

# ملبا

## SA BAILE

NOURA AND ROBA  
MERZAH ARE 20  
AND 23 YEARS OLD.

THEY HAVE COME  
TO IRELAND ALL THE  
WAY FROM SYRIA.



THEY HAD TO LEAVE  
THEIR HOME BECAUSE  
OF WAR.

THEIR JOURNEY WAS  
LONG. THEY LEFT SYRIA,  
SPENT A YEAR IN  
GREECE AND ARE  
NOW IN IRELAND.



I MEET THEM AT THE  
HAZEL HOTEL IN  
MONASTEREVIN CO. KILDARE.

THIS HOTEL USED TO HOST  
LOCAL GAA FUNCTIONS AND  
BIG EVENTS LIKE WEDDINGS.

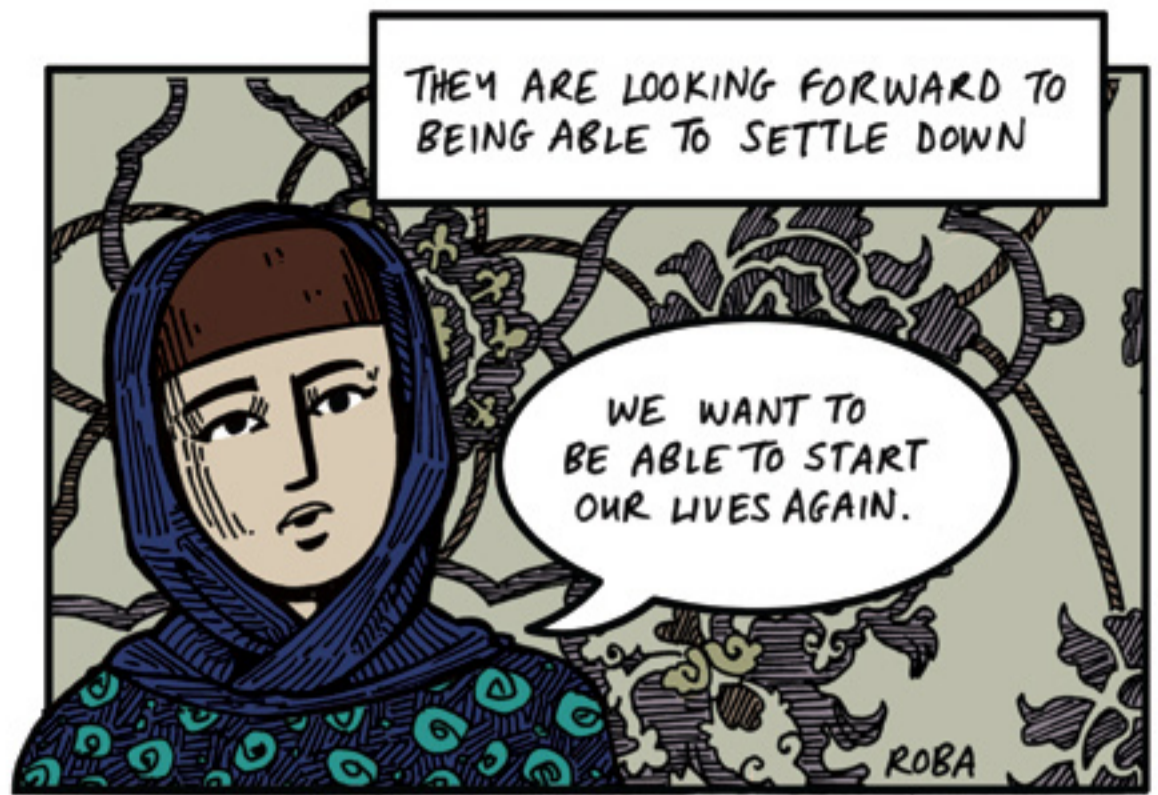
IT IS NOW AN ORIENTATION  
CENTRE FOR REFUGEES  
COMING FROM SYRIA.

THEY LIVE HERE FOR  
8-12 WEEKS. ORIENTATION  
FOR REFUGEES MEANS  
GETTING USED TO A NEW  
PLACE AND SITUATION.

THE CHILDREN GO TO LOCAL  
SCHOOLS. THE ADULTS ARE  
GIVEN ENGLISH LESSONS.  
THEY ARE GIVEN MEDICAL  
ATTENTION.

