



2005

When I was a Soldier

Gillian Streeter

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Zenatti, Valérie. *When I was a Soldier*. Bloomsbury USA, 2005. ISBN 1582349789. \$16.95.
250 pp.

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.