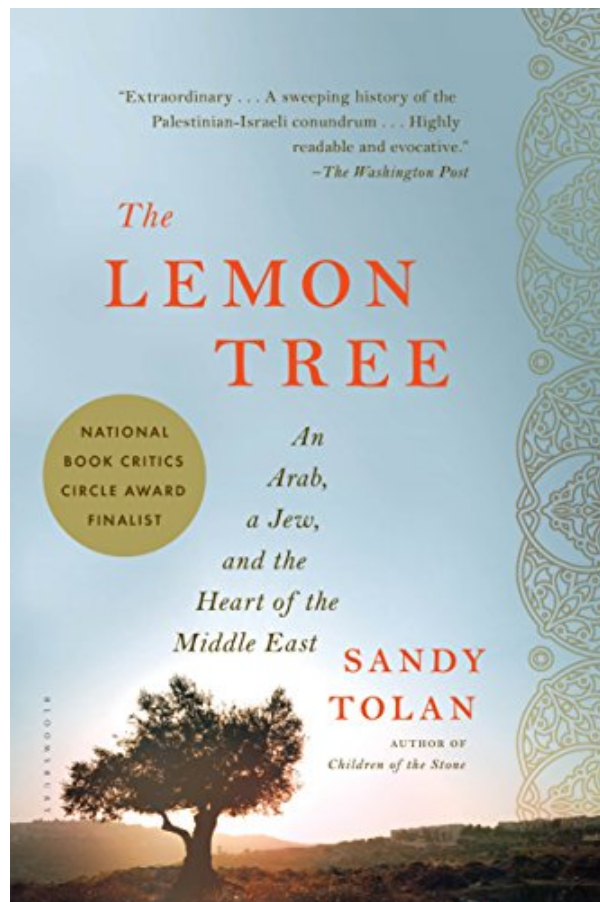
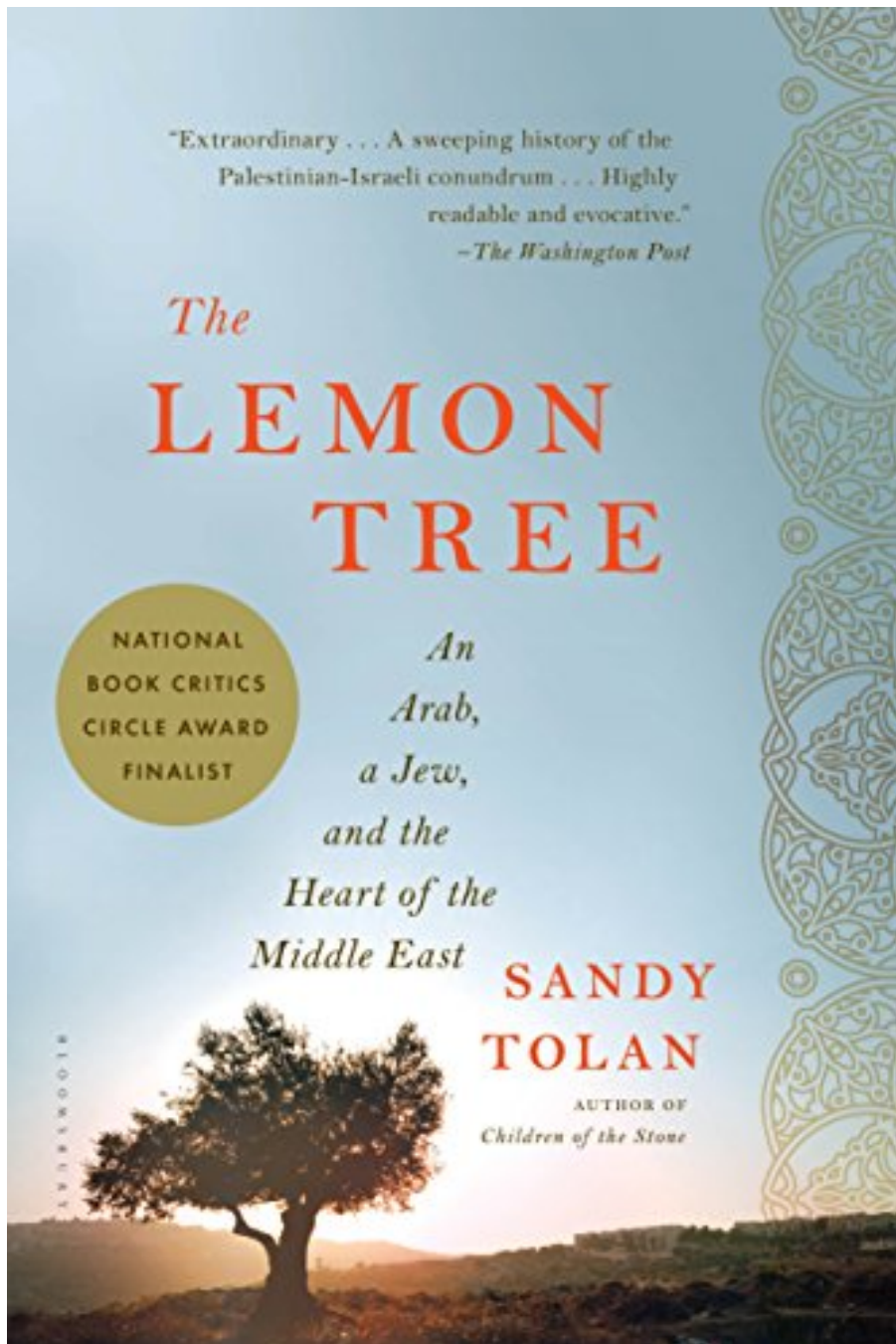


