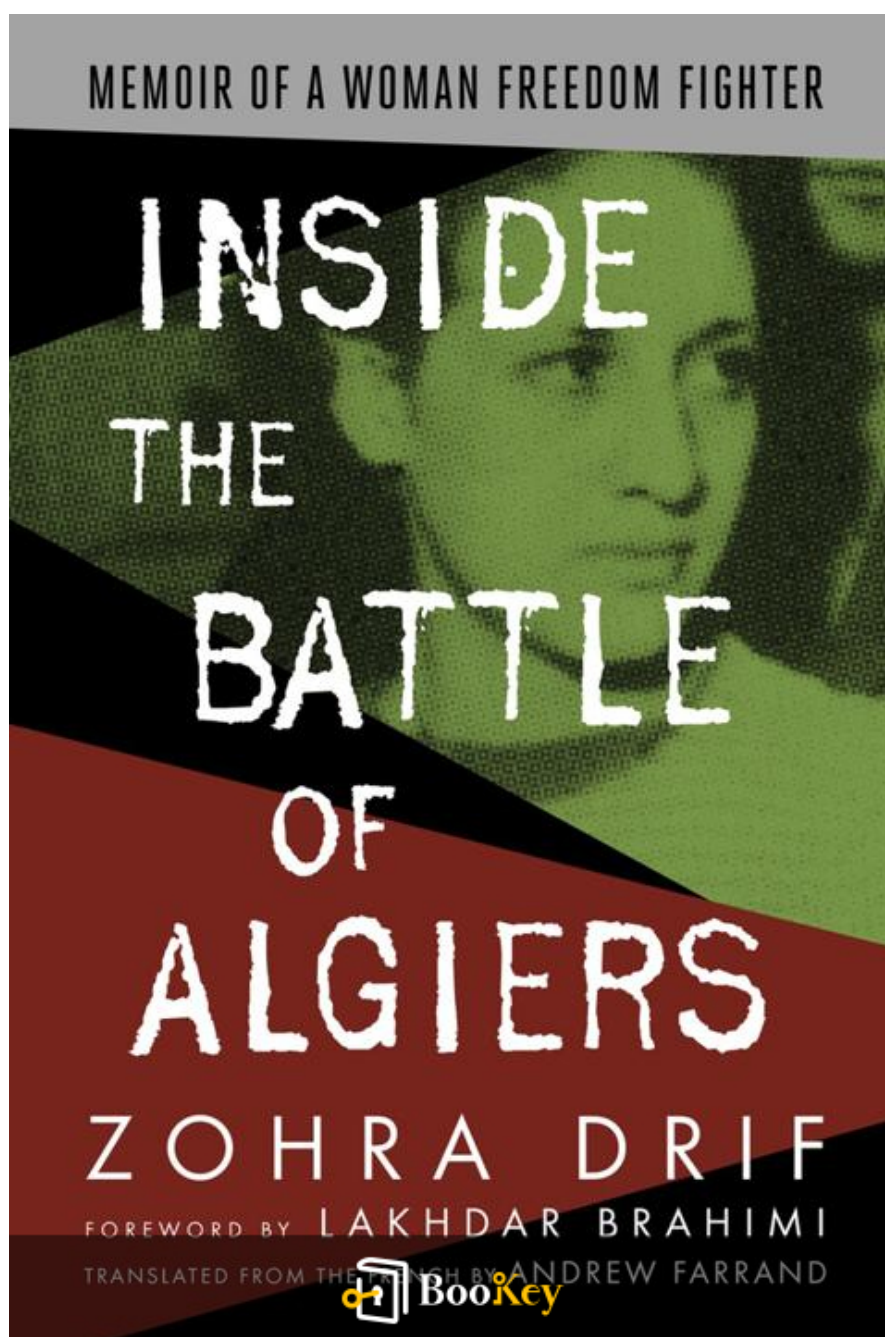


# Inside The Battle Of Algiers PDF (Limited Copy)

Zohra Drif



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# **Inside The Battle Of Algiers Summary**

Women Warriors: A Personal Journey Through Algeria's Liberation  
Struggle

Written by New York Central Park Page Turners Books Club

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## About the book

In her poignant memoir, Zohra Drif recounts her remarkable experiences as a young woman immersed in Algeria's national liberation movement during the 1950s, a period marked by intense conflict between Algerian revolutionaries and French colonial forces. Motivated by the brutal oppression and injustices inflicted upon her people, Drif became an active member of the armed wing of the movement, embodying the spirit of resistance alongside her female comrades.

