**PODCAST PLAN ABSTRACT**

* **Proposed Title**
  + **Bloodshed Memoir**
* **Proposed Topic**
  + Historical assassinations that changed the world or countries in which they occurred.
  + Historical eras will range from antiquity to modern day, different countries
    - Examples
      * Julius Caesar, Abraham Lincoln, Qassem Suleimani
* **Proposed Format**
  + Serious storytelling
  + Historical figures/eras selected randomly
* **Proposed POV/Approach/Style/Voice**
  + **Serious, thoughtful, authentic storytelling**
  + **Scripted narration by myself** 
    - **Introduce self, same intro on every episode**
* **Proposed Episode Frequency**
  + **30-45 minute episodes**
  + **New episodes weekly**
* **Why are you the right person to launch this particular podcast?**
  + **Finding out why leaders are assassinated-Political, social, judicial?**
  + **Finding motives behind the killers**
* **Who is your intended audience?**
  + True-crime listeners
* **Why is your podcast needed?**
  + True-crime style podcast among most popular, 3rd most popular according to Statista
* **Are there any podcasts that are serving as your inspiration?**
  + Sword and Scale, Criminal

The peace rally of November 4, 1995 had come to a close. Over 100,000 people began leaving the rally, all reeling from hope of the coming reconciliation between two communities. All those present had just finished singing a song of peace. Finally, after years of turmoil, after years of death, after years of persecution from both sides, compromise was finally an option. It was the future. Generations to come would see this accord as the model to follow to solve potential conflicts. As the rally finished, its organizer stepped away from the stage and began to greet his followers. There was nothing but smiles. Smiles of hope and happiness. He arrived at his car, about to go home for the night. Suddenly, a man in a blue t-shirt approaches him, pulls a semi-automatic handgun from his pocket, and fires three shots, hitting his target: the leader of the peace movement. The man who led the song of peace moments ago was now bleeding to death. And the promised peace died with him…a…few…hours…later.

Hello, I’m Sal Ramirez and this is Bloodshed Memoir, a podcast that investigates infamous assassinations in history and its effect on the world. This week we dive into the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Let’s begin.

Many people are tired of hearing about world peace. Ever since Cain killed his brother Abel, peace has been sought after and has never truly been accomplished. So, when opposing peoples negotiate cessation of hostilities, it becomes global news. And even after a truce is negotiated, the psyche of those involved does not change overnight. For some, peace is made from a position of strength, and for others, peace is a sign of weakness. Peace will never agree with itself, and neither will those involved in it.

Yitzhak Rabin was a paradox of a man. He was a fighter and military leader who ended up seeking a peace that would divide the entire nation of Israel. He was a capable leader in public, but completely unsure of himself in private. Born on March 1, 1922, in Jerusalem, his lifestyle would change as he grew, from being a farmer to becoming a soldier. His father, Nehemiah Robichov, migrated to Palestine from the United States. Robichov, who changed his last name to Rabin after arriving in Palestine, was born near Kiev, Ukraine and was deep-rooted in Socialism and Zionism. Zionism is a belief in the creation of a Jewish state within the ancient lands of Israel, which at the time was in Palestine. Rabin’s mother, Rosa Cohen, migrated from Belarus. She was born into a well to do family but was also a believer in socialist views and Zionism.

Both parents worked in political movements related to their views. Many Jews were under constant threat from the local Arabs, and this brought them together. Many Jews were physically attacked daily, and there came a need to protest and organize against this behavior from the Palestinian people. Rabin’s parents met while working together and married after a year. Yitzhak would be born soon after, followed by his sister, Rachel, when they moved to Tel Aviv.

His upbringing and schooling were very socialistic. The school he attended was Bet Hinuch, which means House of Education. It was run by Jewish people and it mainly concentrated on practical training and socialist views. As Rabin became older, he was required to test to enter his high school. After failing his test, he realized his school was not up to standards academically and studied very hard for months before he retested to enter high school. His main goal was to learn as much as he could to serve his Jewish community as a farmer.

