APPENDICES

Biography of the Author

Izzeldin Abuelaish, M.D., M.P.H., is a Palestinian physician and infertility expert who was born and raised in the Jabalia refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. He received a scholarship to study medicine in Cairo, Egypt, and then received a diploma from the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of London. He completed a residency in the same discipline at Soroka hospital in Israel, followed by a subspecialty in fetal medicine in Italy and Belgium. He then undertook a master’s in public health (health policy and management) at Harvard University. Before his three daughters were killed in January 2009 during the Israeli incursion into Gaza, Dr. Abuelaish worked as a senior researcher at the Gertner Institute at the Sheba hospital in Tel Aviv. He now lives with his family in Toronto, where he is an associate professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. He founded the "Daughters for Life Foundation" in memory of three of his daughters, who were killed by Israeli tank fire during the Gaza War to encourage young women. His Web site and foundation can be found at www.dughtersforlife.com.
Summary of the Novel

Abuelaish is a Palestinian obstetrician and gynecologist who specializes in infertility. He lived in Gaza for nearly six decades, through four wars and two intifadas. There were many accidents that he passed by. In this novel, he describes the squalor of the Gaza camps — fetid latrines, no running water or electricity — both under Egyptian and Israeli control. Besides that, he told about many accidents that he experienced before and after the two intifadas where Israeli soldiers made crossing the border especially difficult, even for an infertility specialist at an Israeli hospital.

The most excruciating crossing occurred in 2008 when his wife, Nadia, was lying in an Israeli hospital with leukemia, and he was in Europe. But on September 16, 2008 at forty five P.M., his wife was slipped away and left him with eight children. Since that day he must grew up and raised eight children in the most densely populated, and one of the most impoverished, parts of the world: Gaza.

His children (Bessan, Dalal, Shatha, Mayar, Aya, Raffah, Mohammed, and Abdullah) felt lost with the death of their mother, but it didn’t make them stuck on that sad moment. Abuelaish developed his children ability by given the education that they want until his children grew up as the smart children. In addition to, he tought his children became the strong persons.

On January 16 was the last day of his three girls (Bessan, Mayar, and Aya). They died caused of bomb from tank or another person dared to suggest his girls were killed by Qassam rockets which fired them in his apartment by
Hamas. The loss of his daughters made him more adamant about the need for co-existence between Israelis and Palestinians. He writes, "If I could know that my daughters were the last sacrifice on the road to peace between Palestinians and Israelis, then I would accept their loss." Urged on by the spirits of those he lost, his belief in medicine and his deep faith in Islam, Abuelaish offers practical ways of bridging the gaps between two peoples he believes have more similarities than differences. He has opened a foundation in honor of his daughters that he says will "empower the women and girls of the Middle East through health and education."

Abuelaish has forgiven, and to commit, as he has, to understanding the other, to listening, to respect, to the realization that peace is not a liberal's dream but an existential reality: The patient will simply not survive without it. His story is important not only for its message of peace, but for the fact that it personalizes the Palestinian experience.