



Promised Land

Martin Fletcher

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"Promised Land is a great sweeping epic, reminiscent of Leon Uris' *Exodus*." —Nelson DeMille, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Cuban Affair*

Promised Land is the sweeping saga of two brothers and the woman they love, a devastating love triangle set against the tumultuous founding of Israel.

The story begins when fourteen-year-old Peter is sent west to America to escape the growing horror of Nazi Germany. But his younger brother Arie and their entire family are sent east to the death camps. Only Arie survives.

The brothers reunite in the nascent Jewish state, where Arie becomes a businessman and one of the richest men in Israel while Peter becomes a top Mossad agent heading some of Israel's most vital espionage operations. One brother builds Israel, the other protects it.

But they also fall in love with the same woman, Tamara, a lonely Jewish refugee from Cairo. And over the next two decades, as their new homeland faces extraordinary obstacles that could destroy it, the brothers' intrigues and jealousies threaten to tear their new lives apart.

Promised Land is at once the gripping tale of a struggling family and an epic about a struggling nation.

Promised Land Details

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Author : Martin Fletcher

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From Reader Review Promised Land for online ebook

Kathleen Gray says

This is one for fans of family sagas. Fletcher uses brothers Peter and Arie, and their love interest, Tamara, to tell the story of the early days of the state of Israel. The main characters are well fleshed out, there are some interesting cameos, and you'll learn something along the way. Thanks to net galley for the ARC. It's a fairly quick read because Fletcher knows how to tell a story.

Jade says

Promised Land is a family saga set during the first two decades of the creation of Israel. Arie and Peter are brothers, separated when they were 14 when Peter's parents sent him to the US before war broke out and the situation got even worse for Jews in Germany. Arie survived Auschwitz and went to Israel, where he built himself up into a business tycoon. Peter left the US army and joined Mossad. The brothers were united, both holding secret feelings of guilt about how they had survived the war. Tamara and her family are Egyptian Jews who fled Egypt to Israel after WW2, meeting the brothers on the same day in a transit camp they were passing through, sealing their mutual fates for good.

I'm a huge fan of both Leon Uris and Herman Wouk. Wouk's tremendous works on the birth of Israel, *The Hope*, and *The Glory*, set the bar super high for me when it comes to historical fiction set in post WW2 Israel, so it is honestly hard to beat that excellence for me. *Promised Land* is however a compulsively readable novel, and the historical accuracy and use of the author's knowledge in the storyline is brilliant. Where it didn't quite make it for me was in the character development and family-related storylines.

The whole love triangle part just didn't quite work for me, and I found a lot of the characters stilted, flat, and stereotypical. For example, women were often described as if they are trophies, and a lot of the descriptions of "delicious" women's bodies made me cringe. They have jobs and important parts in the storyline, but they are still often relegated to the back, medals that the men earn, and discard as they wish. Having personally lived in Israel and worked among kibbutzniks and families in desert moshavs, the characters just felt too stereotypical for my liking. However, the descriptions of intrigue, spy games, and wars, as well as the background of Israel in general were really good, and kept me reading until the very end.

This ended up being a 3.5 for me. The story flows and it's easy to read, but there are moments within the family storyline that are not so believable. Historically though it is very accurate. Thanks to Netgalley and the publisher for the advance copy!

Cindy H. says

Thank you to NetGalley and St. Martin's Press for providing me with an ARC of *Promised Land*. In exchange I am offering my honest review.

Martin Fletcher chose to focus his newest novel on a topic that is very near and dear to me. I am fascinated and astonished by the young State of Israel, which has risen from ashes and desert and emerged as a flourishing country filled with innovation, technology, beauty and tradition. The pioneers, settlers, immigrants and founders of Israel formed a powerful country and a democratic presence in a hostile

environment but at a price. Fletcher does a good job explaining the history and conflicts of the early years of Israel's statehood and delivers it in an interesting way. Still reeling from the horrors and pain of the Holocaust many a people in the novel are still struggling to cope with their loss and create new lives and homes for themselves while trying to deal with ghosts from the past. Everybody has a secret and a burden to bear.

Where this story failed for me was within the telling and setup of the love triangle between Tamara and the two brothers. I found the writing awkward and stilted. I literally cringed when Fletcher attempted to describe the passion and heat between the couples, it felt sloppy and juvenile. I don't think the romance served any plot movement and it really removed me from the story. If you are reading this book for the historical component, I don't think you'll be disappointed however if you are looking for a sizzling love story this might not be a sure fire hit.

Cindy says

Indeed, as the marketing material touts, it is very reminiscent of the book Exodus and it is a very good and fast read. It is an authentic history of the State of Israel with an enjoyable family saga embedded; a saga that includes horrific tales from the holocaust but also the crazy ride of building a country. There are stories of the Mossad (intelligence community), entrepreneurship, family and of course love. Throughout there are many history lessons from this diverse and colorful country. It's told from multiple lenses emphasizing the different Israeli personalities, viewpoints and opinions.

