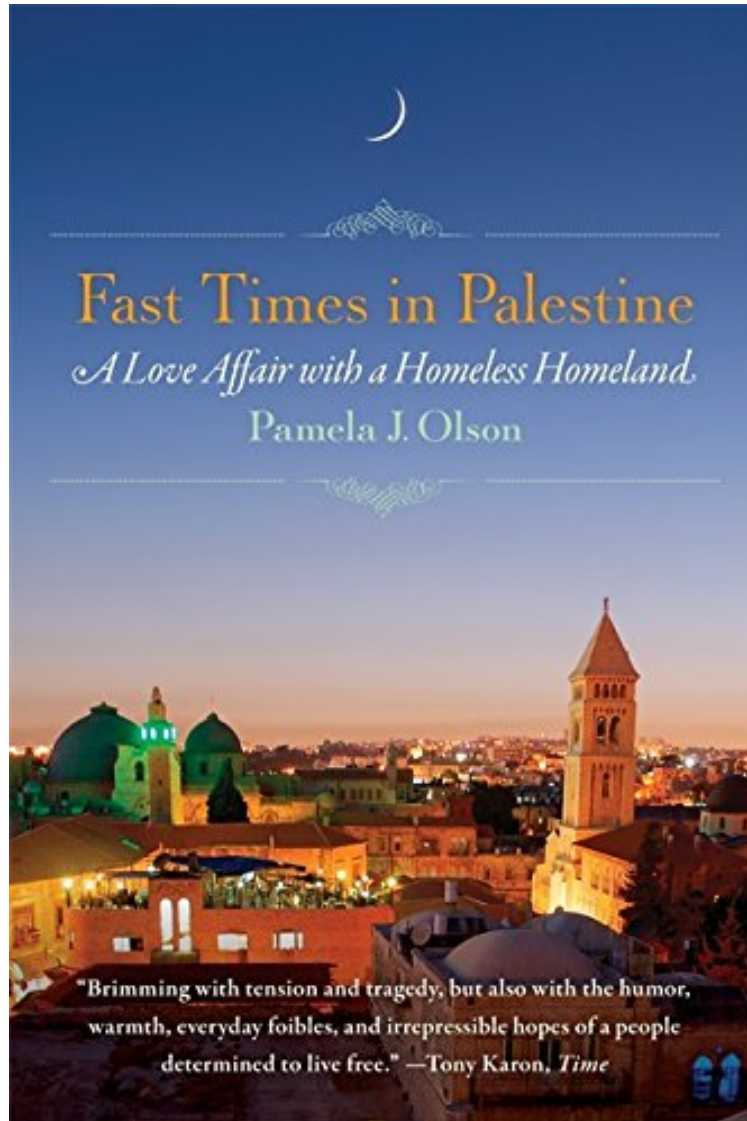


(Download) Fast Times in Palestine: A Love Affair with a Homeless Homeland

Fast Times in Palestine: A Love Affair with a Homeless Homeland

Pamela J. Olson

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Pamela J. Olson : Fast Times in Palestine: A Love Affair with a Homeless Homeland before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fast Times in Palestine: A Love Affair with a Homeless Homeland:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. From olive harvests to Anarchists Against the Wall, this book has it all! Highly Recommended. By warren goodwin Fascinating first-hand account of a woman who started out as a tourist and wound up falling in love with a Palestinian and with Palestine. Olson was welcomed into the homes and lives of

