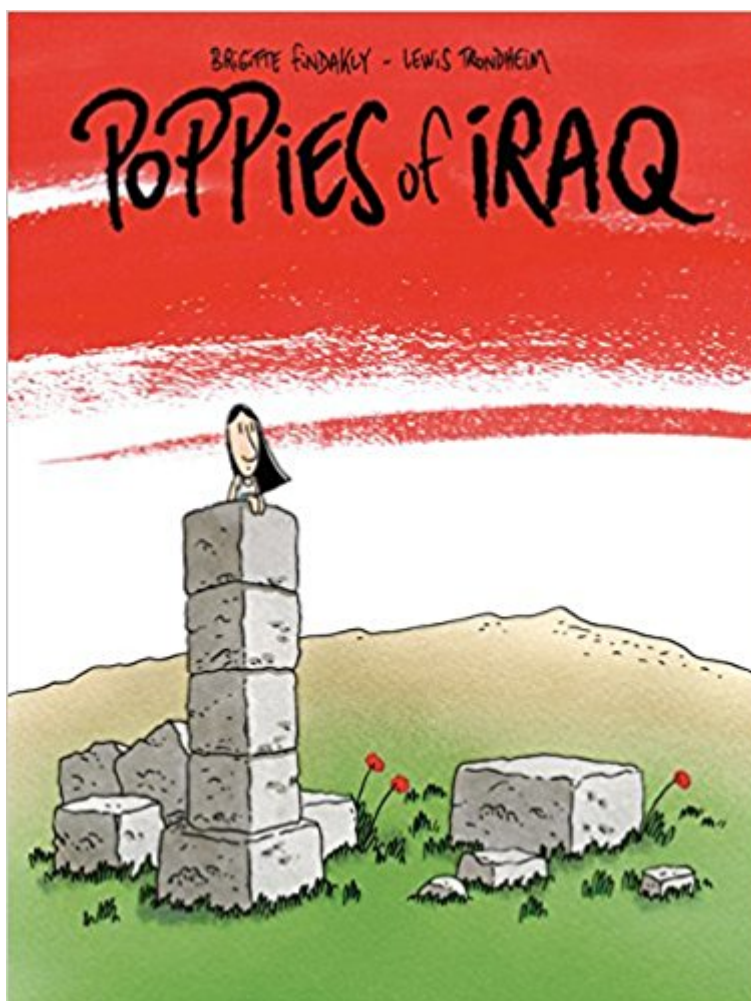


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# Poppies Of Iraq



## Synopsis

A personal account of an Iraqi childhood Poppies of Iraq is Brigitte Findakly's nuanced tender chronicle of her relationship with her homeland Iraq, co-written and drawn by her husband, the acclaimed cartoonist Lewis Trondheim. In spare and elegant detail, they share memories of her middle class childhood touching on cultural practices, the education system, Saddam Hussein's state control, and her family's history as Orthodox Christians in the Arab world. Poppies of Iraq is intimate and wide-ranging; the story of how one can become separated from one's homeland and still feel intimately connected yet ultimately estranged. Signs of an oppressive regime permeate a seemingly normal life: magazines arrive edited by customs; the color red is banned after the execution of General Kassim; Baathist militiamen are publicly hanged and school kids are bussed past them to bear witness. As conditions in Mosul worsen over her childhood, Brigitte's father is always hopeful that life in Iraq will return to being secular and prosperous. The family eventually feels compelled to move to Paris, however, where Brigitte finds herself not quite belonging to either culture. Trondheim brings to life Findakly's memories to create a poignant family portrait that covers loss, tragedy, love, and the loneliness of exile.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Expressive and poetic, this nuanced book brings to the fore memories of an Iraqi childhood, the country's culture and its wisdom, in face of the barbarism of current events.

An essential read. • Le Figaro "This very personal graphic

narrative shows, better than reporting could, how a society gradually loses its freedoms. *Actualité* “Brigitte Findakly takes us on an extraordinary journey often funny, sometimes poignant, always thoughtful to the country of her memories. A chronicle, charmingly and simply illustrated by Lewis Trondheim... *Le Parisien*

Co-writer and colourist Brigitte Findakly was born in Mosul, Iraq, in 1959 and lived there until 1973. Cartoonist Lewis Trondheim was born in Fontainebleau, France in 1964. They have two children and live in the south of France.

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