The major factor that changed his life was the passing of his mother, Rosa. After struggling for years with a heart condition, she passed on, and Rabin felt a new calling to continue to help the Jewish people living in Palestine. He knew his mother worked hard to help the Jews living in Palestine, but the violence was getting out of hand. A farmer could do no real harm to Arab Palestinians. He no longer wanted to be a farmer, he wanted to fight as a soldier. At 13 he had already learned to shoot a rifle and even knew how to throw grenades. Even though he did not know how to drive yet, he was trained as a soldier to help defend the Jewish Yishuv, or Jewish settlement. Going to school and learning to fight became part of his daily life, and he was able to graduate at the top of his class in 1940. By this time, WWII was in full force, and many European Jews began looking for places to escape to.

The issue facing Jews in Palestine is that after WWI, Britain held the mandate over Palestine, meaning that Britain called all the shots for Palestine. The British only allowed 75,000 Jewish immigrants to enter Palestine over the next five years. That is only 15000 per year, and we know that Nazi Germany killed millions upon millions of Jews. This seemed like a completely unfair law. Rabin, along with the newly formed underground militia, the Palmach, decided they would be the ones to escort Jewish immigrants into Palestine, whether Britain liked it or not. Awkwardly enough, the British used the Palmach in covert operations in Lebanon to help them keep the Nazis out of the Middle East. Later, the Palmach was looked at from both British and Jewish eyes as a nuisance, only until the Palmach lead an operation bringing Jewish immigrants across the border against the wishes of the British. Rabin himself would lead that operation.

Over time, he grew into a fantastic military leader. Rabin rose quickly through the ranks and became well known during the Arab-Israeli war in 1946-47. During this time, Britain would give up their mandate over Palestine, and the Jews felt it was time to fight for their independence, even if they had to fight off all their Arab neighbors. Rabin’s leadership over this period proved to be the kind of leadership Israel needed to effectively fight off all opponents. Years later, in 1967, he was the Chief of Staff, commanding all of Israel’s armies. He led a preemptive strike against Egypt and Syria to destroy military targets to avoid any strikes from those respective countries.

On the outside, he was completely fearless, ready, and calculating with his decisions. At a later speech, he admitted that he struggled greatly with self-doubt. At one point, his wife called for his doctor to give him a sedative to sleep. The role of military leadership weighed heavily on him. Nonetheless, he continued to serve Israel, first as Ambassador to the United States in Washington, D.C., then in 1974 made history by becoming the first Prime Minister born in Israel. Unfortunately, his first term ended when he stepped down in 1977 due to a financial scandal. He had maintained a US bank account from his time in America. It was illegal for Israeli citizens to hold a bank account outside of Israel without proper authorization. He had to watch his political rival, Shimon Peres rise as interim leader, and then Rabin’s party lost the next election. He continued to serve in the Knesset, and as Defense Minister. During this time, he began to see Palestinian uprisings throughout the country. So, as Minister of Defense, he ordered troops to break the bones of Palestinian protestors. And I mean literally, take these protestors, and break their arms and legs as a show of force.

But even after all the scandals, the loss of his party, serving under different leadership, he once again rose within his party, the Israeli Labor Party, and was reelected as Prime Minister in 1992. This time, having been a man of war his entire adult life, he came with a new approach…peace. His plan was to give lands to Palestinian Arabs and create a Palestinian state. He looked to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to accomplish this. This was called the Oslo Accords, written in Oslo, Norway, and Rabin and Arafat agreed upon on it on the front lawn of the White House, with then President Bill Clinton acting as a mediator. Finally, peace was possible in the Middle East.