Drif's narrative not only details the courageous actions they undertook to retaliate against colonial injustices, such as organizing attacks and strategic operations, but also emphasizes the integral role women played in the broader anti-colonial struggle. The memoir sheds light on their unique challenges, including societal expectations and the harsh realities of war, highlighting both their vulnerabilities and their resilience.

Through intertwining personal anecdotes with the larger historical context of Algeria's fight for independence, Drif illustrates how her experiences and those of her fellow women fighters were foundational in shaping the trajectory of the liberation effort. This memoir serves as an essential testament to their contributions and the overall complexity of the anti-colonial struggle, which resonated globally and later inspired artistic portrayals, including Gillo Pontecorvo's influential film, \*The Battle of

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Algiers\*.

Originally published in French in 2013, Drif's evocative narrative is a vital resource for understanding not only the historical significance of Algeria's fight for independence but also the ongoing relevance of these struggles in contemporary discussions about colonialism, resistance, and the role of women in revolutionary movements.

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## About the author

Zohra Drif, a prominent Algerian intellectual, lawyer, and former member of the National Liberation Front (FLN), stands as a symbol of resilience in Algeria's struggle for independence from French colonial rule. Born in 1934, Drif's influence is particularly notable during the Algerian War of Independence, especially her role in the strategic urban guerrilla warfare of the Battle of Algiers. This series of coordinated attacks against the French colonial authorities was pivotal in rallying support for the Algerian cause.

Drif's commitment to social justice and women's rights adds another layer to her legacy, as she actively fought not only for Algeria's freedom but also for the recognition and empowerment of women within the nation. Her literary contributions, notably in her book "Inside the Battle of Algiers," weave together personal anecdotes and historical analysis, providing a multifaceted view of the war's impact on both individual lives and the collective Algerian identity.

In her writings, Drif articulates the nuances of colonialism and liberation, highlighting the sacrifices made and the complexities inherent in the struggle for independence. Through her eyes, the reader gains insights into the emotional and intellectual landscapes of a young nation grappling with its identity amidst the chaos of war. Drif's experiences and reflections serve to illuminate not only her personal journey but also the broader narrative of

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Algeria's fight for self-determination, making her story an essential part of the nation's history.

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# Chapter 1 Summary: 1. In the Familial Embrace

## Chapter 1: In the Familial Embrace

In the opening chapter of "Inside the Battle of Algiers," Zohra Drif introduces her story by reflecting on her birth on December 28, 1934, in Tiaret, Algeria, during the holy month of Ramadan. She delves into her ancestry, tracing her roots back to her grandfather, Hadj Abdessalem Drif, and great-grandfather, Hadj Moulay Tayeb. Tayeb, who turned to religious contemplation after facing infertility challenges, exemplifies the family's deep commitment to faith, ultimately leading to a lineage that includes many descendants.

Drif emphasizes her family's deep investment in education and social influence. Her father, Ahmed, a dedicated scholar of Islamic law, rose to the esteemed position of qadi, or judge, embodying the educational values that permeated their lineage. Meanwhile, her mother, Saadia, hailing from a wealthy background, adeptly blends traditional values with a pioneering spirit, shaping Drif's upbringing and instilling in her the importance of knowledge and independence.

Despite experiencing a privileged childhood, Drif remains acutely aware of the colonial occupation affecting Algeria. Her mother instills a robust sense



of cultural identity in her children, recounting stories of their heritage and emphasizing the significance of resisting foreign dominance. This background creates a dichotomy between their rich cultural customs and the colonial education system that marginalizes their identity.

Saadia emerges as a central figure in Drif's life, exemplifying strength and independence. Her determination to prioritize her children's education and well-being defies traditional societal norms, showcasing her resilience against patriarchal expectations and the value of personal autonomy.

In contrast, Ahmed, while a respected scholar, also acts as a progressive father. He advocates for his daughters' equality and critical thinking, fostering in Zohra a profound sense of identity and knowledge about Algerian culture. His guidance becomes pivotal as Drif navigates the pressures of the colonial educational landscape.

Throughout her upbringing, Drif grapples with the contrasting worlds of her culturally rich home and the foreign influences of colonial schooling, which marginalize her heritage. This struggle sparks a significant awakening regarding her identity as an Algerian woman under colonial rule.

