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It Won't Always Be like This, by Malaka Gharib. | Booklist Online

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By Malaka Gharib.



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[9781984860293](https://www.amazon.com/dp/9781984860293)). 741.5.

REVIEW. First published September 15, 2022

(*Booklist*).

In this graphic memoir by the author of *I Was Their American Dream* (2019), Malaka travels from the U.S. to Egypt every summer to be with her father and his new family, and as she grows up, she adapts to the

different culture and family circumstances. When she's nine, she discovers her dad has remarried a woman named Hala, and she's to spend the summer with them at the hotel where her dad works. As Malaka grows up and returns to Egypt each summer, she feels cultural distance from her dad's family. As a teenager, she's especially resistant to fitting into her dad's family life in Egypt. When he moves to Qatar, the family changes even more, and Malaka bonds with her sisters. Over the many visits, Malaka learns to accept being a part of this blended family and embrace her two cultures. Her identity is constantly in flux, whether she's in Egypt, Qatar, or Los Angeles. She explores the boundaries of adolescence during her summers in Egypt as well as wanting to be older while simultaneously holding on to her youth. This sophomore offering cements Gharib as one of the great graphic memoirists, gifted with an engaging and relatable writing style and art adept at representing the swirling identity of a teenager.

— *Julia Rittenberg*

This title has been recommended for young adult readers:

YA/General Interest: Teens will likely relate to Malaka's conflicted feelings about family, identity, and growing up. — *Sarah Hunter*

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