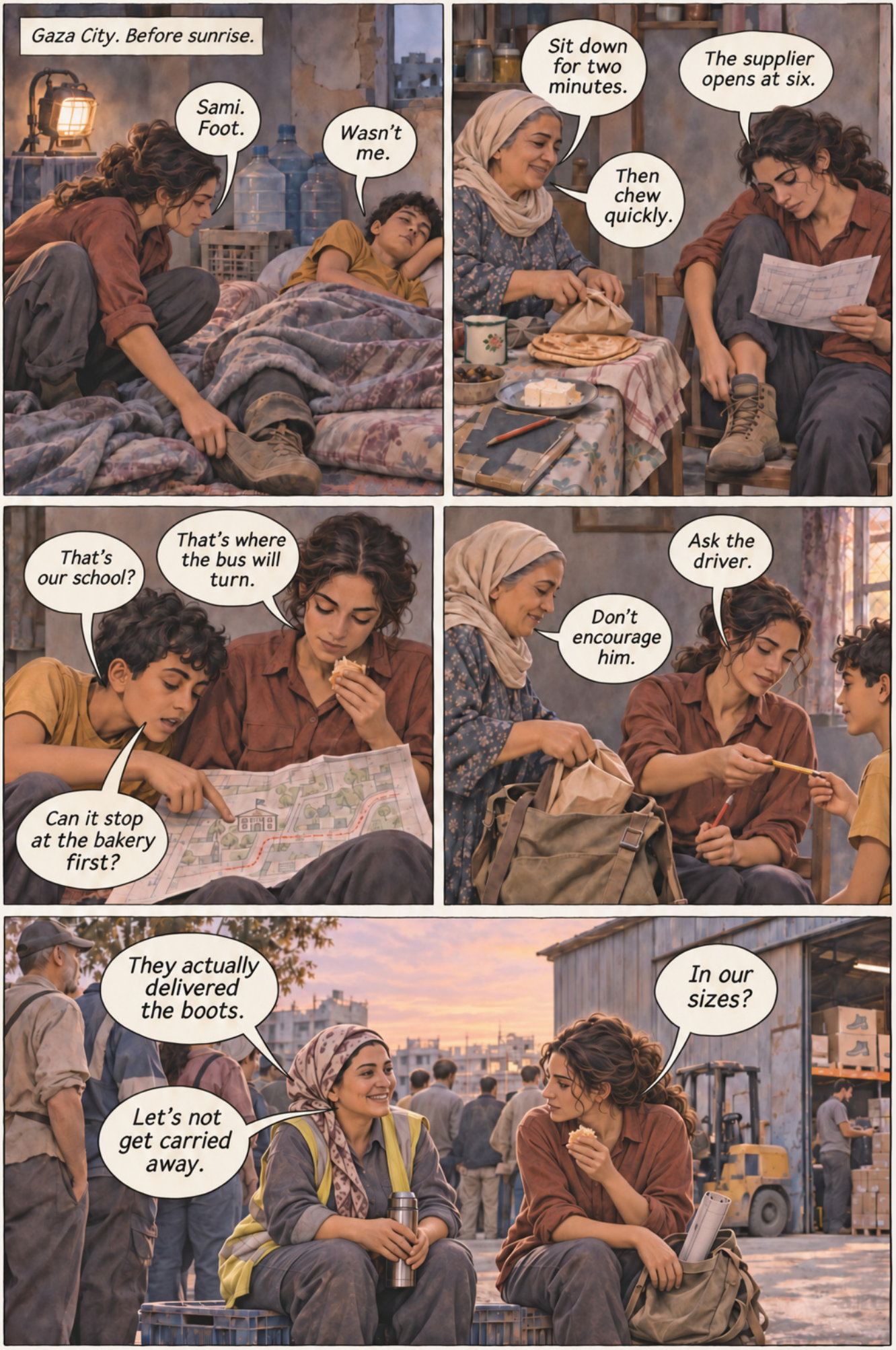

An imagined future.
Sderot. The night after the signing.
2:07
Maya?
I thought I heard something.


How many nights?
What?
Since the last siren.
A week. Tonight makes a week.
They're still asleep.
Come back. You might get another three hours.
Four.
Ambitious.


Gaza City. Before sunrise.
Sami. Foot.
Wasn't me.
Sit down for two minutes.
The supplier opens at six.
Then chew quickly.
That's our school?
That's where the bus will turn.
Can it stop at the bakery first?
Ask the driver.
Don't encourage him.
They actually delivered the boots.
In our sizes?
Let's not get carried away.


