

IGNOU Books, IGNOU Result, IGNOU Solved Assignment, IGNOU

Home
Shadow Kiss
The Iron King
Frostbite
Spirit Bound
Midnight Sun [2008 Draft]
New Moon
Eclipse
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows
Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist
The Summoning
The Notebook
Wings
The Awakening and The Struggle
Nevermore
The Initiation / The Captive Part I
Blood Promise

Posted on 02 August 2017 By Matti Friedman

(READ KINDLE) ? Pumpkinflowers ? MOBI eBook or Kindle ePUB free

Pumpkinflowers A Soldier s Story of a Forgotten War by Matti Friedman is an account of the 1990s Israeli occupation of Lebanon Friedman is an Israeli Canadian journalist and author

In 1995, he made aliyah to Israel and now he lives in Jerusalem I picked this book up thinking it was a Vietnam memoir The marketing blurb referenced Vietnam and the cover reminded me of a Vietnam scene I was wrong in fact, however, very close in spirit It seems that there are many similarities in the occupation of southern Lebanon and the border region and America's involvement in Vietnam The youth of Israel would have preferred not to be in a firefight much like the Americans decades before However, they went when called and took part in a military action they knew was essentially fruitless The book is divided into three sections The first is a record of Avi's, a young Israeli soldier, involvement in the war Avi left details of his service in letters and personal writings The second part is the author's account during his time in service and the reactions of the families of soldiers The third part is again written by the author He returns back to Canada to get his accent back and then travels to Lebanon as a Canadian There he meets with the people he had pointed his rifle at earlier There is a world of difference and the only change is which passport he was holding Pumpkinfowers is not just an account of the soldiers but also the military experience The leaders were trained and ready to fight another large scale tank war, but against the Hezbollah that would not happen Their walled outpost, Pumpkin, was staffed with infantry There was an anti tank squad with nothing to shoot at Leadership was determined to fight the war they wanted and not the war they actually faced The enemy changed tactics learning it was safer to retreat farther back into Lebanon and launch rockets than use men in cross border attacks Friedman writes a valuable history that seems to be repeated over and over again The Soviets did it in Afghanistan America did it in Vietnam and almost again in Iraq and Afghanistan When faced by a superior force the best action is to retreat and fight a guerilla war Small groups can win against a far superior enemy if they believe in their cause and they fight a non conventional war with an enemy who does not change its tactics The last section also presents the human side of war experienced by those in the crossfire People who grow up seeing their neighbors killed learn to hate those doing the killing, no matter what the reason Friedman exposes war as something that is not black and white or fought by zealots, and recognizes that things change depending on which side of the line one is standing. This book is about the lives of young people who finished high school and then found themselves in a war in a forgotten little corner of a forgotten little war, but one that has nonetheless reverberated in our lives and in the life of our country and the world since it ended one night in the first spring of the new century Anyone looking for the origins of the Middle East of today would do well to look closely at these events The Pumpkin was the Israeli code name for a small fortified structure within the security zone of southern Lebanon a string of such structures ringed Israel's northern border in the 1990s, originally built at the request of the Lebanese militia in response to Palestinian guerrilla activity in the area, and flowers was their code word for injured soldiers oleanders was used for the dead While author Matti Friedman doesn't actually say that the IDF ever made a portmanteau out of the two words, this is obviously