But not all Israelis were on board. The right-wing party, the Likud, with their leader, Benjamin “Bibi” Netanyahu, completely and utterly disagreed with this decision. Arafat had continually endorsed attacks on Jewish people, even after he agreed with the Oslo Accords. The Oslo Accords split Israel in half. Rabin argued that giving lands to Palestinians would stop the attacks on Israelis. Netanyahu argued that it would give them a platform to continue their attacks, and possibly involve other Arab countries against Israel. It was either peace or war. Yitzhak was the face of peace; Bibi the face of keeping Israel whole. The stage was finally set. In political chess, there is always a loser. And sometimes, a death must occur to get the point across.

Seven months before the national elections for Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu set up a political rally in Jerusalem. An incredibly large crowd filled the streets, many denouncing Prime Minister Rabin for his peace talks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. That was Netanyahu’s main concern during his speech. He called Arafat a murderer, and he claimed that Jerusalem can never be split up, and all Israeli lands belonged to them. No land could be given up for the Palestinian people. This was their country, by law and by God given right. They must stand firm against the concessions that Rabin was willing to give for peace.

But among the crowds were many radical right wingers. Posters showing Rabin wearing Arafat’s headdress, or kaffiyeh were posted everywhere. Some people carried posters of a WWII German SS officer with Rabin’s face on it. To call your born-in-Jerusalem Jewish, Israeli Prime Minister a Nazi should be a crime, but that is how many of people saw Rabin. In their views, he was destroying their ancestral lands and culture by offering Palestinians a place in the world. From one point of view, this was a correct view. These people fought for the land ages ago in the Bible. They deserved this. On the other hand, it was hypocritical to not give up some land. This other view is that the land was taken from Palestinian Arabs and given to Jewish people, especially those coming from Europe after WWII. They were given land but refused to give some themselves. Either way one looks at it, no one truly wins out on this issue.

Many at Netanyahu’s rally cried to Rabin’s blood, however, Yitzhak Rabin held his own rally in opposition to Netanyahu in Tel Aviv. Oddly enough, his rally was one of peace. He invoked a moving speech, calling the opposition enemies of peace. He thanked the representatives of other countries who were present: The Kings of Morocco and Jordan and the president of Egypt, all historical enemies of Israel. He drove home the coming agreement between Israel and Palestine, and he even declared a possible peace with Syria. The crowd roared with every sentence. He finished with a thank you, then Miri Aloni, a famous Israeli folksinger, stepped up to the podium. She, along with Rabin and Shimon Peres, who had befriended his old political rival, lead the crowd in the singing of “Song for Peace.” It became an endorphin filled atmosphere. Happiness is too light a word to describe the mood.

Rabin walked down the ramp off the stage, greeting some of his followers along the way. His bodyguards walked near him but not very close. They may have been remembering telling him to wear a bulletproof vest as they walked with him. Rabin had previously said that if he ever needed a bulletproof vest, he did not want to be Prime Minister anymore. He was practical in that sense. He was among his supporters; he could not possibly be harmed.

One person present at the rally could not agree with anything or anyone there. 25-year-old Yigal Amir stood at a distance, listening, watching, waiting. To him, his country had seen enough from Yasser Arafat and Rabin’s government. Amir was a very religious man, having been brought up in the Orthodox Jewish traditions. At 18 years of age, he attended a yeshiva, a school that teaches religion and military studies. He was drafted into the Israeli Defense Forces, and after his military service, returned to school at Tel Aviv University, where he studied law and computer science. His strict religious upbringing may have cause him to side with the Likud party and Netanyahu. But he was much further right politically than Netanyahu ever was. Some Jewish rabbis called for the killing of Rabin, as Jewish law states that if anyone intends to commit harm to Israelis, they deserve to die. That was all Amir needed to hear. He would become God’s messenger to take care of this situation. This night of November 4th was the day he had planned on. And this was the perfect opportunity he had long expected.

Prime Minister Rabin approached his car, getting ready to go home for the night. Although the city, and the nation, was divided, he saw this rally as a success. Many people stood near him, and he became oblivious of anything and anyone around him.

