



Memoir  
September 2025  
£16.99  
HB Demy 272pp  
ISBN 978-1-84925-100-6

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hala Alyan is a Palestinian-American writer and poet. Her novels include *The Arsonists' City* and *Salt Houses*, winner of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize and the Arab American Book Award, and a Chautauqua Prize finalist. Her work has been published by *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *The Guardian* and *Guernica*. She lives in Brooklyn, where she works as a clinical psychologist and professor at New York University.

**‘[A] gorgeous, lyrical memoir ... shows the power of even a single narrative to resist the deliberate erasure of a people and their homeland, the violence of colonisation.’**

***The New York Times***

# I'll Tell You When I'm Home

A Memoir

HALA ALYAN

**‘A beautiful and intimate memoir of a life ...  
I was spellbound from the first page.’**

**Naomi Klein**

#### KEY SALES POINTS

- Combines the emotional urgency of surrogacy and loss with the universal themes of identity and belonging.
- Will resonate with readers of bestselling literary memoirs like *In the Dream House* and *Good Talk*.
- Anticipated and relevant work from an award-winning Palestinian-American novelist with a devoted following.
- Has received early praise from acclaimed writers like Naomi Klein and adrienne maree brown, alongside coverage in major press outlets.

#### OUTLINE

At first, Hala's baby is the size of a poppyseed. Then a grain of rice, then a lime. After years of trying and multiple miscarriages, Hala watches from afar as her daughter grows in the body of another woman, in another country.

But Hala is not only awaiting news from the surrogate. She holds her breath as Palestine and Lebanon, her estranged homelands, come under fire. She runs to distract herself, recalling family stories—of grandmothers mapping their lives through shifting borders; of lost villages, invading armies, fleeting refuges; of men who left, women who stayed. She names her unborn daughter Leila, tying her to *A Thousand and One Nights* and to women who save through storytelling.

Lyrical and honest, *I'll Tell You When I'm Home* is a powerful story of motherhood and peoplehood, of loss and becoming, and of homelands both lost and remade.



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‘An emotion-packed exploration of the impact of loss on identity.’

**Kirkus**

‘This memoir of pregnancy loss and surrogacy is frantic, intimate, brutal, tender and beautiful ... Brilliant.’

**adrienne maree brown**

‘A poignant exploration of her tumultuous path to parenthood, identity, and displacement.’

**The New Arab**

‘Gorgeously written and compelling ... a writer of astounding talent.’

**Lisa Ko**

‘This book is a gift, an offering of abundant beauty, full of deep insight into the intricacies of motherhood.’

**Alexandra Kleeman**

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A Memoir

**HALA ALYAN**

‘A story of war and loss – of country, but also of friends, lovers and ultimately her marriage. [Alyan’s] journey mirrors this in microcosm ... surrogacy becomes a metaphor for exile.’

**The Guardian**

‘Alyan has created a record, a story to communicate with those departed and those new to life ... an antidote for others searching for a home they never asked to lose.’

**Chicago Review of Books**

‘[A] lyrical memoir that explores the trauma of fractured identity.’

**Los Angeles Times**

‘A lyrical and uncompromising personal history.’

**Publisher's Weekly**

‘A poignant exploration of suffering and wonder and a portrait of a woman on the cusp of bringing a new life to her world.’

**Booklist**

‘An exquisitely written and unforgettable memoir.’

**Nadia Owusu**

‘A powerful, magnificently haunting memoir from a writer I always want to read. It’s great luck to live in a time when Hala Alyan is writing. Get ready to be astonished.’

**R. O. Kwon**

‘A roaring cyclone of memory and imagination and harrowing tribulation ... as rich and supersaturated as contemporary consciousness itself. I can’t stop talking about it.’

**Kaveh Akbar**



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**PRIZES**

Wolfson History Prize, Duff Cooper Prize, PEN Hessel-Tiltman Prize, Orwell Prize, Bread and Roses Award for Radical Publishing, British-Kuwait Friendship Society Book Prize, British Army Military Book of the Year, Nayef Al-Rodhan Prize, The Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction, Parliamentary Book Awards, British Academy Prize for Global Cultural Understanding

**PARTNERSHIPS**

Historical Association, Royal Historical Society, CAABU, Arab Chamber of Commerce, LSE

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**HALA ALAYAN**

**REVIEWS AND OP-EDS**

Broadsheets, journals and cultural and current affairs magazines, to include *The Guardian*, *The Times*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Economist*, *The Financial Times*, *Jordan Times*, *Socialist Review*, *New Middle Eastern Studies*, *Journal of Contemporary History*, *English Historical Review*, *Asian Affairs*, *InterLib*, *LSE Review of Books*, *Prospect Magazine*, *Spectator*, *New Statesman*, *The Tablet*.

**INTERVIEWS**

*History Today*, *Independent*, *BBC History Magazine*, *The National*, *MEMO*, *al-Hayat*, *International Affairs*, *Monocle*, *Intelligent Life*, *The House*, *Total Politics*, *Jacobin*

**RADIO**

TRT World, R5 Afternoon Edition, World Service Weekend, BBC London *Robert Elms Show*, RTE Radio 1 *Arena*

**PODCASTS**

*Stuff You Missed in History Class*, *Prospect*, *The Spectator*

**FESTIVALS**

Edinburgh, Harrogate Literature Festival, Durham Book Festival, Marlborough Festival, Birmingham Literature Festival, Chalke Valley History Festival, Off the Shelf (Sheffield), Manchester Literature Festival, Buxton

**EVENTS**

Launch at Hatchards, events with Richmond Literary Lunches, How to Academy, Institute of Historical Research, Western Front Association, Royal Geographical Society regional events, Royal Historical Society, IWM North, National Maritime Museum Greenwich