



Author: **Chaker Khazaal**

Genre: **Memoir/Thriller**

Language: **English**

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OUCH! A memoir with a *twist!*

SYNOPSIS: Growing up in a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon, Chaker Khazaal's mission was to escape displacement and find his rightful place in the world. This detailed glimpse into his life takes you on an exciting adventure from the Middle East to North America and beyond. All will be revealed in Chaker's pursuit of success—a journey of internal psychological conflicts. Ouch!

Denied entry to his homeland in February 2020, Chaker returns to Beirut and liaises remotely with a team of lawyers to contest Israel's decision. Coincidentally, Covid-19 starts to force lockdowns around the world. Chaker quickly adapts to the restrictions and continues his involvement in a variety of global projects.

Meanwhile, the world is struggling to comprehend the unprecedented occurrences taking place—from the Lebanese revolution to the Black Lives Matter protests—culminating in the Beirut Port blast on August 4, 2020. Although Chaker survives the fourth-largest explosion in the world, can he overcome his mental struggles?

During the lockdown, Adam, a Palestinian waiter at the Smallville Hotel, develops a friendship with Chaker. Amid the chaos and tension, their inexplicable connection leads to an astonishing climax that no reader will ever foresee. In this psychological thriller, Chaker's painful secret is finally revealed. Ouch!

BIOGRAPHY: Chaker Khazaal, born in Lebanon in 1987, is a Palestinian-Canadian reporter, speaker, and award-winning author.

Growing up in a refugee camp, he immigrated to Toronto, Canada to study International Development and graduated from York University in 2009 with a BA. Khazaal, focusing on international affairs, went on to produce and host a variety of web-based shows, highlighting international affairs with governmental and not for profit organizations

An advocate for refugees and young writers, Khazaal is an engaging communicator, regularly featured at global events and conferences. In recognition of his many accomplishments, he was named *Esquire's Middle East Man of the Year 2015*, and in 2016 was ranked first by Arabian Business Magazine in the *100 Most Powerful Arabs Under 40*. In the same year, he was presented with the *Mentor Arabia Award* and in 2017, Khazaal was awarded the *Global Trailblazer*, by NGO Bridges of Understanding.

His trilogy, *Confessions of a War Child (Part One); Part Two (Lia) and Part Three (Sahara)*, was followed by the release of *Tale of Tala*, an Amazon Best Seller that resulted in a book tour of 35 cities.

During the COVID-19 crisis, Chaker launched *Candle of Hope* app where people light digital candles to featured stories, with ad-revenue being donated to grant someone's wish.

“Detailed and intimate, *Ouch!* addresses ideological, psychological, and existential themes.”

— *London Daily Post*

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