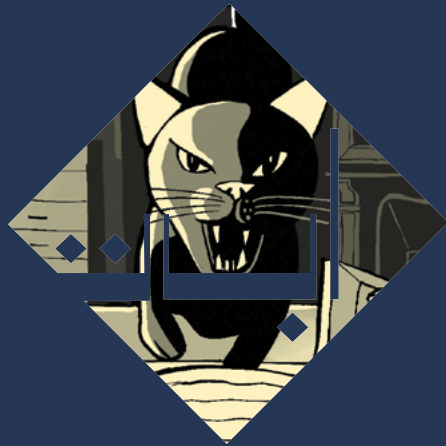




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ALIFBATA ◆

Catalog



2026



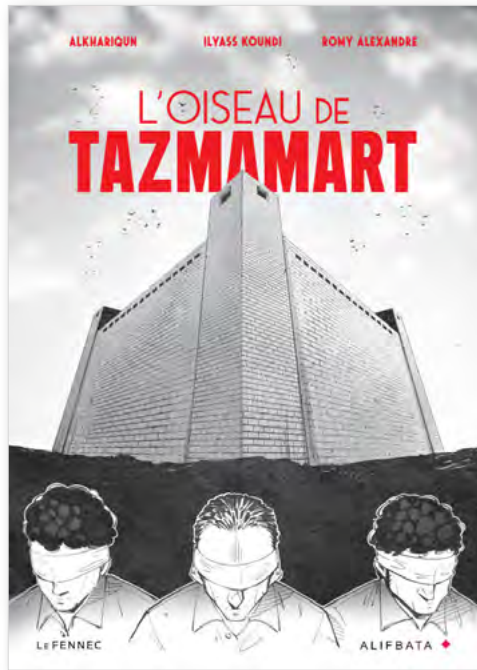
ALIFBATA ◆

◆ ALIFBATA PUBLISHING

The Alifbata publishing house was founded in 2015 out of a desire to introduce comics from the Maghreb and the Middle East to French readers through French translation. Whether comics or graphic novels, individual or collective works, contemporary authors or classic pieces, Alifbata's purpose is to showcase the richness of this artistic production.

To access the press kit and discover sample pages from the comic book, please click on the book cover.

THE BIRD OF TAZMAMART ◆



◆ On July 10, 1971, Ahmed Marzouki received orders to shoot at anything that moves. Unknowingly, he thus becomes involved in an attempted coup d'état against Hassan II, King of Morocco. Both an actor and a victim of History, he will endure the brutality of interrogations and then the hell of Tazmamart, a secret prison camp deep in the desert, where he spends eighteen years in total isolation, as though erased from the memory of the world.

