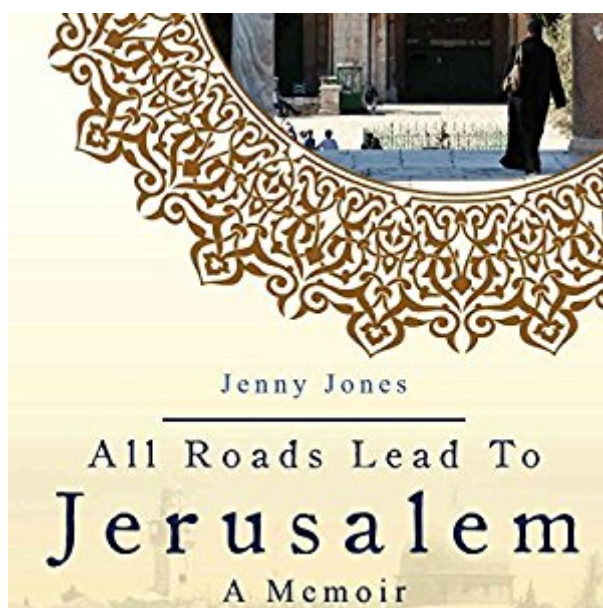


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# All Roads Lead To Jerusalem: A Muslim American Woman Looking For Hope And Answers In The West Bank



## Synopsis

When Jenny Jones and her three children move from their Washington home to that of Jenny's in-laws in the West Bank, the village of Safa seems like a haven. Sheltered from much of the area's troubles, Jenny considers the village to be the ideal place for her children to explore a part of their identity they deserved to know more about. In spite of its pastoral charm, Safa is far more complex than Jenny had imagined. On top of dealing with inter-tribal battles, military round-ups, and nighttime raids, Jenny has to deal with her in-laws and day-to-day difficulties caused by her less than eloquent Arabic and frequent cultural misunderstandings. But the Holy Land is famous for its miracles after all - and after coming across a National Geographic article one day bemoaning the jealously guarded off-limits archaeological chambers on Jerusalem's famous Temple Mount, Jenny decides to make a sudden, life-changing decision to find a way in herself - despite virtually impossible odds - along the way discovering a kind of self-acceptance and belonging that she never imagined possible. *All Roads Lead to Jerusalem* depicts a woman's struggle to find a sense of inner peace after realizing that neither the restrictive Islamic culture she has chosen, nor the increasingly hostile North American society she was born into, seem to offer the acceptance she yearns for.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Holy Lands "version" of Eat, Pray, Love. (without the excessive food, relationship escapades) Author Jenny Jones takes readers on her very personal journey of self acceptance with her bi-cultural Palestinian-American children in tow. Readers get an inside view of life under occupation, as well as the real life of an American convert just trying to figure it all out. Loved witnessing her

transformation from housewife to superwoman with all of the courage she thought she needed, already inside of her. Even my 14 year old daughter just picked up the book and can't put it down.

The author describes her journey as a young American woman from Oregon to a convert to Islam, as well as from a housewife and mother of three to an American expat who forges a life for herself and her children in her Palestinian husband's village of Safa in the Occupied West Bank. With humor and insight, the author explores cultural differences, personal identity, as well as religious sites--all under the swirling political conflict of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The memoir is full of anecdotes of the author's struggles settling into her new home, her tensions with her Palestinian in-laws, her excursions and discoveries in Jerusalem, as well as her treks to various cities of the West Bank. As someone who has also spent time in the West Bank, I found the author's portrayal of life under occupation to be authentic, fair, and balanced. I recommend this book for anyone drawn to the Middle East, as well as those interested in inter-cultural marriage and expat life. A fascinating and highly readable memoir.

I loved this book! It is extremely engaging and fun to read. Jenny kept me hooked from page one. I read this book on the airplane on my way to Jordan. I couldn't put it down. As a Palestinian mother and wife who grew up in the the West Bank and lived in the USA I find Jenny's experiences with her in laws, the culture in general, and living under the occupation are so relatable. Jenny took me places in Palestine I'll never be able to explore simply cause I'm a Palestinian. I wish one day my kids and I could visit Jerusalem and explore all the forbidden sites and at least pray there. A must read, loved it!

Held my interest the whole time. What courage!!!! Everyone has felt like the outsider at one time or another. This Mother has gone to extremes to make sure her kids understood both cultures.

**BRAVO**

I thought this book would shed light on the Palestinian perspective toward Israeli settlements, and on how Israel treats Palestinians in general. It did so, to some extent. However, to get to the point where such information was shared, the reader must wade through the author's whiny self-justifications of why she decided to take her three children to the West Bank. Many times through this book, I caught myself thinking, "What is WRONG with this woman?" She kept making foolhardy decisions throughout her 15 months of living among her husband's relatives on the West

Bank, many times using her US passport to get herself out of scrapes. There is some good insight in this book, buried under the author's drama. If you're looking for insight on Palestinian/Israeli relations, look elsewhere.

Once I started reading this book I could not put it down. It is indeed a story of growth and self-discovery, but it is also the story of a gutsy woman who even as a teen-ager took it upon herself to make life-changing decisions. Only a strong and courageous woman would have traveled alone with her young children to spend a year in a Palestinian village to bolster their sense of identity. This is a woman who obviously refused to be pigeon-holed, a woman who courageously faced up to xenophobic settlers and vengeful soldiers and yet made an effort to renew a friendship with an Israeli woman who had been her Seattle neighbor; who adjusted to village life but still was determined to overcome family and bureaucratic resistance to explore and discover the historic sites her adventurous nature compelled her to visit.

I loved reading this book! I admire Jenny for her courage in taking her kids to a different country to help her kids identify with their Palestinian roots and respect how she dealt with all the situations thrown at her. I loved her sense of humor as she told her story. I also liked how she gave the importance of some of the places she visited from not only Muslims point of view but from the Christian and Jewish point of view as well. Which is why "All roads lead to Jerusalem" is a great title for this book. A definite must read!

I love this book! What an amazing journey in such an interesting part of the world and told with such wit and insight. I was hooked from page one!!

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