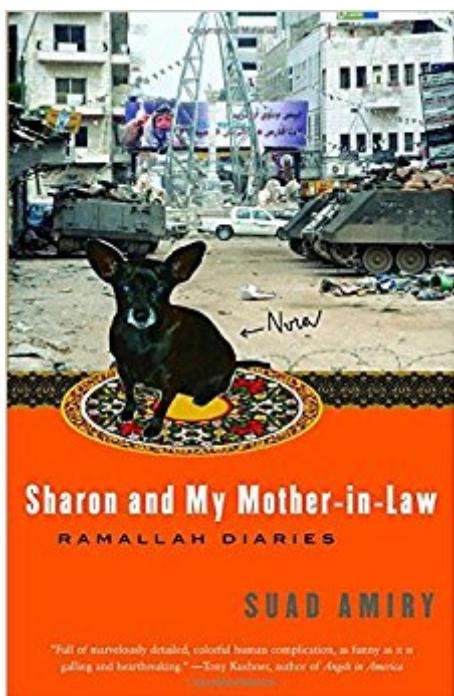


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# Sharon And My Mother-in-Law: Ramallah Diaries



## **Synopsis**

Based on diaries and email correspondence that she kept from 1981-2004, here Suad Amiry evokesÂ daily life in the West Bank town of Ramallah. Capturing the frustrations, cabin fever, and downright misery of her experiences, Amiry writes with elegance and humor about the enormous difficulty of moving from one place to another, the torture of falling in love with someone from another town, the absurdity of her dog receiving a Jerusalem identity card when thousands of Palestinians could not, and the trials of having her ninety-two-year-old mother-in-law living in her house during a forty-two-day curfew. With a wickedly sharp ear for dialogue and a keen eye for detail, Amiry gives us an original, ironic, and firsthand glimpse into the absurdityâ "and agonyâ "of life in the Occupied Territories.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Amiry's parents were among the thousands of Palestinians who fled from their homes in 1948; they went to Amman, Jordan, where the author was brought up before attending the American University in Beirut to study architecture. She returned to Ramallah as a tourist in 1981, but then she met Salim Tamari, fell in love, married him and returned to the city, now heavily occupied by Israeli troops. This book is an attempt to illustrate the life of a middle-class, Westernized woman in an occupied territory: the daily anxieties and struggles with curfews, roadblocks, barricades, body searches, gunfire, endless red tape, courtesy and general harassment;not to mention the less than peaceful presence of a mother-in-law taken in for safety's sake. The account, often surprisingly

good-humored (as when Amiry realizes her dog has a Jerusalem passport though she does not), is vivid but somewhat sketchily based on diaries and e-mails; it gains in immediacy and relevance to current newspaper accounts what it may lack in comprehensiveness. The book was awarded Italy's Viareggio Virsilia Prize, and while the writing is unremarkable, the work serves as an important report from the front. (Oct. 18) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

**\*Starred Review\*** "It was a Palestinian version of *The Bold and the Beautiful*." Drawing on her personal diary entries and e-mails, Amiry, an architect living in the West Bank town of Ramallah, captures the farce and sorrow of daily life under Israeli occupation over the last 20 years. Some readers may remember her furious appearance on *60 Minutes* in 2003 ("No, this stupid wall has nothing to do with Israel's security. . . .This is the biggest land and water grab in the history of Israel"). But her book is no political tirade. She is laugh-out-loud funny about the soap-opera aspects of daily life in Ramallah. Even as she copes with her teen neighbor and collaborator, she has fun with the kitsch electric Mecca gift he gives her: Is it bugged? Is she paranoid? Then there is her mother-in-law, 91, who moves in after losing all electricity and water in her neighborhood ("Shall I pack my purple dress?" she wonders). The irreverence brings home the bureaucratic absurdity of checkpoints, curfews, barriers, and IDs ("Palestinians from Jerusalem who are Israeli residents but not Israeli citizens with Israeli travel documents"). But the suffering is always there: the reality of displacement, neighborhoods destroyed, interminable lines, shootings, separation, and loss. A prizewinner in Italy, this will reach a wide audience. Hazel Rochman  
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How does a wise woman cope with decades of destruction of Palestinian neighborhoods, dignity and freedoms? Suad Amiry describes survival based on humor and tears, memories and small kindnesses. In late 1969, as a young adult, I was deeply sympathetic to Zionism when I first entered Israel. Then I watched, in horror, the systematic cruelty of Israelis to Arabs in their midst. How could a people who have suffered barbaric cruelties for century after century not have learned how vital it is to treat the "other" as brother? Are the victims of cruelty doomed to pass it forward to another "other" for all time? Lord, send me to a place where all creatures are One, but varied, enjoying the differences of the "other" and growing kinder always to our neighbors.

I was fascinated of the glimpses of life on the West Bank but left wanting more. Sad Amiry's

experiences have the potential to make a terrific book but we need a fleshed out background of her life, family, and work experiences to make the picture feel whole. To the reviewers that are dismissive of her point of view - it is only through reading perspectives from all sides of a conflict that we begin to gain understanding.

This is a good book that explains the Palestinian point of view during the times of Ariel Sharon running the Israeli government. The author relates mistreatment of Arabs and the demolition of their properties and destruction of their towns . There is no attempt to put the actions occurring into an historical perspective to educate the reader, rather it is a series of vignettes by the author.

Loved to read this book could not put it down. I enjoyed it very much, I visualized being in the scene with this author, very honest and vivid experience for someone living under occupation. I remembered myself living in Palestine Jerusalem and undergoing experienced that made me reflect upon my growing up under occupation for 2 years. If was very hard for me but for her it was much worst for the author and she actually made it seem in a sarcastic way. I recommend this book so much

It was a good read but totally omitted the reason for the tension.

Even though each of the events in this book occurred while I have been alive, I have learned so much from this great memoir. The suffering of innocent people at the hands of Israel is appalling!

A view of the Israeli- Palestinian conflict by a Palestinian woman who lives in the West Bank. I think it is authobiographical, it's a jumpy narrative from a viewpoint we don't always hear from.

Interesting female take on Palestine, but it's a short book, and I was left wanting more. Also not as funny you'd expect from the title. The bit about the dog getting the Israeli pass is priceless though. It brings home the utter absurdity of the Israeli occupation.

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