



## Oranges in No Man's Land

*Elizabeth Laird*

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*Oranges in No Man's Land* brings Elizabeth Laird's emotional and gripping adventure to her next generation of fans.

Since her father left Lebanon to find work and her mother tragically died in a shell attack, ten-year-old Ayesha has been living in the bomb-ravaged city of Beirut with her granny and her two younger brothers. The city has been torn in half by civil war and a desolate, dangerous no man's land divides the two sides. Only militiamen and tanks dare enter this deadly zone, but when Granny falls desperately ill, Ayesha sets off on a terrifying journey to reach a doctor living in enemy territory.

## Oranges in No Man's Land Details

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Author : Elizabeth Laird

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## **From Reader Review Oranges in No Man's Land for online ebook**

### **4teenliars says**

This book is so good I have read it about 10 million times as it is very emotional and amazing. There is no age to this book as everyone will understand the story

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### **Suha Hallab says**

A small sandwich of butter and salt. This is a short novel I bought when the author Elizabeth Laird came for a visit to Beirut to talk about her writing journey. The content is not that outstanding; it is a story about a little girl during the civil war in Beirut, I suppose the novel is targeted to an audience of 10-18 year olds. The style is beautiful though and the descriptive technique she has is captivating. It is beautifully simple and I loved the small details especially the friendship with Samar; on the other hand, I don't think the book reflects honestly a usual story of a child surviving the civil war in Beirut.

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### **Subhadra says**

The story weaves through one day in the life of little Ayesha who is stuck in a war-torn Beirut. Ayesha is exceptional in her courage, her fortitude, her dedication and love for her grandmother, and her grit and determination to do what feels right to her. She disregards all the foreseeable danger that lurks and looms large at every step; danger which is nothing less than death or perhaps, even worse than death. 'What could be worse than death?' you might ask. For that, you will have to imagine being a seven year old running through desolate, war-shattered streets. For that, you will have to imagine risking life, limb, and dignity, for your grandmother. And when you inevitably ask yourself if you would have done the same were you in her shoes, you will know that you have found a part of yourself that you never knew existed.

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### **Erika says**

This is a quick read about Ayesha who runs through war-torn Beirut to get medicine for her grandmother. It's a good story set in an area we read very little about.

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### **Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says**

This story is about a little girl, Ayesha, who dares to venture through a war zone in Beirut to fetch medicine for her sick grandmother. The larger picture, however, is a disturbing view of civil war in Lebanon, of ordinary people whose lives are disrupted, impoverished and left homeless and hungry. Laird makes it clear that it's governments that are behind this, and not the ordinary people, who just want to be left in peace to work, play, and go to school. I can't imagine growing up under such conditions, living in bombed out

buildings, with never enough to eat, and never knowing when the bombs will fall and guns will start firing. In Beirut during this civil war, the "green line" divides the city into two sections--the bombed out ruins held by those from southern Lebanon, and the rest of the city, where people are living life as usual, held by those from northern Lebanon. The contrast between the two is startling. Ayesha looks like the people from northern Lebanon, but her accent betrays her southern roots. Luckily for her, she has learned sign language from her deaf friend Samar, and can pass for deaf, thereby avoiding speech. She makes it to Dr. Leila's house, and gets the medicine, but will she be able to make it back through the war zone and home? Dr. Leila's last words to Ayesha hold the solution to Lebanon's troubles, if only people would listen, "Don't grow up to hate anybody." Highly recommended!

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### **Erin says**

This was a very short book which I read in less than an hour. I really enjoyed the story, although the plot is similar to other war books.

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### **E L E A N O R (bookishcourtier) says**

I don't really want to rate this book, because I don't think it necessarily had anything wrong with it. It is short and sweet, but I found it forgettable and a genre I find predictable.

**I just feel like I've read it all before.** It feels like any other classic war time story. Not to mention it's very short. It doesn't really even need to be a separate book by itself - it could almost be in a collection of short stories. The plot line is VERY straight forward, but that isn't necessarily bad, because its a short story.

I'm sorry. I think it's just me. I just don't really like the genre at all. The writing felt the same as it always does in this type of book, the protagonist had no originality to any other I've read about, and nothing about this book amazes me.

I feel like I might be being unfair, but this is just my opinion. It's such a short book I can really say much more on the matter, but I didn't connect to the characters and it wasn't very memorable.