FROM HERE, THEY  
WILL BE SENT TO  
PLACES AROUND IRELAND.

NOURA AND ROBA LEFT HOME THREE YEARS AGO. SINCE THEN, THEY HAVE HAD MANY TEMPORARY HOMES.



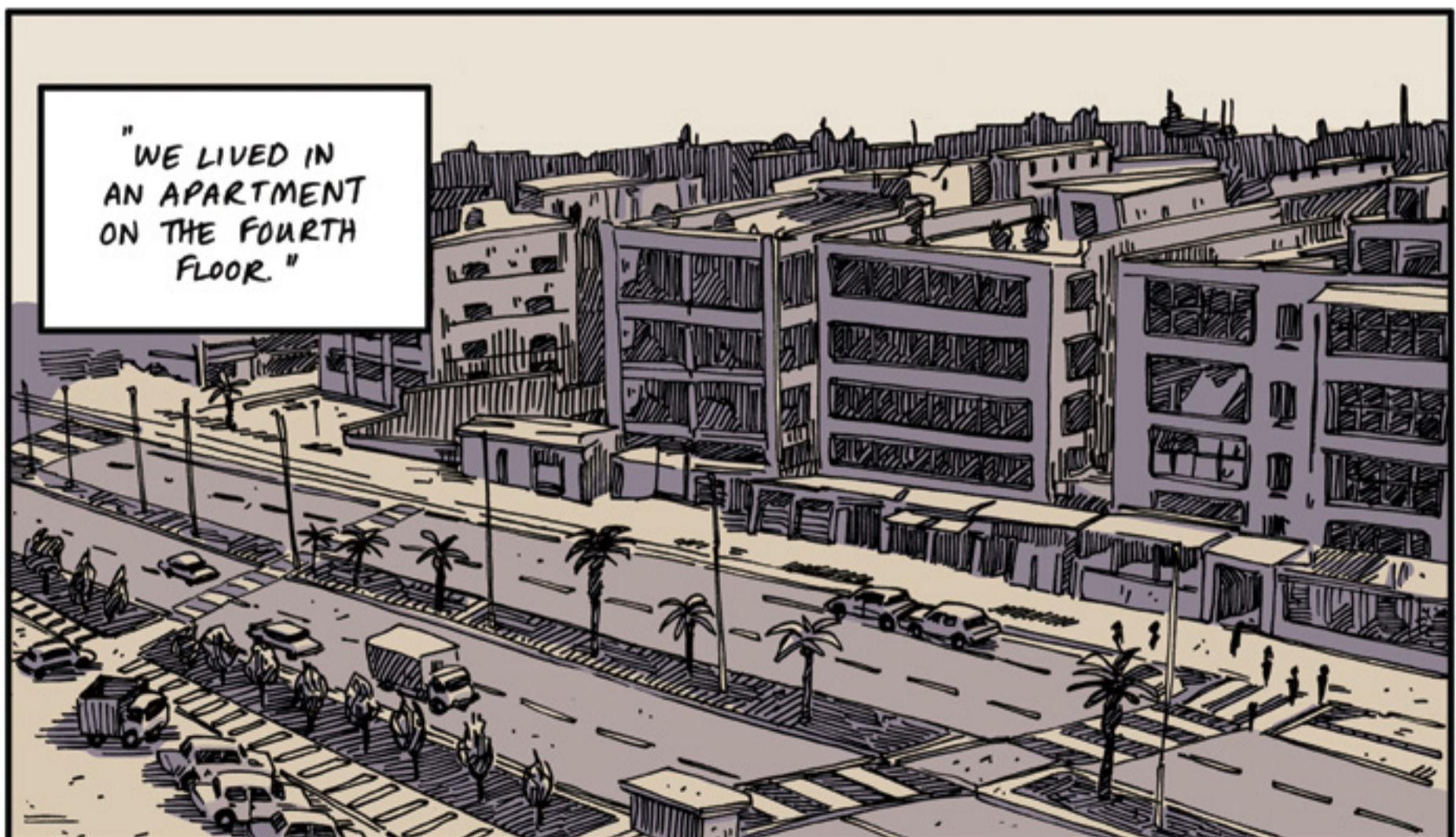
I ASKED THEM ABOUT THEIR HOME IN SYRIA.



"BEFORE THE WAR, ALEPPO WAS A VERY BEAUTIFUL CITY."