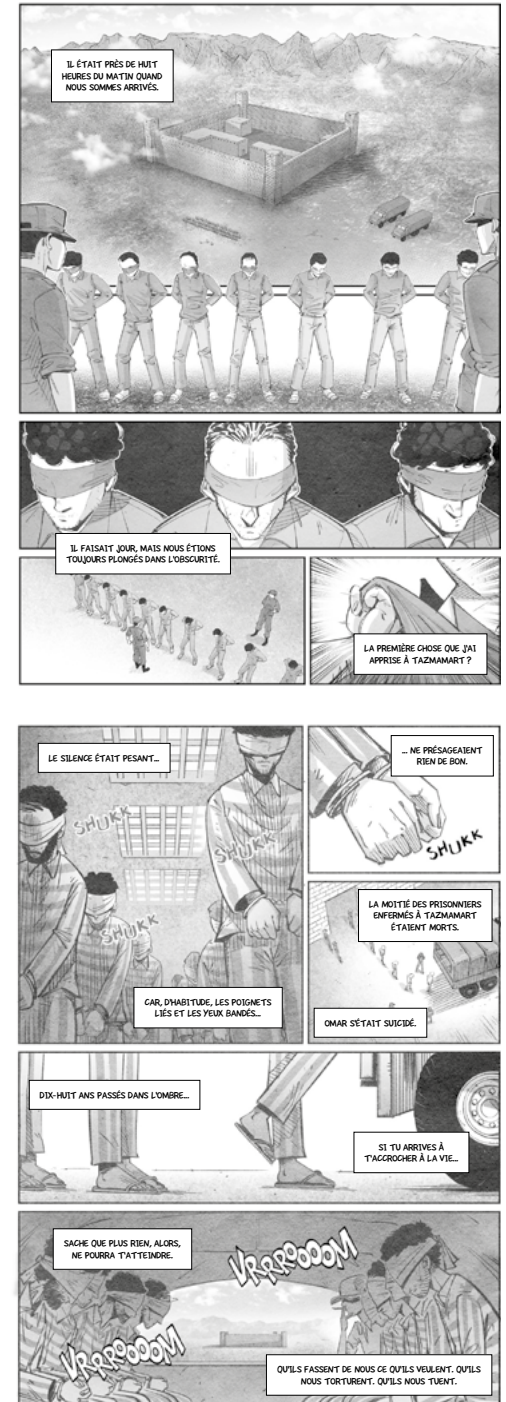
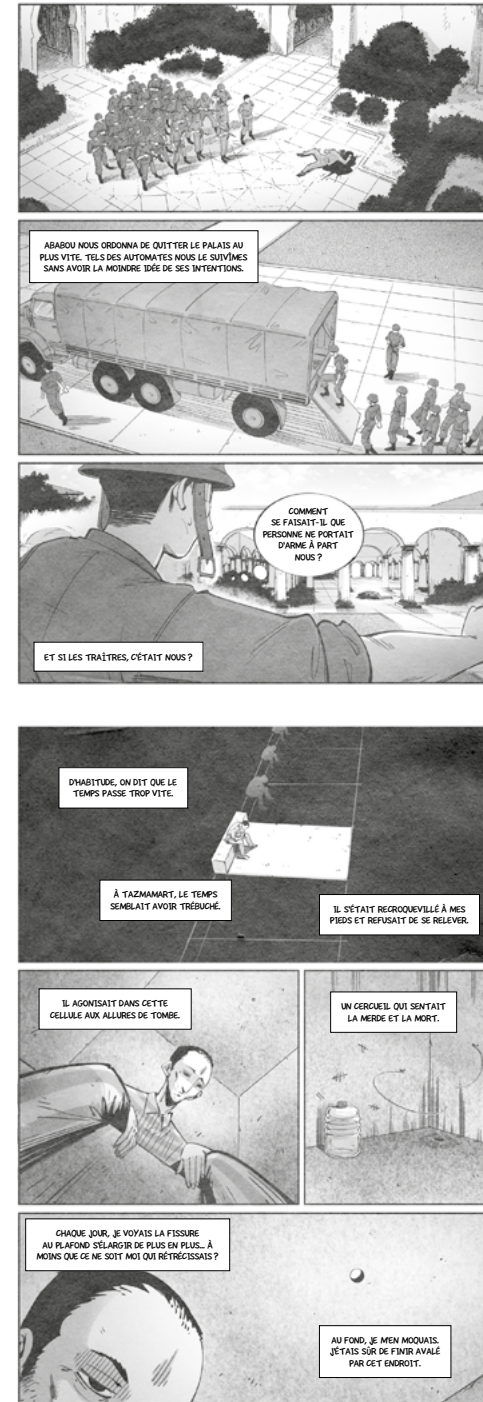
◆ In the shadow of his narrow cell, like a tomb, where time stretches on endlessly, he encounters Faraj, a small wounded bird that can no longer fly. Through him, hope is reborn, and the horror of daily life is suddenly swept away by the wind of the freedom to come.

