

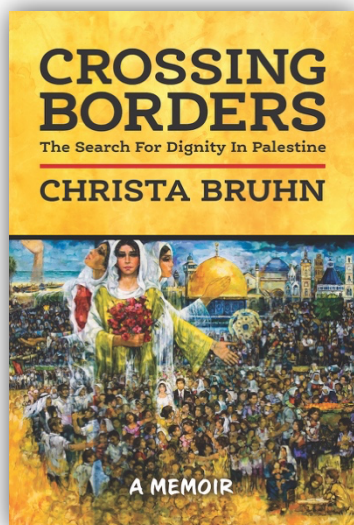
American Mother of Three Palestinians Offers Insider Perspective on Prospects for Peace in Israel and Palestine



After more than three decades of personal and professional engagement with the people of Palestine, Christa Bruhn invites those interested in peace to see the contested space of Israel and Palestine through the lens of dignity.

About the Author

Christa Bruhn is an award-winning American author, photographer, and culinary artist with a lifelong passion for peace and justice. She is the daughter of a German immigrant raised under Nazi Germany and the mother of three Palestinian Americans. She holds degrees in International Studies (BA), Middle Eastern & North African Studies (MA), and Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis (PhD). She has published academic work on Palestine, peace education, and diversity and led and participated in roundtables on the future of Palestine and Israel. She splits her time between Madison, Wisconsin and Jalameh, Palestine.



“I walk across the still-invisible line, where the Wall will soon cut the town of Al-Ram off from Jerusalem. There, on the other side I find a flatbed with prefabricated segments in full view, like a toy truck with blocks on it, awaiting a child to put the pieces in place, set the sections neatly next to each other so his mother can praise him for aligning them just right. But these are no blocks, and this is no child’s play.”

I am baffled at how Palestinians are walking around, going on with their day, as if nothing is happening, and yet their lives are being redefined one slab of concrete at a time. The Wall creates sides, borders, more restrictions on access, more confiscation of land. My stomach turns as I witness this crude vision of security become reality. One people’s security, another’s confinement. Gaza is already an outdoor prison. Now, the isolation of the West Bank behind concrete walls and electric fences is taking shape in front of me. Like in Berlin.”

About the Book

In her debut memoir *Crossing Borders: The Search for Dignity in Palestine*, Christa’s journey of curiosity beginning in Jerusalem and Gaza while studying abroad in her father’s homeland of Germany at the tail end of the Cold War. Christa’s experiences open up a world of joy and heartache that transforms into a lifetime pursuit to make a difference in a land two peoples call home. Through Christa’s unique perspective as an American and mother of three Palestinians, we become familiar with both current and historic challenges Palestinians face living in the shadow of the State of Israel. Christa poses thought-provoking questions that are a test to us all as we collectively grapple with how to come together in a place that is increasingly divided in the mind and on the ground.

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MEDIA COVERAGE & AWARDS



**PALESTINE
MUSEUM**

Book Launch, Palestine Museum US

Woodbridge, CT, June 4, 2023

Interview with Gena Kittner Luecke, Wisconsin State Journal,

“Author Q&A: Madison writer embraces connection to Palestine,” June 16, 2023

Interview with David Ahrens, Madison

BookBeat, WORT 89.9 FM, July 10, 2023



TESTIMONIALS

“Christa Bruhn reveals the **captivating journey** of a person driven by a passion for justice. Within its pages, the exquisite essence of Palestine unfolds, inviting readers to discover a nation’s profound longing to celebrate life.”

—Steve Sabella, artist and author of *The Parachute Paradox* and *The Artist’s Curse*

“Christa Bruhn tells her personal narrative and experience with **substantive analyses of historic and current realities** ... The book is a must read not only for people interested in the Palestinian struggle for freedom but for all those who want to make a difference in our world today.”

—Rev. Prof. Dr. Mitri Raheb, President, Dar Al-Kalima University, Bethlehem

“The book is **highly informative** not only in terms of what it’s like living in such a contested part of the world, but also the history of the conflict, and even possible ways it might unfold in the future.”

—The Wishing Shelf Book Review

“The author is deeply focused on telling her story and living her life...hopeful that **a life of dignity for Palestinians** will not be in the too-distant future. I would reframe her take on “dignity” by acknowledging that it is not a particular destination point, but the road traveled every day, with every meal, and through every checkpoint. *Crossing Borders* confirms that “dignity” is alive and well in Palestine and surely in the author herself as she lives every moment to its fullest, despite challenging odds...”

—Sam Bahour, co-editor of *HOMELAND: Oral Histories of Palestine and Palestinians*

“What Bruhn describes in her own experiences is right on the nose ... with a **balanced blend of her own observations, documented history, political facts, and the voice of the people**. The landscape is described in almost cinematically visual imagery with historical remnants right against contemporary living conditions... Very highly recommended.”

—Jamie Michele, Readers’ Favorite Book Review

“For anyone who desires peace in Israel and Palestine, *Crossing Borders: The Search for Dignity in Palestine*, is essential reading... The author’s first-hand experiences and her academic background, make her uniquely qualified to write this memoir on both the past and the future of Palestine and Israel. I highly recommend her story with its underlying **message of hope for peace**.”

—Michelle Caffrey, author of *Just Imagine: A New Life on an Old Boat*

“These pages celebrate the determination of a people with deep roots in the land while relaying the importance of preserving that land for future generations. Author Bruhn’s voice is **authentic and genuine** and offers a moving tale that will be remembered well beyond the read of this necessary narrative.

This is an important memoir for those in-the-know as well as those who want to learn more about the culture and people of Palestine.”

—L. Scheer, Writing Mentor, Co-Founder *New Nature Writers*, Director, UW-Madison Writers’ Institute 2011-2020

“The memoir, ten years in the making, follows Bruhn’s journey of curiosity to Jerusalem and Gaza, first forged while studying abroad and later as a mother of three Palestinians. It **documents the challenges Palestinians face living in the shadow of Israel**, and the deep connection Palestinians have to their homeland that inspires them to keep on living their lives in spite of those challenges.”

—David Ahrens, host of Madison BookBeat WORT 89.9 FM