

***The Adventures of Daly* graphic novel Translation (English)**

Front Cover:

دالي

Daly in Tunisian Arabic

Page 1:

Friend of Daly: Listen Daly... If we can win this bet, we can go together tomorrow and I can propose to her. But honestly, I have a bad feeling about this... It's been a year since the last time I gambled. I'm afraid that by the day I win, my girlfriend will already be married with two kids... Hey, dude -- I'm talking to you!

Daly: Hey man, sorry I wasn't paying attention. I just can't help thinking that I have nothing going for me.

Daly's Friend: What's wrong?

Daly: Having a diploma is useless... I wasted so much time.

Daly's friend: Ahh, right -- you just got back. Have you been able to find a job?

Daly: Hah! I applied to 11 companies, but once they heard that I did vocational training they rejected me outright. Yesterday the security guard didn't even let me in. I couldn't interview with anybody. And this morning I told them that I did vocational training in Kasserine... They said, "Do you even have vocational training in Kasserine?"

Daly's friend: And how did you answer?

Daly: I told them to go f*** themselves, them and their job. I'm just thankful that I didn't hit any of them.

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Group of neighborhood men: Hit the mother*****. Hit him, c'mon!

Daly: Hey Semir. What's going on? Who is that?

Semir: Hey Daly. This creep was following a little girl around from our neighborhood. The son of a b****...

Daly: He messed with the wrong neighborhood.

Group of neighborhood men: Run! RUN! The Police (Al Hakim) are here!

Daly to the Police: I swear I didn't do anything. I was just passing by.

The Police: We will see if you're involved or not, you son of a b****!

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Daly in the prison cell: I swear I didn't do anything! I was just passing by!

Police officer: Shut up and step back!

Police officer: Here is Mr. Izeddine, he came to visit us himself.

Daly: Brother! Are you okay?

Daly: I left my mom alone. No one will tell her that I'm stuck in here.

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Izeddine: Do you know me?

Daly: No, I don't.

Izeddine: What's wrong? I heard you yelling before you even got to the cell.

Daly: Mind your own business. You don't seem like you're in good shape.

Izeddine: Ohh, I'm used to it. What's going on with you?

Daly: I'm supposed to take care of my household. But I don't even have a job to provide for my family. My mother is alone in the house, and I'm stuck here in this cell.

Izeddine: My friend, you're a brave man. Right now I'm a bit out of it, but here -- this is my phone number. Memorize it. They will let you go, don't worry. Call me in a few days.

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Police Officer to Daly: You got lucky this time, so I'm letting you go. But be smart and try not to get back here anymore. Go take care of your mom.

Daly: Yes, sir.

Daly's Mother: Son! Do you think it's a good idea to be involved in fights that send you to jail? Didn't I tell you to avoid hanging out with these good-for-nothings?

Daly's sister: Mom, he told you he was wrongly accused. If he did it they wouldn't have let him go after just a day. Leave him alone.

Daly: Please get out. I just want to sleep. I didn't sleep at all last night.

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Daly's Mother: Where are you going?

Daly: I don't know.

Daly's Mother: Okay, take two dinars and buy yourself a coffee. And, please, take care of yourself.

Daly: These are the last two dinars* I'm ever taking from you.

Daly on the phone: Good morning. Yes, we met in jail.

Izeddine: Hey, man... See? I told you they would let you go!

*Dinar is the basic monetary unit of Tunisia.

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Daly: What about you? Are you okay?

Izzeddine: Don't worry about me. I have thick skin!

Daly: You asked me to call you... So, here I am. I'm in the "ABTAL" coffee shop, do you know it?

Izzeddine: Yes, wait for me there.

Daly: Wow, haha! You really do look okay... You really do have thick skin.

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Izzeddine: I told you, I'm quite used to it. Sit down. What do you like to drink?

Daly: Anything is fine.

Izzeddine: Two coffees, please! So, what's your name?

Daly: My name's Daly.

Izzeddine: Nice to meet you. I'm Izzeddine. Tell me your story.

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Daly: My dad died, and I was left to take care of my mother and my sister. I've been looking for a job for a long time, but no one will hire me. On top of that, I was just thrown in jail for no reason.

Izzeddine: What did you study exactly?

Daly: I did vocational training.

Izzeddine: And how much do you get paid per day?