THE LEMON TREE: AN ARAB, A JEW, AND THE HEART OF THE MIDDLE EAST BY SANDY TOLAN



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THE LEMON TREE: AN ARAB, A JEW, AND THE HEART OF THE MIDDLE EAST BY SANDY TOLAN PDF

With a new afterword by the author, and a sneak preview of Sandy Tolan's new book, *Children of the Stone*

In 1967, Bashir Al-Khayri, a Palestinian twenty-five-year-old, journeyed to Israel, with the goal of seeing the beloved old stone house, with the lemon tree behind it, that he and his family had fled nineteen years earlier. To his surprise, when he found the house he was greeted by Dalia Ashkenazi Landau, a nineteen-year-old Israeli college student, whose family fled Europe for Israel following the Holocaust. On the stoop of their shared home, Dalia and Bashir began a rare friendship, forged in the aftermath of war and tested over the next thirty-five years in ways that neither could imagine on that summer day in 1967. Based on extensive research, and springing from his enormously resonant documentary that aired on NPR's *Fresh Air* in 1998, Sandy Tolan brings the Israeli-Palestinian conflict down to its most human level, suggesting that even amid the bleakest political realities there exist stories of hope and reconciliation.

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- Published on: 2008-12-01
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From Publishers Weekly

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A powerful story, a real tour de force!

By W. F. HALLAM

In a conflict like the Israeli-Palestinian one, the truth seems to always be elusive. It is more often than not a question of perspectives and beliefs. And beliefs are only stories that we keep hearing repeated again and again and which are being reinforced and strengthened because we tend to only see that which we already believe to begin with.

Most Americans only know the Israeli side propagated by the powerful Israeli lobby that dominates US politics and so it is refreshing to come across a book that tells a different tale, or rather tales of both sides. It is only by putting ourselves in others' shoes that we can truly appreciate their suffering. Tolani does just that. His enormous compassion and talent as a historian and researcher serve him well in depicting the human dimension behind the conflict though I resisted feeling more hopeless than ever by the time I finished his book. The increasing tensions in the region and the mounting inflexibility of the current Israeli government combined with the impotence of the Palestinian Authority leaves no possibility for a viable two state solution. Ultimately, I believe the Palestinians and Israelis will be living in one secular democratic state. After all, basing a nation's identity on its religion - be it Islam, Judaism or Christianity - stands against the progressive ideals of diversity, inclusion and freedom.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

MUST READ AND SHARE

By Rheva Darling

This book has been circulating at our gym, and thank goodness it found me. I just loved it and will be reading it again. All of the history in the story was familiar to me: names, places, events. But the book put everything together in an informative and compassionate voice. It takes me to a place that allows me to understand better the current status of the situation of the Israeli and Palestinian people. I will be sharing the book with my church group and book club. My hope is that new readers will not only have their eyes opened but their hearts as well.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Reaching for My Roots

By jazzmyn

All of us have been traumatically affected by the Holocaust, World War II and its aftermath...The Lemon Tree explores these wounds in a very personal way...and as we used to say in our own hey day of hope for social and economic justice, "The Personal IS the Political"...if you are drawn to this book, enjoy your own journey to healing. Love, jazzmyn

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