As Drif transitions into adolescence, her academic accomplishments and her strong relationship with her mother become defining aspects of her identity. The chapter foreshadows the impending challenges she will face when



moving away from home for secondary education, setting the stage for her future resilience against oppression and her quest for cultural affirmation. This first chapter encapsulates key themes of lineage, identity, and cultural resistance, which will resonate throughout her narrative.

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# Chapter 2 Summary: 2. Awakening

## Chapter 2: Awakening

### Introduction to Lycée Fromentin

Zohra Drif's transformative journey begins with her acceptance into the prestigious Lycée Fromentin, a symbol of European educational standards in Algeria. Her father's application was a significant step, though it came with pressure to meet the expectations set by her family, especially her mother. As Zohra arrived in Algiers, she felt a mixture of excitement and trepidation about this new chapter in her life.

### Arrival in Algiers

The journey to Algiers opened Zohra's eyes to the rich landscapes of Algeria, yet her initial excitement about seeing the sea turned bittersweet when it disappeared from view. However, her father's promise of a surprise led them to Bresson Square, where the sight of the sea restored her spirit and temporarily alleviated her fears.



## **New Experiences in Algiers**

Zohra's first encounters in Algiers immersed her in European culture, starkly contrasting with her traditional upbringing. Dining out for the first time was disorienting, and she felt out of place, particularly in deciphering the use of cutlery. Yet, a visit to a local shrine grounded her, reminding her of her cultural roots amidst the overwhelming European influence.

## **At Lycée Fromentin**

Upon arriving at Lycée Fromentin, Zohra quickly became aware of her status as the only Arab student in a predominantly European environment. Initial awkwardness was eased by her father's encouragement, underscoring the value of hard work in her studies. As she navigated sixth grade, Zohra gradually found her footing, discovering joy in academics and forming meaningful friendships, even as feelings of isolation lingered.

## **Impactful Friendship**

The arrival of Samia, another Algerian girl, marked a pivotal moment in Zohra's life. Their shared experiences brought them closer, and together they



faced the complexities of their education, embracing their Algerian identity while acknowledging the challenges imposed by colonization.

## **Cultural Realizations and Nationalism**

As Zohra engaged with her classes, she became increasingly aware of the colonial inequities affecting her and her peers. School discussions illuminated the differing perceptions of the native experience, catalyzing a deeper understanding of their collective struggle for independence. Through her friendship with Samia, Zohra began to grasp the socio-political realities framing her education.

## **Political Climate and Awakening**

Zohra's political consciousness blossomed alongside Algeria's turbulent history, particularly with the onset of the liberation struggle against French colonial rule on November 1, 1954. Family conversations and exposure to nationalist sentiments propelled her commitment to contributing to Algeria's fight for self-determination.

## **University Transition and Activism**

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Transitioning to university opened up new avenues for Zohra, where she encountered peers who shared her political aspirations. Engaging with diverse ideologies, she further grappled with her cultural identity while aligning her ambitions with liberation efforts. Zohra and Samia's exploration of revolutionary movements became central to their university experience, deepening their resolve for change.

## Conclusion

Zohra's awakening from a girl ensnared by familial expectations to a politically engaged student exemplifies her personal evolution amid Algeria's broader struggle for independence. Her journey reflects the burgeoning consciousness among young women in Algeria, poised to carve out their roles in the fight against colonial rule, empowered to seek justice for their people.





## Chapter 3 Summary: 3. First Contact with the FLN

### ### Chapter 3: First Contact with the FLN

The narrative begins with Zohra Drif's anxious return to Algeria amid alarming news of violence in Philippeville. Inspired by the desire to uncover the truth of recent tragedies, she reconnects with her brother Kader in Vialar. Upon her arrival, she senses a heavy atmosphere among the townspeople, whose lives have been marked by repression following the brutal May 8, 1945, massacres. The colonial authorities, responding violently to insurrections such as those on August 20, conduct mass arrests and indiscriminate killings against individuals labeled as "fellagas," a derogatory term for Algerian resistance fighters.

In the face of this oppression, the local population gradually rises up, armed with rudimentary weapons. The brutal crackdowns only intensify their anger and resolve to resist, leading Kader to transform from a carefree youth into a determined fighter for the cause. Observing her brother's evolution deepens Zohra's understanding of their shared commitment to the liberation struggle, marking a pivotal moment in her own awakening.

