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Strangers in My Home The Quest for Identity in *Mornings in Jenin*

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Abstract

This paper is part of an on-going research that is being conducted on the quest for identity in *Mornings in Jenin*. The paper investigates the effects of Amal's journey who witnessed traumatic changes and transformation. The novel chronicles four generations of a Palestinian family from 1948 to the present day. The author, Susan Abulhawa, is a Palestinian-American writer who was born to Palestinian refugees of the 1967 war. The argument is based on Johann Herder's theory of national identity and John Locke's theory of memory and personal identity. The findings display the significance of memory and remembering on identity construction.

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Keywords: Identity; homeland; diaspora; Palestinians; violence.

1. Introduction

Although Palestinian problem has occurred many decades ago and still, there is a scarcity in the literary works that shed light on this issue in English language. The literary Palestinian voice was absent from the literary scene and could not reach the world, thus the story of Palestine was not heard. Instead, the story has been told by the others. It is true that there are many researches, studies, and books about Palestine and Palestinian misery in English but literature was not there. *Mornings in Jenin* came to participate in filling this gap.

The author, Susan Abulhawa, is a Palestinian-American writer. She was born to Palestinian refugees of the 1967 war when Israel captured what remained of Palestine, including Jerusalem where her family had lived

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for centuries. She and her family went through the colonial experience and witnessed the tribulation and distress of Palestinians in their homeland or as refugees.

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