



Drinking the Sea at Gaza: Days and Nights in a Land Under Siege

By Amira Hass

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In 1993, amira hass, a young Israeli reporter, drove to Gaza to cover a story-and stayed, the first journalist to live in the grim Palestinian enclave so feared and despised by most Israelis that, in the local idiom, "Go to Gaza" is another way to say "Go to hell." Now, in a work of calm power and painful clarity, Hass reflects on what she has seen in Gaza's gutted streets and destitute refugee camps.

Drinking the Sea at Gaza maps the zones of ordinary Palestinian life. From her friends, Hass learns the secrets of slipping across sealed borders and stealing through night streets emptied by curfews. She shares Gaza's early euphoria over the peace process and its subsequent despair as hope gives way to unrelenting hardship. But even as Hass charts the griefs and humiliations of the Palestinians, she offers a remarkable portrait of a people not brutalized but eloquent, spiritually resilient, bleakly funny, and morally courageous.

Full of testimonies and stories, facts and impressions, Drinking the Sea at Gaza makes an urgent claim on our humanity. Beautiful, haunting, and profound, it will stand with the great works of wartime reportage, from Michael Herr's *Dispatches* to Rian Malan's *My Traitor's Heart*.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

In what is sure to be a controversial book, Israeli reporter Amira Hass offers a rare portrait of the Palestinians in Gaza. Very few journalists have lived in that troubled region; Jewish ones are rarer still. "To most Israelis," Hass writes, "my move seemed outlandish, even crazy, for they believed I was surely putting my life at risk." But Israelis desperately need to understand the plight of the Palestinian people, she writes, and few of them read the unvarnished truth in the Jerusalem press. This has made most of them ignorant of what goes on right next door, and inspired unduly "harsh" attitudes toward Gaza and its one million residents. Hass even quotes the late Yitzhak Rabin, who wished that Gaza "would just sink into the sea," shortly before he signed the Oslo Accords. Wishing away the problem, however, is no solution, and Hass delivers a detailed--and highly opinionated--diagnosis of what's wrong with Israeli policy toward Gaza. Strong supporters of Israel will say that Hass is nothing but a mouthpiece for the Palestinians. Indeed, this book's subtitle could apply as much to Israel, surrounded by bitter enemies, as it does to Gaza. Yet it would be wrong to ignore Hass: the scene in Gaza is woefully unreported. The book is not likely to change many minds--this is one of those subjects where passions run deep and fierce. Those who already sympathize with Hass's pro-Palestinian views will find *Drinking the Sea at Gaza* an invigorating book. --John J. Miller

From Library Journal

In recent years, several Israeli scholars, journalists, and even a few individuals with ties to the Israeli military have written critical and pathbreaking books on the degradation of life in the Palestinian refugee camps and other areas under Israeli control. This book, written by an Israeli journalist for the daily *Haaretz*, belongs to that category of work. The author lived in the Gaza Strip and personally observed the events she so eloquently relates in this highly readable and lucid book. She describes in agonizing detail the hardship and deprivation experienced by ordinary Palestinians as they live their lives under Israeli rule. As the author points out, the unrelenting difficulties and humiliations experienced by ordinary Palestinians have not changed since the Oslo peace process and the establishment of the Palestinian Authority in parts of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Stories and moving testimonials gathered by the author add a much-needed human dimension to the Palestinian tragedy. Highly recommended for all readers interested in the future of the Palestinian-Israeli peace process. Nader Entessar, Spring Hill Coll., Mobile, AL

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From [Booklist](#)

These daily-life vignettes of a territory in limbo between occupation and semistatehood are offered by an Israeli journalist. Hass reported for the newspaper *Ha'aretz*, not by parachuting in for the periodic riot and round up but by living there. This unusual arrangement arched eyebrows on either side of the Palestinian-Israeli chasm ("You mean, you're Jewish?" was a frequent reaction of Gazan women to Hass), and despite her inclination to severely criticize the strictures Israel enforces on Gaza, she clearly depicts the problems--from potholes to arbitrary Palestinian policing--endured by the enclave's one million people. The reportage covers the period before and after the establishment of the Palestinian Authority. Hass profiles PLO returnees, Hamas rejectionists, shopkeepers, and workers and their travails in entering Israel. Through a deep understanding of Gazans' moods of militancy and passivity, Hass ably dissects and explicates the individuated elements of a generally difficult and evolving political problem. *Gilbert Taylor*

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Jonathan Woods:

Here thing why this specific Drinking the Sea at Gaza: Days and Nights in a Land Under Siege are different and trusted to be yours. First of all studying a book is good nonetheless it depends in the content of computer which is the content is as yummy as food or not. Drinking the Sea at Gaza: Days and Nights in a Land Under Siege giving you information deeper and in different ways, you can find any e-book out there but there is no e-book that similar with Drinking the Sea at Gaza: Days and Nights in a Land Under Siege. It gives you thrill studying journey, its open up your personal eyes about the thing that will happened in the world which is possibly can be happened around you. You can easily bring everywhere like in park your car, café, or even in your means home by train. For anyone who is having difficulties in bringing the printed book maybe the form of Drinking the Sea at Gaza: Days and Nights in a Land Under Siege in e-book can be your alternative.

Marianne Guzman:

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