

# Delve Deeper into "9 Star Hotel"

A film by Ido Haar

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Shaun Briley of the San Diego Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "9 Star Hotel" that premieres on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 at 10 PM (check local listings at [www.pbs.org/pov/](http://www.pbs.org/pov/)).

"9 Star Hotel" documents the lives of a group of young Palestinian men working illegally as construction laborers in the Israeli city of Modi'in. Caught between Israeli security laws and a Palestinian Authority they see as having failed them, they work for Israeli contractors by day while hiding from police by night. Like youths everywhere, they pass their idle hours talking about love, marriage and future hopes. Israeli filmmaker Ido Haar has crafted a powerful vérité film that illuminates the plight of young men questioning their own culture while struggling to survive in the midst of bitter conflict.

## ADULT NONFICTION

**Ben-Ami, Shlomo. *Scars of War, Wounds of Peace: The Israeli-Arab Tragedy*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.** A former Israeli Foreign Minister and Minister of Public Security, Shlomo Ben-Ami shares his views on the conflict between Palestinians and Israelis.

**Bennis, Phyllis. *Understanding the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: A Primer*. Northampton, MA: Olive Branch Press, 2007.** Phyllis Bennis, a U.S. television commentator and fellow of the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, attempts to answer basic questions about relationships between Palestinians and Israelis.

**Bornstein, Avram. *Crossing the Green Line Between the West Bank and Israel*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2002.** Describes the experiences of Palestinians trying to gain entry into Israel.

**Bucaille, Laetitia. *Growing Up Palestinian: Israeli Occupation and the Intifada Generation*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2006.** Traces the lives of young Palestinian men, highlighting their differing attitudes towards Palestinian militancy against Israel.

**Carter, Jimmy. *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2006.** The former U.S. President shares his views on the Palestinian conflict.

**Cypel, Sylvain. *Walled: Israeli Society at an Impasse*. New York: Other Press, 2006.** A Jewish editor of the French newspaper *Le Monde*, and one time resident of Israel, argues that the security wall and Israeli treatment of Palestinians results in brutalization not only of Palestinians, but also of Israelis themselves.

**Dolphin, Ray. *The West Bank Wall: Unmaking Palestine*. Ann Arbor, MI: Pluto Press, 2006.** An account by a former U.N. worker who was responsible for monitoring the impact of the wall that separates the West Bank and Israel on Palestinian lives.

**El-Asmar, Fouzi. *To Be an Arab in Israel*. Washington, D.C.: Institute for Palestine Studies, 1978.** Fouzi El-Asmar tells the story of his life from the time of the establishment of Israel until shortly after his release from an Israeli prison in 1970.

**Farsoun, Samih K. & Aruri, Naseer Hasan. *Palestine and the Palestinians: A Social and Political History*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2006.** A social, economic, ideological and political history of the Palestinian people, from antiquity to the "Road Map for Peace".

**Gavron, Daniel. *Holy Land Mosaic: Stories of Cooperation and Coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians*. Lanham : Rowman & Littlefield, 2007.** Chronicles cooperative Israeli-Palestinian efforts in Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

**Golan-Agnon, Daphna. *Next Year in Jerusalem: Everyday Life in a Divided Land*. New York: New Press, 2005.** The co-founder of the human-rights organizations B'Tselem and Bat Shalom examines the human costs of the current Palestinian situation.

**Hazan, Eric. *Notes on the Occupation: Palestinian Lives*. New York: New Press, 2007.** Chronicles the visit of a leading Palestinian intellectual to three West Bank towns.

**Hirst, David. *The Gun and the Olive Branch: The Roots of Violence in the Middle East*. London: Faber & Faber, 2003.** A classic but controversial account of the origins of the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

**Kershner, Isabel. *Barrier: The Seam of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.** Through personal accounts by Israelis and Palestinians, this book describes the effects of the security wall between Israel and the West Bank.

**Kimmerling, Baruch S. *The Palestinian People: A History*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2003** A respected account of the origins of today's Palestinian people and their relationship with Israel.

**Kuriansky, Judy. *Beyond Bullets and Bombs: Grassroots Peacebuilding between Israelis and Palestinians*. Westport, CT: Praeger, 2007.** Gives accounts of Israelis and Palestinians working together to build trust and friendships.

**Lockman, Zachary. *Comrades and Enemies: Arab and Jewish Workers in Palestine, 1906-1948*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996.** Explores the common backgrounds of Arab and Jewish workers in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Palestine and challenges the conventional belief that the two have always been separate and in conflict.

