

Amal's Journey

Guitar played in C
(Capo on second fret)

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (D major). It consists of 14 staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff lines. The lyrics are: "She said they looked like float - ing birds, Those child - ren on the wa - ter. She said that they were sleep - ing, But she knew they'd nev - er wake, In this cold dark o - cea in the night, So far a - way from land, Bob - bing up and down on the waves. Life was good once, long a - go in the ci - ty of Bagh - dad She'd stroll be - side the Ti - gris in the eve - ning with her fa - ther Palm trees sway - ing in the sun - set, flot - sam on the ri - ver, And the songs of Umm Khul - tum float - ing on the breeze. She said Come with me on this jour - ney She said Walk with me a whil, You'll un - der - stand. I may cry, and my heart may fill with year - ing, But I know at last I've reached my prom - ised land." The chords used are D, Bm7, Em7, G, A, and F#m7. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

She said they looked like float - ing birds, Those child - ren on the wa - ter. She
said that they were sleep - ing, But she knew they'd nev - er wake, In this
cold dark o - cea in the night, So far a - way from land,
Bob - bing up and down on the waves.
Life was good once, long a - go in the ci - ty of Bagh - dad She'd
stroll be - side the Ti - gris in the eve - ning with her fa - ther
Palm trees sway - ing in the sun - set, flot - sam on the ri - ver, And the
songs of Umm Khul - tum float - ing on the breeze. She said
Come with me on this jour - ney She said
Walk with me a whil, You'll un - der - stand. I may
cry, and my heart may fill with year - ing, But I
know at last I've reached my prom - ised land.

Interlude

She said they looked like floating birds, those children on the water
She said that they were sleeping, but she knew they'd never wake
In this cold dark ocean in the night, so far away from land
Bobbing up and down on the waves

Life was good once long ago in the city of Baghdad
She'd stroll beside the Tigris in the evenings with her father
Palm trees swaying in the sunset, flotsam on the river
And the songs of Umm Khultum floating on the breeze

Chorus:

She said come with me on this journey
She said walk with me a while – you'll understand
I may cry and my heart may fill with yearning
But I know at last I've reached my promised land

Evil came, Saddam Hussein brought terror fear and war
Amal lost two brothers, and her husband thrown in jail
The night police came to her house and knocked upon her door
She knew that they must flee their precious home

So they silently slipped out of town and struggled through the mountains
By dark of night they crossed the frontier, then on to Tehran
Living day to day they make their way somehow to Sumatra
Running out of money, hope and plans

Chorus

The boat was small, the boat was old, could never hold 400 people
But the smugglers insisted. If you're to go you must go now!
The storm came fast, the storm came hard, and all were at its mercy
The engine failed, the boat went down, and screaming rent the air

Interlude

Every life is sacred, every mother son and daughter
Everyone just wants to make the best life that they can
But to see a mother and her new-born sleeping on the water
Is to see the hand that fate has dealt to those who had no chance

Chorus

She said they looked like floating birds ...

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Amal Basry, from Iraq, was one of the few survivors of the SIEV-X, on which 353 asylum seekers died on 20 October 2001. She was eventually permitted to settle in Melbourne, where she worked tirelessly to raise awareness of the plight of refugees seeking to enter Australia. Amal means hope.