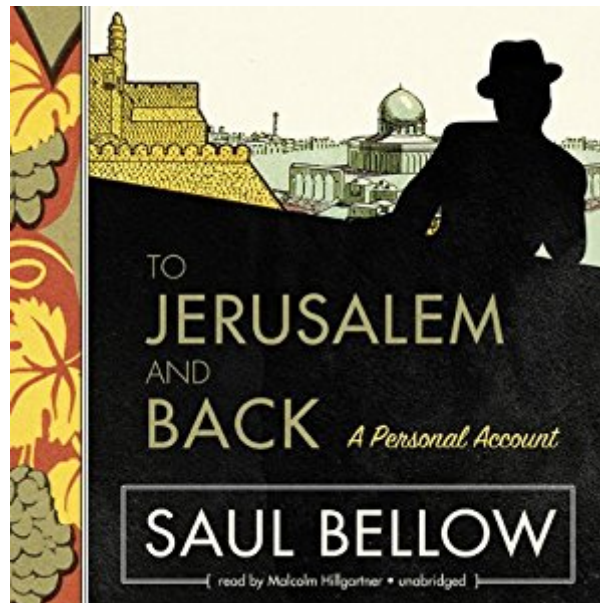




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To Jerusalem And Back: A Personal Account



Synopsis

This extraordinary book is the result of Saul Bellow's sojourn in Israel in 1975. A personal record of his stay-his experiences and impressions-as well as a meditation, it crackles with wit and controversy on America's relationship with this embattled country. Using quick sketches and vignettes, Bellow captures the personal opinions, passions, and dreams of several Israelis, and he also adds to these his own reflections on being Jewish in the 20th century. The varying viewpoints of those he encounters and interviews offer a revealing look at the history and challenges of Israel, and Bellow's passionate storytelling draws listeners in to share in his experience.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 7 hours 25 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Blackstone Audio, Inc.

Audible.com Release Date: November 22, 2011

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B006C7YNZI

Best Sellers Rank: #104 in Books > Travel > Middle East > Israel > General #178

in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Middle East #515 in Books > Audible

Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Travel

Customer Reviews

This is an amazingly insightful (and deeply-poetic) book from one of the 20th Century's most important writers Saul Bellow. What strikes me as most amazing (from the vantage-point of Year 2016 soon approaching 2017) is how truly prescient Saul Bellow's perspectives & observations are = how did he possibly write this 40 years ago?! (first published in 1976, based on his personal trips to Israel-Jerusalem during 1975) So much of what Bellow writes seems every bit as relevant Today = i.e. the numerous 'roadblocks' to a lasting Peace settlement (from both sides) and the clashing cultural-dynamics (and indelible historical enmity) that make it extremely-difficult to envision a clear-cut path to permanent resolution. But even beyond the prescience of Bellow's astute perceptions is the fact that Saul Bellow's effortlessly-poetic narrative makes this book an absolute pleasure to read! The informality and 'conversational' aspects of this book, as Bellow recounts

numerous dinner-table discussions with important members of Jerusalem across-the-spectrum (e.g. religious and or cultural leaders, politicians, social-critics et al) are both eye-opening and entertaining at the same time, and again I cannot stress enough how Saul Bellow seems to effortlessly generate an endless flow of poetically-poignant (and most importantly crystal-clear) narrative prose presenting readers with deeply-insightful vignettes on the state of affairs in Jerusalem, Israel and the rest of the middle-East, with Saul Bellow's humanely-philosophical viewpoints clearing a path for at least a bit more understanding/comprehension of the seemingly incomprehensible and intractable belligerence occurring in the region up thru today.

It's stunning how clearly, comprehensively and far-sightedly Bellow saw the situation in Israel. Forty years later, it's like reading last week's news analysis from the Middle East. If he hadn't been one of the great novelists of the 20th century, Bellow might have been one of its greatest journalists.

Book written in early 1970s, and sadly, much of the commentary could be describing today.....worth reading as written by Saul Bellow

Easy read

...the more they remain the same. I was in Jerusalem, the Galilee, and Jordan last year. The people in charge are different. The people at every level are saying the same things. This book is written in Bellow's wonderful mix of incisive analysis and subjective transparency. I love his writing and loved the book, though it makes me sad. Mailed a copy to my travel companions.

Item received after a pretty long wait, toward the end of the estimated waiting period, but the book was in mint condition.

Bellow came to Jerusalem as celebrated novelist . Every door was open to him , and he met with Israelis from all walks of life. He writes an essentially sympathetic and understanding account of Israel and its special situation. He knows the score in terms of the Jewish past, the great sufferings many of the survivors living in Israel have gone through. He understands the constant threat from their Arab neighbors under which Israel lives. But he tries to see the situation too with sympathy for the Arab side. His basic line politically is of the left, and he clearly favors political compromise. The book does provide a pretty fair picture of Israeli society. But it is possible to quarrel with Bellow's

basic orientation which is that of a Diaspora Jew who does not feel any call to Aliyah to Israel, and does not have much understanding or sympathy for a good share of its population, the religious. All in all though this is an insightful look into Israeli society by a commentator of great intelligence and literary skill.

A wonderful narrative account of a journey through which to view the world. Wit and wisdom. The French, Jews, Arabs and Americans. Wars, bazaars, refugees and olive groves. Writing like no one does any more.

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