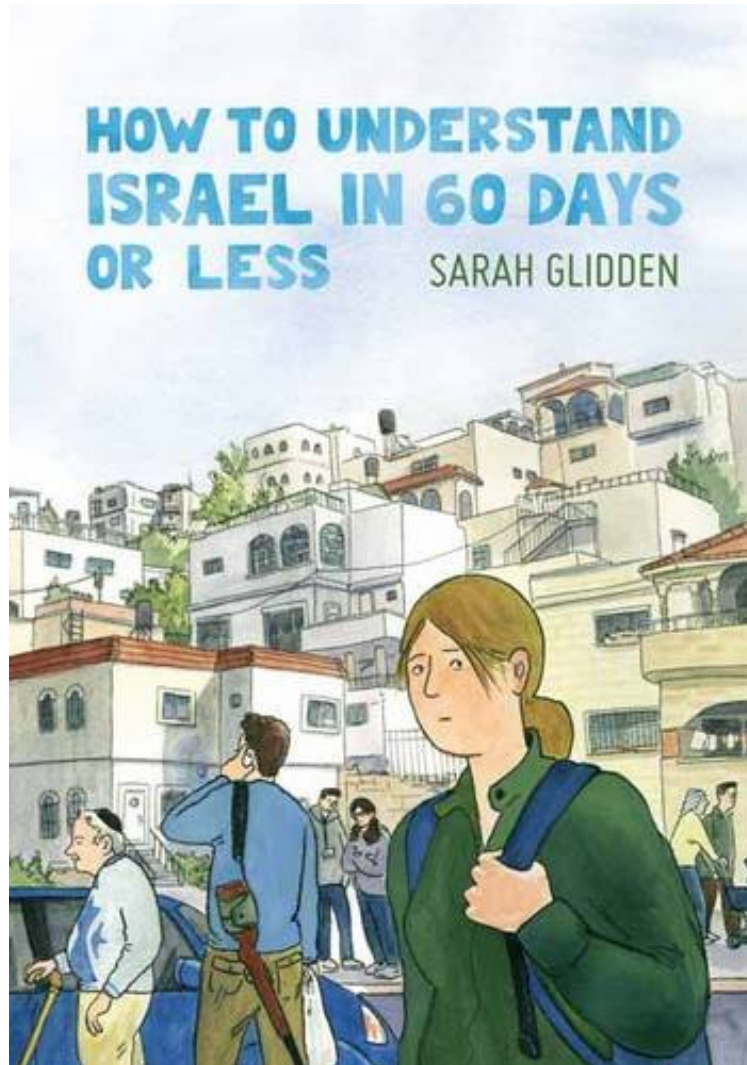


[FREE] How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less

How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less

Sarah Glidden

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Sarah Glidden : How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. This excellent book could very well be titled "It's Complicated." By Andy Orrock This excellent book could very well be titled "It's Complicated." Author Sarah Glidden takes her birthright trip to Israel. Her underlying reason for going: to "find out the truth about this whole mess once and for all." Ms. Glidden makes it clear that she feels pretty strongly about the rights of Palestinians, the injustice of the wall, the harshness of Israeli policies. She steels herself against being "brainwashed" (a word she use a few times) by her hosts and guides. But, once there, the author sees the nuances and complications present in all matters. Case in point: her

blood starts to boil when she first takes sight of the wall. Far from ignoring it or giving it an impassioned defense, Sarah's guide gives the wall a review from both sides ("My personal opinion is that, while hate how it hurts many people, every day that I wake up and there's no attack on the news, I think about the wall.") Her take: it was "refreshing to hear [him] speak of the negative aspects of the wall without being prompted." This exchange is emblematic of what you'll find throughout the book. Sarah Glidden has crafted a fine remembrance of her trip. It speaks to the book's authenticity that other reviewers on these pages that have taken the same trip vouch for her accuracy. The work is heightened by her excellent drawings...especially her annotated maps. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. An inspiring look at a complex topic By Dani Shuping This is a powerful autobiographical tale of a young woman exploring her heritage and overcoming her own preconceived notions of what is real and what isn't. Sarah turns her art and view onto herself as she makes a journey into Israel in an attempt to discover the Israel of today. I've got to be honest I can't do justice in trying to do a brief blurb about the book, but I'll try. Sarah is Jewish and lives in New York. From afar she reads and keeps up with the Palestine/Israel conflict. But in order to truly understand it and see if her own opinions/beliefs are right, she and a friend join a heritage tour group. They travel to Israel and here Sarah holds "trial" in her mind at various stops, weighing what she is hearing with what she believes to be the truth. But along the way she discovers something...about the people that surround her and even more about herself. Sarah does an excellent job of being honest with herself and her opinions. And this is a must read for anyone, regardless of age, gender, or religion. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book; I highly recommend it By Scott Semet Great book; I highly recommend it. If you've enjoyed the works of Sacco, DeLisle, and the like, you'll dig this book. It doesn't pander, and as the book itself says, raises more questions than answers. A great travelogue that deals with some thought-provoking issues.

