



Strong and Sweet

Living in Syria is dangerous,
 so Fariq and his family leave their home
 and travel to Turkey.
 Fariq finds a job and makes new friends.
 He is happy in his new life.
 After four years the family moves again.
 This time to Australia.
 Now Fariq is angry.

But then he meets Maria

24 pages, 800 words, 19 black and white illustrations

I put clothes in my backpack. I packed quickly.
 I put Grandad's rakwa in my backpack too.



When I was a boy, Grandad made coffee in the rakwa. He liked his coffee strong and sweet.

Syrians love coffee. The smell of coffee is everywhere. The aroma was in my home and in my heart.

Chapter 2

From Syria to Turkey

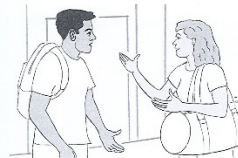
The journey to Turkey was difficult. Crossing the border was dangerous. Some men told us to leave our bags.

Ameel looked to the sky. "Ya-Rub ehmina!" she cried.



Boys and girls played together. I played on the senior team. Maria Rossi played on the senior team too.

Maria was Australian. I liked Maria. Her smile made me smile. I wanted to talk to her. But there was a problem.



One day after volleyball I waited for Maria.

"Have coffee with me, Maria," I said.

"You're crazy!" she said. "You shout at people."

"You don't like me?" I asked.

Maria smiled. "I like you, Fariq," she said, "but you get angry. That's what I don't like."