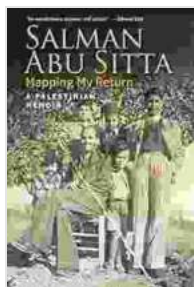


Mapping My Return: A Palestinian Memoir Uncovering Identity, Home, and Belonging

Embark on a Poignant Journey of Self-Discovery and Belonging

In the pages of "Mapping My Return," acclaimed author Usayd Younis invites readers to join him on an extraordinary pilgrimage of self-discovery and belonging. Through a series of intimate encounters and profound experiences, Younis embarks on a journey to reconnect with his Palestinian heritage, uncovering the complexities of identity, home, and the enduring search for a place to call one's own.



Mapping My Return: A Palestinian Memoir

by Susan Goldenberg

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 17745 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 352 pages



With vivid prose and evocative imagery, Younis weaves a captivating narrative that transports readers to the heart of his personal journey. From the bustling streets of Amman to the serene landscapes of the West Bank, he engages in thought-provoking conversations with family members, fellow Palestinians, and Israelis, each encounter adding a unique layer to

his understanding of his own identity and the intricate tapestry of his homeland.

Exploring the Intertwined Threads of Identity

Younis delves into the multifaceted nature of Palestinian identity, navigating the complexities of displacement, diaspora, and the refugee experience. Through his interactions with Palestinians from all walks of life, he unravels the threads that bind them together despite their diverse backgrounds and experiences. He explores the impact of historical events, cultural traditions, and personal aspirations on the formation of Palestinian identity, revealing the resilience and adaptability of a people who have faced adversity with unwavering determination.

With sensitivity and empathy, Younis also engages with Israelis, seeking to bridge the divides that have long separated the two peoples. Through open dialogue and shared experiences, he challenges stereotypes and preconceived notions, fostering a nuanced understanding of the human face behind the conflict. His efforts to find common ground and build bridges of connection offer a beacon of hope for reconciliation and a more just future.

Reconnecting with Home, Reclaiming Belonging

"Mapping My Return" is not merely a memoir of personal experiences; it is also a poignant exploration of what it means to have a home and a sense of belonging. Younis reflects on the ways in which Palestinians have maintained a connection to their homeland despite being physically displaced. He examines the power of memory, storytelling, and cultural traditions in preserving a sense of identity and belonging even in the face of adversity.

Through his journey, Younis grapples with the complexities of reclaiming a home that is both physical and emotional. He visits the village where his family once lived, now abandoned and in ruins, and grapples with the emotions that arise from confronting the physical manifestations of displacement. Yet, amidst the ruins, he also finds hope and resilience, discovering ways in which Palestinians have creatively adapted and rebuilt their lives in new contexts.

A Transformative Odyssey of Healing and Empowerment

Ultimately, "Mapping My Return" is a story of transformation, healing, and empowerment. Younis's journey of self-discovery leads him to a deeper understanding of himself, his heritage, and his role in shaping a better future for his people. He emerges from his experiences with a renewed sense of purpose and a commitment to using his voice and platform to amplify the stories and experiences of marginalized communities.

This captivating memoir is a testament to the power of confrontation, connection, and perseverance. It invites readers to question their own assumptions, challenge societal norms, and embrace the importance of human connection. "Mapping My Return" is a must-read for anyone seeking to understand the complexities of identity, home, and belonging in a world marked by displacement and conflict. It is a story that will resonate with readers of all backgrounds, reminding us of the enduring power of resilience and the transformative potential of embracing our shared humanity.

Free Download Your Copy Today and Embark on an Unforgettable Journey of Discovery and Belonging

Join Usayd Younis on his extraordinary odyssey of self-discovery and belonging. Free Download your copy of "Mapping My Return" today and immerse yourself in a powerful and moving testament to the human spirit's resilience and the enduring search for home.

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Available in paperback, hardcover, and eBook formats.

"A really outstanding Palestinian memoir which deserves the widest possible readership."
—Avi Shtaim, author of *The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World*

Salman Abu Sitta was just ten years old when the Nakba—the mass expulsion of Palestinians in 1948—happened, forcing him from his home near Beersheba. Like many Palestinians of his generation, the traumatic loss and his enduring desire to return would be the defining features of his life from that moment on.

Abu Sitta vividly evokes the vanished world of his family and home on the eve of the Nakba, giving a personal and very human face to the dramatic events of 1930s and 1940s Palestine as Zionist ambitions and militarization expanded under the British mandate. He chronicles his life in exile, from his family's flight to Gaza, his teenage years as a student in Nasser's Egypt, his formative years in 1960s London, his life as a family man and academic in Canada, to several sojourns in Kuwait. Abu Sitta's long and winding journey has taken him through many of the seismic events of the era, from the 1956 Suez War to the 1991 Gulf War.

This rich and moving memoir is imbued throughout with a burning sense of justice and a determination to recover and document what rightfully belongs to his people, given expression in his groundbreaking mapping work on his homeland. Abu Sitta, with warmth and wit, tells his story and that of Palestine.

"Abu Sitta has ensured that the keys to the Palestinians' stolen homes will inevitably reopen the never forgotten doors."
—Al Jazeera

Salman Abu Sitta was born in 1937 in Ma'in Abu Sitta, in the Beersheba district of mandate Palestine. An engineer by profession, he is best known for his cartographic work on Palestine and his work on the Palestinian Right of Return. He is the author of six books and over 300 articles and papers on Palestine, including *The Atlas of Palestine, 1917-1966* (2010). He is the founder and president of the Palestine Land Society.

Cover: The author (bottom center) with members of his family in al-Ma'in, Palestine, in 1946. Cover design by Andrea El-Akshar.

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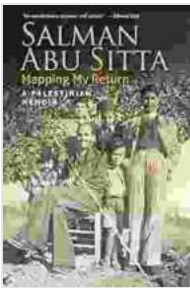
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