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### **Mohammed says**

This is a very interesting book and you should a part two

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### **Adrian Dahlquist says**

Oranges In No Man's Land by Elizabeth laird is a personal account told by the main character ten year old Ayesha. as told by Ayesha, the story begins two weeks after an air raid and civilians were forced to leave their homes in search of refuge. That day, Ayesha, her brothers, and her granny fled their home minutes before it was destroyed by a bomb. Sadly, Ayesha's mother did not make it out in time. With their mother dead and their father out of the country in search of jobs, Ayesha and her brothers only had their granny to

look after them. Yet, Ayesha knew that her grandmas hip was failing and so was her health thus, she was going to have to take on more responsibility than most ten year old girls should. Luckily, after sleeping in alleyways her brother found refugees living a flat that had once been a family home. There, Ayesha and her family were welcomed by Mrs. Zainab and her daughter Samar. things began to look up for Ayesha, her family was together and safe along with the refugees living the flat; everyone supported each other and cared for one another. Yet, after two years living in the flat, her grandmother's health began to take the turn for the worst and she was out of medication. All of the people living in her flat looked after Ayesha and her family with concern for they knew that granny would not survive long if she did receive medical attention. In fear for her grandmother's health and in fear of the idea of raising her brothers without her grandmother's support, Ayesha decides she must take matters into her own hands and save her grandma. And so, conscience of the dangers ahead, Ayesha sets off to cross the green line, or the forbidden barrier dividing the city and its people by herself.

I really enjoyed the inspiring story about Ayesha and her family. Until reading oranges in no man's land, I was unfamiliar with the tragedies in Lebanon. I could not imagine being ten years old and taking on Ayesha's responsibilities. Taking care of her infant brother as if her were her own and making and acting on adult decisions in order to save her grandmothers life.

As a teacher, I would use this book in my classroom because many students have no access to them or have limited taste. Thus, they are not exposed to the diverse cultures and daily lives of characters outside of the United States.

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### **Razan Yaqoub says**

amazing story told briefly but so vivid at the same time.you can read it in only one sitting .recommended

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### **Faye says**

Loved this book!

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### **Matthew says**

Set in the war-torn streets of Beirut, Oranges In No Man's Land is, despite a seemingly dark, depressing and melancholy story, actually of an overwhelmingly optimistic nature and, as Ayesha jumps about like a young leveret, you are taught the valuable lesson of compassion, however lacking in depth the thinly sketched story actually is. The writing is perfect for the age group, dealing with the indescribably sorrowful hardships of war with a cheery tone, and it is not too scary for the younger ones. But for anyone who is not interested in a cheerful outlook on war, the story will, unfortunately, fall inevitably and disappointingly short. No matter how hard I try, I can't give it any more praise, since it is lacking in depth, length, credible characterizations and a really good writing style.

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## **Anna Kerman says**

Fabulous book, thoroughly enjoyed it!

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## **Helen says**

‘What were they all fighting for?...sometimes I wonder if the fighters themselves knew what they were doing’

Oranges In No Man’s Land follows 10 year old Ayesha as she encounters the realities of war in Beirut, Lebanon. The bravery (or naive and bullheaded determination) she shows in order to save her remaining family is inspiring, terrifying and yet somehow typical of Primary school age children. I enjoyed reading Laird as a child because I felt that she understood the core thoughts and feelings of a child. Now, as an adult, I still find this the case, though I see the actions and feelings of her characters mirrored in my own daughter. Laird writes the novel with Ayesha looking back on events, so the book is constantly coloured by both the young Ayesha’s perspective, as well as the older one. This allows the reader to take comfort in knowing that she survives, whilst also providing a wide age range of readers with something to take from the book.

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## **Den says**

Today made a quick stop off in the Lebanon.

This is a book for teens about a young ten year old girl who crosses the Green Line (which separates North Lebanon from the South) and ventures into a war zone to find medication for her grandma. It shows how she ends up living in a flat with her gran and lots of other refugees after her father leaves to search for work and her mother is killed. It sounds how he lives of ordinary people are changed when civil war occurs. They all just want to get on with their everyday routine lives. I have rad similar books and again I felt so sorry for the characters who can't go shopping, go to school, are always hungry etc. I just can't imagine having to live like that. It must be so frightening not knowing when the next bombs are going to start flying and how close they will be. The book shows how good people are on both sides and it is just a situation that is out of everyone's hands that they have found themselves in. The doctor leaves her with a poignant message which is important for everyone to remember 'Don't grow up to hate anybody'.

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