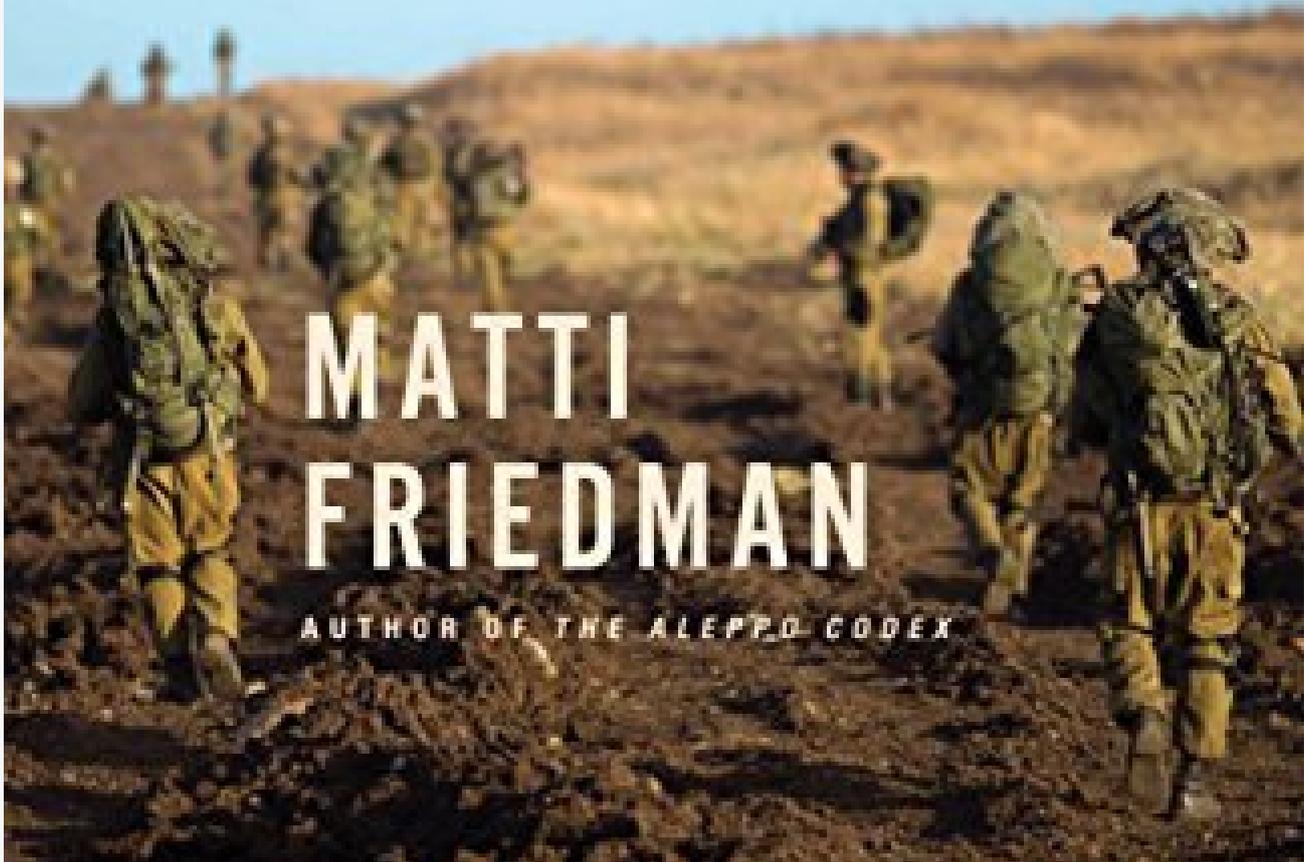
the source for the title of his memoir about serving his mandatory military service at this outpost, Pumpkinfowers Friedman does a service to history by writing about this little war not only does this slim book nicely capture the experience of these young soldiers as they were thrown into combat duty, but Friedman makes the case that it was during this standoff that the techniques of the modern terrorist recording videos for media consumption, the use of IEDs, fighting a long game without clear military objectives were tested and perfected I found it to be a really interesting read Israel had gone into Lebanon all those years ago because of Palestinian guerrillas attacking across the border, but the Palestinians were long gone The enemy had changed, and now it was Hezbollah This group was Lebanese but created by Iran, the rising regional power, with the help of Syria, which controlled Lebanon Hezbollah took orders from the dictatorship in Syria and from the clerics running Iran Hezbollah was supposedly fighting to get us out of Lebanon, but Hezbollah leaders made clear later that they had rebuffed Israeli offers for a negotiated withdrawal They didn't want us to leave they wanted to push us out, which is not the same thing By killing soldiers in the security zone they didn't convince Israelis to leave but rather that the security zone was necessary, and we dug in deeper and deeper to justify what we had already lost This changed only with the helicopter crash, which had nothing to do with Hezbollah Subsequent events show that they hoped to use their war against us to become the dominant power in Lebanon, which they went on to do with considerable skill Their war seems to have always been as much for their country as it was against ours Pumpkinfowers is divided into four parts In the first, Friedman describes life at the Pumpkin in the early days of its existence, as preserved in the copious correspondence of one of the soldiers from that time named Avi In the second, a group of peace loving kibbutzers form a protest group known as the Four Mothers as they could see no strategic value to the security zone, they could see no reason for their sons to lose their lives there as this was an era of optimism with a dovish Israeli government, their message gained a following When two transport helicopters collided and seventy three soldiers died, it was the beginning of the end for the Pumpkin In the third section, Friedman himself is assigned to the Pumpkin right out of high school, and he does a good job of describing the life there, the long stretches of boredom interrupted by alarms but are those guerrillas crawling through the forest towards the Pumpkin or are they wild boar Is that tracer fire from the village or fireworks The atmosphere changes as the days count down to the decommissioning of the Pumpkin not only does no one want to be the last man to die defending a position that is about to be abandoned, but the soldiers look wistfully towards the seaside Lebanese town they've been observing for years, wondering if they would ever be able to walk its streets in peace In the fourth section, that's exactly what Friedman does as he was born in Toronto, Friedman uses his Canadian passport to book a vacation to Lebanon some years later He discovers a friendly and generous people who love their country and are proud to show it off He also discovers that the streets are filled with propaganda with posters of the martyrs who died fighting for the liberation of Occupied

