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The Angel: The Egyptian Spy Who Saved Israel



Synopsis

A gripping feat of reportage that exposes "for the first time in English" the sensational life and mysterious death of Ashraf Marwan, an Egyptian senior official who spied for Israel, offering new insight into the turbulent modern history of the Middle East. As the son-in-law of Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser and a close advisor to his successor, Anwar Sadat, Ashraf Marwan had access to the deepest secrets of the country's government. But Marwan himself had a secret: He was a spy for the Mossad, Israel's intelligence service. Under the codename "The Angel," Marwan turned Egypt into an open book for the Israeli intelligence services and, by alerting the Mossad in advance of the joint Egyptian-Syrian attack on Yom Kippur, saved Israel from a devastating defeat. Drawing on meticulous research and interviews with many key participants, Uri Bar Joseph pieces together Marwan's story. In the process, he sheds new light on this volatile time in modern Egyptian and Middle Eastern history, culminating in 2011's Arab Spring. The Angel also chronicles the discord within the Israeli government that brought down Prime Minister Golda Meir. However, this nail-biting narrative doesn't end with Israel's victory in the Yom Kippur War. Marwan eluded Egypt's ruthless secret services for many years, but then somebody talked. Five years later, in 2007, his body was found in the garden of his London apartment building. Police suspected he had been thrown from his fifth-floor balcony, and thanks to explosive new evidence, Bar-Joseph can finally reveal who, how, and why.

Book Information

Hardcover: 384 pages

Publisher: Harper (August 2, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062420100

ISBN-13: 978-0062420107

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (22 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #13,162 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in [Books > History > Africa > Egypt](#) #6 in [Books > History > Middle East > Israel & Palestine](#) #17 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > True Crime > Espionage](#)

Customer Reviews

The history of the state of Israel is one of continuous war punctuated by intermittent stretches of

peace. The open military conflicts the young nation has experienced have always threatened its continuing existence, but none more so than the Yom Kippur War in 1973. Never before and never since has Israel come closer to annihilation. In *The Angel: The Egyptian Spy Who Saved Israel*, the Israeli political scientist Uri Bar-Joseph tells the little-known tale of Ashraf Marwan. This son-in-law of President Gamal Abdel Nasser and close adviser to his successor, Anwar Sadat, was also a spy for the Mossad. Marwan's reports to his handler enabled the Israeli Defense Force to recover from the surprise of the initial Egyptian and Syrian attack and soon turn the tide. A remarkable episode in Israeli history, Marwan's story is astonishing. As a supremely ambitious young man, he married Nasser's daughter. Marwan made the mistake of misjudging his father-in-law. When the puritanical president learned that Marwan was using his position to enrich himself, he cast the young man adrift. Bar-Joseph speculates that Marwan's desire to exert revenge on Nasser led him to offer himself as an informant for the Mossad. The making of an Egyptian spy, Nasser died in 1970 when Marwan was just 26 years of age. He cleverly maneuvered himself into the good graces of Anwar Sadat by undermining the Nasserite faction during the confusion when the country's new leadership was in question. In short order, Marwan became Sadat's personal representative to other Middle Eastern leaders, including King Faisal of Saudi Arabia and President Moammar Gaddafi of Libya.

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