The award-winning graphic memoir about Israel that offers more questions than answers about identity and politics Sarah Glidden is a progressive Jewish American twentysomething who is both vocal about and critical of Israeli politics in the Holy Land. When a debate with her mother prods her to sign up for a Birthright Israel tour, Glidden expects to find objective facts to support her strong opinions. During her two weeks in Israel, Glidden takes advantage of the opportunity to ask the people she meets about the fraught and complex issue of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but their answers only lead her to question her own take on the conflict. Simple linework and gorgeous watercolors spotlight Israel's countryside, urban landscapes, and religious landmarks. With straightforward sincerity, lovingly observed anecdotes, and a generous dose of self-deprecating humor, *How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less* is accessible while retaining Glidden's distinctive perspective. Over the course of this touching memoir, Glidden comes to terms with the idea that there are no easy answers to the world's problems, and that is okay. This debut book landed on several best-of-the-year lists, including *Entertainment Weekly's*; earned a YALSA Great Graphic Novels for Teens distinction; and won an Ignatz Award. Her second book, *Rolling Blackouts*, which documents her experience shadowing journalists in Turkey, Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria, will also come out this fall from Drawn Quarterly.

From Publishers Weekly Glidden, a progressive American Jew who is sharply critical of Israeli policies vis--vis the Occupied Territories, went on an all-expense-paid "birthright" trip to Israel in an attempt to discover some grand truths at the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict. This graphic memoir tells the touching and often funny story of her utter failure to do so. As the tour group moves from the Golan Heights to Tel Aviv, Glidden's struggles with propaganda and perspective lead only to a morass of deepening questions and self-doubt. Her neurotic need for objective truths and struggle to reconcile historical perspectives is hugely gratifying for the reader. This is especially true when the group visits Masada, the site of an epic confrontation between a sect of Jewish rebels and a Roman siege army that culminated in mass suicide. Gruesome fanaticism or a stirring clarion call for the burgeoning Zionism movement? You be the judge. As befits a travelogue, Glidden's drawings have the look of something jotted down on the fly; if it weren't for a haircut here or a pair of glasses there, many of the characters would be indistinguishable. Yet the simplicity of the drawing is offset by bright, delicate watercolors that belie our heroine's unresolved struggle with history and heritage. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From School Library Journal Gr 10 Up After years of questioning her heritage, arguing with her mother about what it means to be Jewish, and dating a goy, Glidden succumbed to the lure of an all-expense-paid trip to Israel through Birthright, a program that offers Jewish young adults first-time trips to the country. At the onset, she declared, I'm ready to go there and discover the truth behind this whole mess once and for all. It will be crystal clear by the time I come back. An experienced traveler and a skeptic, she details her two-month excursion through cities and deserts. Readers witness her personal conflict as she seeks to view Israel with an objective eye. One effective literary device is the use of illustrated flashbacks from both Glidden's and Israel's past. The ghosts of David Ben Gurion and Sarah's deceased younger brother accompany her for several panels during her journey. She encounters the worldview of non-Eastern European Jews, Israeli soldiers, and her traveling companions, and begins to realize her limited perspective as she wonders how many other people on the trip I've completely misjudged. The author's inner voices as she struggles with her conflicting emotions are brilliantly portrayed during brief trials in the court of birthright vs. brainwash, where she

serves as the prosecutor, defense, and judge. The tongue-in-cheek title hints at both the subtle humor and the complex subject matter. Glidden's soft, watercolor palette and realistic art complement without overshadowing this thoughtful exploration of the role that cultural heritage plays in the search for personal identity. Barbara M. Moon, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. From Booklist Ignatz Award-winning cartoonist Glidden provides readers with a well-crafted narrative featuring the birthright trip she took to Israel in her early twenties. A secular Jew with strong opinions about the state of Israel overstepping both political and moral rectitude in its relationship to Palestine and Palestinians, Sarah is presented with sophisticated and ingenuous arguments by the various tour guides and Israelis she meets during the carefully designed tour, which includes kibbutzim, Tel Aviv, museums, other birthright tour groups, and ultimately Jerusalem. Beautiful watercolors and well-chosen viewpoints detail the land and architecture, and a richly individuated cast of characters carries the reader into and beyond the Israel Glidden experiences as she comes to the realization that others don't need to agree with her in order for her to feel heard by them. Although aimed at adults, this graphic novel is also a good choice for collections serving older teens and good discussion material for current-events classes as well as ethnic studies curricula. --Francisca Goldsmith