Technical Sheet

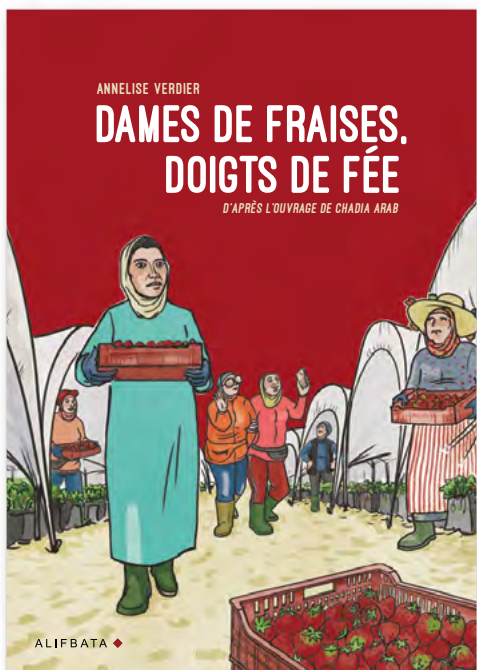
- ◆ Authors: Ilyass Koundi & Alkhariqu, Romy Alexandre
- ◆ Release date: February 2026
- ◆ Size: 17 x 24 cm
- ◆ Number of pages: 112
- ◆ Illustrations: Black & white
- ◆ ISBN: 978-2-9593973-2-5
- ◆ Price: 19 €

BASED ON THE TESTIMONY OF AHMED MARZOUKI, ONE OF THE FEW SURVIVORS OF THE PRISON CAMP GRIMLY KNOWN AS THE MOROCCAN ALCATRAZ, AND AUTHOR OF TAZMAMART: CELL 10.

RIGHTS AVAILABLE EXCEPT MOROCCO



STRAWBERRY LADIES, FAIRY FINGERS



◆ These comic boards are a graphic adaptation of the research conducted by Chadia Arab on the thousands of Moroccan women who go strawberry picking for work in the south of Spain. These “dames de fraises” (“strawberry ladies”) are directly recruited in Morocco as seasonal workers. They are chosen for their precarious situation, specifically because they leave their children behind, which forces them to return to their country.

◆ It is the case for 38 years old Farida, mother to two very young children and wife to a sick husband who can no longer work. When she hears about possible hiring in Europe, she leaves her small village in the region of Beni Mellal and tries her luck in Spain where she stays in a big company with other Moroccan women. Their days are spent in the greenhouses where the intense rhythm of work doesn't slack up for weeks. This is how Farida discovers the Huelva region and its world: intensive monoculture, use of chemicals, illegal work and slums where immigrants shelter.

◆ During the days she spends in a crouching position to pick strawberries, Farida gets to know the exploitation and the employers abuse but also her colleagues' solidarity.



Technical Sheet

- Author: Annelise Verdier
- Release date: August 2025
- Size: 17 x 24 cm
- Number of pages: 128
- Illustrations: Colors
- Paper cover with flaps
- ISBN: 978-2-9593973-0-1
- Price: 21 €

**A SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH
IN A GRAPHIC NOVEL FORM
THAT ILLUSTRATES THE
MACHINERY OF A MIGRATION
PROGRAM IN WHICH WOMEN
ARE THE OVERLOOKED ONES.**

**RIGHTS AVAILABLE
EXCEPT MOROCCO**

LORD OF THE RATS

Based on the short story by Gilbert Naccache

Littératures
Graphiques



◆ "I am sure it was not a dream. Yet... last night's events left a distressing impression on me, as if forecasting something way more terrifying..." This is how begins the first page of an old handwritten notebook found on the beach in a first-aid kit. It tells the story of a history teacher, a cat whose name is Nénuphar, and rats—a lot of them. What is this sudden invasion of rodents described in the notebook? And how, throughout the pages, does it get out of control?

◆ A masterful anticipation story that depicts the unstoppable deployment of totalitarian power, making us question the inevitability of dominance relationships. The idea behind *Lord of the rats* emerged when Gilbert Naccache met a mysterious rat in his prison cell. It was in 1976, when the Tunisian writer and activist was detained in Bourguiba's jails because of his political convictions.

