

(cont'd from front flap)

twentysomething surf trip, part guerilla tourism, part political travelogue. Never preachy and always fully present, Aizenstat sees with a wise eye for painful-but-funny irony and adventure. It's a wave worth riding.



**JESSE AIZENSTAT** sought his education far from his home waters of Southern California, including a stint in tribal, Aboriginal Australia and an Armenia-to-Georgia hitchhiking saga worthy of its own book. At 26 years old, he has been published in *Ya Libnan*, the *Ma'an news agency*, *The Santa Barbara Independent*, *The Ventura County Reporter*, and *The Surfer's Journal*. A midnight rambler and a connoisseur of Kentucky bourbon, he is also a devotee of the outdoors and exploring the limits of personal power. He can often be found surfing the frigid, pre-dawn chaos somewhere between San Francisco and San Diego.

[www.bloggingthecasbah.com](http://www.bloggingthecasbah.com)

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Casbah Publishing

## SHREDDING MIDDLE EAST STEREOTYPES WITH A CALIFORNIA WEAPON

Major in political science. Graduate with honors. Fail to find a job. Go surfing in the Middle East.

Rogue journalist and self-admitted California wave junky Jesse Aizenstat couldn't find a real job after college. But his two passions, Middle East politics and surfing, seemed like a good fit for a freelance gig. What the hell? Why not surf from Israel to Lebanon?

His Jewish background may have earned him a free flight to Israel, but it wouldn't give him a pass to surf in Hezbollah-controlled South Lebanon. Even navigating the tangled towns and streets of his ancestral homeland wouldn't be a cakewalk. But then again, this dyslexic writer with a maddening lust for annoying truths wasn't looking for easy, he was looking for real.

"Aizenstat is a cross between Hunter S. Thompson, Jon Krakauer, and Jeff Spicoli. Daringly irreverent, keenly observant, and slightly off center."

—Kirkus Book Review



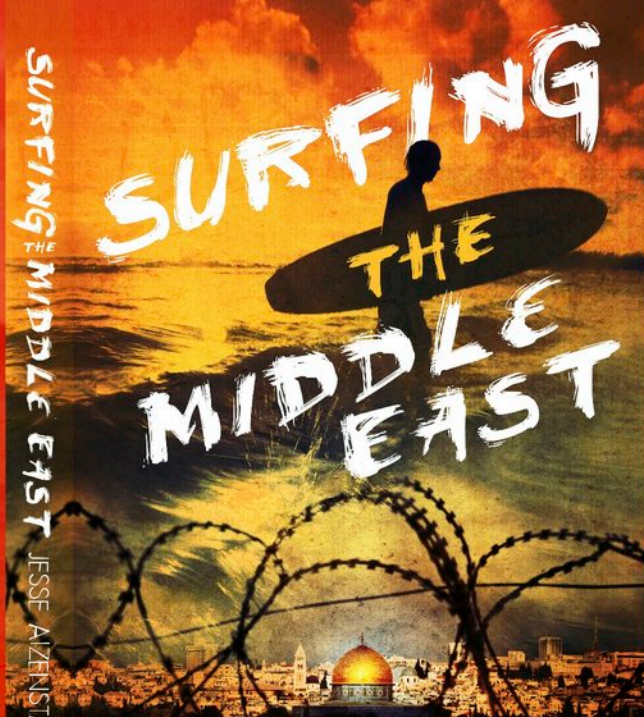
## A JOURNALISTIC EXPERIMENT TO SURF AROUND THE EXPLOSIVE ISRAELI-LEBANESE BORDER

From Day One, the signs of violent conflict are everywhere: rocketcraters, barbed wire, tear-gassed protesters, gunfire, and night patrols. But finding a shoreline touched by the best swell in the Med proves a welcoming counterpoint to the tension. Trouble is, peace, like riding a perfect wave, never lasts long. Turns out you can't just surf from Israel to Lebanon. You gotta take an air/land route. Over an inland desert. Through freaking Syria.

Other than hatred, the same surf report, and the desire to blow each other to smithereens, Israel and Lebanon seem to share little else. Like Aizenstat, they are political, cultural, and generational misfits in search of control over their identities and destinies. The author calls 'em like he sees 'em, and goes along for the ride. It gets a little deviant, a little insane, a little frightening, but in the end is fully satisfying. You couldn't ask for a better ride.

SURFING THE MIDDLE EAST JESSE AIZENSTAT

# SURFING THE MIDDLE EAST



DEViant JOURNALISM FROM THE LOST GENERATION

JESSE AIZENSTAT

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iPad App  
Surfing the Middle East  
postscript:  
There's an App for that!

He left California as an unemployed college grad in search of waves and a bit of truth. He returned from the Middle East as a salted journalist with an obsession to maintain on the edge.

And what better way than pioneering one of the first-ever "enhanced media e-books" to carry his work to the iPad®. Adventure journalism living and moving with your fingertips.

Aizenstat's *Surfing the Middle East* application has no peers. Its innovations include seamless blending of savage text and slick graphics, a fully narrated chapter, PDF build-outs on everything from military histories to dyslexia, great video segments, slide shows, maps, and links to streaming documentaries.

HARDCOVER BOOK AND E-BOOKS

### Three-Part Disharmony

The hardcover version compiles the 3-part *Surfing the Middle East* e-book series into one page-turning read. Sections include "It's like Maui with Rockets," *Up First, Then Around/Israel to Lebanon*, and *Unsimply, Lebanon*.

Lavishly illustrated and refreshingly nimble for a print book, *Surfing the Middle East: Deviant Journalism from the Lost Generation* is part

(cont'd on back flap)

