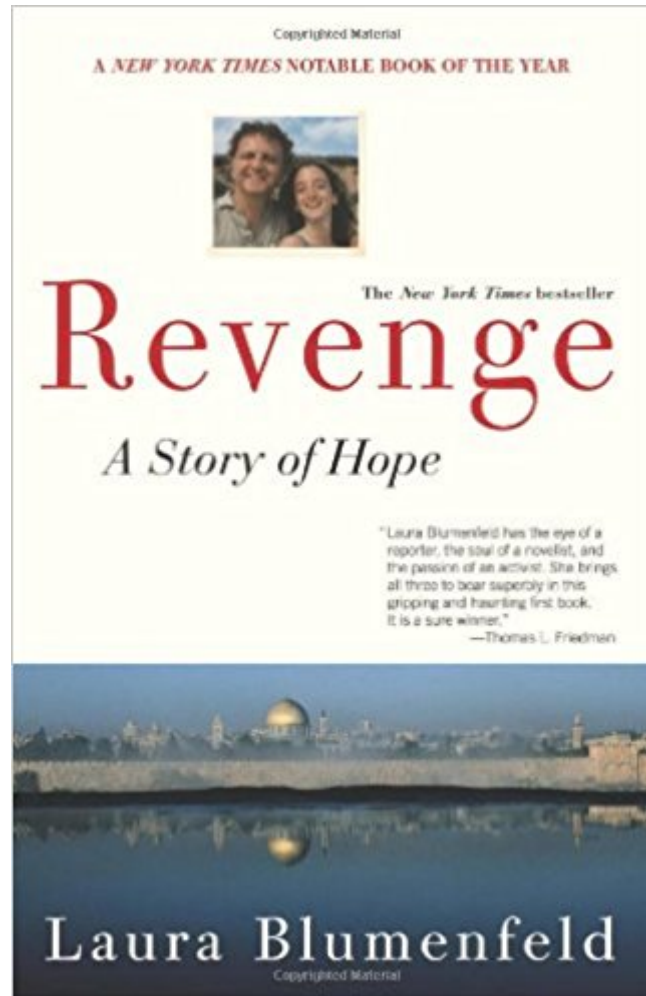




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Revenge: A Story Of Hope



Synopsis

Laura Blumenfeld's father was shot in Jerusalem in 1986 by a member of a rebel faction of the PLO responsible for attacks on several tourists. Her father survived, but Blumenfeld's desire for revenge haunted her. This is her story -- and a fascinating study of the mechanics and psychology of vengeance. While plotting to infiltrate her father's shooter's life, Blumenfeld travels the globe gathering stories of other avengers. Through interviews with Yitzhak Rabin's assassin; members of the Albanian Blood Feud Committee; the chief of the Iranian judiciary; the mayor of Palermo, Sicily; the Israeli prime minister; priests; sports fans; fifth-grade girls; prostitutes; and more, she explores the dynamics of hate -- and the fine line that sometimes separates it from love. Ultimately, Blumenfeld's target is more complex than the stereotypical terrorist she'd long imagined. In a surprising twist, she gets revenge, but not according to traditional expectations. She discovers a third way, a choice beyond "turn the other cheek" or "an eye for an eye." And with it she answers the age-old question: what is the best revenge?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In 1986, a Palestinian terrorist shot author Laura Blumenfeld's father. More than a decade later, Blumenfeld, a reporter for The Washington Post, decided to find the man who tried to kill her dad; she also wanted to learn about vengeance. "I was looking for the shooter, but I also was looking for some kind of wisdom," she writes. "I wanted to master revenge." Blumenfeld interviews a variety of people, from religious figures to assassins, about the meaning of revenge. The heart of the book, though, is her own journey to find the man who pulled the trigger.

