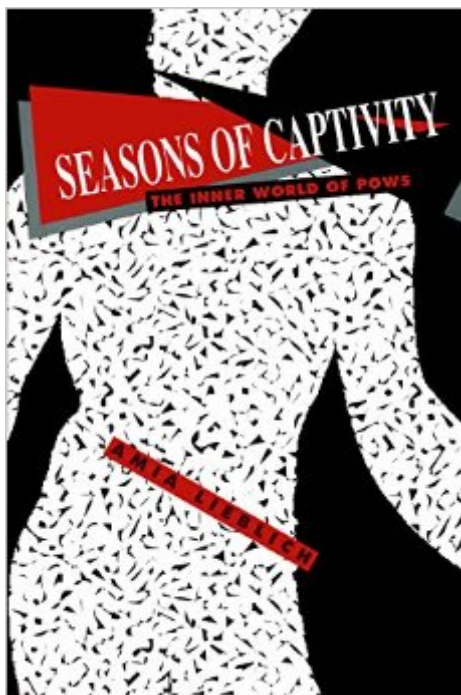


The book was found

Seasons Of Captivity: The Inner World Of Pows



Synopsis

"[An] engrossing study, told mainly by the subjects themselves... a valuable addition to POW literature and unique for its positive view of wartime captivity."—Publishers Weekly "Lieblich has skillfully integrated oral histories to produce a compelling story."—Library Journal "The minutes of the meetings recorded hereby are an excerpt of the lives of ten men, who had spent all their days and nights together. Each one observed the other in his grief and joy. Each one, according to his ability and sensitivity, saw it as his duty to contribute to the general welfare, to save our boat from sinking....In fact, we managed to keep afloat most of the time, and if we erred here or there, at least we had the best intentions."—From a secret collective diary kept by ten POWs A national bestseller when it first appeared in Israel, *Seasons of Captivity* is a story of human survival and hope that documents the experience of ten Israeli prisoners of war who shared a single jail cell in Egypt for more than three years. The engrossing chronicle of the prisoners' ordeal is told in their own words—from their capture in 1969, through six months of interrogation, torture, and isolation, to their movement to a common room. A watershed event, their transfer to shared living quarters enabled them to forge a community and an almost utopian social system. They held weekly meetings, kept a common diary, started study classes, and, among other projects, translated *The Hobbit* into Hebrew. The narrative goes on to describe the re-entry of the POWs into family and social roles upon their release and return to Israel in 1973. An exploration of the personal impact of the experience on the wives of the married prisoners introduces the women's own stories of separation and reunion. Some of them had suddenly found themselves, in effect, single mothers—yet their husbands were alive. Their husbands found stronger, more independent women in place of the traditional ones they had left behind. One of the women remarks, I thought [my husband] had been angry at me, in part unconsciously, for being so strong and competent in his absence...I had managed, well, almost effortlessly. This dramatic and moving account illustrates the resilience of the human spirit in the face of the most dehumanizing circumstances.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The book, *Seasons of Captivity: The Inner World of Pows* by Amia Lieblich, recounts the experiences of ten Israeli POWs in Egypt captured during the War of Attrition. Absorbing and well written, this is one of the best nonfiction books I have read. Anyone who wishes to understand human nature and how adversity affects people should read this book. The POWs themselves narrated the circumstances that led to their capture, and they even described their thoughts on the very moment they were ejecting from a plane, lying injured on the ground, and their transition from warrior to prisoner. The book also presented how the men were able to withstand the torture and interrogations, and how the POWs were able to cope in isolation, with all the filth and fleas around them. Later on, all the POWs were grouped together in one room and the book provides the readers an insight on how ten men from different backgrounds shared their world together in a crowded cell in an Egyptian prison for three and a half years. The men also related the changes that took place in their lives upon their return to Israel and how they view their period of captivity many years later. An interesting aspect of the book are the narratives of the spouses of POWs on how they lived on their own and how the imprisonment of their husbands affected their marriage. Overall, I highly recommend this book. This is not just about the harsh experiences of men in a hostile environment, but it is also about hope, courage and survival.

It is a MUST for everyone who wants to have a tiny insight of the lives of captivities, Prisoners of War. I especially recommend it to everyone who was involved (or not) or supported (or not) the release of Gilad Shalit. In Israel there are a lot of ex-POWs, but this book brings us just a bit their stories and allows to understand what they and their families are going through. I personally know one of the captives, Rami. He is an amazing man indeed. After I read this book, I could imagine him 40 years ago in the captivity, being the one who raised the group's morale...

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