As she navigates her student life, Zohra joins her peers in organizing protests and strikes, demonstrating solidarity with the National Liberation Front

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(FLN). The arrests of fellow students galvanize them, reinforcing their determination to challenge colonial repression. Zohra and her close friend Samia actively participate in rallies coordinated by UGEMA (the General Union of Algerian Students), advocating for their political rights while understanding the risks involved in such activism.

Zohra's engagement with the liberation movement intensifies when she meets Boualem Oussedik, an influential figure connected to the FLN. Their growing friendship leads Zohra to hope for an increased role in the independence struggle. This optimism culminates in an important meeting arranged with an FLN contact, Kamel, where Zohra envisions contributing more substantially to the fight for liberation.

However, as news spreads about the increasing arrests of FLN leaders, Zohra swings between despair and resolve. Inspired by the courage of imprisoned fighters and their families, she remains steadfast in her commitment to the cause, bolstered further by her discussions with Samia and others who share their struggles.

As repression worsens, Zohra faces a significant decision regarding her future. The UGEMA's call for a general strike threatens not only her education but also her involvement in the resistance. While her mother's concerns for her safety grow, Zohra grapples with the conflicting demands of family duty and her passionate dedication to fighting for freedom.



Kader's encouragement propels Zohra back to Algiers to participate in underground resistance activities. This return signifies not just physical movement but also a deepening commitment to the fight for independence, despite the growing strain in her relationship with her mother. Ultimately, this chapter illustrates Zohra Drif's journey from passive observer to an active participant in the struggle for Algerian independence, characterized by the communal awakening to the harsh realities of imperial violence and the burgeoning sense of agency that drives her and her community forward.

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# Chapter 4: 4. Into the Heart of the Armed Struggle

### Chapter 4: Into the Heart of the Armed Struggle

## Recruited

In this chapter, Zohra Drif reflects on her and her sister Samia's induction into the armed struggle for Algeria's liberation from French colonial rule. Their initial excitement about joining the Front de Libération Nationale (FLN) belies the weight of their mission. As they prepare for action, Samia recalls pivotal meetings with key figures like Boualem Oussedik and Petit Mourad. These leaders emphasize the urgency and risks that underscore their cause, particularly in light of the recent execution of fellow revolutionary Ahmed Zabana, which has intensified tensions and fueled the desire for resistance.

## The Executions and Their Impact

Ahmed Zabana's execution serves as a rallying cry, uniting the Algerian people and stoking their commitment to the FLN's efforts. In the Casbah, many residents carry the emotional weight of witnessing these brutal events, stirring a collective determination for retribution and justice. This atmosphere not only solidifies their resolve but also highlights the escalating

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violence of the colonial regime against those seeking freedom.

## **Preparing for Action**

As Zohra and Samia immerse themselves in planning for their operations, their meticulous preparations reflect the desperation and courage of youth yearning to challenge colonial authority. The chapter captures the tense environment in which they operate, as they balance their fervor for action with the gravity of the consequences they face. Their dedication showcases the broader struggle of young Algerians who are determined to seek justice and fight for their homeland.

## **The Day of the Bombings**

The narrative reaches a climactic moment as Zohra and Samia partake in a daring coordinated bombing campaign targeting European interests in Algiers. Zohra shares her anxiety and resolve as she prepares for this critical mission—one that holds the potential for both liberation and peril. The emotions of anticipation and fear embody the risks they are willing to take for their cause and illuminate the stark reality of their struggle.

## **Aftermath and Reflection**

In the aftermath of the bombings, Zohra and Samia confront the



repercussions of their actions, reflecting on the societal upheaval and brutal repression that follows. Their experiences highlight the mixed responses from both colonizers and the local Algerian populace, emphasizing the profound implications of their bold acts in the larger context of the Algerian War for independence.

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# Chapter 5 Summary: 5. In the Casbah

## Chapter 5 Summary: The Casbah

In this chapter, Zohra Drif vividly recounts her experiences within the Casbah of Algiers, a crucial setting during the Algerian War of Independence. The Casbah, renowned for its intricate architecture and vibrant street life, serves as a backdrop for Zohra's mission and her interactions with fellow militants, particularly Djamila Bouhired, a formidable leader among women in the revolutionary movement.

