

**Welcome to Palestine.
Chronicles of a Season in Ramallah**

Synopsis

During the final year of the Arafat presidency, Anne Brunswic – in her own words “a secular Jew of the Diaspora” – spent four months in Ramallah in total freedom. Her objective: to experience first hand Israel’s actions in the Occupied Territories carried out “in the name of Jews everywhere and in *my* name”.

In a deeply moving travel narrative, set against the chaotic backdrop of day-to-day life in Palestine, through conversations and interviews with people from all walks of life, Anne Brunswic offers an absorbing reportage, which examines the delicate questions behind the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In vignette after vignette of the people she meets – students, women, children, medical doctors, intellectuals – telling their stories with simplicity and realism, she evokes a theatre of tension and transformation in Ramallah. She highlights the absurdity of everyday life in a city torn by a wall of hatred, struggling to “return to normalcy” day after day.

Anne Brunswic is a non-fiction writer and eyewitness with profound awareness of the situations she describes. She grants herself unrestricted freedom to express her own Western prejudices on the plight of the Palestinians. *Welcome to Palestine* is neither a journalistic commission nor an institutional report. It is a rich human narrative that lets a nation speak through its streets, cafés, universities and inhabitants against a complex backdrop of a war-torn society, conflicting religions and divisive politics.

Two years after her first sojourn, shortly after the evacuation of Gaza and the electoral victory of Hamas, Anne Brunswic returned to Palestine to assess the situation anew. She delivers her follow-up assessment in a riveting After Word. In March 2008 she will once again journey to Palestine to further explore one of the world’s long-standing political and humanitarian tragedies.

A talented photographer, Anne Brunswic culminates her narrative with a highly representative selection of pictures of Palestine.

The French edition of *Welcome to Palestine* was awarded the “Témoignage du monde” literary prize by Radio France Internationale. It was shortlisted for the Ulysses Award for the Art of Reportage”.

Written by one of France’s well-respected travel writers, *Welcome to Palestine* was recently published in a new paperback edition (Babel) in France and translated into Italian.

Book details

61,000 words

a map of Israel and Palestine

24 colour pictures