Bonnye Reed says

Gab Promised Land is a remarkable book, covering the lives of the Berg family in Munich, Germany from November, 1939 when the oldest child, Peter, was sponsored by Quakers and relocated to Wisconsin in the United States. Two years later the remainder of the Berg family, still waiting on visas, were interred in various concentration and work camps and were not heard from. Peter was reunited with younger brother Arie in the early days of Israel where they each had their own important contributions, Peter with Mossad and Arie building housing and businesses and making many jobs and much personal wealth. Both grateful to have found any family, they spend what time they can together as their busy lives allow, through the establishment of Israel as an independent country, the Suez Crisis of '56 and the Six Days War of '67.

This is a story of family and sacrifice. It is an all-nighter - a tale you will find it difficult to put down until the very last page. It belongs up there with other classics that bring to life the mosaic of our shared past. It is only as we know and understand and appreciate our history that we can avoid the traps of life that can undermine all that we know and love. And Martin Fletcher brings to us all the life and heart he had observed in the years he spent as the NBC Bureau Chief in Tel Aviv. This is a story to savor, and share. Thank you.

I received a free copy of this trade paperback on August 7, 2018 from Goodreads, Martin Fletcher and Thomas Dunn Books in exchange for an honest review. Thank you all for sharing your hard work with me. Pub date Sept 4, 2018

Pam says

Thank you NetGalley for this ARC. This was more of a 3.5 star read for me. Last third was definitely 4 star. I was anxious to read this historical fiction by Martin Fletcher, who led NBC TV's Tel Aviv News Bureau. I love family sagas and as Jew and daughter of Austrian immigrant forced to fled when his father was taken to the camps, this read was of interest to me. Unfortunately I found some of the character development lacking which made it challenging at times to have empathy for some of the key characters. There were also lapses in time that I felt compounded the lack of character development and empathy. I also had some trouble following the spy/war related bits. But, the book much improved for me by the last third and I definitely want to read the planned sequels. The book also inspired me to reacquaint myself with some of Israeli history. I recommend this book for readers who enjoy historical and Jewish fiction, as well as Mideast history.

Literary Soirée says

Promised Land is a compulsively readable historical novel involving the founding of Israel. It features geopolitical suspense and romance woven into the turbulence that marked Israel's early years. The story involves two brothers who vie for the same woman as life-and-death political strife ensues. Authored with a graceful hand by veteran journalist Martin Fletcher, former head of the NBC TV Tel Aviv News Bureau. 5/5

I received a review copy from St. Martin's Press through NetGalley, in exchange for my honest opinion.

#PromisedLand #NetGalley

Jk says

I received an Advance Reader Copy of this book via the Goodreads Giveaways program and would like to thank everyone involved in making that happen!

Going into this book I really didn't know anything about the origins of the State of Israel and it's tumultuous struggle to survive. I actually found it a fascinating topic and really enjoyed learning about that history. At the heart of the novel is also a moving family history that was equally enthralling. I saw a comment from the author divulging that this is the first book in a trilogy and I can't wait to continue the story!

Marilyn says

Promised Land by Martin Fletcher was written as a family saga set during the first 20 years of the birth of the Jewish homeland, Israel. It was very readable and gave good insights into the lives of the people of Israel during those early years. Fletcher was good at capturing the reluctance of the survivors of the concentration camps to open up about their ordeals. How the survivors repressed these memories but Fletcher was able to capture how the survivors never forgot and how those repressed memories influenced the way they led their lives consciously or unconsciously.

The Berg family lived in Munich, Germany at the beginning of World War II. In addition to the parents there were two brothers, Aren (later to be called Arie) and Peter and two sisters. The parents, in November 1939, made arrangement for the oldest son, Peter, to relocate to America. Sponsored by Quakers, Peter was successfully placed with a loving family in Wisconsin. The remainder of the family was forced to wait to see

if their visas would be approved. Time was not on their side. The rest of the family was transported to concentration camps. Aren, later known as Arie, ended up in Auschwitz. He survived somehow but was not proud of the means he had to take to survive and it would haunt him every day for the rest of his life.

Peter and Arie were reunited in Israel during its earliest days of becoming the country it now is. Peter was a Mossad agent and Arie, a young entrepreneur. The philosophies of the two brothers could not have been further apart. Peter was focused on keeping Israel safe and allowing it to prosper in a safe way while Arie was determined on building Israel up with houses, roads, businesses and anything that would afford him good profits. The two brothers also both loved the same woman, Tamara, an Egyptian Jew refuge, forced to leave Egypt. Tamara, was also in love with both brothers, but circumstances led her to marry Arie. Peter married Diana later and both families had children. Both Arie and Peter, grateful to have found family, spent as much time together as their busy lives allowed.

I particularly enjoyed the historical significance in Promised Land. Martin Fletcher allowed the reader to relive the decisions, consequences and feats that Israel endured during the Suez Crisis of 1956 and the Six Days War of 1967. Through Arie's role and an Israeli commander in the Army and Peter's role as a Mossad operative the reader gets an inside look at these two crucial parts in Israel's history.