Palestinian farmers and townspeople and she has returned their hospitality with a book that is heart-wrenching in its depiction of suffering under occupation. Recommended for anyone who wants to understand what day-to-day life is like in the villages and towns of the West Bank, or is curious about Palestinian non-violent resistance to oppression. Covers the period 2003-2005, (the end of the 2nd Intifada, a pair of PA elections, and then the Gaza disengagement). Includes maps and a glossary of terms as appendices.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Fresh Perspective
By Marilyn M. Eyster
Pamela's personal account of traveling to Palestine with little knowledge of the background of the area offers readers a fresh look at the situation in the Middle East. As she ultimately lives and works in Ramallah for the next two years and comes to know and respect the people she meets, we also grow in our understanding of what it is like to try to live a normal life under such difficult circumstances. As an American from Oklahoma she is able to move about freely and has friends on both sides of the conflict. Over the two years of her stay Pam comes to her own conclusions. The most revealing point in the book comes in the visit of her mother who had never been out of the states before. In experiencing the Qalandia checkpoint her mother observes the Palestinian men, women, and children being herded through a fenced-in chute under the eyes of armed guards and treated like criminals on their own land. With tears in her eyes her mother exclaims. "Good Lord, how can this be happening over here and no one in America even knows or cares?" Reading Pamela's book shows us why we should care and why America needs to wake up and put more pressure on Israel to work toward a resolution.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A beautifully written way to get to know what goes on.
By Kindle Customer
This is a must read book if you have any desire at all to know what is going on in Israel/Palestine. Before I read this book I had little or no concept of what went on there. I attended a family event where Palestine being accepted into the UN was much in discussion, and suddenly I began to feel that I had better get up on what was happening, though I had avoided doing that for years, not wanting to know, and preferring to dismiss it all. As a Christian I had decided that "what goes on over there has nothing to do with me". and "they have been fighting for years and can't get it together, so why get involved?." I find this is a typical American perspective, and that was mine. But I made a decision to look into it. So I went in search of books that might give me some insight. I bought a few books, but Ms. Olson's book interested me right away. I remember thinking let's see what an American with no preconceived ideas or Middle East connections has to say. I was riveted from page one. This engaging book draws you into its narrative immediately. You are with a recent college graduate (Stanford and no slouch) and you are in Egypt and in then you are in Jordan and then pretty quickly you are surprised to be traveling in the West Bank. You are with a young woman who had very little idea of what the West Bank was. (I was right there along with her.) She deftly draws you in to her experience, meeting and seeing Palestinians with extravagant hospitality and an open and engaging affection. The author soon finds herself amazed at the love she develops for this land and the people. After returning to the states, she decides to study the Arabic language with a view to going back to work in the West Bank town of Ramallah. As a reader you are led on a journey both adventurous and tender. For a young woman from Oklahoma she experiences--and relates those experiences with immediacy, insight and humor at times-- things few in the US ever experience. The sweetness of an olive harvest, the warm times amidst family that adopt her, and delicious food, the unhindered affection that the people show her are balanced by the jolting nastiness of a 25 foot wall tearing through private property and checkpoints that must repeatedly be crossed, where armed guards rule--just to visit a neighboring town. I found myself stunned at the things I read. What also surprised me was the way life seemed to go on often with joy, in the city of Ramallah and in surrounding villages--in spite of a military occupation, in place since 1967. The book offers not only a view of what life is like in the 21st century, under occupation, but also presents information about when the conflict started. Unlike what we are often led to believe, the conflict had a beginning. It cannot be said to have been going on for centuries, in any other way than that conflict itself has always been around. The book, while not a history book, gives a simple grasp on the background beginning in 1948 when the state of Israel was declared and also including some about the occupation beginning in 1967. Maps are also helpful here. After reading *Fast Times...* (my husband read it as well) I then suggested it to my book club and they all bought and read it, and then we discussed it for 3 hours. Every member of the club was startled and at what they learned and thanked me. The kinds of things Ms Olson relates in her book no US media had been relating. With the 2014 siege of Gaza I feel this book is more important than ever. There is an urgency to know and learn. I highly recommend reading it to get a feel and an understanding--in a most enjoyable and honest manner--of "what goes on over there" and why you "should know, and care".

