



Children of Israel, Children of Palestine: Our Own True Stories (The children of conflict series)

By Laurel Holliday

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Israeli Jews and Palestinians appear side by side for the first time in this remarkable book to share powerful feelings and reflections on growing up in one of the world's longest and most dangerous conflicts. Here, thirty-six men and women, boys and girls, tell of their coming-of-age in a land of turmoil. From kibbutzim in Israel and the occupied territories to Palestinian refugee camps in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Israeli Jews and Palestinians tell of tragedy and transcendence as they face their deepest fears and dream of a peaceful future. Listen to them as they recount stories of their brief and often violent youth.

No matter what their ethnic identity, how much and how long they have suffered, these courageous autobiographers most often reveal a deep longing for peace. Perhaps their hopes and fears are best illustrated by a parable retold by eighteen-year-old Redrose (a pseudonym):

"Two frogs got trapped in a jar of cream. They couldn't jump out of the liquid and they couldn't climb because the sides of the jar were slippery. One frog said, 'By dawn I'll be dead,' and went to sleep. The second frog swam all night long and in the morning found herself floating on a pat of butter."

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

What is it like to grow up in the war zone of the Middle East? That is the subject of this disturbing collection, which begins with memories about childhood before the 1948 war and ends with accounts of young Palestinians and Israelis growing up now. Some remember the rage for revenge ("I dreamed of killing each and every one of them"); many are overwhelmingly sad ("How painful to be a visitor in one's own country"). What connects them is a longing for peace; the question is, At what price? Holliday says in her eloquent introduction that there is no sweet upbeat solution of easy neutrality, no call "to kiss and make up," but there is hope in their agreeing to tell their stories in a book together. They are listening to each other, and they make us hear all sides. Connect this with Naomi Shihab Nye's beautiful YA anthology *The Space between Our Footsteps: Poems and Paintings from the Middle East* (see review on p.1131): there, also, displacement is a dominant theme. *Hazel Rochman*

From Kirkus Reviews

While limited in scope, this anthology of childhood memories of adults shaped by the Arab-Israeli wars is often quite moving. Like her previous books *Children of the Troubles: Our Lives in the Crossfire of Northern Ireland* (1997) and *Children of the Holocaust and World War II: Their Secret Diaries* (not reviewed), this volume anthologizes the eloquent testimonies of adults remembering traumatic wartime incidents they witnessed as children. Holliday, a Seattle-based psychotherapist, has an eye for choosing telling details, including both the communal and dramatic (nightmarish scenes of Palestinians forced to flee their homes at night, watching as their houses are burned and leveled) and the highly personal (the recollections of a young Arab boy imprisoned by Jordanians, "beaten up and forced to sing loudly 'Long Live King Hussain'"). The memoirs had to be written in English, somewhat limiting the range of contributors. Almost all of them express moderate views, thus offering a rather misleading portrait of Arab and Israeli societies, given the presence of violent extremists on both sides. While Holliday provides a sketchy history from the 19th century to the present, were not told the political reasons for the region's most pressing human problems, such as why houses in the Rafah refugee camp, like Ahmed Younis's, "were and still are made of one level of cinder block." Holliday's Israelis are often condescending in their treatment of Arabs, viewing them as "noble savages," illiterate, uncomplicated, easily led. Indeed, Ehud Ben-Ezer's colonialist father comes complete with a British "pith helmet." A powerful if somewhat incomplete sampling of voices, important especially for giving expression to those Palestinians whose stories are rarely heard. (8 pages photos, not seen) -- Copyright ©1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Review

The Globe & Mail (Toronto) Stories which are often ferocious, violent, tragic, and...uplifting.

Publisher's Weekly This compilation dramatizes the common humanity of the two peoples....A rich and moving collection....

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Arthur Poulsen:

Book is actually written, printed, or highlighted for everything. You can understand everything you want by a book. Book has a different type. As we know that book is important point to bring us around the world. Adjacent to that you can your reading proficiency was fluently. A book Children of Israel, Children of Palestine: Our Own True Stories (The children of conflict series) will make you to become smarter. You can feel much more confidence if you can know about every thing. But some of you think this open or reading a new book make you bored. It is not necessarily make you fun. Why they can be thought like that? Have you looking for best book or suited book with you?

Anne Hernandez:

What do you with regards to book? It is not important to you? Or just adding material when you really need something to explain what your own problem? How about your extra time? Or are you busy man? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is make you feel bored faster. And you have time? What did you do? Everyone has many questions above. They should answer that question mainly because just their can do in which. It said that about guide. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is appropriate. Because start from on pre-school until university need this specific Children of Israel, Children of Palestine: Our Own True Stories (The children of conflict series) to read.

Betty Serrano:

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Billy Smith:

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