

Never Native: The Extraordinary Journey of Alice Shalvi

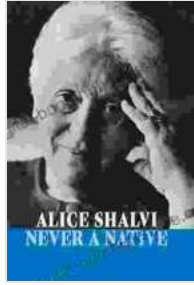


Alice Shalvi, born Alice Cohen in Baghdad, Iraq, was a remarkable woman who dedicated her life to promoting peace and reconciliation between Arabs and Jews. She was a pioneer in the field of coexistence, a tireless advocate for human rights, and a passionate believer in the power of dialogue. This article explores the extraordinary journey of Never Native Alice Shalvi, uncovering her unwavering commitment to fostering understanding and peace.

Never a Native by Alice Shalvi

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 224 pages



Early Life and Roots in Iraq

Alice Shalvi was born in Baghdad in 1926, the daughter of Iraqi Jewish parents. Her family was well-established in the Iraqi Jewish community, which had a rich history dating back centuries. Alice's early childhood was marked by a sense of harmony and belonging, with the Jewish and Muslim communities living side by side in relative peace.

However, the situation changed dramatically in the 1940s with the rise of Arab nationalism and anti-Semitism. In 1941, the Farhud, a violent pogrom, targeted the Jewish community of Baghdad, leaving many dead and injured. This event deeply traumatized Alice and shattered the illusion of peaceful coexistence.

Journey to Israel and the Dawn of a New Mission

In the wake of the Farhud, Alice and her family fled Iraq in 1951, seeking refuge in the newly established state of Israel. The transition was challenging, as Alice struggled to adapt to a new culture and language while coping with the trauma of displacement.

However, Alice's determination to pursue peace remained undeterred. In Israel, she encountered diverse communities and perspectives, which

broadened her worldview and deepened her understanding of the complexities of the Arab-Israeli conflict. This experience laid the foundation for her lifelong commitment to reconciliation.

Founding the Israel-Palestine Center for Research and Information

In 1988, Alice Shalvi co-founded the Israel-Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI), a groundbreaking non-governmental organization dedicated to fostering dialogue and cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians. IPCRI's mission was to provide accurate and impartial information about the conflict, bridging the gap between narratives and promoting understanding.

Under Alice Shalvi's leadership, IPCRI became a vital platform for scholars, activists, and policymakers to engage in constructive dialogue. The organization's research and publications shed light on the underlying causes of the conflict, challenging stereotypes and promoting empathy.

The Genesis of the Geneva Accord

In 2003, Alice Shalvi played a pivotal role in the drafting of the Geneva Accord, an unofficial peace agreement between Israeli and Palestinian leaders. The accord was the culmination of years of negotiations and represented a groundbreaking effort to resolve the conflict through peaceful means.

Although the Geneva Accord was not officially adopted by the Israeli or Palestinian governments, it had a significant impact on public opinion and the international community. It demonstrated the viability of a negotiated settlement and the possibility of coexistence between the two peoples.

Recognition and Legacy

Throughout her life, Alice Shalvi received numerous international awards and accolades for her tireless efforts towards peace. In 1999, she was awarded the Rafto Prize, which honors individuals who have made significant contributions to human rights. She was also nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005.

Alice Shalvi's legacy extends far beyond her lifetime. She inspired countless individuals to work for peace and reconciliation in conflict-ridden regions around the world. Her unwavering belief in the power of dialogue and her relentless pursuit of understanding have left an indelible mark on history.

Never Native, Always a Bridge-Builder

Alice Shalvi's journey was one of transformation, from a young girl in Baghdad to a global peacemaker. Although she faced displacement and adversity, she never lost sight of her mission to build bridges between peoples. She embraced her unique identity as "Never Native," belonging neither solely to Iraq nor to Israel, but to the cause of peace that transcended national boundaries.

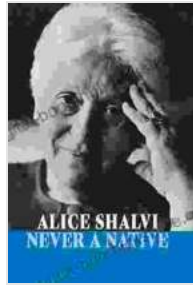
Alice Shalvi's life and work serve as a reminder that even in the face of division and conflict, reconciliation is possible. Her unwavering commitment to dialogue, understanding, and human rights continues to inspire hope and guide those who strive for a more just and peaceful world.

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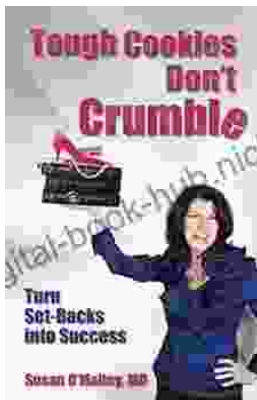
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