Amir looked Rabin in the eye. He was so close; he could smell the breath of the Prime Minister. For Amir, it was now, or never. He talked a big game about committing this assassination, and it was time to prove he had the guts to do it. He pulled up his blue t-shirt and out of his waist came a Beretta 84F semi-automatic pistol. Adrenaline now ran through Amir. At 9:45 PM, he felt a rush like never before and squeezed the trigger three times. He was so close; he could not have possibly missed. He did not.

If you ever find yourself randomly clicking around YouTube, do yourself a favor and look for Yitzhak Rabin’s assassination. Just be careful not to fall into the YouTube rabbit hole. The entire shooting was caught on video. Don’t worry, its not horrendous and gruesome, but this will give you and idea of how it happened. You will notice the guards were completely unaware. You’ll see Amir, getting ready even before Rabin is close to him. Rabin never even saw it coming. His bodyguard never saw Amir or his gun. Neither did the rest of the country and the world.

Amir was immediately taken into custody. Rabin, while conscious for a few minutes after the shooting, now lay unconscious in the backseat of his car, being raced toward the hospital. Due to the rally, roads had been blocked. By foot, the hospital was 5 minutes away. Now, dying in the backseat of his car, he endured a 22-minute agonizing ride. He was immediately taken into surgery although some doctors claimed he was dead upon arrival. To prove that he would still be leading the country, the hospital was quickly fitted with desks and phones so that Rabin could run the government from his hospital room if needed. Honestly, what were they thinking? A leader is dying, and the most important thing they wanted was to have a functioning government.

But in the end, the blood loss defeated Yitzhak Rabin. At 11:15 PM, the Prime Minister’s spokesman came out of the hospital to tell reporters what they had already assumed. Panic began to set in, not only in his supporters, but also in his opponent, Benjamin Netanyahu. Yasser Arafat immediately addressed reporters, calling the assassination a crime. From the White House, it was reported that President Bill Clinton, a friend of Rabin, would be leaving Washington to attend the funeral after hearing the news.

Outside the hospital, signs blaming Netanyahu for Rabin’s death were everywhere. Angry Israelis took to the streets, protesting the conservative candidate. Leah Rabin, Yitzhak’s widow, did not hold back in blaming Netanyahu completely for her husband’s murder on international media. Benjamin Netanyahu, nonetheless, attended the funeral of his political rival. The day before the funeral, Netanyahu told the American ambassador what he believed, politically, would be the consequences of the assassination. Netanyahu said that since Rabin had been killed, he died a hero. Had he not been murdered, he would have lost the election to Netanyahu, and Rabin would be forever remembered as a failed politician.

In the end, Netanyahu won the election against the acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Bibi has been Prime Minister since. And the peace talks ended. Palestinians are a people without a state. Many other countries view them as a state, while others do not. The violence still has not ended. Netanyahu remains firm that Israel should not give up lands. And Amir is still serving a life sentence in prison. He has even gotten married and has a child. As a matter of fact, any picture you see of Amir arrested or in handcuffs, he is smiling. No matter what anyone says, he, in his own eyes, did Israel and the world a favor. But what if he had failed? Would we have seen less fighting between Israelis and Palestinians? Would others Arab countries have seen Israel as a friend, giving their brothers a country, giving us today a complete peace in the Middle East? Maybe the US would not have needed to give Israel as much support as it has, making us less of an enemy in the eyes of many Middle Eastern countries. This peace could have truly changed the world. But this is history, and it cannot be changed.

Thanks for joining me on this one, it was really fun talking about Israel and how they could have changed our entire world view, but this peace just slipped out of our hands. Tell your friends about this podcast, give us a like on Facebook.com/bloodshedmemoirs, or visit us at bloodshedmemoirs.com. This show was written and produce by me. Join us next week, as we travel further back in time and see how a Roman Caesar lost his life due to fears of overcoming the Senate. See you next week.

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