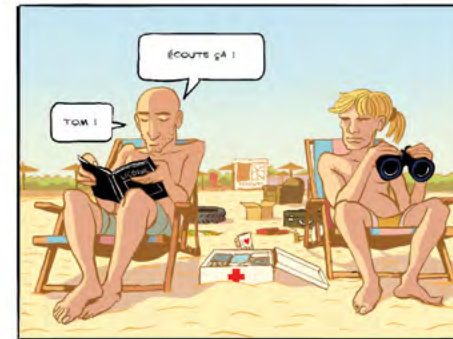
◆ *_Z_*, to whom Naccache entrusted the graphic adaptation of his short story before he died, reappropriates here these visionary pages which echo current disasters and the authoritarian drift of contemporary societies.

Technical Sheet

- ◆ Author: *_Z_*
- ◆ Release date: March 2025
- ◆ Size: 17 x 24 cm
- ◆ Number of pages: 128
- ◆ Illustrations: Colors
- ◆ Paper cover with flaps
- ◆ ISBN: 978-2-9570545-9-6
- ◆ Price: 20 €

**THE UNFOLDING OF
AUTHORITARIAN POLITICAL
CONTROL CHALLENGES US
TO QUESTION THE INEVITABILITY
OF POWER AND DOMINATION.**

RIGHTS AVAILABLE



WHO KILLED ASMAHAN? ◆



◆ Cairo, July 14, 1944. In a mysterious car accident, Asmaham, the famous singer whose voice and beauty were seducing the whole Arab world, dies. Asmaham (The Sublime in Arabic) was not only a beauty who grabbed the spotlight of the cabarets and the film sets so well, she was above all a free and controversial woman. Married three times and criticized for her way of life considered too occidental, she desperately tried to fit between Cairo, Beirut and Jerusalem. She was a spy for the Allies during the Second World War, but it is said that she was also approached by the Nazis...

◆ Her early death led to countless speculations. Had she been murdered by the English who were embarrassed by her chattiness? Or by the Druze, maybe? By Farouk, the king of Egypt? Or by Umm Khulthum, her stage rival? In this book, it is her loyal friend, the journalist Mohamed Al Tabai, who investigates: who killed Asmaham?

◆ This book recounts, in the form of a political thriller, the enigmatic life of a diva who traversed the history of the Middle East embodying all by herself, in the middle of the 20th century, the feminine emancipation.

Technical Sheet

- ◆ Author: Nadia Hathroubi-Safsaf
- ◆ Illustrator: Laure Ibrahim
- ◆ Release date: October 2024
- ◆ Size: 17 x 24 cm
- ◆ Number of pages: 112
- ◆ Illustrations: Colors
- ◆ ISBN: 978-2-9570545-7-2
- ◆ Price: 20 €

THE LIFE OF AN ENIGMATIC DIVA WHO MOVES THROUGH THE HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND EMBODIES FEMALE EMANCIPATION IN THE MID-20TH CENTURY.

RIGHTS AVAILABLE

ALREADY TRANSLATED IN ARABIC



DROLL REVOLUTIONS ◆



◆ With a style full of humor and mockery, *Droll revolutions* depicts, through wacky characters who are somewhat schizophrenic and caught up in their anxieties, fantasies and frustrations, the popular uprisings that disrupted the Arab world.

◆ From the enraged protester and the ruthless dictator, to the pentito, the shawarma seller or the video game addict teenager converted to jihad, this book relates, in a singular and original manner, what we commonly call the “Arab Spring”.

◆ Through these brisk-paced pages, where jokes cascade and the characters move from a panel to the other like in a game of dominoes, appears a real tapestry of the everyday life of women and men who live in societies dominated by violence and frustration, dreaming of change in a climate of political and moral suffocation. To each their own *révolution*, whether political, spiritual, personal, intimate or sexual.

Technical Sheet

- ◆ Author: Youssouf Amine Elalamy
- ◆ Illustrator: Yassine Hejjamy
- ◆ Release date: May 2023
- ◆ Size: 17 x 24 cm
- ◆ Number of pages: 64
- ◆ Illustrations: Black & white
- ◆ ISBN: 978-2-9570545-5-8
- ◆ Price: 15 €

**THE ARAB REVOLUTIONS
TOLD FOR THE FIRST TIME
WITH HUMOR!**

RIGHTS AVAILABLE



BEIRUT, THE TRILOGY ♦



♦ *Beirut, Bye Bye Beirut, Beirut Rewind*: the three chapters of this trilogy tell Barrack Rima's attachment to his native Lebanon through a polyphonic narrative using a mix of documentary and science fiction genres.

