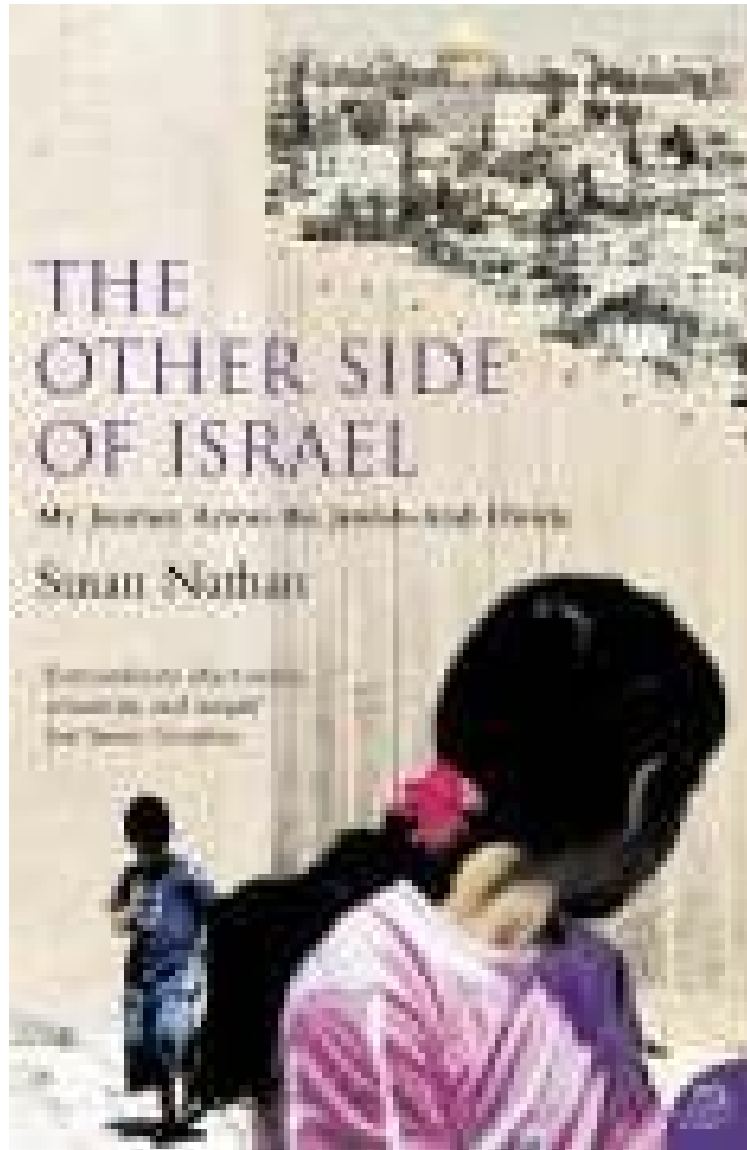


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## The Other Side of Israel

*Susan Nathan*

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**Susan Nathan : The Other Side of Israel** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Other Side of Israel:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. EnlighteningBy Alison Julie BondHaving lived in Israel and having Jewish and Palestinian friends, this book highlights the reason I left. I rather returned to South Africa as the candle of hope burnt brighter there and as it does now. Susan has highlighted what so many turn a blind eye to as I do not believe all are ignorant of these facts, you can not be with the media coverage we have and the facts blatantly available

on the web. Saying all this, we are all aware of some middle eastern countries attitude towards Israel, which should be a concern to us all, especially in view of what is happening now in Syria and Iraq. Can you just imagine what would happen if these elements got into Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine. Religion has always been a reason for war, it is time that humanity started playing a roll in leaders leadership decisions. I am not sure we will see the end to this, in earthly terms anyway. Great book to make you think!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Honest and Heartfelt

By VirtuallyMeNathans book provided an honest and heartfelt perspective from someone who believes in Israel but rejects completely the ethnic cleansing and prejudice against Palestinians as this is destroying the Israeli society.

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A MUST- READ for anyone interested in this subject.