I really enjoyed reading Promised Land by Martin Fletcher. Many thanks to NetGalley and St. Martin's Press for allowing me to read this e-arc version of this remarkable book. I look forward to the next installment in this trilogy. I highly recommend Promised Land.

Susan Kennedy says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. There was a great family dynamic, fantastic character development and enough history on Israel to be interesting. There was intrigue and spying which I loved. Although the premise of the story is about two brothers who are in love with the same woman, there is so much more to this story.

I laughed and I cried and I enjoyed the history of Israel and learning more about them and their state. That may be the Christian in me, but I found it very interesting and enjoyable. I love good character development as well and this book gave me what I always crave. I loved the characters and getting to know them; the good and the bad. They were real people who had been through so much and as they got older those things affected them through their lives.

This is another book I would not have normally picked up and I am so happy that I did. What a great book.

Veronique says

I unexpectedly really enjoyed reading this book. It is a novel set in the newly formed state of Israel, 1948 and traces its history of survival and growth till 1967.

This is the backdrop to the story of two brothers, totally different, whose fates brought them to same place, but through differing paths, one an honest, idealist, a Mossad agent, the other a successful entrepreneur, becoming one of Israel's wealthiest tycoons, both men being a necessary cog in the wheel of a developing Jewish state.

I loved the characters, I loved the love stories, the human frailties and all the strength and resilience of a people brought out of the ashes of the Holocaust into yet another pot of smoldering, virulent hatred and a

constant fight for survival.

This is an honest look at Israel, its challenges, strengths and weaknesses. As a lover of Israel, it is good to read about its problems and its warts, and so good to fall in love with it again and again.

Penmouse says

Promised Land by Martin Fletcher is not one of the best pieces of historical fiction I've read recently. Fletcher's book was lacking believability as one of the key characters was so eager to lose her virtue thereby setting up the love triangle part of the story. If you could convince yourself that a young woman, brought up in a faith-based home during the 1950s, would so easily lose her virginity then the rest of Promised Land story makes sense.

The characters were a bit lacking in depth. A good story, at least to me, allows you to fall in love with the characters leading to me to care about what happens to them during the story. I never grew to love any of the characters in this book.

Finally, there is some mild sexual activity. Fletcher writes the sex scenes with grace and style.

Review written after downloading a galley from NetGalley.

TERRY says

I would give this a 3 1/2 star rating if I Good Reads had a 3 1/2. It is mostly set in 1960s Israel and progresses through the struggles and progress the Jewish state faces to grow and flourish. The two main characters are brothers Arie and Peter Neshet. They were separated in 1937 and reunite years later. The book is nicely written and offers interesting characters. Diana with her strong personality was my favorite character. I was lucky to receive my copy from a Good Reads Giveaway.

ABCme says

Thank you Netgalley and Thomas Dunne Books for the ARC

Promised Land is a gripping story of the early years of the State of Israel. It covers the 1950's and 60's but is still very relevant today.

History has separated two brothers just before WWII. Peter is sent to America, Arie to Auschwitz. After the war, with their parents and sisters lost to the Nazis, they meet again in Tel Aviv, where Peter joins the newly appointed Mossad and Arie becomes a selfmade businessman. They both get married and have children.

This book is a mixture of easy digestible homelife and heated political discussions, giving the reader a good insight in Israel's struggle to become a respected country, while war is always imminent.

Within this complex political situation is the story of Tamara, an Egyptian Jewish refugee, in love with both brothers. Will she choose a luxury life with Arie or true love with Peter? An intriguing romance well woven into the bigger picture. The book ends with an unexpected surprise. And no matter what, there's always orange juice...

Amanda Morgan says

This story is a great way to learn more about world history while not necessarily realizing you're learning.

The story begins with an Israeli family sending their oldest son off to safety in America just as WWII is heating up. Pete, renamed Peter in America, has the opportunity to live with an American family while the rest of his family is sent off to concentration camps where they suffer terrible atrocities.

After the war, Peter returns to Israel to work his way up the ranks of the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad. He begins by looking for his brother, two sisters, and their parents. When he finds his brother Arie, he is thrilled, but also sad to find out none of the rest of their family survived the camps.

Arie is an up-and-coming self-made businessman who is finding success in many different industries. Peter stays with Arie when he is not in the midst of secret missions for Mossad. One of these stays, Peter meets a young girl whom Arie is courting from the refugee camps, and immediately creates a love triangle. This story follows the brothers and the woman they both love, Tamara, throughout the next 20ish years.

The storylines of Peter's intelligence career and Arie's meteoric rise to wealth and power heavily relay the history of Israel and the war over their holy land with bordering Arab countries. Will all survive the war? Who will end up with Tamara's heart?

I just read that this is planned to be the 1st installment of a trilogy, and I would love to continue following the story of these well-developed characters and their very interesting story.

I won a copy of this book from First Reads.
