2005

When I was a Soldier

Gillian Streeter

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Streeter, Gillian (2005) "When I was a Soldier," Children's Book and Media Review: Vol. 26 : Iss. 1 , Article 26.
Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol26/iss1/26

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Reviewer: Gillian Streeter  
Reading Level: Young Adult  
Rating: Outstanding  
Genre: Autobiographies;  
Subject: Women soldiers--Israel--Juvenile biography; Israel--Armed Forces--Juvenile biography; Jews, French--Israel--Juvenile biography; Books--Reviews;

Zenatti, a former member of the intelligence branch of the Israeli national service, shares her early experiences of becoming a soldier. In Israel, citizens are required to give two years of military service starting at age 18. She describes her personal challenges and worries, her thoughts about her place as a French-Israeli, and her insights to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

This memoir is compiled of journal entries, remembrances, and even excerpts of published works that influenced the author. Zenatti's perception of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is interesting, as she is both an insider and an outsider in the conflict. The biography provides a fascinating window into the military structure in Israel. Recommended for high school age readers due to language that may offend younger readers and their parents.