Daly: I'm not sure, maybe around \$150 per month. But I hope it will get better with more experience.

Izzeddine: Only \$150?! Listen, come and work with me, and I will give you \$10 for each trip.

Daly: Trip? What do you do for a living exactly?

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Izzeddine: Haha! Don't worry, it's not a collective taxi. I work in contraband, and the whole idea is that I need someone to keep me company on the road. You can gain a cut, if you join me. I've been looking for a nice guy like you for a while now.

Daly: Yes, great! I'm ready to start now. I can't take another hopeless job application.

Izzeddine: I have to go now -- these days the roads are under tight surveillance. But here, take this \$10. I will call you soon.

Daly: No, I can't accept that!

Izzeddine: Take it and be quiet.

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A neighbor: Hi Daly, how are you doing?

Daly drinking in the street: Hello, I'm fine thank you.

The neighbor: Do you recognize me? It's Mounir, your neighbor!

Daly: Yes, of course I know you!

Mounir: I'm sorry to ask, but what's wrong? You don't seem like your usual self, drinking alcohol on the street in front of everyone like that.

Daly: Only God knows how much I'm suffering from life in this country, Mounir.

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Mounir: You're not alone, Daly. God will help you. Assalamu alaikum. Have a good night.

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Daly's Mother: Where are you going? Take some rest. And what is this new job that's taking all of your time? I have a bad feeling about it...

Daly: I'm okay, I'll be here in the neighborhood close by.

Mounir: Hey there, how are you, my brother?

Daly: Hey Mounir, how are you?

Mounir: Here I am, doing all that I can. Thank God for everything.

Daly: Yes, thank God.

Mounir: This is the second time that I have interrupted you while you're drinking. You're my neighbor, and you're a good guy, but you're not usually like this. Last time you told me you had some problems.

Daly: I feel suffocated, Mounir. Every time I try to work my way up, this country puts me down again. Unemployment, crappy living conditions, systemic injustice... I feel humiliated at every corner.

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Mounir: At least you have the money to buy these drinks.

Daly: I'm working a job that barely covers food expenses.

Mounir: What's the job?

Daly: What do you think? I'm working in contraband.

Mounir: Aha... So that's why you were arrested?

Daly: On the contrary, I started working in contraband because I was arrested.

Mounir: What? What do you mean?

Daly: I have done everything I can, but this country won't give me a chance. It has only ever kept me down. So I stopped trying to work with the system and started working with contraband. I don't care about anything anymore.

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Mounir: You couldn't find any work other than contraband?

Daly: Since I couldn't provide for myself and my family in a legal way, I will do it this way. At least I'm not doing anything *haram* (religiously forbidden).

Mounir: God will help you, after all that you've been through. You don't want to do anything *haram*, thank God. It's clear that you're a good guy, and good guys can't find their place in this country of corruption, *haram*, and *taghout* (طاغوت a word from Quran used by extremists to describe the police as the representation of the corrupted country that doesn't respect the rules of god).

Daly: Unfortunately, it took me too long to realize the true nature of the system.

Mounir: No, the situation is ongoing and needs to be changed. But until we cut the veins and dry the blood, nothing will change.

Daly: Where are the men who are ready to cut the veins?

Mounir: The men are here. Do you want to go see them?

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A Woman in Niqab: Assalamu Alaikum, welcome.

Mounir: Alaikum Assalam, Sister Afaa. Come in Daly, and leave your phone here with our sister in God.

Mounir: Assalamu Alleikom, I want to introduce you to Daly, the one I told you about.

Sheikh: Alaikum Assalam, welcome to our holy gathering, dear Brother Daly.

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Mounir: This is our sheikh, and let me introduce you to the other brothers. This is Doctor Jamal, this is our brother the professor Abd Alwahed -- he is a lawyer -- and this is our brother Hatem from the neighborhood, I'm sure you already know him.

Sheikh: Let Brother Daly sit, he is our guest. He will eventually get to know all the brothers.

Sheikh: As we agreed, Brother Hatem will go tomorrow to the capital. There is no reason for him to go to Sfax, as the brothers in the capital need him more. We will take care of all the travelling expenses, and we will take care of your family in your absence.

Sheikh: [he hears the call to prayer] Daly, would you like to lead prayer? Or you can do it next time.

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Daly: Will the Sheikh be eating with us?

