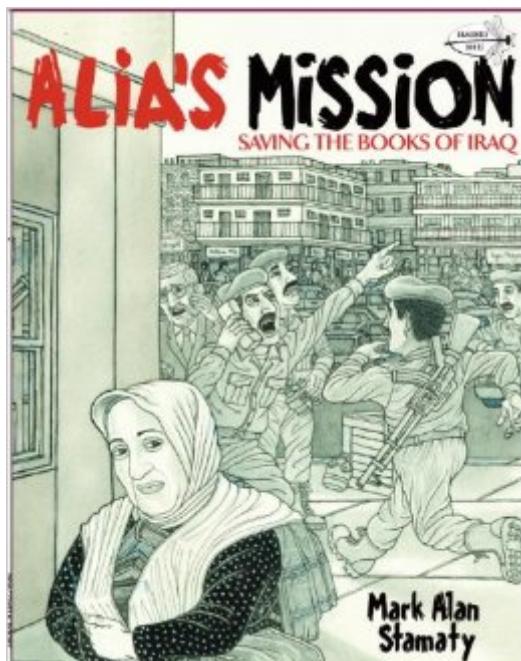


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# Alia's Mission: Saving The Books Of Iraq (Dragonfly Books)



## Synopsis

The inspiring story of an Iraqi librarian's courageous fight to save books from the Basra Central Library before it was destroyed in the war. It is 2003 and Alia Muhammad Baker, the chief librarian of the Central Library in Basra, Iraq, has grown worried given the increased likelihood of war in her country. Determined to preserve the irreplaceable records of the culture and history of the land on which she lives from the destruction of the war, Alia undertakes a courageous and extremely dangerous task of spiriting away 30,000 books from the library to a safe place. Told in dramatic graphic-novel panels by acclaimed cartoonist Mark Alan Stamaty, Alia's Mission celebrates the importance of books and the freedom to read, while examining the impact of war on a country and its people.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0850 (What's this?)

Series: Dragonfly Books

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Dragonfly Books (February 9, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 037585763X

ISBN-13: 978-0375857638

Product Dimensions: 7.1 x 0.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #598,187 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #36 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Middle East #462 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Books & Libraries

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

This is a true story about saving books. It takes place in Basra, Iraq, in 2003. Yes, that Basra. It's in the news all the time. At the beginning of the book, "Alia's Mission: Saving the Books of Iraq," there is no war in Basra. But Alia Muhammad Baker, chief librarian of Basra Central Library, knows it is only a matter of time. As a girl, Alia had read about the Mongol invasion of Iraq and the burning of the Baghdad Library. She equates the burning of a library and its books with the destruction of the

culture of her country. Burn a library and you burn a collective recorded memory. Alia singlehandedly assumes the responsibility for saving the 40,000 volumes in her library. How? She stuffs her purse and loads her arms under her shawl and walks out, loads her car, returns for another load. City and military officials who now occupy the library, daring the enemy to bomb their library, pay her no heed. She fills her car. Night after night she comes home with a car full of books. Her husband, bless him, unloads them into a closet, then guest room, then into other rooms. (I'm a librarian and understand her distress and need to save the books!). Then neighbors and friends, and those who hear about the effort, and then many other people help rescue the books. The only books intentionally ignored are those about Saddam Hussein. After England invades, a fire finally destroys the library and 10,000 volumes. Currently, plans are underway to rebuild as soon as the war is over. "Alia's Mission" is told in graphic panel form and will appeal to all ages.

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