"WE LIVED IN AN APARTMENT ON THE FOURTH FLOOR."





"FROM HOME, WE  
COULD WALK TO  
UNIVERSITY AND  
SCHOOL."



"THERE WAS SO MUCH TO  
DO NEAR OUR HOME. WE  
HAD BIG PUBLIC SWIMMING  
POOLS, BOWLING ALLEYS-

"-AND HUGE SHOPPING  
CENTRES."



WE ALSO HAD A FARM  
IN THE COUNTRYSIDE  
AT KHAN AL-ASAL.

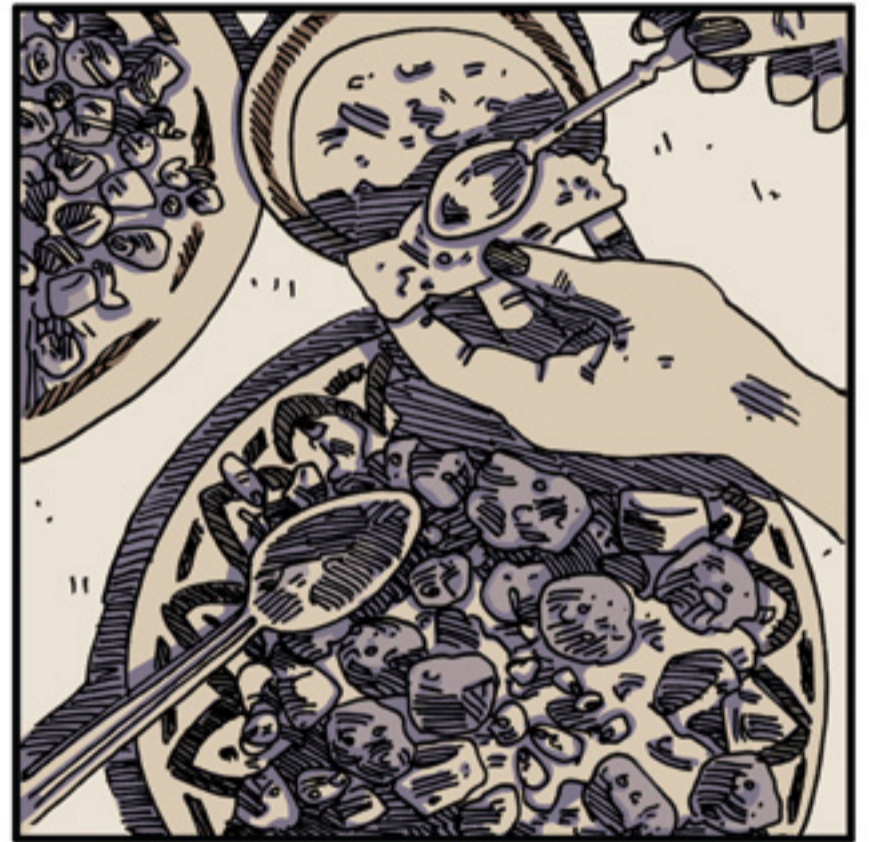
IT WAS WHERE  
WE WOULD GO AT  
WEEKENDS.



"KHAN AL-ASAL IS A SMALL TOWN ABOUT 12KM FROM THE CENTRE OF ALEPPO."



"IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL, RELAXING PLACE."



"ALL OF OUR FAMILY WOULD COME AND SPEND TIME WITH US THERE."



EVERY SUMMER,  
WE WENT ON HOLIDAYS  
BESIDE THE SEA.

TO LATAKIA.



"IT IS A SEASIDE TOWN ON  
THE MEDITERRANEAN."



"WE RENTED A  
HOUSE THERE  
EVERY YEAR."

BEFORE THEY WERE FORCED TO LEAVE SYRIA, BOTH ROBA AND NOURA WERE STUDYING AT UNIVERSITY.



WE ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY OF ALEPPO.



I COMPLETED THREE YEARS OF LAW STUDIES.