Munich. Later that morning.
Reza
Are you home tonight? I want to call.
Is that ready to cook with, or are we still testing it?
Ready.
Good. You're making dinner.
10:42
Reza
Hossein
After seven. Both of us will be here.
Riyadh. Departures.
المغادرات
Departures
Yes, Jeddah. Yes, today. I'm looking at the gate.
SISTER (PHONE): You said that last time.
Last time I was looking at the wrong gate.
GULF-TO-GULF ACCORD SIGNED


He's under your bag.
That explains why he hasn't boarded.
Thank you. We've packed everything except enough hands.
جدة JEDDAH A16
תל אביב TEL AVIV A17
Work?
Locations for a film. I've had pictures of Jerusalem over my desk for years.
Amal Riyadh → Jerusalem
Jerusalem Film Festival
My niece thinks I own the plane.
Don't correct her until you've landed.
I almost didn't come.
Send your niece a picture from your seat.
Amal Riyadh → Jerusalem
Jerusalem Film Festival


Gaza City. Omar al-Mukhtar Street.
Six blocks. We start at this end once the clearance team releases it.
This is the entrance he uses.
The other one has steps. Everyone keeps sending me to the other one.
We'll keep a way through here. I'll walk it with you before we move the barriers.
Bring that man who moves them.
Will the road be flat?
That's the idea.
Then I need this fixed.
Come back tomorrow with your uncle.
Can I come with my mother?
Anyone who can stop you riding it before I'm finished.


Nine weeks is the target. The first work order is funded.
And the school entrance?
The road reaches it here. You're getting the rooms ready?
Three classrooms first. If we can get the children to them.
When do the shifts begin?
Friday, for the released section.
I need the hours today. My sister has to arrange hers.
Hours. Access. Water deliveries. We're taking these one at a time.
We'll have the shift list here this afternoon.
• Hours
• Access
• Water deliveries
Can I put your name against the date?
Yes. If the remaining surveys are clear.
I'll note that.
NINE WEEKS?


Omar?
If this is about the bus, I'm making progress.
I'm the road engineer. I need your turning circle.
I was hoping you needed a driver.
Eventually.
The old stop was outside the bakery.
My brother has already requested that.
Sensible boy.
Brakes, tires, every seat. Then an inspection before anyone rides.
How long?
How long have you given me?
Nine weeks.
Then I should stop talking.


That afternoon.
These were in the storeroom. The roof held over this end.
I keep finding their names.
Hana
Hana
Bring Sami on Thursday. We're meeting in the community room until this is ready.
What are they drawing?
The journey to school. There's a class exchange starting.
Which room will his class have?
This one.
He'll want the window seat.


Jeddah. Samira's sister's home.
Happy Birthday
Are they coming to my birthday?
Only if we don't finish this call.
The headline includes money that hasn't arrived.
Those are signed commitments.
Kareem
DR. HASSAN
Reconstruction Fund Update
PROMISED $520,000,000
RECEIVED $280,000,000
Total Funding: $800,000,000
Keep both figures. Tell people what we can actually start.
Our Gaza work order is covered. The later payments aren't all in yet.
I'll send the confirmed release to the local office today.
Thank you. They have people arranging childcare around those shifts.
Project Schedule
DR. HASSAN
You're on balloons.
I thought I was on cake.
Happy Birthday
You were late.


The next morning.
Seven until two. Good.
Good?
Shift List
I can be back before you leave. Yes. Friday.
The first payment is on this date. Keep your copy.
Can I photograph it too?
Of course.
Can you put that one aside until my first payday?
I'll fix the guard.
Ready?
Wait. Auntie isn't looking.
I am now.


Beirut. Later that week.
The electrician came back.
Everything working?
The kettle and the washing machine. Together.
My sister uses a walker now. She'll catch it here.
We can widen that when we do the wall.
She's only staying a week.
You told me two.
I haven't told her two yet.
14:27
OFFER FOLLOW-UP
DAD
Will you be home for dinner?
RANIA
If you're cooking, yes. If I'm cooking, I'll be late.
DAD
Bring bread.


I got the round ones.
You always eat the round ones on the way home.
I got extra.
Are you staying for the whole meal?
That's the plan.
Last time I put your half in the fridge.
We're preparing for the first handover. There are still details to settle.
PORT HANDOVER — PREPARATION
You've been coming home before the food gets cold.
I'd like to keep doing that.
Mrs. Saad wants a wider doorway. Her sister's visiting.
From where?
Montreal. First time in years.


