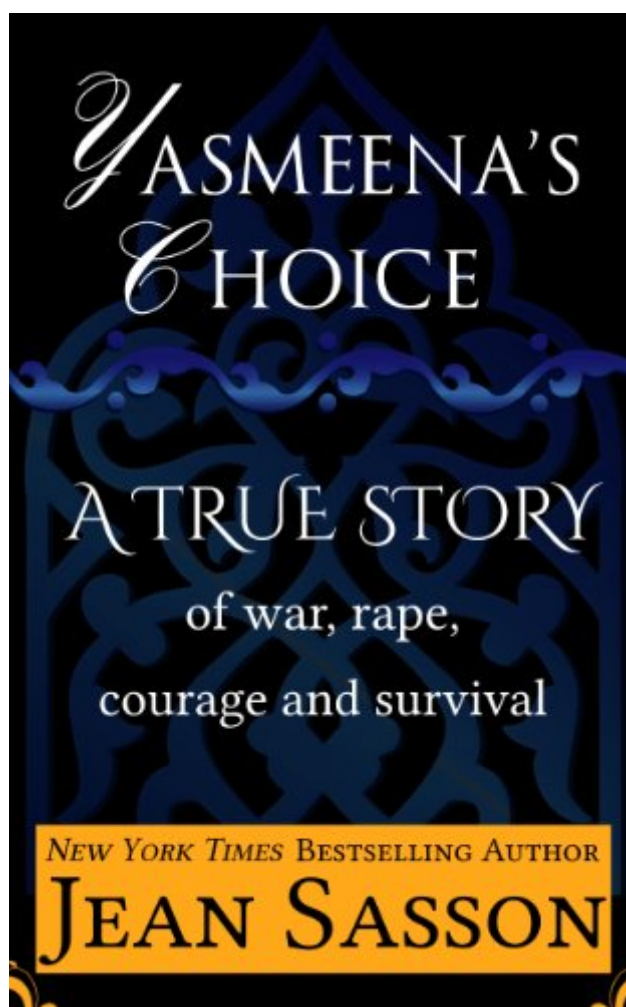


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Yasmeena's Choice: A True Story Of War, Rape, Courage And Survival



Synopsis

This is the true story of Yasmeena, a bright and beautiful young Lebanese woman who was imprisoned in Kuwait during the first Gulf War. Yasmeena's shocking journey is a tale of the madness of war, of the sexual brutality unleashed by chaos, and of one woman's courage to stand in danger's way to aid her fellow sufferers. This is an explicit, graphic, and honest book. It is for mature audiences only. Jean Sasson has spent her career sharing the personal stories of courageous Middle Eastern women. *PRINCESS: Life Behind the Veil in Saudi Arabia* was an international bestseller. It has become a classic, taught in colleges and high schools and devoured by anyone who aspires to understand the Middle East. Yasmeena was quite literally an innocent abroad. She was a college educated, English-speaking flight attendant graced with an unusual amount of confidence and sophistication. She was also a virgin and a conservative Muslim daughter and sister. When Yasmeena's flight out of Kuwait was delayed, it was because Saddam Hussein had just invaded Kuwait. Iraqi soldiers threw her into a woman's prison where the guards committed ghastly sexual attacks and tortured the women in excruciating ways. After Yasmeena was brutalized by the captain of the prison, she thought she was the most unfortunate woman on earth. But that was before she befriended Lana, whose brutal rapist took glee in inflicting hurt. Yasmeena used her position as the captain's favorite to protect her friend, though she also was forced into a wrenching decision. *YASMEENA'S CHOICE* reads like a thriller. As the Americans and other allies march into Kuwait and the Iraqis flee, Yasmeena escapes. Eventually she finds a safe harbor where Sasson interviews her and records every horrific element of her experience. Sasson has wanted to write this story for many years. But she knew that the sexual explicitness and violence would make the tale difficult to publish. A year ago, Yasmeena's story and the choices she was forced to make invaded Sasson's dreams. She realized that now was the right time to share the story. And so here it is, Sasson's testament to an articulate, angry, brave young woman who not only survived but who was eager to share her story with the world. PRAISE FOR JEAN SASSON'S WORK: "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

