



Fast Times in Palestine

Pamela Olson

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“It’s love in the time of occupation as Pamela Olson... takes us on the emotional roller-coaster of her very personal experience of life in Ramallah — and in doing so lays bare the human drama of a people... determined to live free.” —**Tony Karon, *TIME Magazine***

Pamela Olson, a small town girl from eastern Oklahoma, had what she always wanted: a physics degree from Stanford University. But instead of feeling excited for what came next, she felt consumed by dread and confusion. ***Fast Times in Palestine*** chronicles her journey from aimless ex-bartender to Ramallah-based journalist and foreign press coordinator for a Palestinian presidential candidate. With dizzying speed Olson finds herself attending Yasser Arafat’s funeral, sharing a holiday dinner with a suicide bomber’s family, tour-guiding Israeli friends around the West Bank, dating a Palestinian from a conservative Muslim village, being held at gunpoint and injured by a stun grenade, and witnessing the 2005 Disengagement from inside the Gaza Strip.

The gripping narrative focuses not only on violence, terror, and social and political upheavals but also on the daily rounds of house parties, concerts, barbecues, weddings, jokes, harvests, and romantic drama that happen in between. From idyllic olive groves to Palestinian beer gardens, from Passover in Tel Aviv to Ramadan in a Hamas village, from rooftop parties in Ramallah to militant rallies in Nablus, the book is packed with suspense, humor, and unforgettable characters. Its seamless blend of travelogue, memoir, and narrative journalism ramps the average American up to a sophisticated, multi-faceted understanding of the Israel/Palestine conflict.

Funny, gorgeous, shocking, and galvanizing, ***Fast Times in Palestine*** challenges the way we think not only about the Middle East but also about human nature and our place in the world.

About the Author

Pamela Olson lived in Ramallah for two years, during which she served as head writer and editor for the *Palestine Monitor* and as foreign press coordinator for Dr. Mustafa Barghouthi’s 2005 presidential campaign. She has published stories and articles in *CounterPunch*, *Electronic Intifada*, *Israel’s Occupation Magazine*, and *The Stanford Magazine*. Pamela’s popular blog (<http://fasttimesinpalestine.wordpress.com>) frequently produces original content for Mondoweiss and The Palestine Note.

For further information, please contact Pamela Olson, pamolson@gmail.com, 202 413 9570