Sderot. Thursday morning.
Where's your water bottle?
In a safe place.
Very safe. Now put it in your bag.
Can we walk past the park today?
It takes longer.
I know.
Ten minutes. Then school.
Fifteen?
Shoes off again and it's zero.
There's a nest in that tree.
Show me.


The education group found a partner class in Gaza. They're meeting in a community room for now.
What are they asking us to do?
Drawings. Their teacher suggested the journey to school. We send ours, they send theirs.
Who reads the writing?
MY JOURNEY TO SCHOOL
The group will translate it.
What's the filming for?
A short piece about the exchange.
I'd like to start without cameras. Let the children decide what they want to share.
I'll tell them. We still need the families' permission for the drawings.
That's mine.
We went to look at a nest.
Long morning?


Later that day.
Draw something you notice on the way here. It doesn't have to be a perfect map.
MY JOURNEY TO SCHOOL
Can I put the dog in?


Does he come with you?
He watches from the balcony. He thinks everyone is coming to his house.


What if they don't have this road?
That's why you get to show them yours.


I gave you another arm for your coffee.
Keep it. I could use it.




Gaza City. Abeer's class.
One sheet each to begin with. You can turn it over if you need more room.
You can't draw that. It doesn't go there yet.
It will.
You can draw the journey you're waiting for. Write that underneath.
Can I do my old walk?
Yes.
My grandmother walked me. She made us leave much too early.
You can put that in your letter, if you want.
WAITING FOR THE BUS
You've made the bus bigger than the school.
I don't know how to draw all the classrooms.
Fair enough.
WAITING FOR THE BUS


Munich. That evening.
Move it back. I'm talking to your eyebrow.
Better?
Can you hear us?
SHIRIN (PHONE): Clearly. For once.
He tested it on three neighbors before calling you.
How's university?
Exams. Please ask me something else.
Is your father behaving?
Worse question.
People are talking about the offer. At work. At the shops. Whether anything can come of it.
HOSSEIN: What do you think?
I'd like her to finish school and find work here. If that's what she wants.
I'd like to be close enough to help with things.


He means fixing things that aren't broken.
Your cupboard was falling off.
The door squeaked.


Next week? Same time?
Same time.
We should have done this more.


You've gone quiet.
I was trying to remember the last time I sat in that kitchen.


Eighteen years. I'd like to go back. Just to visit.
I'd like that too. When we can.


Come inside. You finally fixed the saucepan. We should eat what was in it.
It's probably cold.
We also own a stove.


Gaza City. Friday morning.
This marked section is released for the road crew. Beyond the barrier is still closed.
Understood.
First day here?
On this crew. I've been walking around that pile for months.
My sister says he woke up asking for me.
Mine asks for the cat first.
This corner's narrow.
We can move that fence back.
Come in. The tea's ready.
Good. I got here before it went cold.


We need to talk about the section near the school.

