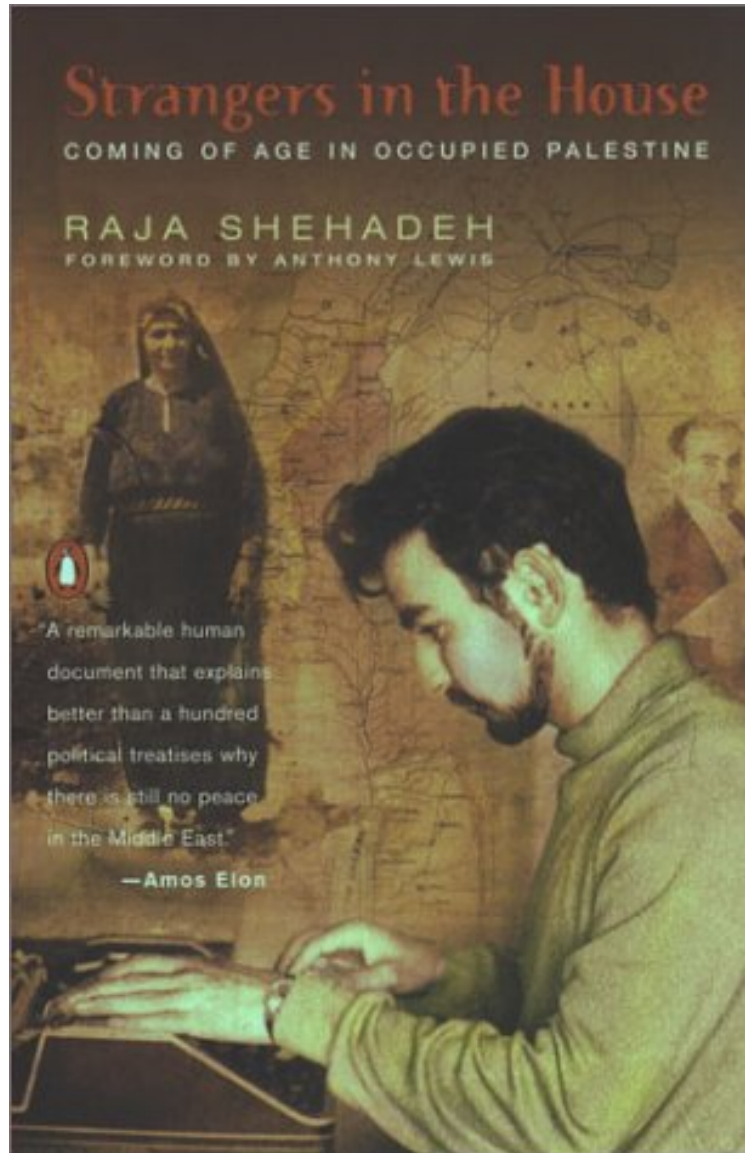


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## Strangers in the House: Coming of Age in Occupied Palestine

*Raja Shehadeh*

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**Raja Shehadeh : Strangers in the House: Coming of Age in Occupied Palestine** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Strangers in the House: Coming of Age in Occupied Palestine:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant Voice for Palestine By Nancy Almendras An exceptional narrative. Raja Shehadeh is one of my favorite authors for his honesty and for the lyrical quality of his prose. It was so painful to read about his father's tragic death and then the subsequent futility in regard to bringing justice to the killers.

Shehadeh manages to convey the occupation in all its depravity and still maintain his humanity. One of the most poignant and powerful Palestinian voices today. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Palestine story father and son By Michael T. Rabb Wonderful perspective -- growing for justice in Palestine. Shehadeh expresses the fear and hopes of the people of Palestine in his dramatic relationship with his father. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Nellie Voratnatz The best book I know about Israel's occupation of Palestine.

