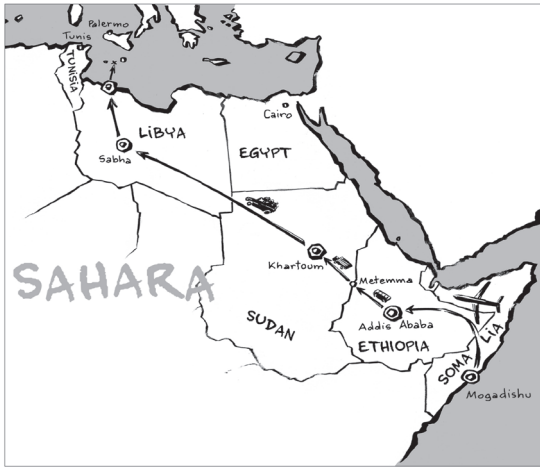




An Olympic Dream

PRESS
RELEASE



From Reinhard Kleist, the creator of *Johnny Cash* and *The Boxer*, *An Olympic Dream* is a remarkable true account of the life of Somali Olympic runner Samia Yusuf Omar. Overcoming discrimination and abuse, Samia fought the odds to compete alongside the fastest women on earth in the 200m at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. *An Olympic Dream* follows Samia's attempt to compete at the London Games in 2012 – a journey that compels her to escape Mogadishu, a city ravaged by conflict where she faces discrimination and abuse.

With her hopes of training in Ethiopia dashed, Samia sets her sights on Europe, where she hopes to find a coach. This desperate attempt to make a better life for herself sees her incarcerated, robbed and facing starvation. Alongside her fellow refugees, she travels across the deserts of Sudan and Libya, at the mercy of the authorities, criminals and an unforgiving environment. The story of Samia Yusuf Omar ended, like so many others, after she boarded an overcrowded refugee boat. On the eve of the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, *An Olympic Dream* is a compelling reminder of the urgency of the current refugee crisis, and a forceful statement on Europe's response to it.

Based on accounts from Samia's sister, Hadan, and friends of the athlete, Reinhard Kleist's latest graphic biography is a poignant and emotional story that conveys the remarkable heroism of a woman who never gave up hope, who never stopped dreaming. The black and white illustrations add dramatic mood to her heart-wrenching story and highlight *An Olympic Dream's* wider humanitarian context. Kleist has won international acclaim for his previous graphic novel biographies of Johnny Cash, Fidel Castro and boxer Harry Haft.

The Afterword is written by journalist Teresa Krug, who interviewed Samia after her appearance at the Beijing Games, as well as many other refugees.

About the author

Reinhard Kleist has written a number of critically acclaimed graphic novels, among them the award-winning biographies *Johnny Cash: I See A Darkness*, *Castro* and *The Boxer* (all published by SelfMadeHero). In January 2013, he became the first comic book artist to be honoured with the B.Z. Kulturpreis for his contribution to the cultural scene in Berlin, where he currently resides.

Notes to editors

SelfMadeHero aims to publish works that provoke, entertain, inspire, and inform through the medium of the graphic novel. We are proud to publish ground-breaking and beautiful work by authors and artists from across the globe, from the quirky and humorous to the political and profound. Releases for Spring 2016 include Barbara Yelin's *Irmina*; Anne Martinetti, Guillaume Lebeau & Alexandre Franc's *Agatha*; Steffen Kverneland's *Munch*; and Deborah Levy & Andrzej Klimowski's *Stardust Nation*.

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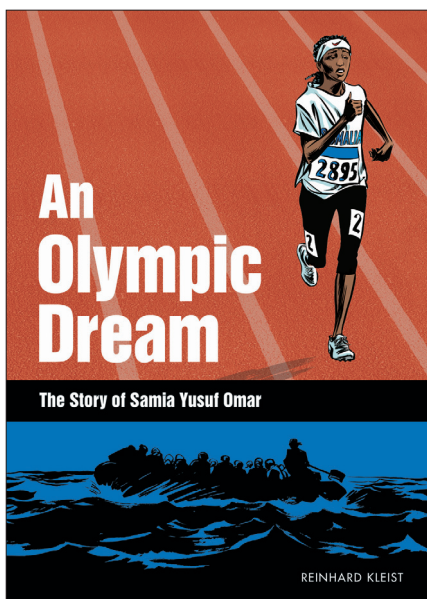
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