♦ Rima invites us to follow him in both the labyrinth of his memory and his city gnawed by real estate developers and swamped with trash and its stench, where taxi drivers and street vendors mingle with "ninja turtle", "crocodile", exiles and refugees, where destitute and resourceful ones rule just as much as money, concrete, corruption and censorship.

♦ From the 1960s protest movements to those of today, from the ideals that once drove the youth to the present disillusionment, Rima offers an intimate look on the recent history of Lebanon to raise our concern: what has become of our dreams, hopes and revolts?

Technical Sheet

- ♦ Author: Barrack Rima
- ♦ Release date: April 2023
- ♦ Size: 17 x 24 cm
- ♦ Number of pages: 96
- ♦ Illustrations: Black & white
- ♦ Paper cover with flaps
- ♦ ISBN: 978-2-9570545-4-1
- ♦ Price: 18 €

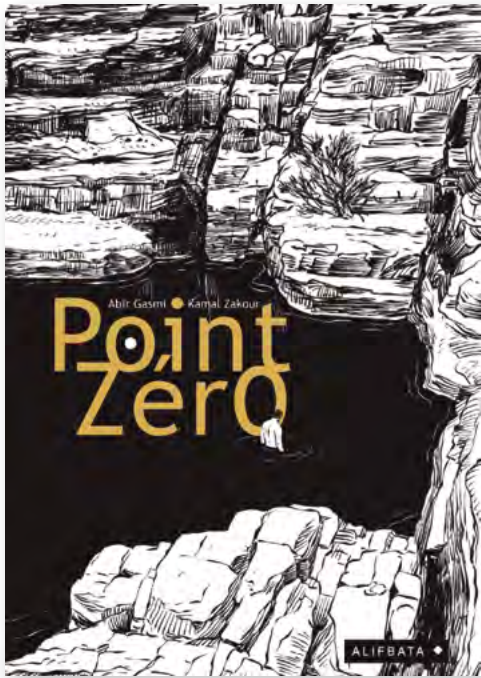
TWENTY YEARS ALSO SEPARATE THE CREATION OF THESE THREE WORKS, WHICH APPEAR TODAY IN A SINGLE VOLUME.

RIGHTS AVAILABLE

ALREADY TRANSLATED IN ITALIAN AND ENGLISH



ZERO POINT ◆



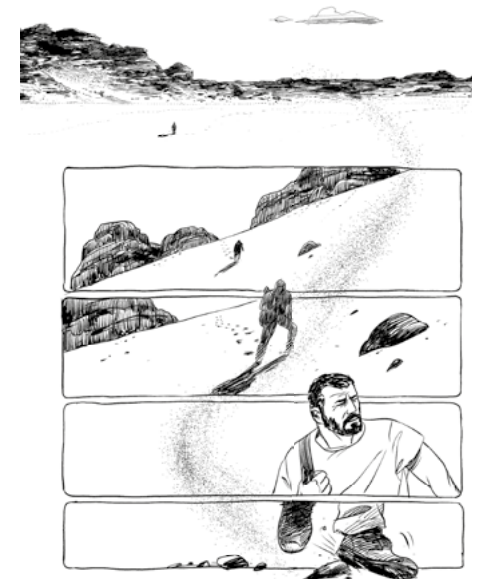
◆ A mysterious and solitary explorer criss-crosses the Sahara looking for black grasshoppers that turned his life upside down because he believes they will cause a cataclysm. Haunted by the quest for their origin, fascinated and horrified by a dark and crushing force, he can only go further into the desert, convinced he can face the end of the world alone.

◆ At night, the desert spirit Imashek comes to keep him company and tries to convince him of the absurdity of his plan. He keeps repeating to him "There is an end to everything". But it takes the explorer a while to understand that an end can be a new beginning and that the end of his world doesn't necessarily mean the end of the world.

