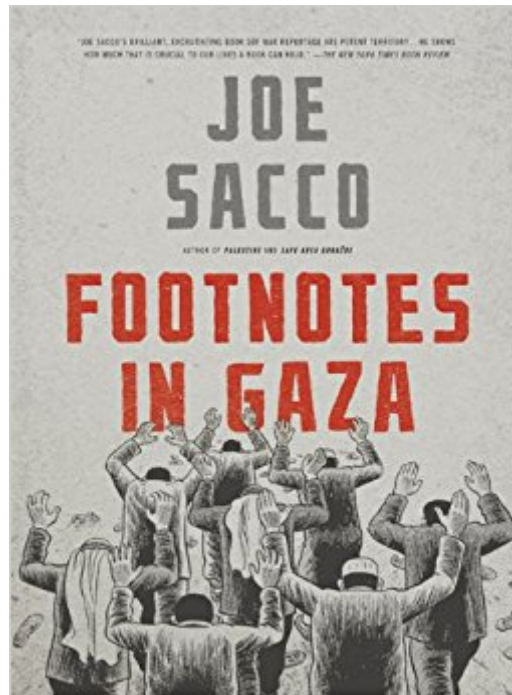




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# Footnotes In Gaza: A Graphic Novel



## Synopsis

"Sacco brings the conflict down to the most human level, allowing us to imagine our way inside it, to make the desperation he discovers, in some small way, our own." •Los Angeles Times Rafah, a town at the bottommost tip of the Gaza Strip, has long been a notorious flashpoint in the bitter Middle East conflict. Buried deep in the archives is one bloody incident, in 1956, that left 111 Palestinians shot dead by Israeli soldiers. Seemingly a footnote to a long history of killing, that day in Rafah •cold-blooded massacre or dreadful mistake• reveals the competing truths that have come to define an intractable war. In a quest to get to the heart of what happened, Joe Sacco immerses himself in the daily life of Rafah and the neighboring town of Khan Younis, uncovering Gaza past and present. As in Palestine and Safe Area GoraÅ de, his unique visual journalism renders a contested landscape in brilliant, meticulous detail. Spanning fifty years, moving fluidly between one war and the next, Footnotes in Gaza •Sacco's most ambitious work to date• transforms a critical conflict of our age into intimate and immediate experience.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

**Book Description**From the great cartoonist-reporter, a sweeping, original investigation of a forgotten crime in the most vexed of places. Rafah, a town at the bottommost tip of the Gaza Strip, is a squalid place. Raw concrete buildings front trash-strewn alleys. The narrow streets are crowded with young children and unemployed men. On the border with Egypt, swaths of Rafah have been bulldozed to rubble. Rafah is today and has always been a notorious flashpoint in this bitterest of conflicts. Buried deep in the archives is one bloody incident in 1956 that left 111 Palestinians dead,

shot by Israeli soldiers. Seemingly a footnote to a long history of killing, that day in Rafah--cold-blooded massacre or dreadful mistake--reveals the competing truths that have come to define an intractable war. In a quest to get to the heart of what happened, Joe Sacco immerses himself in daily life of Rafah and the neighboring town of Khan Younis, uncovering Gaza past and present. Spanning fifty years, moving fluidly between one war and the next, alive with the voices of fugitives and schoolchildren, widows and sheikhs, *Footnotes in Gaza* captures the essence of a tragedy. As in *Palestine and Safe Area Gorazde*, Sacco's unique visual journalism has rendered a contested landscape in brilliant, meticulous detail. *Footnotes in Gaza*, his most ambitious work to date, transforms a critical conflict of our age into an intimate and immediate experience. Take a Look Inside *Footnotes in Gaza* Armed with a list of names, three men--including the author (shown wearing glasses)--walk through the alleys of a refugee camp in Gaza to find relatives of the victims.

See more panels from the book --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review. Having already established his reputation as the world's leading comics journalist, Sacco (*Safe Area Gorazde*) is now making a serious case to be considered one of the world's top journalists, period. His newest undertaking is a bracing quest to uncover the truth about what happened in two Gaza Strip towns in 1956, when aftershocks from the Sinai campaign may have resulted in the massacre of hundreds of Palestinian civilians by the Israeli military. Sacco first came across the stories during research in 2001 and was shocked to discover that, but for one brief mention, the incidents had never been fully investigated. The resulting book is a blow-by-blow retelling of how Sacco, on the eve of the 2003 invasion of Iraq, embedded himself in Gaza and set about interviewing every witness he could find who had been in the towns of Khan Younis and Rafah on those fateful days. Sacco's art is alternately epic and intimate, but he exceeds himself in the scope of his ambition (particularly in one sequence that shows in vivid terms how desert refugee camps from 1948 turned into the teeming slums of today). But it's his exacting and harrowing interviews that make this book an invaluable and wrenching piece of journalism. (Dec.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Joe Sacco is a creative force in the world, putting himself deep into conflict situations (Bosnia, Palestine), doing extensive research, and then documenting his investigations in the form of graphic novels. Sacco is an artist of the first rank. And brutally honest about situations for which the MSM

has neither time nor the guts to honestly report. Thank you, Joe, for your work, which is both informative and entertaining on several levels. Each work stands up to multiple readings, and each reading reveals new glimpses into other worlds than our own safe and comfy one. Highly recommended. Anything by Joe is worth adding to your collection.

Every member of Congress should be required to read "Footnotes" and spend a week in Gaza before approving more military aid to Israel. And every presidential candidate, too.

Havent read this yet in its entirety but it is pretty intense and so the graphic aspect of it makes the messages, story line, and facts more palpable and understandable. I would definitely recommend this to anyone wanting to understand the issues with Palestine especially an adolescent.

Joe Sacco had already developed an important graphic work, well worth of its recognition, looking at personal research in conflict zones such as the former Yugoslavia or the Palestine revisited in these "Footnotes in Gaza". The frustration of an uneven and often untold conflict shines through the research of the events and killings of Khan Younins and Rafah well over fifty years ago with poignant relevance. The graphic narrative driven out of his personal-research where he becomes another character, another agent in the conflict, is truly outstanding. Sacco offers an intriguingly open and critical account of his efforts and perceptions as he explores the events of the 1956 killing in Palestine, while he visits a region about to witness the US war against Iraq that would topple the regime of Hussein. In doing so, not only he reveals a poignant account about the difficulties and importance of recuperating memories, even the smaller ones, but leaves a trite and cogent account of the past and current circumstances faced by Palestine. Exploring these footnotes in history, sure enough will unfold universal truths for those willing to pick them up, but more importantly sets a memorable and committed effort to develop a graphic journalism with a cause, explored with rigor, on the ground, and setting new narratives worth sharing with a passion.

excellent read.....everyone should read this reporters account.

Amazing what you don't learn in school or from national news. Very interesting. The art was amazing and the story line keeps you reading right up til the end.

Joe Sacco the worlds leading comics journalist becomes intrigued about amassacare that

happened in Gaza forty or so years ago and goes to Gaza to find out details about this almost totally ignored event focusing on trying to find survivors from the period. Sacco's research and hunting for the truth is extensive and his journalistic attention to detail impressive. His drawing is excellent especially in creating so many individualized faces. His layouts also are imaginative and show great command of the comics form. This is a great graphic novel and shows the plight of the Palestinians without sentimentalizing them. Sacco says that the Palestinians though being brutally treated by Israel are often their own worst enemy. A great book

an amazing book. drawings and text. vivid description of the hellhole that is Gaza

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