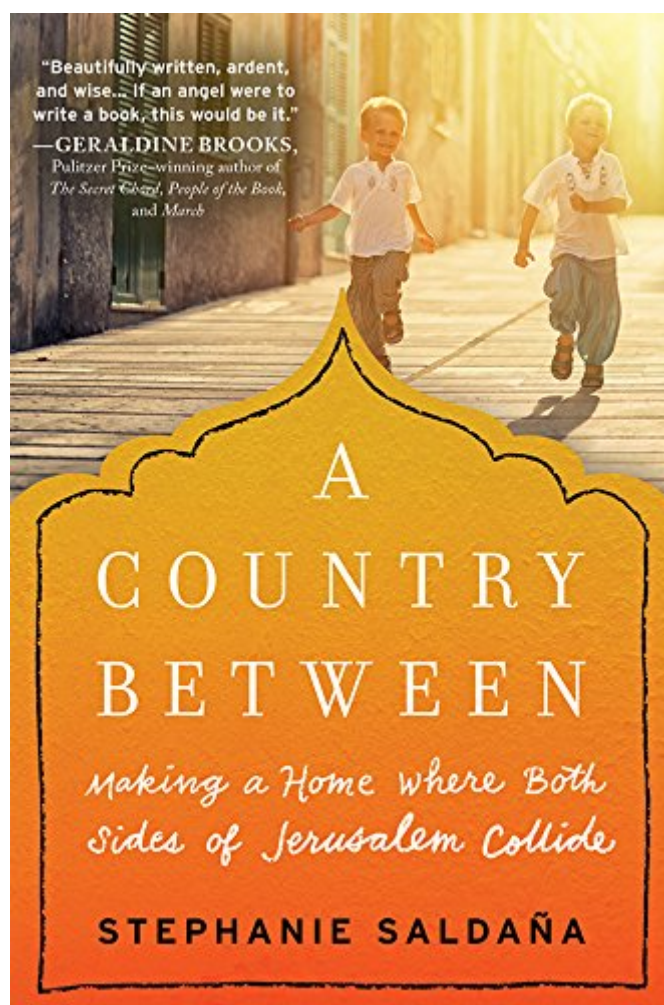


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A Country Between: Making A Home Where Both Sides Of Jerusalem Collide



Synopsis

"A Country Between reminds us that grief is as indispensable to joy as light is to shadow. Beautifully written, ardent and wise." —Geraldine Brooks, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Secret Chord*, *People of the Book*, and *March* Moving her family to a war zone was not a simple choice, but she's determined to find hope, love, and peace amid the conflict in the Middle East. When young mother Stephanie Saldana finds herself in an empty house at the beginning of Nablus road—the dividing line between East and West Jerusalem—she sees more than a Middle Eastern flash point. She sees what could be home. Before her eyes, the fragile community of Jerusalem opens, and she starts to build her family to outlast the chaos. But as her son grows, so do the military checkpoints and bomb sirens, and Stephanie must learn to bridge the gap between safety and home, always questioning her choice to start her family and raise her child in a country at war. *A Country Between* is a celebration of faith, language, and family—and a mother's discovery of how love can fill the spaces between what was once shattered, leaving us whole once more.

Book Information

File Size: 1881 KB

Print Length: 368 pages

Publisher: Sourcebooks (February 7, 2017)

Publication Date: February 7, 2017

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01M171MZW

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #286,412 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #26

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Middle East > Israel #69 in Books

> Travel > Middle East > Israel > General #336 in Kindle Store > Whispersync for Voice >

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Customer Reviews

I came here, coming to the end of reading this book, thinking I would see other reviews. What a surprise to find none! Well: read this book. If you haven't read her first, "Bread of Angels," read that first, it is particularly meaningful now. This one, the second in the story of her life in the Middle East with her beloved husband, a former and eternal French monk, takes in the birth of her first child, with the family living in Jerusalem. It is beautiful and poetic and poignant and terrifying, truly a woman's story, yet a story of the best in all womankind in love and war. We here in the States currently live in a war zone, although largely unacknowledged, and this book gives me courage to go on living until the light breaks through again. Stephanie, you are the girl I always wished lived next door.

I've waited very impatiently for SEVEN years for Saldana's next book and it absolutely did not disappoint. QUITE the opposite, By chance I picked up her first memoir, The Bread of Angels, before a trip to France in 2010 and I'll always remember reading that book as much as the trip itself for the most beautiful writing of any memoir I'd ever read. And the love story itself is just an exquisite poem. This book continues Saldana's journey and it was as magnificent as her first book. I'll be giving copies of her books to friends and loved ones for years to come. Its truly one of the most beautiful pieces of writing and stories I've ever read in my all my 44 years. I can't recommend it enough.

There are books that you seek, finding them easily, often in the place that is looked, and then there are books that somehow seek you, arriving quietly inside a manila envelope. Paper wrapped in paper, the ordinary holding the extraordinary, and you sit there, blissfully unaware that it is magic that you now hold in your hands. As I leafed through the pages, I read one line and then another and before I even began that first paragraph I knew that this book, like Saldana's memories of lemon trees and orange trees that grace her story, would forever be sewn into my soul and my life as both a reader and a writer would forever be changed for this book, Saldana's miraculous recountal of all things that books must be written about: love and life, death and war, parents and children, is written with such profound poetry that even with nine pages left I am afraid to finish, fearful that I may never again read something so beautiful as this. Thank you, Stephanie Saldana. Thank you for sharing with us an eternity.

A wonderful read! The book gives a voice to the concerns of personal relationships and parenthood

within the context of a very conflicted world, opens our eyes to the daily challenges of those who live in a war zone, and makes us recognize that there is more to people than we see on the surface.

Great book, perfect for this time in the world!

By far one of the most moving accounts of life...and love...from the chaos called the Middle East.

An eye opening read. Amazing how different life can be!!! Kudos to adventuresome souls who dare to live out their dreams!!!

This was a fascinating read of places and experiences most of us will never have. The author Stephanie, meets her future husband Francis who was in his third and final year as a novice soon to become a monk at The Syrian desert monastery Deir Mar Musa, north of Damascus. I have not read the first part of this memoir, which I must do soon, to learn more about their relationship. *The Country Between*, takes place when they move out of Syria and are trying to find out where they should live. They end up on Jerusalem's Nablus Road, a fascinating place with a lot of history. The author writes beautifully, and in a very lyrical way. Her descriptions of places, the people, even the view from their window, of birds and trees created wonderful pictures in my mind, ones that even though I may never go there, I will feel that I have seen. There are a lot of messages we can take from the author's life and perceptions of it, like hope, forgiveness, strength and the beauty of life as we see it and also in its hardships. This is a wonderful look at a family being formed, and of families being there for one another throughout one's life, and the closeness and sacrifices they endure for one another..I cannot wait, to read *The Bread of Angels: A Journey to Love and Faith*, and I really hope that she will continue on with her family's story. Thank you NetGalley for the opportunity to read this before its release.

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