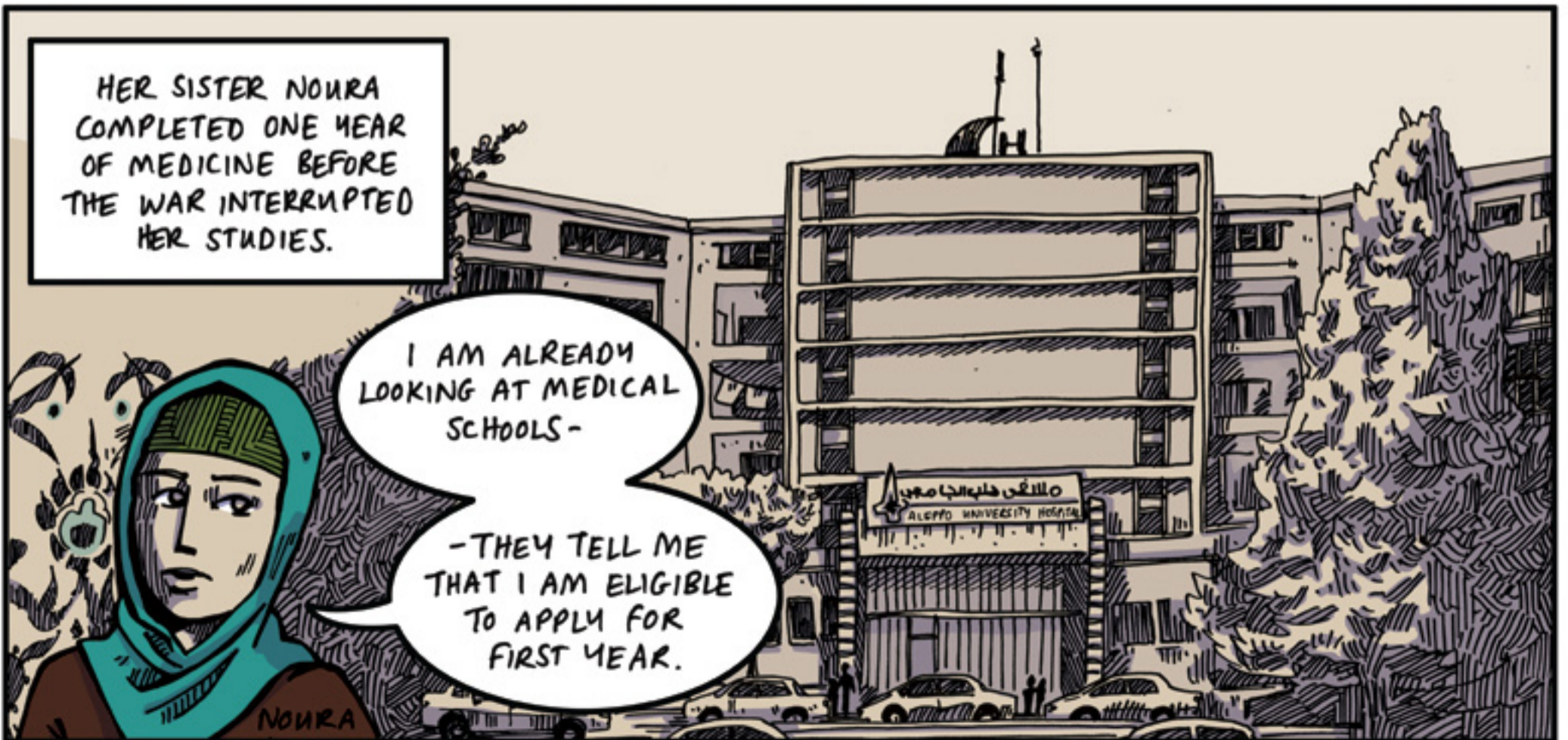
ROBA



I WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE TO STUDY IN IRELAND.

I MAY HAVE TO START AGAIN BECAUSE IT IS A DIFFERENT SYSTEM HERE.

HER SISTER NOURA COMPLETED ONE YEAR OF MEDICINE BEFORE THE WAR INTERRUPTED HER STUDIES.



I AM ALREADY LOOKING AT MEDICAL SCHOOLS -

-THEY TELL ME THAT I AM ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR FIRST YEAR.

NOURA

AFTER THE RE-ORIENTATION  
PROCESS IN MONASTEREVIN IS  
COMPLETE, THE MERZAH SISTERS  
AND THEIR FAMILY WILL BE  
MOVED TO MONAGHAN.



AFTER THREE YEARS  
OF TRAVEL-

WE JUST WANT  
TO STAY IN ONE PLACE  
AND SETTLE DOWN  
IN OUR NEW HOME.



The End