### Arrival and First Impressions

As Zohra arrives with her companion Djamila, she is struck by the bustling atmosphere of the Casbah. The streets are alive with the sounds and scents of its unique culture, contrasting sharply with the serene interior of a beautifully designed home they visit. Once inside, Zohra finds a deep appreciation for the cultural richness that flourishes even amid the harsh realities of colonial oppression.

### The Rituals of Hospitality

Engaging in local customs, Zohra forms a strong bond with Djamila and





another comrade, Samia. Through shared meals and traditions, they cultivate a sense of community and loyalty that strengthens their resolve. During these moments, they exchange both laughter and reflections on the weight of their responsibilities to the Algerian cause, reinforcing their commitment to independence.

## **The Mission**

The chapter takes a pivotal turn as Zohra and her comrades prepare for a dangerous mission to plant a bomb in a busy area frequented by Europeans. Djamila, embodying bravery and determination, volunteers to carry the bomb, showcasing her unwavering commitment to the revolution despite the inherent risks.

## **Dramatic Moments**

Tension escalates when Djamila does not return as anticipated, leaving Zohra in a state of intense anxiety. This moment of uncertainty not only amplifies the stakes of their mission but also deepens Zohra's concern for her friend's safety. Their emotional reunion serves as a powerful reminder of their shared struggle as they lean on each other in the face of adversity.

## **Human Connections**

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Zohra reflects on the profound connections formed among the women involved in the revolution. Their experiences—marked by fear, love, and despair—serve as a testament to their resilience. In the face of war's challenges, their solidarity becomes a source of strength, illustrating the personal toll of their collective fight for freedom.

### **Solidarity and Sacrifice**

Djamila's courageous actions resonate throughout the chapter, epitomizing the sacrifices women make in the struggle for Algerian independence. Zohra grows to admire Djamila not only for her beauty but also for her formidable spirit, embodying the essence of the movement.

### **Conclusion**

The chapter concludes with a powerful sense of empowerment as Zohra and her fellow activists celebrate their shared sacrifices and responsibilities. United in their cause, their collective strength shines through, representing not only their fight against colonial oppression but also hope for a free and independent Algeria. This chapter captures the essence of their struggle, intertwining personal narratives with the broader movement for liberation.



## Chapter 6 Summary: 6. Bringing the Algerian Question to the Global Stage

### ### Bringing the Algerian Question to the Global Stage

In this chapter, we delve into the tumultuous landscape of the Algerian struggle for independence, highlighting the intertwining of personal sacrifice and national aspiration as Zohra Drif and her comrades navigate perilous missions against the backdrop of a revolutionary war.

#### **Planning an Assassination**

The chapter opens in early December 1956, when Zohra Drif and her fellow resistance fighter, Djamila, receive a clandestine summons from El Kho. They are tasked with a dangerous mission: to craft a bomb intended for Bachagha Aït Ali, a traitorous figure in the Algerian Assembly who has openly denounced the liberation efforts and sided with French colonial repressions. Understanding the dual stakes involved—eliminating a traitor and striking at a heart of collaboration—the women meticulously plan their assault, surveilling the Franco-Muslim Circle, a popular dining spot for their target. They adapt their appearances to evade detection, signaling their commitment to the mission.



## **A Change of Plans**

However, their fervor is abruptly curtailed when Si Mohamed arrives, announcing the cancellation of their mission. Despite Drif and Djamila's frustration over their extensive preparations, Si Mohamed underscores the revolution's precarious nature, prioritizing political strategy over immediate military actions. This moment underscores the complex interplay of military and political considerations in their struggle for independence.

## **We Loved Life So Much**

As the tension of their revolutionary activities persists, Drif reflects on the warmth of friendship and familial bonds forged during these trying times. Hiding in the Casbah, she and her comrades enjoy meals and moments of laughter with the Bouhired family, revealing how these connections serve as vital sources of solace and solidarity amid the chaos of war.

## **A Voice on the Radio**

In a poignant turn, Drif overhears a radio broadcast—a vitriolic speech by a former ally who has betrayed the cause. This encounter deepens her disillusionment with the shifting loyalties surrounding her, highlighting the personal wounds inflicted by war and the heavy toll of betrayal in the fight for Algeria's emancipation.