"This is not a political book," Anthony Lewis asserts in his foreword to this revealing memoir of a father-son relationship set against the backdrop of more than thirty years of life under military occupation. "Yet in a hundred different ways it is political. . . . Shehadeh shatters the stereotype many Americans have of Palestinians." Three years after his family was driven from the city of Jaffa in 1948, Raja Shehadeh was born in Ramallah. His early childhood was marked by his family's sense of loss and impermanence, vividly evoked by the glittering lights "on the other side of the hill." He witnessed the numerous arrests of his father, Aziz, who, in 1967, was the first Palestinian to advocate a peaceful, two-state solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He predicted that if peace were not achieved, what remained of the Palestinian homeland would be taken away bit by bit. Ostracized by his fellow Arabs and disillusioned by the failure of either side to recognize his prophetic vision, Aziz retreated from politics. He was murdered in 1985. The first memoir of its kind by a Palestinian living in the occupied territories, *Strangers in the House* offers a moving description of daily life for those who have chosen to remain on their land. It is also the family drama of a difficult relationship between an idealistic son and his politically active father, complicated by the arbitrary humiliation of the "occupier's law."

From Publishers Weekly Palestinian perspectives on the Middle East conflict don't often reach the West and today they are more relevant than ever. In this fascinating memoir, leading Palestinian lawyer Shehadeh offers a chilling and moving view of life inside the Occupied Territories. He was born into a prominent family around the time of Israel's establishment in 1948. As Shehadeh recounts his relationship with his parents, his first love, intellectual experiments in college, world travels, law career and human rights work, his struggles under Israeli occupation distinguish his story. Shehadeh names his father, Aziz, also a prominent attorney, as the first Palestinian in the late 1960s to advocate recognizing Israel and adopting a peaceful two-state solution. The author gives a gripping narrative regarding Aziz's murder and the Israeli authorities' sluggish investigation; it's widely assumed that Aziz's killer was a Palestinian who disapproved of his willingness to compromise with Israel. More broadly, Shehadeh deftly renders the Israeli government's systematic harassment and humiliation of the Palestinians, ranging from constant surveillance at checkpoints to random searches in homes and offices. Such situations, Shehadeh makes clear, account for the powerlessness, frustration and anger experienced by most Palestinians. His deliberate analysis of the expansion of Jewish settlements in the Occupied Territories, a major obstacle to the peace process, is especially intriguing. The author argues that these settlements are illegal under international law, but have slowly and surely been aligned with Israeli legal statutes. Anyone seeking a nuanced view of Palestinian experience should read this brave and lyrical book. Bw photos. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal In this autobiography of a Palestinian living in Israel, Shehadeh, a lawyer and founder of Al-Haq, an affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists, reminisces about growing up "in the shadow of home" and coming to terms with the political situation in which he was born. It wasn't until he was an adult that he finally understood the work of his father, Aziz, an early advocate of the two-state solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict who was murdered in 1985. In a strong voice that is without diatribe, melodrama, or anger, Shehadeh describes the uncertainties of life during a period of national difficulty. Readers will get a glimpse into the emotional and political turmoil of the region and possibly form a better understanding of the troubles in the Middle East. This book also shares the insight of one man's journey and the maturity that allowed him to see his life in context. Recommended for public and academic libraries with Middle Eastern collections or biography collections that extend beyond the famous. Naomi Hafter, Enoch Pratt Free Lib., Baltimore, MD Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Shehadeh, a lawyer, writer, and activist, is famous in Palestine but almost entirely unknown in the U.S. This moving memoir tells the story of his youth. Born in 1951, three years after the creation of the Israeli state, he never knew true freedom. His movements were limited, his schools inferior, his leaders sometimes imprisoned or killed. Shehadeh's father, also a lawyer, was a voice for peace, advocating a state for Israel and a state for Palestine, but when he was assassinated, Shehadeh was radicalized, although he eventually returned to his father's belief that forgiveness and compromise are the keys to freedom. The minute memories of his childhood--particularly snippets of life with his father--give texture to both the tragedy and the triumph of growing up displaced and unwanted. This book brings an eloquent, understated voice to an often contentious chorus and should help in opening dialogue between Christians, Jews, and Muslims about the future of our holy lands. John Green Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved