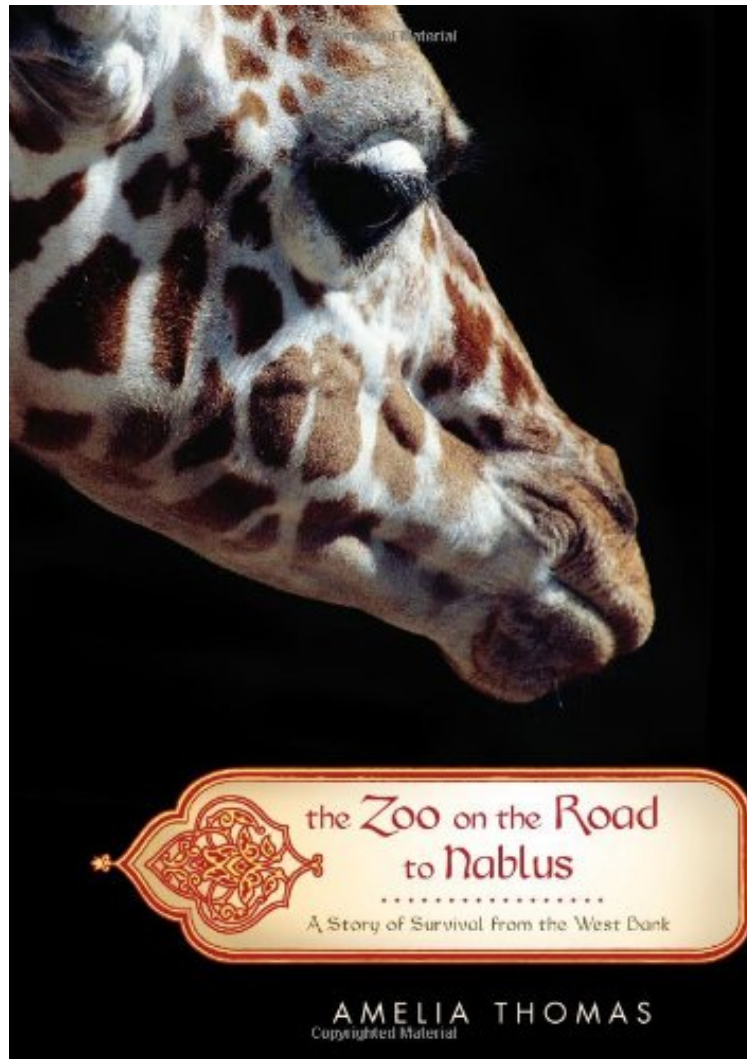


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The Zoo on the Road to Nablus: A Story of Survival from the West Bank

Amelia Thomas

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Amelia Thomas : The Zoo on the Road to Nablus: A Story of Survival from the West Bank before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Zoo on the Road to Nablus: A Story of Survival from the West Bank:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An enjoyable readBy JBucknerI came across this book through the recommendation of a friend. I was surprised at the extremes of emotion that are provoked by this book. I found myself laughing hysterically at the antics of Dr. Sami as he tried to keep his zoo running smoothly. At the end the story of the giraffe was very sad.This book is very well written. It provides a unique insight into a volatile region. Speaking as an

American, I am used to seeing people from this region reduced to caricatures by the news. This book shows the human side of the Palestinian people and how they deal with the occupation. This book is worth reading. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer I LOVE ANIMALS SO NATURALLY THIS PLEASED ME. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting books...keeps you reading By Gale P. Comin It was the title of this book that caught my eye and i'm glad I ordered it. Fantastic read. The time and effort spend in keeping the zoo afloat is tremendous and a worthy target for your donation dollars.

The last Palestinian zoo stands on a dusty, dead-end street in the once prosperous farming town of Qalqilya, on the very edge of the West Bank. The zoo's bars are rusting; peacocks wander quiet avenues shaded by broad plane trees; a teenage baboon broods in solitary confinement; walls bear the pockmarks of gunfire. And yet the zoo is an extraordinary place, with a bizarre, troubling and inspiring story to tell. At the center of this story is Dr. Sami Khader, the only zoo veterinarian in the Palestinian territories. Family man, amateur inventor, and dedicated taxidermist, he is fiercely independent, apolitical, and resourceful in times of crisis. Dr. Sami dreams of transforming the zoo into one of an international caliber. In *The Zoo on the Road to Nablus*, Amelia Thomas brings the reader into a world rarely glimpsed from the outside, weaving the stories of the zoo's animals, its staff, and its visitors into a rich, colorful chronicle of the indomitability of the human and animal spirit.

From Publishers Weekly This engaging and deftly told book shines a light on a lesser-known victim of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: Palestine's last zoo, located in battle-ravaged Qalqilya, surrounded by Israel. British journalist Thomas recounts a year and a half in the life of the zoo, following zoo veterinarian Dr. Sami Khader's dogged often futile attempts to transform a neglected menagerie into an institution of international caliber. An enormously sympathetic portrait emerges of Khader's travail, his grief over the deaths of beloved animals and his struggles to secure funding from a distracted government. Thomas crafts richly detailed depictions of the zoo, and her animal anecdotes are prefaced with meticulously often tedious histories of their origins (the introduction to the lion touches upon Charlemagne, Cicero and the 1893 Chicago World's Fair). Despite the lengthy historical asides, this book is a unique and fascinating account of one man's persistence and his fierce dedication to his animal friends. (Apr.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Intriguing and moving." -- Kirkus "Somehow it's the tragedy of the animals in Qalqilya's zoo that humanizes the plight of the town's human population, whose story we so often ignore among all the other bad news from the Middle East. The zoo's head, Dr. Sami, and his oddball staff are lovable, shocking, and deeply compelling characters--as are their favorite animals. *The Zoo on the Road to Nablus* is a marvelous portrayal of the real life of the Palestinians, a people usually exhibited on our television screens as though they were captive in a zoo themselves." -- Matt Beynon Rees, author of *A Grave in Gaza* About the Author Amelia Thomas is a British journalist, working in the Palestinian Territories and Israel. She is a correspondent for the Christian Science Monitor, Middle East Times, Lonely Planet and Egypt Today.