## **The Taste of Death**

Drif's narrative echoes with personal loss intertwined with the broader narrative of the revolution. Following their aborted attempt on Aït Ali, the tragic fate of a young novice fighter who attempts to act against him stirs the group. His subsequent death strengthens Drif and Djamila's resolve, compelling them to embrace their roles further in the struggle, inspired by the bravery of their fallen comrade.

## **Surprised by an Honor**

The chapter also unveils a moment of recognition when Drif and her fellow fighters receive medals of honor from the National Liberation Army (ALN). This accolade serves not only as affirmation of their sacrifices but also as a powerful reminder of their significance in the liberation effort.

## **The Algerian Question Before the UN**

As their actions begin to draw international scrutiny, the ALN and the National Liberation Front (FLN) intensify their efforts in advocacy for Algeria's independence at the United Nations. The gravity of the situation is exacerbated by the ramping up of French military aggression, heightening fears and tensions within the ranks of the revolutionaries.



## First Raid at the Bouhireds'

The chapter concludes with an ominous raid that disrupts the tranquility of daily life in the Casbah, illustrating the constant danger faced by Drif and her comrades. This initial military incursion serves as a stark reminder of the brutal realities of their environment, forcing an urgent response among the resistance fighters to secure their operations and stay vigilant regarding French troop movements.

Through Drif's lens, we gain an acute understanding of the juxtaposition between the normalcy of human connections and the frantic urgency of their revolutionary commitments. The chapter lays bare the struggles, emotional landscapes, and palpable tension that characterize Algeria's fight for liberation, setting the stage for the continuing evolution of the struggle on both personal and political fronts.



# Chapter 7 Summary: 7. The Eight-Day Strike

## Chapter 7: The Eight-Day Strike

This chapter details the orchestrated preparations and execution of a general strike in Algiers, a pivotal moment in the Algerian quest for independence from French colonial rule. The Comité de Coordination et d'Exécution (CCE) spearheaded the organization of the strike, emphasizing the need for community engagement, particularly spotlighting the crucial role of women in mobilizing families and fostering resilience in their neighborhoods.

As the strike commenced at midnight on January 28, 1957, the Front de Libération Nationale (FLN) disseminated a clear and impactful leaflet calling for participation. While the FLN aimed for a peaceful demonstration, French military forces, led by General Massu, responded with severe repression, attempting to quash the protest and branding it as "insurrection."

During the strike, Algerians, especially women and children, found themselves under intense military scrutiny, with paratroopers violently invading homes and perpetrating acts of cruelty. This brutal repression failed to stamp out the spirit of resistance; rather, it ignited various forms of defiance, including protests against military patrols and targeted bomb attacks in European-dominated areas.



Women like Djamila emerged as pivotal figures during this upheaval, using rooftops to communicate with others across neighborhoods, thereby promoting solidarity and encouraging families to persevere through the oppressive climate. Their unwavering commitment served to maintain morale amid growing despair.

The chapter unflinchingly portrays the traumatic scenes of torture instigated by French paratroopers, whose actions included the arrest and abuse of not just men but young boys, generating profound outrage within communities that bore witness to such atrocities.

As the strike unfolded, the pervasive military oppression forced the activists to adapt their strategy, needing to relocate safe houses compromised by the heightened surveillance. On February 3, a significant safe house was discovered, prompting a tactical withdrawal that underscored the risks faced by the movement.

Despite the challenges and the violent repression endured, the eight-day strike is heralded as a significant triumph in the fight for Algerian independence. It demonstrated the determination and resilience of the FLN and the Algerian populace, capturing the attention of the international community and shifting the narrative toward viewing the struggle as a legitimate fight for liberation rather than merely a civil disturbance. This





chapter marks a critical turning point, as it solidified the FLN's status as the authoritative voice of the Algerian resistance against colonial dominance, rallying both national and global support for the cause.

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## Chapter 8: 8. Desperate Times

### ### 8. Desperate Times: Ben M'hidi's Fate

As the political climate in Algeria grew more intense, the shocking arrest of Ben M'hidi sent waves of despair through the activist community. Despite the handcuffs that marked his image in the press, his display of calm confidence offered reassurance that the momentum for Algerian freedom would not falter. Overcome initially by hopelessness, the author began to seek inspiration from M'hidi's unwavering leadership, which even earned admiration from adversaries within the colonial regime.

