

## Summary of *Sylvia*

The book describes the exciting life story of Sylvia Raphael who served in the Israeli Mossad as an agent for special operations and accomplished significant operative assignments. She was a highly talented woman and became a role model within the Mossad and beyond.

Born in South Africa, she came to Israel in the early sixties and was inducted into the Mossad. There she was trained to become a member of the operative unit. Among other assignments she was designated to take part in the combat against the German scientists in Egypt who developed the long range missiles for Gamal Abdel Nasser. She participated in many other operations in enemy countries as well as in Europe, among them the well known Lillehammer affair that failed and resulted in the capture of several Mossad members.

Sylvia Rafael, the daughter of a Jewish father and a Christian mother, was born in a small town in South Africa. Her affluent family raised sheep and supplied wool for the textile industry. At that time she had no connection with Israel.

A family member, a Holocaust survivor, makes a surprise visit to their home in South Africa and tells about the disaster of the Jewish people and of his family. For the first time, Sylvia is influenced hearing the stories of the Jewish history during world war 2 and has decided to go to Israel to see the country and meet the people.

Within a short time, the Mossad locates her and recruits her into its service. She undergoes intense training in active clandestine activities .

The Mossad transfers her to a photography course and sends her to Vancouver, Canada, where she is supposed to adopt a new identity with a relevant cover story: She became a newspaper photographer named Patricia Roxburgh. From Canada, with the Clandestine help and support of the Mossad, Sylvia arrives in Paris, at a newspaper's photographic agency named Dalmas, and carries out various photography missions in Arab countries . Carrying a fake passport, she easily reaches places Israelis aren't allowed to go.

From Paris, Sylvia is sent by her operator on various dangerous missions, . Such as an attempt to eliminate a terrorist leader . After the massacre of 11 Israeli sportsmen in Munich in 1972, Sylvia joined a hit team of the Mossad aiming the "Black September" terrorist's that took part in the Munich massacre led by Ali Salameh, a cruel handsome, charming man, who served as an operation officer of the terrorist organization . Ali Salameh initiated the assault. One after another, by various method .

The senior members of Salameh's organization are killed. He himself manages to elude his pursuers. When the Mossad receives the information that Salameh has arrived in Lillehammer, Norway, a team including Sylvia Rafael is sent there. By mistake, the team hits a local waiter and some of the fighters, including Sylvia, are arrested by the police. One of the senior attorneys of Norway, Annaous Schjodt, is hired to defend her

and the other accused. He falls in love with her, divorces his wife and marries her after she serves her sentence in the women's prison of Oslo.

Disappointed by the failure of the operation in Norway, Sylvia decides not to return to the Mossad, but Ali Salameh isn't willing to forget her. He prepares to assassinate Sylvia, but the plan is cancelled after Norwegian intelligence exposes it, and the Norwegian Prime Minister warns Yasser Arafat that an attack on Sylvia, who became a Norwegian citizen after her marriage, would make them take steps against the Palestinians in Norway. In the end, Ali Salameh was killed in Beirut, by Mossad fighters.

Sylvia and her husband settled in South Africa and had several years of happiness until she died of cancer in 2005. She's buried in Israel.

This book is the result of three years of research and reveals for the first time the stages of training and preparation of women in the Mossad. Rare photographs of Sylvia are published.

The book received the approval of the Israeli censorship .

The book Sylvia, written by Ram Oren with Moti Kfir, was published by Keshet publishing house and is available in book stores from July 2010.