



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Therese Zrihen-Dvir**, born in Morocco, has been living in Israel since 1967, except for a five-year excursion to Canada. Her academic training is in French literature and the arts. She is fluent in English, French, Hebrew and Arabic; while living in Canada, she served as a part-time instructor of Hebrew at the Hebrew Academy. Only after her retirement from being an administrator and director of high-tech companies was she able to focus on her lifelong love of writing. Her previous published books include *The Challenge*, a biography of her former husband, painter Eitan Dvir (Ontario: Pro-mark, 1985); *The Hand of Divine Justice*, a novel (Miami: Barnhardt & Ashe, 2007); and *A Quest for Life*, a work of biographical fiction (published by Lulu.com, 2007). She writes for francophone websites. She is divorced and has three children.

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**O**n January 22, 1995, a leisurely Sunday morning, Israeli soldiers gathered around the Beit Lid bus station in northern Israel waiting for transport to their army bases. A Palestinian terrorist, disguised as an Israeli soldier and loaded with a twenty-pound bomb belt, coldly positioned himself as close as possible to a large group of soldiers and activated the bomb. A second terrorist, also disguised as an Israeli soldier, calmly waited until rescuers rushed in to help the first casualties before activating his bomb as well, reaping the maximum number of casualties. Hundreds were wounded and 22 young Israelis lost their lives.

This fictionalized account of the real-life events includes interviews with a number of the victim's families, woven into a lyrical novel that portrays the wider effects of terrorism on the nation's citizens, and gives insight into the strength of the human spirit to go on in the face of tragedy.

THERESE  
ZRIHEN-DVIR



THE STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN



ISRAELI POLITICS



# THE STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

THERESE ZRIHEN-DVIR



"I have been in wars, I have seen the death of people close to me as well as the enemy, and I have encountered suffering. I led soldiers on difficult missions that took a high toll. But the scene in the killing field at Beit Lid that dreadful morning of 22 January 1995 forms a separate chapter, separate and horrendous in the history of my life in uniform, in the story of my life as a commander.

"I have carried with me ever since pictures of the Beit Lid junction, pictures of the dead and wounded, and people surrounding them shocked and stunned. I took in the scenes and the moral drawn is unequivocal:

**we cannot allow  
terror to win.  
We must not give  
in to terror.  
We must fight  
against it  
and must  
overcome it.**

In the name of sanity, in the name of justice, and in memory of those who remained there, at the Beit Lid junction."

- Lt.-Gen. (Ret.)  
Amnon Lipkin-Shahak,  
15<sup>th</sup> Chief of Staff of  
the Israel Defense Forces