The narrative took a harrowing turn with the news of M'hidi's unexpected death, officially labeled a suicide—a claim met with incredulity and profound grief from his comrades. He symbolized honor, faith, and vision, and his passing represented a heart-wrenching loss for the revolutionary cause. The chapter underscores the increasing brutality of French counter-insurgency tactics, which included widespread torture and mass arrests, igniting even greater resolve among resistance fighters determined to continue their opposition to colonial rule.

### ### Angels in the Mosque

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Amidst the ongoing military crackdowns, these chapters delve into the precarious lives of activists hiding in the Casbah, seeking solace but aware that danger lurked at every corner. Their safe house offered temporary sanctuary, but the pervasive fear was starkly illustrated when a comrade was violently apprehended during a failed escape. The resilience of their community shone through during collective mourning rituals, uniting families in their shared suffering.

As the French forces escalated their offensive—marked by increasing raids and horrific torture—the activists understood that survival demanded regrouping and enhanced mobilization. This constant threat shaped their strategies, leading to a determined focus on sabotage and retaliatory actions, thus intensifying their commitment to freedom.

### ### An Escape Attempt and Solidarity

Against a backdrop of relentless peril, the activists embarked on various escape attempts, highlighting their collective bravery and unyielding dedication to one another. Their collaboration illustrated profound solidarity, as each member displayed willingness to risk their lives for the freedom of others. This chapter beautifully captures the human moments amid chaos, showcasing compassion and resourcefulness within the resistance, forging bonds even in the face of destruction.



### ### The Trial of Djamila Bouhired

A pivotal moment unfolds in the trial of Djamila Bouhired and her fellow activists, who stood before a military tribunal under hostile scrutiny. The trial served as a crucial platform for contesting the narrative of colonial

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## Chapter 9 Summary: 9. The Arrest

### Chapter 9 Summary: The Arrest

In this chapter, we delve into the harrowing events surrounding the arrest of Zohra Drif and her comrades against the backdrop of Algeria's fight for independence from French colonial rule, particularly during the dramatic period of the late 1950s.

The narrative begins on **August 9, 1957**, as Drif and her fellow activists meet with **Germaine Tillion**, a notable French ethnographer and member of the French Resistance, in hopes of persuading the French government to halt the executions of their captured comrades. Tillion's patronizing tone about their militant tactics breeds contempt in Drif, highlighting the diverging views on resistance and rebellion. Despite their hopes, the situation grows dire, with executions continuing unabated, prompting the group to resolve to escalate their tactics through bombings in Algiers.

Following their meeting, Drif and her comrades experience a sense of urgency and decide that **Kamel** should travel to Tunis to communicate their precarious situation to the leadership there. In an effort to galvanize public sentiment against the oppressive actions of the French military, Drif



also proposes the formation of a women's organization aimed at protesting the injustices faced by the Algerian people. This development signals the increasing involvement of women in the liberation movement, reflecting a burgeoning societal shift.

As fears mount with the French military's increasing presence—specifically paratroopers hunting high-profile figures like **Ramel** and **Si Mourad**—Drif finds herself caught between the responsibilities of her activism and her complicated personal emotions, particularly concerning her relationship with Si Mourad. The atmosphere becomes painfully tense, mirroring the brewing storm of conflict.

On **September 23**, the chapter culminates in a dramatic turn of events when Drif and **El Kho** are arrested during a French military operation. Their capture comes as a shock, rooted in betrayal—**Safi**, an insider, had compromised their safety. The weight of this betrayal strikes Drif especially hard, leading her thoughts to their fallen comrades, notably **Ali** and **Hassiba**.

In the aftermath of their arrest, Drif and El Kho are isolated, grappling with increasing anxiety over their comrades and the insidious whispers of betrayal within their ranks. Their fears are tragically realized when they learn that Ali and Hassiba have died in an explosion during a raid, further emphasizing the perilous stakes of their struggle.



As Drif endures the harsh realities of prison life, she is forced to confront complex emotions surrounding the notions of betrayal, the brutal tactics of the French military, and her unwavering commitment to the Algerian liberation cause. This inner turmoil underscores the importance of memory and honoring the sacrifices of her comrades, signifying that their struggle must continue for the sake of future generations.

Ultimately, Chapter 9 captures the profound emotional and psychological distress faced by Drif and her fellow activists, amidst betrayal, escalating violence, and the challenging dilemmas of fighting for freedom in a time of oppression.

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