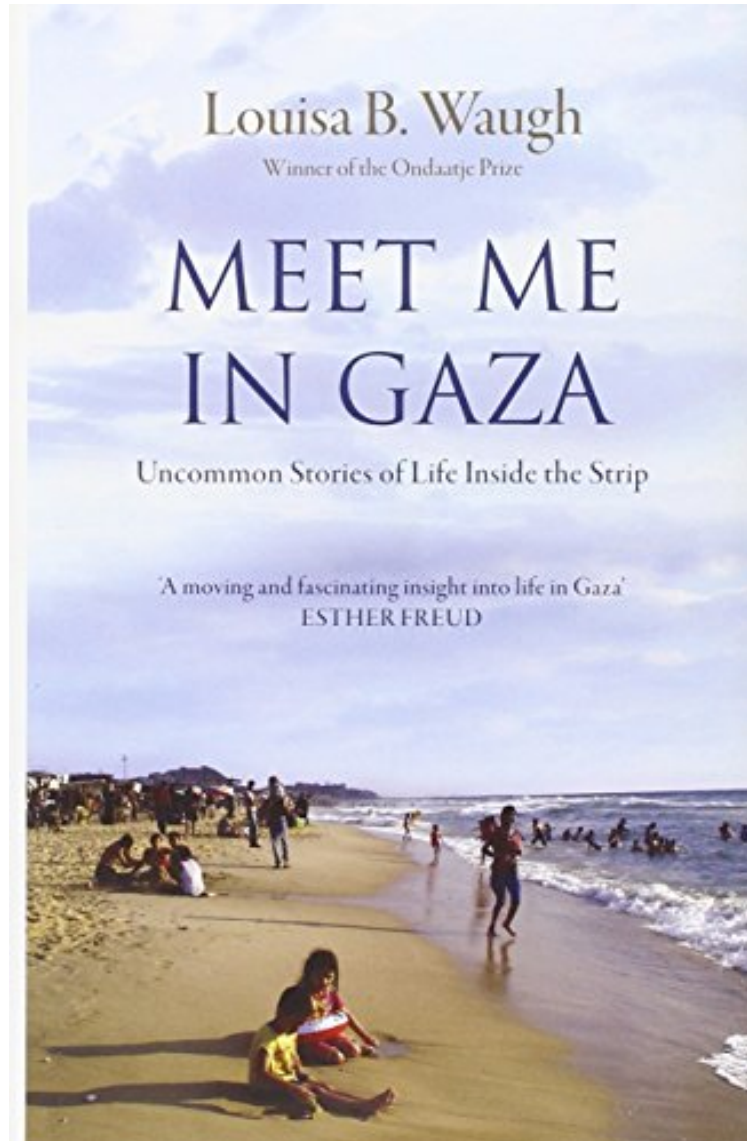


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Meet Me in Gaza: Uncommon Stories of Life Inside the Strip

Louisa B. Waugh

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Louisa B. Waugh : Meet Me in Gaza: Uncommon Stories of Life Inside the Strip before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Meet Me in Gaza: Uncommon Stories of Life Inside the Strip:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. meet A.LoveBy jo-annE I was first alerted to this book because of the Chapter heading Imagining A Love. Alexander Love was my grandmother's only sibling who was killed on his first day in Gaza during WW1. His mother was a suffragette and a pacifist. He used to tease her by marching around the

kitchen with a broom over his shoulder saying he was off to fight the Kaiser. It was only after her sudden death that he volunteered. So the writer's attention to his grave was very affecting for me and the rest of his family. But it is also a great book which connects us to the lives of everyday people in Gaza, with its joys as well as the tragedies. The cruelty of the Israeli occupation is well conveyed in its heartbreaking detail, but she does not hold back from relating the cruelties of the Hamas regime. She is no anti-Semite. I also found her account of the background history very balanced and helpful. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book is an excellent first-hand look at everyday life in Gaza. By Marko Markoko This book is an excellent first-hand look at everyday life in Gaza. I highly recommend it for those that are looking for a more person-to-person set of stories of the real people that are trapped in the open-air prison known as The Strip. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. excellent account of life and people in Gaza. By Corredor A must read for anybody interested in life in Gaza, And the unending Palestinian/israeli conflict. Too sad there will never be peace in that part of the world.

Do Gazans ever have fun? Is the Strip beautiful? And do TV reports actually reflect ordinary life inside the world's largest 'open-air prison'? From beautiful beaches to sealed borders, from a secret New Year's Eve party to a lingerie market staffed entirely by men, award-winning writer Louisa Waugh paints an intimate picture of Gaza, revealing the pleasures and pains, hopes and frustrations of Gazans going about their daily lives. *Meet Me in Gaza* is an evocative portrait of a Mediterranean land and its people, and a touching account of what it means to be Gazan.