For much of her lifelike many Westerners most of what Pamela Olson knew of the Middle East was informed by headlines and stereotypes. But when she traveled to Palestine in 2003, she found herself thrown with dizzying speed into the realities of Palestinian life. *Fast Times in Palestine* is Olsons powerful, deeply moving account of life in Palestine both the daily events that are universal to us all (house parties, concerts, barbecues, and weddings) as well as the violence, trauma, and political tensions that are particular to the country. From idyllic olive groves to Palestinian beer gardens, from Passover in Tel Aviv to Ramadan in a Hamas village, readers will find Olsons narrative both suspenseful and discerning. Her irresistible story offers a multi-faceted understanding of the Palestinian perspective on the Israel/Palestine conflict, filling a gap in the Wests understanding of the difficult relationship between the two

nations. At turns funny, shocking, and galvanizing, *Fast Times in Palestine* is a gripping narrative that challenges our ways of thinking not only about the Middle East, but about human nature, cultural identity, and our place in the world.

"Pamela Olson's insightful, sometimes shocking, but always deeply human account of the Palestinian reality should be read by anyone who wants to get beyond the myths and misconceptions around the Palestinian struggle. The effortless narrative is driven by encounters with ordinary, and sometimes extraordinary, people sometimes as confused as the rest of the world about their reality. But Olson is clear in laying out the stark truth of dispossession, oppression, and outright racism imposed on the Palestinians insights all too lacking in news reports and political debate." Chris McGreal, *The Guardian* "A moving, inspiring account of life in Palestine that's enormously informative yet reads like a novel!" Rebecca Vilkomerson, Executive Director of Jewish Voice for Peace "It's love in the time of occupation as Pamela Olson . . . takes us on the emotional roller-coaster of her very personal experience of life in Ramallah. . . A charming book brimming with tension and tragedy, but also with the humor, warmth, everyday foibles and irrepressible hopes of a people determined to live free." Tony Karon, senior editor of *TIME Magazine* "Part adventure story, part searing reportage, part love story, and wholly absorbing." Dr. Kenneth Ring, co-author of *Letters from Palestine* "Pamela Olson leads the reader on an exciting, funny, at times heart-wrenching journey, carefully deciphering complex political and historical issues. Olson is a talented writer, intelligent and exceptional in her ability to convey both tragedy and hope, remaining morally grounded and refreshingly honest." Ramzy Baroud, author of *My Father was a Freedom Fighter* "As an Israeli whose life was shaped by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, I found *Fast Times in Palestine* moving and refreshing. Pamela Olson comes to the Middle East with a blank slate and is therefore able to hold up an undistorted mirror to the reality she encounters." Miko Peled, author of *The General's Son* "Harrowing, funny, vivid, entertaining and deeply humane, *Fast Times in Palestine* opens a rare window into Palestinian life. Its impossible not to be moved on nearly every page by Pamela Olsons account of the plight of a stateless people struggling to live with dignity under a mind-boggling 48-year military occupation. Yet Olson also shows us the warmth of a people who, despite their circumstances, display a 'preternatural friendliness and curiosity' in an 'enviable place to call home.' Read this book; it will change everything about the way you see the struggle between Israelis and Palestinians." Sandy Tolan, author of *The Lemon Tree* "This is a story by a very smart and fundamentally decent woman who visits Palestine for the first time knowing little about what she will encounter there. Of course, she learns quickly about the horrors of the Israeli occupation and what it means for the local Palestinians. *Fast Times in Palestine* is Pamela Olson's attempt to describe the indignities and brutality of Palestinian daily life, and try to make sense of it all. What makes her story so compelling is that she tells it in an honest and straightforward way, not by relying on hot rhetoric. For anyone who wants to learn the truth about life under Israeli occupation, this book is a superb starting point." John J. Mearsheimer, author of *Why Leaders Lie* "The strength of the narrative lies in Olsons investigation of the personal and mental effects of oppression and war on herself and her newfound friends Where paradox is as common as breathing, Olson discovers a kind of freedom amid the barbed wire. An empathetic, intriguing memoir." Kirkus "More than a travelogue or a polemic, the book is a coming-of-age story, as Olson discovers her voice by directly confronting the challenges of living in a state of institutionalized paradox... Engaging and easy to read, this is a fascinating memoir." *Publishers Weekly* "An ultimately heartwarming story about an American who learned to love a country and a people despite the trauma of the brutal, decades-old conflict she witnesses occurring around her." *Library Journal*