

The Other Side of Israel: My Journey Across the Jewish/Arab Divide

By Susan Nathan

Nan A. Talese Books/ Doubleday

Non-Fiction

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Jonathan Cook

Crossing Borders: Changing the View

By Jeremy

Author Susan Nathan explores the real truth in her book and is capable of making even the most committed Israel fan rethink his or her opinion. In *The Other Side of Israel: My Journey across the Jewish-Arab Divide* Nathan embarks on an engaging and dangerous journey while taking readers along for the experience. At the age of fifty years old Susan Nathan chose to make aliyah (to become a Bat-Mitzvah) and move to Israel from England. Susan began learning basic Hebrew and the bits and pieces of life in Israel from an immigration center. Eventually Nathan became unhappy with her life in Israel and decided to explore the Arab side. She moved to a town of rubble over the Jewish/Arab divide called Tamra. Each page in the book talks about a form of discrimination or harassment practiced against the Arabs.

The Other Side of Israel begins as Nathan discovers the Arabs of Israel, the Palestinians who stayed in the part of Palestine that became Israel, their descendants, and the conditions under which they live. But with a slight twist at the end of the book, Nathan finds herself once more with a group of Jewish settlers who have taken over the top floor of a Palestinian house in the Old City in East Jerusalem. They use a common corridor between themselves and their Palestinian neighbor's. This is an effort to force out the Palestinians. Nathan writes, "Although

the methods vary in Tamra, Jerusalem and Hebron, the goal is always the same: the accumulation of land by whatever means possible for the exclusive use of Jews."

When Susan Nathan is not writing for the Swedish press, Aftonbladet, covering Israeli issues or writing her second book she is speaking all around America at colleges and private company meetings. She is also active in the promotion of a UN Resolution that promotes the role of women in peacemaking. Nathan's book has been a bestseller at the Edinburgh and Antwerp book festivals where she was also the main guest. *The Other Side of Israel* is currently being translated into nine languages, which shows demand for this book all around the world. One of Susan Nathan's largest achievements, according to her, would be being featured in many documentaries. Especially in April 2007 when she was the subject of a BBC documentary, "*Aliyah- the return home*".

Most teenagers would not enjoy this book as it only appeals to people who are interested in the Israeli-Arab divide and the fights going on. Although many others and I may enjoy the book, I feel that most teenagers do not care, making the book more appealing to the older generations. That being said, If you are interested or do not know much about the Israeli-Arab divide and would like to learn more, Susan Nathan makes it very easy to comprehend. This book was a quick read and flows through very well if understood properly. If you show interest in this subject, the 274 page story will impact your opinion on the Israeli-Arab divide and stay with you your whole life.