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Customer Reviews

I gave this four stars because I could honestly not say I loved it-in fact I wish I could unread it. Do not read this if you are sensitive to extreme sexual violence. I had a couple of bad nights sleep from it. How men can do this to women is absolutely beyond me. The cruelty and indifference to the women suffering is very disturbing. Power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely. Yasmeena thought because she was a virtuous muslim women she would be spared, but as she found out, the behavior of these men had nothing to do with her, but everything to do with how these men view women-as less than animals. The story of Lana brought me to tears. It also bothered me that Yasmeena believed she was somehow damaged-nothing could be further from the truth. She did what she had to to survive and to remain human even under the most extreme circumstances. What an amazingly strong, courageous and beautiful woman. In times past men have criticized women for being deceitful, and I am sure if the Colonel could have read Yasmeena's mind it would have been evidence to him of how treacherous women are. When men put women under insane duress by imprisoning them and abusing them either by law or force, they should not be surprised when women are less than honest. How this man could think Yasmeena cared for him after all the abuse he heaped on her is a glimpse in the most narcissistic mind I can imagine.

Jean Sasson details the brutal imprisonment of a young Lebanese woman by Iraqi soldiers. Yasmeena, employed as an airline stewardess, had been in Kuwait during the time of the Iraqi invasion in the 1990s. Caught trying to deliver a message for the Kuwaiti resistance, Yasmeena was summarily imprisoned. Yasmeena's beauty was quickly noticed. A general in the Iraq army quickly claimed her as his own. After the war, Yasmeena related the story of her savage captivity to novelist, Jean Sasson, who had visited the region. Some ten years later, Sasson decided to write Yasmeena's story, revealing the terrible brutality the young woman suffered before her escape.

Sasson tells the heart-rending story of a beautiful young Muslim woman who just happened to be in Kuwait at the wrong time -- the exact day that Iraq invaded Kuwait. Yasmeen never thought she would ever have to fear a Muslim man, for she had been taught that ALL Muslims treated Muslim women with the respect they deserve. She found out in one night that Saddam Hussein's army had NO respect for any women. This is the story of how Yasmeen was able to survive the living nightmare of capture by Hussein's troops and live to tell her story.

Yasmeena's choice explores the realities of the systemic rape of Kuwaiti women by Iraqi occupiers. Readers be warned that the details are gory, but if these women survived these experiences to tell us their stories we should have the strength and grace to hear them. Yasmeena's voice represents so many others and the world needs to know what happened.

This is an extreme tale of human survival within pages of extreme inhuman behaviour which was inflicted upon a Middle Eastern woman who became trapped in Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion of 1990. Yasmeena was kidnapped and subsequently raped and tortured by invading soldiers within a secret prison which housed 15 women- one woman for each sadistic soldier's gratification under the Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein in the attempted taking of Kuwait as Iraq's province. Yasmeena speaks her truth about the awful circumstances of that time when she was taken. A 23 year old innocent Lebanese woman who was forced to submit to months of tortuous rape and sexual assaults along with the other women of the prison, including the beautiful 16 year old Lana, a woman with such an amazingly courageous spirit that an entire book could be created and dedicated to her strength and spirit alone. Both women possess extreme intelligence and courage in a world where women are treated as inferior and risk humiliation, blame and even family disownership and honor killings for bringing upon them any sexual advances-EVEN

abuse. Sasson not only pays tribute to Yasmeena and these women who were captured, but details the lead up to and history of the invasion and the war itself. Explaining the invasion made me feel closer to what was happening and able to relate with the women and captors of the prison.

It felt as if 1990 happened just yesterday.. or today even. It truly not only educated me but allowed me to connect to the FULL story of the situation Yasmeena and the country of Kuwait was in. God bless Yasmeena and Lana. Truly courageous women.

A very personal horrific tragedy of war. The story is a second hand account of a young woman stranded in Kuwait during the Iraq invasion. It is a brutal story of the inhumane treatment of women and the civilian population from an undisciplined army without strong morale principles. This story is not for a reader of casual interest in the Kuwait War. It is hard to realize that this story was unfolding, as I was watching the nightly news recapping the buildup of coalition forces while this woman was being repeatedly raped. This is the follow up of the war: that never made the news, never made it to court, can never be made right. I pray that the survivor's find the peace they deserve

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