



Jad Turjman

Karim El-Gawhary (Foreword by)

# WHEN THE JASMINE LEAVES

The story of my escape

With numerous illustrations

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**A thrilling odyssey and a touching story of emigration.**

There is a longing. A longing for a certain sensation, for a home town called Damascus, for the smell of jasmine. Jad Turjman is a young Syrian who enjoys his life to the full until war breaks out. When his call-up order arrives, he is quick to decide: fleeing to Europe is his only option if he wants to escape certain death. His chosen path is risky and arduous, but he encounters five "guardian angels" along the way. Eventually Turjman arrives in a place that he did not seek, where he is able to plant his jasmine again. Jad Turjman describes his escape with unparalleled intensity and sharp humour, subjecting the reader to a roller-coaster of emotions. Breathtaking.

## JAD TURJMAN

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Born in Damascus in 1989, Turjman studied English literature and worked for the Damascus city administration until fleeing his country in 2014. Settling in Salzburg in 2015, he was employed by the Workers' Samaritan Foundation until 2018 and went on to work for the 'Heroes' project. His first book, "When the jasmine leaves – The story of my escape" (2019), became a success and Turjman has given countless public readings since its publication. He has been performing his first solo show – "Der Flüchtling Ihres Vertrauens" (The refugee of your trust) – since 2019. Most recently published: "Der Geruch der Seele" (Scent of the Soul) (2021), "Wenn der Jasmin wurzeln schlägt" (When the Jasmine Puts Down Roots) (2022). [www.jadturjman.com](http://www.jadturjman.com)

## KARIM EL-GAWHARY (FOREWORD BY)

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geboren 1963 in München. Seit 1991 Nahost-Korrespondent für verschiedene deutschsprachige Zeitungen, seit 2004 Leiter des ORF-Nahostbüros in Kairo. Zuvor fünf Jahre als Vertreter des ARD-Rundfunkstudios in Kairo tätig. 2011 erhielt er den „Concordia Presse-Preis“, 2012 wurde er zum Auslandsjournalisten des Jahres gewählt, 2013 zum Journalist des Jahres in Österreich, 2018 erhielt er den Axel-Corti-Preis.