



From the review by New York Times best-selling author **Ellen Tanner Marsh**

"Since 2003, economist and author Fabrizio Galimberti spent time volunteering in a Palestinian refugee camp.

He chronicled his experiences, e-mailing them home to his grown children, as if he were "watching history through a keyhole."

And now, at their urging, he has collected these experiences into a shocking, stirring, and heartbreaking book.

Through Galimberti's eyes, we see and hear and experience the grief, joy and unquenchable life force that is Palestine...

All royalties from his work will be donated to the Lajee Center of Aida Camp in Bethlehem."

An Italian economist living in Australia, Fabrizio Galimberti has published numerous articles and books on economics. He is currently in charge of FG Economics in Melbourne (a one-man band), as well as editorialist of "Il Sole-24 Ore", Italy's leading financial daily.

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Letters from Palestine

Fabrizio Galimberti

BookSurge Publishing

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Letters from Palestine

2nd Edition



A Volunteer In A Refugee Camp
Writes To His Children

BookSurge Publishing

Introduction

This is a book but it is not a book. What I mean is, it wasn't meant to be a book. The emails reproduced here were just a diary of my experiences, as I jotted them down, day after day, for the benefit of my three children. In August 2003 I started to spend some time doing volunteer work in a Palestinian refugee camp in Bethlehem. I knew that for a sedate and white-haired (well, whatever is left is white) Italian economist plying his trade in Australia, this was going to be quite an experience, and I thought that I should relate the happenings to my offspring: Lidia and Fabio (both over 30), who live in Rome, and Adrian, in his twenties, who lives with me in Melbourne.

My children, blinded by filial love, recently suggested that I should publish these letters. Why? As I went back to Aida Camp in the following years, my feeling of 'watching History through a keyhole' deepened. Palestine is one of the throbbing wounds of the world, and the bleeding can be seen in many places, from New York to Bali to Madrid to London... I am convinced that the Palestinian tragedy is one (but certainly not the only one) of the root causes of terrorism around the world. And my emails slowly changed their skin: the daily details of life in the Camp yielded to more heartfelt reflections on the rights and wrongs of the

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Palestinian question, and maybe these thoughts, whose only merit is having been born out of the flesh and blood of an actual presence in the field, could be of interest to a wider audience.

I accosted my Italian publisher (I have written a number of books on economics) about this 'project' but he was rightly reluctant. After all, an economist is supposed to write about economics, and my emails had nothing to do with economics (well, everything has to do with economics, but you know what I mean). Also, if it was published in Italy it would have to be translated back into Italian. I had to find a publisher in the Anglo-Saxon world, and I could not afford the time to follow P. G. Wodehouse's savvy advice to would-be authors: 'If a publisher accepts your manuscript, send another manuscript to the same publisher; if a publisher does not accept your manuscript, send the same manuscript to another publisher'. Then I discovered the BookSurge system available through Amazon, and I became my own publisher!

This book is illustrated with a number of photos, some of them taken by the Aida children, aided and abetted by Rich.

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These images are truly touching and convey – a picture is worth a thousand words – that mixture of spontaneity, grief and irrepressible life that is there for loving eyes to see.

Fabrizio Galimberti

December 2006

A technical note

For reasons that are explained in the first email these missives were written 90% in English and 10% in Italian. The Italian part has been put into English by Giada Caluzzi (thank you Giada). Thank you also to Lucy Robertson for a final and helpful proofreading.

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