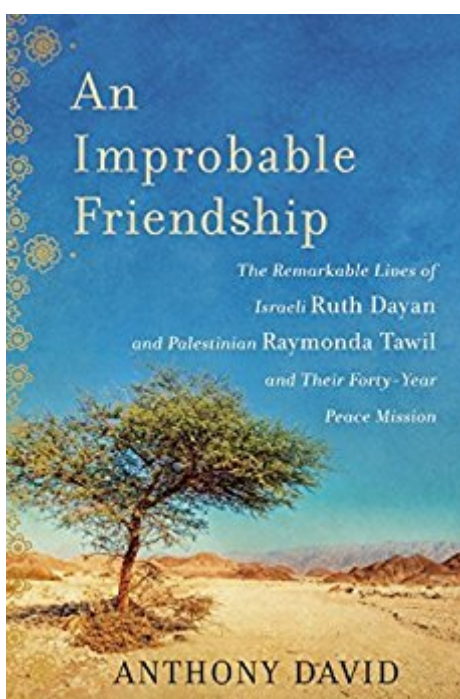


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An Improbable Friendship: The Remarkable Lives Of Israeli Ruth Dayan And Palestinian Raymonda Tawil And Their Forty-Year Peace Mission



Synopsis

An Improbable Friendship is the dual biography of Israeli Ruth Dayan, now ninety-eight, who was Moshe Dayan's wife for thirty-seven years, and Palestinian journalist Raymonda Tawil, Yasser Arafat's mother-in-law, now seventy-four. It reveals for the first time the two women's surprising and secret forty-year friendship and delivers the story of their extraordinary and turbulent lives growing up in a war-torn country. Based on personal interviews, diaries, and journals drawn from both women; Ruth lives today in Tel Aviv, Raymonda in Malta; author Anthony David delivers a fast-paced, fascinating narrative that is a beautiful story of reconciliation and hope in a climate of endless conflict. By experiencing their stories and following their budding relationship, which began after the Six-Day War in 1967, we learn the behind-the-scenes, undisclosed history of the Middle East's most influential leaders from two prominent women on either side of the ongoing conflict. An award-winning biographer and historian, Anthony David brings us the story of unexpected friendship while he discovers the true pasts of two outstanding women. Their story gives voice to Israelis and Palestinians caught in the Middle East conflict and holds a persistent faith in a future of peace. Skyhorse Publishing, along with our Arcade, Good Books, Sports Publishing, and Yucca imprints, is proud to publish a broad range of biographies, autobiographies, and memoirs. Our list includes biographies on well-known historical figures like Benjamin Franklin, Nelson Mandela, and Alexander Graham Bell, as well as villains from history, such as Heinrich Himmler, John Wayne Gacy, and O. J. Simpson. We have also published survivor stories of World War II, memoirs about overcoming adversity, first-hand tales of adventure, and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

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Customer Reviews

A good book about the amazing lives and friendships of Ruth Dayan and Raymonda Tawil. This book is full of lots of names and dates, many of which will be familiar to those who know anything about the history of the conflict in the Holy Land. Raymonda and Ruth's connection with these people, many of whom were major players in the politics of the region, provide a unique and interesting perspective. Ruth shows us that Moshe Dayan was not the horrible warmonger that many Palestinians to this day think he was. And Raymonda shows us that Yasser Arafat was a complex and very human person, not the monster that Israeli politicians consistently portrayed him as. I was struck by how both Ruth and Raymonda considered themselves to have been born in the same country and not until near Oslo did they ever consider a two-state solution. Both women consistently fought for a single-state solution where the values and ideals that the Israeli democracy stood for would be extended to all peoples west of the Jordan River. The book alludes to a period of lost opportunity after the 1967 war. Had Israel truly annexed the west bank after 1967 and offered citizenship and rights to all Palestinians in the territories, peace likely could have been found and there would never have been the uprisings and conflict that we still see. Palestinians would have loved to have democracy and freedom as the Israelis had. They were ready for it at that time. Instead Israel has systematically eliminated any and all moderate peace partners they might have had. This book tries very hard to portray the events as the two women experienced them in their individual lives. So we do see both sides of the conflict to a large degree.

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