By K. Thurm

This is a VERY interesting book and I highly recommend it to anyone who is interested in this subject. I am better educated than most, when it comes to the history of Israel and Palestine. However, up until now, I have been incredibly ignorant about how Palestinian Arabs (who are citizens of Israel) are treated by the Israeli government. In case you haven't guessed, it's not a pretty picture. So why didn't I give this book 5 stars? Nathan does an excellent job of describing the predicament of the Arab Israeli Palestinians, but she gets carried away with some of her comments, history and explanations. She talks about few people being aware of the fact that over a million Arabs are Israeli citizens. I haven't found that to be true at all. In fact, American Jews are very aware of this. She mentions that Arabs are not allowed to serve in the Israeli military. I don't believe this is correct. I know that Arab citizens aren't required to serve in the IDF (for obvious reasons), but there most certainly are some Arabs who do. Her synopsis of Israeli history is only partially accurate. 750,000 Palestinians were not forced out of Israel in 1948. Probably 100s of thousands were, but some left when they were intimidated by other Palestinians. Some left when surrounding Arab countries told them to get out while they went to war with the Jews. It's not that Nathan has the history completely wrong (she certainly doesn't), but it just isn't completely accurate, either. Several folks on this website have given this book very negative reviews. I read those reviews carefully. The most common complaint is that the author doesn't present a balanced view. My reaction to that is --- How many books on the subject of Israel and Palestine are truly balanced? Also, there is SOME balance here, because the story is told from the vantage point of an Israeli Jew. Imagine how the story might read if it was written by a Palestinian! For those people who were so offended by this book not giving a balanced view, I have a couple of questions --- Were you offended by "The Case For Israel" by Dershowitz? Why not? His book isn't bad, but it's certainly not balanced. Did you give that book a 1-star review?

The pioneering autobiographical story of a British Zionist in her fifties who moves to Israel and chooses to live among 25,000 Muslims in the all-Arab Israeli town of Tamra, a few miles from Nazareth. Susan Nathans revelatory book about her new life across the ethnic divide in Israel is already creating international interest. At a time when Middle Eastern politics (in many ways central to the current world disorder) have become mired in endless tit-for-tat killings, Susan Nathan is showing by her own daily example that it is perfectly possible for Jews and Arabs to live peacefully together in a single community, recognising their common humanity. The authors familiarity with the former injustices of apartheid South Africa enables her to draw telling comparisons with the state of Israel. The increasing segregation of, and discrimination against, the million-strong Arabic population of Israel is something she witnesses at first hand, but in describing her experiences in Tamra she is as observant of Arab frailties as of Jewish oppression. Written with warmth, compassion and humour, *The Other Side of Israel* is one courageous womans positive life-enhancing response to a situation in which entrenched attitudes lead only to more violence and bloodshed.

*The Other Side of Israel* is a deeply troubling book. It should be read by anyone who wants to understand the reality of life for the Arab citizens of Israel. Susan Nathan's story bears witness to the shameful discrimination routinely practiced against them by the Israeli authorities. Her experience transforms her from an ardent Zionist into an eloquent but sorrowful critic of the state she had previously revered. Her account is the more telling because she writes with just as much warmth about her Jewish friends as she displays towards the Palestinians who befriend her. This important book not only has the ring of truth about it but an aura of hope as well. Jonathan Dimpleby

Extraordinary observation, sensitivity and insight. Jon Snow, Guardian

The Other Side of Israel could not be more timely

It deserves wide attention as a profoundly human story, thoughtful and funny and unafraid. Times Literary Supplement

Eye-opening. Sunday Times

This is a powerful, readable and courageous book. Tablet

From the Inside Flap

In 2003, Susan Nathan moved from her comfortable home in Tel Aviv to Tamra, an Arab town in the northern part of Israel. Nathan had arrived in Israel four years earlier and had taught English and worked with various progressive social organizations. Her desire to help build a just and humane society in Israel took an unexpected turn, however, when she became aware of Israel's neglected and often oppressed indigenous Arab population. Despite warnings from friends about the dangers she would encounter, Nathan settled in an apartment in Tamra, the only Jew among 25,000 Muslims. There she discovered a division between Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs as tangible as the concrete wall and razor-wire fences that surround the Palestinian towns of the West Bank and Gaza. From her unique vantage point, Nathan examines the history and the present-day political and cultural currents that have created a situation little recognized in the ongoing debates about the future of Israel and the Middle East. With warmth, humor, and compassion, she portrays the daily life of her

neighbors, the challenges they encounter, and the hopes they harbor. She introduces Arab leaders fighting against entrenched segregation and discrimination; uncovers the hidden biases that undermine even the most well-intentioned Arab-Jewish peace organizations; and describes the efforts of dedicated individuals who insist that Israeli Arabs must be granted the same rights and privileges as Jewish citizens. Through her own courageous example, Nathan proves that it is possible for Jews and Arabs to live and work peacefully together. "The Other Side of Israel is more than the story of one woman's journey; it is a road map for crossing a divide created by prejudices and misunderstandings. About the Author Susan Nathan was born in England and brought up for the most part in apartheid-era South Africa, where she strongly opposed the system. An AIDS counsellor in London, she decided in her fifties recently divorced and with grown-up children to take up the Jewish right of return and move to Israel. This is her first book.