIST OF THE MARTYRS FROM OWDA AYESH'S BOOK.



WE READ THAT SOMEONE FROM THE MODALEL FAMILY WAS KILLED, AND WE CAME TO SEE IF WE COULD FIND SOMEONE FROM HIS FAMILY.

This guy has just woken up, and he doesn't know what we're talking about.



GO INSIDE AND ASK THE OLD WOMEN AND THE OLD MEN.

THEY MIGHT KNOW ABOUT HIM.

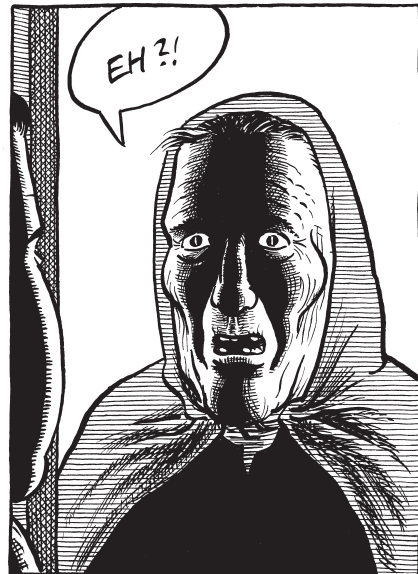


The young man's grandmother appears at the door.

WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU, HAJJA, ABOUT RAMADAN MOHAMMED EL-MODALEL, WHO DIED IN '56.



EH?!



YOU FOUND HIM?!

