



BOOK OF THE MONTH

A War Without Chocolate

By Betty Majaj

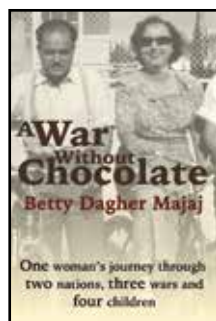
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Reflections from the author:

A War Without Chocolate is not just my personal story, but also the story of an eyewitness to important historic times and events. It starts with my Lebanese roots and my life growing up in Beirut. It continues through my journey to Palestine, supporting my husband with his career as a doctor, medical researcher, and politician while raising a family. As a new bride, I found myself running a field hospital with Amin during al-Nakba in 1948. It was the first of three wars I personally witnessed. I spent the War of 1967 caring for four young children, and I took several trips to Beirut to help my parents during the Lebanese Civil War. These were changing times in Palestine and Lebanon. The wars and the shifting borders had profound effects on our lives, setting back careers and dividing families.

This project started out as a tribute to my husband, the late Dr. Amin Majaj. Generations knew him from his brave actions during the wars, his faithful service as a politician and as the “baby doctor.” I wanted to help ensure that our family—including grandchildren who never knew Amin, and children yet to come—would have a way to understand our shared history.

Soon after my husband died, my daughter Lina and I began to sort through old letters, newspaper articles, and scientific publications that I had been saving. I contacted friends, medical colleagues, and family members, hoping their memories would help augment the project with the stories I had forgotten over the years.



After retiring from my long career as director of The Jerusalem Princess Basma Center for Disabled Children, I had more time to dedicate to this project. Support and encouragement came from family members, including Amin’s niece, Lisa Suhair Majaj, a published author who was invaluable in helping push this project through to completion.

The Jerusalem I knew as a young bride has changed. My father-in-law’s house, located on what was once a quiet alley in East Jerusalem, is now in the heart of a busy commercial area. Both my father-in-law and my husband had deep professional and personal ties with Jewish friends, neighbours, and colleagues, where friendship and trust spanned across religious differences. That is a Jerusalem of the past, and a part of our story as a people. The book talks about how wars shape lives and bring out the best and worst of people. I write about how inspiring acts of humanity emerge from a backdrop of inhumanity.

And there is chocolate. I am frequently asked about the title, how does chocolate relate to war? The answer is in my book, which is available through Amazon.com in paperback and Kindle versions.

Limited copies will be available at the Educational Bookstore starting in September.

Copies of *A War Without Chocolate* can be ordered through the link below,

<http://www.amazon.com/War-Without-Chocolate-Journey-Children/dp/1507545576/>