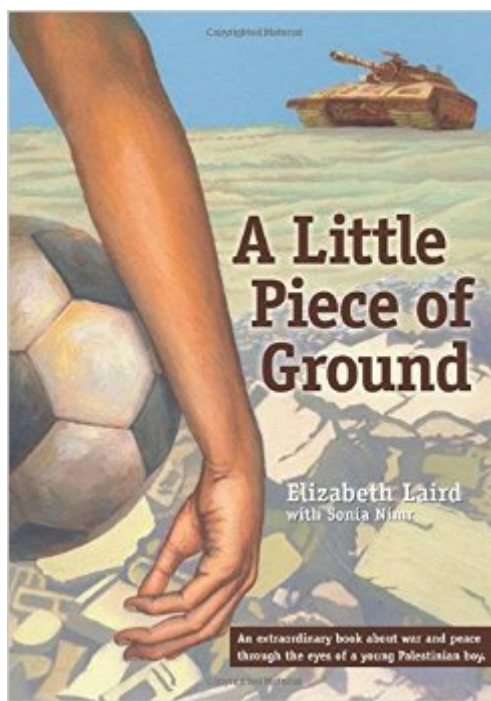


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A Little Piece Of Ground



Synopsis

A Little Piece Of Ground will help young readers understand more about one of the worst conflicts afflicting our world today. Written by Elizabeth Laird, one of Great Britain's best-known young adult authors, A Little Piece Of Ground explores the human cost of the occupation of Palestinian lands through the eyes of a young boy. Twelve-year-old Karim Aboudi and his family are trapped in their Ramallah home by a strict curfew. In response to a Palestinian suicide bombing, the Israeli military subjects the West Bank town to a virtual siege. Meanwhile, Karim, trapped at home with his teenage brother and fearful parents, longs to play football with his friends. When the curfew ends, he and his friend discover an unused patch of ground that's the perfect site for a football pitch. Nearby, an old car hidden intact under bulldozed building makes a brilliant den. But in this city there's constant danger, even for schoolboys. And when Israeli soldiers find Karim outside during the next curfew, it seems impossible that he will survive. This powerful book fills a substantial gap in existing young adult literature on the Middle East. With 23,000 copies already sold in the United Kingdom and Canada, this book is sure to find a wide audience among young adult readers in the United States.

Book Information

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Literature & Fiction

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 6

Customer Reviews

A touching novel, written for young adults but immensely relevant to all ages. The author has

successfully captured the hopes, the despair, the national pride, and the sheer endurance of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation. The humanity of the jittery and frightened young Israeli soldiers is also exquisitely and poignantly portrayed. Until recently, this book was only published in the UK. The advent of this US edition is very timely as I consider the subject matter to be generally relevant to today's situation in the Middle East. In fact, the topic is universal, describing with direct story telling, the psychological effect of war, oppression, humiliation, and discrimination on real people, whether in Palestine, the former apartheid South Africa, or occupied Europe during World War II. This book ought to be required reading in all high schools in all countries, including Israel.

Elizabeth Laird is a prize winning author who has written acclaimed novels of children in many areas of the world. In *A Little Piece of Ground*, Laird gives the reader a picture of life in Israeli occupied Ramallah. Through the eyes of Karim, a young Palestinian who wants to grow up in freedom and to have a little piece of ground for a soccer field, we see the horrors of the occupation and discover how the ongoing brutal occupation fuels the anger of Palestinians. This book is a MUST read for those who want to see and get a better understanding of the side that is not usually portrayed in our media. Although this book has been printed in UK it has, until now, unlike Laird's other works, not been available in the US due to the subject matter. I am pleased that is offering this important book.

This is a heart-felt story of a young Palestinian boy that enjoys playing soccer and the many difficulties he has to face in occupied Palestine. The story is told very well and while there are a few tense moments I did not find it heavy-handed in the telling. A great story for teen-agers and adults.

This book is an authentic account of the circumstances that prevailed in Ramallah in the year 2000 and how Palestinian children were influenced by them. The main character aspires to be a champion soccer star and all he wants to do is play, play, play with his friends. The ground he lives on keeps shrinking under his feet as he and his teenage friends clear the rubble from a small lot near a refugee camp to make a soccer field. They come face to face with Israeli soldiers and tanks and are nearly killed. They survive and go on. For the first time we have a vivid and well written account of Palestinian children as human beings.

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'A Little Piece of Ground' is a moving story that depicts the human aspect of the Palestinian struggle for freedom. Through the eyes of Karim, a 12-year-old Palestinian boy living in captivity, Elizabeth Laird captures the endless suffering of the Palestinian people under the Israeli occupation. This book is a pressing reminder that Palestinians, both young and old, continue to long for freedom. I recommend this book to anyone who wants to hear the story told from the other side, the side that is rarely heard in the American media.

First of all, this wonderful touching book, educated me about what is going on in Ramallah, Palestine. I felt the suffering, fear and oppression felt by all the occupied people, especially the children. How do you explain what is going on, and make them understand how unjust, illegal this occupation is by the Israelis? The story of the lads, clearing a very small area, so that they could play soccer, to have some fun, and do what young lads want to do. Elizabeth Laird has certainly captured me with her story, this should be required reading for everyone

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