Mounir: We are all equals here, brother Daly.

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Mounir: [calling Daly from a new number] Hello, Brother Daly. This is Mounir, I asked our sister to add my other number to your phone last week. I'm not far so I will come to you.

Daly: Are we going to the same house as last time?

Mounir: No, we will go to another house.

Daly: Whose house did we go to last time?

Mounir: That was our house, for all the brothers and sisters. It's our house of mercy, and now we're going to our house of repentance.

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Sheikh: [reciting a verse of the Quran about repentance to Daly] "And he who does not judge according to that (law) which Allâh has revealed, it is these who are the real disbelievers." - Surah Al Maidah, Verse 44. That means, Brother Daly, that it doesn't matter what you did in the past, for as long as you change, God will forgive you.

Sheikh: [reciting another verse of the Quran] People who do not rule with God's law are *kuffar* (sinners and delinquents).

Daly: Does that mean that the people not following the *Sharia* are *kuffar*?

Sheikh: Yes, of course. They are *kuffar* and corrupted.

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Daly's friend: Where have you been? I haven't seen you around at all these days!

Daly: Well, here I am. I've just been busy with work and my family.

Daly's friend: I don't know, man. We haven't met up in a long time, ever since you started hanging out with all these new people.

Daly: I've just been really busy lately, but tell me -- how are things?

Daly's friend: I got a new job in a company that's still looking for workers. They offer a decent salary, and it's in your field of expertise. If you apply they will definitely take you!

Daly: Congratulations on the job! As for me, we will see.

Daly's friend: Alright, man. But you keep blowing me off. And what's the deal with Mounir? I've heard some rumors about him and I'm worried.

Daly: People will always talk, but don't worry. I'm smart -- I know what I'm doing.

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Mounir: How's the work going?

Daly: Work is okay, thank God, and since I stopped drinking I'm spending less money.

Mounir: I have good news for you. You will help the brothers with a job.

Daly: What is the plan?

Mounir: You're already working on the borders, but this time you will take some food, covers, and supplies to the brothers there. You know how the winter can be cold, and with that you can help the brothers and some people in need.

Daly: As you know I'm only a porter, the car owner could refuse.

Mounir: I will propose an irresistible offer to him. He'll accept.

Daly: What will you give him?

Mounir: Euros!

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Daly: Wait a second. Where did you get euros? Listen, Mounir I've been noticing a lot of money going in and out, what's going on exactly?

Mounir: Don't worry about it. Just tell the guy what I told you.

Daly to Izzeddine: I have a way to get a lot of easy money.

Izzeddine: Don't tell me we're going to smuggle drugs. I will never do that.

Daly: No, it's not that, it's much easier. All we have to do is transport some supplies to the border, and we get paid euros in return.

Izzeddine: Hah! Just supplies? Are you trying to tell me that by transporting a few supplies I will get paid more than smuggling gasoline?

Daly: Yes, because for these supplies we will get paid with euros.

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Izzeddine: Wait, don't tell me you're talking about the group hiding in the mountains?

Daly: Wait, don't decide until you tell your boss about it. And don't forget to mention the euros!

Izzeddine: Daly, listen to me, last time they let you go in a day. This time who will tell your mom if you get arrested? I thought you were smarter than that. I know exactly what will happen if we get caught... I know where the supplies will be going. So forget it.

Daly's Sister: Congratulations!

Daly: What for?

Daly's Mother: The company wants to hire you!

Daly: Oh, right! I forgot that I sent in a job application!

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Daly's Mother: Thank god you got a good job, please get a decent job, I want to stop worrying about you.

Daly's friend: Hey Daly, where are you?

Daly: I'm home. Why?

Daly's friend: I'm just checking on you. That guy Mounir, Hatem, and the doctor with them all got arrested today. They were involved in some sketchy stuff lately.

Daly: Wait, seriously?

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Daly's friend: Yeah! Special forces arrested them -- the whole neighborhood is talking about it! Man, I was really worried about you.

Daly: Listen, I got the job at the company. Wait for me in the coffee shop. I will tell you all about it.

Daly: Haha, Mom? Can I have two dinars?

Back Cover :

This series of comic books was created thanks to the commitment and creativity of talented young Tunisians. Search for Common Ground is proud to have been able to work with them and offer the right conditions to support them.

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