Palestine , the bookstores prominently displaying the inflammatory Protocols of the Elders of Zion Friedman is successfully able to pass as a Canadian tourist, but as he travels further and further south, approaching the Israeli border, the Lebanese people become suspicious, the propaganda pronounced, the conversations tricky one old man asked Friedman if he liked Jews, and when Friedman replied, Not particularly , the man nodded and said that was good because they kill small babies, indicating the meagre size with his hands As was his goal all along, Friedman is able to nonchalantly ask his cab driver to take the interesting looking forest path up the hill, and he arrives at the pile of concrete rubble that is the remains of the Pumpkin This final section was the most interesting to me, probably because in it Friedman is the most introspective On the hill we had been at the start of something of a new era in which conflict surges, shifts, or fades but doesn't end, in which the most you can hope for is not peace, or the arrival of a better age, but only to remain safe as long as possible None of us could have seen how the region would be seized by its own violence the way Syria, a short drive from the outpost, would be devoured, and Iraq, and Libya, and Yemen, and much of the Islamic world around us The outpost was the beginning Its end was still the beginning My return as a civilian was still the beginning The present day might still be the beginning The Pumpkin is gone, but nothing is over The IDF's years within Lebanon had all the hallmarks of a war , but despite 250 dead Israeli soldiers plus the unreported number killed on the Lebanese side , this conflict was never named, the soldiers involved were awarded no campaign ribbons I quoted at length in this review, because even after finishing Pumpkinflowers, I still can't keep straight which terrorist group was sponsored by which country and how that has led us to where we are today with suicide bombers, and trucks full of explosives detonated outside embassies and police stations, and videotaped beheadings reported all too regularly, it's easy to throw up one's hands and say, Who knows how we got here Friedman does a very good job of linking one to the other, and along the way, tells an interesting story of the traditional soldier's experience with fighting a new type of conflict Here's my only complaint some of the material feels merely reported, without the deeper introspection, and I smirked when I saw that Friedman thanked his high school Creative Writing teacher for consulting on his manuscript if this makes sense to other readers, I'd say that the periodically overwritten superficial passages felt exactly like a high school Creative Writing project But that's not to say that this book doesn't have value I'm glad to have read Pumpkinflowers and I learned much from it.

"Destined to become a classic text on the absurdities of war . . . A beautifully written account of a young Israeli soldier's experience. A stunning achievement."
—KAI BIRD, Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer and *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Good Spy*

PUMPKIN FLOWERS

A SOLDIER'S STORY



**MATTI
FRIEDMAN**

AUTHOR OF THE ALEPPO CODEX

Slowly but steadily, I made my way through Matti Friedman's stunning new book PUMPKINFLOWERS is a relatively slender volume, and many of its chapters are quite short. But it's powerful and intense, and I read it carefully and in small doses. I must add that as I read, I was aware of an additional layer of meaning because my reading time coincided with Israel's Memorial Day and Independence Day. PUMPKINFLOWERS has already been receiving a lot of excellent attention. See, for example, these reviews. Listen to Matti's conversation with The New York Times Book Review's Pamela Paul. And read a related piece by Matti for TheAtlantic.com. Then, get your hands on a copy of the book. An interesting personal account as well as of some other Israeli soldiers who served in the Pumpkin lookout in Lebanon. Although I served at the time in one of the safe bases, and I can't even imagine how it was for the soldiers up there, the time and atmosphere in Israel resonates from the book. A tough subject and great read. (READ KINDLE) ?