**Makdisi, Saree. *Palestine Inside Out: An Everyday Occupation*. New York: W. W. Norton, 2008.** Examines how the security wall isolates Palestinians from their livelihoods and from each other, as well as how the peace process has failed them so far.

**Nusseibeh, Sari. *Once Upon a Country: A Palestinian Life*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007.** An autobiography from a former Palestine Liberation Organization representative turned peace activist.



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Rosenfeld, Maya. *Confronting the Occupation: Work, Education, and Political Activism of Palestinian Families in a Refugee Camp*. Stanford, CT: Stanford University Press, 2004. An Israeli sociologist-anthropologist studies the patterns of coping and resistance adopted by members of a refugee camp and their impact on family life.

Rothchild, Alice. *Broken Promises, Broken Dreams: The Stories of Jewish and Palestinian Trauma and Resilience*. London: Pluto Press, 2007. A Jewish-American physician's account about working in Israel and the Occupied Territories.

Sabbagh, Karl. *Palestine: A Personal History*. Karl Sabbagh. New York: Grove Press, 2007. Palestinian writer and television producer Karl Sabbagh tells the history of his people through the story of his own family.

Said, Edward W. & Mohr, Jean. *After the Last Sky: Palestinian Lives*. New York: Columbia University Press. June 1999. Respected Palestinian intellectual and activist, Edward W. Said, shares moving stories about displacement and exile.

Salinas, Moises F. *Planting Hatred, Sowing Pain: The Psychology of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. Westport, CT: Praeger, 2007. Looking beyond politics, this book examines the psychological obstacles to peace, such as stereotypes, prejudice and trauma.

Shehadeh, Raja. *Strangers in the House: Coming of Age in Occupied Palestine*. South Royalton, VT: Steerforth Press, 2002. The autobiography of a prominent lawyer describing what it was like to grow up Palestinian in Israel.

Tolan, Sandy. *The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East*. New York: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2006. The story of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is told through the histories of two families disputing the claim to the same property.

Wasserstein, Bernard. *Israelis and Palestinians: Why Do They Fight? Can They Stop?* New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2003. The author contends that neither Israelis nor Palestinians are naturally extreme, and that their struggle can be seen in terms of understandable interests and values such as work, land, security and dignity.

Winslow, Philip C. *Victory for Us Is to See You Suffer: In the West Bank with the Palestinians and the Israelis*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2007. A former U.N. relief worker examines the violence and fear Palestinians and Israelis encounter in their daily lives.

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## ADULT FICTION

Glanville, Jo (Editor). *Qissat: Short Stories by Palestinian Women*. San Francisco: Telegram, 2006. Contains a variety of short stories reflecting the everyday lives of Palestinians.

Jayyusi, Salma Khadra, ed. *Anthology of Modern Palestinian Literature*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1994. This compilation captures Palestinian life across several generations.

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## NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Barakat, Ibtisam. *Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2007. A memoir that recounts a family's flight from home and their life in a refugee camp.

Ellis, Deborah. *Three Wishes: Palestinian and Israeli Children Speak*. Berkeley, CA: Groundwood Books, 2006. In a series of interviews, Israeli and Palestinian children discuss their lives in their own words.

Frank, Mitch. *Understanding the Holy Land: Answering questions about the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. New York: Viking Children's Books, 2005. Uses a question and answer format to tackle issues for younger readers.

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## FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

"Encounter Point". A film by Ronit Avni and Julia Bacha. Typecast Releasing, 2006. (89 min.). Tells the stories of both Israeli and Palestinian participants in a grass-roots peace movement. [Typecastfilms.com](http://Typecastfilms.com)

"Promises." A film by Justine Shapiro, B.Z. Goldberg & Carlos Bolado. New Yorker Video, 2004. (102 min.). Chronicles the very different lives of seven Palestinian and Israeli children who grow up no more than 20 minutes away from each other. [www.promisesproject.org](http://www.promisesproject.org)

"The Color of Olives." A film by Carolina Rivas. Arab Film Distribution, 2006. (97 min.). A documentary about a Palestinian village disrupted by the building of the wall separating Israel from the West Bank. [www.arabfilm.com](http://www.arabfilm.com)

"Until When...". A film by Dahna Abourahme. Arab Film Distribution, 2004. (76 min.). A documentary following four Palestinian families living in a refugee camp near Bethlehem. [www.arabfilm.com](http://www.arabfilm.com)

"Wall". A film by Simone Bitton. Lifesize Entertainment, 2005 (96 min.). This documentary shows the impact of the separation fence on the historic landscape as well as those enclosed on either side. [lifesizeentertainment.com](http://lifesizeentertainment.com)