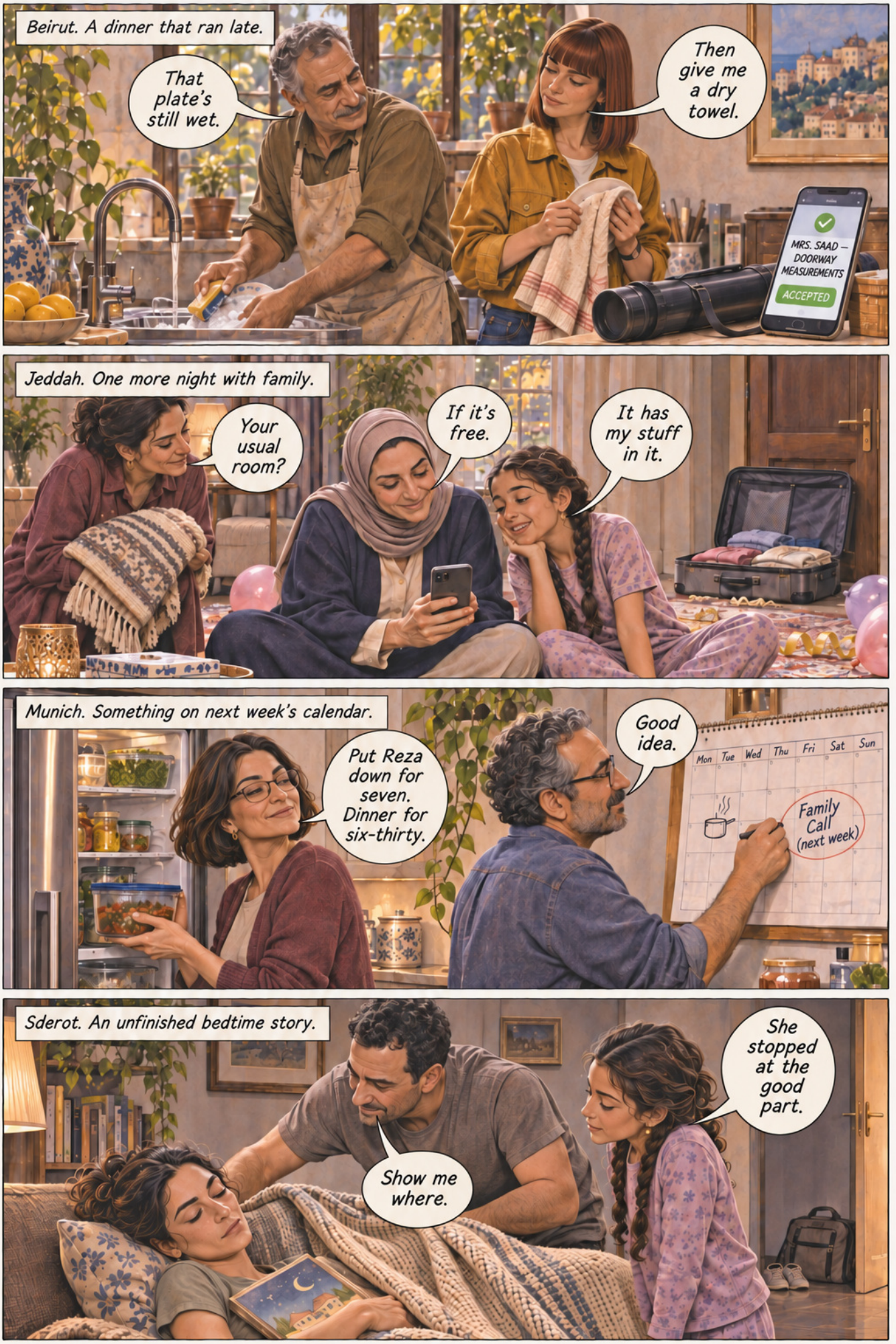

HATEM:
These records don't agree. And we haven't got the ground results for that section yet.
LAYLA:
When will we know?


The team can get in next week, after clearance. Then we can give you a proper answer.
So I can't promise the opening date.
Not yet.
Nine-Week Work Plan
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Survey
Utilities
Road works
School access
Classrooms
Opening prep




We need to change the notice. I shouldn't have let the target sound like a promise.


We did put the condition underneath.
I know. I told people nine weeks too.
TARGET OPENING — NINE WEEKS
Final opening date depends on completion of surveys and testing.
CURRENT WORK (FUNDED)
Surveys
Water deliveries
Access improvements
Classroom fit-out
The last section still needs testing. We don't have a reliable finish date yet.
I've been telling families.
I'll come to the next class meeting. You shouldn't have to explain it for me.
Thursday. And tell me what you know before then.
I will.
TARGET OPENING — NINE WEEKS
OPENING DATE UNDER REVIEW
NEXT UPDATE — THURSDAY
CURRENT WORK (FUNDED)
Surveys
Water deliveries
Access improvements
Classroom fit-out
Is the bus still happening?
Yes. We just have more to check before we put you on it.
Can we go and see it?


Beirut. A dinner that ran late.
That plate's still wet.
Then give me a dry towel.
MRS. SAAD — DOORWAY MEASUREMENTS
ACCEPTED
Jeddah. One more night with family.
Your usual room?
If it's free.
It has my stuff in it.
Munich. Something on next week's calendar.
Put Reza down for seven. Dinner for six-thirty.
Good idea.
Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun
Family Call (next week)
Sderot. An unfinished bedtime story.
Show me where.
She stopped at the good part.


Gaza City. Friday afternoon.
Any news on the road?
More tests. We'll know more next week.
المدرسة
All right. I've still got work here.
I wish I'd waited before giving you a date.
Tell me when you have one.
Can I look from the window seat?
First row's finished. Mind the step.
المدرسة
Good view?
Come and see.
المدرسة
END OF ISSUE ONE.