

Flight across the sea – based on a true story



Annabel Wahba
A Thousand Miles Across the Sea

[Tausend Meilen über das Meer]

The escape of Karim Deeb

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Annabel Wahba was born in 1972, studied political science and went to the Deutsche Journalistenschule for her journalistic training. She reported as a freelance correspondent from Israel and the Middle East, was an editor for the *Jetzt-Magazin* of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* and since 2007 has been on the staff of the *ZEIT*. In her reports she covers Middle East politics and the topics of flight and refugees. She has been awarded the Axel Springer Prize.

Karim has managed to get away from his embattled home town of Homs. He and his family first make it to Egypt, and from there he tries to cross the Mediterranean with his uncle to Italy. In the process he loses his uncle in the crowds, misses the boat of the people smugglers and ends up in prison. During his next attempt to escape by boat he nearly drowns in a storm. It borders on a miracle that months later he can go to school in Konstanz. Although Karim misses his parents and he finds it difficult to make friends, he begins to find his feet. But then a class mate accuses him of bullying.

- Riveting and moving
- Carefully researched by ZEIT journalist Annabel Wahba