'This book penetrates the surface to reveal the more human face of the place that few have been able to experience let alone describe. Unlike any other book about Gaza, *Meet Me in Gaza* will please, educate and inspire. Vividly written, it is infused with a love of life.' Raja Shehadeh, author of 'Palestinian Walks' 'A moving and fascinating insight into life in Gaza - Because Waugh stays so long I've begun to feel I know what life is like there, the weariness and terror, the unexpected pleasures, and the many, many invitations to dinner.' Esther Freud, author of 'Lucky Break' and 'Hideous Kinky' 'In this powerful and deeply heartfelt book, Louisa Waugh has succeeded in showing us the true face of Gaza. We encounter Palestinians in their living rooms, at work, in cafes, and at parties and weddings. In bringing Gaza to life, she has highlighted the commonalities between us. I urge everyone to read this.' Izzeldin Abuelaish, author of 'I Shall Not Hate' 'Not many of us would have the courage to lay ourselves on the line and go and live in the Gaza strip. I'd rather somebody else did it for me, to show my solidarity with the beleaguered Palestinians; and, of just about anybody I can think of, I'd like it to be Louisa Waugh. In *Meet Me In Gaza* she shows her extraordinary credentials for this courageous undertaking: a deep wellspring of human warmth, a tenacious ability to find the tiny spark of joy in the most dismal surroundings, to seek out beauty amongst ugliness, an incontrovertible honesty, and then the eloquence to tell us the story and make us understand. She is not drawn in to easy sentimentality, nor to knee-jerk reactions. She treads a steady line of reason through all the absurdities and horrors she encounters, and comes up with a tender portrait of beleaguered humanity. This is what we do: we adapt, manage, carry on, even in the most appalling circumstances; but when it is told this well, the story cannot be told too often.' Chris Stewart 'Combining history, political reportage and personal stories, this book does not shirk from the grim physical and mental conditions in Gaza. However, in its portrait of the spirit, dignity and resourcefulness of these beleaguered people, *Meet Me In Gaza* is a valuable corrective to the western media view of a territory capable only of suffering. Waugh finds laughter, rage, resistance and beauty in Gaza and even, despite all the odds, hope. Her honest and big-hearted celebration of the Gazan people deserves the warmest welcome.' New Internationalist 'The power and value of this brave account lies ... in her description of the people of Gaza and the lives they live. [Waugh] quotes the Gazan poet Soumaya Susi, who explained that to live in Gaza, you must create your own secret world . This is Waugh's secret world, inhabited by people living under two occupations: Hamas and Israel , but who still find pride in their history and pleasure in their communities and on the beach.' Anthony Sattin, Sunday Times 'A riveting, revealing and poignant account' Mariella Frostrup, BBC4 Open Book 'Meet Me in Gaza is a vivid, humane and important book. Please read it.' A Life in Books 'Waugh succeeds in showing parts of Gaza that foreign correspondents never reach ... We can learn what it feels like to be dispossessed, to live lives that are deliberately made small, that are often very purposefully and directly threatened.' Scotsman on Sunday 'The characters and moments [Waugh] brings to life are both deeply moving and deeply disturbing. Whilst she does not make victims out of the people she meets, the reader is still able to feel empathy, respect and ultimately a desire to meet them at one of their parties, eat their delicious food and chat to them about their families, home, work, and their life under Israeli occupation.' Middle East Monitor 'It is at long last welcome to find a book that is gentle and subtle in its rendering of the life faced by most Gazans. - [This is] a very different offbeat insight into Gaza and its people, delivered in a narrative style that succeeds precisely because it is simple, straightforward and devoid of any ostentation - As readers we should be grateful for that and the eloquent, perceptive book [Waugh] has written.' David Pratt, Sunday Herald 'The author kept a journal - that takes the reader under the surface of the contemporary Gaza Strip. She also weaves Gaza's rich but largely overlooked history through the text. It is the work of a gifted writer who observes sensitively, but not uncritically, the Gazans she meets and befriends. The book is, therefore, a welcome addition to the few existing titles on the Gaza shelf.' Gerald Butt, The Middle East in

London
About the Author
Louisa B. Waugh lived and worked in the Gaza Strip from December 2007 to April 2009. Her other works include *Hearing Birds Fly: A Nomadic Year in Mongolia*, which won the 2004 inaugural Royal Society of Literature Ondaatje Prize, and *Selling Olga: Stories of Human Trafficking and Resistance*. Author location: Edinburgh, Scotland