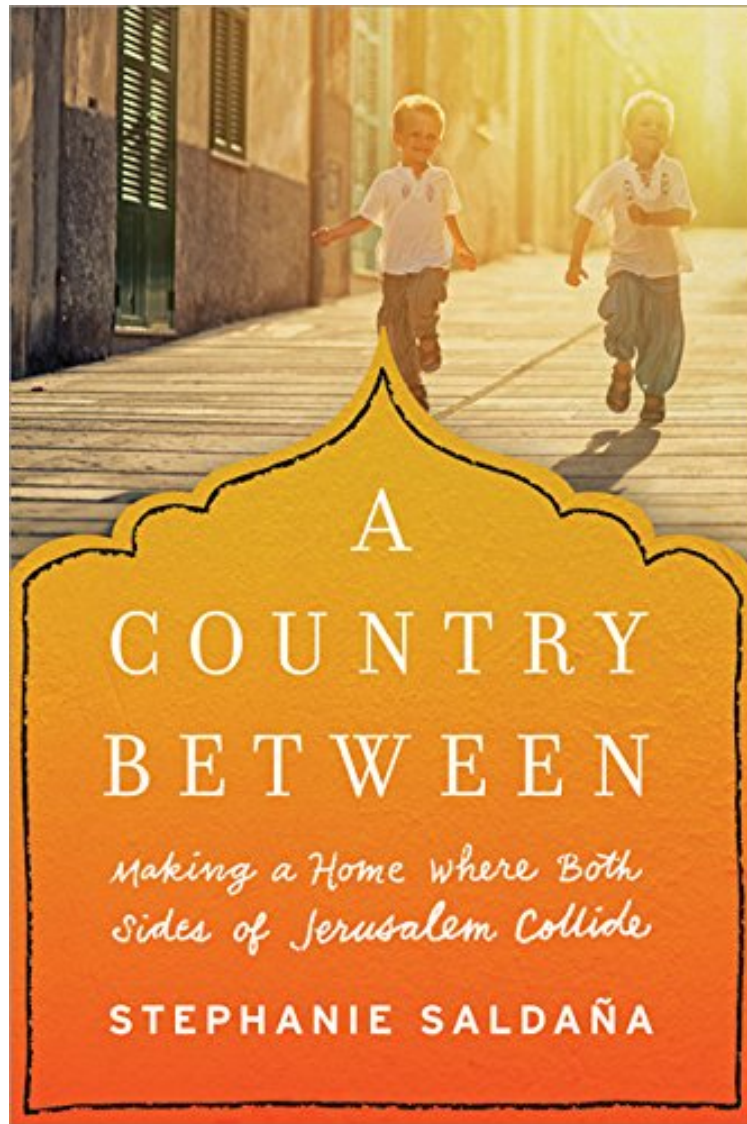


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# A Country Between: Making a Home Where Both Sides of Jerusalem Collide

Stephanie Saldaa

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**Stephanie Saldaa : A Country Between: Making a Home Where Both Sides of Jerusalem Collide** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Country Between: Making a Home Where Both Sides of Jerusalem Collide:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Life and WarBy AnahitaI came here, coming to the end of reading this book, thinking I would see other reviews. What a surprise to find none! Well: read this book. If you haven't read

her first, "Bread of Angels," read that first, it is particularly meaningful now. This one, the second in the story of her life in the Middle East with her beloved husband, a former and eternal French monk, takes in the birth of her first child, with the family living in Jerusalem. It is beautiful and poetic and poignant and terrifying, truly a woman's story, yet a story of the best in all womankind in love and war. We here in the States currently live in a war zone, although largely unacknowledged, and this book gives me courage to go on living until the light breaks through again. Stephanie, you are the girl I always wished lived next door. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I've waited SEVEN WHOLE YEARS for this magical book....By Alexandra Saperstein I've waited very impatiently for SEVEN years for Saldana's next book and it absolutely did not disappoint. QUITE the opposite, By chance I picked up her first memoir, The Bread of Angels, before a trip to France in 2010 and I'll always remember reading that book as much as the trip itself for the most beautiful writing of any memoir I'd ever read. And the love story itself is just an exquisite poem. This book continues Saldana's journey and it was as magnificent as her first book. I'll be giving copies of her books to friends and loved ones for years to come. Its truly one of the most beautiful pieces of writing and stories I've ever read in my all my 44 years. I can't recommend it enough. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. finding them easily, often in the place that is looked By B There are books that you seek, finding them easily, often in the place that is looked, and then there are books that somehow seek you, arriving quietly inside a manila envelope. Paper wrapped in paper, the ordinary holding the extraordinary, and you sit there, blissfully unaware that it is magic that you now hold in your hands. As I leafed through the pages, I read one line and then another and before I even began that first paragraph I knew that this book, like Saldana's memories of lemon trees and orange trees that grace her story, would forever be sewn into my soul and my life as both a reader and a writer would forever be changed for this book, Saldana's miraculous recountal of all things that books must be written about: love and life, death and war, parents and children, is written with such profound poetry that even with nine pages left I am afraid to finish, fearful that I may never again read something so beautiful as this. Thank you, Stephanie Saldana. Thank you for sharing with us an eternity.