First she locates his family and learns vivid details about his life--he was a standout in his public-relations course at the University of Bethlehem. Blumenfeld's own emotions aren't far from the surface of this narrative. When she meets the shooter's own father, for instance, she asks herself: "Am I supposed to shoot him now?" Finally she begins a creepy correspondence with the gunman, who is in prison. Their letters back and forth are oddly compelling--at first the shooter doesn't know her real identity, though she eventually reveals it. In the end, Blumenfeld says her quest helped her find hope in a dangerous world, even as the final words of her book reflect upon September 11 and its immediate aftermath, when so many other Americans longed for their own vengeance. --John Miller --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

At its heart, this remarkable tale is a rite-of-passage story, an intense and deeply personal journey. For newlywed and successful Washington Post reporter Blumenfeld in 1998, life appeared to be just about perfect. But she had a score to settle. In 1986, the same year her mother declared she wanted a divorce, her father was shot by a Palestinian terrorist while visiting Israel. Fortunately, the young man had poor aim. But the impact on Blumenfeld was dramatic. That year, as a college student, she wrote a poem in which she addressed the shooter: "this hand will find you/ I am his daughter." In 1998, the shooter was released from prison. Blumenfeld saw her chance and grabbed it. She traveled to such places as Bosnia, Sicily and Iran, and interviewed both perpetrators and victims of violence to determine the rituals and rites of revenge. She tracked down and spent hours with the shooter's family, telling them only that she was American journalist working on a book. She and the shooter became pen pals. The book's only flaw, and it's minor, is a sense of detachment, though Blumenfeld is an able and expressive writer and is not sparing when it comes to personal revelations. The climax is astonishingly powerful a masterfully rendered scene, crackling with the intensity of which great, life-changing drama is made. (Apr. 4)Forecast: Needless to say, a book about revenge against terrorism could not be better timed, and aided by powerful writing and an excerpt in the New Yorker, this has bestseller potential.Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Phenomenal book! I read it years ago and loved it, found it on and I am still loving it. Laura Bloomenfeld is an awesome writer with tons of emotion and detail topped with devilish revenge plots from around the world intertwined with her own story of revenge she is living out. The ending is not what you would expect.... awesome!

We were looking for a good book that our whole family (grandparent, adult kids, and us) could read and then get together and discuss. I can't remember who chose this one but it turned out superb. Revenge is a Jewish woman's study of how different cultures deal with being wronged. She wrote it out of her father's being attacked in Israel. To write it she visited many cultures from world areas to research their understanding of the place of revenge. It's a great read.

I really enjoyed this touching narrative. The insights into a Palestinian family were great and the reader learns a lot about the best of Arab culture. We also learned about Jewish culture as well and it's strong points. Laura did something unprecedented and her story is superb. I do think Laura is a little too self-centered. My experience is that peace comes from being able to put yourself in others shoes and showing genuine empathy (not sympathy). I would have liked to see Laura show she can understand Palestinian's point of view. Might is not right and money can not buy freedom. All people have humanity that should be respected. The books shows this which is good.

Well read, interesting, however somehow naive.

I read Revenge several years ago, and want it in my library. It makes me reflect on the "eye for an eye" philosophy (let the punishment fit the crime) and also the question of "What is the Right thing to do?" Good, thoughtful story.

A excellent, finely written, account of what could have been a tragic event in her father's life and her decision to respond to it. A wonderful, intriguing, book...

This is a wonderful book. The writer, a Jewish American journalist, goes on a personal mission not of revenge, in my opinion, but of reconciliation between Palestinian and Jew. In an historical moment where Jewish and Arab tribalism are triumphant, Blumenfeld achieves the wisdom that is understanding that there is no way to peace. Peace is the way. (AJ Muste). Sharon and Arafat would not like this book. It is for those of us desperate to escape the insanity that will, if left unchecked, destroy Israel and Palestine both.

I read this many years ago but the story has stuck with me. I actually found (unlike some other reviewers) that it was her personal story that interested me and I found some of the other cultural

examples of revenge rather superfluous; but regardless I think it is an important book and the fact that I can still remember it/her name and am writing a review of it after all these years must say something. I am rather disappointed by some of the poor reviews (many sound rather ideologically driven, surprise surprise) including the 1* from the guy who says "he never even read the book" which pulls down ratings. I am Chinese/British and neither muslim or jewish so no axe to grind.

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