Pumpkinflowers ? Amazing Ebook, Pumpkinflowers By Matti Friedman This Is Very Good And Becomes The Main Topic To Read, The Readers Are Very Takjup And Always Take Inspiration From The Contents Of The Book Pumpkinflowers, Essay By Matti Friedman Is Now On Our Website And You Can Download It By Register What Are You Waiting For Please Read And Make A Refission For You

Readiness with Dawn Things were so quiet that I believe I could hear the hill talking to me. I'm not sure I could understand then what it was saying. But now I believe it was: "What are you doing here? And also, Why don't you go home." That hill is still speaking to me years later. Its voice, to my surprise, has not diminished with the passage of time but has grown louder and distinct. I saw this book compared to *The Things They Carried* so I read them fairly close together and while this didn't have the same impact on me as the O'Brien book it did have some interesting insights into this particular time in the Middle East. Friedman served his obligatory duty during the 1990s when Israel was occupying southern Lebanon. He was posted to Pumpkin, one of several hilltop outposts in Lebanon during an odd time. Unfortunately, no such history has been written. These events were important when they were going on, and left intense personal memories. But they left barely any collective memory at all. What remains are a few dramatic incidents vaguely recalled, related to each other in ways no longer entirely clear. The Four Mothers, who started to protest the continued Israeli presence in southern Lebanon. Few took them seriously. The government ignored them, and public opinion was somnolent. It was common to hear said, by men of course, that the mothers were speaking from the uterus. Bruria tries hard not to say where she thought the men were speaking from. The protests grew as lives were lost to attacks on the outposts until a fatal crash of two helicopters. Because though, later everyone came to accept Hezbollah's claim to be responsible for breaking our will and pushing us from Lebanon, if we are all being honest credit is due to our air force. People have chosen to accept the enemy's narrative because that is easier than remembering that the worst wound in all the years of the Lebanon fighting, the decisive blow, was self-inflicted. A self-inflicted wound to

end a self inflicted war. A couple of powerful thoughts from the author It was a week or two after our arrival that I finally heard a hiss in the air above my guard post I didn't react because I always thought shells whistled This was just a soft whisper in the sky, as if the universe were imparting a secret In a way this was true the secret, one familiar to Thomas and Archie, was that my continued existence on earth was now a matter of parabolas The whisper built in volume before ending in a concussion that shook the hill, and then I understood and crouched under the parapet Launch, launch, said our loudspeaker, and the sky leaned toward me again and whispered something in my ear. We might make good choices, or bad choices, but the results are unpredictable and the possibilities limited The Middle East doesn't bend to our dictates or our hopes It won't change for us.^{7 10} Pumpkin was the name of an Israeli combat outpost on a hill in Southern Lebanon in the 1990s Flowers is code for casualties It joins the list of classic books about war and how war is etched in individual and national memory It's set in four parts in Part One we meet Avi a young conscript doing his part on the hill in the mid 1990s Part Two involves the mothers of the soldiers serving in the Israeli Defense Forces deployed to Lebanon in the Security Zone Part Three is the author's involvement on the hill as a soldier around 1999 and Part Four is the author's return pilgrimage to the battlefield in mufti not the Israeli side but the Lebanese side in 2002 Friedman grew up in Canada and has dual citizenship Pretty ballsy guy. Although there are many unfamiliar cultural references about Israel to an American reader the author explains them in this book one thing that will be familiar to American veterans is the camaraderie of men in harm's way the boringness, the moments of sheer terror, the homesickness, the remorse, the guilt of surviving why not me The language is profound The sense of time and memory is both sharp and blurry The base or hill becomes a character with its own personality Friedman takes us into Israeli society with the peace movement Lots of interesting observations and commentary on what was happening and the perceptions of what was happening not matching the reality that only retrospection can provide My copy of this book omits of a Forgotten War in its subtitle That's a key point of this book The IDF soldiers who fought in Lebanon feel forgotten The entire nation has forgotten their sacrifices and wants to as it was so traumatic There are monuments all over the country from the 1967 and 1973 conflicts but the battlefield for Friedman and his comrades is not even accessible it's still a hostile place after the withdrawal It was a different war No longer Palestinians but Hezbollah, which just believed in killing It was a proxy war between Iran and the United States one could argue It was also a dress rehearsal for the Iraq war with its use of suicide bombers and IEDs. This can be a quick read due to its brevity or one to be slowly savored due to its deep insight and candid, emotional storytelling It took fifteen years for the author to tell this story It's one to be remembered. This book was recommended to me by a friend who served in the IDF as a lone soldier just a few years ago It was an ideal way to spend part of my Memorial Day Weekend It's a beautifully written glimpse into the experience of being in the military It's the

