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Waltz with Bashir
A Lebanon War Story
by Ari Folman and David Polonsky

“Unique . . . exemplary, a work of astonishing aesthetic integrity and searing moral power.”

“A movie so unusual that it overflows any box in which you try to contain it.”
—Anthony Lane, The New Yorker

“Provocative, hallucinatory, incendiary.”
—Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times

“The images of war that Ari Folman and his chief illustrator, David Polonsky, conjure up have a feverish, infernal beauty . . . Unforgettable.” —David Ansen, Newsweek

The animated documentary film Waltz with Bashir, acclaimed throughout the world as extraordinary breakout cinema, has been called “the year’s most singular visionary experience at the movies” (Salon.com). Now the graphic novel WALTZ WITH BASHIR: A Lebanon War Story (Henry Holt and Company/Metropolitan Books; Publication Date: February 17, 2009; ISBN: 0-8050-8892-X [PB]/ISBN: 0-8050-8673-0 [HC]), created simultaneously with the film, shows in stunning detail the beauty and artistry of this hauntingly powerful work.
Ari Folman’s exploration of war, repression, and remembrance begins one night when a friend tells him of a recurring nightmare in which he is chased by a pack of murderous dogs. The friend’s dream is connected to the 1982 war in Lebanon, where Folman, a young Israeli soldier, also fought. He himself has no memories of the fighting or of the notorious massacre of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps, which he witnessed. To fill the black memory hole, Folman sets out to investigate what really went on during the crucial hours.

In this beautifully rendered telling, Folman pieces together the war and his place in it by interviewing other soldiers who participated. Traveling from Israel to Holland and eventually to Beirut, Folman reconstructs his memory through the stories of his comrades. The recollections accumulate until Folman arrives at Sabra and Shatila, and his investigation reaches its terrible end.

An extraordinarily powerful indictment of violence and a work of art, the revolutionary graphic novel WALTZ WITH BASHIR will take its place as one of the great works of wartime reportage in book-publishing history.

About the Authors
ARI FOLMAN, a Tel Aviv–based filmmaker, wrote, produced, and directed the animated documentary Waltz with Bashir. His two previous feature films, Saint Clara and Made in Israel, both received numerous Israeli academy awards, among them best film and best director for Saint Clara, which also won the People’s Choice Award at the 1996 Berlin Film Festival. In addition, he produces and writes for television, including for the Israeli series In Treatment, which was remade in the United States for HBO.

DAVID POLONSKY was the art director and chief illustrator for the animated film Waltz with Bashir. His illustrations have appeared in every major Israeli daily and magazine. He has created animated short films for Israeli television and received multiple awards for his children’s book illustrations. He is currently an artist in resident at Rhode Island School of Design in the United States.