"A Country Between reminds us that grief is as indispensable to joy as light is to shadow. Beautifully written, ardent and wise." Geraldine Brooks, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Secret Chord*, *People of the Book*, and *March* Moving her family to a war zone was not a simple choice, but she's determined to find hope, love, and peace amid the conflict in the Middle East. When young mother Stephanie Saldana finds herself in an empty house at the beginning of Nablus road the dividing line between East and West Jerusalem she sees more than a Middle Eastern flash point. She sees what could be home. Before her eyes, the fragile community of Jerusalem opens, and she starts to build her family to outlast the chaos. But as her son grows, so do the military checkpoints and bomb sirens, and Stephanie must learn to bridge the gap between safety and home, always questioning her choice to start her family and raise her child in a country at war. *A Country Between* is a celebration of faith, language, and family and a mother's discovery of how love can fill the spaces between what was once shattered, leaving us whole once more.

"Thoughtful, candid and achingly lovely, *A Country Between* celebrates the moments of beauty and truth that appear even--or especially--in broken and hard places, bringing light and healing in unexpected ways." - Shelf Awareness for Readers, STARRED review "Saldaa builds an impressive sense of genuine emotion, and she vividly explores the array of life in that seething section of Jerusalem...a serene memoir in which the author takes valuable time to regard the character of the Palestinian people and their way of life." - Kirkus-STARRED review "This fascinating book captures the reality of living in colliding worlds...Saldana's observations about the realities of marriage, motherhood, and aging...offer the sense of having had a uplifting conversation with a thoughtful soul. Rather than attempting to answer political questions about the region, Saldana shares a curious kind of hope by showing how life goes on no matter the circumstances... readers gain a deeper understanding of love and faith." - Booklist, STARRED review "This candid, tenderly rendered love story begins in a Syrian monastery, where Saldaa (*Bread of Angels*), a Texas-born journalist, falls for Frdric, a French novice monk...Saldaa describes in wonderful detail how, as their family expands, they stay in a place where so little makes sense, guided solely by their hope in the future." - Publishers Weekly "If an angel were to write a book, this would be it. Stephanie Saldana's memoir of her years as a young bride and new mother on Jerusalem's Nablus Road is infused with grace, rich in wisdom. With her French husband, a former novice monk, she makes a home on one of the fault lines where the lives of Israelis and Palestinians, Jews, Muslims and Christians sometimes mesh, but often collide. *A Country Between* reminds us that grief is as indispensable to joy as light is to shadow. Beautifully written, ardent and wise." - Geraldine Brooks, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Secret Chord*, *People of the Book*, and *March* "A book you can't put down. This is a gift of sweetness and light in a troubled time." - Julia Alvarez, bestselling author of *In the Time of Butterflies* and *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* "Stephanie Saldana's astonishing gifts of perception and potent description make *A Country Between* feel like the country we would all prefer to live in. These elegant pages, replete with mystery, surprise, secret messages tucked inside every day, and the tender love of parents for one another and for the precious children they nurture and educate in Jerusalem, a most difficult, crucially beloved city, make us homesick for something better." - Naomi Shihab Nye, author of

Habibi" A testament to the couple's full embrace of peace and a commitment to living the lives they chose together...this book about hope in uncertain times reads especially poignantly for anyone looking darkly at the future." - Library Journal "When we read or see TV reports about conflict in the Middle East, we would do well to remember that real people with real hopes and dreams are in many ways at the center of the story...there also are families like Stephanie Saldaa's, whether Christian, Jewish, Muslim or something else. And this book makes those families much more understandable." - Bill's "Faith Matters" Blog "The writing of the book is gorgeous. There is the travel aspect of the book certainly but there is also a very personal family-oriented bend to the book. " - A Bookish Affair "Saldana's writing is gorgeous; it is clear she is a poet. In one short letter to Joseph, she says that on Nablus Road they "stroll[ed] through love and languages." A COUNTRY BETWEEN is such a stroll, through love, language, worlds, religions, and family life. " - Great New Books About the Author Stephanie Saldaa grew up in Texas and received a BA from Middlebury College and a master's degree from Harvard Divinity School. She was a Watson and Fulbright scholar and has won several awards for her poetry. Stephanie is also the author of *The Bread of Angels: A Journey to Love and Faith*. Justine Eyre is a classically trained actress who has narrated over three hundred audiobooks. With a prestigious Audie Award and four AudioFile Earphones Awards under her belt, Justine is multilingual and is known for her great facility with accents.