story of a few individual soldiers who all served at the same station in Lebanon, called the Pumpkin. One of the soldier's story is the writer's own experience in the IDF. The story and writing is very powerful and very personal. When you are fighting it really doesn't matter if you support the right or left, if you believe in the military or are a cynic, if you are a star athlete, an intellect, a medic or all of three. You may bring all of that with you but when the fighting begins, it quickly fades away. Yet for the majority of your time serving, you mostly aren't fighting. You spend your days washing pots and pans, cleaning your living area, reading, training and swapping stories. And then, with no notice, you are suddenly fighting and your only focus is the lives of your buddies by your side, no matter who they are or what they believe. I kept wondering if this book would be political. And, the author is clearly skeptical of the war in Lebanon but I very much appreciated his willingness to focus the majority of story on the soldiers and not the politics. Great writers provide a reader the opportunity to feel and experience the events of the story and its characters. Matti Friedman accomplished that with this book. Most of us have no connection to the military. Yet no matter our politics it is our responsibility to support our soldiers and their families. This book will help you understand, just a bit, of what it's like to fight in a war. You will feel a morsel of what a soldier feels, you will experience just a touch of their dilemmas and pain and the pain of their mothers as a soldier in dress uniform walks towards her to tell her that her son is dead. I received this book from Goodreads. I really, really, really wanted to love this book. A nonfiction war memoir is the type of book I find at the store and put back a necessity like milk or underwear so I can afford it. It is inconceivable that I wouldn't be completely infatuated with a book like this. A book telling a story I've been dying to read. A book about the conflict in the Middle East from the soldiers fighting on their home ground. It's impossible to think I wouldn't be crazy for a book like that. But, unfortunately, it is true. Pumpkinflowers did not live up to my expectations of it. I racked my brain as to why I dreaded picking up this book as if it was a math textbook, and the answer is in the writing. It's poetry. The kind that you read with the furrowed brow of concentration and still couldn't tell what any of it meant after you read it. The kind that makes you feel illiterate while reading the language you've known since birth. I don't enjoy reading books with whole chapters and not being able to tell someone what happened in them. I don't enjoy dreading the contents of a book I'm reading for pleasure. I did not enjoy this book and it breaks my heart to say so. But maybe it's just me. Maybe I don't have the head for that type of poetry. I do like mine simple and with rhymes. Everyone else enjoyed this book so it probably is just me. Like an expert twist of the knife, Matti Friedman's words cut and scar.

New Post

Night World, No. 1
Divergent
Leaving Paradise
Rules of Attraction
Halo
Torment
Night World, No. 2
Honey Queen
Graceling
The Summer I Turned Pretty
Twilight
Last Sacrifice
Beautiful Disaster
Angel
Shadow Kiss

Recent Post

Hush, Hush
City of Bones
The Twilight Collection
The Hunger Games
Vampire Academy Collection
Shiver
Perfect Chemistry
City of Glass
Catching Fire
Clockwork Angel
Fallen
City of Ashes
The Host
Evermore
Crescendo
Mockingjay
The Fault in Our Stars
Anna and the French Kiss
Marked

Wicked Lovely
Vampire Academy
Pride and Prejudice
Obsidian
Beautiful Creatures
Clockwork Prince
Along for the Ride
Night World, No. 1

© 2020 - IGNOU Books, IGNOU Result, IGNOU Solved Assignment, IGNOU | Powered by
WordPress.org