◆ *Zero Point*, being an intimate story with an existential questioning and a reflection on the world today, blurs the lines between reality and fantasy. Tales, desert myths, memories and hallucinations intertwine in these graphic novel pages thanks to a skillful alternation of black, white and colors, as well as clear lines and charcoal traits masterfully rendered by Kamal Zakour's stroke.



70



71



Technical Sheet

- ◆ Author: Abir Gasmî
- ◆ Illustrator: Kamal Zakour
- ◆ Release date: January 2023
- ◆ Size: 17 x 24 cm
- ◆ Number of pages: 128
- ◆ Illustrations: Black & white, Colors
- ◆ ISBN: 978-2-9570545-3-4
- ◆ Price: 20 €

BETWEEN A GRAPHIC NOVEL AND A COMING-OF-AGE TALE, ZERO POINT INTRODUCES FRANCE AND EUROPE TO THE SPLENDID CLEAR-LINE DRAWING OF KAMAL ZAKOUR.

**RIGHTS AVAILABLE
EXCEPT ARABIC IN TUNISIA**

ANOTHER PICTURE OF THE WORLD



◆ Palermo, 1149. The Arab geographer al-Idrisi writes, commissioned by king Roger II of Sicily, one of the greatest treaties of geography of the Middle Ages: *The Book of Roger*.

◆ The entire court is mobilized to bring this project to fruition: scribes, calligraphers and travelers who are expected to provide information about the world that surrounds them. Thus, Paul de Balz, a Frank minstrel, and Aylan, a Berber calligrapher, undertake a journey that will lead them, from Mont Saint-Michel to Bejaia, to observe works of art and architecture of their time, as well as customs and upheavals of the medieval world on the Mediterranean shores. In these comic book boards, crusaders, witches, sailors and knights mingle with the Bayeux Tapestry, the Roman sculpture, the cathedrals' frescoes, the illuminations and even the cave paintings of Tassili.

◆ But isn't this new drawing of the world—which al-Idrisi dreams of erudite and pacified—cracking under the blows of schemes within this very court of Palermo that mixes cultures, peoples and religions? Isn't drawing the world, deep down, a way to embellish it?

Technical Sheet

- ◆ Author: Yann Madé
- ◆ Release date: May 2022
- ◆ Size: 17 x 24 cm
- ◆ Number of pages: 152
- ◆ Illustrations: Colors
- ◆ Paper cover with flaps
- ◆ ISBN: 978-2-9570545-2-7
- ◆ Price: 21 €

A TRIBUTE TO DRAWING, TO MEDIEVAL ART AND TO COMIC BOOKS, AND A REFLECTION ON THE ENCOUNTER BETWEEN DIFFERENT REPRESENTATIONS OF THE WORLD.

RIGHTS AVAILABLE



A TUNISIAN REBELLION

The Legend of Chbayah



◆ Tunisia, 1984. The government announces a rise in grain prices, which ignites a popular insurrection that sets the country ablaze. During this uprising known as “the Tunisian bread riots”, Tunisians find a pirate radio hosted by a mysterious person who stirs up trouble within the police force. Who hides behind this irreverent voice that will soon become a true urban legend?

◆ Through Salem and his grandfather, the authors imagine a duo as endearing as it is heroic. Thanks to an old and rigged walkie-talkie, the two accomplices hijack military communications, thus sabotaging, with a liberating insolence and humor for an entire people, the repressive operations.

◆ In these comic boards that have rich and varied graphic styles, the authors look back on half a century of Tunisian history, from the Second World War to the end of Bourguiba's authoritarian regime, not forgetting the repression of the left-wing opposition in the 1970s.

Technical Sheet

- ◆ Author: Aymen Mbarek
- ◆ Illustrator: Seif Eddine Nechi
- ◆ Release date: January 2022
- ◆ Size: 17 x 24 cm
- ◆ Number of pages: 224
- ◆ Illustrations: Colors
- ◆ ISBN: 978-2-9570545-1-0
- ◆ Price: 23 €

**TEN YEARS AFTER
THE JASMINE REVOLUTION,
THE BREAD RIOTS TOLD FOR
THE FIRST TIME IN COMIC.**

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