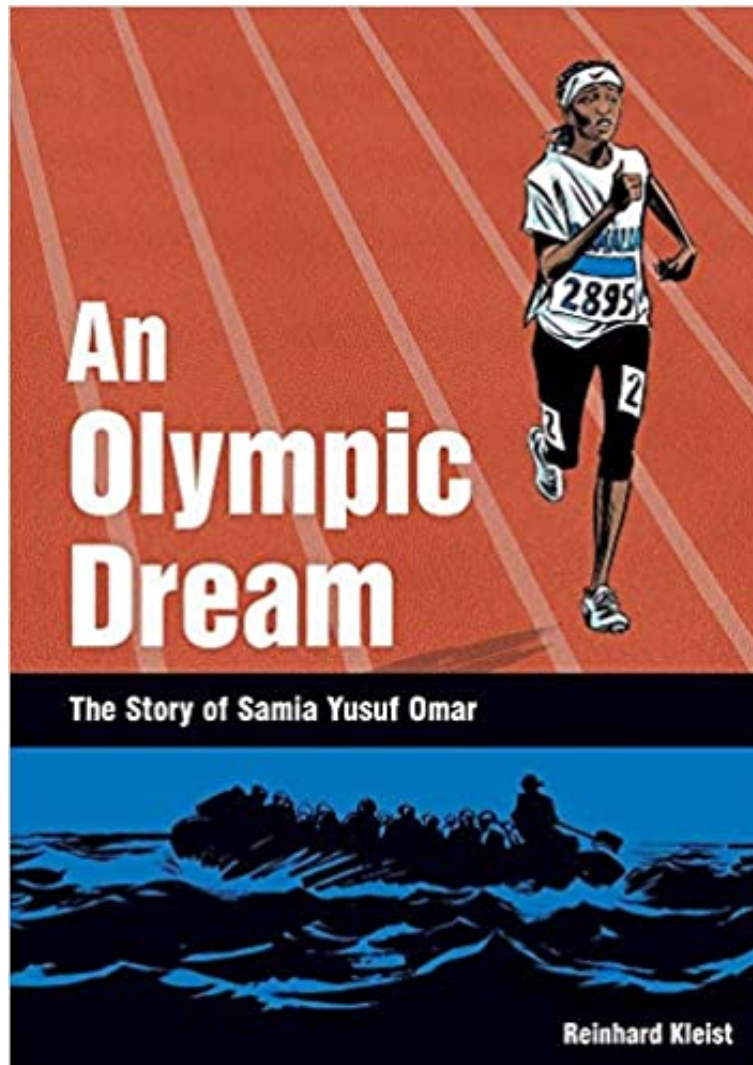


Diary of a Baby Wombat

by
Ladybird



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Synopsis

The image of Samia Yusuf Omar running for last place at the 2008 Beijing Olympics will forever be imprinted in the minds of all who saw it: The lean Somalian, wearing knee-length leggings and a baggy T-shirt, came in seconds behind her competitors. What the cheering crowd couldn't know then was what it took to get there. *An Olympic Dream* follows Omar's second attempt to represent her country at the Olympics, this time in London. Reinhard Kleist pictures the athlete training in one of the most dangerous cities in the world; her passage through Sudan and into Libya; and her fateful attempt to reach Europe. By telling the story of one remarkable woman, Kleist gives voice to the thousands of migrants who risk their lives daily for a better future.

Sort review

From School Library Journal In stark black-and-white illustrations, young Somalian Samia Yusuf Omar finishes last in her 200-meter heat in the Beijing Olympics, but she is determined to improve for the 2012 London Summer Olympics. Training is difficult in Somalia because the strict militant Muslim government disapproves of women exercising outside of the home, even with a head covering. Omar is determined to flee to Europe for better facilities and food, but she must rely on unscrupulous human traffickers to take her across deserts and the Mediterranean Sea. Her journey is rough and dangerous, and there is no happy ending. German author Kleist used family interviews to re-create Omar's life in Mogadishu and interspersed panels with fictionalized Facebook posts to advance the story line. VERDICT While this tale of perseverance and needless death wasn't told by an actual refugee, it emphasizes the need for immigration reform and personalizes the plight of refugees. A welcome addition to current events discussions.—Sarah Hill, Lake Land College, Mattoon, IL About the Author Reinhard Kleist is a renowned artist and graphic novelist. *The Boxer*, his depiction of Holocaust survivor Harry Haft, was nominated for an Ignatz Award and made the Young Adult Library Services Association's 2014 Great Graphic Novels for Teens list. His acclaimed biography *Johnny Cash: I See a Darkness* was nominated for an Eisner Award. Kleist lives in Germany.

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The book by Ladybird has a rating of 5 out of 4.8. 9 people have provided feedback.

Book Information

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