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American Chick In Saudi Arabia



Synopsis

It all begins with an ad in the newspaper. When Jean Sasson, a young Southern woman living in Jacksonville Beach, Florida, answers a call to work in the royal hospital in Saudi Arabia, what should have been a two-year stay turns into a life-changing adventure spanning over a decade. Over the years Jean is plunged into the hidden lives of the veiled women in Riyadh, where women are locked in luxurious homes and fundamentalist mutawas terrorize the streets. Jean meets women from all walks of life--a feisty bedouin, an educated mother, a conservative wife of a high-ranking Saudi, and a Saudi princess the world knows as Princess Sultana--all who open a window into Saudi culture and help to reshape Jean's worldviews. **AMERICAN CHICK IN SAUDI ARABIA** is the first installment in a heartfelt, inspiring memoir about Jean's thirty-year travels and adventures in Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Kuwait and Iraq. Jean's first book **THE RAPE OF KUWAIT**, based on her eye witness reporting on the invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi troops, was an immediate bestseller. Shortly thereafter she became a full-time writer. Her next three books, **PRINCESS**, **PRINCESS SULTANA'S DAUGHTERS**, and **PRINCESS SULTANA'S CIRCLE**, became international sensations as they were the first books to bring to the western world the shocking stories about life for women in Saudi Arabia. Jean is also the author of **MAYADA, DAUGHTER OF IRAQ**, about the prison experiences of an Iraqi journalist praised by Saddam Hussein; **LOVE IN A TORN LAND: The True Story of a Freedom Fighter's Escape from Iraqi Vengeance** which tells the story of a beautiful Kurdish woman; **GROWING UP BIN LADEN: Osama's Wife and Son Take Us into Their Secret World**; and **FOR THE LOVE OF A SON: One Afghan Woman's Quest for Her Stolen Child**. Her work has been featured in *People*, *Vanity Fair*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Post*, *The Sunday London Times*, *The Guardian*, *CNN*, *FOX*, *NBC*, and many other news organizations. Still traveling the world, Jean has made her homebase in Atlanta, Georgia where she is a passionate animal rights and women's rights supporter.

PRAISE FOR JEAN SASSON'S BOOKS: • Fascinating...an intimate account of a family life that became steadily more dangerous and bizarre...in forced pursuit of Osama's jihadist dreams. • --Washington Post "The startling truth behind veiled lives...frank and vivid" --Sunday Express "Anyone with the slightest interest in human rights will find this book heart-wrenching." --Betty Mahmoody, bestselling author of *NOT WITHOUT MY DAUGHTER* "A fascinating narrative...devastating" --Robert Harris, *Sunday Times* "Absolutely riveting and profoundly sad..." --People magazine "A chilling story...a vivid account of an air-conditioned nightmare..." --Entertainment Weekly "Must-reading for anyone interested in human rights." --USA Today "Shocking...candid...sad, sobering, and compassionate..." --San Francisco Chronicle

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A very interesting true story of an American woman who went to Saudi Arabia to work in a hospital and met a Princess. As a result, she was able to gain the friendship of the Princess and was able to tell her story of virtual imprisonment while living a pampered life of extreme wealth behind palace walls. Very insightful story and well worth reading.

Enjoyable reading about Ms. Sasson's adventure's in a not so paradise, she makes you want to know more about the struggles of Saudi woman...who may not consider it a struggle to love the life they live. Western culture isn't the only culture on the planet and while we glimpse into the lives of Saudi woman, we have to respect them for their bravery and fortitude under the control of men. Thank you Ms. Sasson for giving us a peak at what is under the veil.

I have been a devoted fan of Jean Sasson's for over ten years. Her books about Middle Eastern women have always fascinated me because of my lifelong love of anthropology, and she has never stinted on details about how her characters dress, eat, interact and live. Written in a clear, concise and conversational prose, American Chick in Saudi Arabia is an important book because we, the readers and fans, get to see exactly HOW Ms. Sasson's passion for her topic developed and grew and how she was so horrified by the conditions around her that she made it her life's work to draw attention to the issues of women's rights and overall human rights in a part of the world that has never valued said rights. While radically different in topic, I would compare this book to Stephen

King's "On Writing, A Memoir of the Craft," which I so loved because I got to experience the incidents in his childhood that shaped his books. And just like that, American Chick in Saudi Arabia is both a sobering and entertaining peek into the mind of Ms. Sasson, a great writer and humanitarian who has dedicated her talent to providing a voice for women who have spent their lives in forced seclusion.

This book gives its readers an insight into the life of author Jean. I like her insights into the country of Saudi Arabia. The country has a lot of history that began with desert nomads. It is amazing to read about how they welcome modern advances in terms of both technology and medicine. Although the readers will see that this advancement does not include women. It was great to get an insight into the lives of the Saudi women who are often in veil covering from head to toe. I am grateful that Jean had an opportunity to speak with Saudi women to share their story.

As usual, Ms. Sasson did not disappoint. I disagree with the comments that she was in any way disrespectful to the way of life of the Saudi woman. I feel that we are desensitized to plight of woman of most Arab cultures. Any strong, independent American woman SHOULD have the same thoughts and feelings Ms. Sasson spoke about. I don't want to reveal anything in this review in case those reading it have not yet read this excerpt, but want to thank the author for her courage to speak out and speak the truth. Thank you!! I can't wait for "the rest of the story".

I loved this book , I read her whole series of the Princess

This book led to others which has lifted the proverbial veil from the middle eastern countries where women are truly captives of their culture. If you have heard of Betty Mahmoody's book, "Not Without My Daughter" and "Inside the Kingdom" by Carmen bin Laden, then this account and later accounts she helped put together will intrigue you. She later encouraged the publication of "Princess," a text of the life of one of the royal family who found life in Saudi Arabia oppressive enough to have the courage to write about her experiences!

The first thing I simply have to put on record is that it made me sad to see that \$2.99 was all it was priced at! A sample of such a beautiful panoramic piece that put down Jean's life in words should be worth MUCH more! That said, no matter what I say below, I am not doing justice to her fantastic work, because words aren't enough. Jean's rendition of her story in Saudi Arabia is splendid, to say

the least. Each of her characters are beautifully nuanced, so wonderfully portrayed and come alive when you read her work. She offers no room for prejudice. Jean's words ensure that there is nothing that makes you cringe or wonder why she chose to say something a certain way. The whole preview is riveting, fantastic, and an inspiring read.

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